

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"

The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Septemberfest

On Sunday, September 8, 2012, the Oklahoma Accordion Club will host its second annual *Septemberfest*, as a prelude to Oktoberfest, for Club members and guests.



It will be held at the Messiah Lutheran Church, Portland and Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

This event will be by reservation only.

Each member can bring one guest.



September Meeting

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

The September meeting will be held on Sunday, September 8, 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.

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.

All are welcome to join in on the fun!



The Prez Sez

Dick Albreski

Our first free concert, in a word, was **perfect!** The OAC members performed **perfectly**. The attendance was **perfect**. Roland Lohmann's treats were **perfect**. What more can I say? I want to thank everyone for their help and participation. I'm already planning for next year's concert, and I hope you are doing the same.

It's here! Our *Septemberfest* will be held at the OAC meeting on September 8, 2013. We will serve brats, sauerkraut, red cabbage, German potato salad, and apple strudel. Each member can bring one guest. However, we need your reservations so we can make sure there will be enough food. Please contact Evie Albreski at 405/721-0564 and tell her who you are bringing to the party. We cannot assume you are coming, you have to tell us that you are coming. In addition, there will be German music -- lots of German music played on the accordion. If your library is lacking some German tunes, just let me know, and I will share some of mine.

In October we will have one of our favorite accordionists, Nick Bratkovich from Tulsa, visit with us once again. Nick is a tremendous accordion player, and excels in performing traditional Balkan music. Don't miss Nick and the October 13 meeting.

We have had a beautiful summer this year, temperature-wise. Hopefully, it will continue. We still have to watch the temperatures with our accordions. Remember this: if it's too hot for you, then it's too hot for your accordion. If it's too cold for you, then it's too cold for your accordion. The reason I am bringing this up is that I had two repairs this summer on accordions that were left in a car. One was left in the car while the owner was getting a haircut.

See you in September, Dick



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7-07

The Treasurer Sez

Milo Shedeck

Remember the important dates this month:

- *Labor Day*: September 2
- *Be Late for Something*: September 5
- *Grandparents Day*: September 8
- *National Remembrance Day*: September 11
- *Chocolate Milk Shake Day*: September 12
- ***Sil Lopez's Birthday*: September 15**
- *National Cheeseburger Day*: September 18
- *Start of Oktoberfest*: September 21 (the Germans start early).

September is also *Classical Music Month* and *Chicken Month*, so play the "Chicken Dance" on your classic accordion.

We have two more dues-paying members this month. A special thank you to Lou Lebrun and Beau Mansfield for the positive cash flow.

Hope to see and hear all our members and guests at the annual Oklahoma Accordion Club *Septemberfest*.

- Milo



Mark Your Calendars

September 14-15, 2013: the San Antonio International Accordion Festival at La Villita in downtown San Antonio. Free Admission. There will be ongoing concerts on three different stages. For more information, visit their web site at www.internationalaccordionfestival.org

October 13, 2013: the Oklahoma Accordion Club

will feature Nick Bratkovich at their monthly meeting.

October 28-31, 2013: Accordions International will have their annual accordion event, *Carnival of Venice in Vegas* at the *Gold Coast Hotel* in Las Vegas. For more info call 800/472-1695, write them at vegas@AccordionInfo.com, or check their website at <http://accordioninfo.com/Home.aspx>.

If you still get butterflies at the thought of Audrey Tautou with tiny bangs, we bear good news. Jean-Pierre Jeunet's uber-whimsical film "Amélie" is on the road to becoming a Broadway musical -- with one glaring caveat. Yann Tiersen's iconic score will not accompany the romantic tale.

Dan Messé of indie group Hem was commissioned to adapt the film, along with playwright Craig Lucas and lyricist Nathan Tysen. Messé announced the news of the not-so-well-kept secret on Facebook. We're certainly interested to see what a folksy indie rocker who is self-admittedly "not a fan of modern musicals" will do with his stage-ready interpretation.



Our biggest concern thus far is obviously the score -- we shudder to think that Tiersen's fanciful, addictive music could be replaced with typical Broadway bravado. "It's like one of the best movie scores there is. It's one of the reasons why I love the film," Messé told Paste Magazine. "But, it's not what I do. [Tiersen's] a very different sort of composer than I am. And I'm not interested in doing Parisian music. I don't think I'm even going to use accordion in my score."

An accordion-less Amélie? Can it be done? We'll have to wait a while to know for certain. Messé is hoping to turn in a draft of the work by Labor Day.

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Accordion Affair Free Concert

Maggie Abel and Diana Richard



Accordion Affair Free Concert

Maggie Abel and Diana Richard



Meet Nick Bratkovich

Nick will perform at the Oklahoma Accordion Club meeting on Sunday, October 13, 2013. Nick has played the accordion since the age of six, and formed his first band at the age of 13. He is the premier accordionist in all Serbian, Balkan, and International folk music. Nick grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin,



and now calls Tulsa, Oklahoma his home.

Please plan to attend, and bring a friend. Our meeting starts at 3:30 pm at the Messiah Lutheran Church, located on the southeast corner of Northwest Expressway and Portland in Oklahoma City.

SEE YOU THERE!



Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
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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
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The Norman Transcript

August 8, 2013

Accordion club to host free concert at Norman Depot

By Jocelyn Pedersen

The Norman Transcript

NORMAN — The Oklahoma Accordion Club will hold a free concert from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday at the Norman Depot, 200 S. Jones Ave. A reception featuring sweets and treats from Lohmann's Good Things will follow.

The club started with eight members in 2000 and has grown to 59 members today, Dick Albreski, president, said.

"We do cater to the closet accordionist," Albreski said.

The mission of the club is not only to share accordion music with the public, but to foster interest in the instrument among youth.

"The concert itself is an opportunity for people to see the various styles of accordion music played in our club," Albreski said.

Various music from around the world will be featured. The emcee for the event is KFOR's Lucas Ross, whose Facebook page displays the poster for the event.

Albreski said all performers will be members of the local accordion club. The youth will play two ensemble tunes, three of them will play a trio and three will play solos.

"It's really gonna be good," Albreski said, adding the 14-year-old is "very inspirational and he's a challenge to his teacher. I have to practice before I teach him."

A candy and chocolate buffet will be featured after the concert sponsored by Roland Lohmann, accordion club member and proprietor of Lohmann's Good Things. Lohmann is an aficionado of antique accordions and has a German-made Hoehner an Italo, an American-made accordion from Chicago, and an Augusto Iorio and Sons instrument all circa the late 20s or early 30s. Each accordion is hand hewn, and as Lohmann puts it, they are all "pretty in their own way."

Lohmann explained that the accordion was very popular during that time because there were no stereos, so there was more live music, just like the concert will deliver.

"The theme (of the concert) is international accordion music. So the music picked reflects that theme," Lohmann explained. "The accordion is very important to many ethnic groups including German, French, Italian, and Polish. All European countries valued and still value the accordion. It's the world's most valued solo instrument — except here," although Lohmann says there seems to be a resurgence of accordions lately.

According to accordionlinks.com, The United Teachers of Music in Independence, Mo. teach accordion, as do the Boston Music School, and several other institutions around the country.

In reference to the accordion's popularity, Lohmann said he's heard if you want to become wealthy, publish a piece of accordion music that becomes popular. The motivation of Oklahoma Accordion Club members, Lohmann said, "ranges from having fun to those who want to play serious music, but we're all working at our own pace at a very difficult instrument. I call the diatonic button accordion (Cajun or Irish) the Rubik's Cube of musical instruments." And Lohmann should know, he plays standard accordion as well as the diatonic button accordion, not to mention the piano and organ.

"The whole concert is to get people to know we have an accordion club in Oklahoma and we have accordion players who want to play for them," Albreski said.

For more information, visit www.OKAccordions.com or call 721-0564.

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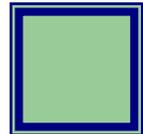
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