



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

January 2021

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 37 YEARS

Issue 429

www.silverstrings.org

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS ~ Peggy Kustra

Let's hope the year 2021 brings us back together playing music in person. This New Year is a time for hope, happiness, kindness and joy.

I want to thank all who participated in the Virtual Christmas Cards. They are fabulous!!! A *Big Thank You* to Marsha Kozlowski who orchestrated the music on click track and to Cindy Semrau who put each card together. Her special effects added to the whole experience. A great deal of Christmas Cheer reached out to many people. A big job very well done.

We have currently had two Zoom gatherings. These have been fun. It's wonderful to see each other, talk and visit. We will have another Zoom gathering on January 7, 2021, Thursday at 7:00pm. I will send the important information you need to participate in an email. So come join the fun and see your fellow Silver Stringers.

Remember our Variety Nights? Well..... we are going to have one on Zoom, Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Practice a tune, sing a song, recite a poem. One song, two songs... whatever, you choose. You have two months to prepare. It is sure to be an evening of unusual delights. If you would like to be a performer please contact me (Peggy Kustra) at peggyakustra54@gmail.com or call at 313-570-7844. I will send out an email letting you know what the order is of your performance.

Remember January 21, 2021 Thursday 7:00 pm Spirit Jam.

Okay everyone, we are in the home stretch. No one at this time in SSDS has caught the Covid Virus. Let's keep it that way. Stay Safe and Healthy!

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

.....Peggy Kustra - President

MARSHA'S MUSINGS ~ Marsha Kozlowski

2021 is here – whew, we made it through 2020.

Spirit Jams – will continue on the third Thursday for a few months until we see what happens with the pandemic and the status with Holy Cross. Members

whose names begin with S through Z have the opportunity to submit a tune choice for the January 21 jam. Please send me your choice by January 7th. I like to have the list done early enough for people to start reviewing the tune list and playing through it.

Tune Updates/Revisions – Try to keep your music current. Watch for the Dropbox updates and update your tablets. The latest revision is for Winter Waltz. The first ending on the A part has been corrected and shortened to one measure, #18. If people are not up to date with their music, it can become confusing at a jam. When we know for sure that we will be jamming in person, I will try to have copies of all the tunes added over the last 8 months. Many of these are not and will not probably ever become “official” SSDS tunes, but may be played at the After Hours jam. They were added so we could play tunes our guests asked for at the Spirit Jams.

Practice Videos – this is a long term club project. So far you can find 14 practice videos on the SSDS YouTube Channel, including: Adirondack Cascade, Angeworm Wiggle, Balleydesmond #2, Besancon, Cockles and Mussels, The Distressed Soldier, Eagan's Polka, Fanny Poer, Gaspé Reel, Girl I Left Behind, Kesh Jig, Patapan, Silver and Gold Two-Step. *Please let me know if there is a particular tune that you would like to see as a Practice Video.*

The project would go faster if some of you would be willing to do one of these. A smartphone is needed to record. You may have someone record you or set up the camera on a tripod. The format is to play the tune through once, then break down Parts A and B, showing where the tune is played on the dulcimer, next play the tune 1 or 2 times slow tempo, and play it again 1 or 2 times at the usual tempo. Save your recording to Dropbox. It will be posted on the club YouTube Channel by Karen Turner.

Last look at 2020:

SSDS Video “Greeting Cards” – thanks to everyone who participated in this 7 card project, especially to Cindy Semrau for her magical mixing. It was challenging and a new experience for everyone,

but the warmth and goodwill these videos generated was amazing.

Spirit Jams – there were a total of 17 jams, from April to December. The first Spirit Jam had 13 participants. December's jam had over 100 people join the live event, with some for the first time. Others take advantage of using the video from our SSDS YouTube channel. We made new friends across the nation and also attracted new members to the club. Because of copyright laws pertinent to Videos, I had to track tunes writers down and seek their specific permission to use tunes in this medium. It was an adventure but I connected to 18 tune writers in the process. Their graciousness in giving permission to play their tunes in the Spirit Jams was humbling. Also, SSDS was introduced to new tunes that are popular in other places. The conversation thread for the December jam was a trip down memory lane to Christmas Past - old favorites, and story sharing of individual traditions.....a fun night that includes over 200 comments as people greeted each other, shared their stories and enjoyed the joyful time of being together.

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

IT'S JANUARY...LET'S CELEBRATE !

January Birthdays

2...Gerry Hermans
2...Sally Kilcullen
10...Sharon McAuliffe
11...Donna Kolowjeski
22...Cathy Smith
23...Terry Avery



VP- PROGRAMS NOTES ~ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

Happy New Year from Bob & Sandi

2020 has ended. It has been difficult for all of us, but we can now look back at activities we used to take for granted, and see how much we've learned. A good friend was lamenting her losses a few days ago, and said, "I never knew how many things I was involved with until I had them taken away". That's profound! We will never again take for granted the fun and inner peace our gift of music has given to us and to the audience we perform for. Our concerts, especially the ones in senior living facilities have been truly missed, by us and our listeners.

SSDS has not been silenced. Our pop-up jams in the parks last season have been well received, delighting the people who happened to come to the park that day. Marsha & Terry's Spirit Jams have brought so much joy to those of us who missed our bi-monthly jams and brought joy to those across the country who were hungry for someone to play music with. So many people are not as lucky as we are, to have a club near them to join.

The "How to play it" videos Marsha started are FANTASTIC learning opportunities for hammered dulcimer players around the world to learn new songs. Contact her if you are willing to participate. We suspect we'll need a bigger jam tent at Evart, to hold the ever growing numbers of Silver Strings fans.

David Smith assembled a "Christmas concert" from snippets of our past video performances onto a disk, Stephen Beck made copies and sent them to senior places we have done live concerts for in the past. The video was very much appreciated, as they played it for their residents. Our video concerts are now on library websites, to the surprise & delight of many new fans. The "musical Christmas cards" coordinated by Marsha Kozlowski & Cindy Semrau have been forwarded to COUNTLESS people, spreading the joy of our music.

None of these activities would have come about if COVID hadn't inspired their creation. These endeavors have brought light to a lot of lives, and have reminded us of the value of our music, of our friendships, and of spreading kindness to the people we have touched, without ever meeting them.

Add this to a long list of closets cleaned out, overdue home repairs made, and families who have reconnected because their activities stopped, they learned to play games and put puzzles together to fill their new-found time... so we must admit the pandemic has had its benefits.

Other musicians have been having fun with the challenges, as well. Here are some chuckle makers on YouTube for you to Google in your spare time.

- Ray Stevens - "The Quarantine Song"
- Coronavirus Rhapsody (based on Bohemian Rhapsody) - Covid19
- Do Re Mi - Covid-19 version
- Neil Diamond changes lyrics to "Sweet Caroline" in coronavirus PSA
- The 12 Days of Quarantine - A Coronavirus (COVID-19) song
- #StayHome #WithUs #QuarantineChristmas If Christmas Songs Were About Quarantine
- 2020 by Neil Diamond - Parody Medley

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, January 7 at 7:00
Zoom Gathering

Zoom link information will be sent to your email.

Thursday, January 21 at 7:00
Live SPIRIT JAM

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

All 17 previous Spirit Jams
are available for viewing on YouTube at:

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

VP - BUSINESS NOTES ~ Stephen Beck

I hope all you Silver Stringers had a nice Christmas and New Year's celebration. Hopefully, 2021 will allow us to start meeting safely and playing as a group together in the same room and go to playdates. In 2020, as a new Business Manager, I wanted the job to go real easy. I had many playdates set up and then I had to call or email to cancel all of them! Then came the brainstorming and the board had to see what we could do to keep our membership in a great frame of mind. From that we saw small flash playdates, Spirit Jams, Zoom group gatherings, and DVD's/Videos for our playdate fans. Well, it worked, we got standing ovations from many people and told we gave them hope, LOVE, and peace to get them through a time of fear and a world turned upside down.

I thank all of you who made this happen. To our other members, we are here to serve you. Join us for another year that will be like a great adventure! **Think of this.** We are the ones that give peace to the masses with our music. We are like a lighthouse giving sailors peace knowing where the rocks are so they can steer clear of them.

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

TREASURER ~ Judy Pyrkosz

I've been receiving the dues at a steady rate, so thanks to all who've sent in their 2021 dues. Here's to a much better year to look forward to!! If one of your New Year's resolutions is to pay any dues still outstanding, please send your check (payable to Silver Strings Dulcimer Society) to this address:

SSDS
PO Box 51446
Livonia, MI 48151

One good thing about mailing in the dues, I've been able to crosscheck and update any contact info that may have changed. If your address, phone number, or email has changed in the past year, please send me your current contact info.

Thanks again and wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year!

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

Barb Davis has a few Instruments she would like to sell.

Cloud Nine Hammered Dulcimer with case
McSpadden Mountain Dulcimer
Auto Harp

If you are interested please call her at 517-295-4293



Merry Christmas from Silver Strings

"You've always had the power, my dear, you just had to learn it for yourself"

Glinda the Good Witch

This past year, I've been amazed by the ways people have been so creative and adapted to this pandemic situation that has affected everyone in every way. SSDS is no exception. My employer, Trinity Health, also went Virtual for our division's Holiday Event which included a Hobby/Talent portion. Encouraged by my colleagues, I submitted a short video playing Simple Gifts on the hammered dulcimer. The Web Meeting with 185 in attendance was held on December 15th. I was also given an opportunity to talk about my hobby, which included promoting SSDS and providing our website information. Coincidentally, the Virtual Greeting of Simple Gifts was posted to YouTube just as the Meeting ended. I learned of the posting by a flood of email responses remarking on how AWESOME it was. KUDOS to Marsha, Cindy, and Karen for learning the Technology to create the Power of spreading Holiday Cheer, far and wide, safely from our home. After all, there's "No Place like Home!"

Happy Holidays to All,
Laurie Patterson

I have a beautiful **Songbird Hammered Dulcimer** that I purchased from a shop in Plymouth several years ago. My intent was to take lessons, but life happened and it has been sitting in its case, never played. I would like to sell it but I don't know where to begin. Can you give me some guidance? I have the Bill of sale showing the original price of \$800, the case was \$50 and the hammers at \$20.

I appreciate any suggestions you might have.

Nancy Goetz

Ngoetz@mac.com Brighton MI

Virtual Christmas video Cards



Seven Christmas Video Cards were produced for the 2020 Holiday Season. Twenty Silver Strings members volunteered to participate in a virtual Christmas Card project. Each person recorded their assigned track at home while playing a master "click track." The tracks were then mixed and mastered by Cindy Semrau to produce a video Christmas card.

A big thanks to Project Leader Marsha Kozlowski and Master Mixer Cindy Semrau, and all the musicians who participated!

Musicians participating: Harold Crane, Bob & Sandy Hlavacek, Chris Hurt, Donna Kolajeski, Terry & Marsha Kozlowski, Peggy Kustra, Mick Mastal, Carol Ann Matthews, Bob & Sally Nemo, Linda Osgood, Bob & Laurie Patterson, Judy Pyrkosz, Cindy Semrau, Cathy Smith, David & Teresa Smith, and Karen Turner.

The Tunes include, Angels We Have Heard On High, Deck the Halls, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Hark The Herald Angels Sing, Simple Gifts, We Wish You A Merry Christmas, and Silent Night. The videos are available on our Silver Strings Youtube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub/videos>

We hope you will enjoy the Virtual Christmas cards by the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

December Spirit Jam



Our 17th and final Spirit Jam Photo Collage of 2020. On December 17th over 100 joined the live event, some for the first time, and 37 submitted photos. Thanks once again to Marsha and Terry for hosting our virtual jam. Look forward soon to more jams in 2021. Join the fun, our next Live Spirit Jam will take place on January 21st at 7 pm.

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

QUARANTUNE 3.0

Virtual Dulcimer Fest

February 5-7, 2021

Workshops, Concerts, & more!
Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

<https://www.virtualdulcimerfest.com/>