

V.P. PROGRAM NOTES _____ George Gonyo

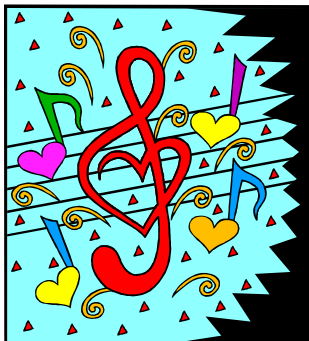
A big THANK YOU to Dawn and her colleagues for handling all the work associated with this function for the past year.

For 2012, it will probably be much the same as what you folks saw in 2011. I figure if it ain't broke, don't fix it. We'll have the 5th Thursday Variety Nights, Myers Lake Campout, Picnics, and notices of upcoming programs, events, slow jams, workshops, etc. Feel free to talk to me or any of the board members regarding any of the above, or anything else you want to bring to our attention. Your usual cooperation in bringing all those goodies for the meeting nights, especially chocolates, cookies, cheese, crackers, cinnamon rolls, cakes, pies, nuts, finger foods, and whatever else you folks would like to bring will be much appreciated by everyone. The first variety night this year will be on March 29, 2012. Anyone interested in being the Master of Ceremonies?

IT'S FEBRUARY...LET'S CELEBRATE !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10...Bob Ewald
10...Christine Hurt
12...Wendy Malwitz
13...Robin White
13...Sharon Dickson
13...Ed Konstal
14...Barb Davis
20...Lynn Hartwig
24...Joe Johnson
26...Pat Altpeter



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

5....Jim & Evie Bain.....46th
12...Bob & Sandi Hlavacek.....46th
13...Tom & Lee Lack.....25th
14...Steve & Ramona Hadley.....37th



SECRETARY'S NOTES _____ Sharon McAuliffe

Board meeting January 19th

* Bank signatures were completed and keys exchanged between the 2011 board and the 2012 board.

* A sympathy card was sent to Larry Allen's family.

OLD BUSINESS

* Variety Nights were discussed and it was decided that they were intended for those Silver Strings members who would like to perform for the rest of the club. If a member brings a guest, that guest is welcome to perform with the club member. The Fifth Thursday information has been removed from the club information on websites.

* We will continue with workshops and slow jams on the third Thursday of each month. We will need volunteers to lead the slow jams, so if you are interested see Linda Osgood. They will be announced in the newsletter and at the meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

*Six new members were approved.

Welcome New Members

Patricia Ann Troxell...Watervliet, MI

She plays the Hammered Dulcimer

Ellie White...Southfield, MI

She plays the Hammer Dulcimer, recorder and piano

Jeffery White...Southfield, MI

He plays the guitar, banjo and dulcimer

Levi White...Southfield, MI

Plays the piano, recorder and is learning the dulcimer

Robin White...Southfield, MI

Robin is learning the dulcimer

Will White...Southfield, MI

He plays the recorder, piano and learning the dulcimer

John Freeman...Ann Arbor, MI

He plays the HD, MD, uke, autoharp, harmonica, spoons, washboard and the washboard bass.

Give them all a warm SSDS welcome!

WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE

Some excuses are so common you'd think Silver Strings had a patent on them. Here's a collection:

"Normally we could stay together, but tonight we don't have a bass."

"The dulcimers are too loud; I can't hear the violins."

"I was doing fine until it speeded up."

"I don't do starts."

"I never got a copy of the music."

"That's not the same as my copy."

"I'd -never- play it that fast. It just spoils the melody."

"Just who do you think would want to dance that fast?"

"What do you expect me to do? We haven't played that in years."

To print the FEBRUARY Play list,

please click on our website or this link :
<http://www.silverstrings.org/sections/tunes/pdf/2012/feb12.pdf>

FEBRUARY PLAY LIST 2012

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Red Wing	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
C	Five Foot Two	4
G	Maggie	3
D	Over The Waterfall	3
G	I'll Remember You Love In My Prayers	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Down Yonder	3
G	Young Jane	3
D	Smash The Windows	3
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/Riding Load Hay	3/3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	5
Em	Tamlin	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3
D	Hey Polka	5
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/	2/2/2/2
D/G	Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2....**Jam**.....7:00
 16...**Starts Workshop**..... @6:00 **Jam** @ 7:00

MARCH

1.....**Board meeting**.....@6:00.... **Jam** @ 7:00
 15...**Autoharp class and Slow jam** @6:00 **Jam** @ 7:00
 16...**Playdate**.....6:00-7:00
 Maple Heights Retir. Community..... Allen Park
 29...**SSDS Variety Night**..... 7:00

Musicians Embrace the iPad and Leave Sheet Music at Home
 (Article from Uncle Carl's February 2012 Newsletter)

Today's technology is changing the way musicians read their music. Instead of carrying around all those music books, you can scan your music into your iPad or tablet. I started seeing this happen about 2 years ago and now more and more of my friends are using them. I was very interested in this so went online to see what information was out there. I saw that orchestras are using them. There are even little foot pedals to help turn pages. Just type in "sheet music on iPad" and check out some of the sites that come up. Karen Turner, our webmaster, is even giving a little class to Silver Strings members on "how to use your iPad as a sheet music reader". Jim Brown and Dale Cole (Android tablet users) have offered to show our club members who are interested in how to do it with software that they use. At this point, I am still memorizing all of my music and don't carry books, but I sure have stacks of music on my bookshelves that could be stored in one little device. Truly AMAZING !!!

Pennye Scheiber, President Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club and Silver Strings member



Review of Sheet Music Readers for the iPad:
<http://appadvice.com/appguides/show/Sheet-Music-Readers-For-iPad>

FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-JAMS

UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2nd Saturday of month 12:30-4:30pm (next is Feb 11th)
 For info. call Pennye 517-547-7448

NETTLE LAKE MUSIC JAM

First Saturday of Month – 6pm (Feb 4th)
 For info contact Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870

MAUMEE STREET MUSIC JAM
 (formerly called West Adrian Jam)

Forth Saturday of the month – 6pm (Feb 25th)
 For info. contact
 Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870
 Or Larry Roper 248-437-5403

SUGAR (Saginaw Ukulele Gurus and Rookies)

First Saturday of the month 10:30-Noon (Feb 4th)
 Magic Bean Café, 5789 State St, Suite 3, Saginaw. MI
 Songs are posted beforehand on the internet
 For info email: muzyka2007@yahoo.com

COOPER'S GLEN

Great Lakes Acoustic Music Festival-Feb. 10th & 11th
 At the Radisson Hotel, downtown Kalamazoo.
 For more information please contact:
festival@greatlakesacoustic.org

MT. HALEY JAMBOREE

Monthly jams held the last Friday of every month
 Feb 24th, Mar 30th, Mt. Haley Township Hall, Midland County
 For Info contact Alice Perry at: mthaleyfmsm@gmail.com

Want to improve your aim

Making and Using a Practice Pad to Improve Hammering Skills,
 Dan Landrum, YouTube Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEOINvoN49c>



We regret the passing of Larry Allen, our long-time member and friend, after a long and hard-fought battle with cancer. This father of 4 was a proud Marine an avid traveler, and an extraordinary educator, both personally and professionally. He loved his music, especially his bagpipes and Silver Strings, which he served in

many ways, from snack set up to president. He will truly be missed by many.

Larry never met an instrument he didn't try to play, and acquired several hundred instruments for his extensive collection. Many (from all over the world) are very unusual, ornate and one-of-a-kind. His family is cataloging them, and will provide a list for our members to have first chance to purchase them.

Strange Musical Instruments

From the website musicalsaw.com

The Musical Saw is not so Unusual After All!

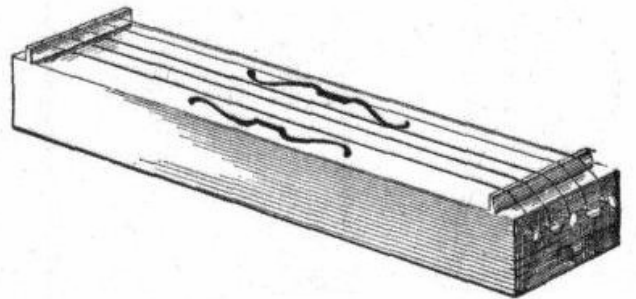
While the musical saw may seem a bit strange to some, to folk music lovers, it's not at all unusual. In fact, during the vaudeville era as many as 25,000 saws per year were sold. What started as musicians playing ordinary carpenter's saws has certainly evolved. Today the musical saw is manufactured especially for musicians. There are bass saws, tenor saws, baritone saws and even a prized gold-plated musical saw.

Instruments That Require No Musician

If you thought the musical saw was unusual, what about an instrument that plays without human assistance? That's right there are musical instruments that are played with the assistance of nature only. No musician is necessary! The Aeolian wind harp and the wave organ are perfect examples.

The Aeolian wind harp, as name indicates, played by the wind. Its origins can be traced back to Ancient Greece. Since the wind harp requires no human involvement, it emanates an eerie sound that is reliant solely on Mother Nature. Like the wind harp, the wave organ also relies solely on nature as its musician. The ocean's waves create the sounds as they move in and out of the tubes located on the underside of the structure. The random notes are heard coming from the openings on the surface of the organ.

Aeolian wind harp



Instruments Created from Weapons

This is certainly my favorite category. The thought of taking something designed for war and turning it into a musical instrument is very appealing. Remember, the Bible forecasts a time of peace when humanity will beat swords into plowshares (Isaiah 2:4) One such weapon/instrument is the Picking Bow. This is essentially an archer's bow converted into a musical instrument. Picking bows are available in my Musical Saw catalog.

Picking Bow



Also know as a Mouth Bow, a Strumming/Rhythm Instrument - Similar to a Jews Harp however, ever so much more versatile. Plus you can sing/talk while playing. To play: press it against the side of your mouth and change the shape of your mouth cavity while you strum.



One of our favorite annual playdates is Erie Ice Daze, at Lake Erie Metropark. We have played for them every year since their 2nd ice festival about 15 years ago.

We tuck ourselves into a cozy display corner, and play very informal concerts for the 2 days of the winter-fest. It's fun to chatter with the many people who come back each year. They have become like old friends.

We love to take our music in to people who cannot get out to hear a concert. The audiences always like the "Hey Polka". This group at Heartland Health Center in Canton was no exception. Their very enthusiastic participation brightens their day, and ours, too.



Henry Ford Village was the setting for a much appreciated concert for the senior residents. They enjoyed the kick-off for the new year, and we enjoyed the opportunity to visit their facility.

