

TIMES SIGNATURE

Opus I Music Society

March 2025

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KAREN'S KORNER

Every year around St. Patrick's day I reflect on the folklore that tells us that St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland. Well, just what happened to all those snakes? Did they take up residence in the ocean or did they end up in England or perhaps Europe? It makes you wonder doesn't it? I bet St. Patrick really didn't care what happened to them as long as they were gone! Ha ha!

On another note, and no pun intended here, Ruth Ann McChesney will be presenting "Music of Ukraine" at our meeting on March 10, 2025. This promises to be a great presentation as we explore the beautiful music of the Ukraine. More information about this presentation and meeting information can be found in this newsletter.

And as always, *Let there be music!*

Karen



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK !



March arrives with the promise of renewal, echoing the vibrant crescendos of spring – and the days are lengthening with the hopeful expectation of more sunshine and warmth! For music educators, this month symbolizes growth—not just in dormant landscapes coming alive, but in the minds and hearts of students discovering their own melodies. Teaching music is more than imparting technique or theory; it's about nurturing creativity, fostering discipline, and igniting passion. The gusts of March winds carry the echoes of practice sessions, the laughter of ensemble rehearsals, and the triumphs of mastering challenging passages.

For music teachers, witnessing this growth is a privilege. It is a reminder that we are not just teaching notes but sculpting dreams. We are guiding students to find their voices, to express emotions through sound, and to connect with others using their musical talents.

Support the young musicians in your life this spring by offering encouragement and attending their concerts and recitals! Our very own honor's recital will be held on May 4th at 2:00pm (LifePointe Alliance in the sanctuary). Make plans to be there and invite others for a lovely afternoon of music!

Jessica Wood



MARCH MEETING INFORMATION !

JOIN US AT OUR MARCH MEETING !



Inspiration Provided
By
George Armstrong



THE MUSIC OF UKRAINE

Presented By
Ruth Ann McChesney
with
Guest Violinist
Jennifer Sternick

March 10, 2025

LifePointe Alliance Church
Music Room

Registration and Refreshment: 9:30 AM

Program: 10:00 AM



Hospitality Provided
By
Joyce Strobel
And
Kay Kress

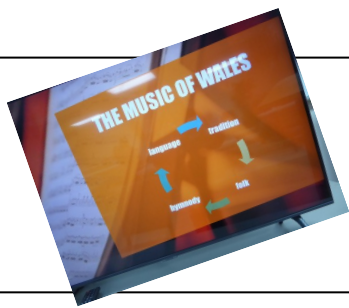
The Music of Ukraine, presented by Ruth Ann McChesney with guest violinist, Jennifer Sternick. Why is Ukrainian music so compelling and interesting? What is its history? What instrument is best known in that country? Who are some of the best-known Ukrainian composers? Come to LifePointe Alliance Church's Music Room on Monday, March 10th, at 9:30AM for refreshments and networking and then learn all the answers and hear Ukrainian violin music in person!! Invite a friend and enjoy.

Come and join us!

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

See you there!

MEMORIES OF OUR FEBRUARY MEETING !

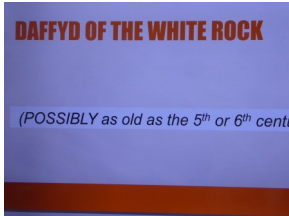
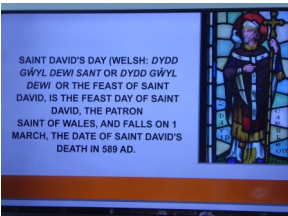
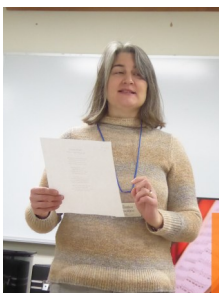


Last month member Allen Kitchen presented *The Music of Wales* and what a great presentation it was!

As per Allen:

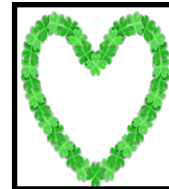
“Everyone knows that Saint Patrick’s day is not that far off .. but fewer people know of Saint David’s Day, the celebration of the patron saint of Wales. No green beer, no leprechaun hats, no “Kiss me, I’m Irish” buttons.. not even “Kiss me, I’m Welsh”! And while many of us know those (fake) Irish Chauncy Olcott ditties - “My Wild Irish Rose” and lots more - few of us are as aware of the Welsh origins of some beloved hymn tunes and folk songs.”

Allen wasn’t be able to cover them all, but we took a fairly quick tour of some common and not so common examples of Welsh tunes and they were beautiful. The tour was both educational and definitely enjoyable!





MEMBER NEWS !



Kathy and Vic Csellar will be celebrating 50 years of wedded bliss on March 8th. Congratulations, that is quite an accomplishment!

Member Nancy Johnson is busy keeping up her piano skills by playing at Sunday services at a local church as well as the Arbors' chapel services. Way to go, Nancy!

Samuel Quinto of Brazil (and our international Opus I member) has completed 100 articles on Neuroscience and the importance of music in our lives. When writing the last article, Samuel said "These 99 articles have been filled with discoveries, reflections, and the sharing of knowledge. Music, from the perspective of neuroscience, has proven to be a transformative force, capable of rehabilitating patients, stimulating the brain, promoting well-being, and even boosting creativity and productivity in professional environments." Such worthwhile thoughts, Samuel. We agree!!

Linda Maurhoff has been dealing with severe back pain from fractures that will take time to heal. We pray for rehab and healing to go well. Missed her in February.

Margie Rinaman keeps busy with her jigsaw puzzles, choir accompaniment, encouraging Senior citizens and still teaching piano.... At her (advanced) age!

Several Opus I members will volunteer to help at the NWW PFMC Festival event at Grove City College on March 22nd . And we wish good ratings to all the students of our Opus I teachers.

A recent discovery was to realize that our own Joan Eisenreich's daughter-in-law, Cassandra, is principal flutist in the Butler Country Symphony Orchestra! The musical family continues!

The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale sang Verdi's Requiem on March 2 nd at Carnegie Hall in Oakland and our Kathy Kelso was a faithful alto (and Ruth Ann and Charlie were greeters). What a fantastic concert!



ATTENTION TEACHERS !

Our annual honor's recital will be Sunday, May 4th at 2:00pm, held in the sanctuary of LifePointe Alliance Church. If you have students that will be performance ready, please invite them to perform! We are asking each teacher to contribute up to 3 students.

To be mindful of time, if you have an advanced student performing, please only have them play one movement of a sonata, avoid taking repeats, etc.

Please email Virginia Netchi (avnetchi@gmail.com) with the following information by April 28th:

Student name
Grade/age
Exact Title and composer of the work

Can't wait to hear the diversity of musical talents at the recital!



SCHOLARSHIP AWARD !

The deadline to apply for the Opus I Music Society 2025 Scholarship is April 15th.

Applicants must be a resident of Knoch, Mars, Pine-Richland or Seneca Valley School District and currently a Sophomore or Junior in college with a Major or Minor in Music. A past or present student of an Opus I Member also qualifies. Scholarship recipients will perform in our Honor's Recital on May 4th at 2:00 pm at LifePointe Alliance Church in Mars, PA.

Request an application by emailing Jessica Wood (jessicawoodmusicstudio@outlook.com) or find the application on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/opusonemusic)

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CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT !



SPONSORED BY THE BEAVER VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

Four concerts in the near future sponsored by The Beaver Valley Choral Society are coming up. The theme is *Beautiful in His Time* and all concerts are at 4:00 PM. For more information contact Sue Cooper at csusan526gmail.com.

Beautiful in His Time

Mt Pleasant Church.

Saturday, March 29, 2025, 4:00 PM

846 Route 18

Aliquippa PA 15001

Beautiful in His Time

St James

Sunday, March 30, 2025

200 Walnut Street

Sewickley, PA 15143

Beautiful in His Time

Trophimus Center (Former Presbyterian Church)

Saturday, April 5, 2025

599 Maplewood Avenue

Ambridge, PA 15003

Beautiful in His Time

St Cecelia

Sunday, April 6, 2025

632 Virginia Avenue

Rochester Pa 15074



MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

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 Sue Stevenson

Where: LifePointe Alliance Church in the Music Room

When: 9:30 AM Registration and Refreshment

10:00 AM Program

May 4-11, 2025 National Music Week

Theme: *Music...It's Unstoppable*



May 4, 2025

Opus I Student Honors and Scholarship Awards Recital

Where: LifePointe Alliance Church in the Music Room

When: 2:00 PM Church Sanctuary With Light Refreshment Afterwards

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

Our link is:

www.facebook.com/groups/opusonemusic (copy and paste into your browser!)