

# ACCORDION TALK

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

## Announcements

- April 18 - Zoom
- Music Circle -
- The club meets the third Saturday of each month unless noted.

## Special Features

\*\*\*\*\* 2020\*\*\*\*\*

- Mar - Susan Schwab - **CX**
- April - Doug Stickler- **CX**
- May - Wayne T. - Education

## Refreshments

- **THANK YOU** – for those that contribute to the treats each month.
- April - Fran M. - **CX**
- May - Carol K.

## APRIL MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED



*By Bobbie Ferrero*

Please join us on Saturday, April 18 on ZOOM 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Invite will be sent to all paid members that would like to participate. Email [bevo925@comcast.net](mailto:bevo925@comcast.net) if you want an invite.

## Stirrings of the Heart



### My DNA

A tall and handsome  
farmer in his late thirties  
with thick dark hair  
With the marvelous gift of  
music a great accordion  
player  
In the Barn they danced  
and drank their bootleg as  
they listened to my  
grandfather play  
The lively old tunes from  
"Home" far away.

## Accordion Events - 2020

**RCAC Accordion Camp -  
June 7-11, 2020 ---  
Eagle Creek, OR**

**Leavenworth International -  
June 18-21, 2020 ----  
Leavenworth, WA**

**Cotati Accordion Festival -  
August 22-23 ---  
LaPlaza Park, Cotati, CA**

## President's Corner

Hello my fellow accordionists and friends:  
I miss seeing all of you but my desire is that everyone is staying healthy and safe during this pandemic.  
I know we have many talented accordionists in our club. Please send your poem, composition, or artwork for publication in our newsletter for all to enjoy.  
The accordion camp will not be cancelled at this point. We will update the campers as soon as we know the CDC and Oregon regulations for this pandemic.  
Please send or email me your suggestions on how to promote and improve the Rose City Accordion Club. Hopefully we can meet in May.

Thank you

Bev Spurgeon, RCAC President

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

## ZOOM MEETING SCHEDULED - APRIL 18 1300-1500. (1pm-3 pm)

If you would like to participate please email me by the end of Monday, April 13.

First you will need to download the ZOOM app. on your phone or computer.

It is free...I would recommend you setup a virtual background so people cannot snoop at your art work, etc.

**Send me an email by 4/13**

**Your name and song title you will play.**

**Be prepared to play two songs if time allows we will go a second round.**

**Email - [bev0925@comcast.net](mailto:bev0925@comcast.net)**

**I will send an invite/password on April 15 with a list of participants in the order of playing. We can chat at the beginning while gathering and at the end.**

Please have respect for the person playing by not moving your chair, gulping drinks, clinking items or accordion against your chair or desk. This all distracts from the beautiful music that we all so dearly enjoy and need during isolation in this pandemic.

**I hope to see you on line soon. Cheers...Bev**

**Questions? Let me know and I will try to assist.**

## March and April Notes

While we are having to self-isolate during this pandemic... It is a good time to do some spring cleaning of our sheet music and fine tuning our skills.

*Notes from Wayne Nelson's "New Song Hints" - February RCAC Mtg.*

- 1. Use the Internet — Learn about the composer and listen to different styles of the song.*
- 2. Be a Student - Go slow to start, try different fingering, and as the song becomes easier speed up*
- 3. Details - Look at the note values, phrasing dynamic before playing. Play detached unless otherwise marked. Avoid always using "master" switch.*

*Most important—It is never about what you play, but how you play it that will bring joy to the ears of the listeners.*



### *2 Ideals To Do At Home*

- 1. Organize sheet music - This could take a great number of isolation hours to complete. It is so worth it to have your music located in a filing drawer or notebooks by genre. Scanning your music to dropbox is another super way to organize your music.*
- 2. Practice Mindfulness - 5 minutes before you pick up your accordion - To be a good musician you need confidence..so easy for the mind to run away with negative thoughts..."I can't believe I did that! Or "Screwed it up again". Practicing mindfulness is the key to maximizing the efficiency of practice session, jamming with others and vital to the creative process. It can transform your effectiveness and enjoyment because it's often our automatic thoughts which trips us up. Becoming more mindful we get to choose which thoughts are useful and what to let go. This frees the mind to focus on being the best selves as an accordionist.*

## Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Ti Do

What is **Solfège**? - It is the ABCs of music... It is an aural, musical language that will help translate what you are hearing into something you can write down or recognize intervals and chords. Magical!

Do I need it? Yes, Yes every musician should have the skill to hone their inner ear! A real skill that requires some work to acquire!

Check it out— An empowering system of pitch recognition!

Accordion Talk





## Dedicated RCAC Club & Board Member

### Fran Maddox

Dedication to music comes from many different ‘opportunities’. Fran Maddox was fortunate to have such opportunities. She came from a large family whose parents wanted to give their children the chance to take music lessons. It wasn’t easy but they figured it out. Each year a different child would take lessons for a year. At the age of 8 in Madras, OR Fran took her first piano lessons. Their school district offered release time during the school day which Fran used for her lesson time. She walked by herself to the back of the local gas station where the music studio was. Luckily, only several of the older children in Fran’s family were interested in music so Fran was

able to take her second year of lessons in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. During the ‘off’ years, she continued to study on her own with the encouragement of her mother who played the piano.

In high school she took lessons after school. To Fran’s relief there was never a recital. She felt that she would have been too nervous to play in front of others. When the high school choir teacher learned that Fran played the piano, he asked her to accompany the choir. This was a great way for her to play for others without being a solo act. Luckily, Fran now loves to play for us!!

The next era of Fran’s life may be a surprise to some of you. After high school, Fran entered the convent at Marylhurst College and became **Sister Mary Ruthanne**.

Her major of music was chosen for her by the directors. Fran’s interest though was in education. Because a music major was required to practice at least four hours a day, Fran begged to change majors. Fran persisted and became an elementary education major. She spent the rest of her professional career teaching all subjects in elementary and middle school, occasionally teaching music. During this time she was the musical director for the production of “Wizard of OZ”. In 1977 Fran started to teach private piano lessons with as many as 20 students. She continues to teach private piano lessons where she has put great emphasis on theory and technical skills.



So, when did the accordion come into her life? Lawrence Welk was on her list of favorite TV shows and was enamored with the instrument but thought the accordion was too expensive. When her mom passed away in 2010, Fran was left with some inheritance. That was her 'opportunity' to purchase an accordion. She took lessons initially from Eilene Hagen's daughter, Diane and now from Courtney Von Drehle. Well, we know the rest of the story.



As the RCAC we want to thank Fran for her tireless work for the club and camp. Keeping the books for both is a time consuming job. Her contributions are appreciated!!

*By Bobbie Ferrero —On the Road Reporter*



Fran (r) playing with Debbie T. (l) - RCAC Picnic 2016

Rose City Accordion Club

C/O Bev Spurgeon

2127 SE Silver Springs

Milwaukie, OR 97222

## Excellent Video

The link below is the first part of a four part video series on the Accordion Around the World by Phil Cunningham. Then go online and type: The World Accordion to Phil and get the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th part to listen to more GREAT information about the accordion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8eKjRhJB7M>

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

#### **Current Officers**

President - Bev Spurgeon

Vice President - Bobbie Ferrero

Secretary - Marlene Meissner

Treasurer - Fran Maddox

Website - Steve Knapke

#### **Board Members**

Wayne Tiusanen

Wayne Nelson

Mark Greathouse

B. Ferrero - Camp Director

Newsletter - Bev Spurgeon - bevo925@comcast.net

Susan Schwab

Bob Wachter

Delette Huffman - Camp

**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