

2026 LIAC Workshop Descriptions:

Workshops are \$15 if paid by June 8 or \$20 at Leavenworth

#1 20 For 20 - Stretches for Accordionists

With Lori Beth Brooke

Time: TBA

All of us who play accordion are engaging in physical activity when we perform. Lori Beth Brooke has developed a series of stretches designed to help accordionists avoid pain and discomfort while playing. This workshop is an introduction to the “20 For 20” program developed to help counteract or prevent physical challenges for accordionists by exercising twenty minutes a day. Participants do not need to bring their accordions to the workshop but a towel will be useful.

#2 Creating A Program That Connects With The Audience

With Gail Campanella

Time: TBA

How does a performer choose the right repertoire for a performance? This workshop uses a few basic ideas (playing what you like and know) to choose repertoire to build that connection with the audience that most performers seek to establish. The workshop will present strategies for different kinds of performances, from formal concert presentations to casual background music gigs. It will also give various strategies for structuring the pieces in a performance, like when to grab an audience’s attention or when to play something relatively calm. Participants do not need to bring their accordions to this workshop.

#3 Playing Like A Bass Player

With Toby Hanson

Time: TBA

The accordion is a complex and beautiful instrument which demands a lot of attention to play it well. It’s left hand is a complex collection of buttons that can seem daunting to the uninitiated. By applying a few simple ideas from the world of playing the bass, however, the complexity can be turned into sophistication. The workshop will talk about chord tones, passing tones, leading tones, neighbor tones, and how to combine all of those into interesting bass lines to elevate playing to the next level. Not required but attendees should bring an accordion to this workshop if at all possible.

#4 TBA
With TBA
Time: TBA

#5 TBA
With TBA
Time: TBA

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

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

Friday 3:30 – 5:00pm Jam Session for all accordionists; **Host: Rod Miller**– **FREE**

Saturday 10:00 – 11:30am Circle Jam Session for all accordionists;
Host: Bonnie Birch– **FREE**