



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

November 2020

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 37 YEARS

Issue 427

www.silverstrings.org

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS ~ Peggy Kustra

Perky Peggy Ponderings for November
Hello Everyone, Happy Thanksgiving!

We really have a great deal to be thankful for this year. Not one of our members at this time has caught the Covid Virus. There have been Pop-Up Jams and we have our beautiful monthly Spirit Jams. We have our Newsletter and new members joining. And another day to appreciate the sunshine.....the list continues on. Let's focus on the positive!

One day we will be able to play music together again. We will enjoy the music and the fellowship..

We will try a Zoom meeting in November. It will be talking and seeing each other. We won't play music. It will be a fellowship gathering. I will send an email of which date it will be.

Again, missing all of you. Please stay safe and healthy. If you have any questions, ideas or concerns please contact me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com or call me at 313-570-7844.....*Perky Peggy still Perky*

been an uplifting experience for all of those who could attend. The concert venue has been much missed in its dormant state, by players AND audiences. We have recently been allowed to do some concerts with 6 players instead of our usual 12-20, and a concert video was born for the Plymouth Library to use to fill a void left by our inability to gather to entertain.

The new dulcimer lesson videos of our songs on YouTube will be an enormous help for those who are new to our club AND those outsiders who just want to learn new tunes & have no club near them. Silver Strings has been proudly leading the way for the dulcimer world out there. While few of us have been touched by actual COVID, we all have been deeply affected by the nature of the pandemic. There is not a big enough **THANK YOU** for Marsha and Terry's service.

Technology, with its own love/hate issues has allowed the SSDS board to continue riding the storm for the club. If you would like to attend a ZOOM board meeting, just contact Peggy Kustra. Your board members are continuing to look forward to the days when life will return to some kind of normal. New sanitation protocols have been designed. Our repertoire is still expanding as new tunes are being introduced via computer. One thing under consideration is a "Celebration Banquet" at whatever time of year we can gather again. We can't replace the socialization of our lost jams, concerts, Variety Nights, picnics, festivals, campouts, parties & banquets, but we can certainly **CELEBRATE the reopening of our musical life !!!**

We are sending this from Missouri, where we have been enjoying our grandchildren & their parents. Until we see you again, drive carefully, stay safe & stay healthy.

....Bob & Sandi datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 7:00

Live SPIRIT JAM

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2641846032714862>

All **15** previous Spirit Jams
are available for viewing on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub/playlists>

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES ~ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

Hello, Can you believe it's **NOVEMBER !!!**

The past several months have been trying times for all. We can look back on all of the things we have missed and be miserable, or remember & savor the special blessings that have arisen from the challenges.

Marsha & Terry have provided Spirit Jams to bind us together in "musical virtual hugs". The socially distanced jams in the park (or in the driveway) have

IT'S NOVEMBER...LET'S CELEBRATE !

November Birthdays

6...Bill Smith
10...Terry Treppa
28...Janice Johnson



TREASURER ~ Judy Pyrkosz

We are still working on getting a PayPal account set up for ease in paying of dues, but did run into some difficulties. So that project is on-going as of this date. The dues are coming in at a slow, but steady pace. Approximately 20% has been collected. Naturally, not being able to meet in person is having an effect on getting everyone to pay. If the PayPal account doesn't get set up soon enough, all the dues will have to be sent via mail since there will probably not be any more "Pop Up Jams" or performances. So, please go ahead and mail me your check for the \$15 renewal fee to SSDS, PO Box 51446, Livonia, MI 48150. Thanks much, I really appreciate your help in getting these collected and counted.

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

MARSHA'S MUSINGS ~ Marsha Kozlowski

In October there were a couple of **Pop-up Jams** when the weather cooperated, usually 9-14 people. The last one held at Linda Osgood's attracted hundreds..... of birds... that is. They only stayed for Southwind and then flew in that direction. But they were loud, none had dampers and they did not socially distance either.

The October Spirit Jam went live on October 22. About 125 actively participated. It lasted about 1 hour and 40 minutes. Many joined in the conversation thread, enjoying, greeting and conversing with each other. There are now 249 "official" members of this FB group. Some have also become members of SSDS. Anglemorm Wiggle and Cincinnati Hornpipe are new favorites for some. It was a joyous jam with a Halloween theme.

November Spirit Jam will take place November 19. The theme is *Gratitude and Thanksgiving*. SSDS members whose last name begins with M through R get to choose a tune and email their choice to me by November 6. Think of those tunes that make you happy and bring you joy. The photo collage will have a Thanksgiving theme, so start gathering a cornucopia of Thanksgiving symbols for your photo.

October seemed to be a month that forced us to use new ways to share music:

- Our last outdoor performance was at Brookhaven Manor Apartments in Ann Arbor. COVID requirements meant that only 6 of us were allowed to come. The day was sunny but chilly and VERY windy. We started late to allow the lawn mowing crew to clear from the area. It seemed strange to be so far from our audience, but all in all they enjoyed it. They told us they would miss not seeing us during the Christmas holidays.
- **OUR FIRST VIDEO ONLY PERFORMANCE** - Plymouth Library contracted us to do a fall performance via ZOOM. When that was unable to happen, they asked if we could provide them with a video performance. We agreed even though this presented

some challenges – finding a place we could do this safely with little or no noise from cars, planes, trains or squeaky swings; availability of enough players and a good mix of instruments; someone to do the recording; a good weather day; and playing to an audience that was not there physically. Somehow it all came together (THANK YOU EVERONE WHO PARTICIPATED). Dave Smith created the video, added some great touches and sent the link to the library. The program coordinator is very pleased with it – so AMEN to 2020 performances.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



Normally we would be busy rehearsing and fine-tuning our Christmas Music line-up. COVID-19 has put the kibosh on that. So what are we to do? I have an idea, but it means you will have to rehearse and practice the tunes on your own. Each week, you will be given 3 tunes to work on. Some we have performed in the past, others may be new. You can view/listen to tunes SSDS has performed on the Silver Strings YouTube channel. Last year's concert at the Livonia Library is there, as are tunes from previous years.

This year all tunes must be in Public Domain so we can use them at a Christmas themed spirit jam and avoid or eliminate any copyright issues.

If you play different instruments – try the tunes on those, add harmony or different rhythmic touches. If you have played during the holiday season with SSDS, you know we bring out all the bells, whistles, clackers, and different types of instruments we have. So use them in some way and have fun. If a new tune is introduced, I will try to post a "Practice Video" to help learn it.

October 18-24: Patapan (Em), Ding Dong Merrily on High (G), He is Born (G)

October 25-31 – Over the River/Jingle Bells Medley (G); I Saw Three Ships/Christmas is in the Air Medley (G); O Come All Ye Faithful (G)

November 1-7: Winter Waltz (Am) (Play it AAB, AAB, ABA – use second ending last time only) The Holly and the Ivy/ (G), Deck the Halls (G) Medley 2/3; *Play the Holly and the Ivy more slowly as if you are sorting through your decorations deciding what to put up – then speed up for Deck the Halls.*

November 8-14: Besancon (D); Star of the East (G) We Three Kings/Carol of the Bells Medley (Am)

- **Tunes in bold are new tunes to try out.**
- Please give me your feedback on the new tunes – too hard? Particular issues? If you like a tune, tell me what appeals to you.
- Besancon is a traditional French folk tune that was used as an Advent hymn... Can you name the tune????

Watch your emails for the following weeks lineup.

..... Marsha mtkoz72@gmail.com 734-239-4190

VP - BUSINESS NOTES ~ Stephen Beck

First of all I hope this article finds you safe, and healthy. I know over the past six months there has been a lot of uncertainty and a lot of challenging times for many of us. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about a new abnormal, not normal for all of us, and a concern for the wellbeing of those in our families, and our circle of friends.

Second, we now have the time to do some of the things we've always wanted to do at home. Do you have a craft or hobby you would like us know about? Think about this... your craft could be a blessing to others you know. I have been blessed by the gift of art that Peggy is involved in. When I was down and sick she sent me a homemade card that lifted me up.

Third, On the Plymouth Library website in November, a prerecorded video concert will be presented by Silver Strings. Please login and enjoy.

11/1/2020 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Plymouth District Library

This event will be pre-recorded and made available on our YouTube Channel beginning November 1.



"Silver Strings Dulcimer Society has been in existence over 30 years. The club was formed to primarily play traditional music on instruments you would find being played in someone's parlor a 100 years ago. They promote the enjoyment and knowledge of the hammered dulcimer."

"They will present "old time music" featuring the hammered dulcimer. Appropriate for all ages. A variety of traditional music."

.....Steve slbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539

SECRETARY ~ Julie Kafkas

Happy fall greetings fellow members! I would like to extend a *grateful welcome* to our new members this last couple of months. It is a pleasure to have our club expand its reach, especially when looking back (*don't forget to turn your clocks back!*) at March and not knowing how we would continue with the closing of so many venues where we play. We have come a long way since then, so I hope as long as we all remain safe, then we can soon meet in 2021.

I have been notified of some group members that have lost a family member to other than Covid causes. I would like you to know that I have sent sympathy cards out to these members. I will not post those names in the newsletter. Reach out to me or any board member to get information. We extend our deepest sympathies to our friends of SSDS. We are like an extended family and keep each of us in our thoughts during this trying time. We need to support each other as best we can now.

There was no board meeting last month so I will briefly mention that dues are due now for 2021. There is a form for registration on the group web site and can be filled out and sent to the club PO Box. Please if you have not signed up yet for next year consider doing so.

Thanksgiving is upon us, with this added need to gather, give thanks and see family we have not seen in months along with possibilities of getting sick during a gathering, I wish everyone a healthy meal however you are sharing your time together or apart.

Let's keep others and ourselves in mind and maintain our best health. Respectfully and gratefully,
.....Julie juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." - Plato

Diana Cricks has a Mountain Dulcimer she would like to sell. 248-474-4338

Barb Wetula has a vintage Dulcimer she would like to fix or sell. 734-945-1510

Margaret Smith would like to take Mountain Dulcimer lessons and would also like a recommendation of where to purchase a Mountain Dulcimer. 734-261-6298



An outdoor and socially distanced concert for Ann Arbor's Brookhaven Manor residents took place on October 12th.



Linda Osgood hosted a Pop-Up Jam on October 20th. A good time was had by all with beautiful weather.



Our Fall & Halloween themed October 22nd Spirit Jam.
125 musicians participated and 19 sent their photos for this collage.



Nine Silver Strings members took part in a video recording session for the Plymouth District Library. The 70 minute performance is available on our SSDS YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub>

or on the Plymouth Library YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/PlymouthDistrictLibrary/videos>

Position	Name	Contact Information
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