



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

APRIL 2011

27 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC July 1983-2010

Issue 312

Website : www.silverstrings.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring is here. Campouts, festivals, and concert playdates are ramping up. I seemed to have been focused in March upon the coming season, and the “**Face of Silver Strings**”.

Who are we? Why are we here? What do we do? We are the musicians who provide a place for people to come to learn and improve their music skills. We are the members who perform and bring joy to our audience. We are the members who receive joy from our music and see the effect it has on others. We are members like Marie Naster, Donna Mayer, and Larry Allen, suffering physical illness. We are Sherry Humecky, who lost her father two weeks ago, and Shirley Keyser, who lost her husband, Wes in early March on their anniversary. Please put them in your prayers. We receive compliments from people around the state. We receive emails from around the country and around the world, from people who love what we do. We are our website and newsletter. So wherever there are two or more of us, “We are the Face of Silver Strings”.

We welcome our new “Soundboard” editor, Lee Ann Lack. This is her first edition, in training, so please thank her for stepping up to provide this communication tool for us and the community that follows us on the web. If you have items to submit for the newsletter, please forward them to leelack@att.net. Many, many thanks to our out-going editor, Sandi Hlavacek, for 7 years of deadlines and a great product.

The Evert music festival is beginning to bubble up into our thoughts. The Saturday pre-show tunes are listed in this newsletter, so you can brush-up or learn them. ODPC is looking for clubs for volunteer help to man (or woman) the gates. They would like clubs to take a block of hours, and provide people to sell and check for entry ribbons. I think there are 5 gates. It would take 10 people on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. Considering all of the fun we have there, a few hours of help is a great way to “pay forward”. We need someone to coordinate it at the festival... get a time from the ODPC committee, and then get the people. It should be easy and fun. We have several members who conduct workshops, but all of us can't do that. However, Larry Roper and I have been the MCs for the Saturday afternoon stage show, Dawn Sorento and I have been sound crew for the evening shows, Dave Lovelace, Marylou Battley, Sandi and I, along with others, have done “One on One” help for newbies. There are many opportunities to help. We give a little, but get a lot.

I was unable to attend all of the playdates in March. However, there were two very notable ones where we were at our finest. One of our favorite senior centers, Maple Heights in Allen Park, inspired us to provide a concert that we felt was among the best we have done. The audience was in a festive St Patrick's party mood, and really responded to the music and stories. The activities director made reservations for us at Sabina's Polish Restaurant, where we basked in the joy of the evening. We thought it couldn't get any better than that, but it did !. The following night, we played for a St. Patrick's celebration at Colonial Acres in South Lyon. **What a blast that was !!!** The audience was in a party mood. They clapped, and danced, and sang to some of the Irish tunes. The more fun they had the better we played. They spurred us on to do one of the best interactive concerts we have ever done. Many of the musicians hung around for almost an hour talking with the partiers. I don't suppose the wine some of the people brought had anything to do with their mood.

Sandi and I will be out of town and unable to attend Variety night. I expect everyone will have a good time. As you read this newsletter, we will be spending quality time on a spring break vacation with our grandkids. Grandma and Grandpa have a week to spoil them in Kansas City, doing kid things (with no mom and dad). April is the month of Easter. Sandi and I wish you a happy and blessed Easter. Please remember our sick and hurting members in your prayers. Go forth and make beautiful music. Stay 'tuned'.
Bob Hlavacek

PLAYDATE NOTES

V.P. Business

Hi Folks:

Our first of nine playdates in March was played at All Seasons of Rochester Hills. We played to a lively audience, and many of them came to us after the performance to express how much they enjoyed the show. One man in particular, Gordon Gibson, who spoke to Bert and myself, told us he really enjoyed the music, and could relate to many of the tunes, as he used to play them on his bagpipes. He told us that he was no longer able to play because his weakening lungs couldn't generate enough wind to play. We often hear from folks who once played music, but because of age and health issues, they are no longer able to. This is very sad for me to hear, and is a big part of why I enjoy doing my part to entertain these people and bring some joy into their lives, if only for a brief time. It is also a reminder that we should play as much and as often as we can, while we are still able.

Our second playdate was at West Winds Health Care Center in Commerce. This was our first Saint Patrick's Day Celebration, and once again our audience seemed to enjoy it very much. My contact person said that she and her co-workers were very pleased, and that they would most likely want us to come back sometime in the future.

The remainder of our playdates fell later in the month, after the deadline for newsletter articles. So I'll be writing about those in next month's newsletter. So far, we have only one playdate scheduled in April, and I should be finalizing another soon. However, we are keeping up with last years pace, with 23 playdates booked for this year so far, including ones we have already played. We are almost half way to last year's number of 48, so it should be an interesting year. Happy April everyone!

Larry Roper

SECRETARY'S NOTES ___ Carol Ann Matthews

Board Minutes, March 3, 2011

OLD BUSINESS

* More Meyer's Lake Info. Will be coming out .

NEW BUSINESS

* Sharon will do a workshop on "**Starts**" in April.

* Van Buren Seniors breakfast is booked April 7 at 8:00am.

* New ideas for the web-site:

1. Member profile with photo and first name with last initial. Approved.

2. Members only section for PDF music files, the password to change periodically. Approved.

3. A face book account; This is a way to improve visibility of our club. Karen will look into this further.

* Music packets will be mailed for \$4.95 paid by member.

* Lee Lack has volunteered to take over as editor of the Soundboard.

This is a synopsis. Full board minutes are available from Sec.

VP PROGRAM NOTES _____ Dawn Hayes

Thank You: I would like to thank all of the members who have provided the goodies for the "breaks" each meeting. They have been delicious and greatly appreciated by all.

Campout info: I am still trying to reach the campground for rates for this year's campout. They are hard to reach until April, so I will keep trying. Meanwhile, hold the dates of June 10, 11 and 12 open on your calendars. As soon as I get any information I will pass it on at the meetings, and do a follow-up in the newsletter.

Campout Workshops: Currently, we are thinking about holding 2 hammered dulcimer workshops, 1 mountain dulcimer workshop, and possibly a harmonica jam. If anyone is interested in conducting these workshops, or if you would like to see something else offered, please let me know.

Variety Night: The next Variety Night will be June 30th. We are in need of a host/s for that night.

Workshop: Sharon McAuliffe is willing to do another workshop on "Tune Starts" on April 16th. Her last one was great, and several of us who attended it would like to explore the topic further. This workshop will take the place of the slow jam for the evening.

April Tunes: The April 'tune of the month' is "Bobby Casey's", and we will revisit the tune "Mairi's Wedding."

Have a safe and Happy Easter!!

IT'S APRIL... LET'S CELEBRATE !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1..... Alice Avery
- 1..... Larry Roper
- 6..... Tony Jablonski
- 7..... Jack Mullins
- 10... Luke Kawecky
- 13... Bill Deighton
- 23... Harold Crane
- 27... Jason Yanity
- 28... Marsha Kozlowski



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 9..... Marlin & Carol Harmon

Shirts & Jackets.

Get your Silver Strings jacket while the supply lasts. I have a few shirts and jackets left. They are great to wear on those cool nights at the festivals this summer. I will bring them to the April 21st jam.

Carol Ann

To print the April Play list,

please click on our website or this link :
<http://www.silverstrings.org/sections/tunes/pdf/2011/apr11.pdf>

APRIL PLAY LIST 2011

Key	Tune	Play
	List of tunes for 1 hour long gigs	
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Maggie	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Smash The Windows	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn'	3
G	Southwind	3 *
D	Over The Waterfall	3
A	Red Haired Boy	3
D	Irish Washerwoman	3
D	Ashoken Farewell	3 *
Em	Road to Lisdoonvama/ Riding--Hay	3/3
D	John Ryan's Polka	Karen
D	Hey Polka	Bob
D	Midnight on the Water	3 *
G	Flowers of Edinburgh	3
G	Down Yonder	3
D	Old Joe Clark	3
G	Young Jane	3 *
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie Soldiers Joy/Golden Slippers (if more than1 hour, skip)	2/2
D/G		2/2
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
D	Liberty	3
D	Festival Rag	3
G	January Waltz	3 *
G	March of St. Timothy	3
Em	Tamlin	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3 *
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie Soldiers Joy/Golden Slippers	
D/G		
	Extra Tunes	
G	Red Wing	3 *
G	Silver And Gold Two Step	3
D	St. Ann's Reel	3
D	Turkey in the Straw	3
D	Simple Gifts	3 *
	* = cycle 2: fiddles, harmon.+Backup HD's play softly	

Why are harps like elderly parents?
 Both are unforgiving and hard to get
 into and out of cars.

PURSE STRINGS

Linda Osgood

Hello Folks

Well, here we are looking forward to Spring and lots of Jammin'!! Taxes are done and our Uncle Sam is taken care of for 2010. Thanks to Bob Hlavacek for his expertise. Financially our club is doing well. Thanks to all who have so graciously paid their dues....We are getting close to %100 I'd like to welcome four new members to our club. Please encourage them all with a warm SS welcome!!

Ed Konstal ... Livonia
 Beginner on Hammered Dulcimer

Richard Schalk Garden City
 He plays Guitar

Mary Colgan ... Haslett
 Hammered Dulcimer

Harold Crane ... Brighton
 He plays Guitar

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

7.....**Board meeting before jam** :6:pm
 7.....**Playdate**DC :8:30-10:am
 VB Senior Ctr. Van Buren Twp.
 21.....**Slow Jam before meeting** :6:pm

MAY

6.....**Playdate**BC :2:30-3:00pm
 Baldwin HouseBirmingham
 14...**Outdoor Concert** ... C. :12:30-2:pm
 BASF Trailer Stage Clinton
 20....**Playdate** BC :7:30-8:30pm
 1st Presbyterian Church Royal Oak

C=Casual, BC=Business Casual, DC=Dressy Casual

ODPC FUNFEST IN EVART

Coming soon...

It's time to start preparing for the "BIG BAND"
July 14-17, 2011

2011 Pre-Show Tunes

Red Apple Rag (G)
 Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)
 Sophrina (G) - Les Raber
 Red Wing (G)
 Maple Sugar (D)
 Trillium Twirl (C) - Judi Morningstar (2008)
 Headin' To Evart (D) - Bill Robinson
 Hey Polka (G)
 Liberty (D) - if time permits
 Star Spangled Banner - for the opening

BUCKEYE REPORT

Neither snow, nor rain, sleet, nor flooding kept 5 of our members and friends from attending the 20th annual Buckeye Dulcimer Festival in Ashley, OH last month. We were greeted with flooded road closures and detours just to reach the festival, but all of us agreed that it was the best festival ever. Each of us took different workshops (autoharp, uke, fiddle, hammered dulcimer and mountain dulcimer, percussion, and 'Band It'). We had excellent teachers and learned a lot.

Different this year, were the instructor led evening JAMS. The JAMS were grouped by ability levels, and used tunes that were learned in class. That made the JAMS a friendly, positive experience for everyone. Also, the afternoon Open Stage, which featured all the classes and their learning's, was the best ever, as well as the Nightly Shows put on by our instructors. This 20th year was truly one we won't forget!

It was announced that due to flooding, many of the previous Buckeye photos and videos from years past were destroyed. They would like to put together a 20 year memory book, but need your help. Do you have a special photo or memory you would be willing to share to make this possible? They will scan your pictures, copy your memories, and if you want them back, they will return them to you by mail. Send your photos and memories to: Louise Zeigler 232 W. High Street Ashley, OH 43003.

If you want an excellent retreat and musical learning experience, one that will improve your playing abilities, join us next year at the 21st annual Buckeye Dulcimer Festival, open to all acoustic instruments and levels of ability.

Submitted by Ernie Stuart



Enjoying Buckeye were members and friends:
Ernie Stuart,
James MaBarak,
Luke Kaweck,
Sid Rogers,
Mary Lou Battley,
Penny Schieber,
& Paula Brawdy.

CYBER-NOTES

Karen Turner

Hi folks,

Our old domain name of www.ssdociety.org will no longer work. The board decided to keep the old domain for a year, and a year was up yesterday! Server changes have been made to reflect the new domain name.

Please change your bookmarks or browsing URL to www.silverstrings.org

New On The Website!

The 2011 Silver Strings Repertoire can be found at <http://www.silverstrings.org/sections/tunes/repertoire.asp> Most tunes have midi files associated with them. If a midi is missing, it is probably because of copyright issues. Be sure to check it out! You can also print an index of the tunes by clicking on the "Print The Repertoire List".

Karen

FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-JAMS

UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2nd Saturday of month 12:30-4:30pm (next is April 9)

For info. call Penny 517-547-7448

NETTLE LAKE MUSIC JAM

First Saturday of Month - 6PM (next is April 2)

For info contact Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517 270 2870
or Pastor Mike Wilder 419 485 4112

MAUMEE STREET MUSIC JAM

(formerly called West Adrian Jam)

Last Saturday of month - 6PM (next is April 30)

For info. contact

Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870

Or Larry Roper 248-437-5403

Original Michigan Fiddlers Association

FIDDLER'S JAMBOREE

Old Fashioned Square Dance - Hastings, Mi.

Sat. April 16th 2011...COA Senior Center

320 West Woodlawn Street

Fiddlers play 1-5:pm

Open microphone 5-6:30 pm

Round & Square dancing 6:30-9:30pm

Refreshments & dinner available on site.

Bring your non-electric instrument & join the fun !

For info. contact Paula : (616) 240-0445

Dulcimers in the Cornfield

April 29-May1

Full info can be found online at FOTMC.com

FOR SALE

Hammered Dulcimer... 16/16 chromatic with a full 3 octave range and cherry outside rails. It weighs 17 lbs., and comes with a case, hammers, & tuning wrench for \$850.

Contact Roger Davis @ 248-347-0320.

What's the difference between a violin and a viola?

There is no difference. The violin just looks smaller because the violinist's head is so much bigger.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU Cathy Douglas

My name is Cathy Douglas, and I have been a member of Silver Strings for about 2 years. I play the hammered and mountain dulcimers, penny whistle, flute, piccolo, violin and piano. I was born in Seattle, Washington, but was raised mainly in Coldwater, Michigan. My mother played the piano in church, and was a reading specialist. My dad grew up singing with his family, and was an aircraft mechanic and inspector. I have one sister, who played piano and clarinet. My grandmother (Dad's mom) wrote hymns and poems, and used an old ditto machine to run copies that she shared with people around the world. Our family later collected those and

put them into a book called "A New Song In My Mouth." I've been blessed to have a family who always supported and encouraged my love of music.

I started piano when I was 5 years old, and the flute and piccolo when I was in Jr. High. My high school band director, Gary Fleagle, was outstanding. He took our band to Disney World to play in the Electric Light Parade. We also played in the Cotton Bowl Parade in Texas, and the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade.

I met my husband, Chip, at Spring Arbor College. We got married, I taught kindergarten for 8 years, earned a masters degree from Oakland University, and worked as a reading specialist. Chip is co-owner of a wholesale sporting goods company. We now live in Oxford For the last 10 years, I've had the privilege of home schooling our two children. Shawn is 17, and plans to go to college, then join the Marines, and hopes to have a career in the FBI. Caity is 13, and would love to be an author. She plays violin and piano, and enjoys playing keyboard for our church youth worship team.

You may wonder how I got interested in the hammered dulcimer. When I was in the 4th grade, my mom took me to an arts and crafts festival. There was a man there selling mountain dulcimers. We talked it over with my dad, and I got money from the bank. When we went back, he had sold them all. We took his business card, and Dad always planned to take me there. But life got busy and it just didn't happen. I had forgotten about it until a few years ago, when my dad became ill. He mentioned that he regretted I'd never gotten my dulcimer. I started researching online, bought a mountain dulcimer, and played it for him before he passed away. But while I had been looking, I fell in love with the hammered dulcimer. My husband, who had heard Dee Dee Tibbits play at a church camp years ago, told me I needed to get one. He loved the sound!

I've taught myself to play with helpful advice online and wonderful workshops at Evert. I found Silver Strings while looking for groups in my area. I have to drive quite a ways to get there, but playing with a group has helped me to progress more. I don't think you could find a better bunch of people! A highlight for me was performing with Silver Strings at Greenfield Village. I work part-time at our library, but I practice whenever I can, and also love sewing, reading and genealogy research. My biggest goal is that my children would know that God has a special plan for each of them, and the best place to be is right where He wants them. If you want to chat about historical fiction or genealogy discoveries, you can usually find me on the right side of our meeting room, next to the windows. I don't get to come as often as I'd like, but I enjoy every moment when I am there!

HARMONICS ON THE HAMMERED DULCIMER

Q.... On the celtic harp, one can play a harmonic tone (a tone an octave higher) by touching the harp string in the center, either with the knuckle of one finger or with the ball of the hand, and then plucking with the thumb. On the mountain dulcimer, you can accomplish the same thing by picking the string, then tapping it in the very center. Is there a way to play harmonics on the hammered dulcimer?

A.... You can get the first harmonic on any string by touching the center lightly and plucking it. Since some strings are the full width of the dulcimer, going under bridges, (bass strings) you might have to look at the string closely to find the center. You can get it with the hammer instead of plucking if you work at it a bit. there are also second and third harmonics you can get by dividing the string in halves, 3rds or 4ths.

QUILTERS ARISE !!!

The ODPC is joining other organizations to provide decorative quilts to hang on the walls to help absorb excess sound in the new building at Evert.

The woodcarvers groups have committed 10 quilts. We musicians can do better. Silver Strings has many artists who sew and/or quilt. The requested 36" X 45" is smaller than a crib quilt. Our Board has suggested we could provide more than one with significant musical themes.

No loops or sleeve are needed. ODPC will provide all hardware and labor to hang it.

Please contact the board or Sandi Hlavacek if you are willing to help design, make by yourself, or help with a quilt, by making a square. Our SSDS art work will hang forever in the Evert Funfest Activities Hall.



We often play at the Maple Heights Retirement Center in Allen Park, where we always have a large, appreciative audience. Their Activities Director, Marie, welcomes us with open arms, and treats us like family. It has become a “must do”, for us to help them celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. They clap, they sing, and really enjoy the instruments we often pass out.



The seniors in Colonial Acres Senior community in South Lyon were unanimously voted the most energetic audience we have ever had. Their participation in clapping, singing, and laughing at our ‘mostly’ Irish humor was phenomenal! Bob & Larry bounced jokes off (and at) each other like never before. We **all fed** from their joy, and played one of the most fun concerts ever.

