

TIMES SIGNATURE

Opus I Music Society

April 2026

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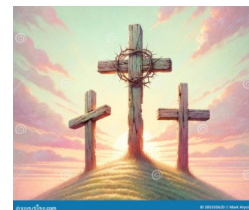
KAREN'S KORNER

"Spring has sprung and the grass is riz!" The beginning of a poem of an anonymous author. Spring is here and I do love it! Although it's not my favorite season, I still love it! Spring is a time when it seems everything is fresh and new. We start to move away from the dreariness of Winter and our dreary mentalities and come alive again. At least that is how it is for me! Actually it is an inspiring time of the year.

And speaking of inspiration, this month's program will be presented by The Light Bearers Drama Club which will be performing excerpts from their latest play. I can't wait to experience this! ***This will be Saturday, April 11, 2026, 1:30 PM, at Concordia of Cranberry.*** See page three for more location and program details.

And, as always, *Let there be music!*

Karen



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK !



April showers bring May flowers. We all know this phrase, and the piece that comes to mind is Frédéric Chopin's Prelude Op. 28, No. 15, commonly called the "Raindrop Prelude". It is the longest of his 24 preludes, lasting about five to seven minutes. Much of the Op. 28 set was composed during his 1838 stay in Spain with George Sand at a monastery in Valldemossa. During a severe storm there, Sand described a dream Chopin had of being drowned in a lake, accompanied by the rhythmic sound of falling water.

Although Chopin rejected the idea that his music imitated literal sounds, listeners often associate the repeated A-flat note in this prelude with raindrops. The piece begins in D-flat major, with a gentle theme and a steadily recurring A-flat. It then shifts into a darker C-sharp minor section, where a heavier bass line and persistent repetition create a more ominous, dreamlike atmosphere. This middle section is often interpreted as reflecting the distress of Chopin's dream, before the music returns to the serene, opening theme. The contrast between tension and calm enhances the emotional impact of the piece, making its final return especially satisfying. Today, the "Raindrop Prelude" remains one of Chopin's most beloved works, admired for its expressive depth and meditative quality.

Read more of Alex Burn's analysis here: <https://classicalburns.com/2020/02/27/frederic-chopin-raindrop-prelude-gentle-beginnings/> (copy and paste the link into your browser)

Jessica Wood



APRIL MEETING INFORMATION !

JOIN US AT OUR APRIL MEETING !

LIGHT BEARERS DRAMA CLUB

Presented

By

The Light Bearers Drama Club

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

CONCORDIA OF CRANBERRY

LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF RT. 228 AND ADAMS RIDGE BLVD.

PROGRAM STARTS AT 1:30 PM SHARP!

Light Bearers Drama club is a theater group for local homeschool students who are interested in acting and play production. We have 19 wonderful and talented student actors in our troop, all high school students or recent graduates. They are currently preparing for our performance of "Anne of Green Gables" at the Rochester borough theater at the end of May. Seven of our actors will be joining us on April 11, performing three excerpts from our winter fundraiser event show, "Exposed!", an investigative comedy exposing what REALLY happened in some of your favorite stories. We are grateful for the opportunity to present to the Opus One Music Society!!

Come and join us !

See you there !



MEMORIES OF OUR MARCH MEETING !

At our March meeting, Dr. Ann Labounsky, internationally renowned, award-winning organist and improviser, presented the program "Improvising: Yes, You Can!" On the organ, she showed how improvisation can express a variety of emotions, including joy and sadness, through major and minor keys, and surprise, through rests followed by a sudden loud entry.

She demonstrated phrase extension, by repeating the last few bars of a hymn multiple times in a series of variations, often used in preludes and postludes. Another improvisation example was "through-composed" with an introduction using material from the Cantus Firmus (structural foundation) and phrases with ornamentation.

Ann also presented the technique of using The Code, in which letters of the alphabet correspond to musical pitches. Through this system, musicians incorporate people's names within a composition, for example, creating a special motif honoring a bride and groom. We discussed the concept of theme and motif and how they can be used as improvisational tools.

Our special guest's presentation ended with a wide-ranging improvisational postlude of Beethoven's "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee". A rousing and emotional finale to an inspiring presentation!





**OPUS I MUSIC SOCIETY
CELEBRATES NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK !**

MAY 3—10, 2026

**THE THEME THIS YEAR IS
“MUSIC ... IS OUR CONSTANT COMPANION” !**

STUDENT HONORS RECITAL AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS !

Recital features:
2026 Scholarship Award Recipients,
High School Senior Outstanding Musician Award
Students of Opus I Teachers
Sunday, May 3, 2026, 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 by **Sunday April 26, 2026**. 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. **DEADLINE** to apply is **April 15th**.

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. Jessica's email is jessicawoodmusicstudio@outlook.com

**OPUS I MUSIC SOCIETY
CELEBRATES NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK !**



MAY 3—10, 2026

**THE THEME THIS YEAR IS
“MUSIC ... IS OUR CONSTANT COMPANION” !**

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 Our Constant Companion”.

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 11, 2026 or to LifePointe Alliance’s office BEFORE Friday, May 1, 2025. Prizes will be awarded to 3 age groups and all posters will be displayed at the May 3, 2026 recital! Questions? Contact Ruth Ann McChesney at ruthann220@yahoo.com.



Opus I Music Society

2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Applicant must be a resident of one of the following school districts:

Mars Area - Pine-Richland - Seneca Valley - Knoch (South Butler)

A Past or Present Student of an Opus I Member also qualifies

Applicant must be a Sophomore or Junior in college

Applicant must have a Major or Minor in music

Return this application by **April 15, 2026** to:

Opus I Music Society - 203 Downieville Rd - Valencia, PA 16059

or Via attachment to: lindamaurhoff@consolidated.net

Auditions may be required depending on the number of applications received.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY _____

LEVEL FOR 2025-2026 (Sophomore or Junior)

MAJOR _____ MINOR _____

INSTRUMENT _____

PLANS FOLLOWING GRADUATION: _____

COLLEGE ADVISOR

EMAIL TO REACH YOUR ADVISOR

LIST ANY MUSICAL AWARDS OR HONORS AT COLLEGE LEVEL:

If selected to receive this award, you will be expected to perform for the May 2026 Opus I Recital held on May 3rd @ 2:00pm at LifePointe Alliance Church (997 PA-228, Mars, PA 16046). Reception to follow.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____



MEMBER NEWS !



Sue Stevenson had recent surgery and is recovering at home, but also has a molar tooth that is very painful, so she needs our prayers and caring concern. 118 Pauline Place, Evans City, PA 16033.

Opus I member, Pastor Mary Kitchen, fell in their yard and badly broke her femur. She had major repair done and is now getting rehab at "Lutheran Senior Life, Passavant, 105 Burgess Dr., Zelienople, PA 16063". Allen and Mary covet your prayers for good healing and care. (Remember to mention how much we enjoyed their program with the New Horizons members at Opus I in February. It was great!)

Linda and Bill Maurhoff celebrated 56 years of marriage on April 4th!! Congratulations and many more!! (Hope that number is right!)

And here's something you won't believe.... Margie Rinaman was 97 years 'young' on April 2nd!! Imagine still teaching and playing piano for the church Traditional service at 8am every Sunday! Talk about inspiring the rest of us. Margie does just that and we're so thankful.

A look back in Federation history... the NFMC Young Artist winner in Strings, Angela Park, stayed with Ruth Ann and Charlie when she performed for the Pennsylvania Federation convention in April of 2010. Now we see she will be the featured soloist next March of 2027 with the Butler Co. symphony orchestra, doing Elgar's Cello Concerto!! Yeah! (Angela's husband, David McCarroll, is concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra!!). So proud of both of them. Put March 6, 2027 on your calendars!

Speaking of the BCSO, our Ginny Netchi is the "Orchestra Manager" and keeps that group organized. If you haven't heard them, DO get tickets for next year's 6 concert series; they are SO good and have a great 26-27 season planned. See "Butlersymphony.org" or call 724-283-1402 for tickets. You won't be disappointed.

PS: Plan to attend the free BCSO concert at Cranberry Park 7/2/26 and another full concert at North Catholic HS in Cranberry on Aug. 8th!



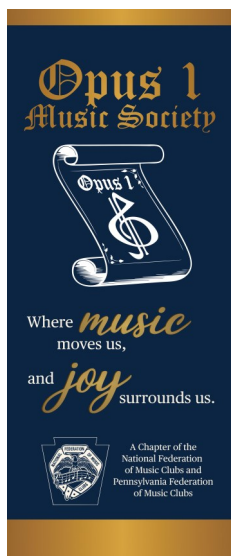
AND MORE MEMBER NEWS !



Kathy Kemerer reports that she is doing well but Daryl has some continued medical issues that require a lot of doctor visits. She did write: "AFib and diabetes are his main concerns. He "shoots" himself with insulin 4 times a day now. Mornings, unfortunately, have become a difficult time for us to get moving. Daryl and I send our greetings to everyone at Opus I". We miss both of them at our meetings and send along our prayers and caring concern.



OPUS I NOW HAS A BANNER !



We're excited to share some wonderful news—The Opus I Banner is complete! It had its debut at the PFMN NW District Fall Conference and will continue to make its presence at all Opus I events in the future.

It is a wonderful way to showcase our organization and let people know who we are.

CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT !



The Butler County Symphony Orchestra will present two concerts during the Summer. The first is the FREE Outdoor concert at the Cranberry Community Park at 7:30 pm on Thursday, July 2nd which will include fireworks for the 250th birthday of the United States. The second will be a pops concert at North Catholic High School at 7:30 pm on Saturday, August 8th. The second concert will be a ticket event and will include several selections of Henry Mancini.

I need volunteers to put up or have others put up posters. These can be displayed many places including Post Offices, Libraries, Municipal Buildings, Churches, YMCA or similar sporting locations, restaurants, retirement centers, physical therapy locations, and many businesses. I am dividing the placement of the posters by location. You will see the locations on the clipboard which I will pass along at the April meeting. The posters should be available around June 1st. George Armstrong



MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

Saturday, April 11, 2026

(Note the change of day and time for this month)

Concordia of Cranberry

Presented by The Light Bearers Drama Club

Where: Concordia of Cranberry

10 Adams Ridge Blvd.

(At the corner of Rt. 228 and Adams Ridge Blvd.)

Mars, PA 16046

When: 1:30 PM



Monday, May 3, 2026

Opus I Student Honors Recital and Scholarship Award Recital

Presented by Opus I Music Society and their Students

Where: LifePointe Alliance Church Worship Center

When: 2:00—4:00 PM

Refreshment Following in the Lobby



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!)