

SQUEEZINS

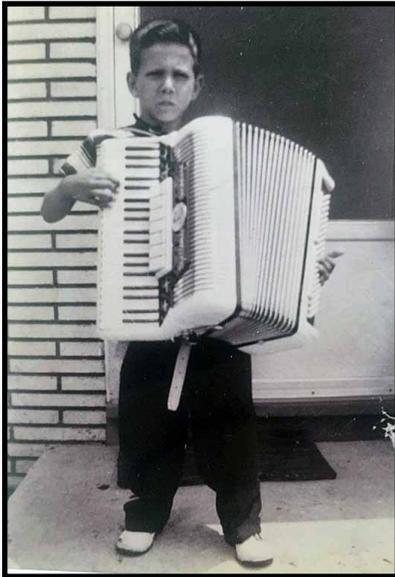
"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter

Dick Contino

Dick Albreski



"The Beauty of Imperfection"
The Dick Contino Story



The official, no-holds-barred autobiography
Transcribed from audio tape by Dick's long-time associate and friend, Corky Bennett
Copyright 2011 by CD Productions, Inc. and Dick Contino



I met Dick Contino several times in Las Vegas. He was certainly a "personality." What you would imagine a "Vegas performer" to be, he was. I would encourage others to read the book and draw their own conclusions.

On the other hand, we in the accordion world remember him as one of two performers that actually kept the accordion alive. Myron Floren (Lawrence Welk) was the other. When we lost Dick Contino, we lost the icon that encouraged us to keep the accordion alive during the "guitar age."

June Meeting

The June meeting will be held on Sunday, June 11, 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.

During the next couple months, the Club will be concentrating on the upcoming concert in August. During June and July meetings we will practice our pieces for the concert in order to practice in front of an audience and to get ideas and advice from other members. If you are signed up to play, please plan to attend these meetings.

This month I am writing about Henry Doktorski III.

Henry Doktorski III (born January 30, 1956) is one of America's premier concert [accordionists](#). He has performed on accordion with cellist [Mstislav Rostropovich](#) and violinists [Gil Shaham](#) and [Itzhak Perlman](#) during concerts and recording sessions with the *Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra* under conductors [Lorin Maazel](#), [John Williams](#), [Mariss Jansons](#), [Julius Rudel](#), [David Del Tredici](#), and [Howard Shore](#).

Dr. Doktorski was born in [New Brunswick, New Jersey](#), to [Polish-American](#) parents Henry A. Doktorski and Theresa Maria Czartowicz, and grew up in East Brunswick. He cites his Polish background -- accordions being often featured in [Polish folk music](#) -- as a main factor in his childhood decision to take up the accordion rather than a different instrument. At the age of seven^[2] he began studying accordion, and early on was considered a [prodigy](#).

As a pre-teenager during the mid-1960s, he played [ethnic music](#) and [jazz](#) standards (inspired by [Myron Floren](#) from the [Lawrence Welk](#) television show), but as a teenager during the late 1960s and early 1970s his musical tastes changed, and he began playing the accordion in a [rock](#) band which performed the music of [The Beatles](#), [Grand Funk Railroad](#), [Carlos Santana](#), and [Black Sabbath](#).

He began studying classical piano at the age of 16, and became proficient enough to win a scholarship as a piano major at *Park College* (today *Park University*). In August 1978, hardly three months after finishing college, Doktorski's life changed dramatically when he joined the [Hare Krishna](#) movement at the rural *New Vrindaban Community* in [Marshall County, West Virginia](#). He composed music and performed for the three daily temple services (5:00 am, noon, and 7:00 pm). During this time, at the request of his guru, he picked up his accordion again after many years, and began playing it during the evening services. The accordion was a hit, and several monks asked him to teach them how to play.

He formed and directed an accordion orchestra that gave their debut performance at the *Wheeling City of Lights Parade* on November 17, 1989. This accordion ensemble won trophies at the *American Accordion Musicological Society* convention ([King of Prussia, Pennsylvania](#), March 1990), the *American Accordionists Association* convention ([Washington D.C.](#), July 1990), and the *Accordion Teacher's Guild* 50th Anniversary Celebration (Kansas City, Missouri, August 1990).^[11] Doktorski himself won first place in the *American Accordion Musicological Society* virtuoso solo competition.

Recordings: The second piece I've never heard before and is beautiful.

<https://youtu.be/gRuE-WKO8r0?list=PLdyIHrSsyU2H8fT61Ib2jkfr0ok-374W>

<https://youtu.be/FrOHDEMOhkc?list=PLdyIHrSsyU2H8fT61Ib2jkfr0ok-374W>

• Barbara Duer, President



Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Barbara Duer

10009 Hefner Village
Terrace

Oklahoma City, OK 73162
405/721-9657

BDuer@sbcglobal.net

ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT

Tom Phillips

Holdenville, OK
405/712-1240

TomScPh@AOL.com

TREASURER

Sil Lopez

16316 Crested Owl Drivet
Edmond, OK 73013

sil.lopez68@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Maggie Abel

Oklahoma City, OK

magster@aol.com

HISTORIAN/LIBRARIAN

Karen West

Oklahoma City, OK

accordion_karen@yahoo.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Dick Albreski

Oklahoma City, OK

juaccord@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Frank Gesinski

8035 South Irvington
Tulsa, OK 74136-8404
918/492-1715

OKAccordionClub@sbcglobal.net

WEBMASTER

Diana Richard

Diana.I.richard@gmail.com

WEBSITE

<http://www.okaccordion.club/>

Lifetime Members

- Jim & June Butricks
- William "Rusty" Dolton
- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips
- Phil Scibelli
- Ophelia Woody

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

STOP and CZECH this out!

There will be an **Accordion Squeeze-Off** in West, Texas on June 24, 2017. West Texas is one of the most visited Czech communities. For a super time in the accordion world, plan to attend this Squeeze-Off. The event is FREE! There is no pressure to play, just come and enjoy the music. There will be individual performers plus jam sessions, and players at all levels are encouraged to join in. This event will be held at the *Best Western Inn* in West Texas, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Free parking, too. For more information, call John Sulak at 254/826-0900. Here is a chance to enjoy the accordion and Czech culture.

American Accordion Association (AAA) Festival will be held at the *Westin Princeton Hotel* at Forrestal Village, New Jersey, July 12 to 16, 2017. Accordion star performers, exhibits, banquets, competitions, plus workshops are planned. Mark your calendars.

Accordion Teachers Guild (ATG) will hold its annual meeting in Lisle, Illinois, July 19 to 23, 2017. Concerts, banquets, exhibits, workshops, and competitions will be featured. Mark your calendars.

Annual OAC Free Concert will be held on August 13, 2016, 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 for your listening pleasure.

FOR THE FUTURE:

Yukon Czech Days will be held on October 7, 2017, in downtown Yukon, Oklahoma. Festivities start 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 Band* in performing familiar polkas, waltzes, and schottisches. That evening there will also be a grand ball in the *Czech Hall* located on Czech Hall Road. This is one event you should mark on your calendar.

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention, October 23 to 26, 2017, at the *Gold Coast Hotel & Casino*, Las Vegas, Nevada. They will feature Joey Miskulin, Stas Vengleski, Mary Tokarski, and Pete Barbutti, just some of the many featured accordionists. There will be workshops, concerts, and a youth competition. For more information, go to <http://www.AccordionStars.com>.

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



Happy **Belated** Birthday Wishes to the following OAC member:

Toni Paulding, May 2

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 contact Karen West at 405/949-0394, or at accordion_karen@yahoo.com.



May Meeting

Maggie Abel

Oklahoma Accordion Club May Meeting 05/14/17

President Barbara Duer welcomed members and guests to the May meeting.

- Guest Pat Biggers plans to resume her long-ago accordion playing. Anne Lopez's mother, guest Cassie, walked into the meeting to the delight of members.
- Barbara has a signup sheet for members to register the song(s) they will perform for the Club's fifth annual free concert to be held at the *Czech Hall* on August 13.
- Members discussed ideas for improving the concert:
 - Improving efficiency in getting performers onstage and off
 - Leaving music stands onstage for the next performer
 - Advanced players featured in act one to maintain audience interest
 - Strengthening the stage manager role
 - Better lighting on the music stands
- Historian Karen West and Secretary Maggie Abel are again working on concert posters.

- Jimmie Woolly initiated a jam before the meeting.
- Bob Mansfield played a medley of Hebrew music, including "Arlsa Alimu" and "Hatikvah," on his 15-button, freebass accordion
- *The Scandali Sisters*, Anne Lopez and Lois Roth, played "Elmer's Tune" and "Third Man Theme."
- The trio of Barbara, Karen, and Lois played "Blue Moon" and "Waltz No. 2." At their request, Bob offered them his critique to ready them for the concert.
- Karen played a solo, "God's Little Candles."
- Anne and Lois played their planned concert selections. Anne's dad used to roller-skate to "Blue Skirt Waltz." Jim Woolly and Maggie spontaneously waltzed to it at the meeting.
- Anne and Lois then played "Blue Hawaii," and "Rain Rain Polka." Bob shared his critique on all three songs.
- Members should plan to perform their selected concert songs at the next two meetings to get in gear for the August performance.
- Jim Woolly suggested the Friday *Oklahoma Accordion Band* rehearsals be moved to 4:00 pm. This band has since been renamed *Music Makers*.

• Secretary Maggie Abel



Advertisements

The Bohemian Knights

Featuring Master Accordionist Dick Albreski



Music for your Party or Special Occasion
Polkas, Waltzes, Pop Tunes & Folk Dances

Contact: MILO SHEDECK
405-748-5376
miloshedeck@cox.net
Playing at the Czech Hall in Yukon, Ok.
www.czechhall.com for dates

Frank Gesinski

Live Accordion Music
and Accordion Lessons



8035 S. Irvington
Tulsa, OK 74136-8404

918/492-1715
accordionfrank@att.net

May Meeting

Diana Richard & Maggie Abel



May Meeting

Diana Richard & Maggie Abel





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

Membership Dues

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

Primary Membership is \$20.00 per year per individual.

Family Membership is \$10.00 per year for each additional family member when accompanied by a Primary Membership.

Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$300.00.

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) _____

Make checks payable to: Oklahoma Accordion Club

Mail your membership dues TODAY to:

Oklahoma Accordion Club
c/o 7109 NW 102nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73162

WATKINS
TRADE MARK
SINCE 1868

**Gourmet Ingredients
Natural-Based Remedies & Supplements
Natural-Based Home &
Personal Care Products**

SINCE 1868

Roland R. Lohmann
"The Watkins Man"
OAC Member

**405-307-0688
1-877-336-3106**
www.watkinsonline.com/lohmann1

J.R. Watkins started a lasting tradition when he introduced the world's first money-back guarantee, which we still honor on every product we sell.

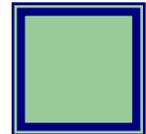
10/07

 **JUST ACCORDIONS**
Sales • Repairs • Instruction
Dick Albreski
(405) 721-0564
7109 N.W. 102nd St., OKC, OK 73162
juaccord@hotmail.com

7-07

Oklahoma Accordion Club

7109 NW 102 Street
Oklahoma City OK 73162



FIRST CLASS MAIL