



HARMONICA HIGHLIGHTS

October 2024

www.milehighharmonicaclub.com

Notes from the Prez



*Scott Paulding
MHHC President*

THE NEWS FROM SCOTT

Whenever you see Shawn Massa or Lois Perry again, thank them for hosting our Autumn (and 30th Year Club Anniversary) Party. We had nearly 40 people in attendance and it was great fun socializing and listening to everyone's musical contributions.

I hope everyone got a chance to see the recent fall colors these last couple of weeks. The trees have been absolutely spectacular. This crisp autumn weather might be setting you up to wanting to curl up in a big chair and hibernate, and though that sounds really good, make sure you grab a harmonica and find a nice tune to practice on before you fall asleep. We have a seasonal theme (or challenge) for open mic this month. See if you can find a song about autumn... or a tune somehow related to Halloween. There are probably lots of songs about the fall season but certainly less having to do with Halloween.



October 2024

MEETINGS

**October 13, 2024
1:30 p.m.**

**Club Meeting
Historic Grant Avenue
216 S. Grant Street, Denver**

**October 27, 2024
1:30 p.m.**

**Club Meeting
Historic Grant Avenue
216 S. Grant Street, Denver**

2024 Officers

President.....Scott Paulding 303-810-4655 (C)
Vice PresidentRichard Keller 720-701-8315
Secretary.....Dave Nielson 303-935-9345
Treasurer.....Ed Martin 303-770-2587
Member-At-Large.....Lloyd Williams 303-404-2219
Newsletter Editor.....Nancy Bale 303-829-6465

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Open Mic Sept. 8. 2024

Tim Winkelman, Roger Bale,
Gayla Michelin, Lee Taylor

“Oh! What it Seemed to Be”, “Imagination”

Roger Bale

“An a Sentimental Mood”

LeRoy DeVries

“God of the Mount”

Jeff Kellner

“Taps”

Lou Acosta

“Stranger in Paradise”

Ed Martin

“Cara Mia”

Myron Wilson

“Spanish Eyes”, “Home on the Range”

Barry Staver

“Black Mountain Aire”

Bill Kawamura

“Harlem Nights”, “Mona Lisa”

Larry Kind, Mayra Pena de Leon,
Lee Taylor, Freddie Alexander

“Jamaica Farewell”, “Can’t Help Falling in
Love”

Freddie Alexander

“A Message to You Rudy”

Open Mic Sept. 22. 2024 (At the party!)

Lee Taylor, Tim Winkelman, Roger Bale,
Ken Moyer, Gayla Michelin

“Colonel Bogey March,”
”Liechtensteiner Polka”

Ken Moyer

“Others”, “Twilight on the Trail”

Barry Staver

“Ghost Riders in the Sky”, “When Johnny
Comes Marching Home Again”

Forest Ernst

“Camptown Races Sing this Song”,
“Beautiful Dreamer”, “My Old Kentucky Home”

Eric Belsey

“Jesu, Joy of Mans Desiring”

Shawn Massa

“Amazing Grace”

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| Les Reitman | "Put a Woman in Charge" |
| Ed Martin | "Country Road", "Back Home Again" |
| Lloyd Williams | "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles" |
| Paul Davies, Jeff Kellner, Josh Boege | "Blues Triplet Improvisation" |
| Paul Davies | "Slow Zerk Improv." |
| Lou Acosta | "The Wonder of You", "He Stopped loving Her Today" |
| Freddie Alexander, Mayra Pena de Leon | "When the Saints Go Marching In" |
| Freddie | "Rudy", "Don't Know Why" |
| Richard Keller | "The Silver Lining", "Blue Skies" |
| Scott Paulding | "Angeline the Baker", "It Don't Mean a Thing" |
| Bill Kawamura | "Harbor Lights", "Danny Boy", "Margie" |

"Octaves, Double Stops and Tongue Tricks" by *Paul Davies* (Paul's article originally appeared in the **MHHC Newsletter February 2002**... and it still contains great advice!)

The best tool you can use to improve your harmonica playing is that fleshy pink thing in your mouth, called the tongue. It's my drumstick; harmony maker; octave producer; bend-er; syllable-izer; note locator; as well as 1000 other things- most importantly the beverage taster. When my students ask with amazed interest "How do you do that?" the answer always seems to be tongue related. The better you become on the tin sandwich, the more you learn to do with your fleshy friend. As we go through the process of learning all the ways and means of producing a single note (Yes, all the ways should be learned) your playing will improve with leaps and bounds. I believe that octave playing, which is a big part of my style, should be second nature to all harp players and is an important technique that will lead to another plateau worth climbing.

First find the comb between the 2 and 3 holes with the tip of your tongue and gently message.

With the fleshy part of your lips sealing the cover plates, gently blow so that the 2 and 3 are blocked with the tip of your tongue. You should hear the 1 and 4 only if you're doing it correctly. You must be able to relax your jaw and facial muscles and play gently.

The perfect octaves on the Diatonic are:

1xx4 blow 1xx4 draw 2xx5 blow
3xx6 blow 4xx7 blow 3xx6 draw
7xx10 blow

The best way to learn this technique is to play "Mary Had A Little Lamb" with perfect octaves all the way through. This hurdle, once jumped over will lead to all sorts of new tongue tricks and happiness! When the tongue is happy, we're all happy.

Thanks... Paul