

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezein'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Hohner Squeezebox Apps

Wait, that Hohner? Yes, the world's largest accordion maker now has a line of iPad apps that mimic their Corona Classic diatonic accordions. You can show or hide the names of the notes on the keyboard, tap on the bellows to alternate between "push" and "pull" mode, and even switch between wet and dry tuning. The app is treble only — no bass/chord buttons (although this isn't a big loss for most diatonic players I know). The app comes in five key combinations — GCF, FB-flat E-



flat, EAD, ADG, and B-flat E-flat A-flat — and there's also a "mini" version for iPhone/iPod touch.

Michael Eskin, who developed the app for Hohner, has a number of other accordion-related apps available, including [one-row Cajun/Zydeco accordion](#), [two-row Melodeon](#), and [Anglo Concertina](#).

[Hohner Squeezebox](#) \$1.99

May Meeting

2:00 pm	Orchestra Rehearsal
3:00 pm	Business Meeting
3:15 pm	Individual and Group Performances
5:00 pm	Jam Session

The November meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day), at 3:00 pm**. As usual, the meeting will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church, located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City.

Enter the parking lot from Portland and use the south church entrance.

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.

After the individual and group performances, we will have a Jam Session using the music on page 4 if this newsletter. All are welcome to join in on the fun!



The Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

I have some exciting news. The Oklahoma Accordion Club will perform a free concert at the Norman Depot, 200 South Jones Avenue, Norman, OK on Sunday, August 11, 2013, starting at 2:30 pm. At this moment in time, we are finalizing a theme and listing the performers. All OAC members are encouraged to perform. We do know the OAC Orchestra under the direction of Dan Orza will perform, plus the OAC Youth will also perform. OAC member Lucas Ross from Channel 4 has agreed to emcee the concert. There will be a lot more news in the coming OAC newsletters.

Recently I read an interesting article on "Why Take Accordion Lessons." The article listed taking lessons as your support group. Here you can take advantage of a teacher's experience to simplify a complicated piece, to show practice methods that can shorten practice hours, plus knowing you are now using all the proper techniques in fingering, timing, and bellows control.

My personal reason for taking lessons is responsibility. Once you agree to lessons, you have a reason to practice more. By not taking lessons, practice times are not consistent. Knowing you have to take a lesson makes it important to establish a schedule of practice times, thus making you responsible to your teacher and your accordion.

I am still concerned about membership renewals. According to our treasurer, Milo Shedeck, there are still many of the OAC members who have not renewed. We hope that the activities of the Oklahoma Accordion Club will continue to be a source of interest and gratification for you as we strive to maintain and raise the level of awareness and appreciation for the accordion, as well as encourage the youth to take up this musical instrument of beauty and diversity. If you have not renewed, please do.



Our friend, Tony Lovello, has recently had some heart problems. They discovered water around his heart, and an infected lung. Tony is now recuperating. However, prayers and good wishes are always welcome.

• Dick

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The Treasurer Sez

Milo Shedeck

Howdy to all our Music Members and students.

We still have over \$600 in the bank, with six more members' dues paid.

Happy Mother's Day Sunday to our special mothers.

Also, happy birthday in May to Johnnie Zibert on the 12th, Phil Scibellil on the 16th, and Barbara Mahar on the 30th.

Hope you all attended the Prague Kolache Festival on May 4. The Bohemian Knights Band with Dick Albreski and yours truly had a great time playing for the crowd in the park pavilion.

See you on Mother's Day at the regular meeting.

• Respectfully, Milo



Accordion Maintenance

John Gaunt

Accordions are fragile if not maintained. Play it often.

The more an accordion is played, the better. If you don't play it, the valves over the reeds can dry out, causing unpleasant sound. NEVER store it in an attic, garage, basement, or parked car. Heat or cold will cause the reed wax to melt or crack. The reeds will then fall out. A basement is humid, causing reeds to rust, mechanical parts get corrosion, and a "musty" smell can



happen.

Store it vertically, resting on the bass end.

If flying, use a soft-shell case, and store the accordion in the overhead compartment. If you put it on as luggage, it will get there damaged, as luggage is not handled gently, even if you have FRAGILE stickers on the case. [Editor's Note: At last year's Tulsa Oktoberfest, a German accordionist had his accordion put in luggage. It was badly damaged.]



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IN TULSA**



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April Meeting

Maggie Abel

April 14, 2013 Minutes of OAC Meeting

President Dick Albreski called the meeting to order. There were 19 members present, including three from Tulsa.

- Dick had brought some extra accordions for anyone who wanted to play. Everyone with an accordion played "Happy Birthday" to Milo Shedeck. Dick followed with "Easter Parade."
- Milo and Lucy served delicious birthday cake to the group.
- We agreed to hold the next meeting on May 12. This is the scheduled date, and it is also Mother's Day.
- Dick announced that the 2014 NAA Convention will have a new location: The Harvey House.
- Future OAC meetings were discussed. Dick asked members for new ideas for special places to meet, and different things to do. Bob Mansfield will find out if we can have a meeting at the Norman Performance Center -- possibly in August. This meeting could include a concert, if there are enough participants.
- The big September Fest party will be at the church, as it was last year.
- Other ideas under consideration are: a meeting in Tulsa; a fund-raiser of some kind; and a special meeting at a local restaurant.
- Then we had music!
 - Dick and John Buchanan began with "The Swedish Polka."
 - John soloed with "Elmer's Tune."
 - Anne Lopez treated us to a medley of romantic French tunes: "I Love Paris," "Under Paris Skies," and "The Song from Moulin Rouge."

- Anne and Dick played "La Vie En Rose."
- Barbara Duer played two pieces that she had received from Gordon Kohl at the NAA Convention: "Chosjajka" and "Cossack Dancer." Magdalena Brantley accompanied her with clackers --- a handmade rhythm instrument.
- Bob Mansfield performed several selections:
 - "The Accordionist March," "The Italian Polka," and three French songs: "For Me Formidable," "Douce France," and "Y'a d'la Joie." He also played and sang "Blue Skies," and ended with "Sweetly" by Andrew Bird.
- Dick handed out copies of "Midnight in Moscow." He demonstrated ornamentation of the song by adding thirds for harmony, and triplets and counter basses for interest.
- He also presented us with an "accordion puzzle" picture -- a mirror image of the left side of a 140 bass accordion.
- Dick played two Polish polkas that he had learned as lessons in the forties: "With Money You Can Do Anything" and "Happy Mary," and "The Michael Oberek." His final song was "Eveline," composed by him for Evie.
- Bob showed us how to make an Italian accordion sound "French" by half-engaging two switches.
- The Accordionaires (Dan Orza, Karen West, John Buchanan, and Lois Roth) ended the meeting with three seasonal songs: "April Showers," "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," and "Tiptoe Thru the Tulips." They also performed a British March, "Song of the Regiment."

There was a fun jam session after the meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, May 12. Spring! May! Mother's Day! Come and play with us!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, for Secretary Maggie Abel



- What's the difference between an accordion and a trampoline?

You take your shoes off before you jump up and down on a trampoline.

- What's the difference between an accordion player and a terrorist?

Terrorists have sympathizers.

Mark Your Calendars

May 11, 2013: the Bohemian Knights Polka Band, under the direction of Milo Shedeck, our OAC treasurer, will perform on COX Cable network Channel 145 at 9:00 pm. They also will be available on the Dish Network. Check your local listings.

June 8, 2013: the West Texas Association Squeeze-Off will be held at the West VFW Hall, Post 4819, 716 Reagan Street, West, Texas (Exit 351 on I-35, then east on 1858) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Activities will include all-day OPEN MIKE (solo-duo-group-etc.). No admission fee, but donations welcomed. FREE FOOD AND DRINKS, plus a SWAP SHOP for accordions and electronics.

July 17-20, 2013: the Accordion Teachers Guild will hold their Accordion Festival at the Hyatt Lisle in Lisle, Illinois. There will be

concerts by some of the world's greatest accordionists, workshops, master classes, and performances by the ATG Festival Orchestra. For more information, please go to the ATG website.

August 11, 2013: the Oklahoma Accordion Club will perform a free accordion concert at the Norman Depot, 200 South Jones, Norman Oklahoma, starting at 2:30 pm. Make plans to enjoy the best accordion music in this part of the country.

August 14-18, 2013: the American Accordion Association will hold its 75th Anniversary Celebration at the New Yorker Hotel, in New York City. There will be competitions for all ages, exhibits, and concerts by accordionists from all over the world. For more information, please go to the AAA website.

**Now this stuff with North Korea is really getting serious!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Kim Jong Un acquires 4 weapons of mass destruction!**



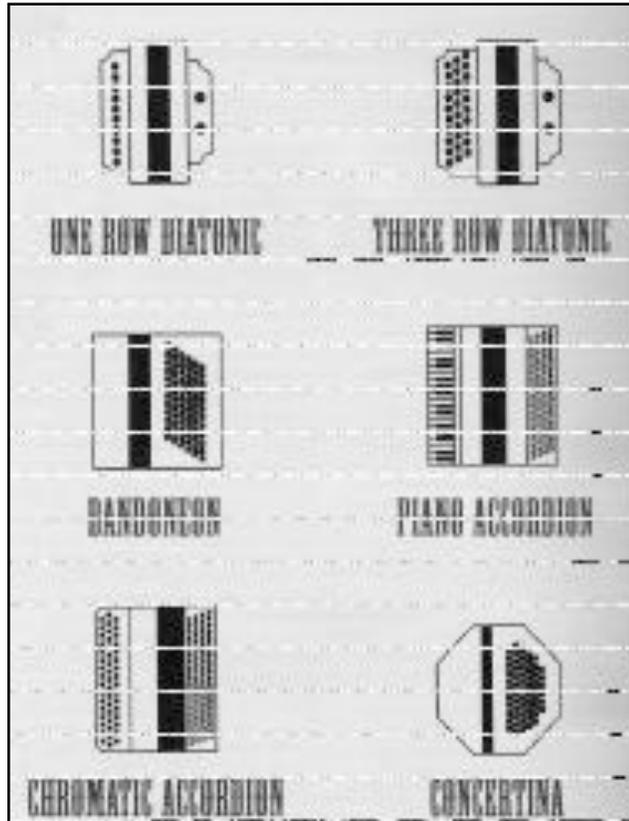
Diatonic Accordions

General Information

The earliest accordions had a single row of ten buttons, each controlling a valve that controlled the airflow to a pair of metal reeds inside the instrument. These ten pairs of reeds were tuned to a diatonic (or Western major) scale, using a layout almost identical to the harmonica. For each button, as with the harmonica, two different notes could be obtained: One note played when the bellows was pulled open, and a different, adjacent note in the scale would play when the bellows was pushed closed, reversing the airflow through the reeds, allowing for 20 notes through the ten pairs of reeds. This “push-pull” arrangement provided a compact and simple system for playing diatonic melodies. With two notes per button, four fingers could cover a complete eight-note octave. The frequent reversal of bellows direction necessary to change notes added a rhythmic articulation of the notes very suitable for many types of dance tunes. The simple two-fingered bass arrangement allowed for a minimal yet adequate accompaniment for most folk music. These factors, combined with rugged construction, a loud sound output, and relative affordability, made the diatonic accordion the most widely distributed and played accordion throughout almost every country in the world.

One-Row Diatonic Accordion

Also known as the “German style” diatonic accordion, it is the earliest accordion design still being made. It features a single row of ten buttons, exposed valves, and from two to four pull stops on top of the treble side of the instrument altering tone and register of a given note by controlling which reeds will sound. It has only two bass accompaniment buttons. The four-stop model remains popular amongst



traditional French Canadian musicians in Quebec, and Cajun musicians in Louisiana. The Cajuns re-tune by filing some of the reeds to provide a sweeter harmony when certain combinations of notes are played together. They also tune the middle sets of reeds in unison, without the tremolo found in most other accordions.

The Organetto

The organetto is a diatonic button accordion found in central and southern Italy. It can have one or two rows of melody buttons, and have from two to 12 bass buttons. The most common

version, known as “due botte,” has two bass buttons (hence the name), and a single row of ten melody buttons. It is often made with three or four extra buttons in a short second row to provide alternate fingerings. The organetto usually has three reeds per note: two middle sets tremolotuned, with a third set tuned an octave lower and controlled by a pull stop.

Three- to Five-Row “Helikon Bass” Accordion

Also known as “Tyrolean,” “Alpine,” or “Steirische Harmonika” (after the region in Austria) accordions, these are found, with slight variations, in Austria, Bohemia, Bavaria, Slovakia, and Slovenia. They have from three to five diatonic rows of buttons. Each row is tuned to a key a fourth above the previous row. Named after the helicon, a type of European tuba, these instruments have the most powerful bass tone of all accordions, featuring from 11 to 199 bass buttons.

To be continued



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership Form

Name _____ Date _____

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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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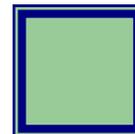
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