

Accordion Talk

July 2026



Next club meeting

August 15, 2026

1:30 – 4:00 pm

Milwaukie Police
Community Room
3200 SE Harrison St
Milwaukie, OR

RCAC Board

President,

Camp Director

Amber Matz

Vice President

Beth McDonald

Secretary

Marlene Meissner

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Delette Huffman

Past-President

Fran Maddox

At-Large Members

Don Devlaeminck

Lynne Clark

Susan Schwab

President's Message

Greetings, RCAC! The summer has been filled with opportunities to play together and grow as musicians. At our July 18 meeting, we decided to move forward with an opportunity for a small ensemble from RCAC to play at the upcoming Forest Grove Fall accordion social, "Autumnfest" on October 25. While some could not commit due to Oktoberfest activities, there was still a strong showing of hands to join this group. We decided on 2 songs: Summertime (which we played in Music Circle that day) and The Sound of Silence. As you've read in my emails on the topic, I've settled on 2 arrangements. The Summertime arrangement is largely Courtney Von Drehle's. I simplified the chords a bit to accommodate a range of skills. The Sound of Silence score is in 4 parts plus bass and is available for around \$16 on sheetmusicplus.com. Monetary assistance to purchase the score and parts will be provided for anyone who needs it. **Note:** The next club meeting on **August 15** will start with an "Autumnfest" rehearsal from 12-1 pm instead of Music Circle. Club business will start at 1:30pm and individual play at 2:15pm.

This issue features a brief recap and photos from the July meeting, an inspiring story from Bobbie and Elaine, and an ATG Festival recap from Chris. Enjoy! ~Amber Matz

July Club Recap



At the July 18 club meeting, Amber Matz led Music Circle. The group played "In the Good Ole Summer Time", "A Summer Place", and "Summertime". Individual play featured the following accordionists:

- **Marlene** played Patty's Waltz
- **Kathy** played Variations on a Theme by Paganini
- **Wayne N.** played Pigalle and Autumn in Rome
- **Larry** played Satin Doll and Girl from Ipanema
- **Chad** played Chanson du Pavé from "Le Havre"
- **Sue** played Blue Moon and I'm in the Mood for Love
- **Amber** played Summertime



Upcoming Activities

RCAC Activities

- **August 15, 2026** — Club meeting with special agenda
 - **12:00 pm: Music Circle replaced by rehearsal for “Autumnfest”**
 - 1:30 pm: Club business meeting
 - 2:15 pm: Individual/Small Group Play
- **August 17, 2026** — RCAC Board Meeting
- **September 5: RCAC group rehearsals**
 - 12:00–1:00 pm: “Autumnfest” rehearsal
 - 1:30–3:30 pm: Estacada O’Fest rehearsal
- **No club on September 15. Go to Mt. Angel Oktoberfest!**
- **October 17** – Club meeting with special agenda
 - 12:00 pm: Music Circle replaced by rehearsal for “Autumnfest”
 - 1:30 pm: Club business meeting
 - 2:15 pm: Individual/Small Group Play
- **November 21** — Featured performance: Andrew and Courtney’s Mystery Box (clarinet + accordion duo)



Accordion players to see, support, and enjoy

- **Wed., Aug. 5, 9:30–10:00 am: Larry McCullough** will be playing at Harmony and Happiness Seniors in Battle Ground, WA.
- **Wed., Aug. 12, 5:00–7:00 pm: Doug Stickler** will be playing at a “Music on Main” event with The BundyBand “Sweet Preserves” Jazz Band
<https://www.portland5.com/event/music-main-bundyband-sweet-preserves-jazz-band>
- **Sun., Aug. 23, multiple shows: Ben Rosenbloom** will be playing at The 1905 jazz club in Portland.
 - Info and tickets: <https://the1905.turntabletickets.com/shows/11879/?date=2026-08-23>
 - Bio: <http://www.benrosenblummusic.com/about>

RCAC Stories

An inspiring story from Bobbie and Elaine

The Rose City Accordion Club is fortunate to have a good web presence, and outreach, so people feel welcome to approach us about accordions, lessons, and performances. One such recent request has led to a wonderful ongoing opportunity for Bobbie and Elaine.

Last fall we received a request for a birthday performance before Christmastime, for someone's older relative. As it turns out, it was her uncle. Both Elaine and Bobbie responded, with Bobbie being able to provide the birthday performance, along with several of her ETO bandmates and vocalist, Roxie. We thought that was it, until early this spring, when the person reached out again, about lessons for her uncle! We were very surprised, as he is in a residence facility, but, as we learned later, at one time a passionate student of Eileen Hagen's!

Both of us agreed to try it, giving lessons and support to the uncle, now no longer able to drive to a lesson. Elaine and Bobbie are each taking turns, alternating months, and it turns out he loves it! He loves having a monthly lesson, a time to bring out his accordion, and crank out some tunes (from memory) while each of us provides support and encouragement. It also gives us a chance to enjoy something a little more profound, giving someone a chance to re-experience something that brought them so much joy.

Next time you see one of those inquiries to the club, I encourage you to take a second look and maybe give it a shot. You never know where it will lead.



RCAC Stories

ATG Festival 2026 Experience by Chris Boris

The ATG Festival in Salt Lake City Utah this month (July) was filled with accordion flair from beginning to end. Many of us, myself included, drove hundreds of miles from their points of origin to Salt Lake with accordions in tow.

I had the privilege of performing under the conductorship of Beverley Fess as she directed the Spokane Ensemble through many rehearsals and a successful concert of 10 different charts on Saturday morning of the festival week.

Bev also entered the ensemble in an original composition debut with all of us performing the piece, "Adagio," composed by Aaron Ostenfeld. Additionally, during the original composition segment of the festival, Matt Cooper and I performed an original by Amy Jo Sawyer, who was in the audience, of "Tango Romantico." *Continued on next page...*



RCAC Stories

Continued from previous page... There were interesting workshops instructing teachers and students by Gordon, Latin Rhythm techniques by Joaquín Muñoz Donoso, and an interesting presentation by Heidi Floren about her father, Myron Floren, his life as a professional musician and of all his accordion accomplishments. Besides multiple other workshops, festival goers were treated to professional performances in the evening by Stas Vengleski, Joey Miskulin & Friends, the UMKC Ensemble conducted by Joan C. Sommers, and a grand performance by Radu Ratoi of Moldova.

This summary submission of the week's events cannot fully convey the infectious excitement, world class talent, and multiple opportunities to coalesce with fellow accordionists. It truly was a memorable experience and one for the record books! ~Chris Boris

