



BY JOSHUA MCKERROW, STAFF

Musician Maggie Sansone plays the hammered dulcimer in her home studio in Shady Side. She has just released her newest recording, her 15th CD, "Hammered Dulcimer Collection."

## Shady Side musician strikes the right chord

### Maggie Sansone puts out her 15th hammered dulcimer CD

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Maggie Sansone's career was inspired by a \$600 impulse buy.

After she heard someone play the hammered dulcimer, she decided to order a custom-made one.

"I didn't have a job, I was out of college, but I just had to have it," the Shady Side resident said. "I ordered it even though I had to borrow money from my savings."

Now 65, Sansone has been playing the distinctive stringed instrument almost 35 years and just released her 15th CD, "Hammered Dulcimer Collection." The recording, produced by her label, Maggie's Music, includes over an hour of selections from nine of her albums.

"It's a way for people who are just learning about Maggie to really hear this

beautiful instrument," said album engineer and producer Charlie Pilzer. "But in terms of content, it's a broad compilation."

It was a desire to play that began her musical career.

After graduating from college in 1970 with a degree in fine art, Sansone moved to Baltimore to live with her brother. There, she made a living teaching guitar in music stores and playing music at various bars.

"That's where I fell in love with Irish and Celtic music," she said. "There was a big influx of Irish people in Baltimore and all the music was coming there. It was like an Irish boom, it was an exciting time ... and I gravitated to it because of its haunting modes and melancholy, thought-provoking scales."

Sansone picked up the mandolin and joined a Celtic group in 1979. See **DULCIMER**, page A6

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