

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

# Soundboard

August 2005

Year 23

Issue 8

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Everyone,

The Evert Fun Festival was just that, a lot of fun! There were lots of workshops to keep us busy during the day, and then all the jams in the evening. The Lions Club, Evert Football Team, and the Habitat for Humanity provided lots of good food to eat. I overheard someone saying the attendance might have been down this year due to the heat, but based on the attendance at the workshops, and all the the filled camping areas, you couldn't prove it by me.

Thank you to all those SSDS member's who got up there early to find a spot inside the fairgrounds and provided us someplace to rest and get in the shade and out of the 90+ degree heat. A big Thank You to Bob and Sandi Hlavacek for providing cold refreshments, and also those who dropped off some munchies (cookies & brownies). See you all at the pigroast! George

### THE ANNUAL SSDS PICNIC

will be Sunday, August 7th, 2005 from 1-5pm. at German Park, Ann Arbor, on Pontiac Trail between Dixboro and Earhart Roads. The park has a covered pavilion, so bring your instruments to jam. Maps will be provided at the next meeting.

SSDS will furnish the meat(Roast Pig), iced tea & lemonade, paper products, eating utensils, and ice. Please bring a dish to pass.

Family and friends are welcome. There will be a charge of \$5 for non-member's, and \$3 for children (12 & under).

Please contact George with the number of people in your party so we can plan for pig size, etc. (734-996-0089, [ggonyo@peoplepc.com](mailto:ggonyo@peoplepc.com)). For further information, please contact any of the board members.

## V.P. BUSINESS

The telephone at my house has been getting quite a workout these past few weeks. Seven groups have contacted me inquiring about Silver Strings. Of these, three have booked us; the others are still pending.

An invitation was extended to the interested parties to visit us at one of our Thursday evening gatherings. So, the unfamiliar faces you may see, may lead to our next playdate.

Again, a big **THANK YOU** to those of our members who continue to support the SSDS playdates. It's great folks like you who contribute to the success and longevity of the club.

See you soon . . . . . Ramona

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR :

Aug. 5 . . . . .	Happy Birthday George Gonyo
Aug.6 . . . . .	SSDS playdate 12-1:00 pm Dearborn Homecoming
Aug. 7 . . . . .	SSDS potluck / pig roast picnic German Park, Ann Arbor
Aug. 8 . . . . .	Happy Birthday Carol Mueller
Aug.26-28 . . . . .	Midland Musicfest
Aug. 30 . . . . .	Happy Birthday Bob Hlavacek
Sept. 8 . . . . .	SSDS playdate 12-1:00 pm Ward Church Keenagers
Sept. 25 . . . . .	SSDS playdate 4-5:00 pm Taylor Historical Society
Oct.6 . . . . .	SSDS Banquet in Plymouth

**In the Harmony of Life  
We Are But Single Notes. But  
Together, We Can Make Magnificent  
Music**

## YOU CAN BANK ON THIS

The month of July is over. It contained a wonderful week of music at Evert. Silver Strings had a good representation at the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual music funfest. The 222 workshops provided education for most instruments that we use; new songs, techniques, beginner opportunities, jamming etiquette, etc. Jamming went on well past 1:00 am. Evert is an exciting place in the evening, with "open-mic" stage shows, and jam sessions everywhere.

The Saturday evening mass dulcimer pre-show was a challenge to not ruin our instruments in the rain, but we were determined to play. The picture below shows our innovative way to keep the rain off. We had a great time visiting with people who stopped at our "OASIS" campsite for shade and refreshments.

Not much happening with the treasury in July. We sold two CD's and one tape at Greenmeade. A financial statement for the first half of the year was available at the July 21 meeting and will be available at August meetings.

Bob and Sandi playing dulcimers in the rain, under plastic tablecloths.



### KEYS

Enroute to Silver Strings  
I spied the darndest thing.  
Two wrens, sharp as can be,  
Sat in the key of D.

They sang not from the pines,  
But perched on urban lines,  
Enrapt in Soldier's Joy -  
Or was that Danny Boy ?

How deft they seemed to be  
In theory, melody;  
They sure put on a show  
For audience below.

And then the light turned green;  
I had to leave the scene.  
I revved up in the key  
of serendipity.

Gerry Hermans, 2005

## V.P. PROGRAMS

Those of you couldn't make it to Evert this year sure missed a very good time. Whether doing workshops or just sitting around and jamming, it was just wonderful. I had a good time jamming with Uncle Carl and Broken Glass every night, while my wife had a good time jamming with the ukulele players. I expect those who went had a good time. Marlin

## SECRETARIAL NOTES

I had a very good time at Evert. I enjoyed some of the workshops, and especially liked the jamming at night. I learned some things about chording and did some uke jams, where I really had a ball.

I also enjoyed some bluegrass bands that were across the way. Those of you didn't go, sure missed a good time! But it is always good to be home, especially for me, as I promptly got sick. I wasn't feeling well for a couple of days, but I am okay now. Carol

### If it's August, it's time for The Midland Dulcimer Festival

submitted by David Smith

The 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MIDLAND DULCIMER FESTIVAL will be held August 25-28, 2005, at the Midland County Fairgrounds, 6905 Eastman Road, Midland, about a 2 ½ hour drive from the Detroit area. Camping reservations are NOT required. The sites are plentiful and shady, all with electricity. There are many motels and restaurants near the festival. An instructed, traditional country dance will be held Friday evening. On Friday and Saturday there will be lots of workshops, at all levels, for many acoustic instruments. For those who enjoy performing or watching others perform, there will be as many "open-mic" periods as we can fit in. Saturday evening there's a great main stage show, and Sunday a gospel show. Free selling of music related items is allowed at campsites (no additional fee).

This festival is smaller than the Evert Funfest but offers many workshop, concert and jamming opportunities. The campground is filled with beautiful shade trees, the atmosphere is relaxing, and the weather is usually mild. For more information, pick up a flyer at our meetings or visit the website at:

<http://www.dulcimers.com/fmsm/page6.html>

If anyone would like to use a tent (sleeps up to 4) for Midland, contact Bob Hlavacek. If you haven't camped, and are concerned about "living in a tent" for a few days, don't worry... it's only a place to store your stuff and sleep. You will be far too busy to "live there". All you need is an air mattress and a blanket. There are great restrooms and shower facilities at the Midland fairgrounds, and nights cool down.

## The Hungarian Citera

submitted by David Smith

At our July 7<sup>th</sup> Silver Strings meeting, we were treated to a short but fascinating demonstration of an obscure Hungarian instrument called the Citera [CHEE-teh-rah]. Edina not only demonstrated the fascinating rhythmic and melodic style of Hungarian music but also captivated us with several vocal songs while accompanying herself on the Citera. The Citera is a type of box zither with a raised fretboard for the melody strings and several secondary strings used as drones. Related instruments from other countries include Epinette des Voges (France), Langspil (Iceland), Langeliek (Norway), Humle (Denmark) and Appalachian Dulcimer (USA).

The following letter I received from Linda Enyedy who is responsible for bringing this demonstration to Silver Strings:

*"I'm glad that your group enjoyed the impromptu performance. Edina certainly had fun playing with the Uke jam session in the basement. Edina Teglas is from a town called Veszto in Hungary. She teaches music, classic and Hungarian music history, singing and zither playing in public school; grades 1 through 8.*

*She starting playing zither and singing at the age of 4 with her grandfather. After attending folk music and zither symposiums, she went on to win many countrywide folk singing competitions while still in high school. After graduating from college, she became the director of a folk choral consisting of 100 members as well as a smaller classical singing group. She is the leader of a zither ensemble that plays and sings in the old village style that she has personally*

*I met her when our zither group, Szikra, went to Hungary last year to attend a week long zither and music camp. We decided to bring her to the USA this summer so we could learn more from her.*

*Szikra is the one and only Hungarian folk zither ensemble in the USA. We are trying to preserve this treasure of Hungarian folk music for future generations and to share it with other cultures. Unfortunately, we must either go to the "old country" or bring somebody here to teach us since there are no resources here. One must know the regional dialects and know how they play the music that is often just passed down from generation to generation. One cannot just read the notes and play, there are many, many different ways to play the same song, depending on what region the music is from; that's what makes it so difficult to play properly.*

*I hope I have given you some helpful information."*

### FROM THE MUSIC MAN \_\_\_\_\_

**The song of the month for August will be "Star of the County Down".** We previously played this tune at SSDS about 10 years ago, but we were into Contra dances and it was played much faster. If we slow it down and play it at 3/4 time, it is very pretty.

Several of our older songs have been requested at the regular jam sessions, but we don't seem to do well with them. I will pick a song at each jam, and we will play it several times, so we become familiar with them.

The Szikra Ensemble in performance.



### August play list

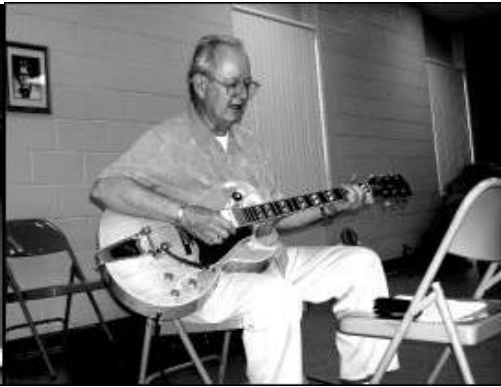
Key	Song	Times Played	First Note
D/A	Maple Sugar	3 ½	F#
Am	Joys Of Quebec	3	E
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3	A
C	Black Velvet Waltz	3	G
D	John Ryan's Polka	5	D
G	Old Joe Clark	4	A
G	Down Yonder	3	B
D	Peek-A-Boo-Waltz	3	F#
D	Painter's Polka	3	A
C	Ten Strike	3	C
G	Tick Tock Polka	3	D
Am	Katushka	5	A
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3	D
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	3	B
D	Young Roddy McCorley	4	D
D	Beaumont Rag	3	G
G	Westphalia Waltz	2	D
Em	Road To Lisdoonvarna	3	B
D	Over The Waterfall	3	D
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	4	B
D/D	Chinese Br'kdown/Nelly Bly	2/2	A/F#
	Endless Medley		
D	Ragtime Annie	2	F#
D	Soldier's Joy	2	F#
D/G	Golden Slippers	2/2	D/G
	Extras		
D	Ashoken Farewell	2	A
G	Fanny Power	3	G
G	Rosin The Beau	4	D

## 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday Variety Night ..

.submitted by David Smith



Sharon McAuliffe and Steve Hadley



Lee Morris



David Smith



Uke & sing



Mark Williams and Bobbi Hurst



Peter Alway



Bert Stein, John Mercier and Marie Naster



The Open Jam

Seven acts performed at the June 30 Variety Night and entertained a large audience. After the entertainment we were treated to pizza, and an open jam followed. The next Variety Night will be **September 30** so practice up on a tune to perform, or stop by to enjoy the entertainment.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MANY...MANY...THANKS...** to **David Smith**, our club historian, who always comes through with great pictures for the Soundboard Newsletter and our website. With camera in hand, he records memories so well, that our membership keeps growing. People see what good times we have and want to be a part of it.  
**THANK YOU DAVE !!!**

Normandy Apartments Performance . . . . . submitted by David Smith



18 Silver Strings members performed on July 22, for an ice cream social celebrating resident appreciation week at Normandy Senior Apartments in Dearborn. The people really enjoyed our playing, and as usual, some were very interested in the instruments.

**Silver Strings Performs at Greenmead Historical Park . . . . .** submitted by David Smith

On July 12, Silver Strings performed at Greenmead Historical Park for an evening High Tea. It was a very hot and humid day as we arrived at the grounds and set up in the shade of a giant oak tree. However, as a gentle breeze drifted through the park, we soon realized that the day was about to turn into a beautiful summer evening. We were encouraged to wear summer dress up outfits for this somewhat formal affair. As the gracious staff began to provide the tea and finger foods to the guests, we provided background music for the occasion. Silver Strings provided 3 sets of music from 7 until 9 pm and between each set, we were invited to participate in the evening refreshments. The evening activities ended just as the sun began to set. Thanks go to George Gonyo, Bob and Dorothy Ewald, Roger and Barb Davis, David and Theresa Smith, Ramona and Steve Hadley and Bob Hillavacek.



The Gentlemen – wearing their old-fashioned finest



The Ladies dressed up for evening tea



## Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of every month  
7-9p.m .... with jamming till ...?

Meeting at **Good Hope Lutheran Church**  
In Garden City, Michigan

Featuring the hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, and other acoustic band instruments : banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle, string bass, washtub bass, mandolin, folk harp, recorder, tin penny whistle, and harmonica. Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together with other players, receive new music and a monthly newsletter.

Participate in workshops, festivals, public performances, picnics, fun and fellowship.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT :**  
[www.ssdociety.org](http://www.ssdociety.org)

**Everyone is welcome !**  
Come to listen, or come to play.



### Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

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