

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society



Soundboard

July 2022

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 38 YEARS

Issue 447

www.silverstrings.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER ~ Terry Kozlowski

Happy Fourth of July! Whew, where's the summer going!

The 2022 SSDS spring campout was a huge success! For me the campout was a time for personal connections. It was quite something to observe and experience.

It started as campers set up their campsites, erected the club canopies, and moved picnic tables in and around the pavilion to arrange the areas for all the activities. It was great to see people interacting, renewing old friendships, and welcoming non-club members. Personal connections were strengthened.

Many thanks to everyone who participated together in leading workshops, cooking Saturday breakfast, leading jams, Saturday night dinner, and to all non-club members who attended to help make this a fun weekend. A special thanks to Gloria for her tireless effort in coordinating all the preparations required to pull off this successful event.

More events are coming up this summer, but I'll let the board and music coordinator outline their programs.

Speaking about the board, my job is easy as I have a great board to take care of all the details. Thanks, gang!

With this note, there are only 4 months before the board election process begins and we look to members to serve on the board. If you want to know more, would like to give your talent to support our club and continue its legacy, contact me via email or cell phone to answer any questions or concerns.

ODPC Fun Fest Festival will occur this month, July 14 -17. For members attending this event, I suggest we wear our SSDS tee-shirts and hats on Saturday (weather permitting). Don't forget your Pure Michigan tee-shirts for the Friday performance. In addition, consider being an ODPC member. We need to support ODPC after the hiatus caused by the covid pandemic.Terry ssdsresident@gmail.com 734-560-8204

MARK YOUR JULY CALENDAR!

07 - SSDS EVENING JAM ----- 7:00 - 9:00

21 - SSDS EVENING JAM ----- 7:00 - 9:00

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES ~ Gloria Tapper

What a beautiful morning, love sunny days. I want to thank all of our helpers for everything you have done to make our Campout a wonderful experience, Chris and Pat Wolschon and the breakfast crew, Julie and Dan Kafcas, and the dinner crew, and all of the people leading the workshops and jams. Terry and Marsha were a huge help, I tend to get lost in my planning, and needed some help.

Evert is coming up quick, are you ready? Tunes practiced, T-Shirts picked up, more camping, and lots of fun.

The annual SSDS Picnic is Thursday, August 4th, at the Plymouth Township Park. It is a potluck, so the club provides the main entrée, water, lemonade, and iced tea. Here's a suggestion, if your last name begins with the letter A—L how about bringing something non-dessert, M—Z a dessert, of course, if you have something in mind that you really want, you can bring that. Set up will begin at 2:00, jamming around 3:00, and Dinner at 5:00. I will have a sign-up sheet so I can get a general idea of how many will be attending. I'm checking out banquet halls for our Annual Banquet.....any preferences?

Have a great day, the Sun is calling me,
.....Gloria getapper@yahoo.com

734-427-1142 734-658-9734 cell

VP - BUSINESS NOTES ~ Harold Crane

Hey, Happy 4th! Where did June go? Our first Frankenmuth Friday Fun Night was a blast-4 Musicians who never played together making and sharing music.

The BIG event this month is the Evert Festival when Silver Strings will perform on Friday, July 15th at the grandstand. I hope to see you there.



We also have one play date at the Novi Library on Tuesday, July 26th at noon for an outdoor concert-so sign up or bring a friend and enjoy the show. Stay healthy and happy. See ya soon,
.....Harold 810-356-2842 hcrane45@yahoo.com

MARSHA'S MUSINGS ~ Marsha Kozlowski

EVART!!! –Practice the playlist. Because of time and space constraints, you cannot use a music stand. This will help us set up more quickly, play our set and exit quickly. It also maximizes the stage space for the large number of people we have. Locate our jam area after you arrive. There will be a couple of practices at Evert. Times TBD. Remember to bring your Pure Michigan T-shirt. (I am bringing the shirts to the rest of you who ordered one)

Evert Playlist: Angleworm Wiggle, Viola's Schottische, Sophrinia, Jam at St. James, Walkin' Branwyn, Waltzing to the Waterfall/Over the Waterfall (1/2)

EVART JAMMING – there are lots of opportunities to jam at Evert. The SSDS Canopies will be set up and we will host open jams (times TBD). Stop by our site – the times will be posted on an announcement board. SSDS will have a “festival kick-off” jam, Wednesday evening at 7:00-9:00 before the regular festival starts. The theme of the jam (which arose at the SSDS Campout) is “For the Birds.” If you have bird calls/whistles/ etc. that might add to the fun. Practice your “Chicken Dance.” If you have bird-themed attire or accessory (hat, shirt, feathers, etc.) this is your opportunity to wear it. The tune list is in the newsletter. Some of the tunes were suggested by guests from other clubs and are included to extend musical hospitality. These will soon be put in dropbox as AfterHours tunes. It should be a festive fun jam.

PLAYLISTS – The next playdates are in August. There are two playlists - The August- September list is for hour-long performances. The second is for Belle Isle Art Fair and Frankenmuth. Look these lists over and start reviewing the tunes you may be rusty on.

July POP-up Jams – A July pop-up jam will happen the week of July 25 at Bob & Laurie Patterson's home. Watch your emails for the exact day and time. As you know, everything is weather dependent.

Practice Tune Videos – There are now 84 tunes in the video library. The goal is to have over 100 by the end of this year. Is there a tune in our repertoire you are confident in playing that could be recorded? Consider taking it one step further and creating a video that people could use to learn the tune and practice with. If you are rusty or have forgotten a tune, see if there is a practice video in the library to use.

..... Marsha mt.koz72@gmail.com 734-239-4190



TREASURER ~ Gerry Kustra



June has come and is nearly gone as I write this. We had a great Campout and a successful playdate at Cedarbrook, as we bring the month to a close. SSDS has about \$7,200 in the bank. As we move into the month of July, a note to members to stay cool in the upcoming summer months.

[Gerry is an avid birder, here is one of his photos of a brown-headed cowbird :Ed]

....Gerry gbkustra@hotmail.com 313-570-7843

JULY BIRTHDAY'S..LET'S CELEBRATE !

- 4...Regis Proulx
- 5...Karen Turner
- 7...Debra Stringer
- 9....Janelle Pacic
- 14...Sally Niemczewski
- 14...Richard Rowe
- 15...Gerry Kustra
- 17...John McAuliffe
- 29...Linda Lloyd
- 29...Lynne Ellen Kaiser



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

An Unlikely Camping Story by Nancy Straky

Lynne Ellen Kaiser wrote a tune: Chickadee Reel.
Kelly, her daughter, taught it.
Silver String campers started to learn it.

Later, back at my campsite while trying to make some progress on Chickadee Reel (with my mistakes safely out of earshot of others!), a little chickadee landed on the grass nearby! It hopped along as I tried to master the tune and was oblivious to my mistakes, as if to say, “it doesn't matter, just enjoy the day and the tune and the chance to have fun learning Lynne Ellen's gift.” What a boost! What a delight! Not to mention, what a surprise! So much so that I put my hammers down and as it flew off I ran to share my unlikely story with some “Stringers” having an afternoon jam. A delighted surprise was the gatherings response to an unlikely story, and a vote to sharing it with others.

Later that day, as I was recalling my afternoon audience of one, I got to thinking: was it really a chickadee? Did it have its little black cap on? Or was I just caught up in the moment?

So that's my story, Was it a chickadee or was it a little bird wishing it was a chickadee? You decide.

And does it really Matter?.....Nancy

Silver Strings April - July 2022 Playlist

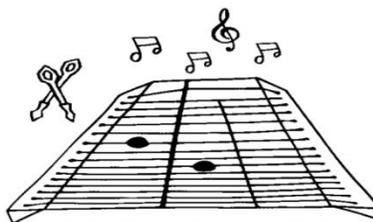
Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	4
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
D	Bucket Man Blues	3
D	Black Mountain Rag	3
G	Nail That Catfish to a Tree	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/ Riding on Load of Hay	3/3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Girl I Left Behind Me	3
G	Southwind	3*
A	Pickin' the Berries	3
A	Hangman's Reel	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	5*
D	Ashokan Farewell	3*
D	Liberty	2
D	Armed Services Salute	1
G	America the Beautiful	3**
G	God Bless America <i>repeat Pt B 2nd time thru</i>	2 1/2**
G	Yankee Doodle Boy/ You're A Grand Old Flag	2/2**
	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.

Silver Strings August-September Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
D	Over the Waterfall	4
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
D	Bucket Man Blues	3
D	Black Mountain Rag	3
G	Nail That Catfish to a Tree	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
Em	Tamlin	4
G	South Wind	3*
A	Hangman's Reel	3
C	Five Foot Two	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3*
D	John Ryan's Polka	5
D	Ashokan Farewell	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	2/2**
	Extras	
D	Hey Polka	3
G	Harvest Home	3
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	4

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



Belle Isle Art Show Playlist Aug 7, 2022

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast/ Mississippi Sawyer	3/3
D	Sandy River Belle	4
D	Bucket Man Blues	3
D	Black Mountain Rag	4
G	Westphalia Waltz	3*
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/ Riding on Load of Hay	3/3
G	Yellow Bird	3
G	Red Apple Rag	4
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
G	South Wind *	3*
A	John Stenson/Hangman's Reel	3/3
Em	Missouri/Dancing Bear	3/3
D	Over the Waterfall	3*
D	Spanish Two Step	3
D	Ashokan Farewell*	3*
D	Liberty	2
D	Willafjord	4
G	Hundred Pipers	3
D	Down Yonder	3
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
C	Tennessee Waltz*	3*
Am	Cold Frosty Morn/ Schottische du Stockfish	3/3
G	Girl I Left Behind	3
D/G	Simple Gifts	2/2
G	Irish Washerwoman	3
G	Maggie	4
D	Lover's Waltz*	3*
D	Sal's Got Mud Between Her Toes	3 1/2
Em	Tamlin	4
G	Tick Tock Polka	3
G	Nail That Catfish to a Tree	3
D	Saro Waltz	3*

Festivals 2022

ODPC Funfest

July 14 - 16

Evart, MI

<http://evartdulcimerfest.org>

Gateway Dulcimer Festival

August 5 - 7

Fairview Heights, IL

<http://gatewaydulcimer.org>

Midland Folk Music Festival

August 25 - 27

Midland, MI

<http://www.folkmusicsociety.org>

Dulcimer Chautauqua on the Wabash

October 13 - 16

New Harmony, IN

<https://dulcimerchautauquaonthewabash.com/>



Wonder Wheeler for Sale.

I am asking \$25.

Sue Tranquilla

SSDS member

734-751-8109

tranquil@umich.edu

Silver Strings NAME BADGE

Hello everyone! Do you need a name badge? Did you lose yours? Are you new to the club and didn't receive it yet? Please let me know and I will get one made for you. Contact me at Peggyakustra54@gmail.com or at 313-570-7844. It's good to have a badge so we can all remember names.

New member badges waiting to be picked up.....



How do you define confidence?

comments compiled by Marsha Kozlowski

Rate your confidence level on a scale of 1 to 5? Do you wonder how others seem to play so confidently?

Confidence can be learned. I posed this question last month and since spoke with a number of our members about this dilemma. They offered suggestions from their experience. Perhaps one or two may resonate with you. The truth is the more confident in playing, the more enjoyment one gets. **Someone shared that they gained more confidence and learned more in just 1 year of being a SSDS member. Here are some ideas to consider:**

- Create/start/join a practice group. Get acquainted with other members at about the same level and get together weekly. When they first started, Karen Turner and a group of others met weekly to learn some favorite SSDS tunes, encourage each other and work on problem areas.
- Keep your instrument out and play 15-20 minutes every day. Play loud, play soft, let it be your personal therapy instrument. Get to know it from top to bottom. If you have to pull it out to play, you will not make the progress you hope to make.
- Listen to other players. If there is something they do that you like or admire, ask them to show/explain, etc. We are all here to help each other. Before you know it, you will be helping others in the same way. At the campout, one of our players was challenged in a certain tune. We went through it, identified the issue and worked it out. She can now play with greater confidence. Another person had a problem with a rhythmic pattern (a common bugaboo). I helped them work through it.

Scott Smetana was kind enough to offer many suggestions. He broke it down into different parts.

The first he called "The Mental Game".

- "Take a moment to remind yourself why you're doing this. Perhaps you'd like to share your music with others in hopes it will brighten their day. Have a reasonable expectation. Can you help someone to smile for a moment or perhaps tap their foot? That's enough.
- Be glad you're a musician and not a standup comic. Think about it. (He heard this from a pretty famous HD player long ago).
- If your goal is to get more comfortable playing for an audience, do it anytime you have the chance to, especially in a low/no threat environment. Play for your dog, your mother, your kids, travel to a different city where nobody knows you, or play in a group where you can count on others to carry the tune if you falter. *(I can affirm this –Terry and I were just playing after a picnic lunch on a trip. We drew an audience who thought we were celebrity musicians. It helped we knew we would never see them again)* Scott also suggests that you try to play where you won't be recorded and posted on social media.
- You'll make mistakes. Everyone does, even the pros. Work on smiling every time you make a mistake (Pretty sure I got that tip from Tina Bergman, who smiles onstage even when she doesn't make mistakes. Maybe she's having fun up there. You should too.)" As Linda Osgood adds, "Own your mistakes –then work on that measure, phrase, to make the tune second nature to your muscle memory."

The second area he called: Mechanical.

- Master the tune and tempo. There are great options for practice at varying speeds. As an android user, Scott uses apps that make backing tracks around a chord structure that you input (chordbot, BIAB). Make use of programs that will play ABC or midi files (Trad Musician, The Session), Youtube, recordings you've made at gigs or jams, or more sophisticated programs like Band-in-a-box (BIAB). Find out what parts are most challenging to you and:
- "Loop" the harder parts (Loop Player). Again, apps are available that can play back (at selectable speed) the sections you need to work on the most.
- Record yourself playing and listen to it. Use a stopwatch to see how long it takes to play the whole tune through the first time and the last time. *(a great suggestion to counter the tendency to speed up)*
- *If the tune is in the "Practice Tune Video" library – use that to help "map out" the tune. If there is a tune you want to work on and there is no practice video, suggest to the board you would like to see one. Silver Strings hopes to be supportive in your musical journey.*
- "But it sounded pretty good in my living room" .. Once you have the tune down, add induced stressors. Change the lighting. Change locations. Add background noise. Wear hearing protectors so you don't have the same acoustic feedback you are used to. Stand if you normally sit or vice versa. Play your dulcimer flat on a table or kitchen countertop. Change the relative height of your instrument by putting books under the legs of your stand. Stand on one foot.
- Accept the inevitability of mistakes. Have a plan to "get back in the game" when that happens. Trying to "squeeze in" the note you missed often calls attention to the error and can result in speeding up the tempo of the tune, which can start a "death spiral" where the tune keeps getting faster, causing you to make even more mistakes. *(One participant in the Spirit Jams commented she learned to keep going after watching me make mistakes. It moved her confidence level up a notch to realize a mistake is only a millisecond long)*

- Use your practice aides to play along with the tune without following the exact melody. Concentrate more on the chord structure and what places are easiest to get back on board. The start of the A or B part frequently works well for this, as well as the start of new musical phrases, especially the ones you really know well.
- Tempo Drills. When learning a tune, use the tempo controls on YouTube or your apps to accurately work up to speed and then to “overspeed”—playing faster than you’ll need to in the performance.

The third area of concern deals with aspects of Performing. Performance anxiety is real, even for professionals. Since performing is a part of our club, you are encouraged to try some of the things that could alleviate anxiety and help create a confidence in playing to audiences.

BREATHE! As Scott says, slower, controlled breaths help a person stay focused and relaxed. He further suggests slowly wiggling your fingers and toes to be helpful.

ACT confident even if you don’t feel that way. Stand or sit up straight. “Sell” confidence with confident body language. You may even fool yourself!

KNOW most of all of the tunes you will be playing. It helps defeat the fear factor.

If possible, choose to PLAY in settings where you will not stress out. Some gigs are more stressful than others. The background music gigs are more relaxed.

SMILE – Choose a couple of friendly faces in various directions in the audience. Look up from playing a few times. Catch their eye and smile. They will think you are playing just for them. Their happiness is catching.

Scott’s final suggestion (*great for those who fear starting a tune!*) “It’s easy to be nervous and start a tune too fast. It’s also more common (and easier I think) to speed up during a tune than to slow down. So, how can you help yourself start the tune at an appropriate (slow enough) tempo when under the pressure of a performance and a tendency to speed up?

One way is to make your starting slightly more complex than just playing “potatoes” or the last bit of the melody. Here are some examples from the SSDS CD (Ornament—Tune): Rolling/Arpeggiated Chords—Down Yonder, Liberty Chromatic Run—Beaumont Rag. Block Chords—Peekaboo Waltz.

SILVER STRINGS SUMMER 2022 PUBLIC PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	PLACE
July 26	Noon- 1:00	Novi Library Tunes on the Patio* 45255 Ten Mile, Novi 48375
August 6	3:00-4:00	City of Taylor - 175 Anniversary Heritage Park, 12111 Pardee Rd.
August 7	Noon-4:00	Integrity Art Show Belle Isle, Detroit
August 19	6:00-9:00	Frankenmuth Friday Fun Night

*Required to register with library

JUNE PHOTOS

All photos courtesy of Chris Wolschen, Karen Turner, Terry Treppa, Marsha Kozlowski, Chris Hurt, David Smith



June 2nd Jam at Holy Cross Church with 41 musicians in attendance.



31 members attended the June 16th Jam

SILVER STRINGS CAMPOUT

June 8 - 14, 2022 at Groveland Oaks Park in Holly, MI



Nine WORKSHOPS on Hammered Dulcimer, Mountain Dulcimer, Bowed Psaltery, Bones, Penny Whistle, Nose Whistle, Ukulele, Fiddle and Roll the Dice-Build a Tune.

SILVER STRINGS CAMPOUT

June 8 - 14, 2022 at Groveland Oaks Park, Holly, MI



Great weather and a potluck dinner on Saturday!

SILVER STRINGS CAMPOUT

June 8 - 14, 2022 at Groveland Oaks Park, Holly, MI



Besides camping, workshops and jamming, hanging out with our friends is a big part of the fun!

SILVER STRINGS CAMPOUT

June 8 - 14, 2022 at Groveland Oaks Park, Holly, MI



Lots of music at our well attended jams.

SILVER STRINGS CAMPOUT

June 8 - 14, 2022 at Groveland Oaks Park, Holly, MI



A few photos of the many who attended the 2022 SSDS Campout.



Performing at the 'Friday Fun Night' in Frankenmuth on June 17th from 6 - 9pm.
Silver Strings will return again on August 19th



11 performers at a well attended concert at Cedarbrook Senior Living in Northville on June 24th

Position	Name	Contact Information
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Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

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

Meeting at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**
30650 Six Mile, Livonia, Michigan

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.

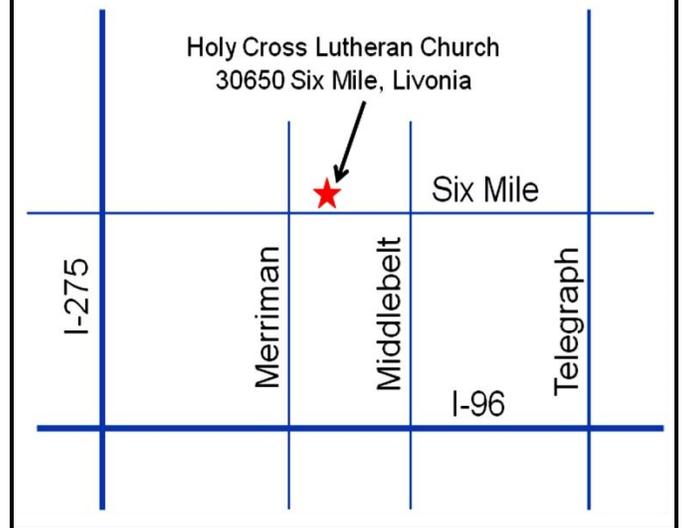
Participate in workshops, festivals, performances,
picnics, fun and fellowship.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

<https://www.silverstrings.org/>

Everyone is welcome!

Come to listen or come to play.



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

