

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



The *2016 National Accordion Convention* is being rated among one of the best in the last 29 years. In attendance, Texas came in first, followed by Oklahoma. Arkansas ranked third in attendance.

In the *Evening Activity Review*, the FUN BAND ranked among the highest in popularity. As the director/conductor, my thanks go out to all the FUN BAND

members for their support and hard work. You all are truly the reason for the Band's success.

Next year will be the 30th Anniversary of the *National Accordion Association* convention. Mark your calendars for March 8 to the 11, 2017 at the *Hyatt Regency Hotel* in Richardson, Texas. See you there.

• Dick Albreski

May Meeting

The May meeting will be held on Sunday, May 8, 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!



The Prez Sez

Barbara Duer

Hello everyone. I'll start off with the business news. Due to economic conditions, the *OAC* board is recommending raising the dues to \$20 a year, with \$10 for each additional family member, and raising the lifetime membership to \$300. The current membership costs have been in place since the start of the *OAC* in the year 2000. Expenses have steadily risen, and we must ask your support to continue providing the best accordion club.

We plan on having a membership vote at the June meeting. Please plan on being there.

The August Concert

Please sign-up at the May meeting if you are planning on playing in the concert this year. Also, try to have chosen the music you will play.

I'm still investigating Magnante. So far, there's only one of his compositions that I find I'll be able to play soon, it's "La Bella Teresa Polka," which I hope to play at the June meeting. As I look into Magnante's work, I am finding his arrangements of other compositions very well done and creative. I have an arrangement of "Too Fat Polka" by Magnante that is really nice. I'm going to learn to play that one, too. Let me know if you want a copy of any of this music, and I'll send it to you.

"Marriage of Figaro" by Magnante: Quote from the blog accompanying this video. Magnante is probably one the greatest giants of the accordion in his time and beyond. To have been invited at Carnegie Hall several times is a monumental feat in itself. I've seen his practice exercises (archived), and it's enough to make your head swim. Listen to Magnante play "Marriage of Figaro":

<https://youtu.be/aKj8GUaFDIw>

Magnante playing "Tarantella":

" https://youtu.be/Et_3JCI_Utw



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Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

May 6 is the World Accordion Day. It was on May 6, 1829, that Cyril Damian patented his first accordion design in Vienna, Austria, starting a loving global craze for this wonderful, incredibly versatile instrument that continues to today.

The Accordion Teachers Guild (ATG) will hold their *76th Anniversary Festival* in Lisle, Illinois (Chicago) from July 22 to July 26. This year they will feature Grayson Masefield from New Zealand. He is a five-time world accordion champion. Check the website for more information.

The American Accordionists Association (AAA) will hold their annual 2016 Festival in Buffalo,

New York at the *Adams Mark Hotel* from July 6 to July 10. This year's event will include an excursion to Niagara Falls, workshops, and hands-on-sessions, plus spectacular concerts. Check the website for more information.

Annual OAC Free Concert will be held on August 14, 2016, at the *Czech Hall* on Czech Hall Road in Yukon, Oklahoma from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. The talented *OAC* members will perform for your listening pleasure.

Look for more accordion events in future issues of Squeezins.



May Birthdays



Happy Birthday Wishes to the following OAC members:

William "Rusty" Dolton, May 2

Phillip Scibelli, May 16

Colleen Rettman, May 18

Barbara Mahar, May 30

Your birthdate is collected from your OAC membership application, if you have chosen to include it. If your birthdate is not listed on our newsletter birthday page during the year, please



April Meeting

Maggie Abel

Oklahoma Accordion Club

April 10, 2016 Meeting

Club President Barbara Duer called the April Pizza Party Meeting to order. Present were 20 members and 8 guests.

- Barbara reports that the Club is gearing for the August concert. To that end, Historian Karen West is preparing a duties list for volunteers.
- A vote to raise Club dues will be proposed to the members in June. The current \$16 per year membership could increase to \$20, and an additional family member could rise from \$8 to \$10. A lifetime membership could increase to \$300.
- Guests Vicky Mansur, Abby Bozarth, Lori Lyon, Carol Falk, Chris Rettman, Taylor Jones, and member Annette Zongker-Smith's adorable grandtoddler Elsie were introduced.
- Former Vice-President Tom Phillips gave the blessing before a variety of pizza and a beautiful cake were served. As everyone ate, musicians came forward.
- A trio made up of Past President Dick Albreski, Lou LeBrun, and Barbara on banjo, played a "pizza medley," including "Yes, Sir, That's My Baby," "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue," "I'm Lookin' Over a Four-leaf Clover," "Chinatown," and "Whispering."
- Lou, who is from Springfield, Missouri, then played "Accordion Boogie" by Magnante, on her new PANcordion.

- Karen played "This Old Man" from the movie "Hop Skip Jump," "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Can't Help Lovin' That Man," after which she was spontaneously joined by "accordion mob" Larry Gering, Dick, and Vice-President Dan Orza in a medley that included "Julida Polka" and "Just Because."
- The duo of Colleen Rettman and Dan played "Red Wing Polka."
- Wayne Turgeon outdid himself with three selections: "The Caissons Go Rolling Along," "Come to the Sea"; and "The Marines Hymn," on which he was joined by Tom.
- "Home Sweet Home" and "Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie" were presented by Steven Scott.
- Dick continued this month's Magnante theme with "Accordiana," followed by "12th Street Rag."
- Dan's homage to Magnante was "Valse Allegro."
- Barbara and Lou played "Raggedy Rag."
- The *Accordionaires* (director Dan, Lois Roth, Karen West, and Maggie Abel) were joined by Tulsan Janet Haskin and by Lou to play "April Showers," "April Love," "Walking in the Rain," and "Rubber Duckie."
- Lou closed the meeting with "Ebb Tide."

At the May meeting, members are asked to let Barbara know what they will play for the August concert.

Submitted by
• Secretary Maggie Abel



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April Meeting

Maggie Abel, Diana Richard



William Schimmel

William Schimmel is a virtuoso accordionist, author, philosopher, and composer. He is one of the principle architects in the tango revival in America, the resurgence of the accordion, and the philosophy of Musical Reality (composition with pre-existing music). He received his diploma from the *Neupauer Conservatory of Music* and his BM, MS, and DMA degrees from the Juilliard School. He has taught at the Juilliard School, Brooklyn College CUNY, Upsala College, New School University, Neupauer Conservatory (dean), and has lectured on accordion related subjects at Princeton, Columbia, Brandeis, University of Missouri, Duke University, Manhattan School of Music, the Graduate Center CUNY, Santa Clara University, The Janacek Conservatory in Ostrava, Czech Republic, and at Microsoft.

Regarded as the world's greatest accordionist by National Public Radio, he has performed with virtually every major symphony orchestra in America (and the Kirov), including the New York Philharmonic, The Metropolitan and City Operas and recordings with the Minnesota Orchestra and Chicago Symphony, as well as virtually every chamber music group in New York including Ensemble Sospeso The Talea and Argento Ensembles, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and the Odeon Jazz Ensemble. He is currently featured in "An American in Paris" on Broadway. Pop star colleagues range from Sting to Tom Waits, who has made the legendary statement: "Bill Schimmel doesn't play the accordion, he is the accordion." He is founder of the Tango Project, which, in addition to his hit recordings with them, has appeared with Al Pacino in the film: *Scent of a Woman*, for which Pacino won an Oscar. The Tango Project also won the Stereo Review Album of the Year Award, received a Grammy nomination, and rose to number 1 on the Billboard Classical Charts. He can be heard in other films including *True Lies*, *Kun Dun*, and



many others including films that he both scored and performed and a series of films for the Nature Conservancy, which have won numerous prizes in documentary categories.

He is an authority of the music of Kurt Weill, having recorded all of Weill's music that employs the accordion.

He is a prolific composer with many commissions from concert music to Broadway and off-Broadway. He has written countless accordion pieces for himself and others, including a test

piece for the Coupe Mondiale, the accordions' most prestigious world competition. His *Portrait No I* for orchestra was conducted by the late Leopold

Stokowski.

Dr. Schimmel's theatre works in collaboration with Micki Goodman have made accordion history.

He now heads the Neupauer Conservatory Order of the Shield program, a private studies program for gifted students on a graduate and postgraduate level. He conducts a successful three-day master class and concert series sponsored by the American Accordionists' Association (where he is distinguished lecturer in residence) moving into its 20th season. The Confederations

International of Accordionists has awarded Dr. Schimmel the distinguished merit award for the [AAA Master Class and Concert Series](#), as well as his contribution to the international accordion scene. He received the American Accordionists' Association Distinguished Service Award for Fifty Years of Accordion activity, and his work as Lecturer in Residence. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Great Minds of the 21st Century*.

Keyboard Magazine has sited Dr. Schimmel as "best accordionist," and the figure who has done the most to promote the accordion in mainstream art forms, including classical, jazz, rock and roll, world music, and avant-garde.

Dr. Schimmel, and his wife, choreographer, director, filmmaker Micki Goodman, co-founded and co-directs the Institute for Private Studies, a pluralistic think-tank. They have a 36-year-old son, Michael, an accordionist and visual artist -- and a Special Olympics gold medal winner.



William Schimmel with Al Pacino and the Tango Project in Scent of a Woman



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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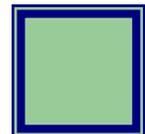
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