

TIMES SIGNATURE

Opus I Music Society

May 2025

OPUS I LEADERSHIP

Jessica Wood

President

724-730-1031

jessicawoodmusicstudio@
outlook.com

Susan Cooper

Vice President

724-581-1358

csusan526@gmail.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

724-601-7072

pfmccram@hotmail.com

Karen Douglass

Newsletter Editor

724-612-5678

karendouglass@gmail.com



KAREN'S KORNER

There is a lot of things happening during the month of May. National Music Week, our Honors Recital, Scholarship Awards Ceremony and our Poster Contest. There is another important day during the month of May and that is Mother's Day. A day where all we all honor our mother. Even though my Mother is no longer with us. I still miss her terribly. I will honor her memory in this column by telling you about my first piano lesson with her. It truly was a wonderful day!

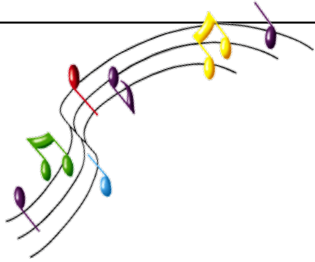
Mom was a classically trained pianist of expert caliber. You all would have loved her. I choose the colors blue and pink for this months newsletter to honor her memory as they were her favorite colors. Music was an integral part of her life, whether it be directing our church choir, playing or teaching piano, or simply listening to music. She was my first piano teacher. At the young age of five, she gave me my very first lesson. My little legs and feet did not reach the pedals! I really was a big girl that day when we sat at the piano together. She didn't start with traditional teaching but with a song called *Chinese Sandman* by Mabel Besthoff. She taught me to read music from the actual sheet music. Mom was my very first musical inspiration.

Since I have been putting this newsletter together, I have signed out of Karen's Korner by writing "Let There Be Music!" as a signoff quote. This quotation was one of her favorite things to say and I will carry this on as her beloved daughter; and as always, *Let there be music!*

Karen



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK !



What a truly special academic year it has been with Opus I! We've shared so many meaningful moments together. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Susan Cooper, Ruth Ann McChesney, Joyce Gindlesperger, Linda Maurhoff, Sue Stevenson, Margie Rinaman, and Allen Kitchen for their invaluable contributions to our presentations. We're also grateful to all who took the time to read a poem or share an inspiration—your voices added so much heart to our gatherings.

Our Honors Recital (May 4th, 2:00pm, Sanctuary of LifePointe Alliance Church) remains a treasured highlight—not only offering our talented students a stage to shine on, but also allowing us to support college students studying music through well-deserved scholarships.

And the best part? There is so much more to come! Opus I is thrilled to sponsor Music Under the Stars on June 26th (please see the events section for more details), made possible by a very generous and thoughtful donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Looking ahead, October brings the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs Northwest District Fall Conference, and in December, we'll enjoy the joyful sounds of the Ellwood City Civic Chorale in concert.

To everyone who completed the questionnaire—thank you! Your feedback is incredibly helpful as we plan an inspiring and enriching 2025-2026 season.

Wishing you a joyful spring and summer—thank you for being such an important part of Opus I. We can't wait to see you at the Honors Recital!

Jessica Wood





**OPUS I MUSIC SOCIETY
CELEBRATES NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK !
THE THEME THIS YEAR IS
“MUSIC ... IS UNSTOPPABLE” !**



**STUDENT HONORS RECITAL AND
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS !**

Recital features:

2025 Scholarship Award Recipients,
High School Senior Outstanding Musician Award
Students of Opus I Teachers

Sunday, May 4, 2025, 2:00 PM—4:00 PM
LifePointe Alliance Church, Worship Center
A reception to follow after the recital



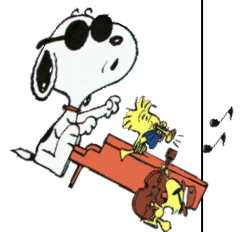
ATTENTION !

Teachers need to ask two of their performance ready students to perform! Teachers should have their student's name, grade in school, age, piece title and composer, and the teacher's name to Ginny Netchi ASAP. Her email is avnetchi@gmail.com

ALSO

Applications for the College Scholarship, both sophomore and junior music majors or minors need to be submitted to Linda Maurhoff. Her email is lindamahoff@consolidated.net.

You can find an application on our Facebook page facebook.com/groups/opusonemusic/files or request one by emailing Jessica Wood at jessicawoodmusicstudio@outlook.com.



ONE MORE THING!

We are looking for volunteers to bring cookies and punch for the reception! If you are donating cookies/punch, please let Jessica Wood know. So far we have Susan Cooper, Linda Maurhoff, Karen Douglass, and Daphne Maddix bringing cookies. Jessica's email is jessicawoodmusicstudio@outlook.com



**OPUS I MUSIC SOCIETY
CELEBRATES NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK !
THE THEME THIS YEAR IS
“MUSIC ... IS UNSTOPPABLE” !**



POSTER CONTEST !



This contest is for students grades K - 6.

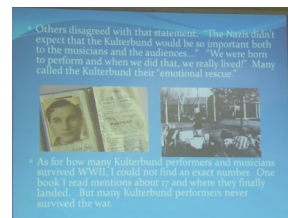
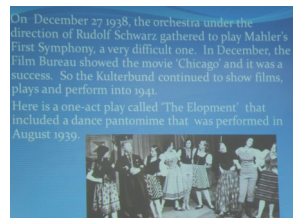
Posters should be the size of a standard piece of paper and be based on the theme for National Music Week. The theme is “Music...is Unstoppable”.

The theme should be printed on the front of the poster with the student’s name, grade in school, and teacher’s name on the back.

Bring entries to the Opus I Meeting on April 14, 2025 or to LifePointe Alliance’s office BEFORE Thursday, May 1, 2025. Prizes will be awarded to 3 age groups and all posters will be displayed at the May 4, 2025 recital! Questions? Contact Ruth Ann McChesney at pfmccram@hotmail.com.



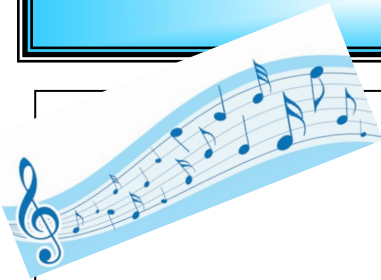
MEMORIES OF OUR APRIL MEETING !



In keeping with our emphasis on NFMC's International Music Relations, Opus I had another program about the music of another country on April 14, 2025. Sue Stevenson presented a MOST interesting and educational program on the Kulturbund, an organization formed in 1933 in reaction to the antisemitism of the Hitler regime in Germany.

The Jews were prohibited from involvement in the arts of that country, so they formed a separate organization (with the permission of the Nazi government) and the Kulturbund was SO popular that it grew to numerous cities. Not only were there orchestras for concerts, but they presented operas and lectures.

Sue had found CDs of the actual orchestra and played several pieces for us to hear. Her PowerPoint presentation, talk and the music combined for an unforgettable session. All this because Sue read the book "The Inextinguishable Symphony" by Martin Goldsmith, written in 2000 and dedicated to his family that lived through those evil times. Thanks, Sue, for a memorable program.



MEMBER NEWS !

Butterscotch, the beloved studio mascot of the Jessica Wood Music Studio, is proudly showing off the shiny new trophies that just landed at his headquarters! These gleaming prizes weren't just delivered—they were earned with hard work and discipline through the Festivals program where students are evaluated for their musical performances and theory exams, all thanks to the National Federation of Music Clubs. Paws up for a job well done!



George Armstrong continues to do a good job of publicizing the June 26, 2025 concert by the Butler County Symphony Orchestra that Opus I is presenting in the outdoor auditorium of Cranberry Park off Rt. 19 near "Fun For All". We need many Opus I members there that evening to mingle and greet folks on behalf of our club (since we can't do so "officially"). Thanks George.

Our Opus I president, Jessica Wood, is an amazing leader for our club and has been granted permission to "officially" greet folks at intermission of the BCSO concert on June 26, 2025 . In 2 minutes she will encourage folks to look into the opportunities our club provides!!

Jessica handed out questionnaires to those at the April 14, 2025 meeting and sent them to those who were absent. BE SURE to do that small part and complete the form and return it to Jessica, or better yet...bring it to the May 4 th recital.

Sue (and Craig) Stevenson have been real travelers this last month, driving to Wheaton, IL to see grand-daughter Claire (and parents) as well as flying to GA to see the two grandsons (and parents). Bless them for making the family such a priority.

How great to meet Jeannie Allen's daughter, Susan, who came to Opus I on April 14, 2025 with her mother and will be here for Jeannie's program on May 4, 2025 . We don't have many 'visitors' from California at Opus I, do we? Welcome, Susan!

Don't forget to sign the "Outreach" paper if you have done programs for those confined" during the last month.

Ruth Ann "hosted" her Pitt nursing class semi-annual Zoom reunion on April 23, 2025 – almost 64 years to the day they graduated! 9 of the 16 (we think) living classmates attended. What a blessing to still be in touch this way!

TIMES SIGNATURE

Opus I Music Society

May 2025

Page 7

YOU ARE INVITED !



Glade Run Church Presents:

The Music Of Jeannie Allen

A variety of piano, vocal compositions with guests including ESTHER THE MUSICAL, THE PRODIGAL SONS, AND THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

MAY 4, 2025 6 PM

Refreshments following



Glade Run Church

**1091 Pittsburgh Road, (Rte 8) Valencia PA
16059**



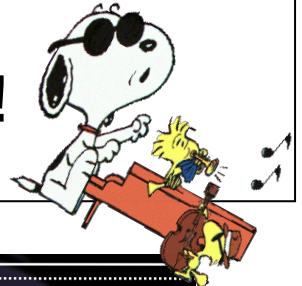
TIMES SIGNATURE

Opus I Music Society

May 2025

Page 8

YOU ARE INVITED CON'T !



Hope's
Concert Series

SUNDAY, MAY 11
@ 3:00PM



featuring
Butler County Symphony

FREE CONCERT !

There is so much more to come! Opus I is thrilled to sponsor *Music Under the Stars* on June 26, 2025. See the next page for more details. This concert has been made possible by a very generous and thoughtful donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS!

Where: Cranberry Township Community Park
Rotary Amphitheater
Ernie Mashuda Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

When: June 26, 2025

Time: 7:30 PM

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets!



TIMES SIGNATURE

Opus I Music Society

May 2025

Page 9



*Music Under
The Stars*

PRESENTED BY: OPUS I MUSIC SOCIETY

LIVE AT THE
ROTARY
AMPHITHEATER


CRANBERRY
TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY PARK

JUNE 26 7:30 PM

FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

KICK OFF YOUR 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
WITH THE BCSO TRADITION!

BROUGHT TO YOU IN PART BY:

 PRESENTED BY: 





MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

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

May 4, 2025

Free concert given by Jeannie Allen See page 7 for info

May 11, 2025

Hope Lutheran Church Concert Series with the Butler Symphony Orchestra. It's Free!
See page 9 for info

June 26, 2025

Music Under The Stars! Free concert See pages 8 & 9 for info

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!



OUR MAILING ADDRESS

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

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

Our link is:

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