

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



GARWIN, Iowa (AP) – For decades, 73-year-old Keith Lambertsen (from Garwin, Iowa, USA), aka “The Accordion Man” has touched the hearts and minds of music lovers, helping folks conjure up memories with the help of old-time music. Lambertsen, a native of Wiota, has lived in Garwin with his family the last 14 years. In that time, he has gained a fan following, playing at jam sessions, parties, schools, church groups, nursing homes, funerals, and festivals, treating the public to renditions of traditional tunes, sometimes singing songs in German and Czech, as well as yodeling.

The [Times-Republican](#) reports that through the years, he has accumulated nearly 40 models of accordions, ranging in age, size, weight, brand, and materials.

“I usually take six to eight accordions with me for an event. I tell stories, give the background on the instruments and sing,” Lambertsen said. “I will get a feel for what the audience wants. Sometimes I am hired to just provide background music during a dinner. It depends.”

• Courtesy of www.accordioncentral.com

October Meeting

The October meeting will be held on Sunday, October 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.

We've have had a busy several months. The rest of the year will be a little quieter. During the October meeting, we will have another Oktoberfest, with more German music or any other kind of music members want to play, but no German food. This month's topic:

The Accordion in Arabia

Although present in nearly all Arab countries, the accordion is virtually never mentioned in books or heard on recordings. Anonymity is a matter of course in Arabian orchestras, and although there are a multitude of accordion players, few names are known. In the mid 1930s, an oriental-style accordion arrived in Arabic countries from Egypt. It was quickly taken up in nightclubs, playing Western dances such as the Waltz and Tango.

In Arab countries, the accordion seems to be played with Arabian stringed instruments, in which the quartertone is prominent. The accordion is very widespread in many types of orchestras. The accordion is rarely seen played solo.

During the 1950s, an accordion that could play with quartertones was made by a German company for a Lebanese accordion society, and quickly became popular. In the late 1950s, the accordion appeared in orchestras. It was adopted for its unique resonance, but was only allowed to be played in unison with the other instruments. This rendered it fairly indiscernible among the mass of strings. Soon, Arab musicians began to use the accordion in their own compositions. Some composers liked its tone straight away.

When electronic instruments were introduced, interest in the accordion declined. Up until this time, accordions were very heavy, and musicians often had to play standing for long periods. Since the middle of the 1980s, accordion music has been available in shops, mostly in the form of cassettes. In the mid-1980s, better quality recordings became available, mostly of contemporary ethnic music. Over the last thirty or so years, the organ has begun to replace the accordion, but with the advent of MIDI accordions, the accordion is now starting to make a comeback (from the Internet).

A trio playing Arab accordion music:

<https://youtu.be/XpavwzNP9W4>

Here's a YouTube video of Arabic orchestra accordion as a lead instrument. You might not want to listen to all of this, but I thought the first part was quite interesting:

<https://youtu.be/IHdTYXT8YRM>

Solo Arabic accordion [*Editor's Note: Do not copy his right-hand position*]:

https://youtu.be/7JEQfzqez_w

Solo: this guy is amazing. There are people talking in the background, but it's OK. Just listen to those fingers:

<https://youtu.be/6z3doIjMfeQ>

• Barbara Duer, President



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September Meeting

Maggie Abel

Oklahoma Accordion Club September 2017 Meeting

President Barbara Duer welcomed 21 members and 5 guests to the *Septemberfest* meeting. German food and German music were the order of the day!

Vice-president Tom Phillips announced that an out of state museum has accepted the donation of an antique accordion from *OAC*, and will display it with a plaque crediting the Club.

Historian Karen West displayed a large variety of newspaper and magazine articles published regarding the Club's August 2017 concert.

Sharon Fox and Lou LeBrun were the first to perform. The duo played "Mister Toni Polka," "Cheese and Crackers Polka," and "Bel Viso," aka "Pretty Face Polka."

As an array of German fare from the famous *Ingrid's Kitchen* was served to a line of hungry

diners, Bob Mansfield entertained. First he played "Rhinelanders," "Karlstad Ball," and "Edelweiss." Then, on his 12-base baby freebase accordion, he did justice to "'S ist alles dunkel, 's ist alles trube," which he arranged. He followed with "Adon Olam," a traditional Jewish song, "Hatikvah," "Choson Kale Mazel Tov," and "Hava Nagila," all of which he arranged.

Anne Lopez performed three polkas: "Wooden Heart," "Beer Barrel," and "Liechtensteiner."

Polka was again celebrated when Janet Haskin performed "Swedish Polka" and "Caprise Polka."

Lou LeBrun closed the event with "Bill Bailey," "Can't Give You Anything But Love," "Chattanooga Choochoo," "I Don't Look Good Naked Anymore," and "Don't Take Your Love from Me."

• Secretary Maggie Abel



Two Accordion Records

Dick Albreski

Two accordion-related records were broken recently. One record was for the longest continuous accordion playing, and the second record for the largest accordion orchestra.

Cory Pesaturo, on August 4 and 5, 2017, broke the previous record of 31 hours and 25 minutes by performing for 33 hours and 14 minutes in Graz, Austria. Performers were allowed a 30 second break between songs, and a five-minute break every hour. During the event, musical compositions could not be repeated within any four

hours. Two witnesses were required at all times during the record attempt.

On August 24, 2017, in Shenzhen, China, 2,260 accordion players performed in concert. They were required to play a multi-part arrangement from start to finish for a minimum of six minutes. There were neutral monitors for every 50 performers to guarantee that each performer completed their part. The previous record was made on August 20, 2016, where only [?] 1,517 accordionists performed. For more information, go to: www.accordions.com/china/Shenzhen.



Accordion for Sale

Monarch MIDIVOX-X Electronic Accordion. Includes case, cables, and power box. Used very little. \$1,500.00. Contact Billy Henson, 405/822-3770, or Beth Henson, 405/514-1567, if interested.

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

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. In the evening, there will also be a grand ball at the *Czech Hall* located on Czech Hall Road. This is one event you should mark on your calendar.

International Accordion Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada will be held from October 23 to 26, 2017, at the *Gold Coast Hotel*. Some of the many stars that will perform are Cory Pesaturo, Stas Venglevski, and Mary Tokarski. Joan Sommers will direct the *Las Vegas International Orchestra*. Joan has also arranged Dick Contino's "Lady of Spain" solo arrangement for the *International Accordion Orchestra* to perform at the convention. This will be a tribute to Dick Contino. For more

information, please e-mail them at Vegas@AccordionStars.com.

Heads Up! On December 10, 2017, the *OAC* is planning their annual Silent Auction (supports the *OAC Youth*) and Help for the Needy Christmas party at the *Messiah Lutheran Church*. If you have any small items that you could donate to the Silent Auction, the Youth of our Club would be very grateful. All proceeds of the auction go to support the *OAC Youth* with their trip to the *National Accordion Convention* in March 2018. Also, we ask all members and guests to donate gloves, scarves, socks, and hats, which the *OAC*, in turn, will give to the homeless in our City. This annual appeal has grown to a tradition, thanks to your generosity.

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



Happy Birthday Wishes to the following OAC members:

Karen West, October 8

Sharon Fox, October 14

Jocelyn Pedersen, October 25

Belated Birthday Wishes:

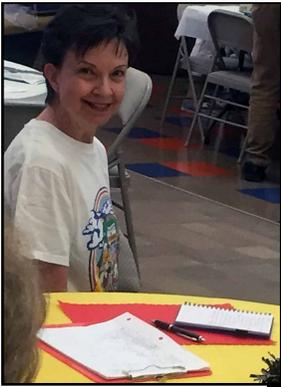
Lou LeBrun, September 26

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.



September Meeting

Maggie Abel



September Meeting

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:

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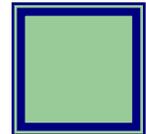
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