

Central Indiana Folk Music & Mountain Dulcimer Society

News and Notes for Society Folks

Volume 2009, Issue 8

August 2009

August 2009 Meeting

Sunday August 9th, 2009

1:00 – 5:00 PM

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



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This Month's Message from the President

By Steve Kessinger

I have been reading our mission statement to make sure I understand what the society was organized to accomplish. Of course, having been a member for over 10 years, I thought I knew. But, being President has forced me to look more closely. For those of you that are like me and can't recite it from memory, here it is:

"We are a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Indiana for the charitable and educational purposes of promoting, perpetuating, and supporting traditional American Music".

There are several parts of this statement that become less defined the more I look at it.

1. What is traditional American Music?
2. There is no reference to any particular type of instrument. Are some included and others not appropriate?
3. I think I understand educational. But what about charitable?
4. It doesn't take much to see that we are perpetuating the music by just playing it. However, what is the promoting and supporting all about?

These questions may have had clear answers to the founders of our society. However, I think that in practice over the years the answers have gotten lost or maybe even changed. I would like to explore the possible answers to the above questions in my remaining messages. I hope that this will prompt you to discuss and share your thoughts on these topics

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Happy Harper's Happenings

By Christine Reneau

In August the Happy Harpers are going to put their noses to the grindstone and WORK up some enthusiasm for songs celebrating toil and labor. We will be meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, August 30 at the home of Karen Sechrist. Karen lives at 8198 Wade Hill Court in Indianapolis. She can be reached at (317) 915-1092 or gpsihart@comcast.net for directions. So grab an autoharp and come knock yourself out having fun with us, and you will be surprised what can be accomplished.

Money Bag\$

By Dave Wensits

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Eagle Creek is behind us, now, and the State Fair, Labor Day and Halloween are coming straight at us. It's already August!! I don't want to get ahead of myself, but fall is just around the corner. Now, I love the beauty of fall, the changing of the leaves and the brisk morning air. It's a great time of year and I get to go out and play among the leaves and colors with my camera. Beautiful! It's what follows that gives me the chills (literally and figuratively). Ugh! Okay, let's not get ahead of ourselves and let's rephrase that thought. It's only August and it's hot and sticky outside. Yeah, that sounds better, doesn't it? Hmm.

Account status for July 2009: The checking balance, as of this writing, is \$2663.01 (up \$161 from last month) and savings is about \$2666 (negligible increase).

Membership Status: Family memberships are at 99 compared with 105 a year ago. Down three from last month.

Membership Dues: Annual household membership remains at just \$20/year. 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'm always happy to take your money.

Songbooks: The new and improved Main

Songbook is now available to all members in good standing for \$25 each. Fiddle tunes are included in the Main Songbook, but a special "Fiddlers Edition" is also available as a separate supplement for \$15 each. See me at the meeting if you are in need of either of these songbooks.

Free Celtic Music Concert Saturday, August 15

Back by popular demand, the Muses, Celtic Music group from Colorado will be performing at our summer reading finale program. The concert is sponsored by the Friends' of the Westfield Library. Free.

Date: Saturday, August 15, 2009

Time: 7pm, door opens at 6:30pm

Place: Westfield Washington Middle School ,
Due to space issue at the library, this event will be held at the school. Everyone is welcome.

For more info about Muses, go to

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appealing and they can't like something they have never heard. It is quite possible that some or all of the music that has been passed down to us may disappear if it is not performed and heard.

Therefore, the traditional music that we, this Society, love and value is at risk of being lost. If just one generation does not consider the music worthy of attention, the next generation will not have a choice. They will not even know it existed. If you think about this, you can understand the sorrow and anger of the American Indians as their traditions are displaced by our "mainstream" culture.

I think this brings us to the heart of the mission statement. We are carrying the torch of traditional music. We must not let it go out. If it were to go out, the memory of the common people that settled this country would be diminished. Our lives would be less defined and understood. We would be like the homemaker that cut off the ends of the ham before she baked it. She had no idea why. It is just the way her mother did it. She was unaware that her mother did it just to fit the ham in the only pan she had and she did it even though she had several pans bigger than the ham.

Dave's Doodlings

By Dave Slates
Music Coordinator

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the Folk Service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Aug 2nd. Now we need to get ready for the State Fair on Aug 23rd at 2PM. We should have passes for those who signed up at this months meeting. There will be a stage with chairs, and Slates Family Sound will be providing the PA system. We should have all the details to tell you at this months meeting as well.

September brings us our annual Old Fashion Days at all 4 Crestwood villages:
East September 5th
North September 12th
West September 19th
South September 26th
There is still time to sign up!

I want to thank Mike and Nathaniel Raab for stepping up and being set leaders for the Crestwood West performance. We could use more people to help lead some of the other locations. I have been playing phone tag with Meg Adams at the Mooresville Library to confirm our Christmas performance on Dec 5th at noon.

It is a pleasure working with such a great group of people. Keep practicing

Dulcimer Doings By Lew Mastin

The Dulcimer Only Group will meet at 7 PM on Wednesday August 12th and August 26th. Tull Glazener will be back with us this month, so come and join us. The meetings are held at Robin Run Village on West 62nd Street.

I am sure most of you are acquainted with Hattie and Ron, long time members of the society. They have hosted Dulcimer jams at their former home in Greenwood. It is with great sadness that I pass this information on to you that Ron has died. We can send Hattie our thoughts & prayers.

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I will start with "traditional American Music". Judging from our song book, the music must have some age on it and be associated with America. There are no songs like "Have You Met Miss Jones" though. Miss Jones is an American song and been around for some time (Rogers and Hart 1937). Even though it is a great song and meets the age and origin criteria, not many of us would call it "traditional American music."

This might be because it has at least 5 key changes built into it and most of us could not hum it if asked. But, there are tunes in our song book with key changes and not many of us can hum all the fiddle tunes. So, I don't think it is style or complexity that defines traditional American music.

The word "traditional" implies that the music has withstood the test of time and it has been passed from generation to generation. Therefore, there must be something about it that appeals to people of all ages and time periods. As I review our song book, the tunes and most of the words seem to be woven into our American subconscious in that most people know them. For most of the songs, people would be hard pressed to remember the first time they heard them. They just seem to have always been around. They pop up on television and movies, family members sing them, jazz players quote them, and we find ourselves humming them.

Because Americans come from all over the world, the tunes come from all over the world. But the words generally come from our shared experiences. Some of the songs can still be traced to composers. However, many have been sung by so many generations that we can't remember where or how they started. The songs or melodies have taken on lives of their own.

I am sure that there are songs being written or composed in our generation that will become traditional American music. You may have some candidates in mind. However, I am not sure we can predict what future generations will consider

2009 Musical Themes

August: Fair Songs

September: Work Songs

October: Scary Songs

November: Family Songs

December: [holiday party, so bring your favorite holiday music to share]

Gary Kiser's Performance Schedule

Noted Society member and singer/guitarist Gary Kiser has some upcoming performance opportunities.

Saturday, September 12th
Speedway Library, 2:00pm
Free

Saturday, November 14th
Morgan Co. Public Library
(in Martinsville near courthouse)
2:00pm, Free.

Society members are encouraged to go out and support our member-musicians.

Also, any performers (solo or ensemble) that have a Society connection are welcome to submit their performance schedule to the editor; either by email at [trainphil2002 @ yahoo.com](mailto:trainphil2002@yahoo.com) or by phone at 317-255-8415.

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