WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA DULCIMER COLLECTIVE



<u>2014 – 3rd Quarter Newsletter</u>

The Western North Carolina Dulcimer Collective is a member-supported group of players of mountain and hammered dulcimers, and those who enjoy listening to dulcimers and/or playing other traditional instruments with them. The group meets once per month to share tunes and information. Dues are \$5.00 per year payable to *WNCDC* – Mail checks to Carl Cochrane, 3239 Heritage Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739-3553.

DULCIMER CLUB NEWS

<u>Monthly Tunes</u>: For <u>July</u>: Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. This is the first of four parts of the South African National Anthem, and the title means "Lord, Bless Africa." It's now also been adapted as a well-known (in Finland!) Finnish hymn whose title translates as, "Lord, Bless the Whole World." For <u>August</u>: Brown Eyes. A tune Woody Guthrie recorded in the 1940's, but around since well before then and since, in many versions. No connection to the various other similarly-named songs sung by Crystal Gayle, Destiny's Child, Lady Gaga and others! For <u>September</u>: Lydia Pinkham. Found in Carl Sandburg's The American Songbag, this tune talks about an "enterprising woman of New England" and the wonders that her herbal patent medicine of the late 1800's could do for "female complaint" and other conditions. There are lots of other verses that have been added over the years, many of which are funny but which I'd never put in a "family" newsletter!

<u>WNCDC WEBSITE</u>: Keep checking <u>www.wncdc.org</u>, our official website! I'm constantly making tweaks and adding new features. Let me know what you think!

	SONG REVIEW SCHEDUI	Æ
July:	The Haymakers The Hobbies Hold the Fort	(2 nd Quarter, 2007) (2 nd Quarter, 2008) (4 th Quarter, 2009)
August:	Holy Spirit, Truth Divine Hop Light, Ladies Hopalong Peter	(1 st Quarter, 2009) (1 st Quarter, 1990) (2 nd Quarter, 2003)
September:	How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place Hush, Little Baby I Know Where I'm Going	(2 nd Quarter, 2009) (2 nd Quarter, 1992) (1 st Quarter, 1994)

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo Yiva imathandazo yethu Nkosi Sikelela Nkosi Sikelela

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo Yiva imathandazo yethu Nkosi Sikelela Thina lusapho lwayo.

Chorus Yihla moya, yihla moya Yihla moya oyingcwele Nkosi Sikelela Thina lusapho lwayo.

Yihla moya, yihla moya Yihla moya oyingcwele Nkosi Sikelela Thina lusapho lwayo.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika (Lord, Bless Africa) was composed in 1897 by Enoch Sontonga, a teacher at a mission school in Johannesburg. It was first recorded in London in 1923, and became a popular church hymn also adopted as the anthem at political meetings. For decades it was regarded as the national anthem of South Africa by the oppressed and was sung as an act of defiance against the apartheid regime.

A proclamation in 1994 stipulated that both Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika and Die Stem (the Call of South Africa) would be the national anthems of South Africa. In 1996 a shortened, combined version of the two anthems was released as the new National Anthem.

This anthem was adapted as "Siunaa koko maailmaa" or "Lord Bless the Whole World" into the hymnal of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church as Verse #501 with a text written by Jaakko Löytty in 1985.

If you enter the Finnish name on YouTube you'll see a version with a guy looking up in a train station. This is the moving video that made me fall in love with the tune. Jaakko Löytty is the first singer.

Brown Eyes

Just a year ago today,
 When my brown eyes went away,
 Up in heaven I long to be,
 Where a brown-eyed angel waits for me.

Chorus:

Those brown eyes I loved so well. Those brown eyes I long to see. How I long for those brown eyes. Strangers they have grown to be.

2. One evening when the sun was low,My brown eyes whispered,"I must go."Not one second would she wait,She kissed my cheek and left my gate.

[Chorus:]

3. One night I passed her on the street, I bowed my head 'cause I could not speak, Another man was at her side, Soon I thought she'd be his bride.

[Chorus]

4. 'Twas just a year ago today, They laid my own brown eyes away. Six long years for me she cried. It was her brother by her side.

[Chorus:]

Although Woody Guthrie recorded it in the 1940's and various artists copyrighted their versions since then, this tune has been around since well before then and since, in many versions. This version is the tune Guthrie recorded, with an extra two verses that fill out the story.

Lydia Pinkham

- Let us sing of Lydia Pinkham And her love for the human race; How she sells her veg'table compound,
 And the papers publish her face.
- 2. Mrs. Brown had female weakness;Couldn't have a child at all,Till she took some veg'table compound;Now she has triplets every fall
- 3. Oh, it sells for a dollar a bottle, Which is very cheap you see, And if it doesn't cure you She will sell you six for three.
- 4. Now she's dead and gone to Heaven,Mourned by all the human race;Still they sell her veg'table compound,And the papers publish her face.

In "The American Songbag", Carl Sandburg writes of this song, "Only two of the many verses of this song are presented here. As a satire the piece has its points and touches more than the surface of current life, manners and morals." I included a couple of other verses found commonly online, but there are many others out there, not all of which can be share in polite company!

Speaking of company, you can still buy Lydia Pinkham Herbal Tablet Supplement on Amazon, and it even refers to it as the same product she initially sold in 1875. No word, however, of some of the more colorful cures mentioned in the other verses of the song!

⇒ JULY '14 ← Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

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⇒ AUGUST '14 ← Brown Eyes

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

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⇒ SEPTEMBER '14

Lydia Pinkham

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

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Western North Carolina Dulcimer Collective c/o Steve Smith 607 East Blue Ridge Road East Flat Rock, NC 28726

MEETING DATES

July 13, 2014 August 10, 2014 September 14, 2014

MEETING LOCATION/TIME

Second Sunday of each month from 2:30-5:00 at The Folk Art Center Upstairs Gallery, Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville

The Folk Art Center is located on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 382, about 1/2 mile North of US 70, just East of Asheville. Take I-40 Exit 55 to Highway 70, then left to the Parkway, or take I-240 Exit 7 and go East on Highway 70 to the Parkway. The Club meets in the upstairs gallery, across from the top of the ramp as you enter the Folk Art Center.

Handicapped Access is available: From Highway 70, go West from the Parkway just past the VA Medical Center to Riceville Road. Go to the Folk Art Center Service Entrance. A ramp leads to a second floor entrance next to where we set up.