



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

April 2020

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 36 YEARS

Issue 420

www.silverstrings.org

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS__ Peggy Kustra

I know at this time we are all home wishing we could be together playing music. However, the good news is we are currently all healthy and free of the corona virus. I pray this stays that way.

It is a great time to practice the April through July playlist. It's always a beautiful day when musical notes permeate the air. Open the windows, sit on the porch, or stand on your balcony. (of course only if it's warm) Let music sooth your soul and anyone else who can hear it.

We are currently not allowed in to Holy Cross to gather and practice. They will inform me when the ban is lifted. Please watch your email for any cancellations or change of information.

I'm praying for everyone and your family members to stay healthy. Stay home, be safe, wash your hands often. Let us know if you are ill. We are all pulling together and doing our job to beat this virus.

If you have any questions, ideas or concerns contact me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com or 313-570-7844

..... *Perky Peggy still Perky*

wellbeing. This emergency will end and we will be able to get together soon.

Playdates that are CANCELLED:

April

Heartland Healthcare Tuesday April 7th

Cedar Brook Senior Living Friday April 17th

May

Alpha Delta Kappa Saturday May 02nd

.....Steve_slbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES__ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

To our DEAR MUSIC FAMILY:

Times right now are interesting. It is an opportunity to see what humanity is really capable of. On the news we see the college man on the beach who was interviewed on TV saying, "If I get it, I get it. I'm not going to stop partying because of it !!!" who very possibly took the virus back home to his family and community... then other students who are donating their spring break to deliver groceries to senior citizens who are afraid to go out. We see the man who was selling his many cases of \$2 hand sanitizer on the internet for \$25 each, and the ladies who are (at their own expense), sewing face masks for their local hospitals & clinics. Some people are hoarding toilet paper to sell for profit, and others are donating it to charities. Stores are closed, restaurants that are able are selling only carry out meals, students are missing the joys of their proms and graduations, and even our churches have closed and directed us to TV and internet services.

Look closely, and you will see there is an uplifting spirit of support for each other blossoming in our world. We see a man on the street, leading a song sung together by many people hanging their heads out of their apartment windows, and an impromptu orchestra formed through open windows across allies surrounded by high rise apartments. We see our legislators working together (past party lines) to help those who are financially impacted. Companies that normally produce whisky and beer are now making hand sanitizer, instead. Our banks & utility companies are waiving late fees & shut offs for the suddenly unemployed. There really is more good in this world than bad. When the

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

1 - SSDS MEETING & JAM..... **Cancelled**

15 - SSDS MEETING & JAM..... **Cancelled**

29 - VARIETY NIGHT & PIZZA PARTY... **Cancelled**

VP - BUSINESS NOTES__ Stephen Beck

This has been a weird three months as your Business Manager. From getting playdates scheduled to canceling them, what a whirl wind. My moto for the group has been to be proactive about the safety of our members. A lot of us that go to the playdates fit in the guidelines from the CDC and the State of Michigan Health Department as a risky age for this Virus Emergency. The places we were scheduled to have playdates have been in constant contact with me about the risk to them and us. I would like you to know that you are important to all of us on the Silver Strings board and we as a board will look out for the clubs safety and

chips are down, people **DO** come together, in small ways and in big. Over the years, we've seen awesome generosity and kindness erupt from earth quakes, floods, droughts, tornadoes, tsunamis, previous epidemics, wars, and many other large scale challenges.

Our **Silver Strings "Spirit Jams"** are a part of that support. It is a proven fact, that **music can lift our spirits**. What a **GREAT** idea to designate our normal jam time to playing "together" from home, despite the current crisis. We can be together in spirit and get our practice in, so we aren't too rusty to pick up where we left off when this cloud clears... and **YES it will!** God's hands are reaching us through the medical people who are caring for the sick... through those who are stocking shelves and distributing food... through friends, family, neighbors and strangers, reaching out to each other... through **EVERY KINDNESS** that is given and received. Let us count our many blessings, more than our challenges. Let us be careful... be safe... be healthy... and be kind to each other. AMEN!

LIFE GOES ON !!!

In these confusing times, we need to look forward to the end of the storm. Our concerts and Thursday night jams are on hold for now, and we have extra time on our hands. That's good for getting "yard work" done, but if we don't play our music we can get rusty. Take the time to practice that difficult song you've struggled with, or learn that "Tune of the Month" you have not found time to try, or just play through your favorite January Waltz. Music can lift your spirits by re-aligning your brain cells, that has been scientifically proven. When you are feeling isolated, call a friend or drop them a note. Touch base with someone you are missing.

This challenge **will** come to an end, and life **will** come back to normal. We are really looking forward to our annual Silver Strings campout in June. That is always our "opening run" of the season that tells us what needs tweaking for the other camping to come. We are planning some fun things... some different things. Along with all of the activities the campground has to offer (hiking, biking, miniature golf, skate boarding, etc.), there will be a **FRISBEE GOLF** course and the **JOLLY GREEN GIANT'S YAHTZEE** tournament at our site. So far, we have 2 workshops in line: **"WRITING A SONG WITH THE ROLL OF THE DICE"** and **"HOW TO PLAY YOUR NOSE FLUTE"** (instruments provided...I can still use more xylophone pull toys). We need a few more volunteers to teach. What do you have to offer? Harmonica? Teach a Dulcimer tune? Please share your expertise. Contact us... (734)663-7974 or datadoc@charter.net). If we have to postpone the campout, we will. But we want to have everything lined up and ready to have fun. So find that favorite picnic recipe for the pot luck dinner... **we will be ready to celebrate!**

Camping in our area site will be \$30 per night. Cabins are available to rent \$80 for a 4 person, \$115 for a 6 person. Yurts are available, 6 person \$125. Remember, you need to **reserve those directly through the park by calling (248)634-9811.**

Groveland Oaks camp ground is located at 14555 Dixie Highway, at Grange hall Road. New information flyers from the campground are at the printer's now and will soon be available to us. As the time gets closer, we will need to have an idea how many tents & campers we will have. The weekend of **June 5,6,7** is our campout. The group site is available to us from **Wed, June 3rd** through **Tuesday June 9th**, if you want to spend a few more days there.

We will have to wait until mid or late April to see when restrictions are lifted. Silver Strings needs to pay for the Group site by May 20th. Your reservation needs to get to us before that date. **Stay Safe and healthy!**
....Sandi & Bob datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974

MARSHA'S MUSINGS _____ Marsha Kozlowski

To help you have something to do with all the time on your hands and distract you from cleaning closets, here are the next two Tune of the Months:

May: "The Distressed Soldier". Ernie Stewart and friends taught it at last year's campout with various harmony parts. This lovely ballad has many possibilities. To hear or learn harmony parts, look in SSDS Dropbox for the WORKSHOP arrangement. Watch DeeDee Tibbits do this on YouTube. The original tune was a bawdy Scottish tune called Mill, O Mill. In 1793 Robert Burns, the beloved Scottish poet, wrote a poem called "The Soldier Returns" and set it to the earlier tune. Eventually, other variations of the name occurred, of which "The Distressed Soldier" is one.

June: "Sloop John B", also known as the **Wreck of the John B**, was a Bahamian Folk Tune about a sunken ship going down in a storm. In 1647, a Welshman, John Bethel, who owned a 16' sloop manned by a 5 person crew was sailing out from a colony in the Bahamas and caught in a storm. A transcription of the tune was published in 1916. A version of was included in Carl Sandburg's "The American Songbag" in 1927. From the 1950's on there were a number of recordings, the most familiar being done by the Kingston Trio and later by the Beach Boys. Social distancing suggestions:

- Spend a week just playing tunes taught at workshops. We get some great tunes at workshops. **Shenandoah Falls** (a Myers Lake campout) **Irish Washer Man, Poor Boy's Delight**
- Run through **April-July playlist**. Who knows when the next gig will happen, but envision us playing for a grand audience and smile. Practice playing and looking up to smile.
- Play through the entire SSDS Tune list – how long do you think that will take?
- Have theme days: Day 1: waltzes, Day 2: Tunes of the Month, Day 3: Irish/Celtic, Day 4: Sing-along, Day 5 – Tunes with titles that start with T (or some other letter), etc.

- **Work on Starts** – pick 3-4 tunes and work up a start for these.
- **Find a tune on YouTube and “jam” along.**

Playlists – Putting together a playlist involves several things. For SSDS, I start with a core group of tunes we love and play confidently (ex: **Road to Lisdoonvarna, Westphalia**). I try to include a variety of key signatures and tempos (jigs, waltzes, reels, with varying metric speeds). I think in terms of seasonal themes and try to add tunes that evoke the theme as a musical narrative. The current playlist theme is **Swinging into Summer**. **Sandy River Belle** is played at a relaxed tempo with a sense of being on a riverboat going downstream. Other considerations include tunes that engage the audience by singing, clapping, shaking eggs/bells, etc. Another consideration are tunes that could incorporate an interesting blend of some of the more unusual instruments to add variety. They pique the audience’s interests. What would be on your personal playlist?

EVART Playlist – Until hearing otherwise, I am assuming Evert will happen. Email me if you think you will be there and participate at the Thursday night pre-show (6:40) with SSDS. The Interest sign-up sheet has about 13 names. With no idea of when we will be together to put the sign-up sheet out, I ask you email me if you think you can/will be there and what you will play. I especially want to hear from basses, fiddle players and those who may play whistle. We are known for the variety of instruments that creates our “sound,” and it would be great if we can share that at Evert for that audience.

Music Bonus: I recently saw Judi Morningstar. She gave her permission for SSDS to play **The Jam at St. James**. It is a delightful tune and fits into the SSDS Evert theme for 2021, “Pure Michigan.” St. James is the little town on Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan.

Check Dropbox for the new music. I will get all the new tunes to Karen to put in the Dropbox. If you want a hardcopy and can’t wait until the next jam, let me know and I will email you a copy to print.

... Marsha mtkoz72@gmail.com (new) 734-239-4190



TREASURER NOTES _____ Judy Pyrkosz

With all that is happening in our world right now, this report will be somewhat short. All of our March playdates were canceled and it looks like we won’t be booking future playdates until at least August or September. So not much is happening with the ledger. Our income tax return has been filed and we paid \$151. There weren’t any other deposits and payments made. On the plus side, the books are really easy to balance right now.

As I hunker down in place I am working hard at staying as positive as possible – sort of accounting my blessings routine. We probably have the best healthcare and medical knowledge in all of human history. We have soap and clean running water. We have sanitation. There is plenty of food for everyone. We have benefits today that didn’t exist even 10 years ago. Even as we remain in our homes, we have entertainment and the ability to stay in communication with our loved ones and those around us through the Internet. I finally have enough time to sit and read all those books I’ve been meaning to get to. So I’m hoping and praying everyone stays healthy and that we all come out of this. Finally, to end on an upbeat, I found this joke I thought I’d share with you.

In the days before calculators, accountants were frequently unable to get their debits to balance with their credits. So, in order to overcome the discrepancy, they often created a bogus account titled "Taste" to store the unbalanced amount and allow the books to balance. Unfortunately, the government soon heard of this practice and declared a new law: there would, from this point on, be no accounting for Taste.

Respectfully submitted
..... Judy jpyrkosz@yahoo.com 734-525-3553

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

BIRTHDAYS

1....Alice Avery
1....Cindy Semrau
10...Luke Kawecki
13...Bill Deighton
23...Harold Crane
28...Marsha Kozlowski
30...Phyllis Tillapaugh

ANNIVERSARIES

27...Nancy Sullivan

If you don't see your name here for your birthday or anniversary please let me know David dtsmithnet@yahoo.com



Musicians Blossom
at the
Buckeye Dulcimer Festival

Rescheduled - August 19-23, 2020
Recreation Unlimited Farm & Fun, Ashley, Ohio

buckeyedulcimerfestival.com

MUDX
MIGHTY UKE DAY 10

Mighty Uke Day 10 has been postponed until a fall date to be arranged.

mightyukeday.com

North American International Banjo Convention

April 23, 24 & 25, 2020 - **CANCELLED**
We'll see you in 2021!
Dearborn, MI

naibc.org/index.html

**Hammered Dulcimer - Repair/Rebuild
Hammers, Strings, Lessons, Loaners**

Bob Hlavacek 734-657-0820
datadoc@charter.net

Silver Strings April-July 2020 Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast/ Mississippi Sawyer	3/3
D	Sandy River Belle	3
D	Bucket Man Blues	3
D	Black Mountain Rag	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/ Riding on Load of Hay	3/3
G	Yellow Bird	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Girl I Left Behind Me	3
G	South Wind	3*
A	Pickin' the Berries	3
A	Hangman's Reel	3
Am	Schottische du Stockfish	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	5*
D	Ashokan Farewell	2*
D	Liberty	2
D	Armed Services Salute	1**
G	America the Beautiful	3**
G	God Bless America – repeat Pt B 2 nd time thru	2 1/2**
G	Yankee Doodle Boy/ You're A Grand Old Flag	3**
	Extras	
D	Hey Polka	3
Em	Tamlin	4
G	Battle Hymn of the Republic	3*

*2nd time: If instruments are available--Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistles take melody; HD's softly backup
** Tempo should be singable – not too fast.

Music by Linda

Dulcimer Music For Special Occasions
Dulcimer Lessons

Linda Osgood
734-649-3843
losgood10424@comcast.net

Getting to Know You... Christine Hurt



Most people call me Chris. I've been a member of Silver Strings for about 10 years, and served as Secretary for 2 years. I became interested in the hammered dulcimer when I heard the group at Greenfield Village, while attending with my brother-in-law's entry in the old car festival. I mentioned to a friend that I'd like to learn to play one, and guess what... her husband is from Ewart, and he had an old dulcimer he never really learned to play, so they loaned it to me. I took a few lessons from Charlene Barry, and eventually bought a Songbird from her. When I first joined Silver Strings, I knew nothing. I'd like to thank Linda Osgood & Karen Turner for all the encouragement and help they gave me. I bought a bigger dulcimer from David's Dulcimer at Ewart. My husband & I now go to Ewart every year.

As a 4th grader, I learned to play the flute, which I still play sometimes for my own enjoyment. The penny whistle was easy to pick up, as I could read music and the fingering is a lot like the flute. I've always loved music, and was a big rock & roll fan.

My dad was not a musician, but always had the radio on, so I learned at an early age to appreciate all kinds of music.

I met my husband, Michael, on my first day of kindergarten. We lived on the same street, and our mothers thought it was a good idea for us to walk together. We grew up in Redford Twp. and graduated from Redford Union High School. I attended Central Michigan University for a year, and we were married in 1971. Next year, we will celebrate our 50th anniversary. As our kids were growing up, I worked for Walled Lake schools, where we then lived. We moved to Milford Twp. 5 years ago, I eventually received an Associates' Degree in Library Science from Oakland Community College, and worked for the Waterford Twp. Library for 12 years, and loved it.

We are now retired, and I fill my days with sewing, knitting and music. I belong to a sewing group that makes baby items for "Another Way Pregnancy Center". Church is an important part of our lives. We have 3 sons, 5 grandsons, 2 granddaughters and no pets. Our sons live in Phoenix, Az., Cincinnati, Oh., and Mason, Mi.. Mike & I love to birdwatch, go camping and (of course) visit our kids. We keep track of how many birds we see each year, and so far I've seen 45 different birds this year. We hope to go to Arizona this coming fall. I love Silver Strings, which has brought me many wonderful friends.

Getting to Know You... Bill Deighton

My name is Bill Deighton. I'm one of the Silver Strings fiddlers and banjo players, and a member since 1992. I started playing the violin when I was 10 years old, at the Highland Park elementary school I attended. My violin belonged to my grandfather, and it wasn't the best. I played on it until Jr. High School, then bought my own for \$75.00. It was made by F.O. Stanley, who made the steam car, and was a lot better than Grandpa's. I still play it. I do remember my first violin teacher when I was 15... Miss Doris Gallop Trot. I told my friends that she had buckteeth, a pony tail, and laughed like a horse! She was one of the best teachers I ever had.

My folks taught me to save and budget money I earned as a paperboy and other jobs, and at age 14 I bought my first lot on Wolverine Lake and stocks in GM on payment plans. I attended college at Adrian and earned BS and MA degrees in science and math. After college, I joined the US Army for 2 years and was stationed in Alaska as a heavy equipment mechanic. I hoped to work for Caterpillar later, but changed my mind and taught for 38 years instead. I taught science and advanced math in Plymouth, Garden City, and Mesa, AZ. During summers in Mesa, AZ. I was a GM Tec Driver, driving cars in the hot desert to make sure they could withstand the extreme heat. I married and had 2 sons and now 3 grandchildren. I have traveled all around the world, exploring all of the continents except Antarctica with the Nomads. I like to draw cartoons and make ship wood carvings. I also took Karate and Judo, sang Bass with the Wayne Barbershop Chorus, was an active speaker with the Toastmasters. and am a member of the Elks Club. I want to continue my travels, but now in the US where there's so much I haven't seen yet.

For over 20 years, I didn't play the violin, but when my wife Donna died I needed something to ease my sorrows, so I started playing again, and here I am. I have a lot of different instruments in my home (organ, piano, guitars, banjos, harmonicas, and violins) so they keep me busy enjoying the wonder of music. One of my sons plays a "mean" rock guitar, and my grandchildren all seem to like music, as well as learning and speaking a lot of foreign languages. When we get together, would you believe that one son and grandson are taller than me? I keep busy playing for hospitals, weddings, funerals, and parties. I play with the Banjos of Michigan, and Silver Strings, and continue experimenting with other musical instruments. For the last 7 years Lu Gute and I have spent winters in Sarasota, Florida and summers at her cottage...What a Life! If you'd like to hear a good joke or sit with someone with a happy smile- look me up at the next meeting!





Our March 6 Silver String jam at Holy Cross brought 45 musicians together to play music and socialize. Although our current situation keeps us apart, keep practicing music, keep healthy and hopefully we will be back together again in the not too distant future.

TRIVIA BITS

Tambourines originated in the ancient Middle East, played mainly by women, especially during religious ceremonies. In Ottoman Turkey, the tambourine's perfect circle shape became associated with the sun. In medieval Europe, angels playing tambourines were depicted in paintings. Yet even an object so seemingly flawless can be improved. In the 1970s, percussionist Richard Taninbaum devised a headless, crescent-shaped tambourine with an ergonomic grip to prevent muscle fatigue. His design for the Rhythm Tech tambourine is now in the collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art.



Position	Name	Contact Information
President	Peggy Kustra	peggyakustra54@gmail.com 313-570-7844
VP Business Manager (Contact for booking performances)	Stephen Beck	sbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539
VP Programs	Bob & Sandi Hlavacek	datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974
Secretary	Julie Kafcas	juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326
Treasurer	Judy Pyrkosz	jpyrkosz@yahoo.com 734-525-3553
Newsletter Editor	David Smith	dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Music Coordinator	Marsha Kozlowski	mtkoz72@gmail.com (new) 734-239-4190
Historian	David Smith / Sandi Hlavacek	dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Website & Dropbox Coordinator	Karen Turner	karenturner@comcast.net 734-678-7405

Folk Music Instruments

R E M I C L U D N I A T N U O M	hammered dulcimer
R E M I C L U D D E R E M M A H	autoharp
P A R S P L M N O G T L F M S L	banjo
E C E P L K T J I A U I D S B B	guitar
N I C O T T N W M L D I A T N N	pennywhistle
N N O O P A W B P D O B T C D J	mountain dulcimer
Y O R N B R O R L N D D A A K J	bass
W M D S K U A E Q L M J N P R T	recorder
H R E T R H J H Z V O L D A Q Q	ukulele
I A R I O N Y M K N D Q M Q M Y	folk harp
S H N T K V E L E L U K U N W J	spoons
T E U L N M Y B D M O Q N W T P	cajon
L A R X B N M N J L X F Y D Y L	harmonica
E Y G T J T J L T K L P B M L N	fiddle
	mandolin
	tambourine

SSDS Tunes

Down:

- sea shanty
- AKA Streets of Laredo
- Welsh folk song
- Shaker tune
- AKA Wooden Heart

Across:

- First month of the year dance
- Jenni Burke wrote this Schottische
- popular Yiddish song
- O'Carolan was a patron of this lady
- Russian folk song
- Christian hymn by John Newton

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month
7:00 - 9:00 pm.... with jamming till ...?

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
30650 Six Mile, Livonia, MI

Featuring the hammered dulcimer,
and other acoustic instruments :
mountain dulcimer, banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle,
string bass, washtub bass, mandolin, folk harp,
recorder, tin penny whistle, ukulele and harmonica.

Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together
with other players, receive new music
and a monthly newsletter.

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT :
www.silverstrings.org



Start thinking about getting articles for the newsletter to me by the 25th.

Articles or pictures from any member are always welcome, contact David at dtsmithnet@yahoo.com

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society
P.O. Box 51446
Livonia, MI 48151



If you were on the mailing list
your name would be here.