This fall, we’ve been asking the question, “what is your favorite thing about Apple Hill?” As we get ready for Giving Tuesday on December 1, we’ve asked a few past and present Apple Hill Board of Trustees to tell us how their favorite things about Apple Hill have inspired them to support Apple Hill.

From Peter Roos, Associate Professor of Art at Keene State College:

1) How did you get involved with Apple Hill?
When I moved to the Monadnock region to begin teaching at Keene State College in 1990, I was told of a wonderful summer concert series at Apple Hill. I have always loved classical music and was impressed with the quality of the music in the intimate barn setting. It became a summer tradition to attend as many concerts as I could at Apple Hill as well as partake in the former Zucchini Fest and run the “Path of Paine” where there was a music ensemble around every corner, playing and urging the runners on!! The second year I went to the summer concerts, I would invite my mother-in-law-to-be to the concerts while my then-fiancé was working summer stock in Maine. My mother-in-law, Elisabeth Tobey, my wife and I still enjoy summer concerts.

2) Why did you decide to get involved with Apple Hill?
I was asked to be on the board some years ago and participated for 1.5 terms as an active member of the board. I still take photos for Apple Hill when they request my services. Even back in the early days of my relationship with Apple Hill, I believed in their Playing for Peace Program. To this day, I donate money to Apple Hill to support their endeavors to use the language of music to bring people together.

3) What is your favorite thing about Apple Hill?
The place to begin with this question is the music! Where else can you hear the highest quality of music with this intimate, beautiful setting? The property overlooking the mountains is a true slice of heaven! Second, it's the people! From the Apple Hill musicians of the past to the amazing quartet now, under the creative and caring direction of Lenny, every concert is their gift to all of us fortunate enough to be there to hear their performance. Included are all of the people who help run Apple Hill. As a former Board member, I know how hard they work there too.

Finally, and very importantly, is the kind of education students get from attending Apple Hill in the summer. My son, Ethan, was a student there three summers in a row. I witnessed his growth as a musician and know that he made friendships there that he will keep for the rest of his life!

From Bill Heyman, business owner (Supreme Audio):

1) How did you get involved with Apple Hill?
My mother and my wife Peggy had attended Apple Hill many years ago when we first landed in New Hampshire in ’93. We later attended a Keene Chamber Orchestra house concert and that was my personal start to enjoying this wonderful form of music. All new to me and so very enjoyable!

2) Why did you decide to get involved with Apple Hill?
At the time I was on the Board of The Colonial Theatre and wanted to finish my 6+ years of service there. We then took a 5 year break for some travel, after which, I raised my hand to join the Apple Hill Board. I'm just
finishing my first 3-year term and will continue on, with great pleasure, for an additional 3 years.

3) What is your favorite thing about Apple Hill?
The Mission! Playing for Peace has been at the core of my interest in the organization and the aspect of the organization which touches me emotionally. It helps translate “wishful thinking” into a real action plan to bring together musicians from areas of conflict. It also greatly enriches the arts and music offerings in our region. We happily continue to support both The Colonial Theatre and Apple Hill and have hosted a house concert for the last 12 years to raise funds to enable the annual Apple Hill program (concert, educational outreach and master classes) at The Colonial Theatre.

From Maura Glennon, pianist and business owner (Florence Pie Bar):

1) How did you get involved with Apple Hill?
First as an audience member, then through my collaboration in AH’s Playing for Peace Program while it was associated with Keene State College, then as a faculty member during the Summer Chamber Music Workshops.

2) Why did you decide to get involved with Apple Hill?
I was impressed by the music I heard and the programs they offered to students of varied levels, backgrounds, and training. My first introduction was to the Playing for Peace program, which is so powerful in its mission to bring musicians together. Then I got to know the people involved, including the members of the quartet and the students who participated and traveled here to study with them, and it was hard not to want to
become a part of AH and do whatever I could to support its mission and programs.

3) What is your favorite thing about Apple Hill? The feeling. The feeling of the physical place that inspires great music, relaxed learning and growth, and the continued positive feeling when one is away from the campus — it doesn’t leave you when you walk away. The interactions of musicians and people, at dinner, in the practice room, on stage and in the beautiful natural environment. It’s a magical place on that mountain.