

Accordion Talk

August 2026



Next club meeting

October 17, 2026
12:00 – 4:00 pm

***No meeting in
September!***

Milwaukie Police
Community Room
3200 SE Harrison St.
Milwaukie, OR

RCAC Board

President,
Camp Director

Amber Matz

Vice President

Beth McDonald

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Marlene Meissner

Treasurer

Delette Huffman

Past-President

Fran Maddox

At-Large Members

Don Devlaeminck

Lynne Clark

Susan Schwab

President's Message

Greetings RCAC!

September is well underway with a bunch of RCACers already playing at Oktoberfest events. See inside for where to find various RCAC club members playing around the region. Support your local accordionists!

Remember that there is **NO CLUB MEETING IN SEPTEMBER!** Instead, I encourage you to go to Mt. Angel Oktoberfest. RCAC is providing music throughout the festival, and RCAC member bands are also scheduled. You are guaranteed to see friendly faces and lots of accordion music if you go.

Our next meeting is October 17, 2026. The group playing at Autumnfest (Forest Grove Social) will rehearse at 10:00 am. Regular club will start at 12:00 pm. (This is a change from a previous announcement.)

I have scheduled a featured performance for November 21 at our usual club meeting location: **Andrew and Courtney's Mystery Box**. This clarinet/accordion duo is a delight. I've seen them play several times and am always enchanted by their music. This event is open to the public.

I hope you have a music-filled September! ~Amber Matz

August Club Recap



*Bobbie Ferrero
Gerlinde Waltz*



*Mark Greathouse
Come Back to Sorrento
Accordiana*



*Marlene Meissner
Heute Blau & Morgan Blau
Da Hab' 'I' Der Schul'*



*Paul Smith
Unknown Swiss tune
Meglio Stasera*



*John Mohny
Ain't Misbehavin'
Das Kufsteiner Lied*



*Leonard Kosatka
Little Flower
European Waltz*

August Club Recap



*Kathy Grambsch
Concerto in E Minor
Gitanerias*



*Katie Eberhart
Esperanza*



*Doug Stickler
When You Wish Upon a Star
Desafinado*



*Larry McCullough
Accordion Boogie
Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue*



*Chad Anderson and Rick Nunno
La Valse des Vieux Os
Zum Abschied*

Upcoming Activities

RCAC Activities

- **No club on September 19**
- **October 17** – Club meeting and Autumnfest rehearsal
 - 10:00 am: Autumnfest Rehearsal
 - 12:00 pm: Music Circle
 - 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)
- **December 19** — Club meeting, maybe a party? Stay tuned!



Feature Performance:

Andrew and Courtney's Mystery Box

Open to the public!

Saturday, November 21

1:30 - 2:30 pm

At our RCAC gathering on November 21, we'll be treated to a featured performance open to the public! **Andrew and Courtney's Mystery Box** is a ***tiny traveling universe of clarinet, accordion, and musical mystery***. The act blends Eastern European flavors, klezmer elements, jazz, and original compositions. The performance is styled to feel like an intimate, whimsical diorama brought to life on stage, relying heavily on deep listening and spontaneous musical discovery!

RCAC Member Gigs



Mt. Angel Oktoberfest—Sept. 17–20

Tickets & Schedule: oktoberfest.org

RCAC folks will be providing music at **Hopfengarten** and **Prostgarten** throughout the festival!

Estacada Oktoberfest—Sept. 26, 2026

11 am–7 pm (*RCAC plays at 1:00 pm*)

Susan Schwab -Alpine Echoes - alpineechoesband.com

- Sept. 17–20, 1:15–2:45 pm Mt. Angel Oktoberfest, Bandstand
- Sept. 25–27, Oaks Park Oktoberfest
- Oct. 1, Cogir at the Quarry (Vancouver)
- Oct 3, 5–7 pm — Happy Valley Oktoberfest

Doug Stickler

- September 20, 5:00 – 8:00 pm — Gustav's in Vancouver
- September 25, 5:00 – 8:00 pm — Gustav's in Vancouver
- September 26, 2:00 – 7:00 pm — pFriem + Grasslands Barbecue Oktoberfest
- October 2, 5:00 - 8:00 pm — Gustav's in Vancouver
- October 3, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Oktoberfest - City of Happy Valley,
- October 4 - Milwaukie Farmers Market, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- October 4 - Gustav's in Vancouver, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

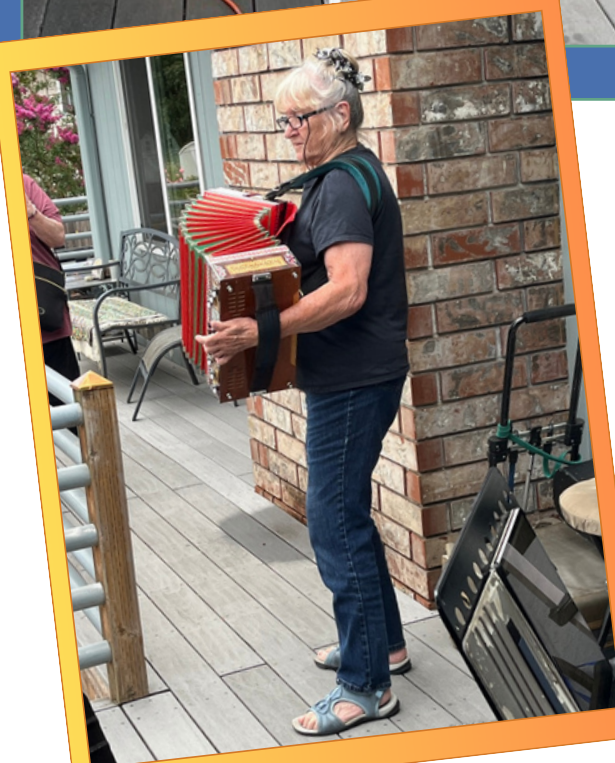
Marlene Meissner, Jeff Nelson (Bavarian Echoes)

- Sept. 12, 12:00–3:00 - German American Society Oktoberfest (Portland)
- Sept. 26, 2:00–3:00 and 4:30–5:40 - pFriemtoberfest (Hood River)

Jeff Nelson (Willamette Valley Big Band)

- September 19, 3pm — United Methodist Church (Woodburn)
- Sept. 18 & 19 with Bob Noel for the Fobtoberfest in Canby at the Clackamas Co. Fairgrounds

RCAC Out & About



Cotati Festival Story

by **Chris Boris**

I had the opportunity to attend the 2026 Cotati Festival again this year and as usual, I had a remarkable time with many fellow accordionists. Cotati not only brings in local, national, and international talent but also strongly focuses on young accordion students, incentivizing their continued progress on our beloved instrument through competition.

This was my fourth year adjudicating the student competitions with three other judges, and this year's program included 10 competitors. To support scholarship funding and award prizes for their competition placement, a benefit concert is held at the Church of the Oaks hall on the Friday afternoon before the festival begins. This year, I was honored to be asked by Dave Noferi, the head of the Cotati Accordion Student Scholarship Program, to perform to raise funds through audience donations. My duo partner, Matt Cooper, and I played a variety of genres to begin the program. Mike Zampiceni then graced the audience with his exquisite accordion skills, followed with a superb grand finale performance by Stas Venglevski. We successfully raised \$650 for the student scholarship fund.

Each night, we gathered to eat and jam with our accordions at Petaluma's local Italian restaurant, the iconic Volpi's, where the recently deceased John Volpi had hosted many well known accordion players over the past 70 years. On Saturday afternoon and Sunday, my time to listen to and watch the talent on stage was very limited, but I was told the talented accordionists and bands did not disappoint. Instead, I helped work the student scholarship booth selling loose sheet music, jam books from the San Francisco Club, figurines (some also donated by the San Francisco Club), and CDs to continue raising funds for students. As a former high school English teacher, my sincere dedication to students continues to this day. Cotati 2026 was truly a rewarding and memorable experience.

Cotati Festival Story

by Chris Boris

