

# TIMES SIGNATURE

## Opus I Music Society

May 2026

### OPUS I LEADERSHIP

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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  
lindamaurhoff  
@consolidated.net

\*\*\*

Kathy Csellar  
Recording Secretary  
724-443-0237  
kcsellar@consolidated.net

\*\*\*

Ruth Ann McChesney  
Federation Secretary  
724-601-7072  
pfmccram@hotmail.com

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Karen Douglass  
Newsletter Editor  
724-612-5678  
karenjdouglass@gmail.com



### KAREN'S KORNER

There are 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, as I do each May, in this column by telling you about my first piano lesson with her. It truly was a wonderful day!

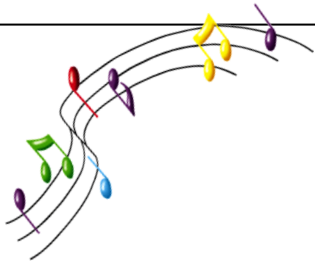
Mom was a classically trained pianist of expert caliber. You all would have loved her. I choose the colors blue and pink for this months newsletter to honor her memory as they were her favorite colors. Music was an integral part of her life, whether it be directing our church choir, playing or teaching 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 !**



As we wrap up this academic year, I'd like to take a moment to celebrate the many positive moments Opus I experienced. We kicked things off with a program presented by our own Linda Maurhoff, followed by hosting the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs Northwest District Fall Conference. In December, Joyce Gindlesperger brought the Ellwood City Civic Chorale for a benefit concert that raised over \$1,000 for our scholarship fund. We started 2026 with Allen and Mary Kitchen sharing about the New Horizons Group and even bringing guest performers. In March, Dr. Ann Labounsky led an engaging improvisation workshop, and in April we gathered at Concordia where the Light Bearers Drama Club entertained us with humorous skits. Thank you to everyone who helped organize, attend, and support these wonderful programs.

Our Honors Recital is just around the corner—May 3rd at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary of Life-Pointe Alliance Church. Along with performances by our members' students, we'll feature several college students before presenting them with scholarships.

We're also excited to once again sponsor Music Under the Stars on July 2nd at 7:30 pm. This free outdoor concert at Cranberry Community Park will include fireworks in celebration of the United States' 250th birthday. Many of us attended last year, and it was a fantastic, family-friendly event—you won't want to miss it!

Wishing you a joyful spring and summer, and thank you for being such an important part of Opus I. We look forward to seeing you at the Honors Recital

Jessica





**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



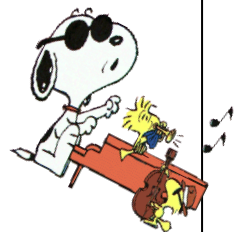
**ATTENTION !**

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](mailto: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 [lindmarhoff@consolidated.net](mailto:lindmarhoff@consolidated.net).

You can find an application on our Facebook page [facebook.com/groups/opusonemusic/files](https://facebook.com/groups/opusonemusic/files) or request one by emailing Jessica Wood at [jessicawoodmusicstudio@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:jessicawoodmusicstudio@outlook.com)



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

**MAY 3—10, 2026**

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**“MUSIC ... IS OUR CONSTANT COMPANION” !**



**POSTER CONTEST !**



This contest is for students grades K - 6.

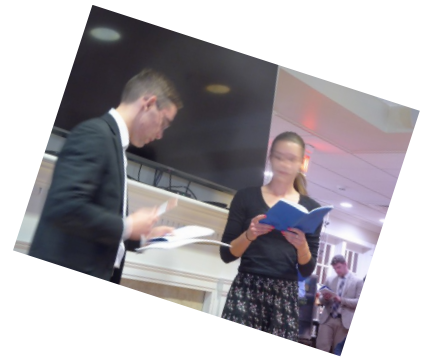
Posters should be the size of a standard piece of paper and be based on the theme for National Music Week. The theme is *“Music...Is Our Constant Companion”*.

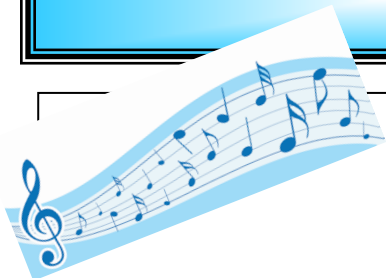
The theme should be printed on the front of the poster with the student’s name, grade in school, and teacher’s name on the back.

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](mailto:ruthann220@yahoo.com).



# MEMORIES OF OUR APRIL MEETING !





## **MEMBER NEWS !**

Mary Kitchen is home from rehab. at Passavant and getting around with a walker, but still very limited in mobility and needs our encouragement.

Ruth Ann was thrilled to meet her Pitt nursing classmates on Zoom for their 65th Reunion on 4/22. Ten friends shared what is going on in their lives and the Dean of the Nursing School personally congratulated the class!

Once again, Kathy Kelso will use her wonderful alto voice to help the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale sing music of the 90's May 2nd and 3rd.

Linda Maurhoff and other Opus I members helped with the PFMC Festival Competitions held 4/18 in Williamsport! She and Ruth Ann, among others, will attend the PFMC Convention and board mtg. in Williamsport May 21-23.

Sue Stevenson has had some complications from her recent surgery and needs prayer for healing before she anticipates some radiation therapy. Bless her.

## **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 !



**May 3-10, 2026 National Music Week**

Theme: *Music...Is Our Constant Companion*



**May 3, 2026**

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

**July 2, 2026**

*"Music Under the Stars"* with the Butler Symphony Orchestra

7:30 PM at Cranberry Community Park

Bring your lawn chairs and friends for this free concert!

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