

About Philly Street Strings:

Philly Street Strings came about through the inspiration of Swana and Stanley Chepaitis. After 30 plus years of working as musicians in Indiana, PA and the surrounding regions, they felt strongly that the Indiana Community needed and wanted its own orchestra. This has proven to be true as large audiences have attended the initial concerts, responding with enthusiastic standing ovations.

Made up of 14 local and regional professional musicians, Philly Street Strings performs together without a conductor. In our home base, the beautiful downtown Indiana Theater, we present an eclectic mix of musical experiences, ranging from the masterworks of Bach and Handel, to original contemporary works, to improvisatory jazz. Our concerts are more intimate than a full symphonic orchestra, and also more powerful and dynamic than a smaller group. Interaction and communication with each other and with the audience are our main points of focus. Please consider supporting us by joining the audience at our next performance.

Previous Concerts:

Saturday | January 27, 2024

Philly Street Strings presented its debut concert at the Indiana Theater. The program was titled "*Winter Dreams*" and it featured Vivaldi's Winter from his Four Seasons and Dr. Chepaitis' original composition "Winter Dreams". Several area string students were invited to join us for the last number on the program.

Saturday | September 28, 2024

Philly Street Strings presented its second concert at the Indiana Theater. The program ranged from Handel to Lithuanian Folk Songs to Duke Ellington.

Saturday | January 18th, 2025

Philly Street Strings presented its third concert at the Indiana Theater. The program included a violin concerto by Haydn, a romantic suite for strings by Grieg, Lithuanian inspired music for Soprano and strings with Stella Chepaitis as soloist, and selections with strings by the Indiana High School Choir

About the Founders:

Dr. Stanley Chopaitis | *Co-Founder & Director, Composer, Violinist*

Dr. Chopaitis holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree and a Master of Music, as well as a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. He is a versatile performing and recording artist who is at home in a classical string quartet, a jazz band, and anything in between. His career spans fifty years in which time he has performed Nationally and Internationally, composed and premiered his own works, and recorded seven CDs mostly of original music. Dr. Chopaitis has been at the forefront of the Alternative Styles Movement having had a leading role in the ASTA Alternative Styles Conferences in '03, '05, '06, '07, and '08.

Swana Chopaitis | *Co-Founder & Director, Violinist*

Swana Chopaitis is an accomplished violinist and private studio teacher in Indiana, PA. She earned her degree in Violin Pedagogy and Performance in 1995 from the Conservatory for the Arts in Bremen, in her native Germany. She then studied historic performance praxis with Christoph Heidemann in Hanover, Germany, and played with the baroque orchestra L'Arco for many years.

Swana moved to Indiana PA in 1997, where she and Stanley raised a family together. Swana has maintained an active violin studio in Indiana for over 25 years, passing on the art of playing the violin to students of all ages.

Swana is a member of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and the Altoona Symphony Orchestra. Along with Stanley, she also performs with their professional string quartet, the Kalnas Ensemble.

Comments / Testimonials:

"Hi, Swana and Stanley - Just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed the concert last night. You all created a wonderful evening of great music! The program selections really complemented each other.

We especially loved your "Winter Dreams," Stanley; the insightful commentary really brought all the compositions alive; and the sonnets were surprising little gems (great job, Stella!) that added a new way to experience a well-known (and loved) piece. Thank you so much; we're sure looking forward to the next concert!"

- Stephanie & Stuart

"A Big THANK YOU to YOU, Stanley and Stella for making such a wonderful concert possible in our community. I was out shovelling my walks this morning and my neighbor, who was also shoveling, mentioned that she and her husband had attended the concert and really enjoyed it. The Philadelphia Street Strings are a great success! I deeply appreciate all the hard work you and Stanley put into this. Thanks again."

- Carl R.

"You guys are such an asset to our community. Hi Swana. It was a real pleasure to hear your group perform tonight - such an interesting selection of music! You guys are such an asset to our community."

- Cheri W.

"Last night's concert was amazing! My daughter and I enjoyed it very much. Congratulations!"

- Lisa K.

"I loved the music, it was a special evening, glad I was able to attend."

- Gail L.

"It was so enjoyable! Great music selections - especially Stanley's original piece. And the high school musicians were so poised, skilled, and professional."

- Tina P.

"It was wonderful!"

- Lindsay M.