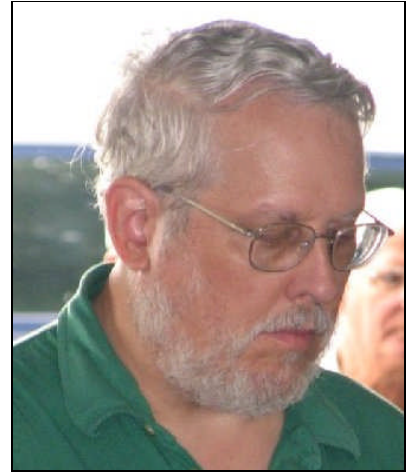


GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Dave Lovelace

Dave Lovelace has a varied involvement with music, spanning most of his life. Dave Lovelace was born in Chicago and grew up in Homewood, Illinois with his family, including a younger sister. He sang in choirs since he was a child, began to play bass in high school, and pretty much taught himself guitar about that time as well. In college, he made real progress on guitar, and began experimenting with banjo, mandolin and pennywhistle.



While in college at the University of Illinois, Dave met his wife-to-be Grace in a calculus class! He earned a BS in math & BA in philosophy from the University of Illinois, and a MA in philosophy from the University of Michigan. Quite a few years later (July, 1986), Dave and his wife Grace met Linda Foley of Lost Valley Dulcimers at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Money was tight, but they wound up with a 13/13 dulcimer.

Dave reports "I'd heard hammered dulcimers a few times over the years, but never had the 'oh-what-is-that-I've-got-to-have-one' reaction a lot of people describe. I'd previously fallen in love with fiddle tunes and (especially) Irish traditional music. I thought I might play it better on the dulcimer than on guitar. What I didn't realize, was that Grace thought this was something SHE could learn to play, too. But I kind of took it over. I found it very easy to begin playing."

When their first son (born the next year) was old enough to be mobile, the dulcimer was put away for several years. Finally, after their second son was a bit older, Dave decided that if they were going to have this instrument, he was going to become reasonably good at it. After some serious practicing on his own, he took lessons from Jane Chevalier. While Dave was only able to take five lessons, Jane was able to reassure him that he was mostly doing things right, and taught him some basic techniques that hadn't occurred to him - like rolled chords! Though he was not able to continue, Dave is grateful to Jane for her continued encouragement. She introduced Dave and his family to Evart in 1998. He joined Silver Strings in late summer, 2002.

Dave's career has included work with "some odds and ends - some very odd indeed", as he puts it. He was a programmer for a small company doing software for local governments, and continues to do part-time computer software support, and some janitorial work.

Dave and Grace have two children. Jonathan is a junior at Calvin College, and Paul is a high-school senior, graduating this year. They share their home with their cat, Ruhamah. His hobbies include reading, maintaining the Internet Speculative Fiction Database, and proofreading for "Project Gutenberg" (producing online free e-books). Plus, "I spend way too much time on dulcimer-related email lists," he notes. Dave and Grace are active at Milan Baptist Church, where he plays guitar and sometimes sings, and Grace sings with the praise team.

*submitted by Lynn Ellen Kaiser
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