

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Ornamentation and Your Accordion

Dick Albreski

YOU can make your music more pleasing to yourself and your audience with a little creativity, plus some simple rules and techniques:

- ORNAMENTATION is best described as "creativity in motion." You, the artist, can improve your music with subtle or pronounced additions to a theme.
- ORNAMENTATION is best achieved with simplicity, a little knowledge, and confidence.
- TOOLS that aid in the process of ORNAMENTATION.
- LISTEN. If you find something appealing in recorded music, try to capture it in your mind. Listen to it as much as possible.
- CONFIDENCE. Choose a familiar tune that allows you ease in playing.
- UNDERSTAND YOUR NOTE VALUES per MEASURE. If the Time signature is 4/4, then your ornamentation must equal 4 beats per measure.
- PLAY IN FUNDAMENTAL KEYS TO START. Keys of C-F-G are recommended.
- DETERMINE AN ORNAMENTATION STYLE THAT IS EASY. If harmony is your choice, then practice with 3^{rds}, 4^{ths}, 5^{ths}, and 6^{ths}. Harmony notes can be added above or below the lead note. If rhythmic ornamentation is your choice, work with eighth and sixteenth notes, plus triplets. An added benefit to rhythmic ornamentation is the speed drills found in the Palmer Hughes Accordion method.



June Meeting

The June meeting will be held on Sunday, June 10, at 3:30 pm.

As usual, the meeting will be held at the *Messiah Lutheran Church*. The church is located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City.

Everyone is encouraged to come, and everyone is encouraged to perform. If you are shy about playing alone, some of us will play with you.

Members are invited to bring snacks for everyone.

After the individual and group performances, we will have a jam session.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



Prez Sez

Maggie Abel

Despite last month's meeting falling on the Mother's Day holiday, the "remnant" of *OAC* enjoyed the May meeting. It was wonderful to have our vice-president, Karen West, back behind the accordion again after her recuperation.

Congrats to those who took advantage of our Photographer Diana L. Richard's skills by getting your picture taken in front of her backdrop the past few meetings. A nicely posed shot of you holding your accordion will be a treasure to enjoy in future years! We'll be firming up plans to use these shots as a get-acquainted aid for other members, and perhaps in a members' bio feature in the newsletter. You can get a look-see at your accordion photo at Sunday's meeting!

Accordionists, have you ever wondered the best way to deal with an unfamiliar tune? You are invited to bring your accordion to the upcoming June 10 meeting. That Sunday, accordion instructor and member, Bob Mansfield, will conduct a session on how to break down and efficiently learn that wonderful piece of music you would like to play. He invites you to bring with you an unfamiliar piece that you aspire to play well, and he'll deliver red-hot tips to make that process easier!

This weekend we received the good news that television personality Lucas Ross, a member of our Club, has again agreed to emcee our August 12 accordion concert at *Czech Hall*. What a privilege to have the most engaging host, and to continue at the location, which is one of the most well known historic sites in the state. We can start spreading the news to our friends about the concert, and a digital flyer for this event will become completed in the next few weeks.

Thanks are due to someone who helps our Club run more smoothly. You may not realize that former vice president, Tom Phillips, usually arrives early to help prepare the room at *Messiah Lutheran Church* for *OAC*. Pushing aside the "accordion" suspended room dividers to open up the space is no small feat! He deserves a pat on the back for making life easier for all of us!

The old saying -- "Many hands make light work!" -- is appropriate for our free summer concert. Thanks to all who plan to lend a hand -- both performers and helpers -- so that the 300 or so guests we anticipate can glimpse the shining light that is *OAC*!

• Maggie Abel, President



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Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

American Accordionists Association (AAA) will hold its 80th Anniversary celebration July 11-15, 2018, at the *Holiday Inn*, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia. 22314. There will be exciting competitions, workshops, outstanding guest artists, plus concerts. This year will also include solos and duets by famed dulcimer, cello, and violin artists. Grayson Masfield, a seven time accordion champion, will be one of the performing artists. Incidentally, Grayson performed with *NAA Fun Band* at the recent March convention.

Accordion Teachers Guild (ATG) 78th annual convention will be held July 25-28, 2018 at the *Hyatt Hotel* in Lisle (Chicago) Illinois. There will be workshops, vendors, plus original music for the accordion concert. Cory Pasaturo, Mike Alongi, Stas Venglevski, plus Donna Dee and Dennis Ray duo will be some of the featured artists at this event.

OAC Annual Free Concert will be held on August 12, 2018, at the *Czech Hall* on Czech Hall Road in Yukon, Oklahoma, from 2:20 to 4:30 pm. The talented members of the *OAC* will perform. If

you plan to perform at this event, we encourage you to practice your selections starting now. If you have not registered to play at the concert, please notify Maggie Abel or Karen West of your intent. You are also encouraged to play your solo selection at the July 10 *OAC* meeting. The best advertisement is "word of mouth." Spread the word to family and friends about our accordion concert.

Yukon Czech Days will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2018, in downtown Yukon, Oklahoma. Festivities begin at 11:00 am, with a massive parade, followed by traditional Czech music and dancing throughout the day. *OAC* member **Milo Shedeck** will direct the **Bohemian Knights Orchestra** in performing familiar polkas, waltzes, and schottisches. There will be many culinary and merchandise vendors available to satisfy all your wants and desires. In the evening, there will be a grand ball at the *Czech Hall* on Czech Hall Road. Plan today for a day in Yukon, Oklahoma.

Look for more accordion events in future issues of *Squeezins*.



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 7109 NW 102nd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73162

Name _____ Date _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____ Phone (____) _____
Birthday (MM/DD) ____ / ____ (optional)

I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the *Oklahoma Squeezins*, by: ☐ E-mail ☐ Conventional mail

The *OAC* membership year runs from January through December. Membership cost is prorated quarterly for new members.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Primary Membership is \$16 per year per individual | ☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180 |
| ☐ Family Membership is \$8 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership | ☐ Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18 |

Your status (please check all that apply): ☐ Professional ☐ Teacher ☐ Repairman ☐ Student
☐ Semi-Professional ☐ Associate ☐ Hobby ☐ Amateur ☐ Other



May Meeting

Lois Roth

OAC Meeting Minutes May 13, 2018

President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Nine members were present. The President told the group what the Board had discussed concerning the August 12 concert.

Possible performers: Bob Mansfield, Dick Albreski, Lou LeBrun, T. Z. Wright, Jocelyn Pederson, Larry Gering, Anne Lopez, and Lois Roth; The *Trio* (Barbara Duer, Karen West, and Lois Roth), The *Youth Group*, The *Club Band*, the sing-along, and Finale (patriotic song).

Stage Managers: Jim Woolly and Mike Clark
Sound: Brian Roth
Publicity and Programs: Karen West and Maggie Abel

Barbara will contact retirement homes. Lucas Ross will be asked to emcee. We are looking for someone to video the concert.

Concert performers will play their songs at the June meeting.

Then we had music!

Mike Clark played "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" and "Shall We Gather At the River."

Bob Mansfield entertained us with charming songs, including:

- 1) "For Me" ("Formidable")
- 2) "Dance with Me" ("Danse Avec Moi")
- 3) "Au Pres de ma Blonde"
- 4) "The Blue Panther"

The *Trio* (Barbara, Karen, and Lois) performed "Waltz Across Texas" and "Home on the Range."

Meeting adjourned.

• Acting Secretary, Lois Roth



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May Meeting

Maggie Abel



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