

# ACCORDION TALK

Milwaukie Public Safety Bldg. | 3200 SE Harrison St. |Milwaukie, OR

## Announcements

- March 17 -  
1:10 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Music Circle  
12:15p.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Music provided.
- The club meets the third Saturday of each month unless noted. \*No Meeting June, 2018

## Special Features

\*\*\*\*\* 2018\*\*\*\*\*

**Mar 17 - Steve Gordon**

**April 21- Educational**

**May 19 - Courtney**

## Refreshments

- THANK YOU –Delette for providing the delicious treats.
- Mar. - Bev
- April - Fran
- May - Kim



## Steve Gordon

Steve began playing the accordion at age seven, one year after his parents purchased his brother’s accordion. They had a dual accordion act, performing at retirement centers and a San Francisco military base. Steve continued to play through high school, playing “Reflections” for accordion and school orchestra. During college Christmas breaks, he played the accordion, clarinet and saxophone at Harvey’s, South Lake Tahoe. He spent three summers playing in a traveling circus band between the West coast and Chicago. Steve put the accordion aside for 15 years and played the clarinet in an orchestra. Later on studied the accordion with Eileen Hagen. One of five adult finalists invited to play in the 2010 Roland States V Accordion Festival held in LA. Please join us on Saturday, March 17 to enjoy some beautiful melodies from Steve’s accordion.



## Light-Hearted

Two Irishmen, Pat and Murphy, saw a sign that read "Tree fellers" wanted.

Murphy said to Pat, said, 'If only Michael had been with us we'd have got that job.'

May the luck of the shamrock be with you!

May the Irish jig be at your toes!

## Accordion Events - 2018

**RCAC Accordion Camp  
June 10-15 - Sublimity,  
OR**

**Leavenworth International  
June 21-24**

**AAA 2018 Festival -  
July 11-15 - Alexandria,  
VA**

**Cotati Accordion Festival  
August 18-19 - Cotati, CA**

**Las Vegas International  
Accordion Convention  
October 15-18 - Las  
Vegas, NV**

## President's Corner

Hello my fellow accordionists and friends:

Thank you to everyone that has braved the winter's weather to attend our club meetings. We have had several new members join us too. Welcome! I look forward to your participation in future meetings. We all benefit from new members and their style of playing as it brings a richness to the meetings and new creative ideals for the old timers. Also a big thanks to those that have renewed your memberships for 2018.

Wow, did we not have a good dynamic presentation from John Martin at our last meeting? If you would like more of these kind of presentations please let me or one of the Board members know.

Please consider donating to our adult scholarship or out of town performers fund. The donations will help to offset the costs to offer a camp workshop and promote goodwill to our fellow accordionists. Please email me your suggestions on how to promote and improve your club - Rose City Accordion Club.

Thank you,

Bev Spurgeon, Your RCAC President

[bev925@comcast.net](mailto:bev925@comcast.net)

## February Meeting Note - *Marlene Meisner, Secretary*

Fran Maddox and Bobbie Ferrero shared conducting duties for the music circle, and participants worked on several of the new duets and trios that were added to the regular repertoire.

Everyone is welcome to join this group at any time. Lots of fun and a good way to learn how to play in a group.

John Martin conducted an informative workshop, demonstrating ways that players can enhance and embellish their music. These elements include dynamics, register changes, phrasing and special introductions. It was especially helpful for players to have the opportunity to participate with their accordions and gain firsthand experience. Thanks, John!

Guests included Bev Rushing (mother of member Sue Schwab), Frank (husband of member Jill Patten), and Larry Brandt (who joined the club). Pieter Bergsdoerff, who has been a frequent participant in accordion camp announced that he had a small accordion for sale.

Wayne Nelson reported that Alexander Sevastian, accordion player with the popular Canadian classical cross-over group Quartetto Gelato, passed away unexpectedly at age 41.

Before break, members took time to remember those in the club family who have passed away. Bev Spurgeon mentioned her memories of Joyce Stotts.

Jill Patten led the group in remembrance of several members of our club that had passed away. Eldon Tichenor, who visited the club with his wife Sharon, shared thoughts about George Rozwick. An extraordinary player, teacher and proponent of the accordion, George passed away in January about three months shy of his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Eldon, a former student of George's and a national accordion champion in his youth, played George's accordion and entertained us with a medley of Strauss waltzes and a blues medley. Members also shared their memories of George.

Also remembered was Kjell Holmes, a well-known California accordionist who was a participant in numerous accordion camps and other events. He passed away in December. In memory of Kjell, Marlene Meissner played "Halsa Dem Darhemma," a famous Scandinavian folk song that was a favorite of his.

The member meeting then started with announcements from Bev Spurgeon, President. Everyone that performed was enthused and eager to share their choices of songs that had either Love or Sweetheart in the titles. Delette Huffman provided very yummy snacks.



Thank you so much for those that continue to show your support of the accordion and fellow musicians each month.

### *Song List*

*Wayne Tiusanen – I Want You, I Need You, I Love You & Only Love Can Break a Heart*

*Marlene Meissner – Somewhere My Love & That's Amore*

*Leonard Kosatka - I Love Paris & Poor People of Paris*

*Kathy Grambsch – Sunshine Return & Summer Sunshine*

*Mark Greathouse - A Love Song & Someone*

*John Mohney - Can't Help Falling in Love & Love Me Tender*

*Lynn Haldemann & Mark Greathouse - Frozen & Dr. Zhivago Theme*

*Bob Wachter – Tennessee Waltz & Beer Barrel Polka*

*Jill Patten - La Vie en Rose*

*Wayne Nelson - Generation Waltz & Goodbye*

*Robert Myers - Love Lifted Me \* Wagon Wheels*

*Susan Schwab - Everybody Loves Somebody & It Had To Be You*

*Fran Maddox & Delette Huffman—Memories of Frozen & Mona Lisa*

*Fran Maddox - Amore*

*Delette Huffman - All My Loving*

### ACCORDION CARE

### — — DID YOU KNOW? — —

.....accordions should be stored vertically, resting on the bass end. That is why there are feet to rest on.

.....accordions should never be left in the heat.

.....accordions left in a basement will rust and mold from the humidity. Keep it in your closet.

.....accordion case left open with a cat around will surely get peed in.

.....accordions stored in hard cases should be placed putting the keyboard in first.

.....accordion straps should not rub the bellows when playing. Cross the loops of the straps in the bottom bracket to prevent this.

.....accordions should not be played near the ocean. The salt mist will cause accordion damage beyond repair.

.....accordion cases should be carried with the lid next to the body.

.....accordion reeds, if inspected, should never be blowed on. Also touching the steel rods with fingers will rust at the fingerprint

.....accordions should warm up slowly when coming in from the cold before playing.

.....and finally, accordions should not be picked up by the straps.

Intrigued? Mark your calendar to attend the **April RCAC meeting** the above do's and don'ts will be discussed further as well as a demonstration showing a couple of ways to pack the accordion for plane travel. Article and demo provided by Bobbie Ferrero, VP

## Announcements:

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Mt Angel's Wurstfest event was held February 9 and 10 in Mt Angel, Oregon. RCAC is very proud to announce that several of our members participated in providing lively music for the attendees to dance or enjoy while eating their delicious sausages and desserts.



Marlene Meissner



Doug Stickler

Lynn Haldeman played at the Portland Christian School Culture event.



## Gypsy Swing

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One of the more popular forms of music you can hear around the Portland-Metro area that sometimes includes an accordion is Gypsy Swing. Some of my more recent gigs in this style have been at the Raven & Rose, Secret Society, Laurelthirst Pub, and weekly jam sessions at Velo Cult. It's not only popular with musicians, but attracts a large following of swing dancers.

Gypsy Swing, also known as Gypsy Jazz, originated with Django Reinhardt, Stephane Grappelli and the Hot Club of France in the early 1930s. While the accordion wasn't part of the instrumentation in this band, it was a popular instrument at the time in France and seemed to be a natural fit for the sound and style of the music.

Some of the songs that eventually made up the standard gypsy jazz repertoire originated in French musette music. Musette music was initially played on a type of bagpipe known as a cornemuse. It was played in bars and dance halls in Paris. When the Italians brought the accordion to France, there was a gradual transition as bands replaced the cornemuse with the accordion. Other instrumentation included the banjo, which was later replaced by the guitar. Certain reeds in accordions became known as musette reeds. The term "wet" tuning is generally used when referring to the musette sound. For French music, it means some reeds are tuned slightly sharp and some slightly flat.

Back in the 1930s in Paris, the Hot Club of France was taking American standards (songs by Gershwin, Porter, Berlin, etc.), French musette songs, and other pieces, changing the tempo, and improvising over the changes to create a new style of jazz. Some of the accordion players who grew up playing in that decade and in later years not only adopted the style, but also wrote many of the songs that have now become standards. Those accordionists included [Tony Murena](#) (here playing "Indifference") and [Gus Viseur](#) (here playing "Swing Valse").

There are a number of accordion players playing gypsy jazz today. Most of them play a chromatic accordion (more often seen in Europe) rather than a piano accordion. Three of the best are [Ludovic Beier](#) (playing "Bossa Dorado"), [Richard Galiano](#) (playing "Autumn Leaves"), and [Marcel Loeffler](#) (playing "How High the Moon").

If this sounds like something you might want to try, a good place to start is to just drop in and listen at a Velo Cult jam session (Saturday afternoons from 3:00 – 5:00 at 1969 NE 62<sup>nd</sup>, Portland). From there it's just a matter of working on chords, scales, arpeggios, transcribing solos, learning standards, developing your ear and your ear/hand coordination, and a host of other things. That may sound intimidating, but the results will open a whole new world to your accordion experience.

*Doug Stickler - RCAC Member*

Rose City Accordion Club  
2127 SE Silver Springs  
Milwaukie, OR 97222



Challenge for **MARCH** meeting  
If your last name begins with the following alphabet letters:  
A - I play an **English** tune  
J - O play an **Irish** tune  
P - Z play a **Scottish** Tune

**RCAC Contacts / Business Information - <http://www.rosecityaccordionclub.org/>**

**Current Officers**

President - Bev Spurgeon  
Vice President - Bobbie Ferrero  
Secretary - Marlene Meissner  
Treasurer - Fran Maddox

**Board Members**

Debbie Tiusanen  
Mark Greathouse  
Bob Trojak  
Wayne Nelson  
Bob Wachter  
Wayne Tiusanen -  
Camp Director

Website - Steve Knapke      Newsletter - Bev Spurgeon - [bevo925@comcast.net](mailto:bevo925@comcast.net)

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**Rose City Accordion Club** is open to all accordion players, from beginners to professionals, their friends and families, and the public. Meetings are held monthly on the third Saturday from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Milwaukie Public Safety Bldg., SE 32nd and SE Harrison, Milwaukie, OR unless noted otherwise.

**Ad Policy:** Any current member can place a business card or four-line ad in the newsletter free of charge for three months. After 3 months, the fee is \$5 for two additional months. 2x3.5 ad \$5, 1/4 page ad \$10, 1/2 page ad \$20 and full page ad \$35.

**Annual Dues** are \$25 - Please send check to the RCAC Treasurer Fran Maddox: Rose City Accordion Club, 3429 SE 162nd Ave. Portland, OR 97236-1912