

# TIMES SIGNATURE

## Opus I Music Society

December 2023

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### KAREN'S KORNER



December is the month where Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Also, there is much secular celebration, activities, and busyness going on. We decorate our properties both inside and out and we are baking cookies as if tomorrow isn't coming. I think December is the busiest month of the year!

Here at Opus I we are busy serving others. This month we will be crafting Christmas decorations for a local assisted living facility. Come and join us on Monday, December 11, 2023 for the fun! Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the festivities begin at 10:00 AM. I hope to see you all there!

And as always, *Let there be music!*

Karen



## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK !**



### **Presidential Ponderings**

As I write this, I am watching the snow falling and the old North Wind is blowing us right back into winter again. But we will brush off this little nip of Jack Frost and meet on Monday, December 11 at 9:30 am in the choir room of LifePointe Alliance Church. It will be a joyful time of holiday songs led by Margie Rinaman and crafting ornaments organized by Sue Stevenson. As always, we welcome guests to our meetings and fellowship, so please come and consider inviting a friend to help with our crafting ornaments to cheer local nursing home residents this holiday season!

The Opus I board has been casting about for fund raising ideas, as I have written about before in earlier newsletters. While we have done fairly well at Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser, it is my concern as to how long that store will be in business. I believe it would be in our best interest to start to develop another way to raise money for the scholarship fund, and we are investigating the possibility of having an afternoon summer music camp (just for one day) for music students. It will not likely happen this summer, but I'm looking forward to the feasibility of hosting a camp in 2025. If you would like to serve on a committee to develop this music camp, or have other fund raising ideas, please contact me or one of the board members.

See you soon!  
Kathy Kemerer

[kathykemerer04@gmail.com](mailto:kathykemerer04@gmail.com)

## **DECEMBER MEETING INFORMATION !**



***JOIN US AT OUR DECEMBER MEETING !***



Inspiration Provided  
By  
Nancy Johnson

IA reading of "Twas The  
Night Before Christmas"  
by Clement C. Moore.  
By  
Karen Douglass

### **Music Is...CRAFTY!**

Workshop Presented by  
Sue Stevenson

Music Presented by  
Margie Rinaman

December 11, 2023

Hospitality Provided  
By  
Linda Maurhoff  
And  
Joyce Moon Strobel



LifePointe Alliance Church  
Music Room



Registration and Refreshment: 9:30 AM

Program: 10:00 AM

Come and lend a hand as we make Christmas Decorations for a local Assisted Living Facility. There will be carols to sing, poems to be read, good food, and great fun and fellowship!



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

*See you there!*



## MEMORIES OF OUR NOVEMBER MEETING !



Opus I had one of its largest attendances at the November 13th meeting and enjoyed delicious refreshments by Margie Rinaman and Kay Kress and an Inspirational Moment by Sue Stevenson.



The program, "Music is.....All American", was presented by Ruth Ann McChesney to celebrate NFMC's "American Music Month" as well as Veterans' Day. With Joyce Moon Strobel at the piano, the histories of songs like "Yankee Doodle Dandy", "My Country, 'tis of Thee", "You're a Grand Old Flag", "God Bless America" and 5 more were discussed and then the lyrics were sung! It was fun to realize George Cohan did not name his piece "You're a Grand Old RAG", and to sing "Be Kind to your web-footed friends" to the tune of "Stars and Stripes Forever"!



The conclusion was all standing to sing "God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood. Two special American compositions included were those written by our own Joyce: Ballad and Epilogue from "A Piano Suite" she wrote in 1988 and "We Are the Church" in 1983 and a new text in 1994 with emphasis on music and the arts!



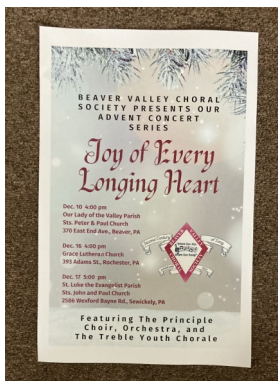
Ruth Ann admits she learned a lot in all the research and thoroughly enjoyed presenting the program.

Fun!!





## MEMBER NEWS !



Susan Cooper who goes to Park Presbyterian Church in Beaver, encourages folks to go to the December 10th concert "Light into Darkness" which is given for Ukraine relief. She also sings in the Beaver Valley Choral Society and their concerts are listed in the photos.

The Opus I board and members collected \$310 and it was wired to our member, Samuel Quinto in Brazil, to help his financial situation with health and other expenses. Here is his response: "I want to apologize for taking so long to respond to you and everyone at Opus I. I received the gift you sent me and it helped me a lot! God bless you all! Thank you very much!!! Samuel"

Joyce Moon Strobel composed a "Suite on Easter Hymns" for Trumpet and Piano and it was presented on November 14th at the Tuesday Musical Club program highlighting the Composers' Division. Soloist was Christopher Cox with Joyce at the piano. It was SO well done and highly acclaimed by the audience. Congratulations, Joyce, on an excellent composition and presentation!

Member, Kathy Kelso, sang in the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale's 3 concerts, "Sounds of the Season" on Dec. 1st, 2nd and 3rd !

Ruth Ann McChesney sang in the new chorus formed to perform with the Butler County Symphony Orchestra at its December 2nd performance of "Holiday Traditions: Christmas at the Movies". The "Grinch Medley" was NOT easy!!

Anyone with suggestions or ideas for Opus I programs for the 2023-2024 year, please make them known to Ruth Ann.

More Opus I members performing soon: Mary Kitchen will play 2nd violin in the orchestra of ACTS (Adoring Christ Through Song) and Allen Kitchen will play bass in concerts Sat., December 9th, 7pm at Mt. Chestnut Presbyterian Church, Old Rt. 422, Mt. Chestnut and Sunday, December 10th, 3pm, and Center Presbyterian Church, Slippery Rock.



# **CHRISTMAS CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM KATHY KEMERER !**



St. Peter's Anglican Church, 218 E. Jefferson St., Butler is hosting a Christmas concert consisting of organ, guitar, and string ensembles, and a carol sing on Friday, December 15th, at 7:30 pm.



## **WE HAVE A NEW FACEBOOK GROUP !**



To help spread the word and stay connected with one another between Opus I meetings, we now have an updated Facebook group! If you use Facebook, please find us and join. Any member can make a musical post on the group page to encourage and inspire others.

You can use this URL to find us: [www.facebook.com/groups/opusonemusic](http://www.facebook.com/groups/opusonemusic) (copy and paste into your browser!)

Happy Networking and thanks for helping us advertise to others how wonderful the Opus I Music Society is! See you there!

**facebook**





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR !



### December 11, 2023

*Music Is...Crafty*

*Presented by Sue Stevenson*

*Music Presented by Margie Rinaman*

Where: LifePointe Alliance Church in the Music Room

When: 9:30 AM Registration and Refreshment

10:00 AM Program



### December 15, 2023

*A Christmas Concert of Instrumental Music and Song*

Where: St. Peter's Anglican Church

218 E. Jefferson St., Butler

When: 7:30 PM

*Merry  
Christmas*

**January 2024** - No meeting this month

### February 12, 2024

*Music Is...Science*

*Presented by Nadine and Tessa Lauffer*

Where: LifePointe Alliance Church in the Music Room

When: 9:30 AM Registration and Refreshment

10:00 AM Program



### OUR MAILING ADDRESS

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