

# Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

February 2019

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 35 YEARS

Issue 406

[www.silverstrings.org](http://www.silverstrings.org)

## PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS \_\_\_\_\_ Peggy Kustra

Hello Everybody!

Goodness, it is February already. Time flies when we are having fun playing music.

There will be a BOARD MEETING

February 7, 2019

5:45pm – 6:45pm

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Look every month in the newsletter for the current playlist.

The SSDS board has been very busy learning our new jobs. We plan to keep the club running smoothly. Remember any suggestions or questions you may have, let us know and we can address the matter.

We are currently updating our emergency medical cards. Please give any new information ( new address, new phone number, medical issues etc.) or are a new member, to Terry Kozlowski. This information is for your protection and not for public knowledge.

A list of all the equipment that SSDS has acquired over the years is in the making. Perhaps you have an easy up, sound equipment, cd's, signs, etc. in your closet or garage. We need to know what we have and where it is being stored. This information can be given to Terry Kozlowski. Thank you, Terry, for taking care of these very important tasks.

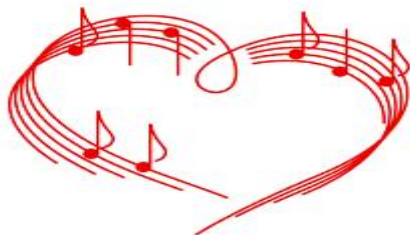
Always a joy to play tunes for the "duck hunters" in the Lake Erie Metro Park Marshland Museum. Hope that one fellow never falls out of the boat.

The report back from Cedarbrook is that they absolutely loved us. They truly enjoyed our performance.

*Words of encouragement are always welcome!*

*See you at our next jam.... Peggy Kustra*

*kustras1976@yahoo.com 313-570-7844*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

7..... SSDS Board Meeting..... 5:45-6:45

7..... Slow Jam with Linda Osgood..... 6:00

7..... SSDS MEETING & JAM..... 7:00 - ??

21.. "Heavy Breathers" Harmonica Jam... 6:00

21... SSDS MEETING & JAM..... 7:00 - ??

## VP - BUSINESS NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Bob Patterson

Hello, Happy February. We had three play dates in January to warm up our New Year. Our rescheduled performance at Cedarbrook and two play dates at the Lake Erie Metro Park's Marshland Museum for the Erie Ice Daze festival. The weather was miserable but we muscled through it. We did well, considering the storm. Thank you for your dedication for braving the elements and driving down there.

In February we have two play dates. First, we return to the Heartland facility in Canton for a 3pm performance. Please arrive 30 minutes early to set up/tune up.

- Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 pm
- Heartland Health Care Center - Canton
- 7025 Lilley Road, Canton 48187

Next, we have a new request at the Compelled Church down in Temperance Michigan. They have invited us to a soup and salad lunch at noon and then we perform at 1pm. Again, arrive early. We need to be set up before lunch. This will be an open show to anyone who wants to drop in. (Not for lunch) It is a bit of a drive; so maybe we can do a car pool.

Let's give them a good show.

- Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>
- lunch - noon, performance - 1:00 pm
- Compelled Church
- 8970 Jackman Road, Temperance 48182

And now I would like to take a moment and tell you about a valuable lesson that I learned this weekend. I

signed up for the Sunday play date at the Ice Daze. I forgot what song we had just finished playing, but when it was over I said in a low voice, "wow, that one stunk." At the moment I didn't realize how damaging a comment like that could be. Granted, the crowd was small and my voice carried. I forgot where I was. I have mentioned something like that at a Thursday night jam. That was very unprofessional of me. As your VP of business I am so sorry that I have offended my fellow Silver String members. I want this lesson to be a learning tool for all of us. **We all need to keep disparaging comments to ourselves.** We can be critical of ourselves and get frustrated when someone else causes tension. But we must refrain from this.

.....Bob silverstring14@gmail.com

#### VP- PROGRAMS NOTES\_\_ Bob and Sandi Hlavacek

Happy Valentines month... time to pull out the love songs for our playdates. Time sure flies by fast.

Our first Variety Night is here. Pizza. Pop and Salad dinner starts at 7:00 pm. We look forward to some great acts that are rumored to be taking shape. We also look forward to your desserts !!! Our thanks to Bill Smith, the volunteer M.C. (master of ceremonies), with his unique style. This could be the coldest night of the winter, but don't let that scare you away.

~ Due to the cold weather, Variety Night was cancelled, but practice up for the next one on the warm spring evening of May 20th (Editor's note) ~

Dress warm... Bob & Sandi  
datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974

### IT'S FEBRUARY...LET'S CELEBRATE !

#### BIRTHDAYS

10...Bob Ewald  
10...Christine Hurt  
13...Ed Konstal  
14...Barb Davis  
25...Nancy Sullivan



#### ANNIVERSARIES

12...Bob & Sandi Hlavacek..... 53<sup>rd</sup>

*If you don't see your name here for your birthday or anniversary please let me know. David dtsmithnet@yahoo.com*

#### MUSIC COORDINATOR \_\_\_\_ Marsha Kozlowski

**March Tune of the Month:** "Green Green Grass of Home." This is a familiar tune written by Claude "Curly" Putman, Jr. and recorded in the 60's by Porter Wagoner, Jerry Lee Lewis, Joan Baez and Tom Jones. It is not difficult and I chose it because its title has "Green" in it and will fit our theme for the Evert performance. I have rewritten the words to reflect our return to Evert – regardless of how many years it may be, it is always good to see the green green grass of Evert.

**January Tune of the Month:** "Orange & Blue". Some people are having difficulty with the rhythmic

pattern that shows up in the first measure and is repeated throughout the tune because it is opposite to our usual syncopation. You might try thinking, "**G**oin' home, **g**oin' home. Da ta Da ta Da." The go is accented but short.



#### February Tune of the Month:

"**Toora Loora Loora**" – once we get this, we may medley with **When Irish Eyes are Smiling**. It is a familiar tune that has been heard in movies and television. It eases us into March – a month of being Irish.

**Play lists:** There are 3 playlists in the newsletter. Be sure to look at them. If you intend to perform, practice those tunes you don't know or are rusty on. If you need help with any of them, just ask.

**Performance-** I have been asked what it takes and what is required to perform with the group. It is a good question and maybe something long-time members take for granted or have forgotten.

- The desire to share your musical gifts and to perform with a group is first. Our performing group is not exclusive and we welcome players to do this when they are ready. Ah, the question of when am I ready? Talk with Bob Patterson or Marsha.
- Start with a Library Outreach program. The playlist is only 10 tunes and does not change. This is a good way to ease into performance, to practice smiling while you play (this is harder than you think) and to become comfortable with the performing group and audience. First one is May 6 in Northville.
- Learn the current playlist –there is a core group of tunes that are in almost every playlist. To prepare to perform – work on these until you know them well and can play them at tempo and in time with the group. (Whiskey Before Breakfast, Over the Waterfall, South Wind, Westphalia, Tamlin, Red Apple Rag, Hey Polka, Hangman's Reel). The rest change with the "season." Look through the 2018 newsletters at all the playlists and you will have a good idea of the playlists to come. Upcoming playlists are posted in the current newsletter.
- Sign-up when there is a date you are available to play. Write in the instrument(s) you intend to play. (Some play multiple instruments which affect seating and how we play certain tunes). Note the dress code, i.e, club shirts, holiday wear, certain color, business casual, Victorian attire. Know you are expected to be at the venue at least 30 minutes ahead with instrument in tune. Have your music in order, whether you use a tablet/lpad, or binder.
- Be professional – don't beat yourself up or anyone else for that matter if a note is missed or misplayed (unlikely anyone will know but you). Smile, nod your head, listen and keep going. There are times when

we may get off. Stop playing, listen to the bass, watch me or my hammers. It's OK if you need to stop and figure out where we are at, just look very natural as if it was planned. Smile, tap your feet, send out positive energy. I find when I do that, audience members come up and tell me how much they enjoy watching me play (little did they know I misplayed something, started too fast/too slow, forget where I was – A Part/B part, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> time, or any other flaw. Well maybe they did see when my drummer hat flew off twice). Did I say, SMILE?

- If you have an idea, suggestion or comment regarding a performance, talk with our VP-Business Manager, Bob Patterson. Wait for an appropriate time to talk, call or email – not right before a performance (he is busy setting up), during (is very disruptive) or right after the show (he will be busy selling hundreds of CDs to our vast group of fans). Good ideas and observant constructive feedback are appreciated and helpful.
- **Start Thinking EVART:** Are you planning to go to Evart this year? Are you thinking of performing with Silver Strings at the Thurs. nite pre-show? There will be an interest sheet on the table to indicate your interest in being part of this. Please sign it along with what instrument(s) you plan to play. It is not a firm commitment but helps me in planning. The festival is great fun and we draw a good audience that just waits to see what we are going to do. They tell me what they most love is how much fun we have doing what we do.....Marsha mt.koz@hotmail.com

#### VP - PROGRAMS NOTES \_\_\_\_\_ Gloria Tapper

Hello everyone, seems we are headed for more snow and extreme cold weather, I am visiting friends in Florida, where it has been sunny but cooler than usual.

I don't have much new news for you. There are some play dates lined up, so be sure to look for sign up sheets. I'm waiting for March, when the Celtic tunes are always fun.

If you have questions, concerns or ideas, think about stopping in during a board meeting as they are usually quite interesting. Our Board Meetings take place one hour before the first meeting of the month.

Stay safe and warm, see you at the next meeting,  
See you soon.....Gloria Getapper@yahoo.com

If you are looking for a Hammered Dulcimer, Stand or Hammers, I have a few to sell.

Sherry Humecky 248-348-0066

### Let's Talk Humidity

*submitted by Sharon McAuliffe*

The following article contains Russell Cook and Sam Rizzetta's ideas on this subject and just may answer many of your questions about humidity.

Generally, wooden instruments are happiest near the humidity levels in which they were constructed. Any environment that is okay for violins or guitars, which are more delicate, would be more than adequate for the hammered dulcimer.

Ideal humidity for dulcimers might be in the range of 30% to 55%. The winter season, with the heating systems running, may lower the humidity below this range. If this level falls very low and it becomes very dry, some woods may split, crack or warp and tuning pins may loosen. Keep your dulcimer and any delicate instrument in a cool area away from heaters, hot air vents and sun. Small humidifiers for instruments, portable room humidifiers and humidifiers for home heating systems are available.

Humid environments can cause swelling, warping and buckling of soundboards, backs and damage some finishes. Playing outdoors in late night dampness or humid, rainy weather or leaving your dulcimer stored in a basement can result in condensation which may lead to corrosion of tuning pins and strings. Replacing these are labor intensive and can be costly.

Varying humidity levels affect the tuning of the hammered dulcimers more than any other factor. So do yourself a favor and maintain a consistent level, whether high or low, as much as possible. After all, we all prefer to play than tune and a well-tuned dulcimer sounds so much sweeter.



*Silver Strings Dulcimer Society  
welcomes you into our musical family*

- Don Ballingall
- Edna Garte
- Daniel Kafcas
- Sarah Kilcullen
- Gerry Kustra
- Cyndi O'Brien
- Emily Smith
- Mike Thomas



## Silver Strings March 2019 Playlist

Key	February 2019 playlist Tune	#
<i>Looking for love:</i>		
C	Five Foot Two - <b>S</b>	3
G	South Wind	3*
G	Yellow Bird	3
Am	Bei Mier Bist Du Scheon	3
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/ Riding on Load of Hay - <b>C</b>	3/3
G	Muss I Denn	3
G	Let Me Call You Sweetheart - <b>S</b>	2
<i>Love Gone Wrong:</i>		
Em	Katushka	4
C	Tennessee Waltz - <b>S</b>	3
D	Over the Waterfall - <b>C</b>	3
G	Red Wing	3*
Em	Tamlin	4
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
G	You Are My Sunshine - <b>S</b>	4
<i>Getting married/lasting love:</i>		
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast - <b>C</b>	3
D/G	Egan's Polka/Mari's Wedding	2/2
G	Westphalia	2*
G	Maggie	3
<b>EXTRA TUNES IF NEEDED:</b>		
D	Lover's Waltz	3*
D	Hey Polka	3
*2 <sup>nd</sup> time: If instruments are available--Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistle take it with backup; HD's play softly. <b>S:</b> invite audience to sing along 2 <sup>nd</sup> time and/or 3 <sup>rd</sup> time <b>C:</b> get audience to clapping in time		

Key	Tune	Play
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/ Riding on Load of Hay	3/3
G	Rosin the Beau	3*
Em	Drunken Sailor	4
G	Cockles & Mussels - S	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	4
Em	Tamlin	4
G	Dusty Bob's Jig	3
G	Southwind	3*
D	John Ryan's Polka	4
C	When Irish Eyes	3*
D/G	Eagan's Polka/ Mari's Wedding	3/2
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast - C	3
D	Danny Boy	3*
Em	Scolley's Reel	3
G	Bellman's Jig	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn/ Schottische du Stockfish	3/3
Am	Star of the County Down	3*
G	Irish Washerwoman - C	3
<b>Extras</b>		
D	Hey Polka	3
G	March of St. Timothy	4
*2 <sup>nd</sup> time: If instruments are available-- Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistle take it with backup; HD's softly ** last time thru – take the 4 ct pause in chorus		



Silver Strings provided musical entertainment at Erie Metropark's Marshland Museum for "Erie Ice Days" on January 19 & 20. They were greeted with snow and cold weather and performed 8 hours over the 2 day event. Wow!

### Silver Strings April-July 2019 Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	4
D	Sandy River Belle	3
D	Bucket Man Blues	3
D	Black Mountain Rag	3
G	Westphalia Waltz	2*
Em	Road to Lisdoonvarna/ Riding on Load of Hay	3/3
G	Yellow Bird	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	South Wind	3*
A	Pickin' the Berries	3
A	Hangman's Reel	3
Am	Schottische du Stockfish	3
D	John Ryan's Polka	5*
D	Ashokan Farewell	2*
D	Liberty	3
D	Armed Services Salute	1**
G	America the Beautiful	3**
G	God Bless America	3**
G	You're A Grand Old Flag	3**
	<b>Extras</b>	
G	Girl I Left Behind Me	3
D	Hey Polka	3
Em	Tamlin	4
G	Battle Hymn of the Republic	3*

\*2<sup>nd</sup> time: If instruments are available--  
Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistles take  
melody; HD's softly backup  
\*\* Tempo should be singable – not too fast.

### Wanted! Wanted!

The club loaned memory sticks containing Silver String Music to members of our club. If anyone has one of those items, please return it to Terry. The ones distributed were in a small white box about ¼ x ½ x 2".

If any members would like to donate a memory stick to the club for the purpose of distributing our music to new members, would be appreciated.

Thanks, Terry Kozlowski

## DEARBORN ACOUSTIC NIGHT 2019 DATES

Open-Mic format - Bring an acoustic instrument to play or just come and listen

Where: Fellowship Hall of St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Located at: 21915 Beech St, Dearborn, MI 48124  
St. Paul is located at the corner of Beech St. and Monroe,  
3 blocks south of Michigan Ave.

When: Fourth Saturday of the month (usually)  
\$2 Donation to help pay expenses

Show at 7 pm	Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Performers 6:30 pm to sign up	Apr 27 <sup>th</sup>	May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Jun 22 <sup>nd</sup>
	Jul 27 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 24 <sup>th</sup>	Sep 28 <sup>th</sup>
	Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>	Nov <sup>NO SHOW</sup>	Dec 7 <sup>th</sup> * <small>*1st Sat</small>

Pop, Coffee and Snacks will be available

All styles of music welcome, but please  
stick with acoustic instruments  
P.A. will be provided as well as a piano

For more info: [dbnacousticnight@gmail.com](mailto:dbnacousticnight@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook

Sponsored by St. Paul Church and 10 Eagles Studio

Hammered Dulcimer - Repair/Rebuild  
Hammers, Strings, Lessons, Loaners

Bob Hlavacek 734-657-0820  
[datadoc@charter.net](mailto:datadoc@charter.net)



### Music by Linda

Dulcimer Music For Special Occasions  
Dulcimer Lessons

Linda Osgood

734-649-3843

[losgood10424@comcast.net](mailto:losgood10424@comcast.net)

### Musicians Wanted!

Musicians (men or women) interested in singing and playing old time mountain and bluegrass music. Any instrument would be welcome. Songs that we would like to do and have done professionally are by Flatt and Scruggs, the Stanley Brothers, the original Carter Family, Bill Monroe, and Wade Mainer.

Contact Ron Smolka:  
cell 734-968-0479 or home 734-422-8258

~ 2019 Silver Strings Officers ~



<i>back row</i>	<b>Bob Hlavacek</b> VP Programs	<b>George Gonyo</b> Treasurer	<b>Bob Paterson</b> VP Business	<b>Karen Turner</b> Website & Dropbox	<b>David Smith</b> Newsletter & Historian
<i>front row</i>	<b>Sandi Hlavacek</b> VP Programs	<b>Marsha Kozlowski</b> Music Coordinator	<b>Gloria Tapper</b> Secretary	<b>Peggy Kustra</b> President	

Position	Name	Contact Information
President	Peggy Kustra	kustras1976@yahoo.com 313-570-7844
VP Business Manager (Contact for booking performances)	Bob Patterson	silverstring14@gmail.com 734-953-0438
VP Programs	Bob & Sandi Hlavacek	datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974
Secretary	Gloria Tapper	getapper@yahoo.com 734-427-1142
Treasurer	George Gonyo	ggonyo@peoplepc.com 734-996-0089
Newsletter Editor	David Smith	dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Music Coordinator	Marsha Kozlowski	mt.koz@hotmail.com 734-239-4190
Historian	David Smith	dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Website & Dropbox Coordinator	Karen Turner	karenturner@comcast.net 734-678-7405



## Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays every month  
7:00 - 9:00 pm.... with jamming till ...?

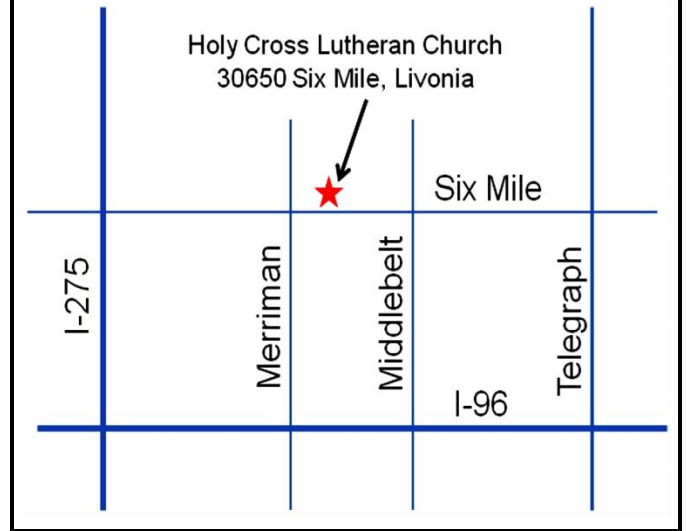
Meeting at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
In Livonia, Michigan

Featuring the hammered dulcimer,  
and other acoustic instruments :  
mountain dulcimer, banjo, guitar, autoharp, fiddle,  
string bass, washtub bass, mandolin, folk harp,  
recorder, tin penny whistle, and harmonica.  
Learn new tunes and techniques, jam together  
with other players, receive new music  
and a monthly newsletter.  
Participate in workshops, festivals, performances,  
picnics, fun and fellowship.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT :**  
**<http://www.silverstrings.org>**

**Everyone is welcome!**

Come to listen or come to play.



*Start thinking about getting articles for the newsletter to me by the 25<sup>th</sup>.*

*Articles or pictures from any member are always welcome, contact David at [dtsmithnet@yahoo.com](mailto:dtsmithnet@yahoo.com)*

**Silver Strings Dulcimer Society**

P.O. Box 1116  
Garden City, MI. 48136



If you were on the mailing list  
your name would be here.

