



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

March 2010

27 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2010

Issue 299

Website : www.silverstrings.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi Folks:

It has really been wonderful to see so many of you at our meetings lately. We've been having very good turnouts with above average attendance. Thanks for all of your support. Our new projects this year, such as our slow jam, bringing back the tune the month, and dusting off some old tunes in our repertoire, are going well. This is a good time of year to work on these things before our playdates start to take off. February is normally a slow month for playdates with March picking up a bit. Bert has been busy booking events for the coming months and as the weather starts improving we will begin to see more and more requests coming in. Bert has also been working on getting another 1000 copies of our traditional CD reproduced. Thanks to all of you who approved spending of funds to make this possible.

We are now well into the new year and we find ourselves making the necessary adjustments and raising the sails for our journey through the year 2010. As I stay focused on our goals, Bert will continue to book playdates, Carol Ann and Janelle will be planning out the club activities for the year, Bev will be keeping everyone informed on board activities and Linda will be signing up new members and taking care of your money. Rest assured that your board members will be working hard to make this year the best ever for this club. Larry Roper

PASTIES SALE

If you ordered those delicious Good Hope pasties, they will be delivered (fresh) at the March 4th meeting and (frozen) on March 11th. Have your money ready. This fundraiser for Good Hope happens only twice a year.



NOTES FROM PROGRAM VPs

Happy March everyone.

We'd like to thank *everyone* for the FANTASTIC food and lively entertainment that helped to make our first Winterfest / Variety Night a success. It was great fun and perhaps we'll do it again for some future variety night. Also, a big thank you to everyone who has been coming early to the slow jam. Thus far, it's going well. We plan to continue offering this jam on the third Thursday of each month.

We will have a "musical garage sale" at the club meeting on April 15th. Bring in any music-related items to sell (instruments, accessories, CDs, tapes, DVDs, etc.) Musical items will be displayed throughout the evening on tables along the West wall. We haven't done this for quite some time, and you might find something you've been looking for or just can't do without.

Just an early reminder that the month of April has *five Thursdays*, which means it's once again time for Variety Night. The Club will provide the pizza, salad, and beverages for dinner. Guys and gals, get your acts together and let's have some fun!

The annual Silver Strings Campout at Myers Lake is fast approaching. Mark you calendars for the weekend of June 11-13th. Details about the campout and the campground registration form will be included in next month's newsletter.

THINK SPRING!!!!

Janelle and Carol Ann

Q: Why are there so few Irish lawyers?

**A: The majority of them
can't pass the bar!**

PLAYDATE MATTERS _____ V.P.Business

I recently received a very nice note from Gerald Wykes, the contact person at Lake Erie Metro Park for Silver Strings' performances at the Erie Ice Daze events on January 16 and 17, 2010. Gerald's note included the comment, "As always, I really enjoyed the performances and I know that all our attendees did too (they told me over & over!). Your gang really makes Ice Daze work! Thank you." I realized upon seeing his name at the bottom of that note that I had misspelled it in my February article and apologize for that. On February 23, we provided the Afternoon Entertainment for All Seasons of Rochester Hills, and it was a thoroughly enjoyable gig. The clapping by the audience, guided by our cheerleader, Linda Losse, was lively throughout the performance. Bob Ewald got the audience excited by spinning his bass vigorously a couple of times without missing a beat. Carol Ann Matthews generated some excitement when she did some very nice clogging to John Ryan's Polka. Karen Turner provided the high-tech surround sound effect by walking in and around the audience while playing her harmonica during a couple of our tunes. Larry Roper got the audience laughing heartily with a few jokes and wild stories. There were many really nice comments about our music afterward and one that stands out was by a woman who said she had been living at All Seasons for the past three years. She said our performance was by far the most enjoyable in that whole period of time.

Our 2010 playdate schedule is taking shape. The Mark Your Calendar section of this newsletter lists the coming playdates in the next couple of months. At the time of writing this article, there are 18 playdates scheduled for 2010, including those we have already played, so please join in the fun and sign up for any of the playdates you can work into your schedule that are not already filled up. The sign-up sheets for scheduled playdates will always be put out for your signatures at all of our Silver Strings meetings. Many thanks to all of you who have been participating in our playdates.

Bert Stein

Pat and Mike work at the Guinness Brewery, and one day there's an accident.

Pat calls Mike's wife, Mary, and says: "Sure, and I hate to be tellin ya this, but there's been an accident down at the Guinness."

"Saints Preserve us," says she, "is Mike alright?"

Pat responds, "I'd like to tell ya that, but it'd be a lie!"

"Ya don't mean that me Mike's been hurt?" says Mary.

"Sure, an it's worse than that," says Pat, "he's fallen into the beer vat and drowned!"

"Oh, well" says Mary, "At least it was quick, ya know he couldn't swim a lick!"

"Oh, I wish I could be tellin ya that," says Pat, "but it's be a lie. He got out three times ta pee!"

NOTES ABOUT YOUR SOUNDBOARD

If you have an instrument to sell, or one you would like to buy, here's the place to advertise. Contact :
Sandi Hlavacek..(734)663-7974
datadoc@charter.net

Thoughts from the Irish

May your home always be too small
to hold all your friends.
May the best day of your past
be the worst day of your future.
God is good, but never dance in a small boat.

Mark your Calendar

March

- 7...**SSDS Playdate**.....2-3:30pm
1st United Methodist Church.....Ferndale
- 10.....**Buckeye Dulcimer Festival** For info.contact:
www.buckeyedulcimerfestival.com
- 11...**SSDS Playdate**.....1-1:40pm
Assoc. for Blind, K of C Hall.....Lincoln Park
- 16...**SSDS Playdate**.....noon-3:pm
Wayne Westland Seniors.....Westland
- 17.....**Happy St. Patrick's Day !**
- 17...**SSDS Playdate**.....1:45-3:15
Inn at Cass Lake.....Waterford
- 19...**SSDS Playdate**.....2:30-3:30pm
American House.....Royal Oak
- 19...**SSDS Playdate**.....6-7:pm
Maple Heights Retirement.....Allen Park

April

- 2.....**SSDS Playdate**.....2:30-3:30pm
Heartland Health Ctr.....Canton
- 21...**SSDS Playdate**.....10:45am-1:pm
Farmington Hills Police.....Farmington Hills
- 22...**SSDS Playdate**.....8:30-10:am
Van Buren Twp. Seniors.....Van Buren Twp.

PURSE STRINGS _____(Treasurer)

Hello Fellow Members,

I'd like to give you an updated report on our finances.....

Our CD sales have been phenomenal this year to date and our bank account shows it. Our balance as of Feb. 20th was \$7500 and change. We can well afford to purchase the additional CD's that we voted on at our last meeting. Our "FANS" will be most appreciative !!!

Welcome to our newest 2 members. We are always glad to see new faces and instruments among us and it reminds us of when we were "NewBees" as well.

Linda Osgood

Mick Mastal

Rockwood, Mi

Mick plays Mandolin and likes Old Time,
Blue Grass, Blues & Jazz music.

Steven Peper

Garden City, Mi

Steve plays Guitar and enjoys Bluegrass & Blues

LET'S CELEBRATE !!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1.....Shayla Rachelle
- 3.....Kay Rowe. . .
- 7.....Bonnie Ream
- 11... Rich.Smith. .
- 12... David Smith
- 12... Evie Bain
- 15... Sherry Humecky
- 25... Donna Mayer
- 27... Ida O'Dell. . . .
- 30... Dorothy Ewald . . .
- 30... Bob Niemczewski



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 2.....Shirley Kaiser (63rd)

If your Birthday or Anniversary are not on the list at the 'Business Table', please write them in so we can help celebrate.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

March 2010 SSDS Board meeting

Larry suggested the following change... dues to be paid from October to October instead of January to January

OLD BUSINESS

The old CD supply is getting low. Bert will research reproduction and we will get 1000 copies.

Carol Ann has researched the shirt project... polo shirts (hunter green or white with logo on front) & jackets (hunter green with logo on back).

New Business

- February Song of the Month is Loch Lomond, paired with Scotland the Brave.
- March Song of the Month, is Mari's Wedding, possibly paired with Angeline the Baker.
- The Red Haired Boy will be revived.
- A group will review / play Kelly's sheet music revisions for comparison and correctness before they are added to the music pack and printed
- Bert suggested we remove songs from the list that are never used. We would not continually reproduce a lot of unused songs, saving duplication costs, paper waste, and time. (approved).
- We will begin) a new sign up procedure for playdates. The sign up sheets must appear on the table, during our jam, at least once before members can sign up by phone or e-mail.
- Bob Niemczewski offered to buy a new microphone for the club for approximately \$125.00. (approved)

submitted by: Beverley J. Scott

In Praise of the Dulcimer

By Gerry Hermans

*The damsel with a dulcimer
intones her plaintive song.
Much sweeter than the nightingale
her voicings trill along.*

*Just lend your ear to vibrant strains;
such music soothes the soul
with scintillating melodies
that gladden and cajole.*

*And Samuel Taylor Coleridge
discoursed in Kubla Kahn
how a vision of this lady
would spur his fancies on.*

*Those strings of silver brought to him
a glimpse of paradise,
where pleasure domes and royal mews
would sate his drowsy eyes.*

*Our cohorts from the days of old
relied on music's sway,
bequeathing us the Dulcimer
to buoy us on our way.*

Cyber News – Karen Turner, Webmaster

The membership of the club voted to change its domain name at the last meeting on February 18th. We are now officially <http://www.silverstrings.org>. This more user friendly name became available a few years back so I bought the domain for Silver Strings and suggested the change for this year, just in time for our new club jackets and the reprinting of the traditional CD's. We will still retain our old domain <http://www.ssdociety.org> for a few years, but eventually over time it will be phased out. Both domains will currently take you to our website, but you might want to change your bookmark to the new domain.

And for all you web surfers, there is a new dulcimer website just recently released into cyberspace. Welcome Thornapple Valley Dulcimer Society to the 21st century! Be sure to check out this new site at :

<http://www.thornapplevalleydulcimer.org>

Karen Turner

2010 MARCH PLAY LIST

Key	Tune	Play
	List of tunes for 40 minute gigs	
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Red Wing	3 *
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Smash the Windows	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Southwind	3 *
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G	Irish Washerwoman	3
Em	Tamlin	3
D	Danny Boy	3 *
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna / Riding Load Hay	3/3
D	John Ryan's Polka (Karen's choice)	5
C	When Irish Eyes Are Smiling	3 *
D/D D/G	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If gig more than 40 minutes, skip this till end)	2/2/ 2/2
	Add for 1 hour long gigs	
G	Down Yonder	3
C	Five Foot Two	4
D	Hey Polka	5
G	Young Jane	3 *
D/D D/G	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If gig more than 1 hour, skip this till end)	2/2 2/2
	Add for 1.5 hour long gigs	
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
D	Kesh Jig	3
D	Festival Rag	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3 *
D	Swinging on a Gate	3
G	Maggie	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3 *
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	3
D/D D/G	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If gig more than 1.5 hours, skip this till end)	2/2 2/2
	* = 2 nd time: Fiddles, Harmonicas, backup; HD's softly	

	Add for 3 hour long gigs	
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
G	Old Joe Clark	3
Em	Drunken Sailor	3
D	Simple Gifts	3 *
D	Chinese Breakdown / Nelly Bly	2/3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
Em	Dancing Bear	3
G	January Waltz	3 *
D/A	Maple Sugar	3
G	March of St. Timothy	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
D	Ashgrove	3 *
D	Saint Anne's Reel	3
G	Rosin the Beau	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	5
G	I'll Remember You Love in My Prayers	3 *
D	Painter's Polka	3
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
G	Flowers of Edinburgh	3 *
G	Fanny Power	2 *
G	Nail that Catfish to a Tree	3
Em	Missouri	3
D	Angeline the Baker	3
D	Midnight on the Water	3 *
G	Loch Lomond / Scotland the Brave	2/3
D	Viola's Schottische	3
D	Road to Boston	3
A	Red Haired Boy	3
G	Sophrina	3 *
D/D D/G	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (Play as final in all March gigs)	2/2 2/2
	Extra Tunes	
Em	Swallowtail Jig	3
D	Nancy	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3 *
D	Dennis Murphy's Polka	3
G	Farewell to Whiskey	3
D	Lover's Waltz	2
C	Black Velvet Waltz	3 *
	* = 2 nd time: Fiddles, Harmonicas, backup; HD's softly	

Kaiser Family Band



Now In Color

If you haven't heard the Kaiser Family CDs, you must. If you don't have these in your collection, you must. They are filled with fine music for delightful listening. The talent is phenomenal, and truly evokes pure joy!

Old Grey Cat†



Kaiser Family Band

GETTING TO KNOW the KAISER FAMILY



(Left): From Kelly's first SSDS visit at age 10, on January 30, 2003

(Right): The Kaiser Family Band has emerged to delight audiences wherever they go.



In January, 2003, a 10-year old girl arrived at Silver Strings, accompanied by her Mother. Her violin skills were immediately noticed by the adults who surrounded her. She was especially appreciated by Jim McKinney (who encouraged her to keep coming). This little girl was Kelly Kaiser, just days after her 10th birthday, and she knew a total of two fiddle tunes. Her mom continued to bring her to Silver Strings jams, and she flourished, nurtured by the adults who were totally impressed by her talents, sweetness & poise.

Her attendance continued, often accompanied by a VERY sweet, shy little brother named Greg, as well as Mom. A couple of years went by, and we watched both children grow. In 2005, Mom (Lynne Ellen) brought in a bass fiddle. She said she was tired of just sitting there, and wanted to be a part of the music. (She had wanted to play bass as a child, and never got the chance.) We enjoyed their participation immensely !!! Then in July, 2006 Greg appeared with a guitar on Variety Night and STUNNED US ALL !!! Where had this quiet, shy 11 year old been hiding that talent ??? Derrick Channing had introduced him to the banjo guitar and become his mentor. Then just as suddenly Dad (Ken) appeared with a guitar, to join them all in a Variety Night performance. He didn't want to be left out. The Kaiser Family Band was born.

As the years have passed, we have thoroughly enjoyed watching these 2 young talents grow and develop into poised, accomplished performers. And they are every bit as NICE as they are talented ! In fact, the entire family is !!! We treasure their talent, and their friendships. We applaud their accomplishments. In 2007, cousin Ben, (whose annual visits had a serious musical connection) astonished everyone with an amazing performance on the Hammered dulcimer, after playing for less than one year. Of course, he became one more member of the Kaiser Family Band. . In 2008 they recorded a wonderful CD "Now In Color". Groups play together for decades, and don't sound nearly that good.

The family has become a "must see & hear" feature at festivals (Evert & Midland are only 2), and Kelly and Greg have thrilled audiences and won several state & national musical competitions. In 2009 the Kaisers produced another brilliant, "fun to listen to" CD titled "Old Gray Catt". If you don't have them, you certainly should order them from their website www.KaiserFamilyBand.com.

Silver Strings has talked many times over the past several years about recording another CD. The holiday 2008 performances had gone VERY well, Ken Kaiser offered his equipment and expertise, Terry Treppa offered his church as a recording studio, a committee was set up, recording dates were set & met, and after a lot of hard, tedious work by the committee, and ESPECIALLY Ken Kaiser, our new "Holiday Tradition" CD was released to the membership at the October 1st, 2009 annual banquet. While some were concerned about the expense of making 1000 copies, they sold like hotcakes ! Our music is being heard all across the USA, and even England, Germany, Guam and Australia (thanks to Karen Turner's awesome website). We recovered our expenses by mid-December !!!

We salute the Kaiser family for the untold hours they ALL put into making this accomplishment happen ! There is not a BIG enough THANK YOU for the gift they have been to the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society. We are so very blessed and proud to have them in our midst.



**Kelly's 1st Variety Night, Oct. 2003
Greg's first Variety Night, July 2006
and in 2007 cousin Ben joined the crew.**





Guinness Beef Stew

by Kate Sonders

In The Irish Pub Cookbook (Chronicle, 2006) by Margaret Johnson, Johnson writes, "Another perennial pub favorite is a hot pot made with beef and Guinness stout. It can be cooked as a stewlike casserole, as in this recipe from the Brewery Bar at the Guinness Storehouse, St. James' Gate, in Dublin ... or as a meat pie.... At the Storehouse, this dish is served with a big scoop of mashed potatoes in the center and a sprinkling of parsley, but you can also serve it with a few boiled potatoes, if you like." Although this recipe uses beer, the alcohol evaporates during the cooking process, making it safe for kids.

- 2 pounds boneless beef sirloin, cut into 1-inch cubes
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- All-purpose flour for dredging
- 4 tablespoons unsalted Kerrygold Irish butter
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 4 medium onions, chopped
- 2 cups homemade beef stock, canned low-sodium beef broth, or 2 bouillon cubes with 2 cups boiling water
- 2 cups Guinness stout
- 5 carrots, peeled and thickly sliced
- 4 parsnips, peeled and thickly sliced
- 1 medium turnip, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- Mashed or boiled potatoes for serving

1. Season the meat with salt and pepper and dredge in flour. In a stockpot or large saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter with the oil. Working in batches, cook the meat on all sides for 5 to 7 minutes, or until evenly browned. Remove from the pot. Stir in the onions and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, or until soft.
2. Return all the meat to the pot and add enough of the beef stock or broth and the Guinness to cover. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer for 60 to 70 minutes, or until the meat is nearly tender. Add the carrots, parsnips, and turnip, and cook for 30 to 40 minutes, or until the vegetables and meat are tender and the stew is thickened. (If not thick enough, mix 2 tablespoons flour with 1/2 cup of water until smooth. Stir into the stew and cook for 5 minutes longer, or until it reaches the desired consistency.)
3. To serve, ladle the stew into shallow bowls and serve with potatoes.

Yield: Serves 6

* * * * *

N E Z Q Z S O P X A Q O J L B
 I U I E L K G A T H P D I G B
 B N A C J C N R A I N B O W J
 H T T H V I B A E A R L J N Q
 X Z Z R C R L D L E D D M Q G
 G D O Z V E A E U N N I P L K
 P I S H A M R O C K S A W C Y
 W D U B L I N P K T T C Q A Z
 Z C T I S L E M E R A L D L F
 Q L S W P L Y G I L H O L H H
 T P E D F T G C B M V V N S E
 W B P B R O K A E X A E I T Q
 O F I A K P E Y P B X R S P D
 K P P T D B T F K O I K C C M
 G A G B P W J D R G S T X H J

Can you find all the St. Patrick's Day Words?

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| BLARNEY | LEPRECHAUN |
| CLOVER | LIMERICKS |
| DAY | LUCK |
| DUBLIN | MARCH |
| ELF | MIST |
| ELVES | PARADE |
| EMERALD | PARTY |
| GOLD | PATRICK |
| GREEN | PIPE |
| HATS | POT |
| IRELAND | RAINBOW |
| IRISH | SHAMROCK |
| ISLE | |

