

It's Time to Prepare for Leavenworth
June 25 – 28, 2026
by Doris Osgood
www.accordioncelebration.org

The Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration is coming soon! There will be an outstanding line up of professional accordionists for concerts at the Festhalle. Master musicians will showcase the versatility of the accordion with a variety of musical genres. Workshops are available that will hone your skill and musicianship and there are adjudication opportunities in varying forms to encourage your continued learning.

The **Gazebo Ensemble** has been a fixture of the weekend since Rick Hatley started the group long ago. The Ensemble will perform at 3:30 PM Friday and Saturday on the gazebo stage. A NEW collection of music has been prepared by Jakob Bean. Some of the pieces from the previous collection are included, but with key changes. You'll find most are key of C, G, or F. You'll enjoy the new selections. The NEW gazebo ensemble music will be posted on the LIAC web site. (www.accordioncelebration.org) **Print out the music** as soon as you can and begin preparing. (Music will not be provided on site) A Thursday rehearsal/workshop for those able to attend will be scheduled. The time will be printed in the LIAC program and will be available on the web site. Be sure to bring your own music and music stand for the rehearsal and to the gazebo for performances. Also, be prepared for wind! Players will bring out extra chairs at the gazebo and will restore them after the program each day.

Public performances at the gazebo and King Ludwig's will be scheduled beginning May 1. Prepare Bavarian/ethnic/**audience friendly** music for your performances downtown. Bavarian/ethnic attire would be great! **You cannot sign up online**, but you can see what opportunities are available. The gazebo, grange, competition/workshop schedules are posted on the celebration web site: www.accordioncelebration.org **Review your plans** for the festival and contact Doris Osgood for times that will fit your schedule. Doris will schedule the performers at the gazebo and the roster will be updated online regularly. To sign up for performance contact: dorisosgood32@gmail.com or 503-357-0417 home phone w/ voice mail. I can receive text messages on my cell phone, which is neither smart nor is its operator: 503-928-9741. Folding chairs are provided at the gazebo, but bring your own music stand if you need one. Remember, the performance schedule at the gazebo is tight. **If you plan to amplify, arrive extra early for your performance to consult the sound technicians** to see if what you wish to do is compatible; we must use the system provided for the gazebo and are obligated to follow the regulations in town for the level of volume. Time your program and be ready to roll when you are scheduled. Tardiness or delay in setting up does not mean you will have your full 15 minutes; the next player will be "on" as scheduled. **Be prepared for WIND! (pack your clips and clothespins) The last date to schedule performances via email and phone will be June 22.**

Consider participating in the Private Coaching opportunities, competition and artistry. There's "meaningful stress" to prepare music for adjudication. Adults and young players alike benefit from the experience. As mentioned in the Northwest Accordion News, take the leap, Compete!

For those participating in competition, artistry or in private coaching, bring any “special” equipment you may need for your performance, like a music stand or stool. There are folding chairs on stage at the festhalle, gazebo and at the grange. **Informal jams** are planned also; the grange is the likely location but check the web site for any adjustments in that plan.

Volunteers make our event happen. This is an important part of the celebration. **Participate** in the competition, workshops, concerts, parade AND volunteer for a shift or two. Volunteers aren’t expected to work prior to the event. It’s an “on site” responsibility. Helps and information are available for you. Check the volunteer schedule to see what times and venues are available. Invest yourself in the accordion celebration! The web site is being updated and you will be able to sign up for volunteer positions on line. Kathleen Falco, our volunteer coordinator is hoping that the process will be streamlined and simplified. kathleen.falco@yahoo.com (208-610-8426)

The *Frank Calapristi Accordion Parade*, a special and unique part of LIAC, will happen close to the lunch hour on Saturday during the celebration. **The time will be posted and printed in the festival schedule.** The music is Leavenworth friendly; most will be in the key of C. Usually there is only time to walk down the street playing *Happy Wanderer*, *Edelweiss* at the gazebo with singing, the *Snow Waltz*, the *Beer Barrel Polka* a time or two, and then depart the gazebo marching back to the Festhalle! Come to the Festhalle about 15 minutes before parade time for a brief rehearsal and marching orders from parademeister, Rod Miller. Everyone is welcome to join in.

The web site is being updated as plans are confirmed. Begin checking by mid-February and continue to look for updates and/or adjustments through early June. The **schedules are subject to change**; adjustments may be required. Doris will have the “official” gazebo schedule on site at the gazebo. **Do not rely upon old data for the accurate gazebo schedule.** See you in Leavenworth – June 25 - 28, 2026 – *for the love of the accordion.*