



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

NOVEMBER 2010

27 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2010

Issue 307

Website : www.silverstrings.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER _____ Larry Roper

Hello Folks:

Well it's that time of year again, when the frost is on the pumpkins, the beautiful fall colors are quickly vanishing, and Silver Stringers are gearing up for our busy Holiday Season. Where did the summer go? The stores are already putting out Christmas items! Once again, I agree with the old saying that time flies when you're having fun. It would be nice if time could slow down when we're having fun. Then we would have more time to have fun. Or something like that.

Speaking of the Holiday season, those of you who would like to play at the Holiday performances should try to make it to some of the practice sessions to become familiar with some new tunes that have been added, as well as some new arrangements we are working on. The arrangements don't require you to play the basic tune any differently than you have in the past but you need to know things like, when you start, at what point to come in, play softly or not at all, timing, what tunes have a ritard at the end, and where it begins. It's not as complicated as it sounds, and it builds excitement and adds so much more to the music, rather than playing it the same each time through. So come on out, practice with us, and sign up to play!

On a sad note, in October we lost two of our musician friends. Pat LaPrad's husband, Guy, and Dotty Decker's husband, Sheldon both passed away. May these women and their families find comfort in knowing that they are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Larry

NOTES FROM PROGRAM V.P.s _____

Well, Autumn is officially here and our year is winding down. However, our busiest season is rapidly approaching (*our Holiday Season performances*). Everyone has done a great job polishing up on the regular holiday tunes, and we are really pleased with the progress on the newly added tunes. Anyone who is still in need of the holiday tune packet, please see Larry or Janelle. The holiday play list with arrangements is still being fine tuned. Bert has put together a tentative playlist (see his article in this newsletter), However, with two holiday practices remaining there may still be some changes made, depending on how well the tunes/arrangements work out.

Coming Events:

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 30, 2010. That is the club's next Variety Night and it will also be the night we hold our annual Holiday Potluck Dinner that we have aptly titled "**Holiday Happening.**" Emcees that night will be Dave Smith and Bob Niemczewski. The club will provide glazed ham and varieties of meatballs (Swedish, BBQ, and turkey meatballs), rolls, beverages and a holiday cake. Table service will be provided, as always. We request that everyone bring a dish to share (appetizers, relishes, side dishes, or desserts would all be welcomed.) We hope to see everyone there so we can end the year with **a BANG !!!**

Once again, thanks to everyone who brings snacks to share at the regular club meetings. They are much appreciated.

Janelle and Carol Ann

SSDS JACKETS & SHIRTS

I have a limited supply of sizes of the SSDS jackets (\$38) and polo shirts (\$21). Call for sizes. I will bring them on jam nights.

Carol Ann 734-981-5675



HAPPY
THANKSGIVING !

PLAYDATE MATTERS

Bert Stein

On October 2nd, a number of us were looking forward to playing for the Harvest Happening at Hess-Hathaway Park in Waterford, but the weather report was ominous and I received a call that morning from John Barker, ("Farmer John"), the contact person for the gig, saying it was raining hard there and the event had to be canceled. So I contacted everyone by email and telephone, and was sad to see that gig dissolve in the rain. We played for two different events on October 13. The first was for a luncheon meeting of the Redford Suburban League at the St. Mary Cultural Center in Livonia. The audience was very enthusiastic and it was so clear that they thoroughly enjoyed our program... moving and tapping toes to our music... lots of really nice compliments after our performance, and hefty CD sales as well. That evening we dressed in Victorian attire, and played in an old school house in the Witch's Hat Historic Village of South Lyon. It was for a Mayors' Association Meeting that included 13 mayors and other guests from Oakland and Livingston Counties. Ted Wallace, the mayor of South Lyon, appeared to be "bowled over" when he walked into the school house, and first heard the sounds of our group. He enthusiastically exclaimed "This is way beyond any expectations I had !" As often happens, our performance at this venue has potential for leading to other playdates for SSDS. One interesting development after our performance, was when one of the mayors commented that a church in Royal Oak he attended may want to ask us to play for one of their events. I said "Oh, I live right across the road from Royal Oak in Huntington Woods. The person with him said "Oh, where is Huntington Woods?" I walked up to him to try to read his name badge and see where he could have been from, if he had not heard of Huntington Woods. The name on his badge was Jeffrey Jenks, Mayor Pro-Tem of Huntington Woods... so we all had a good laugh about that. The mayor who mentioned the possible playdate at the church in Royal Oak was Ron Gillham, the mayor of my hometown.

We have two remaining holiday music practice sessions scheduled for 7:00 PM on Tuesday, Nov. 2; and Wednesday, Nov. 17. Please mark these dates on your calendars. We will make use of the music I duplicated and handed out last year (2009 was marked on each sheet to help you locate those) and additional tunes have already been handed out at our regular SSDS meetings. I would like everyone who intends to play at any of our holiday gigs the end of November and in December to attend both of these remaining practice sessions, if possible, so we can all become familiar with the arrangements we have been working on, and optimize our playing of the holiday tunes. We are presently up to 47 playdates booked for 2010. Many thanks to all of you who have participated, and are signed up to play for those still to come.

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Opportunities for learning are all around us. An all day workshop in Caro, Mi. with Dee Dee Tibbits was great fun. Representing Silver Strings were Sandi & Bob Hlavacek, Marcia Koslowski, and our new Hammered Dulcimer friend, Kaye Hemerling, who will be joining SSDS very soon.

Finding people who will "start" the tunes we play can be difficult. Sharon McAuliffe led a terrific workshop on starts, and has encouraged us all to try. She suggested we all try to start the tunes we request, since we would be especially familiar with the song.

In 1789, George Washington, first President of the U S A, proclaimed Thanksgiving as a national day of celebration to herald and celebrate God and the abundance He has given us. The day Thanksgiving was assigned to is, and almost always has been, the fourth Thursday in November. The date was changed once, to lengthen the Christmas shopping season, but was changed back two years later. Below are a few famous quotes that fit the celebration.

- * On Thanksgiving let us gather in sanctuaries dedicated to worship and in our homes blessed by family affection to express our gratitude for the glorious gifts of God; and let us earnestly and humbly pray that He will continue to guide and sustain us in the great unfinished tasks of achieving peace, justice and understanding among all men and nations, and of ending misery and suffering wherever they exist. -- John F. Kennedy
- * There is one day that is ours. Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American. -- O. Henry
- * Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year. And then they discover once a year is way too often. --Johnny Carson
- * Let us remember that as much as has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds. --Theodore Roosevelt

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 2... **Holiday Practice** 7:pm
 5... **PLAY** Tribute to Karen's mom. 2-3:pm
 Trellis Gardens Retirement Home Jackson
 17... **Holiday Practice** 7:pm
 28... **PLAY** Holiday Concert 10:30-11:30am
 Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church Troy
 28... **PLAY Pioneer Concert (V)** 6-7:00pm
 S. Lyon Hist. Soc., Village chapel. South Lyon

DECEMBER

- 1... **PLAY Holiday Concert** 7-8:00pm
 Wayne Public Library. Wayne
 2... **PLAY Holiday Concert** 7-8:00pm
 Good Hope Lutheran Church. Garden City
 4... **Play Cool Yule Concert** 2-3:pm
 Chapel, Witches' Hat Park South Lyon
 7... **PLAY Ladies' Holiday Tea** 6:15-7:15
 Cross Pointe Community Church Wayne
 8... **PLAY Christmas Luncheon** 12:45-1:45pm
 Mich. Association Retired School Personnel
 Knights of Columbus Hall Livonia
 9... **PLAY Holiday Concert** 2-3:pm
 Inn at Cass Lake Waterford
 10... **PLAY Holiday Concert** 3-4:pm
 Village Manor Retirement Community Howell
 11... **PLAY Holiday Concert** 2:30-3:30pm
 Caroline Kennedy Library. Dearborn Heights
 12... **PLAY Holiday Concert** 2-3:00pm
 St. Richard's Catholic Church Westland
 13... **PLAY Holiday Concert** 2-3:00pm
 Plymouth. Council on Aging
 Plymouth Cultural Center Plymouth
 13... **PLAY Holiday Concert** 6:30-7:30pm
 Pine Ridge - Hayes Sr. Comm. Sterling Hts.
 15... **PLAY Holiday Social (V)** 6:30-7:30pm
 John F. Kennedy Jr. Library ... Dearborn Heights
 16... **PLAY Noontime Concert** 12:15-1:pm
 Livonia Civic Center Library Livonia
 20... **PLAY Holiday Concert** 6-7:00pm
 Maple Heights Retirement Community. Allen Park
 30... **SSDS HOLIDAY HAPPENING** T.B.A.
 Good Hope Lutheran Church Garden City

MUSICAL TIDBIT.....

In researching our SSDS music for revisions, we discovered the song we have known as Sophrina, is correctly named Sophrinia. Somehow, over the years, the "i" has turned up missing.

Lynne Ellen Kaiser

SSDS TRELLIS GARDENS PLAYLIST

Key	Tune	Play
	Tunes for 1 hour-long Trellis Garden gig	
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
C	Five Foot Two	4
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G	Red Wing	3*
C	Tennessee Waltz	3*
G	Maggie	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D	Painter's Polka	3
D	That's My Prayer (Subset players only)	3*
D	Smash the Windows	3
D	Hey Polka	5
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/Riding Load of Hay	3/3
G	Larry's Waltz	3*
G	Down Yonder	3
Em	Tamlin	3
D	John Ryan's Polka (Karen chooses players)	5
G	Young Jane	3*
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/ Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (If longer than 1 hr., use it as final medley)	2/2
D/G		2/2
	Extra Tunes	
G	Hundred Pipers	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
D	Chinese Breakdown/Nelly Bly	2/3
G	Southwind	3*
	*2 nd time: Fiddles, Harmonicas, backup; HD's softly	



On November 28th, we will be an integrated part of a holiday service at Emerson Church.

A detailed Holiday Play list for Emerson Church and South Lyon concerts on Nov. 28, 2010 is available from our website, www.silverstrings.org

The "proof reading" committee for the new music pack has completed their work, and the music will be returned to the Kaisers for final revisions. This brings us one step closer to having our new music packs for distribution. It has been a long, tedious process to review over 150 tunes, one by one, but the results will put everyone on the same page with identical music.

If you did not attend the 2010 banquet, and would like one of the new sage green binders for your new music pack, a few are available for \$5 each. See Bob or Sandi Hlavacek at the jams.



ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION OF FOLK MUSIC

From the website musicalsaw.com

How is Folk Music Defined?

Simply put, folk music is the music of the people. Every culture has its own musical traditions that are handed down from generation to generation. What then is the difference between formal music and folk music? Formal music styles are written down. Folk music is a tradition passed down through the generations by "oral transmission," according to the International Folk Music Council who defined folk music in 1954. Traditional music typically requires formal training, where folk music does not.

It can be said that folk music is the music of the working class. Typically, it is community based. It is a type of music that anyone can understand. Topics of folk songs focus on a broad range of human issues including war, civil rights, adversity, work and love.

American Folk Music Origins

The earliest folk songs in America began in the fields with slaves singing spirituals. While the songs were about their struggles and hardships, the music also exhibited their hopes. The purpose of the music was to give the slaves a way to escape to a place in their minds where hope still existed.

Folk music was popular with workers performing manual labor. It reduced the boredom of repetitive work as well as setting the pace for work like planting, picking, weeding, etc. During the leisure time of workers, their folk music not only served for entertainment but also of history telling.

Folk Music Revival and Evolution in America

In the 20th century, folk music came back into favor in America. It became popular with the working class once again. The 1930's saw a great revival of folk music as the Great Depression caused the American working class to struggle more than ever. In the 1950's, folk music began another rebirth as musicians rediscovered the music of folk artists. Of course, the 1960's in America with its protests and anti-war rallies lead to the rise of other folk music.

Following the 1960's, folk music began to blend with many genres of music. Singer-songwriters started writing their own folk music. Even though folk music has been around as long as music has, it continues to evolve. It seems folk music has no boundaries. It is truly the music of the people!.

NOTE FROM OUR WEBMASTER KT

Regarding our You Tube posting:

jukejackie1 has made a comment on

Over The Waterfall Henry Ford Estate August 2009:

I love this!!! I have been playing Hammered Dulcimer for about 4 weeks...taking lessons with Ken Kolodner in Maryland and I just finished this Song. I love the tones of the Dulcimer and I am determined to learn the instrument. Thanks so much for posting the video, it inspires me.

VICTORIAN COSTUMES

If you would like a costume which is appropriate to join our Victorian playdates, here is an opportunity for you to get your costume and to help lots of people, at the same time. Sandi Hlavacek has been loaning out an assortment of blouses in varied sizes, and has decided to sell them. For a minimum \$10 charitable donation, you may choose any blouse. For a minimum \$25 donation (plus the fabric of your choice), she will measure you and sew a long, coordinating skirt to fit. You would write a check directly to **Hope Clinic**, and it is totally tax deductible for you.

Of course, you may donate more... the more you give, the more people they can help. **Hope** offers free medical and dental assistance to people with no insurance, (along with many other needed services). For every **\$1** they receive, they give almost **\$5** in services. That is an **amazing** record !!!

Blouses will be at the jams to try on, or you may phone Sandi at 734-663-7974 for other arrangements.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

SSDS Board Meeting, October 7, 2010

Old Business

Larry said the players verifying music revisions have finished about 50 % of the pack. Some errors were found and changes will be made. These members will continue to verify the revisions, and the goal is to finish by year-end.

We will finalize our Holiday Music program and Larry will work with church personnel with details for their annual Holiday concert.

New Business

Larry announced the death of Sheldon Decker, an early SSDS member.

At tonight's break, Larry will strongly encourage members to attend as many of the four holiday practices as possible, if they want to sign up for holiday playdates. New songs and new arrangements will be added to the playlist, and we need to practice those tunes we have not played in a year. No player will be prevented from playing if they don't attend a practice, but it would be very beneficial to attend one or more. Linda suggested perhaps SSDS could offer to play for Good Hope Church's other functions. Larry will look into this.

A suggestion was made to increase the percentage paid to members playing on the holiday playdates. The Board will take this under advisement.

Larry said we should order more Holiday CDs to be printed, as we are getting low. The Board voted yes.

The Board approved the purchase of one or two more microphones. Our system can handle 4 mic's and we are only using 2. The additional mic's will be helpful when there is a large area provided for us, and when many players show up. Bob and Dave will check prices.

Bev Scott

This is a synopsis. Full meeting minutes are available from Bev.



Variety Night comes on the 5th Thursday of any month. It's a chance to perform a new song, show a different instrument, or just "share fun". The last was hosted by Delmar & Pete (above), and included a treat from our old friend, (left) Jane Chevalier, who now lives in New Mexico. The next Variety Night will be Dec. 30th, which is the same night of our "Holiday Happenings" dinner celebration.

"AEOLIAN HARP"... nature's instrument

Named after Aeolus, the Greek god of wind in Greek mythology, the harp transforms the energy of the wind into musical sounds or "sings". It is one of the oldest known musical instruments. The first Aeolian harps were made by the ancient Greeks, and King David, according to legend, hung his harp in an open window to hear it being played by the wind.

They gained popularity later during the 17th and 18th centuries in England and Germany where they were placed in castle window openings and caves. In 1785 Italian scientists attempted to use the Aeolian harps for the scientific purpose of weather prediction.

They became popular as a household instrument during the Romantic Era, and Aeolian harps are still hand-crafted today. Some are now made in the form of monumental metal sound sculptures located on the roof of a building or a windy hilltop.

The sound is random, depending on the strength of the wind passing over the strings (or pipes), and can range from a barely audible hum to a loud scream. Strings can be tuned to different notes, and pipes of different lengths are mixed. Sometimes only one tone is heard, and sometimes chords.

Aeolian tones can also be heard from overhead utility lines, fast enough to be heard or slow enough to be seen. And of course, the effect can happen in a non-telescoping automobile radio antenna or in the anchor line of a ship in a river. These are referred to by the modern term "Windharp"

PURSE STRINGS _____ Treasurer

Hi All

I hope you are having a great time playing music in this most awesome time of the year!! Autumn has always been my favorite! However following this season is the holiday season and we begin to get really busy with our holiday GIGS. Please remember to see me and update your dues to reflect the coming year. Only members in good standing can participate in our playdates.

I'm available before and after meetings. Our bank account is thriving and our bills paid and all is well in that area!!!
Respectfully, Linda Osgood

IT'S NOVEMBER LET'S CELEBRATE !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 6.... Bill Smith
- 9.... John Mercier
- 10... Terry Treppa
- 16... Marlin Harmon
- 30... Greg Kaiser
- 30... Marie Naster



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 5.. Charlie & Cindy Feigel (23rd)
- 7.. Lyle Thompson (31st)
- 9.. John & Sharon McAuliffe

JAMS - WORKSHOPS

MAUMEE STREET MUSIC JAMS

First Presbyterian Church
156 East Maumee, Adrian, Mi
Saturdays from 6-11:pm
Nov. 27th, Dec. 18th

For info. contact Penny Schieber 517-547-7448
or Jack or Marilyn Mullins 517-254-4828

UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2nd Saturday of each month noon – 5:00 pm
Senior Center in Spring Arbor, Mi.
For info. call Penny 517-547-7448

RICK THUM'S NEW WORKSHOP CDs "SONG OF THE MONTH CLUB"

Since so many have all of his previous CD lessons, Rick is offering a whole new series. \$12 each includes sheet music and shipping. Each CD teaches one song, a phrase at a time, connecting the phrases as you go. Phrases are on separate tracks, for ease in repeating, and the last 4 tracks are the whole song, with increasing speeds, guitar, & metronome, for practicing. His past CD lessons are also still available.

For more info, call 314-406-0690
or visit www.rthum.com



Getting to know youTerry Treppa

Hi, my name is Terry Treppa and I have a lot of different names. If you attend St. Richard Church in Westland you might call me Father Terry. I just like to be called Terry outside the parish. I was born and raised in the east side of Detroit with one sister and a set of twin sisters. When I was 7, my folks bought me an accordion and I took lessons, because they realized I was fascinated with music. I also sang in the elementary school choir.

When I got a little older I attended Sacred Heart Seminary High School and then went on to Sacred Heart Seminary College and majored in Philosophy with an A.B degree. Then I attended St. John's Seminary, earned an M.Div. degree, and became a priest in 1967. Previous to going to graduate school, I earned a Private Pilot license. I then attended Central Michigan University, earned a MA in Management and Supervision, and went on to earn a PhD in management from Waldon University in 1994. I am currently a faculty mentor at Waldon, for persons working on their doctorates.

If you know me, you know I play guitar at Silver Strings. It is funny how this all happened. First, one of the cleaning ladies at the parish heard me singing and told me that I needed to learn how to play guitar along with my good voice. So I brought out my guitar and some Mel Bay Books and got started. I joined the group Family Affair. We play at nursing homes, Senior residences, etc. Then John Mercer and Marie Naster brought me into Silver Strings, where I have been a member for about 8 years.

Besides playing the guitar, I have been president of the Lions Club for over 30 years (5 terms), and a zone chairman of the Lions Visually Impaired Camp, northeast of Lapeer. This camp serves handicapped children and adults all year around, offering them swimming, hiking, nature study, a rope course, horseback riding, and even a petting zoo. I've been the secretary of the Ann Arbor Bicycle and Touring Society, and ride my road bike about 1,500 miles a year. I do target shooting, using a rim-fire rifle or air rifle. I've had fun entering the national rim-fire contest, and once came in 2nd at the state level in air rifle competition.

I vacation in Mesa, AZ. While there, I jam at the Sun Life country jam and play in a bluegrass group called the Red Mt. Revue, and the Park Band. I read a lot, usually 30-40 books a year (novels and academic books), and collect books. I am very proud of the set of books I have of Carl Jung's collective works, which I have read. I do some photography for our parish and the Lions Club, and some of my work has been published in magazines and put on display. I like to do leather craft, especially fine tooling.

I have several goals... one is to celebrate 50 years as a priest at St. Richard's someday, another is to play the banjo and harmonica well. I currently take banjo lessons, and have attended the Banjo Camp at Olivet College. I think I am sounding better on it. When you come to the Silver Strings meetings, you will see my happy face sitting near the kitchen area, playing the guitar, banjo, or harmonica, and I'll be glad to share what I know with you anytime.

* * * * *



Some playdates are more interesting or fun than others. This was in a one room schoolhouse from the 1800s, in South Lyon. We played, in our old time costumes, for an assortment of mayors and other dignitaries from three counties.

The collection of historical buildings was a treat for people to wander in & out of, and Silver Strings certainly brought life to the old school. We gathered a few new playdates from our presentation.