

THE OKLAHOMA SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Micaiah and Roland

Dick Albreski



Roland Accordions has announced that Micaiah Elliott, an OAC member, has been selected to compete in the Roland V-Accordion Junior Competition to be held on September 25, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel in Los Angeles, California. Each contestant and a parent or guardian receives an expense-free trip to the event.

The Roland U.S. V-Accordion Festival has an adult division for accordionists 18-years-old and older, and a junior division for accordionists 17-years-old and younger.

The adult division winner will go to Rome, Italy to perform at the International Accordion Festival on November 21, 2009.

The winner of the junior division will receive a FR-1, FR-2, or FR-3 Roland accordion.



September Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13, at the Messiah Lutheran Church, which is located at the intersection of NW Expressway and Portland Ave., just west of I-44 and Baptist Hospital, and across the street from Deaconess Hospital on Portland Ave. Festivities begin at 2:30, when the

orchestra rehearsal starts. At 3:30 our meeting begins, followed by individual and group performances, and then a "jam session" follows until 5:00 or 5:30 pm. 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.

September 13.....Regular monthly meeting
 October 3.....Plaza District: possibility of playing -- pending
 October 11.....Regular monthly meeting
AIDS WALK in Bricktown
Noonish: pending job
 November 8.....Regular monthly meeting



The Prez Sez

Bill Henson

In case you are not aware of it, we missed a lot of you at the last meeting. We still had a good time, but we did have such a low attendance that Dick Albreski has put off his BS class till next month. So if you want to see our seminar on BS, come to our next meeting. I believe Beth will explain in her minutes what BS stands for.

If you look inside an accordion, you will find a very highly tuned instrument. The reed blocks are fascinating, and someone sat down and figured out you could push air through the reeds and make different scale notes. That is truly amazing to me. I'm sure it didn't happen overnight, but the way it ended up is truly impressive, and it continues today as we go deeper into the electronic world.

That is why I was interested in learning how to play the accordion. If others that play other instruments studied the inner workings of the accordion, I'm sure their appreciation of the instrument would be greatly improved.

Of course, when you make an instrument that can reproduce several instruments in sound, you do have a tendency to intimidate the other musical instruments.

If you haven't heard Dan Orza's story about how he received a music scholarship only to be told that he had to learn a different instrument other than the accordion, it is truly a classic history of how the accordion was not well received even in our lifetime.

Hopefully I will see you at the next meeting.



How do you make two accordionists play in time?
Shoot one of them.

Why do accordionists make good politicians?
They are used to playing both ends off against the middle.

What's the difference between an accordion and a macaw?
One is loud, obnoxious, and noisy; the other is a bird.

Why did the chicken cross the road?
To get away from the accordion recital.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mustang, OK
MustangBilly@cox.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jim Wooley
Oklahoma City, OK
jimmiewoolly@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Dick Albreski
7109 NW 102nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73162
405/721-0564
evrich@swbellnet

SECRETARY

Beth Henson
Mustang, OK
BHenson1@cox.net

HISTORIAN/LIBRARIAN

Bob Mansfield
Oklahoma City, OK
bobmansfield@cox.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Dan Orza
P. O. Box 721320
Oklahoma City, OK 73172
cell: 405/326-1124
fax: 405/722-5525
dano9731@att.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Frank Gesinski
8035 South Irvington
Tulsa, OK 74136-8404
918/492-1715
OKAccordionClub@sbcglobal.net

WEBSITE

<http://www.OklahomaAccordionClub.com>

The Treasurer Sez

Dick Albreski

It doesn't get any better! As a boy, just learning the accordion, I had some wild dreams. One was to visit the home of the accordion, Castelfidardo, Italy. I not only visited Castelfidardo but I actually designed my present accordion at the Excelsior accordion plant there.

Another dream was to attend the Coupe Mondiale. That dream came true when I attended the 2007 Coupe Mondiale that was held in Alexandria, VA. Reading about this year's event that is being held from August 25th to the 30th in North Shore City, New Zealand brought these fond memories back to mind.

This year's event will host participants from 18 countries. The world accordion band performing at the coupe Mondiale will have 130 accordionists. This year, a new competition will be included as well. The inaugural Coupe Mondiale Digital Accordion Competition, sponsored by the Roland Accordion Company, will be

introduced. Those from the OAC that attended the last NAA Convention in Richardson, TX also were introduced to the Roland Digital Accordion. Roland, in conjunction with the NAA, was also

having a competition in two divisions. One was the Junior, and the other the Adult accordion competition. I am proud to say that my student and OAC member Micaiah Elliott and I will be going to Los Angeles, California on September 24th, where Micaiah will be competing in the Junior Accordion competition.

And, I said earlier, "it doesn't get any better." But it does!

We are still in the black in our checkbook. Expenses totaled \$43.01, and income was \$150.00 to date for the month, and our current checkbook balance is \$1,546.60.

See you on September 13th at the next OAC meeting.



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7-07

August Meeting Minutes

Beth Henson

Minutes Oklahoma Accordion Club August 9, 2009

Dick Albreski gave a report on his performance at the meeting of the Surrey Hills Garden Club. He said it was a lot of fun. The club sent him a nice thank you note.

Max Gunter reported the orchestra performance at Spanish Cove in Yukon was well received. Milo Shedeck also played his clarinet and saxophone, and Dick and Milo played a duet. Additionally, Dick and Evie's three granddaughters performed and were the hit of the evening.

Orchestra practice will be held in Dan Orza's home on Saturday, August 15th, at 2:00 pm.

A Polka Picnic, a fundraiser for the Czech Hall in Yukon, will be held on Saturday evening, August 29th, at the Czech Hall. A cookout will be held, and serving of the food will begin at 6:00 pm. If folks want to bring chips or desserts to help out, the Czech Hall members would appreciate it. The performances will begin at 7:00 pm, and the OAC Orchestra will perform first. People who perform may eat free; the charge for others is only \$7.00.

On Friday, September 11, Bob Mansfield's gypsy band will perform at the train station in Norman.

On Sunday evening, August 30th, the OAC Orchestra will perform at First Baptist Church in Enid. Other tentative performance dates for the orchestra are October 3 at the Plaza Arts Festival and October 11 at the Aids Walk.

Roland Lohmann passed around a brochure regarding a concert that is being organized at OU to purchase an organ that was in the Philadelphia convention center for 40 years.

Musical numbers were performed:

- Roland Lohmann played "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?" He then invited Bob Mansfield to improvise with him on "Is It a Sin to Tell a Lie?" and "I Only Have Eyes for You."
- Bob Mansfield followed with "Three Fantastic Dances" by Dimitri Shostakovich. These pieces were written for piano and were transcribed for the accordion by Bob.
- Dick Albreski played "Fascinante Waltz."
- Jimmie Woolly played a lively "I'll Fly Away"

Dick will present a workshop next month on BS 101 (he says that stands for Bass Solo).

Members jammed following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Henson



August Meeting

Beth and Bill Henson



Calvary Baptist Church

Dan Orza



Dan Orza, Bob Mansfield, Max Gunther, Lois Roth, Dick Albreski,, Beth Henson, and Bill Henson



Calvary Baptist church is grateful to you and your group for coming to Enid and sharing with us the evening of August 30, 2009. I am not one to "judge" any type of music, but I especially enjoyed your rendition of Edelweiss. I also enjoyed the "polka" music, as it was more "up tempo." The hymns you performed were also very good. I thought Bob

Mansfield's Tango showed considerable expertise, but I'm not into tango music. Your selection of hymns was good in that all were very familiar. You might consider performing "Victory in Jesus" some time. I like the faster tempo and the melody.

Respectfully (and gratefully),
Gary Thrasher





Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone (____) _____ Birthday (mm/dd) ____/____/____ (optional)

Newsletter

I prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, the Oklahoma Squeezins, by:

- ☐ E-mail at address (above) or at _____
- ☐ Conventional post (snail mail)

Membership Dues

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

- ☐ Primary Membership is \$16.00 per year per individual.
- ☐ Family Membership is \$8.00 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership.
- ☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$180.
- ☐ Youth Membership is complimentary for accordion-playing youth through age 18.

Your Status (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Professional ☐ Semi-Professional ☐ Amateur ☐ Student
- ☐ Associate ☐ Hobby ☐ Teacher ☐ Repairman/Repairwoman
- ☐ Other (specify) _____

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