

Central Indiana Folk Music & Mountain Dulcimer Society

News and Notes for Society Folks

Volume 2009, Issue 5

May 2009

May 2009 Meeting

Sunday May 10th, 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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 A Message from the President
- In. **Song of the Month!** "Jimmy Crack Corn"
- 2 Happy Harpers / Money Bag\$
- 3 Dulcimer Doings/ Dave's Doodlings
- 4 Musical Themes 2009/ Calling All Instrument Makers

This Month's Message from the President

By Steve Kessinger

Two things happened this month that brought home to me the importance of our Society's mission. The first was looking around at the Ohio Valley Gathering and feeling like I was one of the younger participants. That doesn't happen to me much anymore. The second was reading a welcome speech given by Karl Paulnack to the freshman class at the Boston Conservatory. In the article, he explains his views on the importance of music to our individual and collective health.

Like the birds, we were created to sing. For some of us, this seems unlikely given the noise that we create when we try. However, like Karl Paulnack, I know that singing lightens my heart when the troubles of this world close in on me. This is the likely reason that all the religious ceremonies I know about include singing by somebody. Sometimes our singing is through a musical instrument. Studies have shown that many of the great players use their vocal chords like they were singing as they play.

I am concerned that we collectively have been intimidated by the high quality of music that the recording and entertainment industries have surrounded us with. It is next to impossible to escape good quality music. In fact, we have become so critical of the quality of music that we complain about the well orchestrated and well played music we hear in elevators. It was not that long ago that people would have paid to hear music of that quality. So, it is easy to feel like we can't sing when we have only normal voices and ability.

President's message continued - Pg 3

Happy Harper's Happenings

By Christine Reneau

Dates to Remember:

Happy Harpers Practice Session: Saturday, May 9, 2009, at 3:00 PM at the home of Dan and Christine Reneau, 11233 Garrick Ct., Fishers, IN 46038-1922. Contact: (317) 842-2741 or dreneau@iquest.net

Happy Harpers Meeting: Sunday, May 31, 2009, at 2:00 PM at the home of Karen Sechrist, 8198 Wade Hill Court, Indianapolis 46256-1668. Contact: (317) 915-1092 or gpsihart@comcast.net

Happy Harpers Practice Session: Tuesday, June 16, 2009, with meal provided at 6:00 PM at the home of Dan and Christine Reneau, 11233 Garrick Ct., Fishers, IN 46038-1922. Contact info same as above.

Please note there will be no regular Happy Harpers meeting in June.

Money Bag\$

By Dave Wensits

It's May and in honor of the Indy 500, this month's theme is "Race"-y Songs. I know a few racy songs, but I'm not allowed to sing them out loud. Goodness! I may have to go with something suited more for Mother's Day. Is there such a thing as a race-y song about mothers? Oh, no, that would really get me in trouble. If Mom were still here, I'd be in trouble just for putting the words "Mom" and "Race-y" in the same sentence!

Account status for April 2009: The checking balance, as of this writing, is \$3378.40 (down \$307 from last month) and savings is about \$2,663 (minor increase).

Membership Status: Family memberships are at 99 compared with 102 a year ago. No new members this month, but we lost a few due to attrition.

Membership Dues: Society dues are 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 can accept cash or checks. Songbooks: The Main Songbook has recently been revised and now includes music notation for all songs. The previous version included music notation for a limited number of songs only. This update was accomplished by combining the old "Main" and "Melody Line" songbooks into one, thereby eliminating the need to purchase both books separately in order to get everything. The new and improved Main Songbook is available to all members in good standing for \$25 each, a savings of \$10 compared to the previous cost of both books. Fiddle tunes are included in the Main Songbook, but a special "Fiddlers Edition" is still available as a separate supplement for \$15 each. See me at the meeting if you are in need of a new songbook.

The 2009 Blue River Folk Music Festival

This year it will be held on Saturday, May 16.

The workshop schedule and registration form are now on the festival's website: www.blueriverfolkfest.com



This year our instructors include Dan Landrum (hammered dulcimer), Don Pedi (mtn. dulcimer), Les Gustafson-Zook (autoharp), Bruce Greene (fiddle), Myra Dworski (mtn. dulcimer), Martha Richard (hammered dulcimer), and John Hall (guitar).

All festival events will be held at Town and Country Christian Church in Shelbyville. The workshops will begin at 9:00 AM, and the concert will start at 6:30 PM. The all-day admission price is still \$25 for those who pre-register, and that includes all workshops and the evening concert. If you would like to attend the concert only, the admission price after 3:30 is \$10. Food will be available on-site for purchase throughout the day. PLEASE NOTE: Portions of State Road 44 between Franklin and Shelbyville are scheduled to be closed. We will try to post updated driving directions on the website when that information becomes available.

Dave's Doodlings

By Dave Slates
Music Coordinator

Only one more month until the 35th Annual Eagle Creek Folk Festival! We ask for everyone's help in putting on another great festival. I am looking for a few good people to be set leaders, and workshop leaders.

This year we will have Dmitri Alano (Hogeye Navvy, Ennis Claire) giving two pennywhistle workshops, and running an Irish Session, up on the hill. In addition we are having Ann and Phil Case perform and give workshops. You may have heard Ann and Phil at Midwest Mandolin Festivals in years past. If you want info on them, check their website; dryrun.wso.net. We are excited to offer such talented performers, dedicated to folk and old-time music.

Of course, our own talented performers need to sign up to play with the Big Band, and as individuals and groups. The Big Band will open and close the festival; we need a strong turnout.

Another topic that has come up regarding the Big Band gigs is singing. We get a lot of good pickers at our gigs, but not enough singers. Even if you don't play an instrument we still need you to come and sing with us. There are several songs that have gestures (She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain, for one) that can't be done if you are playing. That's where singers can shine and encourage audience participation. Please singers; sign up for Big Band gigs!

This is an exciting time of year for CIFM&MDS so lets have some fun and play some music!

Dulcimer Doings By Lew Mastin

The Dulcimer Only Group (DOGS) has begun rehearsing our music for the Eagle Creek Folk festival. There will be NO emphasis on water music this year (remember the rain)! Meetings are monthly, each 2nd and 4th Wednesday at Robin Run Village, 5334 West 62nd St, in Indianapolis, and start at 7 PM. Come join the fun!

President's Message from page 1

If you have less than normal ability, you are actively discouraged from singing by the general public.

The rich tradition of American folk music is important to our individual and collective health. It passes on important lessons in life and history as I have said before. However, maybe more important is that it helps us stay in contact with our inner being (soul or spirit). The folk tradition has encouraged singing and playing by everyone. It has always put a much higher value on the spirit or soul of the rendition than on the technical proficiency of the performer. For this reason, I believe traditional music can be a positive influence in our culture.

The current trend of leaving the music to the professionals has a price. As individuals, blocking the natural expression of our spirit will produce internal pressure that will find expression. That expression is sometimes negative. I believe that it is one of the reasons for our high crime rates and high suicide rates among our youth. I understand that this sounds overly dramatic. However, please give it some thought.

I believe that we as a Society can make a positive contribution to Indianapolis and Indiana by promoting traditional music sung and played by everyday people. For that reason, we should be reaching out to everyone we can. I hope that this will include more young people. I am not exactly sure how we can accomplish this goal. However, I know it is at the heart of our mission. I have begun a discussion with the Board on ways to start. We would like input from all our membership as we explore the possibilities.

May's Musical Theme



Race-Y songs

2009 Musical Themes

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]

Gary Kiser Plays

The next opportunity to see Gary play live in public will be May 7th, downtown Indy at the Artsgarden. He starts at 12:15, the performance is free. Call 317-241-9020 for more information.

CIFM&MDS
P.O . Box 1503
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1503

Book'em Danno

We got "Five-OH's" schedule

Hi friends,

Short notice, but I think I forgot to send out our schedule for the spring quarter. Which means, we had one gig scheduled and I forgot about it.

This Tuesday, May 5th, Indy Contra Dance at the Athenaeum, 8-10. The caller is an old friend of ours, Barry Dupen, from Columbia City, IN. Barry is a caller of national renown, so you should attend just to hear him. You've heard us before. Right?

Five-OH! is:

Barb "Phil's Mom" Coleman -- fiddle

Fred "Evil Genius" Haver -- piano

Phil "Fuzz" Coleman -- guitar, mandolin, bodhran

Tim "Tim" Hoke -- mandothingeys, banjos, bones

STAMP HERE