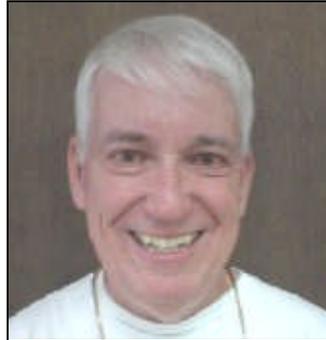


GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Dave Matthews



HELLO, my name is Dave Matthews ! I'm the one who made the practice CD's for our new members a few years ago so they could learn our music. I have been an active member of Silver Strings for over 5 years now and have MC'd one Variety Night and done some musical/stand up comedy acts for it too.

I grew up on a farm near Grand Ledge, MI with 2 younger sisters, a dog and cat, chickens, geese, and about 2 dozen goats. I played on an antique foot pump reed organ we had in our house, and loved singing and listening to classical music. I attended a one room school house until the eighth grade, and went on to become our high school valedictorian. All during my younger years I sang in church, school, and college choirs and even sang some very difficult classical music with the Woodside Church in Flint and the MI Choral Union in Ann Arbor.

I met my wife Carol Ann at Columbia Bible College in South Carolina, and graduated with a BA degree in Biblical Education. Then I became a "professional student" for 12 years and took automotive engineering at General Motors Institute (now Kettering) in Flint. I then majored in Theology and New Testament Greek at CBC, went to graduate school at MSU majoring in Anthropology, Math, and Physics.

I dropped out of the PhD program in Physics to work as an IBM computer salesman, and started my 30 year career as a Research and Development Programmer. I programmed "real-time" industrial computers and even spent 7 weeks in Japan installing emissions analysis computer systems for Toyota so they could export cars to the US. (You can blame that on me.) I even had a job as a radio engineer for WKAR-FM, a classical station in East Lansing.

I don't play anything really well, but I sure have fun trying. I "toy" with the banjo, recorder, melodian, concertina, autoharp, violin, harmonica, thumb piano, steel drum, djembe, doumbec, (go ahead...ask me what those are), pan pipes, bones, ocarina, piano, and organ. My wife, son and daughter, and 7 grand-children say our house is like a music store! As you can see I have always been busy.

Eleven years ago, I had a heart attack and had to change my life style. I now do high intensity exercise regularly, as well as unicycle, juggle, bike, and dabble in photography and in the stock market. At my last visit to my cardiologist he said I didn't have to take any more stress tests, but I told him it was getting harder and harder for me to juggle on my unicycle. He replied, "Maybe at 70 years old, all you need to do is practice more!"

I really enjoy my retirement and the 46 years Carol Ann and I have been married. We have a happy life with a cat, an old miniature schnauzer (who still likes to race me on my bike), and our younger miniature poodle, who tries to run my peaceful life. I'm the white haired guy usually sitting near the kitchen at our meetings, playing whatever I have with me. Look me up and we'll make some music together!