

It's Time to Prepare for Leavenworth

June 21 – 24, 2018

By Doris Osgood

The 25th anniversary of the Leavenworth Accordion Celebration looks to be one of the best events ever. Note the outstanding line up of professional performers. The variety of music will showcase the versatility of the accordion. Also, there will be performances by the Leavenworth Open winners over the years as well as workshops that will hone your skill and musicianship. This year, the Gazebo Ensemble will perform on the festhalle stage. This is a first!

Check the web site for information about the music for the ensemble, the rehearsal planned, and the dress for festhalle stage performance. Jim O'Brien has made all of the music available on line. Print that out as soon as you can so that you can practice on your own before rehearsing with the group. The Gazebo Ensemble will also perform at the gazebo as has been the custom for the past several years. It's an opportunity to perform while you're in town and to play with others who enjoy the accordion.

Public performances at the gazebo and grange will be scheduled beginning late April or early May. As in the past 2 years, there will be an opportunity to perform at the Gingerbread Factory. The sign up for that will take place at the gazebo beginning on Thursday. It's a fun venue and everyone who played there last year had a wonderful time.

Prepare Bavarian/ethnic/**audience friendly** music for your performances downtown. Bavarian/ethnic attire would be great! Check the web site: www.accordioncelebration.org for the gazebo and grange schedules. **You cannot sign up on line**; you can see what opportunities are available. Also, the competition/workshop schedules are posted on the celebration web site: www.accordioncelebration.org After reviewing those schedules, contact Doris Osgood for times that will fit your plans. Doris will schedule the performers and the roster will be updated on line regularly. To sign up for performance contact: dorisosgood@frontier.com or 503-357-0417. 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. Time your program and be ready to roll when you are scheduled. Tardiness does not mean you will have your full 15 minutes; the next player will be "on" as scheduled. **The last date to schedule performances via email and phone will be June 17.** See Doris in person in Leavenworth after that.

For those playing in competition or in evaluation, 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. **Yes, there will be the mass, volunteer accordion band** during LIAC. Be sure to bring your own music stand for that. Players will bring out extra chairs at the gazebo and will restore them after the program. Details about the volunteer accordion band will be available on line. Jim and Shirley O'Brien will conduct a preparation workshop on Thursday at 3:00 PM at the grange. The group will perform at the festhalle Thursday evening; this is a new thing!

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. A few hard working people can't do it all! Contact Kathleen Falco to indicate the times you'd be available to work. kathleen.falco@yahoo.com (208-610-8426)

The **parade** will be 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. Most years there is only time to walk down the street playing Happy Wanderer, Edelweiss at the gazebo with singing, the Beer Barrel a time or two, and then off 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.

Remember to check the web site for updates. The schedules are subject to change. Doris will have the "official" gazebo schedule on site at the gazebo. Do not rely upon old data for the accurate schedule.. See you in Leavenworth – June 21 – 24, 2018 – *for the love of the accordion.*

Accordion Celebration Volunteer Opportunities

The 25th annual Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration is going to be an exciting time. Invest yourself in the event: **VOLUNTEER**. This is a "grass roots" event. The "staff" is made up of a few people who labor for several months for the love of the accordion and its people; they can't make it happen by themselves. Be part of a special event. Contact **Kathleen Falco**, our volunteer coordinator, to schedule a shift or two during the accordion celebration. Take advantage of the many different opportunities to be part of the 25th anniversary event. Scheduling will begin in early April. Contact Kathleen at: kathleen.falco@yahoo.com or 208-610-8426