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# ACCORDION TALK

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

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## Announcements

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- May 19 -**  
**1:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
- Music Circle**  
**12:15p.m.-1:15 p.m.**
- Music provided.**
- The club meets the third Saturday of each month unless noted.**

## Special Features

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

**July - Education**

**August - Picnic**

## Refreshments

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- THANK YOU – Fran for providing the delicious treats.**
- May- Kim N.**
- July. - John Mohney**
- August - Potluck Picnic**

## Courtney Von Drehle

Emmy nominated composer and multi-instrumentalist Courtney has been working on his particular brand of musical alchemy. In 2003 he was awarded a fellowship at the Sundance Institute to participate in their film composers lab. His film

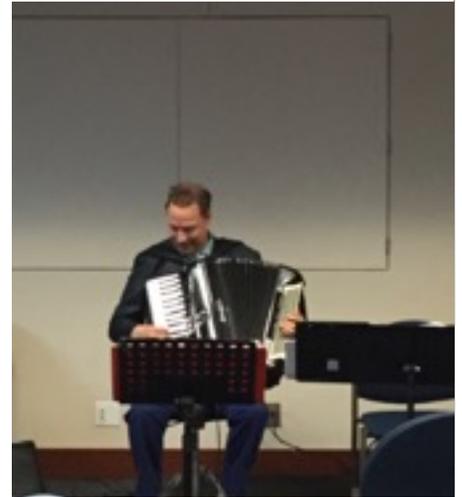
scoring work includes his Emmy nominated score for filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky, 2009 Academy Award nominated HBO documentary - The Final Inch.

In addition to co-leading 3 Leg Torso, Courtney is also a member of the Afro-Hebrew ensemble - Klezmocracy, a resident composer for Do Jump Theater and half of Voniga, a collaborative musical entity with Joe Janiga.

Mr. Von Drehle has a BA in music from Marylhurst University and has studied North Indian classical singing.

Courtney will be one of the RCAC accordion camp instructors for our June camp.

Please attend and enjoy the club meeting.



**There will be no RCAC meeting in June.**

## Stirrings of the Heart

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### Can You Name the Top Bass and Bottom Bass on Your Accordion?

Hand position for the Bass:  
Play with wrist and hand in a straight line and flex up and down as the buttons are hit. G.P.R.

*Top - B flat - Bottom - A*

## Accordion Events - 2018

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**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**

**Oregon's Alpenfest -  
September 27-30  
Wallowa Country, OR**

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

Accordion Talk

## President's Corner

Hello my fellow accordionists and friends:

I am on the road heading to Maine for a couple of weeks. Will be visiting family and enjoying a Maine lobster dinner.

I know that Courtney Von Drehle will give a great performance. Sorry to miss the mini concert and all of you folks. Thank you, to the Board for your willingness to host the past two club meetings.

Reminder that the Rose City Accordion Camp will be held the same week of our club meeting. It has been decided to NOT have a meeting in JUNE. Safe travels. Look forward to seeing you at accordion camp this year, Thank you for those that are attending and especially to the volunteer committee that have put in a lot of hours to make this happen.

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 send or email me your suggestions on how to; Promote and improve the Rose City Accordion Club.

Thank you

Bev Spurgeon, RCAC President

[bev0925@comcast.net](mailto:bev0925@comcast.net)

## Announcements -

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Ed Worman. He was 94 and a half years old. Ed had been a faithful member both as a player and lately as an appreciative listener. Daughter, Gina, says no service has been scheduled but will keep the club informed. We will miss him.

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The final count for RCAC camp participants is 39 strong. We are eager for camp to begin with conductors Bev Fess and Gabe Hall-Rodrigues and instructors Mary Tokarski and Courtney Von Drehl.

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Youth scholarship forms have been sent to accordion teachers far and wide. If you know of interested students (under 18) contact Bobbie [rferrero02@yahoo.com](mailto:rferrero02@yahoo.com) to make sure their teacher has the scholarship form.

## April Meeting Notes - By Secretary Marlene Meissner

It was a small but mighty group of players who met for the music circle and the meeting. During music circle, members played some of the new duets as well as some of the standard numbers.

Fran Maddox noted that President Bev Spurgeon is on an extended cross-country trip, and Vice President Bobbie Ferrero is busy playing a gig today.

Bob Wachter spoke to the members about the new name badges, which are now available for order. Several board members wore their new badges, which had been ordered at a previous board meeting. The badges were well-received, and all agreed they will be a positive addition to the club.

Les Szigethy from the Portland area visited the club for the first time. He played several numbers, and shared information about his extensive musical background. He plans to join the club and members look forward to getting to know Les and hearing more from him.



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

### *Song List*

**Marlene Meissner** – *Edelweiss & Edelweiss (foxtrot)*

**Fran Maddox** - *Rustle of spring & When I'm 64*

**Leta Bunnell** - *Sailor & Stranger on the shore*

**Wayne Nelson** – *Italian medley & Domino*

**Doug Stickler** - *Angel eyes, Out of nowhere, When I fall in love & Return to me*

**Leonard Kosatka** – *Lucia de ombré, Just because, Besame mucho & Italian song*

**Bob Myers** – *A shanty in old shantytown, Grandfather clock, Mexicali rose & Meet me in dreamland*

**John Mohny** – *Home on the range & Come back to Serrento*

**Kim Nurmi** - *Moulin rouge & La vie en rose*

**Lynn Haldeman** - *Fur Elise & Minute waltz*

**Les Szigethy** - *Sentimental journey & Red sails in the sunset*

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# Emilie & Rebecca's Waltz

Courtney Von Drehle

Accordion rt

Accordion lft

3

Cm Fm

6

B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> NC Cm

12

Fm Dm G<sup>7</sup> Cm Cm

18

Cm Fm Cm G<sup>7</sup>

24

Cm C<sup>7</sup> Fm Cm

30

D<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup>

34

rit. D.C. al Fine

G<sup>7</sup>/F G<sup>7</sup>/E<sup>b</sup> G<sup>7</sup>/D

## **What happens when the lessons stop.....Doug Stickler**



We all get there at some point. Maybe as a child or teenager it becomes apparent to everyone that we just aren't interested anymore. Or as an adult when we don't seem to be progressing, or funds are running low, or other things take priority and there just isn't enough time to practice.

When we stop taking lessons does that mean we've reached the end of our musical journey and this is as good as we're ever going to get? Maybe. There's nothing wrong with that and many musicians are fine taking that approach. Some of the accordion players I've known over the years stopped taking lessons in high school and never returned to the instrument. Others stopped and essentially reached the peak of their playing abilities. They were happy with where they were at and had no desire to press on to the next level.

For those that are fine with where they are at, that's great. Music at whatever level and in whatever form can bring us and others great joy and that's really the main point of it all. However, I can't help but think there's more out there, more joy, happiness, and satisfaction, if we just push ourselves to take the next step. For me, I couldn't just keep playing Charles Magnante's arrangement of Malaguena over and over again for the next 45 years and feel like that's as good as it gets. I also didn't want to constantly have that deer in the headlights look on my face and feeling in my stomach when put in front of a group of people and asked to play.

So, what's our next move after the lessons stop? We have options, and being a club member should give us opportunities to take advantage of those options. In some cases, we want to get better but don't know how. Maybe we just need copies of Palmer-Hughes books 8, 9 and 10. Or we could use someone objective and more experienced to tell us what they think about our playing and where we can improve. In many cases it's just a matter of having played through all of our available music and we're now ready to move onto something a bit more challenging. These are all problems where I think the solution is with our club members. I can't speak for everyone, but I have music to share and advice to give if someone wants to hear my opinion. I'm also open to hearing suggestions from others on how I can improve. I've never been very good with a bellow shake, so maybe someone can tell me how they learned.

We also have musicians who want to go in a direction that their lessons never took them, and that's in learning how to play by ear. The challenge there is knowing where to start. I was fortunate enough to have a teacher who showed me a few things before I stopped taking lessons. That was my starting point and I just kept going from there. At club meetings I've seen John Martin offer suggestions on how to get started. There are many things you can do to get started playing by ear. Talk to either John or myself and we'll share with you what we know. You might surprise yourself and find your confidence building and nervousness receding at club performances once you've developed a little ear training. You'll no longer be so focused on the music in front of you and will have the knowledge to know how to fake it if you lose your way when following the notes.

What I'm doing now with my music never would have been possible if I hadn't progressed after I stopped taking lessons. Many of the people I play with are much better than me, but they are generous with their support and encouragement, patient and tolerant of my mistakes, and constantly inspiring me through their own playing to become a better and more complete musician. Let's make sure we keep doing that for each other at every club meeting.

Rose City Accordion Club

C/O Bev Spurgeon

2127 SE Silver Springs

Milwaukie, OR 97222

World Accordion Day is held each May 6 marking the date the accordion in 1829 was first patented, in Vienna, Austria, by Cyrillius Demien.

**Challenge** for **MAY** meeting

Play a classical Vienna tune or has one of these two words in the title. **Vienna or Austria**

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

**Current Officers**

**Board Members**

President - Bev Spurgeon

Vice President - Bobbie Ferrero

Debbie Tiusanen

Wayne Nelson

Secretary - Marlene Meissner

Mark Greathouse

Bob Wachter

Treasurer - Fran Maddox

Bob Trojak

Wayne Tiusanen - Camp Director

Website - Steve Knapke

Newsletter - Bev Spurgeon - bevo925@comcast.net

**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