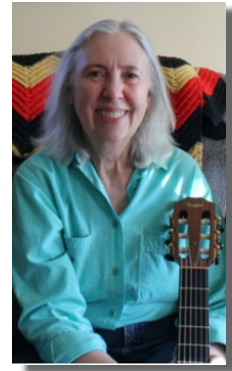


# Kathy Dillon

I grew up in Marcellus. First of all, I have always been a singer. When I was very young, I sang along with all my little "78" "records" memorizing all the nursery rhymes. I sang along in church and was delighted when a junior choir was added. I couldn't wait to sing in the adult choir with my dad. Growing up I was always in a choir in school. I was also in a 6-person folk group in my senior year in high school. We had "hootenannies" back then!



A close friend and neighbor started playing a guitar in high school, and I thought that was the most wonderful thing! I couldn't imagine having one myself! Somehow, I was able to save up some money and bought a "Sears Harmony Guitar" around my senior year in high school. I graduated in 1966. I was able to take lessons from Art Martens, who was pretty well known around town. After learning a few chords, I was able to choose some songs I would like to learn with simple enough chords. Art was a great teacher. He was a rock and roll kinda guy, but he was nice enough to help me learn the kind of folk music I liked. By the end of summer, I had a Hoyer 12 string guitar. I enjoy singing songs by Judy Collins, Joni Mitchell, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul and Mary etc.

Nursing school came into play followed by my nursing career. I rarely had time to play guitar. I got together with a friend now and then, but in time, my guitar ended up in a case and standing in a corner. Time passed, life happened, and I ended up selling my guitars. I felt as though I wasn't interested any more.

Several years later, while singing in church, I wanted a guitar again. My son Mike encouraged me to get one. Then, a couple years later, there was an article in the newspaper about The Guitar League, and I decided to go. As I signed in at the meeting, with guitar in hand, I noticed someone by the name of Loren Barriger on stage playing guitar with a member of Guitar League. I was encouraged to sign up to play and I did. As I listened to Loren play along with members, I decided to take my name off the list. Moments later, a guy by the name of Dick Ward sat down behind me and tapped me on my shoulder and said, "Kathy? You couldn't find a better group of people to be around!" Or something like that! So, eventually, I went up on stage with Loren. I believe that was about 8 or 10 years ago!

I am not a great guitar player, but I get along ok. I don't know much about music and can't read music. I know nothing about theory, although I have always wanted to learn. I can't say enough about Guitar League. I have met a lot of good friends. Everyone has been very supportive. I have enjoyed the meetings...presenters...and breakout sessions, and I have learned a lot.

I have a Breedlove 12 string, a nylon string Taylor, a 6 string Taylor limited, and best of all, I have a 1938 Gibson L-00, which had been my uncle's. I play out at open mics with friends and have, in my music career, played for a few special events. I sing and play solo or with my partner Bryan Dickenson. I love it when someone asks me to learn a new song for them. I never would have dreamt that I would be playing in front of an audience by myself.

I'm afraid to say that I do not practice a lot. I mostly just practice a couple songs, when I'm getting ready for an open mic. I have found that music and Guitar League have been a saving grace in my life, and anyone who is thinking of joining...should, and anyone who is thinking of just coming to listen...should! It's well worth it!