

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard



December 2024

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 41 YEARS

Issue 476

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

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS ~ Peggy Kustra

Merry Christmas Everyone!!

I can't believe another year is coming to an end. I want time to go slower to savor the moment – and it just keeps speeding along.

As I'm writing this article, we have already performed our first of many Christmas gigs. We did a very good job. We were happy, the audience was happy, the lady who hired was happy. It doesn't get any better than that.

The Silver Strings Board of 2024 was absolutely marvelous!! I couldn't pick a better bunch of folks to work with.

Chris Wolschon, Vice President of Programs, and Patty Wolschon, Treasurer, are stepping down after two years of hard work. Both of them did a fantastic job at their posts. They went over and above the duties of their jobs. They were always cheery and jovial. Great to work with. Thank you, thank you.

Cindy Semrau, Vice President of Business, thank you for handling all the new technology and bookings and all your hard work.

Sue Tranquilla, Secretary, thank you for all your prompt work and keeping me up to date.

Karen Turner, Webmaster, our wonderful girl on the web. Thank you for all you do and your support.

Dave and Theresa Smith, Newsletter Editor and Historian, thank you for the amazing job you do with our newsletter. It is always great every month.

Marsha Kozlowski, our esteemed Music Coordinator. Your musical soul inspires our group. Keeping us all together is a tough task indeed. Thank you for all you do.

Folks we are blessed to have a hard-working crew, with only the best intentions for Silver Strings. Our Group is what it is today due to their time and caring.

The New Board of 2025: Peggy Kustra- President, Cindy Semrau- VP Business, Gerry Kustra- VP-Programs, with his helper Sally Kilcullen, Sue Tranquilla-Secretary, and Sally Niemczewski-Treasurer.

I'm looking forward to working with you all. It will be a great year, because you have signed up to do the tasks ahead of you.

As always contact me with any ideas, questions, or concerns. Peggy Kustra 313-570-7844

Silverstrings.President@gmail.com

DECEMBER CALENDAR

05 – SSDS Board Meeting - - - - -6:00 pm

05 - SSDS JAM - - - - - 7:00 pm

19 - SSDS *Holiday Potluck* (no jamming) - 6:00 pm

For more information on all upcoming events, click on:

<https://www.silverstrings.org/sections/events/events.html>

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S..LET'S CELEBRATE !

- 1...Sue Tranquilla
- 5...Brian Burchett
- 13...Theresa Smith
- 14...Jeff Despard
- 17...Jules Kaimi
- 22 ...Fedewa Kuuduina
- 25...Christine Burchill
- 26...Tim Davidson
- 26...Kathy Hoath
- 30...Veronica Radowicz
- 31...Jim Coon
- 31...Sandi Hlavacek



If you don't see your name here for your birthday please let me know. David Silverstrings.Newletter@gmail.com

MARSHA'S MUSINGS ~ Marsha Kozlowski

Holiday Music - Our first performance is behind us and we had a great start to the season. We looked good and sounded good. WCCC is a great place to start the season

VP-BUSINESS NOTES ~ Cindy Semrau

because it is a unique venue. However, the program ran overtime, so three tunes were cut: Painters Polka, Christmas in Killarney and Cold Frosty Morn. A reminder for Dona Nobis Pacem – the counting has to be precise to make it work. Also, you may hear me or a couple of others playing a different line. Keep going with what you do and remember the tune is being played 4 times.

New tune - Have a Drink on Me – a tune that reflects a need to take things easy. Play this one to remind you to take time out, relax with friends and regroup. This tune is in Dropbox as an After-Hours tune.

Spirit Jam #34 - Plans are afoot to do a Spirit Jam on Facebook Live January 23, 2025 7:00 EST. This event is dedicated to Terry who made it possible to do this during the COVID shutdown. Terry and I had to cancel a planned Spirit Jam in January. With the help of some friends, we can make this a reunion of the friendships and strengthen the musical bonds with folks across Michigan and the country. The playlist will be posted ahead of time. Hope to see you there.

“Starters” practice group - This 4-month project starts in January. It is intended to give players practice and to gain confidence in starting tunes. While focused on HD players, it will be open to any instrument. Make it your intention to begin the new year learning or perfecting a new skill.

Marsha.... 734-239-4190

Silverstrings.Music.Coordinator@gmail.com

VP-PROGRAMS NOTES ~ Chris Wolschon

Happy December and Merry Christmas!

We are starting a busy month of holiday performances, so get tuned up and practiced up.

The Christmas Party is on December 19th at Holy Cross. The doors will open at 6:00, and dinner will be served at 6:30. As usual, this will be a potluck, and two kinds of meat will be provided.

If your last name starts with...

A through M, bring a side dish

N through S, bring a vegetable

T through Z, bring a dessert.

Games, fun and food are on the agenda. There will be **no jamming** at the party because we play our final gig that same afternoon, and most folks are played out by then.

There will be a **50/50 drawing** at the party to benefit the club account, so bring your wallet.

If you haven't signed up to come to the party yet, make sure you do at the next jam or let me know via text, call or email so that we can get an accurate count for the food.

This will be my last month as Vice President of Programs, as Gerry Kustra will be taking in January. I hope you will continue to support him, as well as you have supported me in the last 2 years.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Chris Wolschon 313-410-0143
Silverstrings.Programs@gmail.com

Christmas Gigs:

We have our first Christmas performance under our belt, and if I may say, we sounded quite nice! Chris Wolschon won the sparkle award with his new sequin dinner jacket, and Marsha's wooden soldier's hat wasn't the only one that went a-flying!

Got a Victorian Costume?

We have a request to perform in Victorian costume for American House in May to align with their Renaissance theme. So, dust off those fancy hats, scour the Salvation Army for some fancy duds, and join the dress-up fun.

2025 Is almost here!

Looking forward to 2025, we already have seven gigs scheduled including two in January.

For more details, see the SSDS events page:

<https://www.silverstrings.org/sections/events/events.html>, or wait for me to send the signup emails.

2025 Gigs

Jan-09-2025 4:00-5:00 Willow Pines, 17901 Cross Road Northville, MI
Jan-24-2025 2:00-3:00 Cedarbrook Senior Living of Northville 15700 Haggerty Plymouth, MI
Mar-13-2025 2pm-3pm Addington Place of Northville 42010 W Seven Mile Rd Northville, MI
May-08-2025 2:30-3:30 American House of Dearborn Heights 26600 Ann Arbor Trail Dearborn Heights, MI
Jul-02-2025 2:00-3:00 Addington Place of Northville 42010 W Seven Mile Rd Northville, MI
Sep-03-2025 2:00-3:00 Addington Place of Northville 42010 W Seven Mile Rd, Northville, MI
Dec-09-2025 2:00-3:00 Addington Place of Northville 42010 W Seven Mile Rd Northville, MI

Cindy Lou Semrau... 586-907-3668

[YouTube](#) ~ [Website](#) ~ [Facebook](#)
silverstrings.business.manager@gmail.com

TREASURER ~ Patty Wolschon

Happy December, everyone! Just a reminder that membership dues are annual, covering January through December. I begin collecting dues for the following year in the preceding October. **New members \$20, renewing members \$15.** Cash or checks are accepted in person at jams, by check made out to Silver Strings Dulcimer Society and mailed to our PO Box 51446, Livonia, MI 48151, or through PayPal (you can use a debit or credit card) on our website: www.SilverStrings.org. PayPal will charge a \$2 service fee in addition to the actual cost of membership. Thanks to all who have renewed for 2025.

Another good reason to renew your membership in a timely manner is that our SSDS **dues will increase on March 1, 2025 to \$25 per year.** Our dues have been the same for over 30 years and the Board has recognized that our costs are increasing: storage unit, supplies, camping fees for our jamming tents at festivals, website, and food for variety nights, annual banquet, and annual Christmas party. If you would like more information on this, see any of our Board members. In the meantime, your 2025 dues will be only \$15 for renewal until March 1st and then will increase to \$25. *Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas*

and a Happy New Year!

Patty Wolschon.... 248-417-2828
Silverstrings.Treasurer@gmail.com

SECRETARY ~ Sue Tranquilla

We want to send out a card of support and encouragement when any of our members go through personal difficulties, such as illness, surgery, or the death of a loved one. Please contact Peggy Kustra or me when you are having a difficult time.

Sue Tranquilla.... 734-751-8109
Silverstrings.Secretary@gmail.com

Scan this QR code
or click on this link

[SSDS Videos](#)

and it will take you
to 100's of YouTube
Silver Strings Videos



Join us as we share, enjoy, learn about and preserve traditional & contemporary folk music, dance & culture.
paintcreekfolkloresociety.org/

HIGHLAND LIBRARY MUSIC JAM

Highland Township Library
444 Beach Farm Circle, Highland Charter Twp.

~ 2024 Jams ~

The North Oakland group will be practicing at Highland Township Library in the lower-level community meeting room this fall. We welcome anyone who would like a little extra practice opportunity to join us. Here are the dates and times that we have confirmed with the Library:

The following dates are tentative depending on the librarian's programming needs for December:

Monday, December 2, 11-1

Monday, December 9, 11-1

Monday, December 16, 10-12 (if needed)

Denise Harris-Fiems deniseharrismiti@yahoo.com



UKE JAM

Great Lakes Ukulele Gathering...

...invites ukulele players to join us for monthly meetings where we will strum and sing. All music will be projected onto a screen so that we can all follow the lyrics and chords.

Gathering takes place **on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be provided and you are welcome to bring snacks to share.

A donation of \$3.00 is requested. So bring your Ukulele and your Voice for a good time. All levels and ages welcome.

Your first visit is FREE.

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
28680 CHERRY HILL, GARDEN CITY
between Inkster and Middlebelt Roads



For further information contact :Bob: bsnemo@yahoo.com

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/glughead>

Check our website: <https://ukulelegathering.weebly.com/>

Attention Bowed Psaltery players



**No meetings in December
We'll see you again on
January 14 & 28, 2025**

We will meet the **2nd and 4th Tuesday** of the month from **11:00 am to 12:30 pm** at Chris and Patty Wolschon's home; 14892 Fox, Redford, MI 48239.

We will be starting with the basics; tuning, bowing, etc. and working our way up to some 3 part harmony and beyond.

All levels are welcome, even if you have never played before.

Please contact Chris Wolschon for more information:

313-410-0143 or silverstrings.programs@gmail.com

Mountain Dulcimer Players

**No meetings in December
We'll see you again on
January 14 & 28, 2025**

Patricia Wolschon will host a jam at her home in Redford. Myself and Carol Ann will be your moderators.

Meetings usually take place on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month from 1 - 3pm**. Players of ALL levels are welcome as well as rhythm and back up players!



Contact Linda Osgood at:

losgood10424@comcast.net or text at 734-649-3843

Open Mic Night at Holy Cross Lutheran Church

REFRESHMENTS - 6:30 PM OPEN MIC FROM - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Join us for our next Open Mic Night on
FRIDAY DECEMBER 20

Come share your music, song, original poetry/spoken word, or just relax, listen and enjoy free refreshments and wifi! No admission charge.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia, MI

Everyone is Welcome!

Check the Abbey Coffee House Facebook Page for updates and information.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100054339048511>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Quarantune Christmas Concert Series

December 15-16, 2024

Virtual Online

virtualdulcimerfest.com

QuaranTUNE Dulcimer Festival

Winter Fest: Feb. 13 - 16, 2025

Virtual Online

virtualdulcimerfest.com

Dulcimer Doin's

February 14-16, 2025

Sponsored by the Mountain Dulcimer Society of Dayton Spiritual Retreat Center in Maria Stein, Ohio

daytondulcimers.com

Bells and Whistles Hammered Dulcimer Day 2025

March 8, 2025

Day-long event on Zoom

Contact: Steve Eulberg, steve@owlmountainmusic.com

Link TBD

Castaway Music Cruise

February 22 - March 1, 2025

Homosassa, Florida

castawaymusiccruise.com

Southern Wisconsin Dulcimer Workshop

Jam - April 4, 2025

Workshops and Concert - April 5, 2025

First Lutheran Church, Janesville, WI

southernwisconsindulcimerclub.com

Buckeye Dulcimer Festival

April 23 - 27, 2025

Ashley, Ohio

buckeyedulcimerfestival.com

2024 Holiday Play list - 11-15-2024 – Final list

Starter	Key Tune	Play	
MK	G	Jingle Bells - start with chorus . Santa Stick /Jingle bells during each chorus	3 1/2
MK	G	Deck the Halls Holly & Ivy 2x by starter while rest decorates instruments/stands/put on Santa hats. Tag End by Starter	3***
MK	G	Holly Berry sound effect in the “knock-knock” notes	2
MK	G/C	Let It Snow/Winter Wonderland Chimes at the end.	2/2
PK	C	Silver Bells . Ritard last 4 measures HD – walk up C Chord, Glockenspeil “echo” in chorus.	3
Dan	C	Parade of the Wooden Soldiers	2
MK and accessory players	C	Santa Claus is Coming to Town - end of 1st measure/ triangles, end of 2 nd measure/jingle bells, end of 3 rd measure/ clackers/woods; end of 4 th measure/ slide whistle. 4 beats / everyone come in. 2nd time play from 1 st measure.	2
MK	C	Marvelous Toy –Boomerang balls/toys activated during chorus. Repeat chorus 2 nd time thru (from ms 17) – Tag Ending	2
PK	D	Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer – Clip-clop on Santa Stick Jingle bells	2
MK	G	I Saw Three Ships/Christmas is in the Air - Bohran. Ritard last 2 measures.	As written
PK		Ding Dong Merrily/He Is Born – Glock start. Ritard last 2 measures.	As written
MK	G	Still, Still, Still/Oh Christmas Tree – Ritard last 2 measures	As written
CAM	G	Oh Come All Ye Faithful at chorus, start soft, increase volume every 2 measures. End loud. Ritard starts 4 measure to End	3
CAM	G	Angels We Have Heard on High – Second time HDs soft. Ritard last 3 measures of 3 rd time.	3***
LO	Am	What Child is This - ritard last 4 measures – Feature concertina 2 nd time – everyone soften up	3***
MK/	Am	We Three Kings/Carol of the Bells – Play soft ms 45-46. Only MK/CAM play 76-77 – come back in at 78. Ritard at 98 to end. CAM finishes with low A	As written
MK/CAM	G	Joy to the World –4 measure start, listen for 3 bongs between each verse before starting next verse Tag end by Bass	3
Guitar	Em	God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen –. guitar start Play <u>upbeat tempo</u> ; all end abruptly on last note and let sound ring	4
LO	D	Dona Nobis Pacem – harp start. 2 nd line: add fiddles & melodica, 3 rd line; everyone else comes in. Play 3 more times.	4
MK/	D/G	Simple Gifts -4 measure intro. 4 measure tag at end. Watch tempo don't start too fast. Feature harmonicas 2 nd . time	2/2
Fiddle	D/G	Silent Night - fiddle start, last time in G – harmonicas/guitar only	2/3
KT	G	We Wish You a Merry Christmas – all sing the last chorus	1 1/2

NOTES: *** HDs soften up so other instruments are featured.

2024 Secular Holiday Play list - 11-15-24 Final

Key		Tune	Play
MK	G	Jingle Bells – Start with chorus. Santa Stick clip-clop, Jingle bells	3 /12
MK	G	Holly Berry	2
MK	G	Deck the Halls MK Plays intro of Holly & Ivy 2x while players “decorate” and put on Santa Hats – MK will cue into Deck the Halls	3
MK	A	Hang the Stockings (Hangman’s Reel)	3
PK	D	Eggnog in the Morning (Whiskey Before Breakfast)	3
MK	G	Grandfather’s Clock	3
MK	G	Tick Tock Polka	3
MK	D	Saro Waltz	3*
MK	C/G	Let It Snow/Winter Wonderland Tag End by Starter;	2/ 2
Dan	C	Parade of the Wooden Soldiers	2
MK	C	Jingle Bell Rock	2
PK	C	Silver Bells Glock Start/echo Ritard End. HD – walk up C Chord,	3
MK	C	Santa Claus is Coming to Town – at beginning use whistle, bells, clackers and slide whistle. Everyone starts at 2 nd line, and plays entire tune second time.	2
MK	C	Marvelous Toy -Boomerang balls during the chorus. 2 nd time thru, repeat the chorus from ms. 17, tag line played slowly	2
MK	D	Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer – Santa Stick clip-clop, Jingle Bells	2
MK	D	Festival Rag	3
MK	G	I Saw Three Ships/Christmas is in the Air - bodhran if present	As written
MK	D/G	Simple Gifts harmonicas featured 2 nd time. Tag end by Starter	2/2***
LO	D	Dona Nobis Pacem – LO plays 1 st line, Melodica/fiddles come in 2nd line, rest join in 3 line.	4
MK	G	We Wish You a Merry Christmas – everyone sing 2 nd chorus	1 ½
		Extras (Encore)	
	Em	Tamlin	
	D	Black Mountain Rag	

Tunes marked with * -HD/s soften up second time so other instruments can be featured (depending on who is there).

Here is a list of our Public Holiday Performances – Invite your friends and relatives.



SILVER STRINGS DULCIMER SOCIETY

2024 Holiday Performances

Date	Time	Place
Dec. 6	7:00-8:00	Good Hope Lutheran Church 28680 Cherry Hill Rd., Garden City
Dec. 7	7:00-8:00	Garden City Historical Society 6221 Merriman Rd., Garden City
Dec. 8	2:00-3:00	St. Richards Catholic Church 35851 Cherry Hill Rd., Westland
Dec. 16	6:00-7:00	Southgate Veterans Library 14680 Dix-Toledo Hwy, Southgate
Dec. 19	12:15-1:00	Livonia Civic Library 32777 Five Mile, Livonia

Silver Strings Playlist – January 2025

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Red Wing	3*
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*
G	Hundred Pipers	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	3
D	Painter's Polka	3
Em	Katushka	3
G	January Waltz	3*
G	Bellman's Jig	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Road to Lisdoonvarna	3*
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
G	March of St. Timothy's – hold on 4th time	4
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3
C	Five Foot Two	3
D	John Ryan's Polka -	5**
D	Black Mountain Rag	4
D	Saro Waltz	3*
Em	Tamlin	4
A	Hangman's Reel	3
	Extra Tunes	
D	Hey Polka	4
D	Willajford	3
Em	Dancing Bear	4

*2nd time: HD's play softly – feature other instruments,

** Feature different instruments as present

2024 Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Board



Patty Wolschon
Treasurer

Peggy Kustra
President

Cindy Semrau
VP-Business

Sue Tranquilla
Secretary

Chirs Wolschon
VP-Programs

2025 Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Board



Sally Niemczewski
Treasurer

Sally Kilcullen & Gerry Kustra
VP-Programs

Peggy Kustra
President

Cindy Semrau
VP-Business

Sue Tranquilla
Secretary



The first concert of the Christmas Season took place at Wayne County Community College campus in Taylor on November 20th.

In December we will bring lots of Holiday Cheer with 10 more Christmas Concerts.

Holiday Season here we come!

Position	Name	Contact Information	
President	Peggy Kustra	Silverstrings.President@gmail.com	313-570-7844
V.P. Business Manager (Contact for booking performances)	Cindy Semrau	Silverstrings.Business.Manager@gmail.com	586-907-3668
V.P. Programs	Chris Wolschon	Silverstrings.Programs@gmail.com	313-410-0143
Secretary	Sue Tranquilla	Silverstrings.Secretary@gmail.com	734-751-8109
Treasurer	Patty Wolschon	Silverstrings.Treasurer@gmail.com	248-417-2828
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Historian	David Smith	Silverstrings.Historian@gmail.com	313-802-6001
Website & Dropbox Coordinator	Karen Turner	Silverstrings.Webmaster@gmail.com	734-678-7405

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.

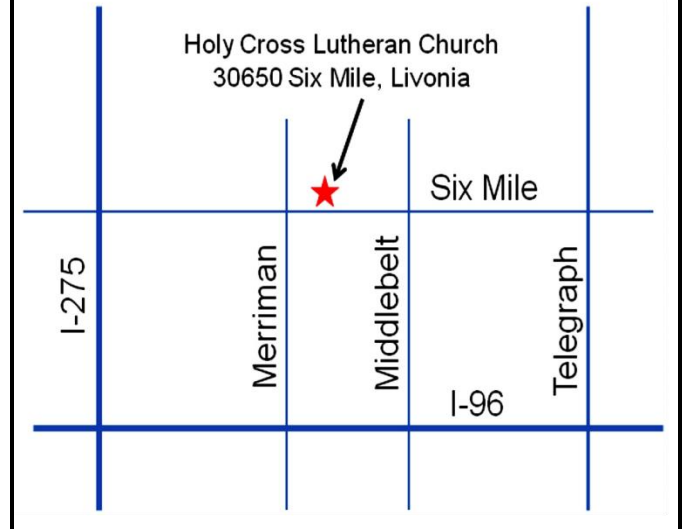
Participate in workshops, festivals, performances,
picnics, fun and fellowship.

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 silverstrings.newletter@gmail.com

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

