

# Central Indiana Folk Music & Mountain Dulcimer Society

News and Notes for Society Folks

Volume 2009, Issue 4

APRIL 2009

## April 2009 Meeting

Sunday April 12th, 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          |



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## February Message from the President

By Steve Kessinger

As I said last month, it has been a joy for me to take part in the Big Band performances. I also said that I would talk about the personal reasons it is a joy for me. I would like to do that this month along with the personal benefits of participating in our Society's activities.

When you are active in the society, you get to know the other members. Because we share an interest in traditional music and acoustic instruments, we have common ground for conversation. The conversation is often enough for me to enjoy my time at Society activities. However, sometimes that conversation leads to me making new friends, and friendship is an important component to a joyous life.

Playing and singing at our meetings or with the Big Band can contribute to musical growth. I am grateful for the opportunity to practice playing and learning new instruments in front of people. As I have said before, our Society is very supportive of people who risk trying new things at our meetings. But, I have also seen it with the Big Band performances. The support extends beyond trying new instruments. It could also be new songs or just trying new things on your main instrument. I am normally a chord player. However, I appreciate having a safe place to try playing the melody or singing. For some of us, having a safe place to learn how to share our music with others is a blessing.

Beyond these joys, the greatest joy for me is being able to serve our members and our community at

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

Hey Happy Harpers (and all autoharp admirers), what do the songs "Down By the Old Mill Stream", "Abraham, Martin, and John", "Hot Rod Lincoln", and "Angel Band" all have in common? Not sure? Then come to the next Happy Harpers meeting to find out. We will be meeting at the home of Cathy and John Platt at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 26. Cathy and John live at 13132 Cresswell Place in Fishers. They can be reached at [cpplatt@comcast.net](mailto:cpplatt@comcast.net) or (317) 485-5010 for directions. (Okay, here's a hint: think about May in Indy.)

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## **Money Bag\$**

By Dave Wensits

Well, it's April already and I'm looking forward to hearing the songs for this month's theme, Tomfoolery. Curious to learn the origin of that term, I Googled "Tomfoolery" and got this background from the Mavens' Word of the Day:

"Tomfoolery is, as you might guess, the behavior of a tomfool, that is, a foolish or stupid person; a silly fool'.

(I love this part.) A tomfool was originally Tom Fool, with Tom, a nickname from Thomas, being a stereotypical male given name. Tom was often used in personification before nouns, thus Tom Long 'a person who takes a long time to tell a story', or Tom Piper 'a piper' (this one is found in Spenser). Tom Fool is thus a sort of fourteenth-century equivalent of our modern Joe Cool."

So there you have it. All this time I thought I was another Tom Fool and it turns out I'm really another "Joe Cool." Who'd a thought?! Now, when I go around acting foolish it's really cool. Uh, did I miss something?

Account status for March 2009: The checking balance is about \$3,685 (up \$353 from last month) and savings is about \$2,662 (minor increase).

Actual end of month balances will vary slightly due to unaccounted business as of this writing.

Membership Status: Family memberships are at 103 compared with 102 a year ago including new members Richard and Phyllis McVicker. Please

introduce yourselves when you get the chance and make our new friends feel welcome.

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 only.

Other: You can help save the society postage and printing costs by getting the newsletters via email only. Please let me and/or Phil Slates know. If that is not an acceptable option for you, we will be happy to continue sending a paper copy via USPS.

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## **The 2009 Blue River Folk Music Festival**

This year it will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009. The complete workshop schedule and registration form are now on the festival's website:  
[www.blueriverfolkfest.com](http://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 (beginning mid-March). We will try to post updated driving directions on the website when that information becomes available.

## Dave's Doodlings

By Dave Slates  
Music Coordinator

What a great time we had at The Ohio Valley Gathering over the weekend of March 27<sup>th</sup>.

I want to thank everyone who played in the Big Band on Saturday night. We played very well and with high spirits. I thought it was great that the audience started clapping along during "Saints". There were some excellent workshops on dulcimer (both types), guitar, pennywhistle, steel drum, fiddle, mandolin, harmonica and others. Jerry Chapman and Mandolindy lead a mandolin workshop, while Greg O'Haver gave a guitar capo workshop. The OVG is scheduled for the end February next at the same hotel in Lexington Ky.

We have a new gig on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We play the Riley Arts & Crafts Show and Cruise-in at the Hancock County 4-H fairgrounds in Greenfield, from 1-2PM. The event is indoors this year, and I understand there will be a stage. We also have a service at Veterans Hospital on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Eric Fricke will lead us in that service and will announce a time to arrive at the upcoming meeting. Signing up to play at Eagle Creek is earlier this year so get your forms turned in. I also need volunteers for set leaders and workshops  
See you at the meeting

## April's Musical Theme



*Tomfoolery*

### 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 April will be on the 8th and the 22nd.

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large. Seeing the smiling faces in the audience as the Big Band performs is a high for me. It is even better when the audience is singing along with the band. This joy is compounded when you serve the membership by volunteering for our Society's events. This helps spread the joy to others.

I hope you will join me in taking advantage of the opportunities our Society provides for personal growth and fulfillment.

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### *Bluegrass In The Garden @ Arthur's Music Store*

You're invited to jam on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month 6pm-9pm

If the weather is nice, we host the jam in the gardens and courtyard behind Arthur's Music. If it's raining or a bit chilly, we move stuff around and have the jam right in the middle of the store.

Our garden offers perennial flowers that bloom from early March to late in November. The pickers generally congregate on the central patio, while listeners sit in lawn chairs or on blankets in the grass under the largest Chestnut Oak tree in Indiana. A beautiful setting to hear some great music! Well-behaved dogs are welcome!

The problem we have most often is getting people to leave at the end of the evening! We don't have a permanent upright bass player for the jams, so any and all are welcome!

Any bluegrass player of any skill level is encouraged and welcome to come! Arthur's is a member and longtime supporter of the CIFM&MDS.

Arthur's Music Store  
931 Shelby St.  
Historic Fountain Square  
Indianapolis, IN 46203  
317.638.3524 o  
317.263.3774 f

## **2009 Musical Themes**

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]

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### **Gary Kiser Plays**

The next opportunity to see Gary play live in public will be May 7<sup>th</sup>, 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

## **Calling All Instrument Makers**

I am trying to find instrument makers who are interested in demonstrating and displaying at the annual Metamora Old Time Music Festival. This year it is Saturday and Sunday September 5 & 6. We offer free workshops and performances, open to the public. Last year, with the participation of Jon Kay and Traditional Arts Indiana, we initiated an area called "Making Music", intended to showcase local and regional instrument makers. We would like to find craftspeople who, for a little travel money and a meal, would be willing to come and share their work and knowledge with our festival's attendees.

We can provide space; product can be sold that is related directly to the event/display. Call Al Rogers at 765-647-2194 if you would like more information.

Gail Ginther

Historic Metamora, Inc metamora@gmail.com

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