

# TIMES SIGNATURE

## Opus I Music Society

February 2025

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### KAREN'S KORNER

This column is a reprint from last years February Times Signature and is worth reading again.

February is a month dedicated to love. Our love for our special ones, each other in general, our pets, and anything else one can think of.

Here is a brief history of Valentines Day. The 8th century Gelasian Sacramentary recorded the celebration of the Feast of St. Valentine on February 14th. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries when notions of courtly love flourished. In 18th century England, it grew into an occasion for couples to express their love for each other by presenting flowers, candy, and greeting cards known as "valentines". We practice this tradition to this very day.

Speaking of love, we all love music! There has been an age old argument on whether music and math/science are related. I've been involved in some of those arguments and believe me they can get heated! On February 10th Allan Kitchen will present "Music of Wales" and who knows ... perhaps the argument will be settled! See you there!

And as always, *Let there be music!*

Karen



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK !



At the start of each new year, I find myself helping my students (mentally and physically) to prepare for all of their upcoming spring performances: Festival, studio recital, school performances, orchestra concerts, and a few extra performance opportunities within the community for those more mature students. How does one combat the fear of performing? This is a question that I find myself answering time and time again as those little, apprehensive eyes gaze up at me at the prospect of performing. And honestly, this is something in which I personally have room to grow in.

One of my students recently wrote a poem titled "Performance". I will share his full poem in this month's meeting, but here are two sections that I feel we all can relate to:

I step into the spotlight;  
I soon get butterflies.  
Then I look into the audience...  
So many watching eyes!

.....  
Performance time is over now.  
Why was I so scared?  
I am happy to say I was able to play  
Because I had prepared.

The key here is that the performer had spent time to "prepare". Procrastinating is our enemy when leading up to live performances. We need the balanced combination of mentally knowing what we are playing and allowing our muscle memory to do its part in order to achieve reliable performances.

There are many ways to combat performance anxiety, but the most practical one is simply to spend the time to prepare. We want shortcuts, but this isn't one. This is dedication, perseverance, patience, and resolve.

Let's make a goal this year to intentionally set aside regular time to work toward our upcoming performances such that we can play/sing with confidence. Our audiences will appreciate it - but more importantly, we will have the personal satisfaction of being able to perform with aplomb!

Jessica Wood

# FEBRUARY MEETING INFORMATION !

## JOIN US AT OUR FEBRUARY MEETING !



Inspiration Provided  
By  
Jessica Wood

*MUSIC OF WALES*

Presented By  
Allen Kitchen

February 10, 2025

LifePointe Alliance Church  
Music Room

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



Hospitality Provided  
By  
Kris Hattman  
And  
Jessica Wood



This month we will be enjoying the "Music of Wales" presented by Allen Kitchen.  
Come and join us!

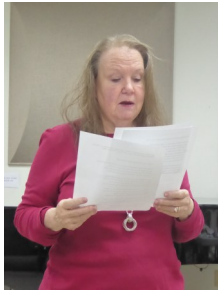
**\*\*Masks Are Optional!\*\***

*See you there!*



# MEMORIES OF OUR NOVEMBER MEETING !

What a great time we had at our December meeting! Karen Douglass presented "Twas The Night Before Christmas" by Clement Clark Moore (1779 - 1863). Sue Stevenson organized the crafting and instructed us on how to create ornaments with a musical theme for the local Concordia nursing home. Margie Rinnaman played the piano and we all sang Christmas carols. At one point she was accompanied by Allen Kitchen. Ruth Ann McChesney and Sue Stevenson provided yummy treats for us to enjoy! We all truly enjoyed ourselves!





## **MEMBER NEWS !**



Welcome to new member, Susann Pinkerton, who found out about Opus I at an Upward Basketball event at LifePointe Church. Ruth Ann and Susann found they had music in common! We're SO glad to welcome her.

Our 'craft expert', Sue Stevenson recently did a workshop at Cranberry Library for folks to make a pillow cover! She encourages us to check out all that the Forge has to offer there!

Susan Cooper and Ruth Ann both took part in the annual Chautauqua Choir reunion Jan. 24-26. What fun to sight-read 20 anthems Friday evening, choose 6 for practice Saturday AM and afternoon, and then sing at the morning worship service at Hurlbut Methodist Church on the Institution grounds on Sunday! Twentythree singers plus director and our marvelous accompanist made great music together and had fun, too!

The residents at Concordia on Rt. 228 were thrilled with the ornaments given to them when Opus I members, Sue Stevenson, Ruth Ann, Kay Kress (and one other lady) did the December sing-along and devotions. Thanks to all who made one and donated it.





## AND MORE MEMBER NEWS !



In reply to a request for an update, Kathy Kemerer wrote:

“Thank you for asking about us. Daryl is healing well, generally feeling pretty good and will start cardiac rehab on Valentine’s Day. I’m doing fine, although we’re both suffering from cabin fever from this miserable January! Please let everyone know that we’re both thankful to everyone at Opus One for your thoughts and prayers! Every day is God’s blessing to us all. Kathy  
P. S. Daryl bought me a new house (actually, it’s a bird feeder shaped like a farmhouse) :-)”

Karen Douglass as of the morning of February 1st still had her outdoor Christmas lights lit! They were so pretty and she hated to take them down, but as we all know it's not socially acceptable to have Christmas lights lit in February!

Opus I board meeting at Jessica’s home on January 30th . Watch for news and upcoming plans.

Our Opus I board met at Jessica Wood's home in Beaver Falls on January 30th, with Linda Maurhoff attending via Zoom. Attached are two photos of her gorgeous greenhouse as well as our board meeting table.



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR !**

### **February 10, 2025**

Music of Wales

*Presented by Allen Kitchen*

Where: LifePointe Alliance Church in the Music Room

When: 9:30 AM Registration and Refreshment

10:00 AM Program



### **March 10, 2025**

Music of Ukraine

*Presented by Ruth Ann McChesney*

Where: LifePointe Alliance Church in the Music Room

When: 9:30 AM Registration and Refreshment

10:00 AM Program

### **April 14, 2025**

The Inextinguishable Symphony

*A True Story of Music and Love*

*Presented by Martin Goldsmith*

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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