

# TIMES SIGNATURE

## Opus I Music Society

October 2020

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### KAREN'S KORNER



Fall is now here! Temperatures are getting chillier, the sky is changing along with the trees starting to change to beautiful colors! My maple tree in the front yard is starting to turn a brilliant shade of red!

Living in a pandemic world can be stressful at times but yet causes us to be creative with how we get things done at the same time. I don't know if that is a blessing or a hindrance and will reserve a ruling on that for a later time! We will continue to take being quarantined one step at a time!

We are having a virtual meeting in October. Kathy Kemerer will present *Music in the White House, Part III, 1901 - 1961*. This promises to be an enjoyable and interesting presentation! You will find the link to this meeting is on page 3.

And as always, "Let There Be Music!"

Karen



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



### Opus I News

To my dear Opus I Music Society members and friends,

Oh, how I miss being together for our Opus I club meetings and all the fellowship, entertainment and education we shared! Until we can meet in person, we will have to use the technology available to keep in touch and to have our programs. If it's like other organizations, we may have more people involved that way than we have had at the church.

Hopefully, all of you will "attend" the programs we have planned for the coming months. "See" you at 10am on October 12th !! Two days after that meeting, Boscov's is offering its "Friends Helping Friends" program and as you see, you can shop in person OR on-line. This is our only fundraiser for our annual scholarship so please consider doing some of your Christmas shopping early and be sure to list Opus I Music Society as the organization to receive your 5% when you check out. If you choose, instead, to make a donation to our scholarship fund, please make out checks to "Opus I" and send to Linda Maurhoff, Treasurer. Any financial help is greatly appreciated!

Speaking of Linda, we can only add our deepest gratitude for the 4 years she served as the PFMC president and we do so with great pride in our founder and faithful member for almost 30 years. Yes, she founded Opus I in May of 1991, so we need to find a way to celebrate next May!! See the attached photos from the PFMC virtual convention that was held on Sept. 18th . Good job, Linda!!

Do take care of yourselves, your families and friends and your students as we continue to survive these unprecedented times. Reading the "Member News" included here makes me SO proud of the way you have adapted to the life we must live right now. DO keep in touch and keep making music!!!

Ruth Ann



## OCTOBER MEETING INFORMATION!

*Our Course of Study Program Continues With...*



### Music at the White House, Part III (1901 - 1961)

Presented by  
Kathy Kemerer

The October online meeting of Opus I will include the third part of our series based on Elise K. Kirk's book "Music at the White House: A History of the American Spirit." Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt and concluding with Dwight D. Eisenhower, we'll hear of the "keyboard with the voice of a mosquito," the president who rehearsed with the Marine Band, the first lady who said "Music, when it is great, belongs to the world," and the president who proclaimed (after seeing Wagner's opera "Parsifal") "I haven't recovered from that siege of grand opera yet." Did you know that one U.S. president received the Great Golden Mozart Medal of the city of Salzburg? Did you know that one president had a unique collection of autographed manuscripts, including two books of Schubert songs, first editions with composer's signature? Join us to learn more!

Here is the link to join Opus I meeting via Zoom on October 12, 2020 at 9:45 am. Tatiana Sinelnikova will be a Zoom host.

Just click on the link: <https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96502521239?pwd=UmRXZE9WclFXMWNBdnFIRmNZNnVYQT09>



Many thanks to Tatiana Mester and Tatiana Sinelnikova for providing us with this platform to meet!

# MEMORIES OF OUR PFMC MEETING HONORING LINDA MAURHOFF!



*Thank you Linda!*

As you all know, Linda Maurhoff has just finished her four year term as President of PFMC. She was honored for her service to PFMC on September 18, 2020 at the PFMC Board Meeting. Linda has also served for many years as Treasurer and various other capacities.



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**FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS!**

**Congratulations**  
**You're Registered!!!**



**October 14 & 15th 9am-9pm**

**You  
Receive**

**5%**

**Of Your Customers Total Purchase Price**  
when they mention your name at the register in-store  
or during checkout online.



## MEMBER NEWS!



Susan Cooper

What I did? Coffee and a crossword puzzle every morning while sitting on the dock at the lake. (Susan lives in Beaver but has a lovely place on Chautauqua Lake in NY!!)

Tatiana Mester

Tatiana Sinelnikova, HS senior, has been very busy. Once again, she attended Harvard Summer School but this time online. She successfully completed an undergraduate, four credit Linear Algebra course. She continues to take another undergraduate math class this Fall from Harvard, in addition to her school work.

My husband, Alexander Sinelnikov, had an unexpected change of jobs and once again, a change of states. This time it happened due to the pandemic. The good news is that he is now a professor of Biology and Chairman of Forensic Science at Indiana Institute of Technology.

I moved permanently to teaching online, even though I still pay for my commercial space for another twelve months. However, with all the challenges, it is the safest thing to do.

We are all listening to classical music via YouTube, finding there one masterpiece after another and watching ballets, operas, and old movies.

Dorothy Meeder

The Opus 1 newsletter is so informative and interesting! Thank all of you for it! My life has been almost normal except for church and my wonderful choir!! Singing in church is missing also! It is a really large vacuum! Participating in music is so much more rewarding than being a spectator! Tickets for Carmen also became another musical loss!! The aviation community at the Zelenople airport has continued after two months off! My secretarial duties for the Condor Aero Club have continued and keep me busy. The COVID was an issue for a couple of months (still an issue with a few) but new members continue to join and must be activated by a couple of us! The office of secretary for flying members is interesting and fun most of the time!! I miss all of you and hope we can be together soon! Unfortunately I've missed a lot of Opus meetings because of flying duties but I hope to rectify that in the future!!

Jeannie Allen

I am giving virtual piano lessons and have 4 students who come to my house. I play for church Sunday mornings. I have a luncheon and Bible study in my home Wednesdays.

Phyllis Smouse

We walk daily. At noon each day, Bob and I are reading the Bible together (91 Weeks w/ Pastor John Soper) and praying. Organizing 50 years of family photos. Finishing a 1000 piece puzzle that I started with a granddaughter in June. Helping to distribute lunch and breakfast to kids and families on the Northside. Reading more books- several recommendations regarding racial inequity- Just Mercy, Divided by Faith; organized our CD's for listening inspiration - Handel's Messiah, Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, Les Miserables 25th Anniversary Concert; even some Tennessee Ernie Ford and John Denver! Hooked up the old VCR to enjoy West Side Story and The Sound of Music. We also stay encouraged by virtual worship at our church and our children's churches. I encourage you to listen to The Pittsburgh Blessing on YouTube if you haven't already! We are thankful for summer visits with family- virtually and in person. Enjoyed our granddaughters' zoom piano recital in May. This is the first year that all 7 grandchildren are taking instrumental lessons!! FaceTime is great to hear and see their progress!



## AND MORE MEMBER NEWS!!



Virginia (Ginny) Netchi

Being part of the music scene and playing a flute (greatest potential of all instruments to spew into the surrounding air!) is important and it has been a good time for practicing. Although I have been asked to play for a church and I play in a quintet, I have made the decision to hold off engaging until the virus pattern stabilizes. My responsibilities with the Butler Symphony also are at a standstill as planning how to go forward in our season is being contemplated.

Listening to music helps to calm the noise in my head from all the Pandemic problems. Baroque music is a wonderful centering tool for me. Also, music from the American Song Book.

Because I love to mess with food, I have done a lot of cooking. Found a couple new recipes to put in the rotation and that's a good thing. I designate them "Pandemic Food Discoveries".

We had to have some landscaping repair done and keeping the ground adequately moistened has afforded yet another tedious distraction for a week or so...In the process, I will probably grow taller as well, since adjusting the water invariably affords me a drenching! It also feels that this moment forces our hand, as it were, regarding those things that always need our attention: family, friends, faith, gratitude for just about everything in our lives! For that matter, CoVid itself, has afforded me this space in time.

Jessica Wood

With the "extra" time I had early this spring, I planned an ambitious garden and grew many tomatoes and peppers that cannot be found at the local supermarket as well as other unique produce. My students' families have greatly enjoyed swinging outside and watching the plants grow as the kids are inside having a lesson. As a bonus, I was able to attract a nesting pair of Baltimore Orioles all summer and enjoyed both the male and female visiting my homemade feeder that I placed directly outside my window! Thanks to technology I have been able to stay connected to all my students, offering virtual lessons to those not comfortable with lessons in my studio. Music making has not ceased in my neck of the woods!

Sue Stevenson

I have been at home, with my husband of 44 years as of July!! He has many serious illnesses despite looking totally well and fit, so we don't get out much. We did go to Georgia in June to help our son build a deck. They love it and so do our 2 grandsons! We also traveled up to Presque Isle twice and just walked the beaches. And when I get down and tired of all this Virus folderol, I turn on my radio and I am instantly healed with music! What a blessing!! (RA's note: I had to look up 'folderol' and see it is defined as "trivial or nonsensical fuss").

Karen Douglass

We are keeping safe by going out only when we have to, wearing masks and social distancing. While at home we have been busy! Danny is building a deck out back...it's a pretty big one and he is almost done! There are a few finishing touches and then we put on the stain. I have been keeping busy with sewing and quilting. The sewing is really a great deal of mending which I HATE to do! That's why it takes so long to get done! I have a few quilting projects that I've been working on. They are small ones...two wall hangings for the Christmas season and a few table linens for the Fall season. I'm keeping busy with my music also. I'm working on a Mozart piece right now and in October I plan to start a Melody Bober piece.



## AND YET MORE MEMBER NEWS!!!

Craig Zinger

I have been incredibly busy. Although the pandemic has slowed in-person lessons, I think it has presented music teachers, particularly voice instructors, with a terrific opportunity to expand into the national market. Additionally, I've changed my focus from performing live events, to creating a lot of online content for YouTube. How's that? Kindest regards. (RA note: You've got to hear Craig's 50 second arrangement of the "Monday Night Football Theme" at <https://youtube/4IX8d4LVJRA> Used with his permission!!)

Glenn Utsch

I currently have 9 piano majors majoring in music education, music therapy, performance, or Bachelor of Arts in Music. My private lessons are taught face to face, but we wear masks and sanitize the 2 grand pianos in my office for each student. I teach two large sections of class piano this semester. However, I split each section into three parts: the Monday group, the Wednesday group, and the online group which joins the face to face group via Zoom on Wednesdays. We call this multi-modal teaching. I have to address all of their pianistic needs which is a real challenge and I record each session. By posting the video, my students who are not able to attend class can watch the video on their own time. I am also teaching some private piano lessons through Zoom. In December, I am going to resume teaching a Japanese student (back in Japan) that I had for piano last year at SRU. She is a very good pianist and I want to continue to help her in her piano study. I also teach a multi-modal Keyboard Improvisation class. All in all, I find teaching during Covid more stressful and more demanding. Every two weeks, my class piano students submit a video of themselves playing required materials so I spend a lot of time assessing these many videos. In the precious time I have left, I enjoy learning new classical, jazz, and ragtime pieces. When Covid is over, I will probably look back and discover how much my teaching style has changed due to using more technology and using it more effectively.

Anna Maharg

Things closed down quickly, and they say necessity is the mother of invention. I did nothing as successful, but I adapted my music studio and my yoga teaching to technology. Rapidly, and extremely terribly at first, with lots media glitches and a steep learning curve of which I plummeted over the edge. The music was there along the way, maybe with poor sound quality, and often times with me squinting at the low quality video of keys, but still continuing. We all learned. The panic and social with-draw, I sorted out while running with my cheerful dog alongside. We chased miles and miles, along with several squirrels. I ran while following a training plan with the dedication of an Olympian, who also enjoys pizza and beer. Somehow by the time summer came, we were still running and in better spirits for it. I taught yoga classes anywhere with something interesting in the background. I dragged my horse into the camera view, geese, chickens, ducks too...anything to make this girl doing yoga more fun, and entertaining. The wonderful part was the unexpected four homeless kittens I took into my care. They were bottle fed, socialized, weened, litter trained and found "fur"-ever homes by the start of June. While I worried over the universe out of my control - four little motors purring, making a different kind of music, reminded me I was needed and loved anyway. In case I felt like God forgot my little studio, he bubble wrapped me in furry care and affection. My studio is functional on multiple platforms! Oh, and I still am on that learning curve, so thank you for keeping me in the loop at OPUS I.





## AND EVEN MORE MEMBER NEWS!!!!

Chris Toth

Thanks for reaching out, it is really nice to hear about other members and how they are doing! I am doing well. Never have my family's closets been so organized, plants been so watered and patio been so used! I stopped teaching for a couple months but have resumed with cyber lessons - it has its challenges but works better than I expected. I really miss singing in our church choir but I do take comfort in playing and singing at home; just can't convince the dog to sing the soprano parts!

Daphne Maddix

I stopped giving piano lessons mid March and stayed home most of the Spring and Summer. I kept busy and hopefully sane, taking daily walks with two grandsons who stay with us, practicing Beethoven piano sonatas, gardening, helping in my husband's business, sudoku, and trying to ignore the awful daily political and health news. I started giving piano lessons again in mid June when we passed into the green phase. As an ex nurse, developing and implementing very safe procedures for me and my students was not too difficult, and the students got used to it quickly. I am now back to teaching 5 days a week, 3 days in person and 2 days via Zoom.

Margie Rinaman

I've kept busy, doing what!! I do confess that I've been a party gal this summer! All of course are family oriented! Party here, party there. Family invited me to go camping with them. I've been teaching piano here at home all summer, and now the school season! Just recently, my dear old girlfriend from 5 yrs., up to Highschool, and my neighbor to boot, passed away (up to Heaven). I could not visit her at St. Barnabas (due to pandemic) but my daughters fixed me up with Facetime, and I was able to look at her and visa versa. With hours left on earth, she opened her eyes, I said a few words (memories) and I sang "Amazing Grace" to her. My heart was thrilled that I could say "Good-bye" to her! Another blessing, I am the pianist at "Lifepointe" for the 8 and 9:30 services. My testimony for Jesus is in my fingertips, playing hymns while glorifying God! I forgot to mention the word puzzles. They've been a part of my diet! JOY!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

October 12, 2020

A Course of Study Program

*Music in the White House*

Part III: 1901-1961

Presented by: Kathy Kemerer and Friends

Location: Will be presented virtually, the link is on page 3

Program: 9:45 AM

November 9, 2020

In recognition of American Music Month

*American Composer Amy Cheney Beach*

Location: Will be presented virtually, the link is to come

Program 9:45 AM

December 14, 2020

To Be Announced

January 2021

Happy New Year!

Opus I takes the month off!

