

TIMES SIGNATURE

Opus I Music Society

December 2022

OPUS I LEADERSHIP

Kathy Kemerer

President

724-996-5859

KathyKemerer04@gmail.com

Jessica Wood

Vice President

724-730-1031

jessicawoodmusicstudio@
outlook.com

Linda Maurhoff

Treasurer

724-625-1761

lindamarhoff
@consolidated.net

Kathy Csellar

Recording Secretary

724-443-0237

kcsellar@consolidated.net

Ruth Ann McChesney

Federation Secretary

724-772-1063

pfmcrum@hotmail.com

Karen Douglass

Newsletter Editor

724-612-5678

karenjdouglass@gmail.com



KAREN'S KORNER

My goodness! Christmas Day is almost here and the season is upon us! Whew! December is a month of celebrations of both the secular and Christian kind. Parties, family get-togethers, gift giving, cookie baking and all sorts of other cooking and baking. The Christian Church celebrates Advent and the birth of Jesus.

And let us not forget giving to and doing for others. Here at Opus I we will be doing just that. This month we will be putting together a craft for the residents at the Concordia Assisted Living Facility on Rt. 228. We expect to have a lot of fun with this as we will be singing carols with accompaniment by Linda Maurhoff. More information can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

And don't forget...as always "Let There Be Music!"

Karen



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK !



Presidential Ponderings

Calling all Opus I members who love to sing, make crafts, or play a flute or recorder! The December meeting is continuing our latest yearly trend of singing carols and making ornaments for nursing home residents. The "flute choir" will be a pickup group, so if you have a flute or recorder bring it along.

Our next Opus I meeting will be on Monday, December 12, 2022, in the choir room of Life-Pointe Alliance Church. The social time begins at 9:30 am, and the meeting begins at 10:00 am. You don't have to bring an instrument to be crafty :-). Sue Stevenson will bring craft materials to keep us busy.

At the November meeting, we learned of the very generous donations to Opus I by Mary Heagy and Ruth Ann McChesney. Thank you both so much! Our treasury and scholarship fund are doing well.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on December 12 to help make the ornaments for the nursing home residents. We'll also get to enjoy some holiday goodies and music!

Kathy Kemerer



DECEMBER MEETING INFORMATION !

JOIN US AT OUR DECEMBER MEETING!



Christmas Crafts and Music !

Presented by

Sue Stevenson

December 12, 2022

LifePointe Alliance Church

Music Room

Registration and Refreshment: 9:30 AM

Program: 10:00 AM



Our creative member, Sue Stevenson, has come up with a wonderful craft for us to do on December 12, 2022 at the next Opus I meeting. See the sample photo of the tree made from sheet music on a stick, with ribbon and pine cones on the bottom and glittery stars, stickers and even a small angel to put on the top. Hopefully we can make enough to take to Concordia on the 13th , and maybe some for ourselves!

PLEASE come and help this project. Besides the craft, we'll have a sing-along of favorite carols and holiday songs and Sue has suggested we bring our recorders (of any sort, even the "old black ones"), flutes or other instruments to play along! Linda Maurhoff has agreed to lead us from the piano! Share your JOY by spending 2 hours with your musician friends and family!



****Masks Are Optional!****



See you there!

MEMORIES OF OUR NOVEMBER MEETING !



What an amazing, interesting and educational program Allen Kitchen shared with the 18 folks at Opus I on November 14, 2022! Thank you, Allen, for your preparation and excellent presentation!



Among many other stories about the roots of black sacred music, we heard about composer Thomas Dorsey (1899-1993) who, in the winter of 1932, while on the road performing, received word of the death of his wife, Nettie, in childbirth, with the newborn dying the next day. The experience so transformed Dorsey creatively and spiritually, that legend has it that he composed his most famous gospel song, "Take My Hand Precious Lord," during a mourning service that very week. He died in 1993 at the ripe old age of 94, but the memory of his wonderful songs, both gospel and blues, will live on and on.

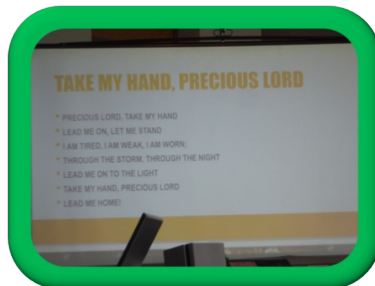


The other composer Allen highlighted is Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933), born of slave parents, but was self-educated, learning English, Greek and Hebrew. In 1875, he took correspondence courses toward becoming a Methodist minister. Under his leadership, the church grew rapidly. He and his wife, Daisy, relocated in 1904 to the East Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church, then again in 1924 to the new Tindley Temple, where the membership roll blossomed to about ten thousand. Tindley was a noted songwriter and composer of gospel hymns and is recognized as one of the founding fathers of American gospel music. Five of his hymns appear in the 1989 United Methodist Hymnal. His composition "I'll Overcome Someday" is credited by observers to be the basis for the U.S. Civil Rights anthem "We Shall Overcome." Another of his notable hymns is "Take Your Burden to the Lord and Leave It There" (1916), has been recorded by numerous artists in a variety of styles. Others are "Stand by Me" (1905) and "What Are They Doing in Heaven?" (1901).



Not only did Allen demonstrate the song themes on the piano (in numerous keys), but he had us all do "Hand Clapping and Foot Stomping", popular in the 1930's! What fun we had and we're sorry more of you were not there to learn and enjoy this wonderful program. Maybe Allen will present it again somewhere!

AND MORE MEMORIES OF NOVEMBER !





SACRED MUSIC CONCERT !



The Sacred Music Choir 2022 will present two concerts of sacred Christmas choral, organ and instrumental music featuring works by Dello Joio, Powell, Sowerby, and Bach in addition to traditional carol arrangements. The 12 voice non-denominational choir is directed by Daryl Kemerer and accompanied by Kathy Kemerer.

The first concert is on Friday evening, December 9, 2022 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary of Saint Peter's Anglican Church, 218 E. Jefferson St., Butler, and the second concert is on Saturday afternoon, December 10 at 3:00 pm in the historic Brush Creek-Salem U. C. C., 113 Altar Lane, Irwin, PA.

The concerts are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call Kathy Kemerer (724) 996-5859.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT !



PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR YEARBOOKS:

Kay Kress
504 Wilshire Circle
Seven Fields, PA 16046 7831

Phone: 412-716-9100
Email: kaymkress@gmail.com





MEMBER NEWS !



Our dear friend and long-time member of Opus I, Margie Rinaman, fell in her basement on 11/18 and laid on the cold cement floor for 12 hours until her daughter found her and she was transported to Passavant Hospital. She had surgery on 11/20 for a broken femur, close to her hip, and recuperated there until being transferred to St. John's Specialty Services for rehab. She is weak and in pain and her family has requested no visitors, (as of this writing 11/30). Prayers for healing are needed and cards would encourage her heart. Send to: St. John's, 500 Wittenberg Way, Room 213, Mars, PA 16046.

Sue Stevenson (and Craig) were all set to drive to Wheaton, IL to celebrate their precious granddaughter's first birthday (Dec. 1) until they were informed on 11/28 that the whole family had the COVID virus and the trip was canceled. What a disappointment and we do hope that a belated birthday trip can be made soon.

Daryl (Director) and Kathy (accompanist) Kemerer remind us of their 2022 Sacred Music Choir concerts: 7:30 Dec. 9th at St. Peters, 218 E. Jefferson St., Butler, and 3:00 Dec. 10th Brush Creek U. C. C. 113 Altar Lane, Irwin. The choral and instrumental music includes works by Bach, Dello Joio, Sowerby, and traditional carols. The concerts are free and open to the public. Receptions will follow both concerts.

Sue Stevenson and Ruth Ann visited Concordia Assisted Living center on Rt. 228 in November to do a sing-along and devotions and had 28 ladies in the parlor! They are very much looking forward to our return on Dec. 13, 2022 so we need ALL of you to come to the Opus I meeting on the 12th to make the craft we'll deliver the next day!

Phyllis Smouse's pumpkin treat was such a hit at Opus I that people want the recipe. Hope Phyllis will share, or bring copies to the next meeting!

Nancy Johnson was all ready to come to the December Opus I meeting but found a water leak in her basement that needed prompt attention that morning. She wrote of her disappointment, and we're sorry, too, but she was just glad she found it before more damage was done. Hope she can come in December.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR !



December 12, 2022

*Opus I Club Meeting - Christmas Crafts and Music
Presented by Sue Stevenson*

Come and lend a hand as we make Christmas Decorations for a local
Assisted Living Facility

Where: LifePointe Alliance Church,

When: 9:30 AM Registration and Refreshment
10:00 AM Program



****MASKS ARE OPTIONAL****



January, 2022

Opus I takes the month off and there will be no club meeting

February 13, 2023

*Opus I Club Meeting - The Great American Songbook: Love Songs
Presented by - Linda Maurhoff*

Where: LifePointe Alliance Church,

When: 9:30 AM Registration and Refreshment
10:00 AM Program



OUR MAILING ADDRESS

Linda Maurhoff; Treasurer, Opus I Music Society; 203 Downieville Rd.; Valencia, PA 16059