

# Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Inductee



## Florian Chmielewski (1927 – ) Inducted in 1995

Florian Chmielewski's accomplishments have come as a result of will and a strong desire to succeed. From the time he picked up his first accordion, and learned to play at the age of 18, to his first dance job three months later, Florian Chmielewski has traveled a long and prosperous road. As an Air Force enlistee in 1952, Florian played for four years with such distinguished entertainers as Hank Williams while being stationed in Shreveport, Louisiana. By 1955, he had contracted with Channel 6, WDSM, and proceeded to produce the longest running television show in the United States. Over a period of 45 years, the Chmielewski magic has woven its way through the heart-land and byways of America. Chmielewski is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation musician. His grandfather, Frank Chmielewski, who came to America from Poland in 1883 and Florian's father, Tony, kept the music moving until 1945 when Florian started the third generation band. All in all, Chmielewski music spans 104 years. Florian's children and grandchildren now represent the fifth generation. Florian's children and grandchildren now represent the fifth generation of musically talented Chmielewskis. Florian actively promotes musicianship as well as the Polka culture nationwide and acts as a consultant for Wyoming, California and Hawaii Polka Fests.



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