

*THE ODPC*

*presents the*

*50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION*

*OF THE*

*ORIGINAL DULCIMER PLAYERS CLUB*

*1963–2013*

*THREE EVENINGS OF ACOUSTIC MUSIC  
FEATURING THE HAMMERED DULCIMER*



*Thursday, Friday and Saturday*

*July 18, 19 and 20, 2013*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Osceola County Fairgrounds*

*Ewart, MI*

## ***Stage Shows, July 18, 19 and 20, 2013***

### ***Thursday Evening***

6:30: Mountain Dulcimer Pre-Show, led by Annette Lindsey

7:00 p.m. Thornapple Valley Dulcimer Society

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Doug Berch

The Golden Griffon Stringtet

Timothy Seaman

Nate Pultorak

Muzyka

Mitzie Collins

Music Police

Jess Dickinson

Lisa Ferguson & Katie Moritz

Performers' Finale

### ***Friday Evening***

6:15: Hammered Dulcimer Pre-Show, led by Penny Scheiber

7:00 p.m. David and Annette Lindsey

Wanda Degen

Scott Freeman

Butch Ross

David Mahler

Moriath

Steve and Ruth Smith

Andy Young

Stephen Seifert

Josh Messick

Bing Futch

Performers' Finale

### ***Saturday Evening***

6:55 *Dulcimer Drawing*

7:00 p.m. Bill Robinson and Friends

Matthew Dickerson – 2012 HD Champion

Pam Bowman

Ted Yoder

Mark Alan Wade

Guy and Sharrie George

Sonas

Kaiser Family Band

Stephen Humphries

Rick Thum

Dan Landrum

Performers' Finale



### **Doug Berch**

Doug plays both mountain and hammered dulcimer. He also plays clawhammer banjo, tin whistle, harmonium and other instruments. In 1983 Doug took first place in both The National Mountain Dulcimer Championship and The National Hammered Dulcimer Championship in Winfield,

KS. Doug hails from Okemos, MI. [www.dougberch.com](http://www.dougberch.com)



### **Pam Bowman**

Pam Bowman is a native of the Evart area, hailing from Marion, Michigan. She has been performing with the hammered dulcimer for about 16 years as a duo with Jeff Gardner on guitar and with a five piece group called *Just Jammin*, performing gospel, country, and bluegrass music. In 2005 Pam won the Southern Regional Hammered Dulcimer Competition in Mt. View, Arkansas. Pam gives private lessons and group lessons on the hammered dulcimer, as well as teaching work-shops and performing at various festivals. Pam also performs her unique hammered dulcimer style and arrangements for many other venues. She has eight recordings available.

[pambowmanmusic@gmail.com](mailto:pambowmanmusic@gmail.com) or [scig72@me.com](mailto:scig72@me.com)

### **Mitzie Collins**



From Rochester NY, Mitzie directs the *Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble*. Several members of the ensemble will be performing with her at Evart. She teaches music history and hammered dulcimer classes at the Eastman Community Music School. She is a member of the board of the Cimbalom World Association and has attended CWA dulcimer congresses in China, Germany, and Mexico. Along with six members of the *Striking Strings*, she performed in Budapest in 2011. In April 2012 she taught and performed in Slovakia and Budapest. She has made recordings of Christmas, Irish and historical New York State tunes and loves to spread the word on our international hammered dulcimer relatives. [www.samplefolkmusic.com](http://www.samplefolkmusic.com)

### **Matthew Dickerson**



For seven years Matthew has been delighting audiences with his sweet and cheerful style of playing the hammered dulcimer. He developed a keen interest in the instrument in his early teens after learning a variety of other instruments, including guitar and penny whistle. Celtic music led him to discover the unique and pleasant sound of the hammered dulcimer.

He built his first dulcimer from scratch. After teaching himself to play, he quickly became an accomplished artist with the talent and skill necessary to win the Mideast Regional Hammered Dulcimer Competition in 2012. Shortly after, he entered and won the National Hammered Dulcimer Championship at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas.

Matthew continues to reach for new heights in both style and performance as he joins the ranks of the best dulcimer players in the country.



### **Wanda Degen**

Wanda's lifelong love of music shines through in her performances as she sings and plays the autoharp and "both kinds" of dulcimers! She has taught private lessons at Elderly Instruments in Lansing since 1977. Wanda won the Great Lakes Regional Mountain Music Autoharp Competition at the Flint Bluegrass Festival in 1983 and has placed in the top five as a finalist at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas, and at the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering in Newport, Pennsylvania. Through her work as a teaching artist with two national programs - the Lincoln Center of New York and the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts of Vienna, Virginia - thousands of Michigan school children have experienced both hearing and playing dulcimers & autoharp. [www.wandadegen.com](http://www.wandadegen.com)

### **Jess Dickinson**



When Jess is not at his two day jobs (Mississippi Supreme Court justice and law school professor), he is posting free beginner and intermediate hammered dulcimer instruction videos on his website: [www.DickinsonDulcimer.com](http://www.DickinsonDulcimer.com). His book, "The Essential Hammered Dulcimer Instruction Manual", is a best-seller.

His bluegrass band, the *Bluegrass Appeal*, recently recorded a CD *From Dublin to the Delta* with guest performer Stephen Seifert. Jess began performing hammered dulcimer in Mountain View, Arkansas in 1990 at the Ozark Folk Center, where he played in the annual Christmas show for 7 years. He has instructed hammered dulcimer at numerous festivals and workshops, and he is the organizer of the annual Deep South Dulcimer Competition at William Carey University. Jess is the 2013 Southern Regional Hammered Dulcimer Champion, and he and Jeff Hames won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 2013 Southern Regional ensemble competition.



### **Lisa Ferguson and Katie Moritz**

Lisa Ferguson is the 2009 National Hammer Dulcimer Champion and Katie Moritz is a multiple regional dulcimer champi-

on. Hailing from the Chattanooga & Chicago areas respectively, the two have combined their different musical influences and playing styles to produce a unique & driving sound on two hammered dulcimers. For more info, visit: [www.dulcimerduets.com](http://www.dulcimerduets.com)



### **Scott Freeman**

Scott comes to Evart from Lafayette, IN where he lives with his family. In 1999 he won the National Hammered Dulcimer Championship at Winfield, KS. Scott has worked with the Children's Museum of Indianapolis as a resident teacher and introduced the dulcimer to thousands of inner city youth through workshops and performances. Today he continues to work with local arts and education programs to bring traditional music into the schools through hands-on interaction with "Fiddlers in the Schools", sponsored by the Indiana Fiddlers' Gathering. Scott records with Oubache (WEE-ba-SHAY) Records, a record label dedicated to traditional and Americana music. He has four albums of mostly original music. [www.scottevanfreeman.com](http://www.scottevanfreeman.com)

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### **Bing Futch**

Bing's high-energy, crowd-pleasing shows and unique approach to the mountain dulcimer have made him a popular national act from California to Connecticut. Combining a respect for traditional folk music with a firm

grasp of modern popular styles, Bing entertains and amazes audiences with his dizzying mixture of material on not only mountain dulcimer, but also Native American flute and ukulele as well. He has become a regularly featured artist at festivals, fairs, concert halls, theaters, pubs, clubs and cafes across the country. He is the longtime producer of the "Dulcimerica" podcast, viewed by over a million people worldwide, and he has released a number of books and CDs which are available at: [www.BingFutch.com](http://www.BingFutch.com)



### **Guy & Sharrie George**

Guy is a multi-faceted instrumentalist with jazz-influenced roots. He is a

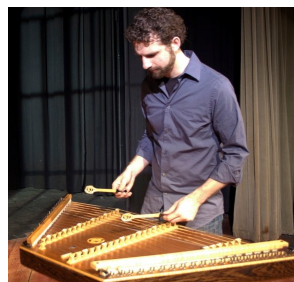
performer, instructor, author/publisher and recording artist. His diverse playing style adds a new twist to the sounds of the hammered dulcimer, pennywhistle, steel drum and saxophone, all of which he incorporates into his performances and teaching. Guy studied jazz performance, arranging and composition at Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. He travels throughout the US and Canada, performing and teaching at various venues and festivals. His teaching style is relaxed and fun, as he teaches tunes of many different genres and styles. In addition, he incorporates methods for more advanced practicing and playing techniques, while simultaneously entertaining his students. Guy and his wife, Sharrie, live outside Cleveland OH when not traveling. [www.guygeorge.com](http://www.guygeorge.com)



### **The Golden Griffon Stringtet**

The Golden Griffon Stringtet has been performing since 1992 at contra

dances, civil war re-enactment dances, weddings, fairs, and other cultural events, including the Ohio Renaissance Festival, the national convention of Abraham Lincoln Presenters, and the National Square Dance Convention. The band consists of Loretta McKinney on hammered dulcimer, Jim McKinney on fiddle, Renzo Hutchinson on guitar, and Bob Ewald on bass. Members of the band have won numerous performance and composition contests sponsored by the American String Teachers Association, the National Federation of Music Clubs, and others. [www.GoldenGriffonStringtet.com](http://www.GoldenGriffonStringtet.com)



### **Stephen Humphries**

Stephen Humphries is a music educator, a freelance percussionist, and a National Hammered Dulcimer Champion (2007). In addition to performing and teaching at dulcimer

festivals, Stephen is an adjunct professor of music at Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, GA) and Lee University (Cleveland, TN). He also teaches private lessons and percussion classes for K-12 students in Chattanooga, TN, where he resides with his lovely wife, Taryn. [www.StephenHumphries.com](http://www.StephenHumphries.com)



### **Kaiser Family Band**

The Kaiser Family Band played a Thursday afternoon open mike concert in Evert in 2006 and, thanks to the encourage-

ment of the musical community here, they've not stopped playing since. Known for their fast, high-energy music, traded among the three lead musicians, they've since recorded 4 CDs and become known for their precision playing... and for goofiness around the festival. [www.KaiserFamilyBand.com](http://www.KaiserFamilyBand.com)



### **Dan Landrum**

Dan has been playing hammered dulcimer for over 25 years and has gone from street performing in his home town of Chattanooga, TN, to internationally touring stage shows. He is editor of the **Dulcimer Players News**

magazine and is co-founder of [www.DulcimerSchool.com](http://www.DulcimerSchool.com) along with Stephen Seifert. [www.danlandrum.com](http://www.danlandrum.com)



### **David and Annette Lindsey**

David and Annette make their home in Bennington, OK. David has been building and playing the hammered dulcimer since 1978. They have been playing as the *Sweet Song String Band* since 1979 and have helped form the Lone Star

State Dulcimer Society and the Red River Valley Dulcimer Club. They are well known and sought after for their music in re-enactor's dances and activities. David and Annette teach and perform across the U.S. in many well-known festivals where David sells his nationally recognized hammered dulcimers. Visit [www.davidsdulcimers.com](http://www.davidsdulcimers.com) for more information.



### **David Mahler**

David began studying the hammered dulcimer when he was 10 years old and quickly took a liking to the instrument. In 2004, at the age of 14, he became the

youngest in history to win the Hammered Dulcimer National Championship in Winfield, KS. He currently resides on a farm in Portland Oregon (...or a tour van in some other state) where he continues to compose and perform with predominantly folk bands (and very, very occasionally a metal or psychedelic rock band). His two albums of his own compositions are available on his web site: [www.DavidMahler.com](http://www.DavidMahler.com)



### **Josh Messick**

Josh, the 2003 National HD Champion, comes to us from Houston TX. He began playing the hammered dulcimer at age nine after being inspired

by a Russell Cook recording and promising his mother that he would learn to play. He has an amazing sense for composition and improvisation that allows him to transform a solo piece into a symphonic experience that is often described as cinematic. His playing is peaceful, beautiful, and fun to watch as he plays with progressive techniques. [www.joshuamessick.com](http://www.joshuamessick.com)



### **Moriath**

Regina Kate Cobean on fiddle, and Griffin Cobean on bouzouki, whistle, and flute bring to you the music of distant Ireland. These proud new

parents (it's a boy!) and seasoned pair of Michigan musicians send audiences on a pilgrimage through the lands and music of the Celts. Whether the venue is a pub or festival stage, there are no limits on *Moriath's* capability to become a crowd favorite. *Moriath* makes and performs music for the joy of the audience as well as their own. E-mail contact: [moriath@live.com](mailto:moriath@live.com)



### **The Music Police**

Led by Officers Jim Rathbun from Rockford, MI, and Dale Palecek from WI, the *Music Police* was officially established on December 3, 2011 at the Kaiser family home, where music flies faster than the Concord, and so do tickets for music infractions. This year the Music Police are joined on stage by members of the *Squirrels' Nest* (a high energy jam here at Evert), as they celebrate the release of the CD "*Live At The Squirrels' Nest*". Proceeds from the new CD are used to set up a scholarship for music education. While on stage they will also answer the question that all dulcimer players are asked, "What is that thing?"



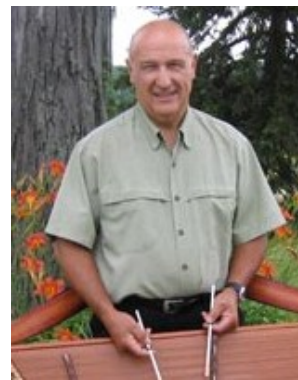
### **Muzyka!**

This vocal group hails from Midland and includes Lee Anne Whitman on guitar, Johnny Hunt on banjo, mandolin and guitar, Hillary Huebler, on pennywhistle, fiddle and mandolin, and Chuck Grant on bass. *Muzyka!* performs folk, gospel, pop, bluegrass and other unique genres of music. The music is always acoustic, traditional and/or original, upbeat, thoughtful and easy to listen to! Find out more at [www.muzykamusic.com](http://www.muzykamusic.com).



### **Nate Pultorak**

Nate Pultorak, a 17 year old hammered dulcimer musician from Illinois, has been playing since 2006. His style ranges from quiet and melancholy to fun and energetic. He has been regarded for the quality of his playing and his composition skills on this instrument, as recognized by the Friends of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2012 he won "Best Original Dulcimer Tune" and "Kentucky State Grand Champion" at the Kentucky Music Weekend, and placed second at the National Dulcimer Competition in Winfield, Kansas. Nate just released his fourth album this summer. His website is: [www.NathanPultorak.weebly.com](http://www.NathanPultorak.weebly.com).



### **Bill Robinson & Friends**

Bill has been performing for 60+ years and has received numerous awards, including ODPC Lifetime Member with Paul VanArsdale, Hall of Fame, and Pioneer. He has been teaching the hammered dulcimer and promoting his students for over 40 years. Bill loves to jam and welcomes all to jam (you can usually find him in the ODPC Pavilion). Bill hopes you enjoy his original tunes. He is a third generation player from Illinois. You can find out more about Bill at [www.billrobinson-dulcimer.com](http://www.billrobinson-dulcimer.com)



### **Butch Ross**

Butch hails from Chattanooga, TN, and has been a touring singer/songwriter since he was given a mountain dulcimer as a birthday present. At first, the instrument was a curiosity, but before long it became his instrument of choice. Butch has taken a simple folk instrument and energized it with technical wizardry, inventive arrangements and a healthy dose of rock-n-roll attitude. He transforms the lowly mountain dulcimer into a virtuoso's instrument, drawing from it unexpected power and expressiveness. His genius is in the fact that he found something unique to him. He demonstrates what the instrument should sound like. [www.butchross.com](http://www.butchross.com)



### **Timothy Seaman**

Tim is an acoustic soloist who brings together an eclectic blend of musical styles unlike any other. He comes to Evert from Williamsburg, VA. He worked 19 years as a school teacher. However, since 1994 he has made music his sole endeavor. Most of his 19 recordings have been made in collaboration with Virginia's National and State Parks, representing their natural and historic themes. Tim's musical repertoire consists of traditional tunes, original compositions, and Baroque music. Tim is very much at home in the out of doors, having spent four summers as a backpacking instructor. Visit Tim's web site at: [www.timothyseaman.com](http://www.timothyseaman.com)



### **Stephen Seifert**

Stephen has been playing the mountain dulcimer since 1991. He has toured with David Schnauffer, performed with orchestras around the country and been a featured performer in Japan. Since 1996 he has taught and performed at festivals and dulcimer clubs in Los Angeles, Detroit, New York, Pensacola, Houston, and many others. "I want to play all styles of music on the mountain dulcimer. I also want to help my fellow dulcimer players pursue their musical desires, whatever they might be, with the least amount of time-wasting detours." Most recently, he has been teaching hundreds of students around the world via an online Dulcimer School. [www.dulcimerschool.com](http://www.dulcimerschool.com) or [www.stephenseifert.com](http://www.stephenseifert.com)



### **Steve and Ruth Smith**

North Carolina's Steve and Ruth Smith, voted the 2013 "Americana Instrumental Group of the Year" by the Appalachian Cultural Music Association's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual *Blue Ridge Acoustic Uprising*, have been featured on the PBS TV series *Song of the Mountains*, NPR's *All Songs Considered* and *Thistle & Shamrock*. *Dirty Linen Folk & World Music Magazine* says "Ruth's touch on the hammered dulcimer is absolutely magical, with exquisite phrasing..." Steve, an ASCAP award-winning songwriter, adds guitar, banjo, and vocals. "The soul of mountain music and the gentle grace of mountain air." (*Ohio Magazine*) [www.steveandruth.com](http://www.steveandruth.com).



### **Sonas**

*Sonas*, featuring DeeDee Tibbits on the hammered dulcimer, has been performing since 2004 and has THREE CDs to show for it! They play a wide assortment of instruments, including hammered dulcimer, concertina, fiddle, bouzouki, Irish whistles, guitar, mandolin, harp, mountain dulcimer, and marimbula. They love any kind of traditional music, especially Celtic music, and add some original tunes to the mix. [www.sonasmusic.com](http://www.sonasmusic.com)



### **Rick Thum**

Ranked as the most influential dulcimer player of the last decade by readers of *Dulcimer Player News*, Rick has made his mark on every aspect of the hammered dulcimer world. He brings a combination of passion and friendly accessibility to his teaching that make his workshops and classes favorites at festivals across the country. He has tapped this teaching experience to produce a CD instructional series for hammered dulcimer, the *Original Song of the Month Club*. Rick is also the designer of the highly-regarded hammered dulcimer bearing his name. Yet for all his time in the studio, onstage, in the classroom, and in the luthier's shop, Rick is most at home at a late-night jam session. [www.rthum.com](http://www.rthum.com)



### **Mark Alan Wade**

As a student, Mark's trumpet playing was his gateway into music schools. His exceptional trumpeting allowed him to study music formally in academia and culminated in his Doctorate of Musical Arts from Ohio State University. Mark's unique style is the result of his 20+ years of traditional dulcimer playing blended with his formal classical training. Currently Mark is an Assistant Professor of Music at Denison University and is proud to serve the dulcimer community as the only professor in the U.S. offering a major in Dulcimer Performance. A National Champion himself (1998), Mark has had three students who are also National Hammered Dulcimer Champions. Mark will perform music from his NEW CD at Cimbalom World Congress this fall in Taipei, Taiwan. Mark, his wife Cristina, and their sons live in New Albany, OH. [www.MarkAlanWade.com](http://www.MarkAlanWade.com)



### **Ted Yoder**

Ted started his journey with the hammered dulcimer right after marrying his wife, Donna, in 1997. They spent money on a little 12/11 dulcimer even when they didn't have a bed. After winning the title of National Hammered Dulcimer Champion in 2010 in Winfield, KS, Ted went full time into music. He loves to perform, teach (group or private) and sell hammered dulcimers. Ted, his wife and 7 children make their home in Indiana. More information on Ted can be found at: [www.tedyoder.com](http://www.tedyoder.com).



### **Andy Young**

Andy is a Chicago-based musician, sought after at music festivals nationwide. His concerts infuse expressive musical arrangements with humor and insight to provide a deep understanding of the role of music in our world. Early on in his career, Andy took an interest in Irish music and has now been playing in that style for over twenty years. More recently Andy has pioneered the playing of Gypsy Jazz (the music of Django Reinhardt) on the hammered dulcimer, a genre very few dulcimer players have explored. This has given Andy the opportunity to more fully utilize his percussion skills and to develop unrivaled chromatic techniques on the instrument. [www.andyyoungmusic.com](http://www.andyyoungmusic.com)

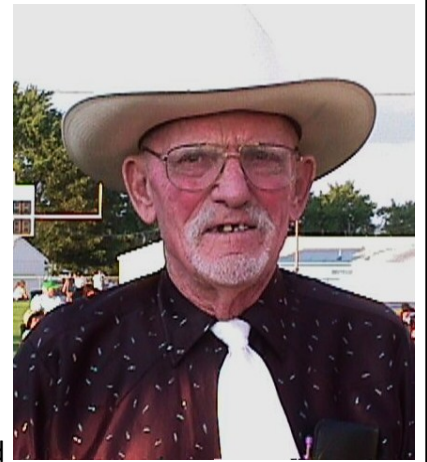
## *Elgia Hickok and Gene Cox*



**Elgia Hickok**

Elgia Hickok founded **The Original Dulcimer Players Club** in 1963. He served for three years as its first president. The ODPC was the first dulcimer club in America. His daughter, Lila, learned to play the dulcimer by watching her father. Last year she attended the festival in celebration of the 40th Funfest.

Gene Cox served as President of the ODPC from 1967 until 1982. As the ODPC grew, so did his enthusiasm for sharing the dulcimer, an instrument he began to play in the 1950s. It was his idea to hold the first Funfest back in 1973 on the fairgrounds at Evert. Gene enjoyed



**Gene Cox**

every aspect of Funfest: the people, the music, jam sessions, and acting as emcee for so many stage shows that he lost count. His daughter, Melva Cox Ridgeway, also attended Funfest last year in honor of the 40th Funfest, a tradition her father started so many years ago. That tradition continues to give pleasure to many thousands of loyal dulcimer fans who return to Evert each July.

### **Funfest Concerts**

All evening concerts are by invitation and are held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Youth Concert is held at 10:00 Saturday morning. Open Mike concerts are held at 1:30 on Friday and Saturday afternoons. If you wish to perform, you may sign up for an Open Mike Concert performance slot at the ODPC Office. You can also find plenty of impromptu concerts at campsites throughout the fairgrounds. Take a late evening walk and enjoy listening to all the music!

Please help to support our performers by purchasing their CDs! Each evening the new sales tent area will be open at 10:00 following the concert providing a venue for sales for all those who performed that evening.

[www.dulcimers.com/festival](http://www.dulcimers.com/festival)  
[www.originaldulcimerplayersclub.org](http://www.originaldulcimerplayersclub.org)