

Central Indiana Folk Music & Mountain Dulcimer Society

News and Notes for Society Folks

Volume 2009, Issue 3

March 2009

March 2009 Meeting

Sunday March 8th, 2009

1:00 – 5:00 PM. (remember, Daylights Savings Begins)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

526 E 52nd St. (52nd & Central), Indianapolis

1:00 – 2:00	Board Meeting
	Slow Jam
2:00-3:00	Performance Hour
3:00-4:00	Big Band Practice
4:00-5:00	Sharing Circle



February Message from the President

By Steve Kessinger

It has been a joy for me to take part in the Big Band performances. There are both personal and Society reasons for my pleasure. I would like to talk about my personal reasons at some point. But, in this message, I will be focusing on how the Big Band is a significant contributor to the Society's mission in at least two ways.

The first way the Big Band promotes traditional American music is by putting it out there for people to experience. The band keeps our country's musical tradition alive by just performing the music in front of people. But it is more than just performing the music that is important for keeping the tradition alive. We always encourage the audience to sing along with us because that is how this music is traditionally experienced publicly. It is part of the glue that holds this country together by keeping us connected with the country's creators – the working class. From the songs sung on the new barn floor after a barn raising to the work songs of the African Americans, our songs have brought us together and made the work bearable.

Many of the songs are written to remind us of who we are and where we have come from. Our history is not just what we read in the schoolbooks about the "big" events. The everyday events of regular people recorded in the songs we sing often tell us more about who we are and why we do what we do. Keeping the tradition alive is important for our collective mental health and builds a bridge from our personal history to the history of others in our country and the world.

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Happy Harper's Happenings **By Christine Reneau**

In March the Happy Harpers will be donning their jester's caps and indulging in songs full of nonsense and whimsy. Bring your Autoharp and a keen sense of fun and frolic to Karen Sechrist's home at 2:00 PM on Sunday, March 22, 2009. Karen lives at 8198 Wade Hill Court in Indianapolis. She can be reached at gpsihart@comcast.net or (317) 915-1092 for directions.

All Autoharp fans are always welcome at Happy Harpers meetings. Come see just what kind of shenanigans may develop as we play and sing our silly and ever sillier songs.

It might be of interest to members that Sharon Roder passed away on February 20. Karen Sechrist should have more details about that.

Money Bag\$

By Dave Wensits

It's March already and Spring is in the air! Can you believe it? I can almost smell it! Or is that my deodorant? I'm easily confused at my age, so keep that in mind when you are laughing at me, I'm a little sensitive. Enough silliness! On with this month's treasurer's report:

Account status for February 2009: As of this writing, the checking balance is \$3,331.68 and savings is \$2,660.88. End of month balances could vary if there is any new business before then.

Membership Status: Membership is at 109 compared with 104 a year ago. We had 2 new members join our Society in February: Dick Dickinson and Bill Fribley. Please say hello to Dick and Bill when you get the chance and make these gentlemen feel welcome.

Membership Dues: Society dues are just \$20/year. For that we get great music, the pleasure of each other's company and the monthly newsletter. What a deal!! If your membership is due or past due please send a check to

CIFM&MDS, P.O. Box 1503, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1503, or catch me at the next meeting. I can accept cash or checks only.

Also, songbooks are still only \$20, \$15 for the fiddle version, and \$5 for assorted supplements. If you need a songbook, please see me.

As a reminder, standing rules of the Society require that if you are more than 3 months late paying your membership dues, we will have to assume you are no longer able to participate in the society and will remove you from active status, simultaneously removing your name from the newsletter mailing. Holy Treasurer's Report, don't let that happen! We want to keep you in our music family.

Gary Kiser Concerts

Society member Gary Kiser performs at the Danville Library (Danville, IN) March 28th at 2:30pm. Closer to home, he entertains the lunchtime crowd at the Arts Garden in downtown Indy May 7th, starting at 12:15pm.

Later gigs include the Martinsville and Speedway libraries, more info to come. All performances are free; please call 317-241-9020 for more information.

March's Musical Theme



*No Blarney, it's
Irish songs*

Dave's Doodlings

By Dave Slates
Music Coordinator

It seems like February had barely started and now March comes blowing in.

This month we will work on the set we will play at the Ohio Valley Gathering, which is in Lexington, KY from the 27th to the 29th. We will be playing on Saturday night, March 28th. If you have never been to the Gathering, it is a great weekend. There are concerts Friday night, workshops on Saturday and a concert Saturday night. Sunday morning there is a gospel sing. Of course there is constant jamming. Mario Joven and Jon Hall have been seen (by me) playing as late as 2 and 3 in the morning.

Eric Fricke has set up another service at the VA hospital on May 3rd. More information coming at this month's meeting. We will use part of our time in April to run through the service music.

Look elsewhere in this issue for an exciting announcement I have about a "return" gig for our Big Band!
See you Sunday,

Dulcimer Doings **By Lew Mastin**

The Dulcimer Only Group (DOGS), under the leadership of Tull Glazener meets on the 2nd and fourth Wednesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Robin Run Village on 62nd street at 7 P.M. Meetings for February will be on the 11th and the 25th.

Happy Harpers Play Bread Ladies

The Happy Harpers will be playing at The Breads Ladies in Greenfield from noon to 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 4, 2009. Come lend some moral support to your Autoharp playing friends while enjoying a tasty lunch. The Bread Ladies is located at 5 American Legion Place, Greenfield, IN 46140.

President's Message from page 1

The second way the Big Band promotes traditional American music is by providing a place for our members to share and to grow in the skills and styles associated with "folk" instruments. I remember going to the State Fair and listening to one of contestants at the fiddle contest. She played beautifully and with great technique. However, it did not sound like a fiddle tune. You need to have had the opportunity to hear traditional music to be able to play it.

An important part of keeping the sound alive is providing a place for our members to practice, sharing the traditional sound in front of people. The saying, "It sounded better when I was practicing" is true. No matter how good we can play in the privacy of our home, we will seldom sound as good in front of other people. There are a lot of reasons for this degrading of sound at a performance. However, they all can be controlled with performance experience. The Big Band provides that experience in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

I hope you will join me in taking advantage of the opportunities the Big Band provides for accomplishing our mission.

Greg O'Haver at Weedpatch

Greg O'Haver (longtime Society contributor) will be traveling down to Weed Patch Music in Nashville, IN to show off his new capos on March 15th.

Greg has designed numerous guitar capos, four of which are being manufactured and distributed by Kyser. His newest capo is in the K-Lever Series. This capo makes it possible to do a Drop-D, Double Drop-D, DADGAD Short Cut, as well as an Open A without retuning your guitar. It's always cool to get to meet the folks that build and invent all the great items in our store. Greg will open a new world to you and your guitar with these capos. This is a must event for the intermediate to advanced guitarist. Beginners will gain some great insight from this one too.

2009 Musical Themes

February: Love Songs

March: Irish Tunes

April: Tomfoolery

May: "Race"-y Songs

June: [prep for Eagle Creek]

July: Patriots and Politics

August: Fair Songs

September: Work Songs

October: Scary Songs

November: Family Songs

December: [holiday party]

CIFM&MDS
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CIFM&MDS Big Band Returns to State Fair!

By David Slates, Music Director

That's correct, you read it right, the Society's Big Band has been invited to play at the 2009 Indiana State Fair. Persistence pays off, as I (assisted by past-president Phil Slates) have been lobbying for some time with the State Fair Pioneer Village music chairman to have us added to the list of performers. We got the call just this week.

The Big Band will play on Sunday, August 23rd, at a new venue. If you know where the tractor barn just northeast of the Pioneer Village barn is, that will be transformed into the Possum Holler Opera House, complete with stage. We have been asked to play during the first-ever Ice Cream Churn-off.

Details still need to be finalized, but we will play in the afternoon, for about 2 hours. Sign up early, so we can have a truly BIG Big Band for our return to the Indiana State Fair.

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