

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

MAY 2011 27 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC July 1983-2010 Issue 313
Website : www.silverstrings.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring was here but now it's gone. As I write this in late April, the snow shovel was removed from storage and put to work once again. April was a quiet month. Those who played at the Van Buren Senior center on April 7th had an early wake up call. The event was their volunteer appreciation day. We arrived before 8:00 am and played until almost 10:00. This is the 4th year we have done this, and they still love us.

The first meeting in May will be cancelled, so there will be no board meeting. Good Hope is having a rummage sale, and they will be filling all available spaces with items to sell. You may recall that last year we tried to squeeze in between the tables. This may be a good opportunity to shop for some "must have goodies", and help the church. Please note

The last several workshops we have had became very noisy in the last half hour, as people started arriving for the jam. Please try to hold down the conversation level and noise until the workshop is over.

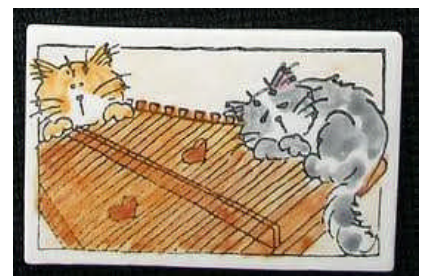
I want to bring your attention to the recent second quarter issue of Dulcimer Player News; page 67. There is an article by Stephen Seifert, about the tune Missouri. He cited the Silver Strings website as one of the references where he found a midi file of the tune. Later in the article he included the text of an email written to Lynn Ellen from the composer, Mike Deppert. The email text was in one of our soundboard newsletter articles. This is a real tribute to Karen Turner, our web mistress, and Sandi Hlavacek, our newsletter editor. Our website, newsletter, and you tube postings have become a popular visitation place on the internet. Thank you Karen, Sandi and Bill Smith (video) for the excellent work you do. Karen is working on a who's who section for our website. Bill Smith will begin taking member pictures at the next jam session. We would like to include everyone's picture.

I am sorry to have missed Variety Night at the end of March. I'm told it was great ! We were in Missouri, having fun with our grandkids. One of the highlights was getting 8000 lbs of water dumped on us from a 1000 gallon bucket at an indoor water park. We also had a cookout and picnic on the first 90 degree day of the year. I don't know where the rest of them went. The next Variety Night will be on June 30th. The Silver Strings campout will be on the weekend of June 10,11,12. I plan to cook the pancake and sausage breakfast again on Saturday morning. Uncle Carl's campout will be on the weekend of June 24,25,26. The Evert Funfest is the weekend of July 16th. Lots of summer fun is right around the corner.

I want to recognize one of our new hammered dulcimer members, Ed Konstal. He is the first person to take advantage of our SSSDS mentor program. He heard us play at one of our Christmas concerts and loved the sound of our music. Ed has been working very hard learning new tunes. He has been a member for only three months but is learning fast. He just ordered a new James Jones dulcimer, so he is seriously hooked. Please give him encouragement in the jam sessions.

Let's keep our members who are sick in our thoughts, and pray for a speedy recovery. Go forth and make beautiful music. Bob Hlavacek

Music is a moral law. It gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness and a gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order and leads to all that is good, true and beautiful, of which it is the invisible but nevertheless dazzling, passionate and eternal form. Plato



March was a very busy month with a total of nine playdates. Last month I wrote about the first two of them. Our month began with very receptive audiences at All Seasons of Rochester Hills, and at West Winds Health Care Center in Commerce. We then played for the Elderwise Retirement Organization at Cleary University in Ann Arbor. They have a very nice group and enjoy our music very much. It was then on to Maple Heights Retirement Community where once again, we played to a very receptive audience. I spoke with many residents there after our performance and with Marie Tester the director of activities who all told me how much they look forward to having Silver Strings play there. Marie stated that "it lifts the spirits of everyone around here when they hear that you folks are coming". Next was Colonial Acres in South Lyon and boy was that ever a lively group of fun loving people. We played for their St. Patrick's Day celebration. The Irish jokes were flying, folks were dancing in the isles, and even the Mayor showed up for the fun. It was a very good performance by our group and quite possibly the liveliest group I have ever played for. On the 23rd we played at the Wayne Westland First United Methodist Church where they invited us to join them for a very tasty dinner. The folks there were very warm and friendly. Pastor Greg Rowe joined in with his guitar and played the entire performance with us. I really enjoyed playing next to him. After our performance we sold 14 CDs. That's usually a very good indication that folks enjoyed the music.

The 26th was the night of the Hill Auditorium performance with the University of Michigan Women's Glee Club. We played the second set and it went very well. It was an honor to have had the opportunity to share the stage with Julie Skadsem and the Women's Glee Club. We were able to watch the first act on monitors backstage, and after our performance we watched the rest of the show as we were given an area in the audience. Julie and the girls delivered an awesome performance, and Silver Strings Member Ben Catt accompanied them on some tunes on his dulcimer. He looked as if he was really enjoying being on stage with 77 lovely ladies and he did a very nice job. I received many compliments from folks I spoke with at our information table, as well as from many of the Glee Club Members and Julie Skadsem , conductor of the Glee Club, expressed how much she enjoyed our performance. I was called back to the stage at the end of the concert where, along with Julie and another member of their club, we were presented with bouquets of flowers from Marika Bonacorsi of the Uof M Women's Glee Club for our performance. These girls were a class act and it was a very memorable evening.

We finished out the month by playing two consecutive performances at Waltonwood Independent Living and Assisted Living facilities. We were greeted by wonderful groups at both places and once again, they enjoyed our performances very much. The activities directors of both facilities expressed how much they enjoyed our music, and before I left they booked four more performances for this year.

We had only one playdate in April. We played for the Van Buren Township Annual Volunteer Breakfast. It's always an honor to play for them as they recognize volunteers for their humanitarian efforts during the past year. Larry Roper

PURSE STRINGS _____ Linda Osgood

Hello Fellow Musicians,

Well, its that time again for festivals,campouts, and fun, fun, fun,!!! We've waited sooooo long this year for Spring and warmer temps!!! (As a matter of fact, as I'm writing on April 17th its just plain cold outside!!!)

We Michiganders are supposed to be used to thisbut "ENOUGH ALREADY!!!

On a happier note, I'd like to welcome two new members to our club;

Frank Surhigh...Waterford Mi.

He plays the Guitar and Violin

Frank learned about us from gig at the Waterford Senior Center

Donald Pittman...Waterford Mi

He plays guitar and learned about SSDS from Ernie Stewart!!

Give these guys a warm Silver Strings Welcome!!!

Keep on JAMMIN'

SECRETARY'S NOTES ____ Carol Ann Matthews

April 7 2011 Board Minutes

OLD BUSINESS

*Karen has not worked on the members only section of the website yet.

*When we start doing new music, we will have PDF sheet music files for members in this section.

*Bill Smith has started taking pictures for the new Who's Who section.

*After some research of other groups on Face Book, our Silver Strings Facebook page will be a fan page

*Bob has not gotten any request for music packets to be mailed.

*It was recommended that we review the new music for any errors that may have been missed as there have been some pointed out.. Bob will email Lynn Ellen to request the master correction notebook. Marie will work on the 5 tunes omitted from the music packed. It will be made to look as much like the other music as possible. If enough people would like to purchase the new Music Time we can order this.

*Tune of the month for April is Bobby Casey

NEW BUSINESS

*The May 5th jam will be cancelled because the church is having a rummage sale that day.

This is a synopsis. Full board minutes are available from Sec.

QUILTERS' NOTES !!!

This Is a reminder of the ODPC quilt project for the large, new meeting hall and fair office at the Evert fair grounds. Please contact the board or Sandi Hlavacek if you are willing to help design, make by yourself, or help with a quilt. Our SSDS art work will hang forever in the Evert Funfest Activities Hall.

Program V.P. Notes _____ **Dawn Hayes**

Due to the early deadline for the April newsletter, I would like to send a belated but heartfelt "Thank You" to Dave Matthews for graciously volunteering to MC our March Variety Night. Great job, Dave. I especially enjoyed the multitude of hats you wore throughout the evening! The musical acts were great. What a talented group of musicians we have. Thanks to all who participated.

Workshop—Penny Scheiber is scheduled to teach a workshop on the tune "Front Porch Waltz" on Thursday, May 19th. This workshop is open to all instruments—not just hammered dulcimers.

June Variety Night—Please see me if you are interested in serving as our MC for the June Variety Night program on Thursday, June 30th.

Campout information for June 10, 11, and 12th

As of the submission of this newsletter, we have still not heard from the campground director as to the costs, etc. for the campout in June. According to their website the rates are \$28 per night, \$32 per night with A/C. Four cabins are also available for \$70 per night. Reservation forms are in the newsletter and on our website. The reservations are both payable to and sent directly to:

Myer's Lake Campground
10575 Silver Lake Road
Byron, Michigan 48418
or phone: 1-800-994-5050

We will be setting up early in the afternoon on Friday, June 10th. There will be a potluck dinner on Friday evening beginning at 6:00PM.

Saturday morning will start with a pancake breakfast at 8:30-9:30 provided by the Club. We will be looking for volunteers to help set-up, cook, serve and clean-up for this. This will be followed by workshops and musical sessions throughout the day. There will be a catered meal on Saturday evening beginning at 5 PM, followed by more music. Again, we will need volunteers to help clean up following the dinner.

The campout comes to an end with a lakeside worship service with members of Silver Strings providing the music. Players will be provided with a music packet.

Please see the signup sheets for the different activities and workshops. The sheets will be set out on the tables during the meetings prior to the campout.

ODPC FUNFEST IN EVART

July 14-17, 2011

2011 Pre-Show Tunes

- Red Apple Rag (G)
- Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)
- Sophrina (G) - Les Raber
- Red Wing (G)
- Maple Sugar (D)
- Trillium Twirl (C) - Judi Morningstar (2008)
- Headin' To Evart (D) - Bill Robinson
- Hey Polka (G)
- Liberty (D) - if time permits
- Star Spangled Banner - for the opening

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Campout
With questions, call

Dawn Hayes (248) 344-0906
Janelle Pacic, (248) 437-5403

Send registration & payment to :
Myers Lake Campground, (at bottom of this form)

Check-in Fri. June 10TH Check-out June 12th

To get all sites grouped close together,
You **MUST** specify you are with Silver Strings
Cabin (sleep 4-6) reserve ASAP

Rates \$28 per night \$32 per night with A/C
(2 adults are included, each added is \$2 per night)
Cabin rental for non-campers (\$70 per night)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone & e-mail _____

Type & size of camper _____

Slide-outs? yes no

Air conditioner? . . . yes no

adults (18+) _____ #children _____ # pets _____

Type of vehicle (1 per site) _____

Driver's License # _____

Late arrival or extended departure ? _____

Minimum deposit \$25

Full payment gets curbside check-in and no long line

Payment.....CHECK . . . VISA . . . MC . . . DISCOVER

Account # _____ exp. Date _____

Sign _____

Make checks payable to – and send to:

Myers Lake UMC Campground
10575 Silver Lake Rd.,
Byron, MI.48418

Or phone them at 1-800-994-5050

The sites near the jam barn are ideal for people with mobility problems... you must request them.

For the convenience of those attending only Saturday, SSDS will have a pancake breakfast 8:30-9:30 am and a catered dinner (Adults \$10, Children 3-10 \$5) Send reservations and check to:

Dawn Hayes,
22643 Cranbrooke Dr
Novi, MI 48375

Breakfast. . . no . . . yes.....(how many)
Dinner . . no . . yes (Ad..)(Ch..) (how many)

News from Your Webmaster

---The website will soon have a new section for our paid "members only". It will be username and password protected, and will start out containing PDF files of our repertoire music and any new tunes we may have added since the January printing. You will be told of the username and password after the new section is completed.

---Another new section on our website will be "Who's Who". We will be taking each member's picture with their instrument(s) and posting them in a special photo gallery. Only the members first name will be posted to ensure privacy in cyberspace. This section will let members put a name with a face so you will be able to get to know your fellow members better. We started taking pictures at the April 21st club jam and will continue until completed. New members will be added as they join the club.....Karen Turner

IT'S MAY..... LET'S CELEBRATE !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2.....James Mabarak
5.....Dave Matthews
7.....Ron O'Dell
17...Tim Murphy
26....Ken Kaiser
26....Peggy Kustra
27....Dawn Hayes
27....Terry Kozlowski
28....Lyle Thompson



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

15....Ron & Ida O'Dell
15....Chris & Mike Hurt
17....Ron & Dean Hayes
26....Kaye Hemmerling
29....Tom & Sharon Meggison

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY

5.....**No meeting due to rummage sale**
6.....**Mother's Day Celebration** . . BC. . 2:30-3:00pm
Baldwin House. Birmingham
14.....**Outdoor Concert** . . . C 12:30-2:pm
BASF Trailer Stage Wyandotte
19.....**Workshop** @6:00pm **Jam**@7:00pm
20.....**Summer Kick-Off** . . V 7:30-8:30pm
1st Presbyterian Church Royal Oak

JUNE

7.....**Afternoon Concert** . . BC. 1:30
Waltonwood Independent Living Novi
7.....**Afternoon Concert** . . BC 3:00
Waltonwood Independent Living. Novi

C=Casual, **BC**=Business Casual, **DC**=Dressy Casual
V=Victorian

To print the MAY Play list,
please click on our website or this link :
<http://www.silverstrings/sections/tunes/pdf/2011/may11.pdf>

MAY PLAY LIST 2011

Key	Tune	Play
	List of tunes for 1 hour long gigs	
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Red Wing	3*
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
D	Smash The Windows	3
G	Maggie	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn'	3
G	Young Jane	3*
D	Over The Waterfall	3
A	Red Haired Boy	3
G	Down Yonder	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3*
Em	Tamlin	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	Karen Decides
D	Hey Polka	Bob Decides
D	Ashgrove	3*
G	Irish Washerwoman	3
C	Five Foot Two	3
D	Bonapart Crossing The Rhine	3
D	Simple Gifts	3**
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (if gig longer than 1 Hour skip this and use as final medley)	2/2/2/2
D/G		
G	March of St. Timothy	3
D	Angeline The Baker	3
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Rosin The Beau	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Silver And Gold Two Step	3
D	Liberty	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3*
D/D/	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/Soldiers Joy/ Golden Slippers	2/2/2/2
D/G		
	Extra Tunes	
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3*
D	St. Ann's Reel	3
D	Turkey In the Straw	3
	*2nd time : feature fiddles,harmonicas HDs soft	
	**1st time MD or HD, fiddle,guitar,2nd time add Harmonicas, 3rd time, everyone play 4th time MD or HD, Fiddle,guitar.	

A truly happy person is one who
can enjoy the
scenery on a detour

INSTRUMENTS FOR SALE

Warren A. May Mountain Dulcimer...Never used. Handcrafted in fancy walnut, signed & registered by maker. Hour drop shape, natural knot sound hole & new vine pattern Includes plush black carrying case, noter & pick. Asking \$500.00 Contact Jennifer Nason; mobile248-709-0176, home248-375-0791 or email janason@aol.com or nason@novibenz.com

David Lindsey hammered dulcimer with case, 15/14-Beautiful, just replaced all the strings and it is just like new. \$475

Songbird Whippoorwill hammered dulcimer with case-16/15, Mahogany soundboard, walnut sides, excellent condition, sweet sound-\$575

Russell Cook Edition, w/case, beautiful piano tone, gorgeous wood-\$1500

Happy Note Dulcimer by Joe W, 16/15, w/case-\$525. Contact Paula Brawdy at 616 240 0445, or email pbrawdy@jasnetworks.net for more information.



Sharon McAuliffe led a great workshop on "starts" and encouraged everyone to learn and practice starts for their favorite tune requests.

FESTIVALS-WORKSHOPS-JAMS

UNCLE CARL'S DULCIMER CLUB

2nd Saturday of month 12:30-4:30pm (next is May 14th)
For info. call Pennye 517-547-7448

NETTLE LAKE MUSIC JAM

First Saturday of Month - 6PM (next is May 7th)
For info contact Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517 270 2870
or Pastor Mike Wilder 419 485 4112

MAUMEE STREET MUSIC JAM (formerly called West Adrian Jam)

Last Saturday of month - 6PM (next is May 28th)

For info. contact
Jack & Marilyn Mullins 517-270-2870
Or Larry Roper 248-437-5403
320 West Woodlawn Street
Fiddlers play 1-5:pm
Open microphone 5-6:30 pm
Round & Square dancing 6:30-9:30pm
Refreshments & dinner available on site.
Bring your non-electric instrument & join the fun !
For info. contact Paula : (616) 240-0445

Washboard Music Festival

"Ohio's Most Unique Music Festival," the Washboard Music Festival, occurs annually in Logan, Ohio every June on Father's Day weekend since 2000. Logan, Ohio is the home of the Columbus Washboard Company. This firm is the only producer of washboards in the United States of America today.

The festival celebrates the washboard as a musical instrument. Musicians use washboards in their performances. Jug bands, Dixieland groups, and Cajun musicians most commonly use the washboard. During the festival, attendees can tour the Columbus Washboard Company's factory and listen to nearly three dozen different musical performers. An arts and crafts festival, a parade and tours of the Hocking Hills also take place during the festival.

Two musicians are driving down a road. All of a sudden they notice the Grim Reaper in the back seat. Death informs them that they had an accident and they both died. But, before he must take them off into eternity, he grants each musician with one last request to remind them of their past life on earth. The first musician says he was a Country & Western musician and would like to hear eight choruses of *Achy-Breaky Heart* as a last hoorah! The second musician says "I was a jazz musician...kill me now!"

The Most Dangerous Musical Instrument

Quite possibly the most unusual and by far the most dangerous musical instrument are the Tesla coils. In layman's terms, a Tesla coil makes lightning bolts! The "music" made by this very unusual instrument is coming from sparks generated by the high power coils. And yes, there are bands using custom Tesla coils in conjunction with their other instruments. But remember, the saw was not invented for music either!

New hammered dulcimer students can get loaner dulcimers from ODPC for a \$25 deposit. They will have a mentor and report to ODPC each month. Applications must be in by May 30 The application is available on the ODPC website.

Here is the direct link to the Hill Auditorium videos:
<http://www.silverstrings.org/GalleryServerPro/default.aspx?aid=166>

Here is the photo gallery link:
<http://www.silverstrings.org/GalleryServerPro/default.aspx>

Here is the video gallery link:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub>

FAREWELL

One of the very early SSDS members, Jean Wein (87), passed away last month. Several players met her at a play date at the Heartland Convalescent Center, where she was living.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

My name is Karen Turner and I have been a member of Silver Strings for 8 years. I have served as our Webmaster since 2004. I was Vice President of Business from 2007-08, and a regular player at all the playdates since 2006. I play the hammered dulcimer, harmonica, tambourine, piano, and am now learning the banjo. I was born in Detroit into a music filled house. My Dad was a manager of the Jackson Country Club and my Mother was a professional organ and piano player, teacher, and also composed pop music in the

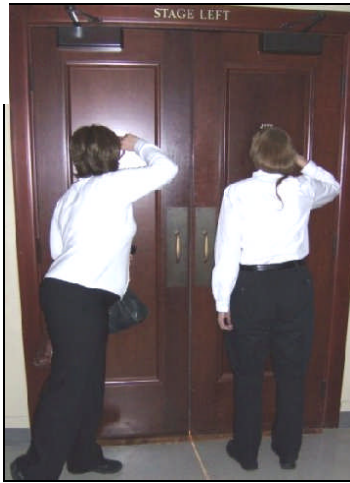
charts! On Nov. 5, 2010 Silver Strings honored my Mother by playing "That's My Prayer", a song she had written by playing it for her at Trellis Gardens in Jackson where she now lives. At the age of 11 I was given my first instrument, a harmonica, by my parents when they noticed I had been writing down my own simple music tunes on paper like my Mother did. (That harmonica was a blessing in disguise and kept our school music teacher from forcing me to sing, which I didn't like at all, and a chance to learn new tunes, and ultimately find Silver Strings!) A year later I started lessons on the organ and clarinet from George King, who was a really good teacher. I was quite athletic when I was growing up, and continued it in my early adult life. I participated in recreational and college varsity sports way before women's teams were officially recognized (basketball, field hockey, swimming, diving, volleyball, and track and field). I was finally awarded my college varsity letter 30 years later, from Eastern Michigan University. In the 70's and 80's, I regularly competed in long distance running and marathons, and even did a couple triathlons. While at Eastern and the University of Michigan I earned degrees in physical education, psychology, and kinesiology and taught physical education and computer science at all levels in Northville from 1968-85. I also coached Girls' Varsity Swimming & Diving, and Track & Field at Northville. I left teaching, then worked as a computer teacher and programmer at Electronic Data Systems, and then worked for a motorcycle company as a computer programmer and website designer. I finally am retired but stay active in many, many music groups. If I'm not practicing or performing, I'm probably on my computer supporting my 5 websites (Silver Strings, Uncle Carl's, Thornapple Valley, Penton Motorcycles, and The Wheelmen- an antique bicycle club) or up in Jackson enjoying my 80 acres making trails, riding off road motorcycles, or target shooting with my great friend Bill of 23 years- he's the guy who does the video taping of our Silver Strings performances on YouTube. I also like to dress in period clothing and ride antique bikes in parades with The Wheelmen. I have 2 favorite antique bikes- an 1889 Columbia Highwheel and an 1898 Lovell Diamond Safety along with 2 very special family heirlooms that belonged to my Hungarian Grandfather from the early 1900's. My Grandfather worked in a steel mill and made extra money playing at Hungarian Dances on the cymbolum (the great grandfather of the American hammered dulcimer), his fiddle and a squeezebox accordion. I was very fortunate to inherit his fiddle and accordion and think of him always when I am playing for contra dances. I enjoy planting and harvesting a backyard vegetable garden each year and relaxing with Iver Johnson, my 17 year old tuxedo black and white cat who I named after a firearms and bicycle company from the 1900's. I stay happy and busy doing what I love - music and computers. If you need any help in locating other folk groups or JAMS - I'm the lady to ask. Thanks for letting me share with you.



On Easter Sunday, nine of our Silver Strings musicians played with Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club for an all community dinner. Over fifty churches gather resources and volunteers to provide a nice day for anyone who needs a meal and has no place to go. Area rental shops donate chairs, tables, linens and china for the day.

Nine of the thirteen players were from Silver Strings, and have a dual membership. A close relationship exists between the two clubs, and the campouts for each, show that in shared participation. All are welcome to either campout.

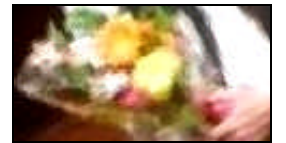
U of M Hill Auditorium performance, Ann Arbor



Above, Theresa “fixes Nemo’s hair” before performing, Janelle & Karen look through the ‘peepholes’ at the audience, and Ben Catt takes to the center stage with 77 young ladies.



At right, Larry accepted a bouquet from the Women’s Glee Club, honoring our performance.

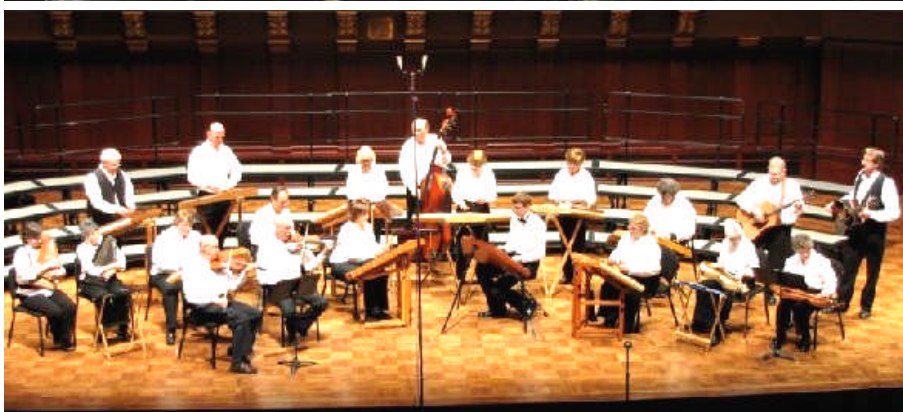


Silver Strings played a very special concert, in a very special place. The ambiance and acoustics of the University of Michigan’s Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor is outstanding !!! It is Michigan’s Carnegie Hall.

We played an ‘opener’ for the spring concert of the UM Women’s Glee Club. It was a “life’s highlight moment” for many of our musicians, not to be forgotten.

Ben Catt then moved into position to accompany the ladies, as they sang. Their concert was WONDERFUL !

You can catch parts of our performance on Silver Strings You tube.



After the concert, we were treated to refreshments in ‘our dressing room’, and a thank you talk from Larry Our 20 participating SSDS members had a GREAT experience, introducing the public to the dulcimers and our music.

. Bert Stein and Larry Roper put 5 months of effort into making this happen. Thank you Bert and Larry. Thank you Val Losse, Bill Smith, and Ken Kaiser for documenting it all in photos and video, and thank you Karen Turner for making it available to the world, through our website.

