

SQUEEZINS

"Our squeezin'...is pleasin'"



The Oklahoma Accordion Club Newsletter



The *Festival Orchestra* at the Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International (ATG) annual gathering is always a highlight of the convention. This year, while celebrating their 80th Festival, the AT presented a spectacular 80-piece accordion orchestra under the baton of world renowned conductor, Joan Cochran Sommers.

Similar to how Symphony Orchestras function, each musician received the music in advance in order to prepare for the concert and three rehearsals were held at the Festival to put the orchestra together, and add timpani and percussion.

Concert Master for the orchestra was Kevin Friedrich, a past ATG President and current Ambassador to the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA), and along with musicians from as far afield as Italy (CIA President -- Mirco Patarini), Austria (First Vice President of the Harmonika Verband Österreichs -- HVÖ -- Dr. Herbert Scheibenreif), and throughout the United States and Canada, the magnificent concert drew accolades and a standing ovation from the audience, many of whom had never heard an accordion orchestra before.

August Hybrid Meeting

Our March meeting will be held on Sunday, August 14, at 3:30 pm.
It will be a "hybrid meeting," and will combine both an "in-person" meeting and a *Zoom* meeting.
Please follow the signs.
If you need instructions for using *Zoom*, please call Maggie Abel, and ask her for a trial session on using the *Zoom* meeting features.
For meeting details and instructions, see page 3.



Prez Sez

Maggie Abel

Good morning!!! To get myself in the mood for today, I put on my red accordion shirt! Today I will be a walking advertisement inviting others to join the accordion world! Kind of a modern version of those guys who walked down the boardwalk in days of yore, wearing sandwich boards advertising this and that. If you are “yore” enough, you know what I’m referring to!

Did you know you can choose to play both sides of your accordion, and it's also okay just to play one side? Lots of guys milk the treble side for all it's worth, and plain ignore the bass button side. Or sometimes, what a music group needs is just the accent of your bass buttons to keep them all synchronized on time. Playing both sides at once is also goal worth working toward!

When you first get your accordion, it is “plain Jane,” but later, did you personalize it? Past Prez Dick Albreski has personalized some of mine. He can insert a rhinestone in certain bass buttons to let your fingertips know where middle C is. He can even add a name plate (aka “[your name here]”) on the grill! Remember those old washing machine commercials suggesting that a Maytag washer would last forever? Dick’s occasional repairs and tweaks demonstrate that, like a Maytag, a good accordion is built to last and last.

The skill of our accordion youth is positively inspirational! Last month we enjoyed seeing the two brothers, Laz and Job Elliott. Can you say astounding? Our Dick Albreski has taught a handful of the children from that talented family!

Praise to the unsung heroes amongst us! Diana Richard (who does not play accordion), daughter of *OAC* secretary Lois Roth, loyally photographs our meetings, maintains our webpage, and masterminds the *Zoom*. Karen West and Lois organize and set out the snack table (It’s important that hungry accordionists partake of snacks!). Karen keeps track of our birthday celebrants. Tom, Ron, and Frank alternate leading the “Pledge of Allegiance.” Our menfolk assist attendees to unload and load their gear. All comers sing heartily during the sing-alongs! Longtime member Frank Gesinski from the Tulsa area is the backbone of our outreach in his editing and mailout of this *OAC* newsletter each month. Hurrah, Frank! Pats on the back to *OAC* heroes!

August is a very very very special month for musicians! Did you know that August 27 has been declared (not sure by whom) as “Play Music on Your Porch Day!” Everyone everywhere is invited to your own porch -- or to a friend’s porch -- to play the accordion (or another instrument)! I don’t know where this idea originated, but what a great plan! Make a party of it! Have pizza delivered! Invite old friends who haven’t heard from you in a while. Looking forward to hearing some reports later, on how this special day was celebrated at your house!!

See you guys at our upcoming meeting, Sunday, August 14, at 3:30 pm. As usual, at *Messiah Lutheran Church*, corner of NW Expressway and Portland. Any *Zoom* performers will be called upon the very first thing!

Maggie Abel, *OAC* President



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- William “Rusty” Dolton
- Janet Haskin
- Roland Lohmann
- Frankie Martinez
- Bob Mansfield
- Tom Phillips
- Phil Scibelli
- Ophelia Woody

August Hybrid Meeting Information

Out-of-town members, or anyone who cannot attend the live meeting in person, may still wish to experience it in *Zoom* (the same way they did in previous months).

(1) On computer, tablet, or smartphone, to join us with audio and video, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5236709799>

OR

(2) On your landline or non-smart telephone, to join us by audio only, call this number:

346/248-7799. When you are asked for a meeting ID, type in 523-670-9799.

If you want to try out the system before that date, just call me at 405/201-7867, and we'll give it a test to make sure all systems are go.

Grab your Ma and bring your Pa, as we broad-jump into that *OAC* squeezebox spirit, anticipating our upcoming meeting!



Outside Group Policy Messiah Lutheran Church Open Up and Recover Safely Plan:



- We ask that everyone who is entering the building wears a mask. The rule of thumb is:

IF YOU'RE MOVING, YOU'RE MASKING

- Once you are in place and safely distanced, you may remove your mask if you desire
- Groups are responsible for providing masks for their group members if they do not have their own
- Groups are responsible for providing their own hand sanitizer, gloves and disinfecting wipes to do the wipe down of touch points on the doors, bathrooms and surfaces used by their group during their activities.

Sanitation & Disinfecting of touch points: Wipe down all touchpoints used by group including but not limited to:

- Inside and outside door handles on all doors touched by group members
- Restroom touchpoints including faucet handles and stall door touchpoints
- Any chairs and or tables used by the group

Maintain Social Distancing

- Groups are asked to abstain from shaking hands and we encourage doing non-contact greetings.
- Seating should be set up to maintain proper spacing (family members from same household may sit together)
- If distancing cannot be assured, then masks should be worn
- It is recommended that group members use hand sanitizer before your group activity begins and again before leaving

Mark Your Calendars

Dick Albreski

The 2022 AAA (American Accordion Association) Festival has been postponed until 2023. Due to the AAA's commitment to the health and safety of its members, attendees, and guest artists, they have elected to postpone this year's event. You can visit their website: www.ameraccord.com for more information.

Gordon Koh Presents On-Line Workshops on Sundays, that cover a variety of music. For more information, you can contact Gordon at gkohl5890@gmail.com. The fee is \$20.00, and will include handouts in PDF form.

FUTURE EVENTS

National Accordion Convention, March 15-19, 2023, at the *Hilton Hotel* in Richardson Texas. Information to follow in November 2022.

Accordion Extravaganza, on May 17-20, 2023, at the *Hughes Theater* in Branson, Missouri. *Lodge of the Ozarks* will give special rates for those attendees. More to follow.

As future events happen, hopefully we will see them in advance to make plans. Keep checkin' this column.

• Dick Albreski, OAC Co-Founder



Happy Belated and Birthday Wishes to the following OAC members:

John Buchanan, August 1
Kris Anderson, August 20



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.



July Hybrid Meeting Minutes

Oklahoma Accordion Club Meeting Minutes July 10, 2022

The July meeting of the *Oklahoma Accordion Club* was held on Sunday, July 10, 2022. Total attendance was eighteen. Eleven members and five guests attended in person, and two members attended on *Zoom*.

- President Maggie Abel called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
- Frank Boyd led the group in reciting “The Pledge of Allegiance.”
- Janet Haskin and Dick Albreski began the afternoon of music with “Eveline,” one of Dick’s many original compositions.
- Janet played and sang “Nothing but The Blood of Jesus.”
- Maggie told us that Larry Gering has moved from Midwest City to Shawnee.
- Dick had a “Name That Tune” session:
 - He played “Petite Fleur” (“Little Flower”), “Teach Me Tonight,” and “Under the Bridges of Paris.”
 - The audience guessed one out of three songs.
 - Dick was playing an old German *Starck* accordion with 80 basses.
 - He said it belongs to Barbara Yuill.
- Laz Elliott brought his new *Giuletti* accordion to the meeting:
He performed four lovely French songs: “Reine de Musette,” “Corinne,” “Convoitise,” and “Il Mio Primo Musette.”

· Job Elliott performed “His Roads for Mine,” “Czardas,” and “Magic Fingers,” He told us that his Mom taught him to play the piano when he was five years old.

· Maggie and Dick introduced all who were present.

· Anne Lopez played a medley of tunes from “The Godfather.”

· Then Lois Roth joined Anne to play for the monthly singalong:

- We celebrated the *Fourth of July* with “The Caissons Go Rolling Along,” “Anchors Aweigh,” “The Marines’ Hymn,” “America,” and “America the Beautiful.”

· Anne and Lois performed several Italian songs: “Maria Mari”—“Ciribiribin” medley, “Return to Me,” and “Neapolitan Nights”.

· Sil Lopez sang “Quizás, Quizás, Quizás,” accompanied by Anne on accordion.

· Anne and Lois closed the meeting with a variety of tunes, including “Are You Lonesome Tonight?” “When It’s Springtime in The Rockies,” and “Rain Rain Polka.”

The meeting was adjourned.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 14 at 3:30 pm.
All accordion players and all listeners are welcome!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Roth, *OAC* Secretary



July Hybrid Meeting

Maggie Abel



July Hybrid Meeting

Maggie Abel





Oklahoma Accordion Club Membership & Renewal Form

Make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
Mail your membership dues to: **Oklahoma Accordion Club**
c/o 209 South 2nd; Bison, OK 7370

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone (____) _____

Birthday (MM/DD) ____ / ____ (optional)

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 \$20 per year per individual ☐ Lifetime Membership is a one-time fee of \$300

☐ Family Membership is \$10 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

☐ Semi-Professional ☐ Associate ☐ Hobby ☐ Amateur ☐ Other

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