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Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association
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B-on-B Touts “Tent-sational” Star Spangled Evening

There’s plenty to keep classical music buffs happy at the 2014 Baroque on Beaver Festival of Classical Music, where concerts this summer include, for the first time, an outdoor performance under the stars.

In recent years a growing number of “early bird” patrons have lined up at various B-on-B venues to get good seats for Baroque on Beaver concerts. In 2013 most performances were SRO (Standing Room Only). The Board of the Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association, which oversees the Baroque on Beaver Festival of Classical Music, has been working hard on a solution and the BICAA Board believes it has identified a creative fix that is “tent-sational.”



Since its inception over thirteen years ago, the Baroque on Beaver Festival has held performances at various locations in the Island townships of St. James and Peaine, including such venues at the Episcopal Church, Holy Cross Church and Parish Hall, CMU, and the Community Center. As interest in the Festival has soared, so has the need for additional seating. As a

creative solution, the Board explored many tent options and decided on a system from American Rental in Traverse City.

The Board, in consultation with the St. James Township, has secured permission for this specially designed event tent to be temporarily erected on the lawn adjacent to the Whiskey Point lighthouse at the entrance of Paradise Bay. Organizers believe the lawn is an ideal location to enjoy an evening of music under the stars and the concert tent insures ample seating options, since the lawn can comfortably accommodate upwards to 500 people. Plus,

convenient and ample parking is located near-by. The lawn, lighthouse, and bay create a beautiful backdrop for performances and the concert pavilion provides ample space for the orchestra and chorus.

The concert tent, which is made of durable synthetic material, will be transported to Charlevoix by American Rental personnel. The American Rental transport vehicle and personnel will then board a BIBCO ferry. Upon arrival American Rental staff will assemble the tent and stage and set out seating. The unique construction of the concert tent makes for a fast and safe setup. The stage is 40' x 40' in dimension. The tent is designed to provide not only an eye-catching shelter for the performers, but it also possesses great acoustic qualities. The design insures an unobstructed view of the stage.

While "early bird" patrons may need to continue to line up at some traditional B-on-B venues to get good seats, "tent-nology" arrangement insure B-on-B patrons have the option to select a standard chair seating or bring lawn chairs and blankets for a "tent-sational" evening under the stars.

Music for this "tent-sational" evening, which is scheduled for Saturday evening August 2, features the launch of the bicentennial celebration of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner. The Festival Orchestra and Chorus will perform a few of the many rarely heard versions of our national anthem and works by other American composers, including Aaron Copeland, Irving Berlin, Rogers & Hammerstein, Scott Joplin and John Phillips Sousa. There will also be pre-concert remarks by special guest, Dr. Mark Clague, UM musicology Professor and member of The Star Spangled Music Foundation. Although admission is open to the community, freewill offerings will be encouraged and gratefully received.

The Baroque on Beaver Festival is the signature event of the Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association. The contributions of corporations, foundations, and hundreds of individual donors help keep the music playing. For more information about Baroque on Beaver, please see: <http://www.baroqueonbeaver.org/> or by calling 231.448.2149.

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