

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society Soundboard

May 2020

SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC for 36 YEARS

Issue 421

www.silverstrings.org

PERKY PEGGY'S PONDERINGS__ Peggy Kustra

Hello Everyone,

There is a great response to our Spirit Jam. Musicians all over Michigan and the United States are listening in and or participating. Perhaps we are not together in person, yet we are together in Spirit. Our musical notes are filling the air with a beautiful sound. Have you noticed how we keep perfect timing. No one speeds up and I haven't heard any alternative notes. Great job everyone.

We will continue with the Spirit Jam until we are able to meet again in person.

Remember, to send me your song choice. If I don't put your choice on one week it will probably make the next list. Feel free to alter the name of the tune for grins and giggles.

Here are some bullet points:

- 1) The June Campout is cancelled.
- 2) June 9th playdate is cancelled.
- 3) The Evert Funfest is cancelled.

However, I do have some good news. We are currently all healthy and free of the corona virus. Let's continue to beat this virus.

Let's hope we have no more snow and spring flowers will continue to bloom.

I'm keeping everyone in my prayers. Stay Healthy.

If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, contact me at peggyakustra54@gmail.com or 313-570-7844

..... Perky Peggy still Perky

has a lot of people loving to play music and helping others better themselves in playing their instruments. I used ZOOM meetings to teach a person how to use their instrument better. Zoom is a tool we can use, just like Marsha and Terry has done with Facebook with our SSDS - Spirit Jam. And look how many have benefited from this practice. **Marsha and Terry HIGH FIVE!!!**

Through this emergency, think of how else we can help others. You have a God given ability that needs to be passed on. I have been talking to some retirement homes about how I can help. One idea that was expressed was doing **Therapeutic Music** to some of their residents. Kay Rowe, your desire to help people with Bedside Music is now needed more than ever. Just think if you were a resident of a retirement home or assisted living center. This emergency will end and hopefully we will be able to get together soon.

All playdates through June are canceled.

.....Steve slbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539

VP- PROGRAMS NOTES__ Bob & Sandi Hlavacek

WOW !!! MAY is here!

A month has gone by, and we are missing our jams & snack time a LOT! It's not nearly as enjoyable to have a cookie at home. We definitely qualify for the social butterfly club. We REALLY LOOK FORWARD to making multiple pots of coffee again. LOL

We were very disappointed to cancel our campout... then to have Evert pulled out of the summer schedule was devastating. We still have hopes for Midland in late August.

At this time, we are still planning to have the SSDS annual picnic on August 6th. We pray the parks will be re-opened by then. It will be in the same park in as last year in Plymouth.

The SSDS spirit jams have been a real lift for us and for many others...internationally. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to Marsha & Terry Koslowski for making those possible, and thank you to Peggy Kustra for sending out play lists, and thank you Karen Turner for putting them on YouTube so they can be revisited again & again. We all know & appreciate the value of music in our lives, and that is multiplied by 5 in times of stress & trouble. We are so very lucky to have this outlet with

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY

7 - SSDS MEETING & JAM..... **Cancelled**

21 - SSDS MEETING & JAM..... **Cancelled**

VP - BUSINESS NOTES__ Stephen Beck

I hope you, your family and loved ones are virus free. Your wellbeing is the main concern of the leadership of SSDS so let us know how you are doing. Please send us an email update about you and your music status, needs, and challenges. The SSDS group

the **GREAT** people of Silver Strings. I can't help but think of Hal Bain, who was the only "founding member" to stay with us until he died, in his late 90s. Thank you, Hal Bain!

Bob & I also thank you for all of the assistance at meetings, the prayers, the cards, the notes, and the overwhelming support through his cancer treatment. You all are gifts. **HUGS TO ALL !**

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

MARSHA'S MUSINGS _____ Marsha Kozlowski

Wow – being **music coordinator** now holds a whole different meaning for me as we continue to stay "safe at home." The job has taken on an entirely different perspective. Instead of getting ready for Evart, I find myself getting ready for "Spirit Jam." Each week. Instead of having two nights a month jamming at Holy Cross, Terry and I are jamming with a whole bunch of people for an hour each week. Instead of trying to choose what the next tune of the month will be, I am looking through tune suggestions from players all across the country. Instead of sharing the tune starts, I am learning how to start every tune. Did I say? WOW.

Last month in my musing article I gave some suggestions to pass the time while social distancing. Among them was to play through the playlists – we are now doing that every week. Have theme days, yup! Work on starts – double yup. Practice playing and looking up to smile. Well, sure am getting practice with that. Find a tune on You Tube and "jam" along. Little did I know.....I was writing a list for me. LOL!

Spirit Jams – these started the first week in April on our normal meeting night. A tune list was sent out. Everyone was invited to participate in some way. People were encouraged to play through the list starting at 7:00. If they wanted, they could call up a "buddy" and play together with someone that way (some did this). I asked the Board if we could try an experiment on FB. Terry and I would play the tune list "live." I created a FB group of about 15 people who would tune in and we would play "together". It worked pretty well. Week 2 – invited more people who are on FB to join us. Had about 48 play. People started inviting people. It became a thing. By Week 3 – about 80 people showed up for the jam. This week there are now 160 "members" who come to the jam.

A number of key people have helped it to grow. Terry Kozlowski, my technical producer, helped figure out how to make it work from our end. Karen Turner, figured it out and gets it posted on YouTube so that non-FB users can enjoy jamming on Fridays (a great option). This also has attracted new viewers to SSDS YouTube videos and become a learning device for newer members to practice tunes they may not know. Dave Smith has gathered the selfie-photos and created photo collages for everyone to enjoy. This makes it personal and uplifting for us to see each other smiling. Peggy creates the tune lists, checks on the non-computer people and that contributing in a different way. Bob Nemo is handling the influx of requests to join

the Silver Strings FB page, bring the number to over 200.

What began as an experiment has taken on a life of its own. It has grown and evolved into something very beneficial to the club but also to each of us. Here are "takeaways" that I see from the Spirit Jams:

- A significant number of people who haven't been able to get to our jams are getting to jam with us in their own homes every week, reconnecting to the club
- The Spirit Jam has become another kind of outreach program that helps keep our music alive
- Players who lack confidence feel brave enough to try things they would not be brave enough to do at a regular jam. This builds playing confidence.
- Players can play several instruments during the course of the jam. They don't have to choose what to pack up and bring to Holy Cross. Some are playing piano, harps, etc. and all sorts of secondary instruments (Judy – have you played your harpsichord yet?).
- Players who play softer voiced instruments like MD, Autoharp, harmonica get to really hear how they sound. They are not lost in the volume of the louder instruments. It becomes a duet of music, very pleasing to the ear.
- The jams serve as a weekly musical checkup – it lets us see how our musical family is doing through photos, the comments and greetings that people post, and the emails that go back and forth to Peggy, me or someone else. It keeps our connection active and strong.
- The jams give us opportunity to practice and not get rusty in playing. It helps us keep the tunes in our head and hands – a really good thing for some of us.
- It helps us remember what a blessing having this club is. As people from across the US and other countries ask to "join" us and tell me they have nobody remotely close to jam with and how excited they are to play along, even when they don't know all the tunes – it brings to home that we do have something quite wonderful in Silver Strings.
- It brings new tunes to us from the people who are joining the same. Since we won't have Evart or the campout opportunities to get acquainted with new tunes, this fills a void that keeps our music fresh. This is welcome as I get to try the tunes and expand what I play.
- The Spirit Jam has come to be the Hammered Dulcimer Flash Mob experience I always wanted to do. The logistics of accomplishing this were daunting – but having a Flash Mob somewhere in the I-Cloud of the internet and know there were 150+ all playing something is amazing.

... Marsha mtkoz72@gmail.com 734-239-4190

SECRETARY _____ Julie Kafkas

Hello fellow Silver String Members!

What a year this month has been! I hope that everyone is coping and doing all you can to remain healthy and safe during this viral pandemic. I miss seeing everyone at the jams and I hope it won't be too much longer before we meet again. It's going to be so wonderful to hear us all playing again, something to look forward to. We have had many changes for our calendar now due to Covid-19, gigs cancelled, camping cancelled, Evart cancelled. Some of the later events we are still hopeful to hold, but we just have to wait until we get closer to those months of July and beyond to determine if it would be safe to gather. SO....until the days of playing together (in the same room) return, it is virtual jams and newsletters.

The best to all of you!

.....Julie juliekafkas1@msn.com 734-552-7326

TREASURER NOTES _____ Judy Pyrkosz

At the last Board Meeting, there was a discussion regarding changing some of the duties for two of the offices. Currently there is no proviso for which member is responsible for enrolling new members. The Treasurer has been performing this duty by default. After some discussion Board voted to amend the By-Laws to reflect the following changes.

- Responsibility for enrolling new members would be assigned to the Secretary. They would then disseminate all the relevant information to other members as needed, including updating the member roster, giving contact information to the Webmaster and Newsletter Editor, instruments played and need for music to the Music Coordinator, etc. etc..
- They would also be responsible for maintaining and keeping the Membership Roster updated and current.

Since this requires a change in the By-Laws, the general membership will need to approve this revision. Listed below are the proposed amendments. The first part is already a part of the Secretary's duties. Points #3 and #4 are the suggested modifications. (This will be put to the vote at the next meeting.)

SECRETARY

1. Keeps records of all business conducted at club meetings and board meetings; delivers to Newsletter Editor summary of Executive Board meetings and any information that should be in the newsletter.

2. Is responsible for all correspondence.

3. Is responsible for enrolling new members.

4. Arranges for distribution of the membership directory as necessary, but at least once a year.

Respectfully submitted

..... Judy jpyrkosz@yahoo.com 734-525-3553

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

5...Dave Matthews
13...Carol Dick
19...Shirley Keyser
20...Cyndi O'Brien
21...Emily Smith
26...Peggy Kustra
27...Dawn Hayes
27...Terry Kozlowski

**ANNIVERSARIES**

1...Gerry & Peggy Kustra
15...Chris & Mike Hurt
17...Ron & Dawn Hayes

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

Silver Strings April-July 2020 Playlist

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast/ Mississippi Sawyer	3/3
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	Girl I Left Behind Me	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	2
D	Armed Services Salute	1**
G	America the Beautiful	3**
G	God Bless America – repeat Pt B 2 nd time thru	2 1/2**
G	Yankee Doodle Boy/ You're A Grand Old Flag	3**
	Extras	
D	Hey Polka	3
Em	Tamlin	4
G	Battle Hymn of the Republic	3*

*2nd time: If instruments are available--Fiddles, Harmonicas, MD or Whistles take melody; HD's softly backup

** Tempo should be singable – not too fast.



Our first "Spirit Jam" took place on April 2nd. Here are all the photos as we played along at home. Thanks Marsha and Terry for taking care of the technical issues of hosting a live jam and for leading us in an hour of music.

Did you know that our virtual Spirit jams are posted on YouTube, Friday, the day after the live jam? If you have a smart TV with the YouTube app, you can play along on big screen! All Spirit jams can be found on our club's YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1ixWvDUOQ68CGIZ5WwusLg>



'Wear a hat' was the theme at our April 16th Spirit Jam. What fun!



Here is the 19 folks who sent in their "Flowers" theme photos for the April 23rd Spirit Jam.



The theme for April 30th Spirit Jam was 'begins with S'. All tunes began with 'S' and everyone was encouraged to post 'S' themed photos. Another fun jam and encouraging photos. What fun and enjoyment we have sharing it all with our musical friends.

The QUARANTUNE Dulcimer Festival



June 5 & 6
2020

www.QuaranTUNEDulcimerFestival.com

Hammered Dulcimer

Colin Beasley
Pam Bowman
Phyllis Woods Brown
Russell Cook
Matthew Dickerson
Jess Dickinson
Steve Eulberg
Scott Evan Freeman
Guy George
Stephen Humphries
Ilace Mears
Katie Moritz
Amanda Roberts
Timothy Seaman
Ruth Smith
Ken Kolodner
Mary Lynn van Deventer
Mark Alan Wade

Mountain Dulcimer

Aubrey Atwater
Joe Collins
Elaine Conger
Larry Conger
Sam Edelston
Steve Eulberg
Bing Futch
Dave Haas
Erin Mae
Sarah Kate Morgan
Brett Ridgeway
Butch Ross
Stephen Seifert
Wendy Songe
Mark Alan Wade

Ukulele

Sharrie George
Brett Ridgeway
Steve Smith

Penny Whistle

Guy George

Dulci-Bro

Steve Eulberg

Visit our website for
up-to-date information.

Not tech-savvy?

We will have resources and orientation to help you learn how to participate *before* the festival.

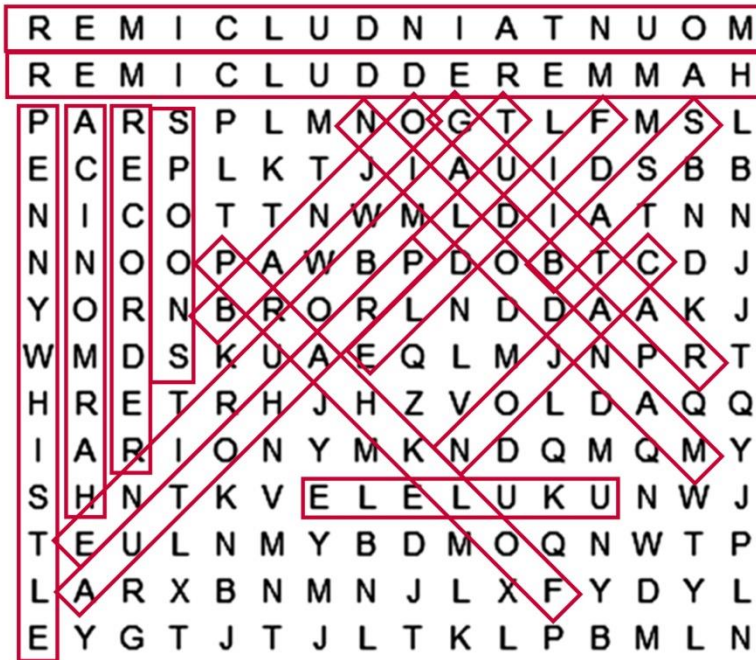
<https://www.virtualdulcimerfest.com>

Position	Name	Contact Information
President	Peggy Kustra	peggyakustra54@gmail.com 313-570-7844
VP Business Manager (Contact for booking performances)	Stephen Beck	slbeck@beck-enterprise.com 313-701-7539
VP Programs	Bob & Sandi Hlavacek	datadoc@charter.net 734-663-7974
Secretary	Julie Kafcas	juliekafcas1@msn.com 734-552-7326
Treasurer	Judy Pyrkosz	jpyrkosz@yahoo.com 734-525-3553
Newsletter Editor	David Smith	dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Music Coordinator	Marsha Kozlowski	mtkoz72@gmail.com 734-239-4190
Historian	David Smith / Sandi Hlavacek	dtsmithnet@yahoo.com 313-278-5127
Website & Dropbox Coordinator	Karen Turner	karenturner@comcast.net 734-678-7405

April Puzzle ANSWERS

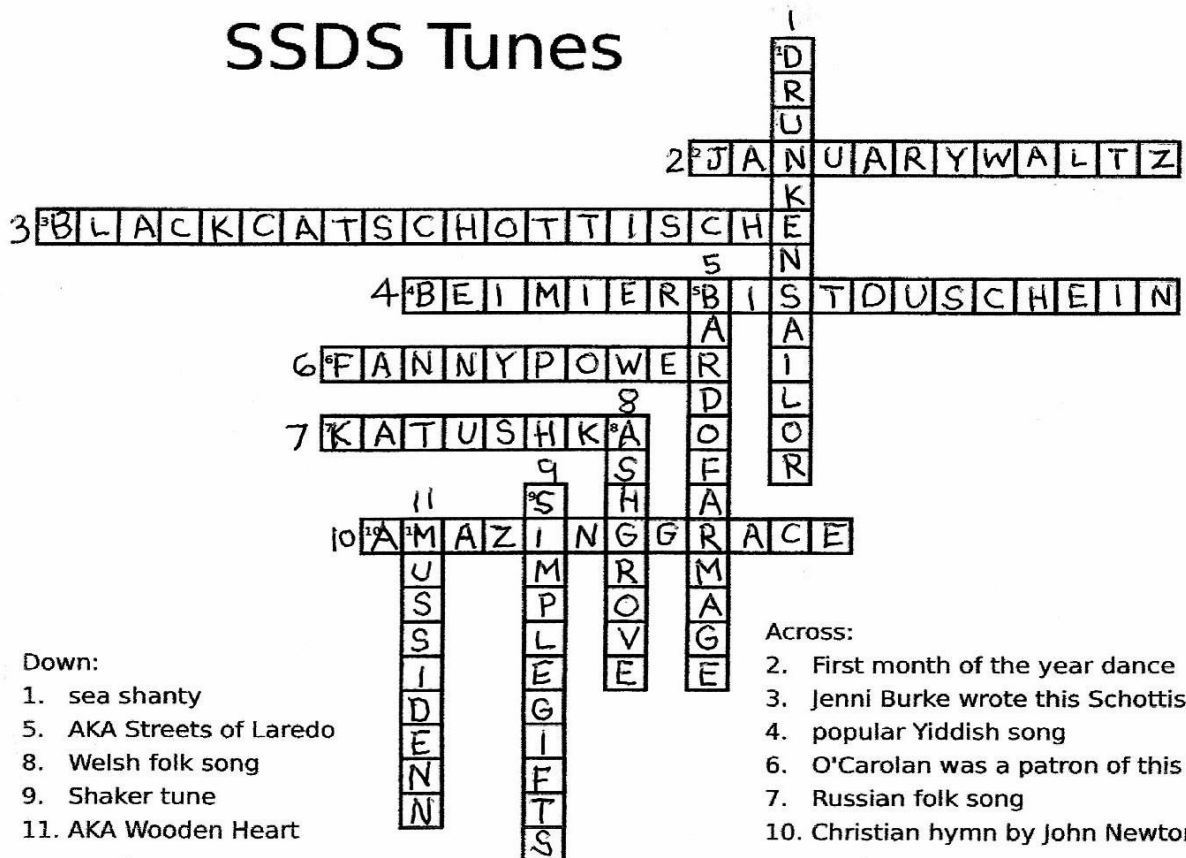
Folk Music Instruments

Answers from April puzzle



hammered dulcimer
autoharp
banjo
guitar
pennywhistle
mountain dulcimer
bass
recorder
ukulele
folk harp
spoons
cajon
harmonica
fiddle
mandolin
tambourine

SSDS Tunes



Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

30650 Six Mile, Livonia, MI

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, ukulele 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 :

www.silverstrings.org



Start thinking about getting articles for the newsletter to me by the 25th.

Articles or pictures from any member are always welcome, contact David at dtsmithnet@yahoo.com

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

P.O. Box 51446
Livonia, MI 48151



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