

2025 LIAC Workshop Descriptions:

Workshops are \$15 if paid by June 9 or \$20 at Leavenworth

#1 Louisiana Comes to Leavenworth

With Mark Myking

Fri 10:00-11:30am Grange/Upper

All levels welcome!

Bring your Piano Key Accordion or your "C" Diatonic Cajun Button Box We'll do both!

In this workshop we will learn two songs; one Cajun Two Step and also a Cajun waltz.

We'll do this by ear from recordings and Mark will help break it down for you with tips and tools you can use to get the FEEL for this music.

Mark will demo the tunes on both types of accordion so you will hear how these songs sound and you will start to incorporate the sound, groove and feel on whatever instrument you use!

#2 The Accordion's Humble Beginnings

With Thomas Tilton

Fri 12:30-1:30pm Grange/Upper

Present in the Grange Hall is an expansive accordion exhibit consisting of a selection of instruments, primarily diatonic button-style accordions, from the collection of Thomas Tilton. The selection includes some of the oldest instruments in the accordion family, and the exhibit nicely lays out the history and evolution of the accordion, from inception to present.

Thomas takes great pleasure in demonstrating the instruments and talking about their place in accordion history. Join us at the Grange Hall on Friday, June 27th, 12:30, as Thomas explores the evolution of the accordion.

#3 The World Of Polkas

With Hank Thunander

Fri 2:00-3:00pm Grange/Upper

The average person can name four different styles of polka but there are many more than that. The polka conquered the world in the 19th Century and dozens of ethnic groups adopted it and made it their own. In this workshop, participants will learn about the various different styles of polkas, complete with demonstrations of elements of the different styles of playing. Hank Thunander has played all different kinds of polkas throughout his career and can guide players from Finland to Mexico through their various styles of polkas.

#4 Tango Articulation and Phrasing on the Accordion
With Ben Thomas
Sat 1:30-2:30pm Grange/Upper

Have you wondered about how to get that “tango” sound on your accordion? Come explore how to apply some of the techniques used on bandoneon for tango to your own instrument. We’ll examine some general approaches to the articulations and phrasing used in tango and ways to produce them on the accordion.

The workshop will cover both melodic ideas and comping.

Come put some bandoneon in your accordion!

Open to all levels.

#5 The Accordion in Ragtime, Hot Jazz, and Early Swing
with Matt Tolentino
Sat 3:00-4:00pm Grange/Upper

This workshop will focus on the accordion and its importance in popular music of the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s. It will take an in-depth look at the artists and bands who employed the accordion during this time, along with sheet music, interviews, and historic recordings of the era.

#6 The Accordion in Ragtime, Hot Jazz, and Early Swing
with Matt Tolentino
Sat 4:30-5:30pm Grange/Upper

This is a repeat of workshop #6. This will give people more choices to attend Matt’s very informative workshop

Be sure to attend our FREE Sessions – all held in Grange upper level

Thurs 3:00 – 4:30pm **Gazebo Ensemble Rehearsal** with **Jakob Bean** – **FREE**
(Playing in a group; Rehearse Gazebo Ensemble music)

Friday 3:30 – 5:00pm Jam Session for all accordionists; **Hosts: Rod Miller, Cooksie Kramer** – **FREE**

Saturday 10:00 – 11:30am Circle Jam Session for all accordionists;
Hosts: Bonnie Birch, Cooksie Kramer– **FREE**

Thurs – Saturday Button Box Display: An Historical Collection

An exhibit of diatonic instruments dating from inception through the present.

On display in the Grange throughout the Accordion Celebration.

- From the private collection of Thomas Tilton of AlpenFolk.
- Sponsored by the Greater Leavenworth Museum.