



# Notes from the Soundboard

December 2008

WEBSITE: WWW.SSDSOCIETY.ORG

Issue 284

## President's Notes

It is amazing how fast the past two years have slipped by. It seems like only yesterday that I stood, unsure of what the position of president would bring. With the help of the board and members we have had two great years.

Karen Turner, our Business VP, has booked and managed over 70 play dates (I have lost count). She has been a big part of the music coordinator team, putting play lists together, shared the music starter duty, scheduled workshops, practice sessions, and introduced new music. Karen has also been our Webmaster and has maintained a first class Web site.

Linda Losse, Programs VP, with the aid of our historian, Val Losse, have given us fantastic Variety Nights, campouts, helped with picnics, and made our meeting place a welcome place to jam. They have spent many days in the Kitchen preparing and cleaning up the food and drink. Linda spent days perfecting starts to almost every tune in our repertoire. She was also a big part of the music team with Karen. We owe these two ladies a huge debt of gratitude for all the effort they put into making Strings a great place to play.

My old friend from church and past president, George Gonyo, was always ready with wit and a helping hand. He organized two great picnics at German Park, kept the treasurer's books, and started many tunes that no one else knew how to start.

Bonnie Ream took on the job of Secretary and brought knowledge of meeting rules, experience from other boards, and took very good care of our correspondence. She always had insightful input at the board meetings.

Our fantastic newsletters for the past four years have been the product of Sandi Hlavacek. Each month countless hours go into assembling and editing the Soundboard. However, that was dwarfed by the effort put into the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet and history book. Many said it was the best party Strings has ever had, with many returning founding members and past board members. Thank you Sandi, for all of your support and gentle reminders (and some less gentle) to help keep me on track.

Please join me in thanking all of them for all the time they took from their personal lives and leaving their mark on Silver Strings. My deepest thanks to the members who were a sounding board, gave good advice, and to all who supported and gave encouragement. I hope this kind of support will continue for the incoming board.

Personally, Strings has made me become a better musician, forced me to put names to all 130-140 faces, and has been one of the highlights of my life. I have always had delusions of being a musician. Maybe some day I'll get there.

Here's to many more years of good music !.....Bob Hlavacek

**Reminder: Good Hope thank you concert December 4<sup>th</sup>, and no meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

*What has Silver Strings meant to you ?  
Submit your answer for publication in the  
Soundboard by Jan. 15th, and get a gift  
for sharing. Let's spread some positive  
"vibes" around.*

*Sandi Hlavacek, Soundboard editor.*

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY AND/OR ANNIVERSARY  
IS NOT ON THE LIST ON THE BACK TABLE,  
PLEASE DO STOP TO WRITE IT INTO THE  
CORRECT MONTH AT ANY JAM      Thanks !!!**

## Playdate Chatter \_\_\_\_\_ VP Business

As I reflect back on my past 24 months as Business Manager, the most reoccurring thoughts that come to mind are that the performing side of the club has come a long way and that it couldn't have been done without a group effort. A huge thank you goes out to the Board and all the members who have helped to make this happen.

As many of you already know, come January 1<sup>st</sup>, Bert Stein will take over as Business Manager. He comes into this position with a lot of musical talent and new ideas and I am confident he will do a great job. I do plan to attend all the playdates and will support Bert in any way I am needed. I hope that the membership will also continue to give him the help and support that has been so graciously given to me over the past two years.

I am so grateful for finding Silver Strings. In April of 2003, I was searching for a group to play my harmonica with. My friend Bill found the club on the internet and encouraged me to check it out. We came to a club meeting and stood by the back door with awe and amazement as we listened to the uplifting music and watched the fast moving hammers. I turned to him and said, "I don't want to play my harmonica with this group. I want to play a hammered dulcimer!" And the rest is history. I can't imagine my life now without Silver Strings and the hammered dulcimer. My grandfather came from Hungary in the early 1900's and played the cimbalom (often referred to as a concert hammered dulcimer), fiddle and button accordion at Hungarian dances to supplement his income as a steel mill factory worker and farmer. I knew he played the fiddle and accordion but not the cimbalom—I only found out after I introduced the hammered dulcimer to my mother and she said with astonishment that her father had played a similar instrument. So there is a part of me that believes that "fate" brought me to Silver Strings and that I am, in some ways, following in my grandfather's footsteps. Whatever the reason, thank you, thank you, thank you for the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society. Karen Turner

## VP Program Notes \_\_\_\_\_

While Val and I were on vacation this year, we met a couple. The husband, Bob Newburg, had been a member of SSDS a number of years ago before moving to another state. He asked about a number of members that he remembered, and I shared some information about some of the people he mentioned. Almost all of the people he asked about are still members. He told me he had such fond memories of playing his mountain dulcimer at playdates and jamming. He hugged me a couple of times and I know that the hugs were meant for the members he remembered. He wiped a tear away as he told me he missed jamming with everyone, especially since they moved and he hasn't jammed with anyone, because it's a two hour drive to the nearest jam session.

Just as Silver Strings was important to him, it's been important to me. As a musician and in this board position, I've grown so much. I've also been very happy to make such good friends, and now they aren't just musical friends but friends outside of music who enrich my life. I've enjoyed the bond I have with everyone on the board, Karen, Bob, Bonnie, George, and I've enjoyed working with Sandi on the Soundboard (who has been very flexible with all of our needs). It's been great! I know the people on the next board will be enriched in many ways the same as I have. Linda Losse



Several people expressed an interest in SSDS logo patches to sew onto t-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, tote bags, instrument cases, or other things. The SSDS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary patches (designed by David Smith) are available for purchase for \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

If you missed the banquet or would like extra copies of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book, black & white copies are available for \$5 member price or \$10 (including shipping). This is a great gift idea for your "past member" friends.

If you would like a full color copy (which will include anniversary banquet and holiday pictures), they will be available by request for \$20. A color copy will be available for preview in January.

If you would like a silver kazoo, they are available for purchase at 2/\$5. What a great "stocking stuffer" for kids of all ages !!!

**All of these items will be available for purchase from Bob or Sandi Hlavacek at all playdates in December.**

## Banker Ours \_\_\_\_\_

### New Member

Marcia Koslowski 734-354-1928  
45880 Denise Dr., Plymouth, MI 48170  
e-mail mt.koz@hotmail.com  
Plays Hammered dulcimer, piano & viola

**String players' motto:**  
"It's better to be sharp  
than out of tune."

## SSDS HOLIDAY 2008 PLAYLIST

Key	Tune	Time
G	Jingle Bells	C+ 2
G	Red Wing	3
G	Away In The Manger	3
G	Deck The Halls	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	3
C	Winter Wonderland	2
G	We Three Kings	3
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
C	Silver Bells	3
G	Joy To The World	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Let It Snow	3
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Oh Come All Ye Faithful	3
D	Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer	2
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
G	Up On The House + Jolly Old St Nick	2/3
D	Simple Gifts	3
D	Frosty The Snowman	2+End
G	Angels We Have Heard on High	3
G	Silver And Gold Two-Step	3
D/G	Silent Night	2/2
G	We Wish You A Merry Christmas	3 1/2

### IT'S DECEMBER LET'S CELEBRATE ! HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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



The SSDS archives contain many old photos and clippings which are deteriorating, due to storage in acid containing albums. Many have darkened too much to save. Scrapbooking and computers are popular hobbies. Are there members who would be willing to take a year at a time, scan photos onto discs, and/or re-mount the good photos into non-acid albums ? There is no timeline, and it doesn't need to be fancy. People really enjoyed looking through the displays, and it would be very nice to have the photos better sorted, preserved, and protected. If you would be willing to work on this project at your leisure, please let me know.

Sandi Hlavacek....(734) 663-7974  
datadoc@sbcglobal.net

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Mon, Dec 1,	6:15pm
Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church,	Dearborn
Wed, Dec 3,	1pm
Nardineers Methodist Church,	Farmington
Thurs, Dec 4,	7pm
Good Hope Lutheran Church,	Garden City
Fri, Dec 5,	7pm
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church,	Dearborn
Sat, Dec 6,	12 noon
Soroptimist International,	Dearborn
(Victorian Dress Required)	
Tues, Dec 9,	TBA
Retired School Personnel,	Dearborn Heights
Wed, Dec 10,	11:30am
Retired School Personnel,	Ann Arbor
Thurs, Dec 11,	12:15pm
Livonia Library,	Livonia
Sun, Dec 14,	6pm
St Richards Church,	Westland
Thurs, Dec 18,	2pm
Garden City Towers,	Garden City
Thurs, Dec 18,	6pm
Henry Ford Estate,	(V.D.R.) Dearborn

## Rakes of Mallow

(Internet findings from Ken Kaiser)

Although accepted as an Irish tune (Mallow is a town in County Cork), there have been early versions of this tune with the title *The Rigs of Marlowe*, leading to speculation that this was an English tune to begin with. Whatever the origin, this tune has long been popular in Scotland, first published here in the 1780s.

A *rake* was a fashionable youth who led a somewhat dissolute life, so this tune celebrates such young men from the town of Mallow, much as other tunes celebrate *The Merry Lads of Ayr*, *The Lads o' Dunse* or *The Lasses o' Fochabers*. There was also a Scottish song, *Sandy He Belangs Tae the Mill* which was written to this tune to explain a point of Scottish law.

## HOW MANY JOES DO YOU KNOW ?

When the "dulcimer message board posted the question a while back, these were the responses. Joe's Toes (aka La Belle Katherine), Cotton Eyed Joe, Old Joe Clark, Rock the Cradle Joe, Old Black Joe, Haul Away Joe, Anything for John Joe, Bobbing Joe, Kiss me Joe, Joe Kutcher's #1, Joe Kutcher's #2, Computer Joe, Farewell To Joe, Joe Bane's, Joe's Tune (on Youtube). Do you know any more Joes ?

January Playdates:

**Erie Ice Daze, Rockwood**

January 17, 2009, 11:00-3:00 pm

January 18, 2009, 12:00-4:00 pm

If you've never "had the courage" to play at a playdate, this is a perfect place to start. Erie Ice Daze is a very informal "concert", where we are tucked in a corner with a small but steady audience coming by to listen for a while. It feels very much like a good old fashioned jam, where your mistakes are covered by the people around you.

SSDS has played for this celebration of winter since their second festival almost 15 years ago. They clearly love our music, and many of us feel it is the most FUN gig of the year, and a GREAT way to start the new year.

## NEW BOARD TRANSITION

December will be very busy for everyone, so the 2008 and 2009 board members met together on November 30<sup>th</sup> at Rose's Restaurant in Canton to discuss the transition to begin January 1st. New goals were discussed and the outgoing board members pledged their full support. Dinner discussion provided an opportunity to get to know each other better, and for newer members to learn more about the jobs they will take over. The new year will bring smooth transition and lots of good times.

Please support your newly elected board members by giving your help when and where it is needed.

## UNIFORMITY AT PLAYDATES

We have an SSDS polo shirt for a unified look at warm weather playdates (green with white logo or white with green logo). Several members have suggested that we have a unifying look for the colder weather playdates. Sweatshirts or sweaters have been suggested, and we have anniversary patches we can sew onto them.

Silver Strings "official colors", according to bylaws, are Kelly or hunter green combined with white, silver or gray.

All members who performed at 1 or more playdates in 2008 will receive an extra patch. We can vote what to put it on, and order them (in quantity) at an inexpensive price. Anyone who is considering joining the "performance team" can order at the same time. Think about this...

## SSDS 2008 Erie Ice Daze Playlist

Key	Tune	Played
C	Winter Wonderland	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	3
G	Red Wing	3
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/3
D	Peek A-Boo Waltz	3
D	Over the Waterfall	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	5
G	I'll Remember You, Love, Prayers	3
Em	Tamlin	3
G	Jingle Bells (Chorus + 3)	3
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
G	Tick Tock Polka	3
D	Sandy River Belle	3
D	Bonaparte Crossing Rhine / Flop Eared Mule	3/3
G	Southwind	3
D	Whiskey B4 Breakfast	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	5
Am	Katushka	5
C	Five Foot Two	5
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Sophrina	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
Em	Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load of Hay	3/3
G	Let It Snow	3
G	March Of St Timothy	3
D	Viola's Schottische	3
Em	Dancing Bear	3
G	Old Joe Clark	3
D	Hey Polka	5
D	Midnight On The Water	3
G	Jamie Allen	3
D	Rudolph	3
D	Festival Rag	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
G	Dusty Bob's Jig	3
G	Down Yonder	3
Em	Missouri	3
D	Frosty The Snowman	3
G	Black Velvet Waltz	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Maggie	5
G	Silver And Gold Two-Step	3
D	Road To Boston	3
G	January Waltz	3
D/D/D/G	Endless Medley (Ragtime Annie - Soldier's Joy - Golden Slippers)	2/2/2/2

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT LOST PICKS

Guitar, mandolin, banjo, and mountain dulcimer players all have something in common. They lose a lot of picks, and it can get expensive. . . Ingenuity prevails.

Sherry Humecky once said she cuts them out of unsolicited credit cards. Carol Kimball said, "I remember once cutting up a bleach bottle, but they come out curved". Any more ideas to offer? Let's put them in the Soundboard.



The October Variety Night was the night before Halloween, so members were invited to come dressed as a song title. Some very imaginative costumes appeared, (even a bass fiddle dressed up), and a good time was had by all. Our old friend, Nancy Downy, came back to visit, and shared some of the Oregon Trail songs from her new homeland surroundings. Who ever would have thought a mailbox could play the banjo so well ? Only Greg Kaiser could make that happen.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of December is a concert for Good Hope, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> is too close to Christmas to have a meeting. So our holiday potluck was held just before Thanksgiving. "Breaking bread" together is one of the things SSDS seems to enjoy the most. We have some terrific chefs in the group.

. . . . . **Black November** . . . . .

When I was a young turkey, new to the coop, My big brother Mike took me out on the stoop,  
 Then he sat me down, and he spoke real slow, And he told me there was something that I had to know;  
 His look and his tone I will always remember, When he told me of the horrors of... Black November;  
 "Come about August, now listen to me, Each day you'll get six meals instead of just three,  
 "And soon you'll be thick, where once you were thin, And you'll grow a big rubbery thing under your chin;  
 "And then one morning, when you're warm in your bed, In'll burst the farmer's wife, and hack off your head;  
 "Then she'll pluck out all your feathers so you're bald 'n pink, . . . . .  
 . . . . . and scoop out all your insides... leave ya lyin' in the sink;  
 "And then comes the worst part" he said, not bluffing, "She'll spread your cheeks...pack your rear with stuffing".  
 Well, the rest of his words were too grim to repeat, I sat on the stoop like a winged piece of meat,  
 And decided on the spot that to avoid being cooked, I'd have to lay low and remain overlooked;  
 I began a new diet of nuts and granola, High-roughage salads, juice and diet cola;  
 And as they ate pastries, chocolates and crepes, I stayed in my room doing Jane Fonda tapes;  
 I maintained my weight of two pounds and a half, And tried not to notice when the bigger birds laughed;  
 But 'twas I who was laughing, under my breath, As they chomped and they chewed, ever closer to death;  
 And sure enough when Black November rolled around, I was the last turkey left in the entire compound;  
 So now I'm a pet in the farmer's wife's lap; I haven't a worry, so I eat and I nap;  
 She held me today, while sewing and humming, And smiled at me and said "Christmas is coming..."

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....Kelly Kaiser

By: Lynne Ellen Kaiser



**Kelly's first  
SSDS meeting**

On January 27, 2003 – one day after her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday – Kelly Kaiser came to her first Silver Strings meeting with her Mom, Lynne Ellen. After listening to the Variety Night entertainment, people began to jam. Kelly, with much encouragement, played the total of two fiddle tunes she knew. And as she listened and learned and played along, the crowd of Silver Strings members slowly formed a semi-circle around her, guiding and encouraging her. It was a magical evening, and one that would have profound effects.

Skip forward to 2008. That little 10 year-old is now a 15 year-old musician, playing many instruments – violin, piano, cello, flute, hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, mandolin, pennywhistle... to name a few! She is concertmaster of a local Youth Symphony, also plays violin at the U of M Youth Symphony, mentors younger kids in another symphony, plays in a flute choir, and regularly with the Canton Community Band as part of the pit orchestra for live performances at the Cherry Hill Village Theatre. She also plays at playdates with Silver Strings!

Kelly has lived her entire life in Canton, Michigan. She has been homeschooled since kindergarten, and is currently in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Kelly began playing the violin at age 8. At 10, after experiencing Silver Strings, her family began to attend the music festivals and became addicted to traditional music. She won the Michigan State Championship Old Time Fiddler's Contest in 2007 and 2008. Kelly hopes to attend college (perhaps U of M) to study violin performance and also perhaps music education.

Many of Kelly's interests revolve around music. She loves to compose music, and is wildly interested in music theory, studying it at every opportunity – including a class at U of M. She also has several violin students that she teaches, mostly classical pieces, using the Suzuki method. Some of her other interests include reading, Japanese Kumihimo braiding and jewelry making, origami, writing stories, and nature study. She also loves cats, and has been very involved in cat rescue. Whenever they can, her family, including Grandma Marilyn Catt, loves to travel.... the ultimate homeschooling field trip! In school, Kelly's favorite classes include Latin and History.

Silver Strings has been an integral part of Kelly's life since that January day in 2003. Soon after, her brother Greg began to come to meetings too, playing the guitar or guitar banjo. Then her dad, Ken... then her cousin, Ben Catt... and her Grandma, Marilyn Catt. It really has become quite a family affair. The influence didn't stop there. Her family loved the music and the playing together so much, they formed their own band, and The Kaiser Family Band now performs at gigs and festivals, and even recorded their first CD in 2008.

Kelly's interest in music led her to her most recent undertaking. She volunteered to take on the position of Music Coordinator for Silver Strings! Although she is only 15, Kelly's wide knowledge of music should help her be ready for the tasks ahead!



**Editor's Note:** *Despite her age, Kelly's knowledge of music and repertoire far exceeds the vast majority of Silver Strings other members. Among her many talents, very few people are able to grasp both the classical violin and the fiddle styles with proficiency, as she has. The outgoing and incoming boards are excited about her willingness to step forward, and anxious to see what she has to offer.*