

2024 LIAC Workshop Descriptions:

Workshops are \$15 if paid by June 10 or \$20 at Leavenworth

#1 Beyond the Notes

With Beverley Fess

Fri 10:00am Grange/Upper

The aim of this workshop is to bring awareness of the fine details that make a polished performance piece. Together we will analyze a selection discussing the composer's indications, how to execute them and what to consider beyond the written indications. Bring your accordion if you wish – it is not mandatory.

#2 Understanding Chords for Accordionists

With Toby Hanson

Fri 11:30am Grange/Upper

Chords are what make the accordion a unique instrument. Why, then, don't more accordionists understand the theory behind what's so vital about their instrument? Chords have a way of being confusing and difficult with all of their various numbers that are applied differently based on the context. In this workshop, Toby Hanson will demystify chord construction and naming and show the connection between chords, scales, intervals, and the layout of the left hand of the accordion. Participants need not have a lot of music theory knowledge but it's helpful if they are familiar with the major scale.

#3 How to Improve Technique and Authenticate Genres

With Gary Blair

Fri 1:00pm Grange/Upper

“I will show different exercises I use to talk about ornaments and general tips on accordion playing.”

#4 An Overview of Jazz and Jazz Improvisation

With David Lange and Jim Char - Pearl Django musicians

Fri 4:30pm Grange/Upper

This workshop will include a brief exposure to improvisation that doesn't require advanced theory knowledge. We will also explore compound chord combinations in the left hand that are useful in jazz playing. . Along the way we may bump into how to play jazz rhythms , bellow work, playing time and maybe even some pitch bending. This is targeted toward intermediate players, but all are welcome, and please do bring your accordions.

**#5 The Difference Between Demonstrating
and Communicating with your Audience - Part 2
A Master Workshop with Andy Mirkovich
Sat 10:00am Grange/Upper**

This workshop will be a continuation of Andy's very informative workshop in 2023. It is not necessary to have attended the 2023 workshop.

When you perform, do you just demonstrate your abilities before an audience or do you really connect and communicate with that audience? Musicians and entertainers who are the most successful, the most sought after, who score higher in competitions and earn more money for their performances all have one thing in common, they don't just demonstrate their technical abilities, they communicate something special that touches, moves and inspires their audiences.

Regardless of age or experience, this workshop will offer you the opportunity to be more successful musically than you have ever been before.

**#6 Accordion Gym
With Jamie Maschler and Gabe Hall-Rodrigues
Sat 1:30pm Grange/Upper**

This workshop will review and reinforce what Jamie and Gabe taught last year. It is designed for beginners and intermediate players who are interested in learning or improving their accordion skills. Students will have the opportunity to learn basic techniques and fundamental accordion practices for any tune in any genre or style. Topics in Accordion gym include warm-up routines, practice games, understanding how to play in a key, and different forms of accordion accompaniment. Open To all levels. Please bring an accordion!

**#7 Ask A Teacher - all welcome especially Youth
With Cooksie Kramer (Kaserzon)
ABCA, LBCA, Member ABRSM Trinity College London, UK
Sat 4:30pm Grange/Upper**

Question and Answers. Fun workshop for Youth but all welcome. Snacks Provided!
Join me together with Musicians from Orchestra and Choirs to discuss Music Questions ranging from Classical to Jazz, including early Music to Modern. You can bring your Accordion but it is not essential. Subjects will cover the History, Theory and Practice, Technique, Phrasing and developing your own style. You ask – we have the answers.

Be sure to attend our **FREE** Sessions!

Playing in a group; performing at the gazebo

with Lyle Schaefer

Thurs 3:00 – 4:30pm Grange/Upper

Gazebo gig book is available via email or via LIAC website

Workshop: Participants will be accordionists who want to perform in an organized jam environment such as the ones held at the Gazebo on Fri and Sat afternoons.

Requirements: Accordionists will bring their instruments and a music stand to this workshop. Prior to LIAC, workshop participants should obtain a copy of workshop music. This may be done by going to the LIAC website to obtain the music.

Music on the website: www.accordioncelebration.org/gazebo.html .

Music by email, contact Lyle Schaefer: schaeferband@yahoo.com .

Content: The workshop content will focus on performance practice and rehearsal techniques for ensemble playing. Topics will include selecting appropriate reed combinations on right and left hand, balancing the parts, watching the director for performance cues, listening to others and improving stage presentation.

The LIAC Gazebo Jam presents a performance opportunity for all accordionists. To rehearse for the Gazebo Jam, performers will be provided a playlist of new music in addition to the well-known selections in the “gig” book.

The Button Box Across the Centuries

with Tom Tilton

Fri 12:30 – 1:15pm Festhalle by Button Box display