



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

December 2007

Year 24

Issue 12

WEBSITE: www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Everyone,

December has arrived, signaling the end of another year for Silver Strings. I want to thank all of you that supported the many play dates we have had this year. Thank you to everyone for your support of the board and your vote of confidence for the coming year. If you have any great ideas for the coming year lets us know.

We have had our last Christmas music practice. Now the concerts begin. **BIG THANKS** to all who hung in there. I think it will result in better performances. Our first concert on Dec 1st will be a dress up one, with Victorian (late 1800-early 1900's) clothing. The rest will be holiday dress (or pants and shirt for men).

On a sad note, SSDS member Tony Jablonski, and Karen Turner's brother passed away in November: both after a long illness. Please pray for blessings on their family members. Bob and Dorothy Ewald are continuing slowly to recover from illnesses. We miss their smiling faces and wish them well.

If you have not paid your 2008 membership fee it is now due. Remember there is no SSDS meeting on December 20th.

Thank You Ms Editor As I look back over two years of newsletters that have gotten progressively better and better. Our Soundboard editor has honed her skills and produced better and more compact newsletters. They have been reduced in download size by 10 fold with increased content. Great Job Sandi !.

Bob Hlavacek

Through Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, too
Whatever you celebrate, we wish for you
joy, love and harmony, 'tween family and friends.
And for peace for us all, we pray... A-men.

God Bless you, one and all ! Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

PLAYDATE CHATTER V.P. BUSINESS

With the Holiday playdate season fast approaching, most of the "playdate players" are hard at work trying to perfect those holiday tunes. Most of the songs on the holiday playlist are those we have done over the past few years. I thought it would be best to stick to those, since many are "newbies" to the holiday tunes. I did add a couple of new songs to the list, but I recently deleted them because I don't think we are ready to play them in public—maybe next year.

I again want to thank all of the Silver Strings members who have participated in playdates throughout the year and have supported me in this position. I would especially like to recognize and thank Linda Losse for all of her hard work in learning the starts and being the key starter at all jams and playdates. Starts are fun to do, and if you think you may want to try one or two at jam sessions or playdates, please let me know. Also, if you are sitting on the edge of your chair thinking you may want to join us in playdates, I would like to encourage you to try them. You don't have to know all of the songs on a monthly playlist... as I have said before, we have all done our share of air-hammering, air-strumming, etc.

If you would like to attend a playdate, be sure to sign up at the next SSDS meeting. If you are unable to attend a club meeting and would like to sign up for a playdate, please email karenturner@comcast.net or call (734) 455-4085. KT

Many thanks to the "Band of Angels" . . . all who have come out to support the playdates during 2007. You have "done us proud" and increased the treasury



S S D S 2007 Holiday Play List

Key	Tune	Times
G	Jingle Bells	Ch+2
G	Red Wing	3x
G	Away In The Manger	3x
G	Deck The Halls	3x
G	Red Apple Rag	3x
G	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	3x
C	Winter Wonderland	2x
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3x
C	Silver Bells	3x
G	Joy To The World	3x
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3x
G	Let It Snow	2x
D	Festival Rag	3x
D	Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer	2x
G	Westphalia Waltz	2x
G	Up On The Housetop	3x
D	Simple Gifts	3x
D	Frosty The Snowman	2+end
G	Angels We Have Heard	3x
G	Silver And Gold Two-Step	3x
D	Silent Night	3x
G	We Wish You A Merry Christmas	ChVCh

V.P. PROGRAMS

As we approach our busiest playing month of the year I want to remind people that our next meeting, Dec. 6, is at Good Hope Lutheran Church for a playdate. We will set up at 6:45 pm in the sanctuary, and play at 7:15. Immediately following the concert, we are invited to have dessert & coffee with the church members, which they have so graciously offered to provide for us in our regular meeting space. Afterward, anyone who wants to can jam into the night. Also... a reminder that we will not have our regularly scheduled meeting on Dec. 20th because it's so close to Christmas. We won't meet again until Jan. 3rd.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for helping with clean-up and bringing desserts, we have never lacked enough goodies for our jam sessions, because of the generosity of you folks. **Thank you, thank you, thank you !!!**. My commitment to being so involved with Silver Strings and being a board member has helped me to grow as a musician, what a bonus! I look forward to 2008, continuing to grow as a musician, fun times at playdates, the friendships developed at the campout, and the camaraderie at our jam sessions.

Have a very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!

Linda Losse

BANKER OURS

Welcome New members:

Tim and Amy Murphy..... (810) 282-6070
4204 Sheffield, Royal Oak, MI 48077
tamurphy42@comcast.net

Tim plays fiddle and mandolin
Amy plays Mandolin, Mountain D, and Spoons

Diane Griffin.....(734) 464-1969
15232 Knolson..... Livonia, Mi 48154
Ladydi1@provide.net Diane plays Uke

LET'S CELEBRATE !!! HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

December...

- 1..... Jim Bain
- 4..... Dave Lovelace
- 12.... Sharon Hall
- 13... Theresa Smith
- 15... Carol Balogh
- 25... Carol Harmon
- 31... Sandi Hlavacek



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Holiday playdates...



- Dec.1....SSDS Playdate.1-2:00pm
Soroptimist Int'l. Holiday tea.Dearborn
- Dec.4....SSDS Playdate.7:30-8:30pm
Garden City Historical Museum. . . .GardenCity
- Dec.6....SSDS Concert for Good Hope Lutheran Church
Meet for set-up 6:45-7pmConcert at 7:15
- Dec.7....SSDS Playdate7:45-8:30 pm
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. . . .Dearborn
- Dec.11..SSDS Playdate1-1:45pm
Retired School Personnel.Dbn. Heights
- Dec.12..SSDS Playdate.12:45-1:30pm
Retired School Personnel.Livonia
- Dec.13..SSDS Playdate12-1:00pm
Burger School (lunch@11).GardenCity
- Dec.16..SSDS Playdate.9-10:00am
Franklin Community Church.Franklin
- Dec.16..SSDS Playdate6-7:00pm
St. Richard's ChurchWestland
- Dec.19..SSDS Playdate.5-6:30pm
Rivergate TerraceRiverview

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



When you come to a Silver Strings jam, you may often notice a lady with beautiful white hair, sitting in the back among the Kaiser Family, tapping her feet but not playing an instrument. The next time you do, say hello to Marilyn Catt.

Marilyn joined SSDS a few years back when her daughter, Lynne Ellen Kaiser, and her grandchildren, Kelly and Greg Kaiser, became active in the group. Though you haven't seen Marilyn play an instrument, don't assume she's not a musician. She was an active church organist for over 40 years, and began playing for church while in elementary school. For many years she played piano for social and volunteer groups as well, and even taught her share of students. Now Marilyn is trying out the hammered dulcimer, and purchased her own at Evart in 2007.

Marilyn was born and raised in Pennsylvania, where she met and married her husband Art. They had three boys and one girl before moving to West Virginia, and finally to Michigan in 1970. Marilyn's first job was as a mushroom mine worker, and her last was as a craft demonstrator at Greenfield Village, from which she retired in the 1980s.

Art and Marilyn liked to travel extensively, and have been to every one of the 50 states and a number of foreign countries. She especially has enjoyed ElderHostel trips. Since Art's untimely death in 1999, shortly before their 50th wedding anniversary, Marilyn has continued to travel with her daughter and grandchildren.

Marilyn is also an Advanced Master Gardener and is active with the Master Gardener Association of Wayne County. She's even taken a clowning class and volunteers at garden events as Tillie the Clown! And of course, you'll virtually always see Marilyn at any event where her grandchildren (including Ben Catt, a new member of SSDS) are performing!

So say hi and introduce yourself. She's easy to spot... and when you hear someone in the back of a jam request "Ragtime Annie", you've probably heard Marilyn (or her crew) request her favorite tune!

THOUGHT FOR TODAY.....

Having a dulcimer seems a bit like having a dog. We worry about getting it too hot or too cold, we maintain a comfortable bed (well-padded case and dust cover), we monitor the water dish (humidity level), buy it new toys (hammers), take time to interact (tune) regularly, feed it (dust it and clean the strings), exercise (play) it regularly, and in the end it can bring great joy to us and to others. (I took my dog into nursing homes, too.)

Editor

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SSDS 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We are still accepting volunteers to help with the year of celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society. Come to help kick around ideas for ways to celebrate this milestone.

Do you like to browse through old scrapbooks and photo albums, digging out history? We have a place for you! Do you have a talent for writing, that would help put a history book together? We have a place for you! Are you an idea person who likes planning events? We have a place for you! Do you have contacts with past members who might like to join us in celebration? We have a place for you!

Many hands make light work. Join the committee and help with whatever piece(s) that interest you. Please contact any board member or Sandi Hlavacek, datadoc@sbcglobal.net or (734)663-7974.

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TONY JABLONSKI REMEMBERED

When a child, Tony Jablonski taught himself to play the harmonica as he regularly "borrowed" (sneaked) his big brother, Walt's instrument. But Walt never heard him play till he was well over 60 years old.

Tony took it seriously, and became very proficient, playing whenever he could. He played with groups in Jackson, Windsor, and Dearborn Heights, he founded the Garden City Harmonica Club, and was a part of Silver Strings for several years. He played with many small groups in Michigan, and even played on public TV. He pulled Walt into his musical world, and the two of them enjoyed hours of harmonica clubs and days of conventions together.

Tony was known for his keen sense of humor, his talent for telling a really great story, and his music. He **always** had a harmonica in his pocket, ready to play. Tony's long battle with cancer ended November 13th, but his musical gifts will live on.

NOTES FROM YOUR BOARD of DIRECTORS

Elections were held November 1, 2007 for the Board of Directors for 2008. The current officers were re-elected unanimously. We thank you for your confidence in our abilities to serve.

All members are invited to attend any board meeting, usually held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 6:00, before the regular jam. The only cancellations are if 2 or more board members cannot be present.

This is **YOUR** club. We are here to serve you. We invite your input regarding what you would like to see happen (or not) in the club. If you would like to present an idea for discussion, it helps if you contact Bob ahead to be put on the agenda.

Bob, Karen, Linda, George and Bonnie

I offer my sincere thanks to all who have submitted things to the Soundboard since I began as editor. To the officers who have faithfully reported from their corners each month... to those who have submitted articles of musical interest and opportunity for the group... to all of those (especially Bill Smith, Dave Smith, Val Losse and John McAuliffe) who have submitted countless pictures of our activities... and to those who have helped me to grow in computer skills (Bob & Karen). **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, !!!** You have made my job so-o-o much easier and more enjoyable.

I invite all members to submit articles of musical information (perhaps an instrument or song), jokes, poems, concert or workshop opportunities to share with the group. This is **YOUR** newsletter, and our learning opportunity. I will gladly publish, as space permits.

Sandi Hlavacek, Editor



Whether you were lucky enough to taste Bonnie's chocolate fudge cake or not, you will appreciate this recipe. **YUMMY !!!**

CHOCOLATE CHIP BUNDT CAKE

From Bonnie Ream

- 1 pkg Duncan Hines moist deluxe yellow cake mix
- 1 (3.9 oz.) pkg. instant chocolate pudding
- 2 Tbsp. cocoa powder
- ½ cup sugar
- 8 oz. sour cream
- ¾ cup vegetable oil
- ¾ cup water
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cups mini chocolate chips

Pre-heat oven to 350*

Combine first 4 ingredients in mixer thoroughly.

Whisk sour cream, water, oil, eggs in separate bowl

Gradually add wet to dry in mixer,

Stop halfway to scrape sides of bowl.

Do not over-mix.

When thoroughly combined, fold in choco-chips

Bake in greased bundt pan for 50-55 minutes.

Let cake rest for 20 minutes before removing.



The holiday potluck was held Nov. 29th. Many volunteers quickly transformed the hall from bare to festive. We have fantastic cooks at Silver Strings! The ham was far from lonely, and desserts were plentiful and delicious...(lots of chocolate)! Conversation and laughter prevailed throughout the evening, the many door prizes were happily won, everyone pitched in on clean-up, and great jamming went on to about midnight. What a terrific way to set off the holidays !!! A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all who helped with set-up and clean-up.



**HAPPY
HAPPY
HOLIDAYS !**

