

# Piano music heard at Hawley Silk Mill

By **PETER BECKER**

Managing Editor

Piano music has been floating through the Hawley Silk Mill all summer. Where once sewing machines hummed in its heyday as a textile center, the renaissance and renovation of the historic building has brought with it both a mix of business and educational enterprise with a nurturing of the arts.

Pianist Steven Woodman is the next musical artist to be featured at the venue, complementing the summer-long Art on the Edge contemporary art exhibit. Woodman, a resident of Paupack, will be bringing his skills to the keys of the Steinway piano at the Silk Mill, Friday, August 12.

Between 6 and 8 p.m., Woodman will be performing at the reception called "Artist Meet & Greet." Each Friday night this summer, a different artist who has a piece in the Art on the Edge exhibit is featured, accompanied by the musical performance. That evening, artist Jeff George will be highlighted.

Tamara Murray, Executive Director of the Wayne County Arts Alliance, said it was a real pleasure to have this mix of art, combining the visual with the musical. The Arts Alliance is hosting the exhibit and has an art shop at the Silk Mill featuring pieces done by Arts Alliance members.

Woodman stated he is self-taught and comes from a classical background. His mother graduated from Oberlin and was a pianist as well. At an early age, Woodman was showing his atten-

tion to music as he watched cartoons, he shared, which his mother noticed. He started playing music at age eight and began with a band at age 12. He has played before audiences for 46 years.

In addition to piano, Woodman says he is a "rock-er" and plays in a rock and roll band six months of the year in Florida. He will be performing rock at the Sterling Marina over Labor Day Weekend.

Having done well in the business world, Woodman retired at age 55 and is now composing and playing more music. He has a recording studio at his house and has released two CD albums, of lighter piano music.

"Music is very fulfilling," woodman said. "I've made many great friends." He states that performing is very rewarding, when he receives accolades. Although he considers himself personally shy, playing music before an audience allows him a way to come out of his "shell."

He will be playing show tunes and some original numbers at the reception. How is he inspired? Woodman said that he just sits down and begins to improvise. He writes down chord structures and beginning with basic piano, adds strings and woodwinds.

There is a \$10 donation received for the Friday night receptions, which benefits the Wayne County Arts Alliance.

## Coming up

Others scheduled for Friday night "Artists Meet & Greet":

August 19, artist Susan Weinthal, musician to be announced.



**Steven Woodman is scheduled to perform on the piano at the Hawley Silk Mill Friday, August 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. A \$10 donation is asked for the "Artist Meet & Greet," highlighting artist Jeff George who has a creation in the Art on the Edge exhibit at the Silk Mill.**

NEWS EAGLE PHOTO BY PETER BECKER

August 26, artist Joe Statuto, musicians: Doug Smith Trio

Sept. 2, artist Dale Em-mart, musician to be announced

Sept. 9, artist Charles Welles, musician Nick Niles, jazz pianist

Sept. 10, concert wrap-up, musician Anan Fort, internationally known composer from Israel.

In addition, the French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts is scheduled on Saturday, Aug. 13 and Friday, Aug. 19, at 6:30 p.m. A musical will perform Aug., 13 at the Butterfly Theater at the Hawley Silk Mill. Supper and play are included. Then on Aug. 19, Cabaret Night will occur held in the

Frankenstein Cafe at the Hawley Silk Mill. Each of these special events contain and admission charge of \$50. For reservations, call (570) 226-4571 or e-mail henrys@amskier.com.

These performances benefit the Ritz Theater Players, French Woods Foundation and Downtown Hawley Partnership.

The Art on the Edge exhibit is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through September 10. Admission is free. The exhibit is spread out on 5,000 square feet on the first floor with sculpture, painting and mixed media. Work of artists from a five county area of northeast Pennsylvania and adjacent New York State are included.