

Central Indiana Folk Music & Mountain Dulcimer Society

News and Notes for Society Folks

Volume 2009, Issue 10

October 2009

October 2009 Meeting

Sunday October 11th, 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	Special Concert
3:00-4:00	Big Band Practice Workshops (see page 2)
4:00-5:00	Sharing Circle



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This Month's Message from the President

By Steve Kessinger

This will be the third in my messages on our Mission Statement. For those of you that are like me and can't recite it from memory, here it is again. I may get so I can recite it from memory if I continue to discuss it.

"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."

The question that I would like to investigate this month is: What are our charitable purposes? As I have said before, I think the educational purposes are pretty clear. We want to expose as many people as we can to traditional American music. But, the charitable purposes are not so clear to me.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines Charitable as:

1. Generous in giving money or other help to the needy.
2. Mild or tolerant in judging others; lenient.
3. Of, for, or concerned with charity: a charitable organization.

Let us look at the phrase "for the charitable purposes of promoting, perpetuating, and supporting traditional American music" through this dictionary definition. I think we fit into all three of the definitions. If we fit into either of the first two, we fit into the third. So I will provide my thoughts on the first two definitions.

1. Generous in giving money or other help to the needy.

President's message continued - Pg 3

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

Anybody know the lyrics to the Addams Family theme song? In October the Happy Harpers will be singing family songs. We will meet at the home of Cathy and John Platt at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 25. John and Cathy live at 13132 Cresswell Place in Fishers, and they can be reached at (317) 485-5010 or cpplatt@comcast.net for directions. Know the words to the Beverly Hillbillies theme? Maybe you have Andy Griffith's whistling stuck in your head? If so, then you will probably fit right in. The Happy Harpers welcome anybody interested in autoharps (which are really family friendly instruments). You are invited to come and join our autoharping family.

Money Bag\$

By Dave Wensits

The theme this month is Scary Songs in observance of Halloween. Being curious (and looking for something to write about), I have once again turned to Wikipedia. (Disclaimer: Wikipedia is a compilation of information anyone can contribute to, details could be questioned.) According to Wikipedia, "Halloween has origins in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain [pronounced: sah- wen]" at which the end of the harvest season is celebrated. Ancient Celtic pagans believed that "on October 31st ...the boundary between the living and the deceased dissolved, and the dead became dangerous for the living, causing sickness or damaging crops." The festivals frequently involved bonfires, costumes and masks, intended to placate the "evil spirits." The term Halloween, originally spelled Hallowe'en, is derived from "All Hallows' Even", a reference to the evening before All Hallows' Day. All Hallows' Day was "a day of religious festivities in various northern European pagan traditions until Popes Gregory III and Gregory IV moved the old Christian feast of All Saints' Day from May 13...to November 1. Although All Saints' Day is now considered to occur one day after Halloween, the two holidays were at that time celebrated on the same day." So, there you

have it, the background of Halloween.

Account status for September 2009: The checking balance is \$2771.01 (up \$42 from last month) and savings is \$2668.63 (negligible increase).

Membership Status: Family memberships are at 102 compared with 103 a year ago, down one from last month.

Membership Dues: Annual household membership dues remain 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 Main Songbook is 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 need either of these songbooks.

October Society Meeting Concert & Workshops!

Our October meeting, features Neal and Coleen Walters of "Doofus" in concert and giving workshops. Their concert will replace the performance hour; 2-3 pm and the workshops, on guitar and mt. dulcimer, from 3-4 pm.

Neal has been performing for more than 30 years. He sings and accompanies himself on the mountain dulcimer, guitar and autoharp. He was a member of the Mill Run Dulcimer Band and recorded eight albums with them. Currently he is a member of Doofus, joining his wife, Coleen, John and Heidi Cerrigione. Doofus has released four albums. Coleen is a nationally known quilter and she backs up Neal singing a low harmony and plays bass or percussion. You can view information about Neal and Coleen on their website, doofusmusic.com



Dave's Doodlings

By Dave Slates
Music Coordinator

Thanks to everyone who performed at the four Crestwood Big Band gigs. We had great crowd reactions at all the shows. A special thanks to Mike Raab for becoming a set leader, our newest set leader in fact! Great job Mike!

We can relax for just a short while, then get ready for our Mooresville Library gig on December 5th at noon. We will run through our Christmas music at the November meeting.

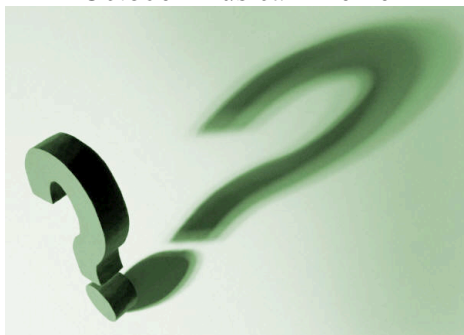
It is also time to think about next year's Board of Directors, and who would like to take the position as Music Coordinator. I have enjoyed being in this position for the last two years, but feel it is time for someone else to take over. Let me know if you would be interested

Keep practicing, see you at the meeting.

Guitar For Sale

Longtime Society member Janet Dodd is parting with her 1966 Gibson Southern Jumbo guitar. She has an asking price of \$699. Please direct your inquiries to her niece, Cathy Boyd, at 317-894-3659.

October Musical Theme



Scary Songs

President's Message from page 1

We do not normally provide money to the needy. However, we do provide help to the needy in several ways. The most obvious is the support and instruction we offer to those interested in learning to play and sing traditional music in traditional ways. Over the years, I have learned a great deal from other Society members formally and informally. The formal part is the many workshops that the Society has offered. But more often it has been informal. I learn by watching others play or discussing styles and techniques.

I believe the greatest gift we offer is the music itself. I know from the smiles I see when playing in the Big Band that the music and singing lift people out of the cares of everyday life. I know you understand this by your participation in the services at the VA hospital.

2. Mild or tolerant in judging others; lenient.

If we are committed to passing the torch of traditional music on to the next generation, we must be charitable in this way. After going through music lessons with all of my children, I know that a mild manner and a tolerant ear are required to bring out the best in a beginning musician. When I did not have those qualities, my young musicians were soured on the music or at least lost interest in playing.

The more experienced players and singers in our Society must be patient and encouraging to the beginners so that the tradition is passed on to others. It is not as much fun to take a tune a little slower or take the time to call out the chords, and it can be grating when someone is not in tune. But it is very rewarding to help someone make that step to the next level. Many of you have demonstrated a talent for helping others and I appreciate those that have helped me.

In the end, it is not just about the music. The heart of traditional music is having a good time. Traditional music is not meant to be played alone in a room. It is social music that lightens the loads of life and connects us to each other. Therefore, it is charitable by nature. If we miss this, it doesn't matter how good the music sounds.

**SPECIAL AUTOHARP-ONLY WORKSHOP
WITH NEAL WALTERS**

Saturday, October 10, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Autoharpers, we have a great opportunity to have a workshop with Neal Walters. It will begin at 6:30 PM at Cathy and John Platt's home at 13132 Cresswell Place in Fishers. They can be contacted at (317) 485-5010 or cpplatt@comcast.net.

We are asking that you pre-register and pre-pay. That way you'll ensure your spot is reserved and we will know how many chairs will be needed that evening. The cost is \$15.00 per person for the workshop. Get your reservation in early. You can pay Cathy or John Platt at the September 13th Dulcimer Society meeting or at the Happy Harpers meeting, September 27, or send your payment to: Cathy Platt 13132 Cresswell Place Fishers, IN 46037-7231

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided.

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

Society Name Modification Vote During
November Business Meeting

Heeding some membership input, the Board has approved a slight change to the options up for vote. As a reminder, the purpose for the discussion came from our Society's mission statement. It was considered possible that a "dulcimer society" may not be perceived to be a folk music society open to all types of traditional American music. If the name is changed, our society will still be officially known as the Central Indiana Folk Music and Mountain Dulcimer Society. Phil Slates proposed, and the board agreed, to have a Simple Majority vote at the November meeting. We will vote to do business as one of the following:

1. Indiana Folk Music Society
2. Central Indiana Folk Music and Mountain Dulcimer Society (no change)

The opportunity to vote will be advertised in the October and November newsletters, and comments are welcome.

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