

# Central Indiana Folk Music & Mountain Dulcimer Society

News and Notes for Society Folks

Volume 2009, Issue 9

September 2009

## September 2009 Meeting

Sunday September 13th, 2009

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

526 E 52<sup>nd</sup> St. (52nd & Central), Indianapolis

1:00 – 2:00	Board Meeting
	Slow Jam
2:00-3:00	<b>Performance Hour</b>
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! "Blow Ye Winds" in G
- 2 Happy Harpers / Money Bag\$ / Oct. Meeting concert
- 3 Dulcimer Doings/ Dave's Doodlings
- 4 Autoharp Workshop / Name Modification Vote

## This Month's Message from the President

By Steve Kessinger

As I talked about last month, I have been thinking about our mission statement. Again 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.*

Last month I looked at the question: What is traditional American music? As a result of my brief thoughts on that subject, several of you entered into an interesting discussion on the Yahoo site. Some of that discussion may appear in later editions of this newsletter as an article.

This month I will be continuing with the question: Are some instruments appropriate and others not? Our mission statement does not mention any instrument. But our name does: Central Indiana Folk Music and Mountain Dulcimer Society. Are we more about mountain dulcimers than hammered dulcimers? Of course not! I believe that it is just a way of including one of the more underappreciated folk instruments. Indeed we are not just about dulcimer music – we are about traditional American music.

Well then, would a trumpet be welcome at one of our meetings? I don't know, but I have never seen one at a meeting or performance. I do know that it is not commonly associated with "folk" music. However, it is part of traditional American music.

At the turn of the last century (1800-1900), most communities had a band that would give free

President's message continued - Pg 3

## Happy Harper's Happenings

By Christine Reneau

Oh, boy! Bratwurst, sauerbraten, schnitzel, sauerkraut, spätzle, and strudel. Are you ready for an Oktoberfest? On Sunday, September 27 at 2:00 PM the Happy Harpers will be in a German mood as we perfect our selection of German music. We will be meeting at the home of Linda McGlothlin who lives in Indianapolis at 6367 N. Parker Ave. Linda can be reached at (317) 257-6350 or mcglothlinl@stlukesumc.com for directions. We may allow a few spooky selections to creep in as well -- just to get ready for Halloween. So bring on the jack-o'laterns.

## Money Bag\$

By Dave Wensits

Can you believe it's September already? Yikes! Well, the theme this month is "work songs" to commemorate Labor Day. An interesting bit of trivia according to Wikipedia is that Labor Day actually originated in Canada out of labor disputes there back in the 1870's. It wasn't picked up by the Americans until labor leader Peter J. McGuire organized the first Labor Day celebration in New York in 1882, and it didn't become an official US holiday until it was voted into law in 1894. It seems that several workers had been killed by the US military and US Marshals during the Pullman strike and President Grover Cleveland and Congress were looking pretty bad to the public. So, eager to reconcile with labor, legislation designating the first Monday in September as Labor Day was rushed through Congress and signed into law in only 6 days (they can move fast if they want to). Most countries of the world, however, celebrate International Workers Day on May 1, better known as May Day.

Account status for August 2009: The checking balance, as of this writing, is \$2729.01 (up \$66 from last month) and savings is \$2667.52 (negligible increase).

Membership Status: Family memberships are at 103 compared with 105 a year ago, up 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 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 are in need of either of these songbooks.

### October Society Meeting Concert & Workshops!

At our October 11, 2009, society meeting, we will have Neal and Coleen Walters of "Doofus" playing a concert and giving workshops. The concert will take the place of the performance hour; 2-3 pm and the workshops from 3-4 pm.

Neal has been playing stringed instruments and performing for more than 30 years. He loves to sing and typically accompanies himself on the mountain dulcimer, guitar and autoharp but he also plays fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and bass. He was a member of the Mill Run Dulcimer Band for over 20 years and recorded eight albums with them. Currently he is a member of Doofus, joining his wife, Coleen, and Connecticut residents John and Heidi Cerrigione. Doofus has released four albums. Coleen is a nationally known quilter and when they play a duo concert, she backs up Neal singing a low harmony and plays bass or percussion.

If you'd like more information, contact Cathy Platt, 485-5010, . You can also view information about Neal and Coleen on their website, .



## Dave's Doodlings

By Dave Slates  
Music Coordinator

What a good time we had playing at the Indiana State Fair. All 36 of us played well and we all stayed together, and on the stage. As a set leader for a group that large, one's fear is that things will get out of control. Everyone did a fantastic job of paying attention to the music and following my leads. Bill Bailey wants us back next year for the same event.

September brings us our annual Crestwood Old Fashion Days gigs. They are every Saturday this month. East was on the 5<sup>th</sup>, North is the 12<sup>th</sup>, West the 19<sup>th</sup> and South on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The addresses are:

Crestwood Village West; □230 Welcome Way Blvd. □Indianapolis, IN 46214

Crestwood Village East; □1123 N. Edmondson Ave. □Indianapolis, IN 46219

Crestwood Village South; □8801 Madison Avenue □Indianapolis, IN 46227

Crestwood Village North; □9225 Garrison Drive □Indianapolis, IN 46240

I have confirmed our gig at Mooresville Library for Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at noon. That's it for this month. Keep it in tune.

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## Dulcimer Doings By Lew Mastin

The Dulcimer Only Group will meet at 7 PM on Wednesday August 12th and August 26th. The meetings are held at Robin Run Village on West 62nd Street.

Thanks to all "the DOGS" that played at the State Fair. Besides blending in with the Big Band, we did a fine job during our mini-set.

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September Musical Theme



President's Message from page 1

concerts. What would the patriotic marches be without trumpets? Still, trumpets don't seem right with the songs in our Society's song book.

You might think that trumpets and other brass instruments are rarely found in "folk" music because they are loud and could overpower the string instruments. As a banjo player, I know that there are many "traditional" instruments that can be quite loud and overpowering. Therefore, I don't think that is the reason for their absence.

There is a possibility that our understanding of what instruments are acceptable is related to how accessible the instruments were. A budding musician may not have had money for a trumpet. However, it was possible to build a banjo or fiddle out of common materials. Hence, the emergence of bedpan banjos and cigar box fiddles.

Our Society has not limited our welcome to string instruments. At most meetings there are also flutes, whistles, harmonicas, various percussion instruments, field organs and accordions as well as string instruments. Why brass instruments are not seen, I don't know. However, I would never bring my tuba to a meeting or performance instead of my string bass. The same goes for my sax instead of my mandolin.

Then there are electric instruments. We frequently talk of our Society promoting "traditional acoustic music". This implies that traditional music played on electric instruments is outside of our Society's interest, and I believe it is. This does not mean that there is something wrong with electric instruments. It only means that we are concerned with more than the songs and tunes. It seems that we care about preserving traditional performance of the music as well as the music itself.

I am again left feeling like the homemaker being asked why I cut off the ends of my ham before I bake it. I just don't have a good answer. I hope that you all can help me out. I know your thoughts on last month's topic showed we have some well-informed and thoughtful people in the Society.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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

The Name Modification Committee has made its recommendations, and it is making preparations to bring this to the membership 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 Society
3. Central Indiana Folk Music and Mountain Dulcimer Society (no change)

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

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