Gateway Harmonica Club

THE REEDER

"Have harmonica, will travel." January / February 2025

Gateway Harmonica Club *Established 1987*

Celebrating **38 years** of music, friends & fun!



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News & Views / Bulletin Board

By Linda Jacobs

99

Ninety-nine, that is the number of members of the Gateway Harmonica Club! Since this same time last year, when club membership was at 78, GHC gained 27 members and lost 6, due to three non-renewals of membership for the calendar year 2024 and the passing of three members. Photos of club members are featured on the front cover of this newsletter.

What's Coming Up in 2025

Club members and guests were delighted to gather to enjoy the harmonica once again, following the 17-day holiday break and a seemingly slow start to 2025 due to snow drifts and icy pavements. Club activities are back in full-swing, with a meeting each Tuesday from 6 to 9 PM. Fifty-two gigs, including six Christmas performances, are scheduled so far. Numerous beginning harmonica classes are on the books, to be taught by GHC members at the St. Louis Community College campuses and Oasis Institute sites throughout the area. Four fun social events are planned for GHC members, friends and family; details are p. 3, p. 8 and on the back cover. With participation of many GHC members, 2025 is shaping up to be an amazing year!

Remembering Bob Norton & Bob Dicus

We continue to be deeply saddened by the loss of GHC Lifetime member **Bob Norton**. A celebration of his life, with a special look at his contributions to the Gateway Harmonica Club, begins on p. 16. May our friend, Bob, rest in peace. May his wife Bennie, daughter Chris, family, and friends find solace in the many decades of fond memories of a long life shared.

Also, we mourn the loss of GHC member **Bob Dicus**, who passed away on February 23, 2025. A celebration of his life will be included in the next issue of *The Reeder*. May Bob rest in peace.

Newsletter Contributors

Thank you to everyone (40 people!) who contributed to this January / February issue of the Gateway Harmonica Club's newsletter, *The Reeder*!

Ed Albers	Carol Duncan	Emily Kearns	Tim O'Connell	Alice Russell
Helen Allen	Sue Fey	Kathy Kelly	Jennie Ojeda	Dave Seehra
Diana Arseneau	Audria Gebhardt	Sandy Koller	Mark Olesnicki	Kanwal Seehra
Sandy Bonfiglio	Louise Georgia	Michael LaRue	Shirley Perez	Jim Solari
Sharon Davis	John Grindon	Jim Melchers	Don Phillips	Joe Stenger
Pierre Dacquin	M. Gustafson	Julie Melchers	John Renz	Jan Studer
Nina Dicus	Ruth Huebner	Rex Nolen	Yvonne Renz	Tom Sutterfield
Bill Dulin	Linda Jacobs	Bennie Norton	Ernie Roberts	T. Waskiewicz

THE REEDER is a bimonthly (we hope) publication of the Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc., of St. Louis, Missouri, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the harmonica.

Send corrections, additions, articles, photos and ideas to **editor@gatewayharmonicaclub.org** or call **314-325-6819**.

Happy Birthday

March

3 Glenda Warren
8 Monica Settle
11 Tim Heppermann
13 Don Johnson
15 John Grindon
21 Jim Solari
22 Ann Samuels
27 Jim Duncan
27 Jennie Ojeda
31 Leonor Trustman

April

7 Matt Dhillon
14 Rev Dr Bouie-Sledge
19 Marie Roberts
20 Clara Schuh
24 Ingo Andersen
25 Dan Botz
27 Emily Kearns

Congrats

Congratulations to the recipients of GHC's 2024 Awards. Members are highlighted on pgs. 18/19.

Get Well

Marie Roberts is under the weather. We hope that she will soon feel much better.

Peter Trustman was in the hospital. We are glad that he is feeling better!

Condolences

Deep sorrow is shared with **Nina Dicus** and family, after the passing of husband and father, GHC member **Bob Dicus**.

GHC's New Lifetime Members

Congratulations and thank you to **Carol Duncan**, **Margie Kindt**, **Pete Melendez**, **Elizabeth Moore**, and **Jan Studer**, GHC's new Lifetime members!

Welcome New & Returning Members



PHIL CARLSON
St. Louis, Missouri

Plays diatonic harmonica and guitar, writes music, active in GHC's New Players class. Became interested in GHC through an event invitation from his friend Mark Olesnicki



JIM MCCLAREN
St. Louis, Missouri

Professional musician and song writer; diatonic harmonica, guitar and vocals; six LPs/CDs, two European tours; Honorary member of GHC, teaches GHC's bi-monthly Blues Lesson



SHERRY MEIER
Raleigh, North Carolina

Plays diatonic and chromatic harmonicas, Blues and FUNdamentals groups participant. Pursued GHC membership after attending a meeting with her brother-in-law Jim Solari



ELIZABETH MOORE *Member since 2019*
St. Peters, Missouri

Plays diatonic harmonica, active in the New Players class. Renewed her GHC membership that began after attending a beginners harmonica class at the St. Charles library



REX NOLEN
Kansas City, Missouri

Plays chromatic harmonica with the FUNdamentals group, builds playing skills on Suzuki Chromatix and Hohner CX-12; referred to GHC in response to inquiry to SPAH



BERNICE "BENNIE" NORTON
Oakville, Missouri

Supports GHC since 2006, regularly attends GHC social events and an occasional meeting, recently became an Honorary member of GHC, spouse of the late GHC member Bob Norton



JANE WALLACE
St. Louis, Missouri

Plays diatonic and piano, active in GHC's New Players and Blues groups, completed GHC's diatonic workshop (January 2025) at The Crossings at Northwest, sponsored by Oasis

GHC's Easy-Access QR Codes

The Reeder's QR codes offer easy access if looking at the newsletter online. If you haven't already, try the QR codes to reach music, art, entertainment, GHC website/calendar/social media, and much more. To connect to the target information, it is as easy as a CLICK of the QR code, or SCAN with a smartphone can be used instead. More information is on the back cover.

Thank You to Curt Buchholz, Don Phillips & Michael Renner!

Generous donations of used electronics by **Curt Buchholz**, **Don Phillips**, and **Michael Renner** are giving a big boost to GHC's 6 PM classes. The iPhones and iPads play backing tracks and mp4s to help club members learn to play the diatonic, chromatic, and chord harmonicas. Also, those electronics are important to connecting with GHC members over Zoom each week. Nice!

Spring Luncheon - April 26

You are invited to this year's spring party on Saturday, April 26. Doors open at 1 PM, followed by a pay-as-you-go luncheon at 1:15. The afternoon promises delicious food, harmonica music and a sing-along, prizes, and the delightful company of GHC members, family and friends. If you would like to help, please see Chairperson **Emily Kearns**.



New Weekly Blues Lesson Plan

If you like the diatonic harmonica, this class is for you! Although these *Beginner to Boss* lessons are geared towards the blues, the techniques are applicable for any music style. Notes from Lesson 1 are on p. 27. Everyone is welcome to join the Blues Group on Tuesdays at 6 PM, facilitated by **Jim Solari**. Bring a diatonic harmonica in the Key of C. Join the group?

Next Jim McClaren Blues Lesson - March 11

The next blues harmonica lesson by professional musician **Jim McClaren** will be on Tuesday, March 11, 6 - 7 PM, at the Rock Church. This is part of a series that is held on the second Tuesday of every other month. If questions come up, please contact **Jim Solari.**

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation

Thank You

Thank you for your generous gift to the children at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Your support makes it possible for us to provide the most exceptional health care to every child who comes through our doors.

With your giving, you are helping us uphold our Mission: *Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.*

With heartfelt gratitude,

Sandy Koller
President
SSM Health Cardinal Glennon
Children's Foundation

Children's Hospital • St. Louis
BJC HealthCare

Thank You

We thank you for your donation to St. Louis Children's Hospital Foundation. Your gift helps ensure that all St. Louis Children's patients and families are able to receive personalized, world-class care.

Donors and friends like you are critical to fulfilling our mission to *do what's right for kids.*

With your support, we are transforming children's lives and, for that, we are incredibly grateful. On behalf of the patients and families, thank you for your generosity and support.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Tanya L. Waskiewicz
Chief Development Officer
St. Louis Children's Hospital

We Get Letters



GHC Newsletter
October - December

The newsletter looks great! (As usual!!)

Diana Arseneau, Friend of GHC (Troy, MO)

I just finished the wonderful newsletter you publish for everyone to enjoy beautiful pics and articles. It always makes me wish I could be a part of this dedicated group. It also brings back all the years of memorable times for Jerry, and me, too! I still see some familiar names and faces doing a great job entertaining. Happy New Year to each and everyone one of you. Keep spreadin' the joy, my friends, and thanks so much for the news.



Sandy Bonfiglio, GHC Honorary Member (Bethalto, IL)

The 36 pages of *The Reeder* are extremely rich in information. On the front cover, many of the members of the Gateway Harmonica Club were identified and recognized in the photo from the annual picnic. This sincere and friendly event was a reflection of a united team. GHC members share their knowledge with and respect each other, especially Madam President Linda Jacobs, all of her management team, and the club's innovators.

I always print the newsletter, translating numerous pages of interest, giving sustained attention to your concerts and picnic. Sometimes I am disappointed not to be with you, but I cross my fingers for the future! I thank all of the GHC members for the opportunity to contribute to the newsletter and share the happiness of our common passion, the harmonica.

Pierre Dacquin, GHC Honorary Member (Southwest France)

I haven't finished *The Reeder* yet, but it looks great so far. Thanks for all of the hard work.

Bill Dulin, GHC Member

Thanks for the newsletter.

Audria Gebhardt, GHC Member

Thanks for the latest newsletter. I like the format. Very professional looking and engaging to read. I miss connecting with GHC.

John Grindon, GHC Member

Wow! Wow! You really outdid your usual ambitious selves. Thank you! I have skimmed the newsletter, but will read every word over the next few days.

Ruth Huebner, Friend of GHC (St. Louis)

The latest newsletter is amazing. I enjoyed the article "Music, the Harp & the Manger" in the Oct-Dec 2024 newsletter. "Too-da-ly doot doot" to you.

Jim Melchers, GHC Vice President

What a great edition we all created! It is an EXCELLENT READ. Many thanks for another outstanding newsletter!!!!

Jennie Ojeda, GHC Member

This is another spectacular newsletter, another masterpiece of dazzling graphics and journalistic excellence with incredible attention to detail. Thank you for this super effort!

Don Phillips, GHC Member

Thank You for Your Kindness

GHC members,

It was a very lucky day that Bob [Norton] met the wife of a club member. She gave him the time and location of their meeting. The very next Tuesday, Bob was there, played a song, and immediately joined the club. It was a happy day that he joined the club with these wonderful, welcoming people. Bob could not have continued in later years without all of your support. Each event was a joy for Bob and, hopefully, brought much pleasure for others. We want to thank you for your great music and fellowship. Thanks for the cards and prayers.

Bennie Norton, GHC Honorary Member, and

Chris Waltrip, Bennie and Bob's Daughter, and Friend of GHC

Memory, Gratitude and Music on the 5-Year Anniversary of COVID

January 2025 marks the 5-year anniversary of the first COVID case in the USA.

MEMORY: COVID was real for me when I lost my lifelong grade school friend, Phil Catanzaro, in the first 3 months, and my former wife, Barbara, was among the last to pass 2 years ago.

GRATITUDE: THANKS to the brave doctors and nurses, for their care, and to Pfizer and other companies for rapid development of a COVID vaccine.

MUSIC: The Zoom-enabled GHC harmonica practice and the eventual ability to perform once again were inspiring.

Good health and God bless,

Tim O'Connell, GHC Member

We Get Calls



News about GHC Members

Sharon Davis, an Honorary member of GHC, is the widow of Bill Davis, who was a club founder. Her active involvement with the club began in 1987, at the time of the club's founding. She continues to live at The Boulevard Senior Living of Saint Charles. At 85 years old and soon to have a birthday, she is wishing for more excitement in her life!

Sue Fey, an Honorary member of GHC, continues to enjoy each day and is quite pleased by her move to Laclede Groves in June 2023. Also, with each new issue, she is amazed by *The Reeder* and appreciates everyone's inputs. She is happy to know that the club is doing so well and is sure that her late husband, Joe Fey, GHC Lifetime member 1988-2013, would feel the same.

Kathy Kelly, a GHC member since 2021, recently turned 84 and is doing well! She continues to paint and also likes to fill some time with just sketches in her sketchbook. In addition to her watercolor painting "Tulips", on p. 14, a number of Kathy's paintings are shown on Laclede Grove's webpage, "Art at the Groves", artatthegroves.smugmug.com/Kathy-Kelly.

Shirley Perez, 90 years young and an Honorary member of GHC, still independently lives in her own house. She just returned from Florida for a visit with her grandson and great grandson. Shirley keeps busy with the church, volunteering in a benevolent group. One of their big projects is an annual "quilt bingo", attended by 284 people in 2024, with profits used for needs of the church. Also, she participates in a monthly "Game Day", enjoying friends and fun. The GHC newsletter brings many memories of old friends and of her late husband, Dan Perez, a GHC founder and Lifetime member, 1987-2002.

Alice Russell, a GHC Lifetime member since 2020, is doing fine. Due to continuing to work the second shift, she cannot participate in the club's Tuesday evening meetings. However, she tries to keep current with the FUNdamentals Group's music, enjoying the online booklets and backing tracks. Most importantly, Alice is still playing the harmonica!

THE ROCK CHURCH OF SAINT LOUIS

Thank You

The contribution from the Gateway Harmonica Club and the accompanying letter were received.

Thank you for the nice letter and the contribution!

The Rock Church of Saint Louis appreciates your generous donation.

Tom Sutterfield
Money Counter
The Rock Church
of Saint Louis

Complimentary Advertisement

Does your
chromatic harmonica
need repair?

Let me fix it.

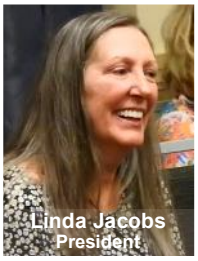
I don't charge
anything and
most people can afford it.

Bill Dulin



Complimentary Advertisement

GHC Board of Directors
Officers & Chairs 2025

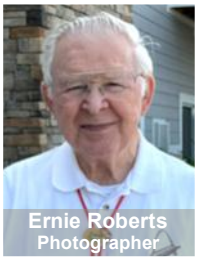

Linda Jacobs
President


Jim Melchers
Vice President


Tom Sutterfield
Secretary


Mark Olesnicki
Treasurer


Bill Dulin
Music Director


Ernie Roberts
Photographer

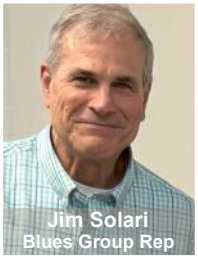

Audria Gebhardt
Health & Wellness


Emily Kearns
Social Media


Tim O'Connell
Sales Manager


Jennie Ojeda
Meeting Snacks POC


Don Phillips
Music Librarian


Jim Solari
Blues Group Rep


Joe Stenger
Chord Class Facilitator


Jan Studer
FUNdamentals Lead

President's Message

Happy new year! Hoping that your holidays were fun and memorable.

In 2024, GHC had an amazing year! Please take a look at the Annual Financial Report, below, and the results of the GHC Goals 2024, at far right. Our success is due to many dedicated and talented club members. In December, we took a moment to appreciate members' efforts and applaud them for their accomplishments, see pgs. 18/19. Most importantly, scan the photos of club members on the front cover. We wouldn't be where we are today without each and every one!

As 2025 takes shape, a dedicated and capable Board of Directors team, at left, is assembled to shape the future of the club and facilitate programs and events that interest club members. Feel free to reach out if you have suggestions or would like to volunteer. I am confident that, working together, we will have a banner year and many enjoyable hours of harmonica playing!

See you on Tuesday.

Linda

Annual Financial Report

By Mark Olesnicki

January 1 - December 31, 2024

Revenue

Performances	$8,685
Instruction	$2,419
Donations	$397
Membership Dues	$915
Interest	$314
Merchandise Sales	$1,852
Total Revenue	$14,582

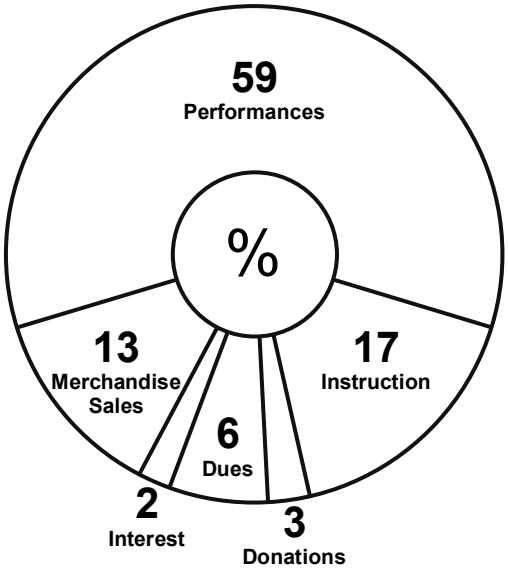
Expenses

Events, Donations & Miscellaneous	$3,243
Supplies	$2,422
Printing & Postage	$1,231
Van	$1,276
Meeting Space	$1,800
Total Expenses	$9,972

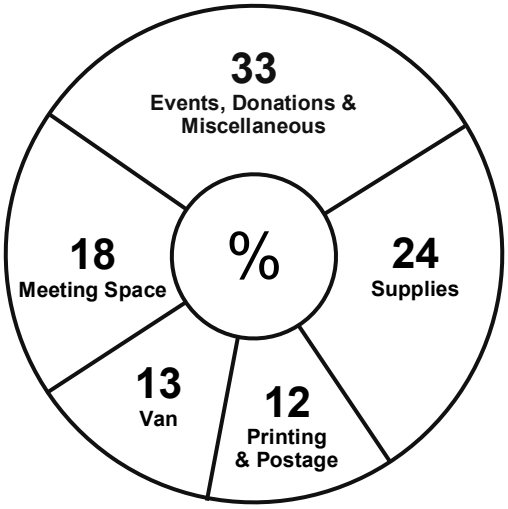
Net Assets

Beginning of year	$21,768
End of year	$26,378
Difference	+ $4,610

Where Funding Comes From



Where Funding Goes



GHC Goals 2025

Our Focus
- Enjoy club membership
- Share harmonica music
- Remain viable as a club

Education
- Continue weekly classes
  - -- New Players (diatonic)
  - -- FUNdamentals (chromatic)
  - -- Blues group
  - -- Chord class
- Hold specialized classes based on members' inputs
- Continue business meeting "Special Program" & newsletter educational articles
- Add new Oasis class
- Add more locations for Oasis classes
- Add new location for St. Louis Community College class

Membership
- Add new members
- Start/end activities on time
- Provide leadership opportunities for members
- Create "members only" webpage log in

Music
- Continue monthly early open mic
- Add / develop band members
- Add / develop bass players
- Add / develop harmony players
- Average one gig per week
- Play variety of music programs
  - -- 2025 #1 & #2
  - -- Patriotic / Americana program
  - -- Christmas program
- Play optional / specialty songs
  - -- Love songs (Valentine's Day)
  - -- Easter song(s)
  - -- Irish (St. Patrick's Day)
  - -- German (Midwest Maifest)
  - -- Jewish songs (Select gigs)

Club Business
- October: Initiate election process
- November
  - -- Approve donations to charity
  - -- Nominate club officers
- December: Conduct bi-annual election

Special Events
- Spring banquet
- Christmas in July
- Annual picnic
- Christmas party

GHC Goals 2024 - Results

Our Focus
- Enjoy club membership
- Share harmonica music
- Remain viable as a club

Education
- ✔ Diatonic harmonica orientation (New Players class)
- ✔ Blues group
- ✔ Chromatic class (FUNdamentals group)

  Held weekly
- ✔ Specialized classes (chord, bass, open mic, etc.)
  - Chord class - weekly
  - Bass - Oct 29
  - Open mic - Mar 12 to Apr 30
  - Harmony - Nov 19
- ✔ Business meeting "Special Program" — Monthly, 12 topics / 12 presenters
- ✔ Community College: Beginning diatonic class
  - -- Florissant Valley — May
  - -- Forest Park — Feb, Mar & Oct
  - -- Meramec — Feb, Jun & Sep
- ✔ Community College: Beginning chromatic class — Apr & Nov
- ✔ Oasis: Beginning diatonic classes
  - -- Clayton — May
  - -- Olivette — Jul
  - -- Webster Groves — Mar
  - -- University City — Oct (added)

Membership
- ✔ Add new members +20
- ⚠ Start/end activities on time — Much better! Continuing to improve
- ✔ Increase member involvement
- ✔ More active members

  95% of members engaged in valuable ways, big and small
- ✔ Contribute to bi-monthly newsletter — Average of 40 contributors per issue

Music
- ✔ Maintain number of gigs — 64 on 2024 calendar (60 in 2023)
- ✔ Add new songs to music program — Nine new songs added to 2024 programs
- ✔ Prepare for modernized 2025 music program — Survey results = GHC members suggested over 200 songs
- ✔ Increase participation at open mic — Monthly early open mic
- ✔ Add rhythm players — Four chord harmonica apprentices
- ⚠ Add harmony players — Hopeful...Twelve at "intro" class in Nov
- ✔ Create on-line music library — Band's online library debuted in July

Special Events
- ✔ Spring banquet — Apr 20
- ✔ Christmas in July — Jul 9
- ✔ Annual picnic — Sep 21
- ✔ Christmas party — Dec 10

What's Happened & Happening

By Linda Jacobs

Support GHC on Facebook

Do you "Follow" the GHC Facebook page? To take a look at GHC's latest FB posts, please scan or click the QR code at right. If you like what you see, click "Follow" and you will receive notification of future updates. **Currently, the page has 323 Followers, up from 308 at the time of the last issue of *The Reeder*.** Thanks for your support!

Facebook GHC

GHC Events - 2025

Please mark your calendar for this year's social events:

Spring Luncheon: April 26, 1:15 to 4 PM, Miss Sheri's Cafeteria

Christmas in July: July 22, 6 to 9 PM, The Rock Church

Annual Picnic: September 27, 11 AM to 4 PM, Love Park

Christmas Party: December 9, 6 to 9 PM, The Rock Church

Christmas Party & Awards 2024

On December 10, GHC members gathered to celebrate the holidays. The Christmas party was an amazing event! A million thanks go out to **Ruth Huebner**, Event Chairperson, and her team. Party photos and details start on p. 20.

During the party, GHC members were recognized for outstanding contributions to the club during 2024. Article begins on p. 18.

The 2025 Christmas party will be on December 9, 6-9 PM, at the Rock Church.

GHC 2025 Dues Drive

Fifty club members, who pay dues annually, were contacted by email in early January, with an announcement of the 2025 dues drive. Club membership could be renewed for $15 annually or for a one-time payment $150. The dues drive continued through the the last day of February, led by GHC Treasurer **Mark Olesnicki**. Response and renewals were strong. Results will be published in the next newsletter.

Interests Survey

An "Interests Survey" was emailed to members on February 3. The purpose was for survey participants to identify which topics they would be interested in for this year's special classes, which will be presented by GHC subject -matter experts at 6 PM on various Tuesdays.

To see the survey results, click or scan the QR code at right. "Bending notes" and "Basic harmonica maintenance" were top priorities of GHC members.

GHC Interest Survey

Committee Chairs

Thanks and congratulations to GHC members who most recently joined the GHC leadership team!

Emily Kearns - Social Media

Jennie Ojeda - Business Meeting Snacks POC

Jim Solari - Blues Group Rep

Joe Stenger - Chord Class Facilitator

Meeting's "Special Program"

During December's business meeting, club members heard from **Julie Melchers** about "Harmonica and Harmonics"; details are on p. 26. In January, there was a presentation from **Jan Studer**, "Three Versions of 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'", a summary is on p. 23.

A 3-5 minute educational "Special Program" is presented during each of the monthly business meetings. Volunteers are welcome.

Business Meeting Snacks

In support of the December business meeting, snacks were provided by **Clarence Kozuszek** and his wife, **Deb Kozuszek**. In January, each member provided their own snacks as attendance of the business meeting was limited to Zoom only, due to the icy conditions. Committee chairperson **Jennie Ojeda** welcomes new volunteers. Please reach out to her to sign up!



Clarence Kozuszek and Deb Kozuszek, after their snack table is ready, 12/2



Tasty meats, cheeses, crackers, cookies and chocolates at the December business meeting



At GHC's "Just-for-Fun Popsicle Stick Harmonica" class on January 28 at the Rock Church are Helen Allen (R), Ernie Roberts, and Julie Melchers. Also making a harmonica, but not pictured, are Emily Kearns and facilitator Linda Jacobs. Later that evening, the harmonicas were demonstrated by the group during open mic.

Popsicle Stick Harmonica Class

After the early January announcement of the upcoming "Interests Survey", a GHC member reached out with a request for a class, based on the "Popsicle Stick Harmonica" article that appeared in the Oct-Dec 2024 issue of *The Reeder.* In response, the class was held on January 28, facilitated by **Linda Jacobs**.

Intro to Playing Harmony

Club members met on November 19 for an introduction to playing harmony, lesson plan by **Linda Jacobs** and taught by **Jim Melchers**. High points are on p. 26.

GHC Band Facts

During 2024, the GHC band had 64 performances on the calendar, including 6 holiday gigs during a 22-day period! The band's harmonica music reached 2,000 audience members and generated over $9,500, after all payments are received, a majority of the club's income. It supports the club members and expenses like the donations to the church for the space that we practice in, printed sheet music, the newsletter, member appreciation events (such as parties and snacks), sound equipment, the club's van, supplies for classes and sales, and charitable contributions.

Band members put in roughly 4 hours per gig, including driving, setup/teardown and playing. If a person went to every gig in 2024, it would come to over 250 hours or 63 4-hour workdays. Dedicated volunteer musicians making a big impact!

Merchandise Sales

It was a big year for sales! During December, 16 mini harmonicas and 7 CDs were sold. In addition, $78 in donations were received, for a grand total of $210 brought in by Sales Manager **Tim O'Connell**, contributing to the $1,852 sales income in 2024.



Tim O'Connell, Sales Manager, displays his mini harmonica, 12/9

Polo Shirts & Red Vests

New inventory of white polo shirts and red vests, embroidered with the GHC logo, are available in all sizes. Shirts, $40; vests, $30. If interested, please see **Jim Melchers** or **Linda Jacobs**.

New Music - Valentine's Day 2025

Especially for Valentine's Day, the GHC band practiced 15 love songs on January 28 and February 4 and 11. The program is shown on p. 11.

Sheet music and play-along tracks were made readily available thanks to preparations by **Bill Dulin**, Music Director, **Linda Jacobs**, Facilitator, **Jim Melchers**, Arranger, and **Don Phillips**, Music Librarian.



Don Phillips, 11/5, works to ensure availability of sheet music for band members or all who want to try a new song!

Chord Class

Chord class participants practice songs from GHC's 2025 #1 music program, after taking a short break to practice the songs from the Valentine's Day program, according to leader **Joe Stenger**. There's a photo on p. 10.

FUNdamentals Music - Volume 26

The FUNdamentals Group has a new music booklet, Volume 26, featuring 11 songs from the newsletter's "Harp Corner" plus a few others from 2024. Led by **Jan Studer**, the chromatic group plays a variety of music from 6-7 PM each Tuesday. Photos are on p. 10.

New Players Class

The New Players class, facilitated by **Jim Melchers**, is held at 6 PM each Tuesday and focuses on the basics of the diatonic harmonica and features folk and pop tunes. Photos on p. 10.

Jim McClaren's Blues Lessons

Professional musician **Jim McClaren** presented blues harmonica Lesson #3 on January 14 at the Rock Church, with a focus on the blues scale/chords, blues jam sessions, and solos using more than one harp. Thirty GHC members attended the lesson and appreciated the presentation by this GHC Honorary member. Details, p. 26.



Jim McClaren talks blues harmonica, 1/14, in a lesson for GHC members

This is part of a series that is held on the second Tuesday of odd months. If questions come up, please contact **Jim Solari.**

Members Approve Blues Expense

At the December business meeting, GHC members approved purchase of "access" to an online Blues instructional course, *Beginner to Boss* from Harmonica.com. The Blues Group, facilitated by **Jim Solari**, benefits from viewing and practicing the lessons on Tuesdays at 6 PM. Info on p. 3, photos p. 10.

Beginner to Boss at 50% Discount

Here's an opportunity to practice the *Beginner to Boss* lessons at home, the same course used during the Blues Group's weekly meetings, details above. Individual access to the online course is available at a 50% discount. If you would like more information, please contact **Jennie Ojeda**.

Beginners Diatonic Workshop

During January, a Beginning Diatonic Workshop, taught by GHC's **Linda Jacobs** and **Jim Melchers** and sponsored by the Oasis Institute, was held at The Crossings at Northwest in St. Ann. The three 1.5-hour sessions provided six students the opportunity to get a solid foundation for playing the harmonica. Five of the students visited GHC meetings; one joined the club.

The next Oasis workshop will be during March in Clayton. To learn more about Oasis or register for GHC's "Beginning Harmonica Workshop", go to St-Louis.OasisEverywhere.org.

College Classes

In February, four students were enrolled in a 3-session diatonic harmonica class taught by **Linda Jacobs** and **Jim Melchers** at the Meramec campus of the St. Louis Community College. The March class at the Forest Park campus was cancelled due insufficient enrollment. A fall class schedule was proposed by GHC and approved by StLCC, including two diatonic and one chromatic classes.

In April, GHC will offer a chromatic class at Meramec and, in May, a diatonic class at a new location in South County. To register, go to StLcc.edu/CE or call 314-984-7777.

GHC's Weekly Meetings

Photos by Linda Jacobs, Jim Melchers, and Ernie Roberts

Each Tuesday, GHC members meet for an evening of harmonica music, including classes, band practice, and open mic plus plenty of camaraderie. During the 3-hour session, there is something of interest for diatonic, chromatic, chord and bass harmonica players of all skill levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced. Visitors are always welcome!

Blues Group


Blues Group interested in a video lesson, 2/25: Audria Gebhardt, Dave Settle, Mark Olesnicki, John Renz, Sherry Meier, Pete Melendez, Jennie Ojeda, Curt Buchholz, Steve Sherblom, Michael LaRue, Michael Renner


Jim Solari (right) facilitates GHC's blues group, participating on 1/21 were (L-R) Herb Huebner, Mark Olesnicki, Jennie Ojeda, Pete Melendez, John Renz, Curt Buchholz, Don Phillips, Jane Wallace, and Michael Renner

Chord Class


All playing the chord harmonica...Jim Melchers, Julie Melchers, Bill Dulin, and Joe Stenger, Facilitator, practicing music for the band's 2025 music program #1

Business Mtg


GHC members, after socializing and pre-business meeting snacks, listen to introduction of guest speaker on 2/4


GHC officers, Sutterfield, Jacobs, Melchers, and Olesnicki, facilitate monthly GHC business meeting during February

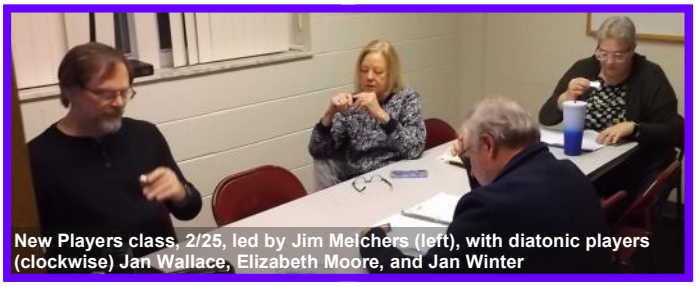
FUNdamentals


Joining FUN via Zoom: Jim Amaismeier, Ann Samuels, Kathy Wolff, Rex Nolen, and Helen Allen


FUN on chromatic harmonica: Larry Graves, Stan Baldwin, Emily Kearns, and FUNdamentals Group facilitator Jan Studer; inset photo: Clarence Kozuszek and Carol Duncan practice with the play-along music


FUNdamentals group participants (L-R) Tim Heppermann, Henry Heppermann, Joe Stafford on 1/28

New Players


New Players class, 2/25, led by Jim Melchers (left), with diatonic players (clockwise) Jan Wallace, Elizabeth Moore, and Jan Winter


Visitors Mary Lou Richardson, Peggy Olds, Tom Townsend, and Kay Townsend join New Players class member Phil Carlson, 1/28

Sound Mixing


Bill Dulin, Music Director, runs the mixing board during the open mic session, 2/4

Open Mic


Helen Allen


Stan Baldwin


Curt Buchholz


Bill Dulin

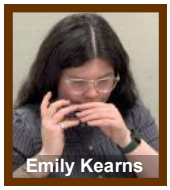

Audria Gebhardt


Larry Graves


Harmonicats


Herb Huebner


Linda Jacobs


Emily Kearns


Sherry Meier


Jim Melchers


Julie Melchers

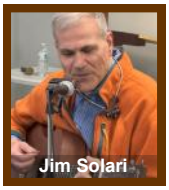

Mark Olesnicki


Dan O'Neal


John Renz


Ernie Roberts


Dave Settle


Jim Solari


Joe Stenger


Tom Sutterfield


Peter Trustman


Carl Von Till

Open Mic Songs

January - February 2025

Stan Baldwin

"Abraham, Martin and John"
"Cool Clear Water"

Curt Buchholz

"Oh Susanna"
"When the Saints Go Marching In"

Bill Dulin

"A House is Not a Home"
"All Alone Am I"
"How High the Moon"
"I'm Gonna Laugh You Out of my Life"

Audria Gebhardt

"Return to Me"
"Sleepy Lagoon"
"Tuxedo Junction"

Larry Graves

(Carl Von Till, guitar, and Audria Gebhardt)
"Don't Leave Me Behind"

Harmonicats

(Helen Allen, Linda Jacobs, Emily Kearns, Julie Melchers, and Ernie Roberts - popsicle stick harmonica)
"Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Herb Huebner

(Jim Melchers, chord, and Linda Jacobs, bass)
"Annie's Song"

Linda Jacobs

"Happy Talk"
"Imagine"

Emily Kearns

"Can't Help Falling in Love"

Sherry Meier (guest)

"Oh Susanna"

Jim Melchers

"As Time Goes By"
"Always on My Mind"
"Auld Lang Syne"
"In My Life / If We Never Meet Again This Side of Heaven Medley"
"Walkin' After Midnight"
"You've Got a Friend in Me"

Julie Melchers

(Jim Melchers, Lead)
"Be Still My Soul"

Mark Olesnicki

"I Can't Stop Loving You"
"The Wearing of the Green"

Dan O'Neal

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"
"Freight Train"

John Renz

"Catch the Wind"
"Keep Me in Your Heart for Awhile"

Ernie Roberts

"Brighten the Corner Where You Are"

Dave Settle

"Beatles Medley"
"Tennessee Whiskey"

Jim Solari

"Like a Rolling Stone"
"Walk Through the Door"

Joe Stenger

"Souvenirs"

Tom Sutterfield

"At Calvary"
"I'm in the Mood for Love"
"Jailhouse Rock"
"When Will I Be Loved"

Peter Trustman

"Midnight Cowboy"
"Someone to Watch Over Me"

GHC 2025 Program #1

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Raindrops Keep Falllin' on My Head

Georgia on My Mind

Mister Sandman

Cohan Medley

Spanish Eyes

Peg O' My Heart

Let Me Call You Sweetheart

Military Medley

Beer Barrel Polka

Just Because

Que Sera Sera

Blue Bayou

Take Me Home Country Roads

What a Wonderful World

St. Louis Blues

Happy Trails

<u>Optional Songs</u>

America the Beautiful
Bei Mir Bist Du Schön
Easter Parade
God Bless America
Happy Birthday
Hava Nagila

Irish Medley

Meet Me in St. Louis

Tzena Tzena Tzena

When the Saints Go Marching In

Editor's note: New songs, since the 2024 #2 Program, are shown in **Bold**. Information about this year's first Gig is on p. 13.

GHC 2025 Valentine's Day Program

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Hello Dolly

You You You

Mister Sandman

You Are My Sunshine

Spanish Eyes

Peg O' My Heart

Let Me Call You Sweetheart

Blue Skirt Waltz

Quando Quando Quando

Just Because

Moonlight Serenade

Blue Bayou

Carolina in the Morning

What a Wonderful World

Sentimental Journey

Happy Trails

<u>Optional Song</u>

Que Sera Sera



Editor's note: New songs, supplementing the 2025 #1 program, are shown in **Bold**. This special program was played during the February 14th performance. Details will be included in the next issue of *The Reeder*.

GHC Performances

December 2024 - January 2025

By Linda Jacobs and Jim Melchers

Photos by Carol Duncan, Linda Jacobs, Don Phillips, and Ernie Roberts

O'Fallon Senior Center

After driving northwest for 30 to 40 miles during the morning rush hour, GHC band members reached Main Street in O'Fallon, Missouri, on Friday, December 6, in time for setup for the 10 AM holiday performance. The 60-person audience skipped playing bingo to enthusiastically sing and enjoy harmonica music directed by **Jim Melchers** and played by **Linda Jacobs**, **Julie Melchers**, **Tim O'Connell**, **Mark Olesnicki**, **Joe Stenger**, **Jan Studer**, and **Tom Sutterfield**, with the sound board managed by **Don Phillips** (9 GHC members). Sales manager **Tim O'Connell** reported a record-breaking $170 of merch sales and donations after the gig.

Cedarhurst of Tesson Heights Senior Living Community

The GHC band has entertained at this facility for 35 years! Located in Sappington, in South St. Louis County, the meeting room was filled with independent- and assisted-living residents on Wednesday, December 9, at 2 PM, ready to enjoy Christmas music by **Helen Allen**, **Reed DeLaet**, **Herb Huebner**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Jim Melchers** (Director), **Julie Melchers**, **Tim O'Connell**, **Mark Olesnicki**, **Joe Stenger**, **Jan Studer**, and **Tom Sutterfield**, with the mixing board operated by **Don Phillips** (12).

Delmar Gardens South

In the main dining room of the skilled-nursing and rehab facility in South St. Louis County, GHC band members spread holiday cheer on Friday, December 13, at 2:30 PM. Directed by **Jim Melchers**, band members **Helen Allen**, **Reed DeLaet**, **Herb Huebner**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Julie Melchers**, **Tim O'Connell**, **Mark Olesnicki**, **Joe Stenger**, **Jan Studer**, and **Tom Sutterfield**, with the sound board operated by **Don Phillips** (12), played the Christmas program which inspired many good voices to sing and quite a few folks to spring to their feet and dance. Afterward, everyone had a chance to enjoy ice cream and popcorn.

NHC Healthcare - Maryland Heights

For the third time in 2024, on Wednesday, December 18, at 2 PM, the band entertained in the dining room of this Maryland Heights facility in mid St. Louis County, including Director **Bill Dulin**, **Helen Allen**, **Reed DeLaet**, **Herb Huebner**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Jim Melchers**, **Julie Melchers**, **Mark Olesnicki**, **Jan Studer**, and **Tom Sutterfield** (10 band members).

Crestview Senior Living

GHC's final Christmas performance of the 2024 season was on Friday, December 20, at 2:30 PM, in South St. Louis County. "Happy hour" music was provided by **Reed DeLaet**, **Bill Dulin** (Director), **Herb Huebner**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Jim Melchers**, **Julie Melchers**, **Tim O'Connell**, **Mark Olesnicki**, **Ernie Roberts**, **Joe Stenger**, **Jan Studer**, and **Tom Sutterfield** (12 band members).

Band Members at Performances

GHC Gigs, December & January



Solos included: "A Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Ruby" by **Bill Dulin**; "Amazing Grace" and "The Christmas Song" by **Jim Melchers**; "The Dreidel Song" by **Mark Olesnicki**; "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" by **Tom Sutterfield**. Accompaniment included harmony (by **Bill Dulin**, **Tom Sutterfield**), chord harmonica (**Jim Melchers**, **Joe Stenger**, **Bill Dulin**), and bass harmonica (**Linda Jacobs**)

After her first gig on 1/31: "That was delightful. It was rewarding to observe the 'elders' there at Bethesda Hawthorne Place in Kirkwood. It took them a song or two before they were tapping their feet or fingers to the rhythms. Some were singing along (even without being asked). I'm sure it made their day. That younger fellow really enjoyed it, too! Glad that I was able to experience today's gig."

~ Carol Duncan

Meramec Bluffs

With joyful anticipation of the first gig of 2025, GHC band members braved the potential threat of residual snow and ice, after storms earlier in the week, and, without incident, drove to Ballwin in West St. Louis County. The Lutheran Senior Services facility held the Thursday, January 9, 2 PM, performance in the spacious chapel, where 50 attendees enjoyed the harmonica performance in person, while the event was streamed to 200 homes in the facility. On the theater stage-like space, Music Director **Bill Dulin**, **Reed DeLaet**, **Herb Huebner**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Jim Melchers Julie Melchers**, **Tim O'Connell**, **Joe Stenger**, and **Jan Studer** with sound management by **Don Phillips** (10 members total) were pleased with their inaugural public performance of the GHC 2025 Music Program #1, copy on p. 11.

~~St. John's Community Care-Collinsville~~

St. John's Community Care-Edwardsville

GHC band members drove between 25 and 35 miles east, depending on the starting pointing, to arrive at the Collinsville, Illinois, adult day care location. Then, after discovering a mix-up on the organization's calendar, the band members drove another 20 minutes to the Edwardsville branch, located in the corner of the Century Drive strip mall. So it was on Thursday, January 16, at 2 PM. Playing harmonica music to an appreciative audience of staff and clients in the main activity room justified the time and effort spent to get there. GHC's "Good Samaritans" were **Reed DeLaet**, Music Director **Bill Dulin**, **Herb Huebner**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Jim Melchers**, **Julie Melchers**, **Mark Olesnicki**, **Joe Stenger**, **Jan Studer**, **Tom Sutterfield**, and Sound Technician **Don Phillips** (11 GHC members).

Abbey Senior Health

It was a sunny afternoon, yet snow and ice were on the ground, as GHC members parked their cars, walked around the small cemetery, and entered the multi-story building on their way to the the first floor dining room of the O'Fallon, Missouri, facility, a 30-mile drive from mid-St. Louis County. As has been the experience during quite a few past gigs there, the smell of freshly popped corn filled the air, as 50 retired women, guests and staff members gathered for the 60-minute performance by the GHC band on Friday, January 24, at 2 PM, which included **Reed DeLaet**, Music Director **Bill Dulin**, **Herb Huebner**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Jim Melchers**, **Julie Melchers**, **Tim O'Connell**, **Mark Olesnicki**, **Ernie Roberts**, **Joe Stenger**, **Jan Studer**, and **Tom Sutterfield** (12). Good singers and friendly folks made for a fun gig!

Bethesda Hawthorne Place

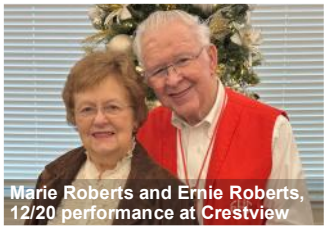
Enthusiastic GHC band members met in the first floor dining room of this Kirkwood/South St. Louis County assisted-living facility in the midst of a large senior community. It was 2 PM on a Friday, January 31, as 30 residents and guests enjoyed an hour of harmonica songs, as the band's four-part music was mixed by the sound board technician **Don Phillips** and directed by **Bill Dulin**. The band featured **Helen Allen**, **Reed DeLaet**, **Carol Duncan** (first gig appearance), **Herb Huebner**, **Linda Jacobs**, **Jim Melchers**, **Julie Melchers**, **Tim O'Connell**, **Mark Olesnicki**, **Ernie Roberts**, **Jan Studer**, and **Tom Sutterfield** (14 members).

At GHC Holiday & New Year Gigs

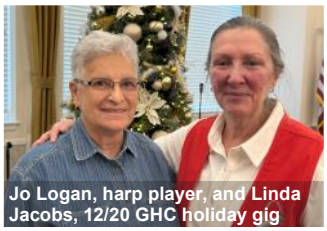
The Band, Family & Friends



"Jingle Bells" filled the air, special accompaniment by Helen Allen on 12/13 at Delmar Gardens South



Marie Roberts and Ernie Roberts, 12/20 performance at Crestview



Jo Logan, harp player, and Linda Jacobs, 12/20 GHC holiday gig



GHC band on stage at Meramec Bluffs on 1/9, the first gig of the new year and the first public performance of the 2025 music program #1



Entertaining grateful audience and staff members in Edwardsville on 1/16 with a new song in the repertoire, "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"



Newly featured songs, like "O Holy Night" and "Blue Christmas", added to the festive holiday atmosphere at Delmar Gardens South on 12/13

Gateway Harmonica Club

Spotlight on Members & Friends

So What's New With You?

Everyone is invited to share items of interest for this newsletter.
Send your inputs to **editor@gatewayharmonicaclub.org**



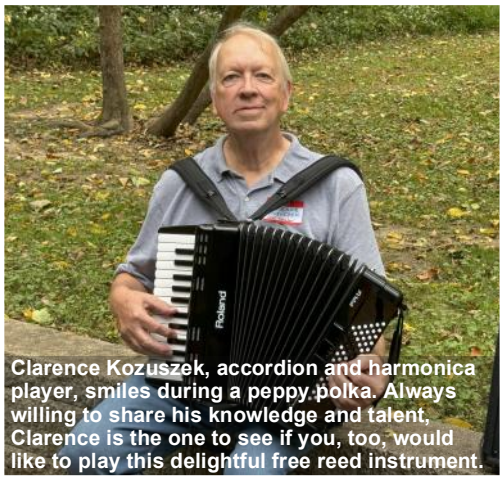
Valentine's Day Nostalgia - Reed DeLaet, 2/11/2024



"I wasn't sniffing in the snow", said Charlie, the dog, while waiting to return into Jan Studer's warm home as the outdoor temperature was only 8°F on the morning of January 20



Stan Balwin waits for GHC's open mic



Clarence Kozuszek, accordion and harmonica player, smiles during a peppy polka. Always willing to share his knowledge and talent, Clarence is the one to see if you, too, would like to play this delightful free reed instrument.



"Tulips", a watercolor painting by Kathy Kelly

When asked about this leisure activity, Kathy shared, *"I began painting watercolor at the age of 50 because I love the look of that medium. That led to exploring other mediums. Art has been a very enjoyable hobby and I still enjoy the hours I spend creating, usually with music playing alongside. Art and music are good for the spirit and combining them is wonderfully fulfilling for me."*

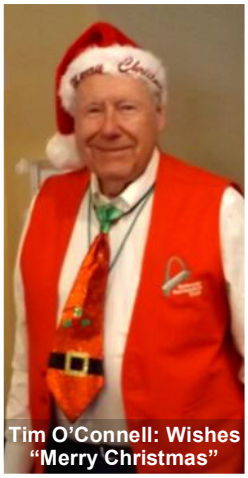


The first GHC meeting of 2025, 1/7, was held on Zoom only, with no in-person meeting due to the snow and ice-covered pavements. The broadcast featured the FUNdamentals group, monthly business meeting with Special Presentation by Jan Studer, band practice, and open mic. Participants included (from top left): Don Phillips, Linda Jacobs, Jan Studer, Jim Melchers, Mark Olesnicki, Joe Stenger, Herb Huebner, Audria Gebhardt, Carol Duncan, Tom Sutterfield, Jennie Ojeda, Ann Samuels, Jim Solari, Helen Allen, Bill Dulin, Kathy Kelly, Julie Melchers, Michael LaRue, Ernie Roberts


Nine inches of snow at Bill Dulin's on 1/6


Emily Kearns: Llamas under the mistletoe


John Renz: Santa Claus ready to go!


Tim O'Connell: Wishes "Merry Christmas"


Tim Heppermann: Festive shirt and tie


Dan O'Neal: Holiday spirit at GHC party

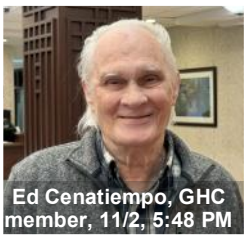

"I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas. May joy be in your hearts, may beauty adorn it. May love reign over all the earth, and may God bless you and your families."
~ Pierre Dacquin


Monica Settle and Dave Settle: Christmas red, stars, snowflakes


Helen Allen: Harmonica Elf


Santa's dressing area (Thanks, John Renz!)


Curt Buchholz: Holiday plaid with special hair


Ed Cenatiempo, GHC member, 11/2, 5:48 PM


20-year friends' annual meetup, 5:48 PM


Jim Melchers & Ed do 2024 catch-up


Remembering fun times since 2004


Jim & Ed 5:49 PM

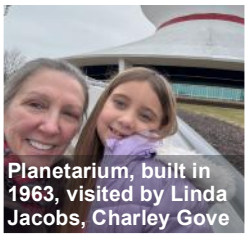

Ready for GHC's gig at Bethesda Orchard


Bill Dulin, pilot/owner, June 2010. This single-seat, high-wing Kolb Firestar ultralight is powered by a two-stroke engine. About the ultralight: length 20' 3", wingspan 27' 8", height 5' 10", empty weight 254 pounds, fuel capacity 5 gallons. Maximum speed is 63 mph, cruise speed 53 mph, stall speed 27 mph, and never-exceed speed 80 mph. Safe range is 70 miles (at 3 gallons of fuel per hour). Farthest above the Earth that you can look up and see Bill? He can reach a 10,000' ceiling!


Fun Hawaiian shirt shared by Dave Settle


"Mark won't go hungry"
Still warm from the oven, baked by Mark Olesnicki on a snowy day in early January; Recipe? See p. 8, Jan/Feb 2023 GHC newsletter


New Year kittens, adopted by Alice Russell, along with the feral queen (mother cat). Inside a heated garage, the kittens are getting weaned and socialized. All will get fixed and vaccinated before momma is turned loose and the kittens are accepted by the city for adoption.


Planetarium, built in 1963, visited by Linda Jacobs, Charley Gove


Harmonica t-shirt worn by Emily Kearns


Milt Zlatic, Crestview, 12/20, Ernie Robert's former coworker


In my Easter bonnet Linda Jacobs 1965


John Renz visits the Panama Canal, 1/13

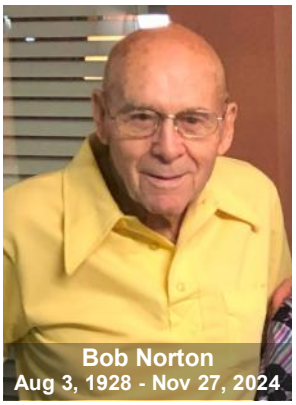


Route 66, western end, visit by John Renz, 1/2


"Happy New Year!" from John Renz, sunset on the Pacific Ocean, Santa Monica, California

In Memoriam:
Bob Norton
A Celebration of Life

By Linda Jacobs with **Helen Allen**, **Pierre Dacquin**, **Bill Dulin**, **Louise Georgia**, **Margaret Gustafson**, **Michael LaRue**, **Jim Melchers**, **Jennie Ojeda**, **Ernie Roberts**, **Dave Seehra**, and **Joe Stenger**


Bob Norton
Aug 3, 1928 - Nov 27, 2024

Bob Norton...A GHC legend! Bob is one of the most long-lived members of the Gateway Harmonica Club, and, at 96 years old, he played the harmonica skillfully, with a style all his own. Equally impressive were his positive attitude and team spirit. He was always ready to share a story or to pitch in to get things done for the club. Above all, Bob was a friend to all!

The details of **Bob's start as a harmonica player** were shared by GHC member Margaret Gustafson, who wrote, "I will long remember his story of how he came to play harmonica. He was about 12 years old and playing on a trombone. His dad didn't like the sound (noise) and took it away. He handed Bob a harmonica." In Bob's feature article in the May/June 2022 issue of *The Reeder*, he shared more details...His love of the harmonica began **in 1940** when, at age 12, **his dad gifted him a $50 Hohner 64 chromatic**. From then on, Bob played along with the radio or player piano, both in the garage.


Bob Norton, Sgt, USAF
Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi, 1951

As Bob recounted, he enlisted in 1945. According to GHC member Joe Stenger, "[Bob] loved to talk about his time in the service and how **he sold his harmonica. He didn't play for a long time**. When he got out, he bought another one."

In 1951, Bob married Bennie and, in 1952, he became the father of Christina. After retiring from Laclede Gas in 1988, Bob continued to enjoy life. **In 2006**, at **78 years old**, he heard a GHC member play at a nursing home. According to Joe Stenger, "He loved to tell the story of how **he auditioned for the club** and, when he was finished, [Treasurer] Jessie Hirsch said, 'That will be $15.00, you're in.' I got a kick out of that story, no matter how many times he told it." Bob added one detail in his January/February 2023 newsletter biography; his solo that evening, played with his cassette tape, was Barbara Streisand's song "The Way We Were".

GHC member Bill Dulin recalled, "Bob joined GHC shortly after I did, and we became good friends. He was always giving me a list of songs to make backing tracks for him. I was happy to do it. He couldn't read music, but he didn't need to. **He could play our music by ear**."


Bob Norton's earliest known photo, his confirmation class on Sunday, 4/19/1942, at St. Stephen United Church of Christ, Baden neighborhood, just north of St. Louis

According to comments throughout the years from Bob's wife Bennie, GHC meetings and gigs were the highlights of Bob's week. **Bob loved the music and the people**. Folks felt the same about Bob, loved his music and him as a person, like GHC member Michael LaRue, who, when remembering Bob, wrote, "A **very fine gentleman and harmonica player**." And GHC member Jennie Ojeda had a similar memory, "Bob Norton will always be remembered for **the twinkle in his eyes and always playing the clearest harmonica notes**."

GHC member Jim Melchers focused on other traits of our friend, "**Bob was always a trouper, pitching in anytime there was any work to be done**. He may have been the smallest person there, but he would always go for the hardest or heaviest thing to be done, and do it with a twinkle in his eye and a joke or two."

GHC member Louise Georgia felt that "Bob represented all that is special in the Gateway Harmonica Club. He played the harmonica with talent and passion, always had a special word for me, and others, and **made me happy I came to the club** -- What a talent he had and was self taught. I loved his **quick wit and humor**." Joe Stenger added, "The thing that I remember about Bob was that he was **always upbeat**. Nothing seemed to get him down."

Joe continued, "Bob was an inspiration to me. He **made me want to strive to play better**." Also sharing memories was GHC member Helen Allen, "I will always remember Bob as **he was such an inspiration to all of us** at the Gateway Harmonica Club. He always had a story to share, which made life interesting. His love for the harmonica was quite obvious, and he always enjoyed playing a solo when we performed. His rendition of 'La Vie en Rose' is one I will always treasure as that was his favorite song to play. I was so happy that he got to come to our picnic in September and shared his talents with all those present."

GHC member Pierre Dacquin expressed what many others would like to say to Bob, too, "I thank you very much, my Friend, from the bottom of my heart."


Bob and Bennie Norton at the GHC Christmas party, the Rock Church, 12/1/2009 (photo shared by Bill Dulin)

Celebrating the life of Bob Norton inspired club members to reflect and remember. Louise Georgia expressed it well, "Many others have passed out of my life from GHC and are missed. Bob is right at the top of my list of those I shall miss. What a special group this club is!!"

And what a special man Bob Norton was! His memory lives on!

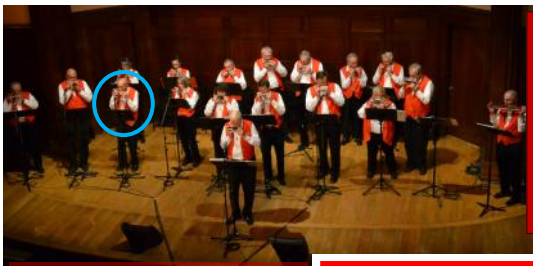
Bob Norton: Memories & Music



La Vie en Rose
Bob Norton

La Vie en Rose
Sheet Music

Bob Norton with wife Bennie and daughter Chris Waltrip before a GHC band performance on 9/28/2023. Also, here's a link to a video of Bob performing his solo "La Vie En Rose" plus a link to play-along sheet music. (photo by Linda Jacobs)



Train Medley
Norton & GHC

Bob Norton performs with the GHC band at the Sheldon Concert Hall in St. Louis on 3/27/2012. Here's a link to a video from that evening, one of Bob's favorites, "Train Medley".

Gateway Harmonica Club
Members In the Spotlight

GHC members share their music-related history ~
Send yours to **editor@gatewayharmonicaclub.org**

Sweet Georgia Brown

Duet featuring Bob Norton (93) on chromatic harmonica and Bill Davis (87) on 'juice harp', playing along with a "Sweet Georgia Brown" backing track, GHC open mic, 6/21/22





Georgia
Bob Norton

Bob Norton and Bennie, his wife of nearly 74 years, at the GHC picnic in Love Park, 9/21/2024. Bob played his favorites during open mic, including "Georgia on My Mind". Click or scan the link to see the video of Bob's lovely performance! (photo by Ernie Roberts / video by Dave Seehra / close-up by Linda Jacobs)

Why "The Dreidel Song"?

By Mark Olesnicki

People have asked me, and others may wonder, why I play "The Dreidel Song" as part of our GHC's Holiday Program. No, I am not Jewish. As Jerry Seinfeld said, "Not that there's anything wrong with that".

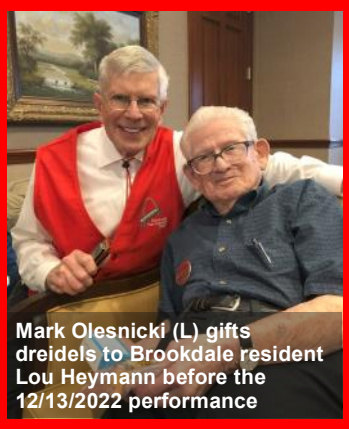


Dreidels, four-sided spinning tops with a Hebrew letter on each side

The actual reason goes back to December 2022. The GHC band had been performing regularly at Brookdale Senior Living in Creve Coeur, always getting an enthusiastic reception. A large portion, probably the majority, of the residents are Jewish.

When Lou Heymann, a representative of the Brookdale Men's Club, called to schedule a December gig, Jim Melchers, GHC Booking Agent, told him it would feature Christmas music. Lou said that it was no problem; however, we did modify our music program a little.

I thought it would be neighborly to include a specifically Jewish song celebrating Hanukkah, which occurs for eight days starting between November 28 and December 27. I had heard of "The Dreidel Song" as one that is sung during Hanukkah, so I got the music and first performed it on December 13, 2022, at Brookdale. The audience was very appreciative.



Mark Olesnicki (L) gifts dreidels to Brookdale resident Lou Heymann before the 12/13/2022 performance

It is a children's song about a top, used in a game of chance. The song lyrics say that the dreidel is "made of clay", which it can be. Wood is more common, with metal also used.

Starting in 2023, I have played "The Dreidel Song", with backup from the GHC rhythm section, at many of our holiday performances. Audiences seem to like our accelerating rendition, and I plan to play it at future holiday programs.



GHC 2024 Award Recipients, during the annual Christmas party, December 9, 2024, at the Rock Church (left to right) Tim O'Connell, Larry Graves, Don Phillips, Julie Melchers, Carl Von Till, Jim Solari, Jim Melchers, Carol Duncan, Mark Olesnicki, Jennie Ojeda, Joe Stenger, Jan Studer, and Helen Allen. Also recognized, but not pictured, are Bill Dulin, Ruth Huebner, Ernie Roberts, and Tom Sutterfield.

GHC 2024 Award Recipients

By Linda Jacobs & Jim Melchers
Photos by Carol Duncan, Linda Jacobs, John Renz, Yvonne Renz, Dave Seehra & Kanwal Seehra

Outstanding achievements in support of the Gateway Harmonica Club were recognized during the club's 2024 Christmas party on December 9 at the Rock Church. Many GHC members contribute their talents and knowledge to preserve and advance the harmonica and make significant contributions to the club, local area, and harmonica community. We wish that every member could be recognized because, working together, we are an awesome team and create amazing accomplishments. After much discussion and consideration, GHC President **Linda Jacobs** and VP **Jim Melchers** recognized 17 people who were selected as GHC's 2024 award recipients.




Helen Allen

Helen Allen

Outstanding Support Award

Enthusiastic "face" of GHC: Event greeter, party committee member, new-member support; always willing to help

Bill Dulin

Count-to-Four Award

Music director, counts to four (usually); provides harmonica repairs, key involvement in music arranging/program selection


Bill Dulin






Carol Duncan

Carol Duncan

Rookie of the Year Award

Easing into playing with the band, working on chromatic and diatonic abilities, made Special Presentation, newsletter input

Larry Graves

Creativity Award

Consistently writes his own songs/arrangements, made a Special Presentation, contributed to newsletter, creative attire


Larry Graves







Ruth Huebner

Third-Time's-the-Charm Award

Chaired GHC Christmas party three years in a row. Months of planning/preparation annually. Spectacular for 133 attendees!





Jim Melchers

Many Hats Award

GHC vice president, booking agent, chord player, equipment manager, webmaster, Oasis liaison, instructor, music arranger





Julie Melchers

Perfect Attendance Award

Awarded three years in a row! Arrives early at gigs, key to mics setup/teardown. Helps put away after weekly meetings.





Tim O'Connell

Outstanding Support Award

Audience liaison, record-breaking merchandise sales, set innovative example by adopting tablet for music management





Jennie Ojeda

Helping Hand Award

Business meeting snacks facilitator, chaired annual picnic, key to blues group's new program, assists music librarian





Mark Olesnicki

Money Bags Award

GHC treasurer, innovative investments increased club earnings; college instructor; consistent band member, soloist





Don Phillips

MVP Award

GHC sound technician, music librarian, chaired Christmas in July party, accomplishes weekly equipment setup





Ernie Roberts

VIP Medal of Honor Award

GHC photographer, recorded over 90 events, performances, meetings and practices; GHC archivist





Jim Solari

Outside-the-Box Award

Innovative blues instruction, arranged recurring professional speaker, weekly equipment setup, guitar/harmonica/songwriter





Jan Studer

Most Improved Award

Leads FUNdamentals Group, assistant booking agent, made Special Presentation, exemplary use of tablet for sheet music





Tom Sutterfield

Sharp Pencil Award

GHC secretary, meeting site liaison, facilitated improvement of exterior lighting, safety on snow day; enabled large party room





Joe Stenger

Medal of Valor Award

Assistant chord player at gigs, facilitates weekly chord class, accomplishes mic setup/teardown at gigs, guitar/harmonica





Carl Von Till

Creativity Award

Creates rhythm guitar arrangement to support dynamic original songs; supports harmonica club and owns a harmonica or two



Special Events

Santa Claus Came to ~~Town~~! the GHC Christmas Party!

By Linda Jacobs / Photos by Carol Duncan, Linda Jacobs, John Renz, Yvonne Renz, Dave Seehra, and Kanwal Seehra / Videos by Dave Seehra


Ruth Huebner
Event Chairperson

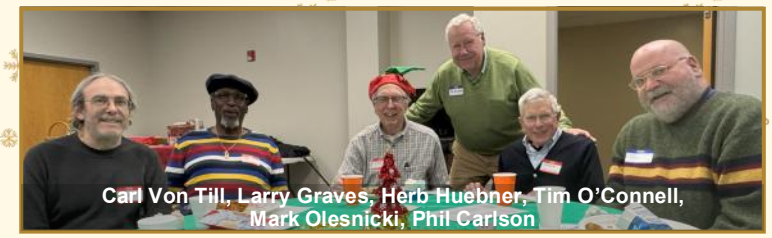






What a fun Christmas party! Fifty-one people, including Santa Claus, came to the Rock Church on the evening of December 10th, bringing along their harmonica, a potluck dish, and door prize donations, plus family and friends, to share in the festivities. And, thanks to all who sent good wishes even if unable to be there this year.

With a (virtual) crackling fire in the fireplace, snow gently falling in the moonlight outside of the (virtual) window, a long buffet of delicious potluck dishes, two tables of door prizes, and many beautiful Christmas carols, the partygoers shared the holiday spirits of friendship and appreciation. The detailed planning and hard work of Event Chairperson **Ruth Huebner** created a truly memorable evening!


Carl Von Till, Larry Graves, Herb Huebner, Tim O'Connell, Mark Olesnicki, Phil Carlson

The church's Fellowship Hall was transformed from a meeting room into a beautiful party venue, thanks to the heavy lifting by Site Liaison **Tom Sutterfield** and his team: **Johanna Sutterfield**, **Tim O'Connell** and **Mark Olesnicki**. Dividing walls were removed, opening the space to comfortably accommodate everyone. Table cloths, sparkly mini Christmas trees, and golden glitter decorated the tables, thanks to the pre-party setup efforts of **Kathy Wolff**, **Harry Meyer**, and **Mary Ann Meyer**. Arriving guests were greeted by **Helen Allen** and **Herb Huebner** and presented with a holiday-cards gift bag put together by **Jennie Ojeda** and **Helen Allen**. An uplifting invocation was given by **Jim Duncan**, written by **Carol Duncan**.





A special treat was in store when **John "Santa Claus" Renz**, assisted by **Yvonne Renz**, made a surprise visit, with a jolly "Ho Ho Ho" and bearing gifts for all. Many took advantage of this special treat by taking a photo with Santa and sharing Christmas wishes. Special thanks to **Dave Seehra** for taking many photos and videos.


Monica Settle, Dave Settle, Curt Buchholz, Dan O'Neal
Jan Studer, Scott Studer

The buffet was a delightful experience, a chance to sample everyone's favorite dish with little restraint because we had "the big plates". As dinner wound down, guests enjoyed delightful accordion music, played live by **Clarence Kozuszek**, supported by **Deb Kozuszek**.







Annual awards were presented by GHC President **Linda Jacobs** and Vice President **Jim Melchers** in honor of the efforts put forth by so many club members. Help with preparations was done by **Louise Georgia**, **Anne Solari**, **Jim Solari**, and **Joe Stenger**. Details are on p. 18. Later in the evening, Linda was presented with a special award by her brother, **John Frierdich**.

Play-/sing-along music was led by New Players POC and Associate Band Director **Jim Melchers** and FUNdamentals Group Facilitator **Jan Studer**, with the sound system operated by **Don Phillips**. Open mic songs were shared by **Scott Aschinger**, **Stan Baldwin**, **Curt Buchholz**, **Bill Dulin**, **Audria Gebhardt**, **Charley Gove**, **Larry Graves** and **Carl Von Till**, **Linda Jacobs** and **Kanwal Seehra**, **Emily Kearns**, **Jim Melchers**, **Julie Melchers**, **Mark Olesnicki**, **John Renz**, and **Joe Stenger**.





Also significantly contributing to the fun and convivial atmosphere through help with setup and cleanup, the delicious potluck, door prizes, sing-along/play-along participation, and the Christmas spirit, but not yet mentioned, were: **Kristen Aschinger**, **John Clark**, **Matt Dhillon**, **Henry Heppermann**, **Tim Heppermann**, Linda Jacobs' guests **Connor Collings**, **Ashley Frierdich**, and **Salle Warden**; **Pete Melendez**, Mark Olesnicki's guest **Phil Carlson**, **Dan O'Neal**, **Bonnie Phillips**, **Dave Settle**, **Monica Settle**, and **Scott Studer**.



At the end of evening, after the partygoers left the festive room, strolled down the hallway, and went to their cars, we could hear them exclaim, as they drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!" (Or, was it Santa Claus that we heard?)



John Renz, Yvonne Renz, Anne Solari, Jim Solari, Tom Sutterfield











Helen Allen, John Clark, Jennie Ojeda,
Bonnie Phillips, Don Phillips, Jim Melchers, Julie Melchers





Band Songs
Play-/Sing-Along









Christmas
Open Mic









Charley Gove, Ashley Frierdich, Conner Collings,
Salle Warde, John Frierdich, Emily Kearns



Kathy Wolff, Mary Ann Meyer, Harry Meyer,
Tim Heppermann, Henry Heppermann, Stan Baldwin







Carol Duncan, Jim Duncan, Dave Seehra, Audria Gebhardt,
Kanwal Seehra, Ruth Huebner, Scott Aschinger, Kristen Aschinger





Matt Dhillon, Louise Georgia, Joe Stenger, John "Santa"
Renz, Clarence Kozuszek, Deb Kozuszek, Pete Melendez







Just for Fun

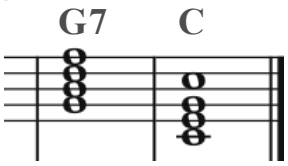
New Year's Resolutions

By Jim Melchers

Harmonica Player's Resolutions

- Practice a little every day
- Use a metronome for some of your practice
- Work on one new song each month
- Play a song at open mic each month
- Pick a song to play from memory and work on it a little every day
- Learn how to bend a note
- Have fun!

Chord Player's Resolution



Heard from an Accordion Player

By John Renz

Do you know what the definition of a perfect gentleman is?

A man who knows how to play the kazoo but doesn't.

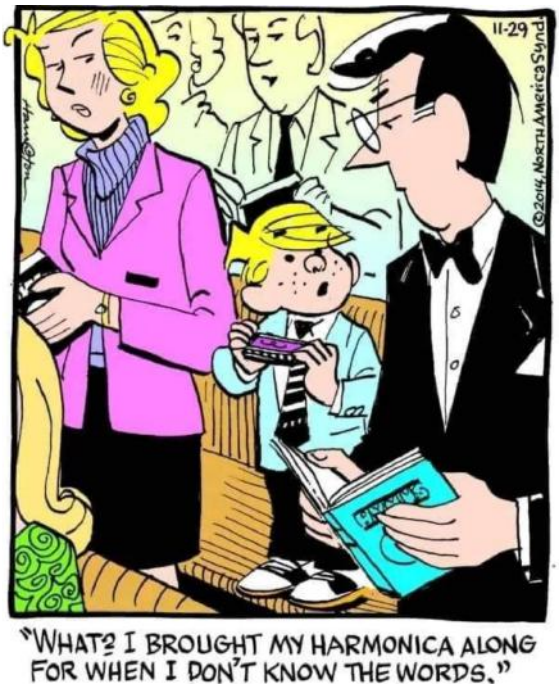
Something Kind of Cute

By Don Phillips

"A new study shows that people who have a ridiculous number of harmonicas tend to live longer than those who point it out."

Dennis with His Harmonica

Contributed by Helen Allen



Today's (Pea)Nuts

Updated captions by Linda Jacobs



February Special Days & Harmonica Trivia

By Linda Jacobs

February 1 - Black History Month Begins

1. Who was the first African-American performer/harmonica player on the Grand Ole Opry stage?

February 2 - Groundhog Day

2. In the movie "Groundhog Day", what polka is featured repeatedly and could easily be mistakenly identified as played on one Hohner instrument or another?

February 9 - Super Bowl Sunday

3. What musician played the harmonica during a Super Bowl halftime show?

4. What product was featured in the Super Bowl commercial "Harmonica Madness"?

February 14 - Valentine's Day

5. What do a valentine and a harmonica have in common?

February 17 - Presidents Day

6. What six US presidents reportedly played the harmonica?

Answers are on p. 24



2025 Black History Month Celebration

Missouri Office of Equal Opportunity



Super Bowl 59

Sunday, February 9 2025

Kick off at 5:30 PM CT

New Orleans



Presidents Day

Began in 1879 to celebrate George Washington's birthday

Three Versions of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"

By Linda Jacobs, as presented by Jan Studer

What if a holiday song featured forlorn lyrics, like "Have yourself a merry little Christmas / It may be your last" and, "Faithful friends who were dear to us / Will be near to us no more"? So the famous lyrics began, according to an article by Rebecca Day in *The Epoch Times*.



Lobby card, or poster, for the 1944 film "Meet Me in St. Louis"

In 1943, those somber phrases were in the lyrics of the song written by composer Hugh Martin for the upcoming film, "Meet Me in St. Louis", according to the presentation by **Jan Studer** during the educational segment of the Gateway Harmonica Club's business meeting on January 7, 2025. Film star Judy Garland, who played older sister Esther Smith, was to sing the morbid lyrics to little sister Tootie, played by Margaret O'Brien, when they learned that they may move away from their beloved St. Louis home.



Judy Garland (L) and Margaret O'Brien played sisters in the classic film "Meet Me in St. Louis"



Cover for Frank Sinatra's 1948 album "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and the cover for his 1957 album "A Jolly Christmas" featuring the third revision to the song

To Garland, the lyrics were far too sad for her to sing to her teary-eyed on-screen sister, so she politely urged Martin to rewrite some of the lines, wrote Day in her 2024 article. Martin eventually became convinced and the lyrics began, "Have yourself a merry little Christmas / Let your heart be light / Next year all our troubles will be out of sight." After the movie's debut in 1944, the song took on a life of its own, first becoming the movie's signature song, and eventually becoming one of the most popular Christmas songs ever.



The third version of the song came about in 1957, when Frank Sinatra decided to record the song, but with a few lyrical changes from his first recording in 1947. In preparation for the album, "A Jolly Christmas", Sinatra asked Martin for a rewrite, resulting in the resounding lyric, "Hang a shining star upon the highest bough," which replaced the original lyric, "We'll have to muddle through somehow."

Cover (L) and insert from Linda Ronstadt's 2000 album "Very Merry Christmas"



When Linda Ronstadt recorded her own version in 2000, she, too, loved 'hanging the shining star' because, to her, it was a beacon of hope and bravery. Many other recordings have been released, including covers by Michael Bublé (2012) and Josh Groban (2016).

Evolving from a melancholy show tune into a joyful holiday anthem, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" became a holiday favorite, enjoyed throughout the world and even included in the Christmas program played by the Gateway Harmonica Club band for countless seasons, probably beginning when the club formed in 1987. In 2020, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers listed the gentle ballad, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", in the top 10 of its most performed holiday songs.





Country Music

By Pierre Dacquin

Country music has millions of fans around the world, especially in the United States, Canada, and Australia. It also enjoys a certain popularity in Europe, especially in Ireland, the Scandinavian countries, and Germany. Many music and dance festivals are dedicated to it around the world.

The city of Nashville, Tennessee, is the symbolic heart of country music. Nashville owes its nickname, "Music City", to the large number of recording studios and the quality of its musicians. The stage of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville always represents the pinnacle of a career for country artists.

In this new year of 2025, let's start it off right with some country music that moves! Here's a link to my rendition of "Sea of Heartbreak", originally recorded by Don Gibson in 1961, and a 2003 original, "Joyful Cowboy".

Sea of Heartbreak Pierre Dacquin

Cow Boy Joyful 2003

A ♪ from Helen

By Helen Allen

We Sing it, We Play It: The History of "Happy Birthday"

With only six notes, six words, and four lines, "Happy Birthday" is the most universal song sung around the world.

The song was written by Louisville sisters, Patty Hill, a kindergarten teacher, and Mildred, a composer and performer. Originally, they wrote "Good Morning to All", a song that children would find easy to sing. The first two lines repeated "Good morning to you" followed by "Good morning dear children, Good morning to all." Occasionally, the children substituted lyrics, like "Happy Birthday to you." In 1893, the song was published, but it was never copyrighted.

In 1933, it appeared in Irving Berlin's musical revue, *As Thousands Cheer,* and the sisters wanted to be paid royalties. Finally, in 1935, the sisters registered the song, which later was sold twice.

In 1988, Warner Music Group received $2 million of royalties for the song's use. Eventually questions arose over who owned the royalties. In 2016, the saga ended, and Warner Music Group repaid $14 million to those charged since 1949. A version of the song in a 1922 songbook provided evidence that the song was published without copyright notice and is considered part of the public domain.

The Wisdom of Age

Contributed by Linda Jacobs

I am not old, she said.
I am rare.

I am the standing ovation at the end of the concert.
I am the retrospective of my life as art.
I am the hours connected like dots
into good sense.
I am the fullness of existing.
You think I am waiting to die,
But I am waiting to be found.
I am a treasure. I am a map.
And these wrinkles are imprints
of my journey.
Ask me anything.

~ Author Unknown

Answers to "February Special Days & Harmonica Trivia" from p. 22

1. The first African-American performer/harmonica player on the Grand Ole Opry stage was DeFord Bailey. He became one of the Grand Ole Opry's most popular early performers, appearing from 1927 to 1941, and country music's first African-American star. He played several instruments, but is best known for playing the harmonica, often being referred to as a "harmonica wizard". Bailey's 1927 trademark song, "Pan American Blues", opened the show on the very first night of the Opry. It was the first recording of a harmonica blues solo and afterward became the first-EVER commercial recording in Nashville.

DeFord Bailey
"Pan Am Blues"

F. Yankovic
"PA Polka"

2. The "Pennsylvania Polka", by Frank Yankovic & His Yanks, is featured in the movie "Groundhog Day". Although it often sounds like a harmonica is being played, the song features only the accordion, which, surprisingly, was not manufactured by Hohner.

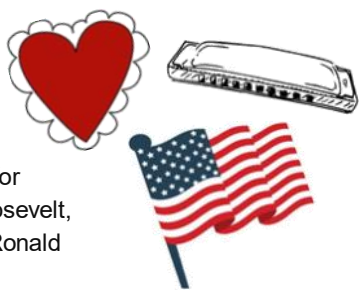
3. During 2010's Super Bowl XLIV, it was Roger Daltrey of The Who that played an energizing 45 seconds on the diatonic harmonica to cheers of fans during the outro of the first song in the medley "Baba O'Riley / Who Are You?" (See YouTube link at right, harmonica starts at 2:50)

Roger Daltrey
Medley

Doritos
Harmonica Madness

4. In 2011, Doritos was the focus of a "Crash the Super Bowl" commercial titled, "Harmonica Madness", featuring an impressive blues riff. Don't miss it in the link at left.

5. In addition to having the letter "i" in common, both "valentine" and "harmonica" have nine letters.



6. US presidents who played the harmonica, even if only for personal enjoyment, include Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan.

Music, Emotion & Love

By Ernie Roberts in collaboration with Linda Jacobs

"**Music is the shorthand of emotion**…" That Tolstoy quote inspired me [Ernie] to do some research about the connection between music, emotion and love. Here are a few quotes, just in time for Valentine's Day.

In the time of William Shakespeare, music was thought to be a tangible force that could enhance emotions, especially love. This is why "**music**" was sometimes called "**food for the soul**" or "**food for love**".



Shakespeare's most famous quote linking music and love is "**If music be the food of love, play on**." This is from the first line of his romantic comedy, *Twelfth Night*, where the speaker asks for more music because he is frustrated in courtship.

"**Where words leave off, music begins**," was written by German poet Heinrich Heine. Music can kindle feelings which we would never experience otherwise. These emotions could not be expressed in words. Music is beyond what words can convey to others.

Although the author of this next quote about music, emotion, and possibly, love is unknown, the experience it describes is know to many throughout our lives. "**Music is what feelings sound like**." When was the last time you listened to or played music to express your love or other emotions?



Computer Translation

By Mark Olesnicki

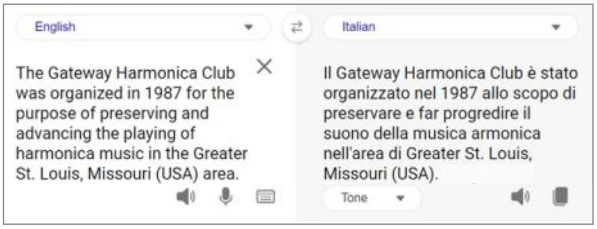
"…the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language." (Acts 2:6)

Today, computer translation is something of a miracle. With a few easy steps, communication can be established without personal knowledge of the recipient's language. Many languages are available. I use it to communicate with GHC member Pierre Daquin, who is French.

Let's assume a person from Italy contacted us to know more about our club. We could start by translating what we have on file:

"The Gateway Harmonica Club was organized in 1987 for the purpose of preserving and advancing the playing of harmonica music in the Greater St. Louis, Missouri (USA) area."

First, open the Google Translate program [on the Google Chrome browser's home page or at https://translate.google.com] and select "English" [to] "Italian". Highlight the sentence (above), copy, and paste it into the Google Translate "from" box. The translation to Italian immediately appears in the "to" box. Here is the screen shot.



Copy and paste the translation into the document:

"Il Gateway Harmonica Club è stato organizzato nel 1987 allo scopo di preservare e far progredire il suono della musica armonica nell'area di Greater St. Louis, Missouri (USA)."

Give it a try. Google Translate can open doors with harmonica players in other countries. I will be glad to answer questions and assist you.



St. Louis
January 2025

I'm still going to harmonica practice

Harmonica Valentine circa 1950



Valentine's Day Musical Know-ta-shun

Lesson #1...What is a "fermata"?

A fermata is a symbol in musical notation that indicates that a note, chord or rest should be held longer than its usual duration.

Lesson #2...The performer, or music director, has the freedom to interpret and sustain the sound for as long as they see fit.



Harp Corner

New Year's Resolutions for the Harmonica Player

By Jim Melchers

For a few ideas about continuing good practices, accomplishing a personal goal, or improving your harmonica playing during 2025, turn to p. 22, "Harmonica Player's Resolutions".

Intro to Playing Harmony

By Jim Melchers and Linda Jacobs

Presented by Jim Melchers to GHC members in a 1-hour class on November 19, included hands on harmonica harmony playing opportunities

What is Harmonica Harmony?
- Music where 2 or more notes are played/sung simultaneously
- Resulting relationship between these different notes is described as the harmony

Harmony Examples
- Modern example of harmony: Simon & Garfunkel
- Harmonica harmony: Harmonicats

Uses of Harmony as GHC Members
- Band
- Open mic
- Purpose of GHC band's harmonica harmony: Add interest for the listener



Intro to Playing Harmony class, held on 11/19, attended by Jan Studer (front row left), Jim Melchers (instructor), Audria Gebhardt; middle row, left to right: Carol Duncan, Mark Olesnicki, Pete Melendez, Ernie Roberts; back row: Herb Huebner, Clarence Kozuszek, Don Phillips, John Renz, and Larry Graves

Blues Jams in St. Louis

Here are a few blues jams in our area. Thanks to **Jim McClaren** who provided the list during the January 14th GHC meeting.

- The Broadway Oyster Bar: 736 S. Broadway, Mondays, 9 PM
- Hwy 61 Roadhouse: 34 S. Old Orchard, Wednesdays, 6:30-10
- Hammerstone's: 2028 S. 9th, most Sundays, 3-7 PM
- Salvatore's Italian Grill: 4145 Old Highway 94, St. Charles, Tuesdays, 7-10 PM
- Moonshine Blues Bar: 1200 S Main, St Charles, Sundays, 4 PM

Jim McClaren's Blues Harp Lesson #3

By Linda Jacobs

Presented by Jim McClaren to GHC members in a 1-hour class on January 14. A video recording of the presentation may be seen by clicking or scanning the QR code at right.

J. McClaren
1.14.2025

Here are highlights of Jim McClaren's Blues Harp Lesson #3:



Common Chord Progression
- Basic blues scale based on pentatonic scale (five notes), 1st, 2nd, 3rd positions
- **Am - G - F - E**: *Hit the Road Jack*, *Stray Cat Strut* (2nd position), *Misunderstood* (3rd position)

Blues Jams
- **Protocol**: Get there early, ask how the jam works, watch a few players
- **Amplification**: Use vocal mic? Dedicated harp amp? Bring amp or low-z pedal board? Bring a mic?
- What to do with an **unknown song**: Play chords, melody, fills/rhythm or don't play
- **Most important**: All ears, ask what key, have harps organized

Two Harps One Solo
- **Reason**: Change key or position, match chord
- **Example** of using multiple harps in one solo: Norton Buffalo in Bonnie Raitt's video, link at right (harmonica solo starts at 1:25)
- **High end of the harp**: Extended range, easy blow bends, but takes practice

N. Buffalo
Many harps

Harmonica & Harmonics

By Julie Melchers / Photo by Ernie Roberts

Presented during the educational time during the December 3, 2024, business meeting of the Gateway Harmonica Club

"HARMONICA is the name given to two simple musical instruments. The best-known of these is the mouth organ. In this instrument, metal reeds are inside a case. The edge of the case has separate blow holes for each reed. The instrument is played either by blowing or sucking the air through these holes.

The second type of harmonica was invented by Benjamin Franklin...a series of bowl-shaped glasses arranged on a spindle. The spindle was turned, and the rims of the glasses were moistened in a trough below. Music was made by rubbing the wet rims with the finger.

-- Charles B. Righter
World Book Encyclopedia

A second article, HARMONICS, also from the *WB Encyclopedia,* was read because the illustration of the wet glass rims demonstrated the harmonics of glass and suited the presentation. I mentioned that it was shown to a number of us in art class in high school by someone, and we all thought it made a really interesting sound.



The harmonics of glass is demonstrated by Julie Melchers on 12/3

We Use a C Harmonica

By Jim Solari

GHC's Blues Group viewed the online video, Beginner to Blues' Lesson 1, during the Tuesday, January 21, meeting. I took some notes and, in general, with a few extras, this information was included.

We are using a **C diatonic** harmonica exclusively.
Diatonic means 10 holes, according to the video. (Also, diatonic means the harmonica is tuned to play only notes in the scale of the key of the harmonica.)
There are a handful of tunings for a diatonic harmonica, but we are using the most common type - the Richter scale. Don't worry about tunings, it is not on the test.

C Diatonic Harp Layout without bends:

Blow	C	E	G	C	E	G	C	E	G	C
HOLE	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
Draw	D	G	B	D	F	A	B	D	F	A

Blow: Hole number means to blow, example: 4 or even (4). Blow on the 4.
Draw: Negative number means to draw, example: -4 or -(4). Draw/inhale/suck on the 4.
Bends get an apostrophe (‘), example: -4’. Bend on the 4 draw. That will be explained in a much later lesson. For today, just realize there are bend notes.

Chords

Chords are a few notes played together. Examples:

123 means to blow 123 together. This is a C chord (CEG).
-(123) means to draw 123 together. This is a G chord (DGB).

Straight Harp

The notes you choose, rhythm, etc. determine the type of music you play. Folk style or playing the melody is common with straight harp.

Key of C notes: C (4), D (-4), E (5), F (-5), G (6), A (-6), B (-7), and C (7). It is the **scale**, also heard like: do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do.

Homework: Ask Alexa or Siri to play a *C backing track.* Jam with your harp blowing and drawing to hear what sounds good.

Cross Harp

When you want to sound different than the straight melody, for example - bluesy - one option is to play in cross harp. For example, when playing a song in the key of G, use a harmonica in the key of C and play in 2nd position - accenting draw notes. To find the cross-harp key - count 5 up from the Key you are in: 1C, 2D, 3E, 4F and 5G and pick the 5th note. In the key of C, cross harp is in the key of G. What does this do? Makes it sound bluesy. See homework below.

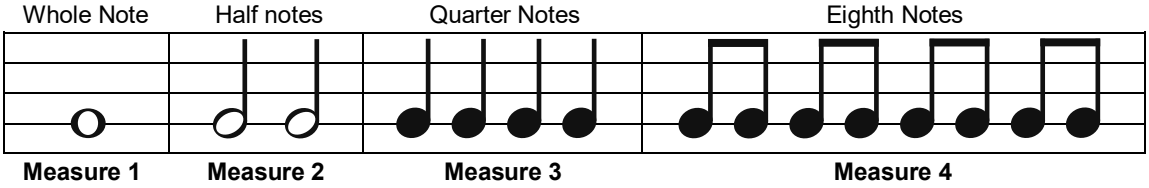
Key of G Notes: G (3), A (-6), B (-3), C (4), D (-4), E (5), F (-5), and G (6). Technically there is an F# or G flat. But let's ignore that now.

G scale = Look at the draw notes on a C harp: D, G, B, D, F, A, B, D, F, A. Interesting that most of the draw notes are all in the G chord (not the A nor B)

Homework: Ask Alexa or Siri to play a *G BLUES backing track.* Jam with your harp. See what sounds good. Use the draw notes as frequently as possible. Does it sound bluesy?

Music Theory: Time Signature

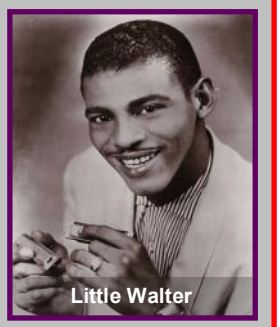
When you look at sheet music, you see something like below, four separate measures or sometimes called **bars**. Let say the **timing** is 4/4 time, which means there are 4 beats per measure and a quarter note gets one beat.



The notes in the above bars or measures are called **beats**. With a steady count, not stopping: 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4, etc.

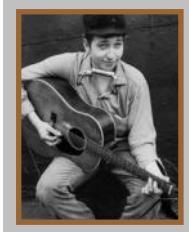
- Measure 1 = Blow hold whole note for four beats - Keeping that steady count
- Measure 2 = Blow hold each half note for 2 beats - Keeping that steady count
- Measure 3= Hold each quarter note for 1 beat - Keeping that steady count
- Measure 4 = Hold each eight notes for ½ a beat- Keeping that steady count. It might help to count this as 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and.





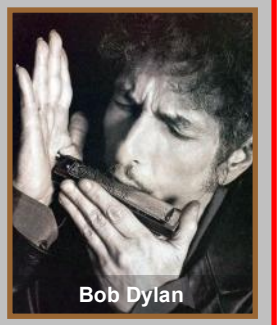
My Babe
Little Walter



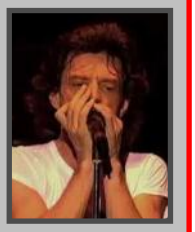




Like a...Stone
Bob Dylan









Midn Rambler
Mick Jagger





Heart of Gold
Neil Young



Masters of Harmonica

The Harmonious Legacy: The Harmonica in Rock and Roll

Harmonicist in the Spotlight

By Michael LaRue

The harmonica, often called the "blues harp," is a deceptively simple yet deeply expressive instrument, beloved for its ability to convey both raw emotion and subtle nuance. Its presence in rock and roll history is no accident--the harmonica's powerful, soulful tone has been central to the development of numerous musical movements, particularly in the realms of blues, rock and folk. From early pioneers to modern legends, the harmonica's resonant sound has shaped the course of popular music. This story traces its path through the heart of rock and roll, showcasing key moments, bands, and performances that made the harmonica a star in its own right.

The Early Roots: Blues and the Birth of Rock and Roll

The harmonica's journey into rock and roll is inextricably linked with the blues. In the early 20th century, blues musicians used the harmonica to evoke the deep sorrow and struggle of their lives. It wasn't long before this emotive instrument found its way into the emerging rock and roll sound, which would combine the heart of the blues with the energetic spirit of youth and rebellion.

One of the first and most iconic players to bring the harmonica into rock and roll was **Little Walter**, a pioneering figure in Chicago blues. He brought unprecedented skill and innovation to the harmonica, expanding its role beyond just a rhythm instrument and into the realm of lead playing, exemplified in his hit "My Babe" (link at left). His groundbreaking use of amplification also paved the way for the harmonica's integration into rock music.

However, it was the legendary **Bob Dylan**, in the 1960s, who truly popularized the harmonica in rock and roll culture. Dylan, with his folk roots and poetic lyrics, embraced the harmonica as an integral part of his sound, as demonstrated in "Like a Rolling Stone". Songs like "Blowin' in the Wind" and "The Times They Are A-Changin'" not only defined an era of protest music but also demonstrated the harmonica's versatility in conveying both political and emotional depth.

The British Invasion: The Rolling Stones and the Blues Revival

When the Rolling Stones exploded onto the scene in the early 1960s, they were heavily influenced by American blues, and harmonica playing became an essential element of their sound. **Mick Jagger**, in particular, became known for his harmonica skills, often using it to punctuate the band's raw, energetic performances.

In1964, the Stones released "Not Fade Away," a Buddy Holly cover that featured Jagger playing a prominent harmonica line. But perhaps their most iconic harmonica moment came with the release of their 1969 album *Let It Bleed*. The track "Love in Vain" is a perfect example of how the harmonica can enhance a song's emotional landscape. Jagger's playing on the song evokes the deep pain and longing at the heart of the lyrics.

One standout live performance of the Rolling Stones' harmonica mastery can be seen in their 1972 concert at Madison Square Garden. Mick Jagger's harmonica playing on "Midnight Rambler" (captured in *Ladies and Gentlemen: The Rolling Stones*) is legendary, intertwining with Keith Richards' guitar in a haunting, bluesy dialogue. You can watch it on YouTube to see how the harmonica enhances the intensity of the band's live energy.

The Roots of Rock: Neil Young

In addition to the Stones, **Neil Young** also helped cement the harmonica as a staple of rock music. Young's plaintive, almost mournful harmonica playing can be heard on classic tracks like "Heart of Gold" from *Harvest* (1972), which became a huge hit and introduced a new generation to the power of the harmonica in rock. Young's harmonica playing is often marked by its raw, unpolished sound, fitting perfectly with his blend of folk rock and country influences.

Neil Young's live performances are often filled with passionate harmonica solos, and one iconic performance is his rendition of "Heart of Gold" at the 1971 BBC Concert. You can find this performance on YouTube, where his harmonica work complements his voice and guitar in a beautiful, stripped-down setting.

The Early Days: The Harmonica's Role in Springsteen's Folk and Blues Influence

Throughout his legendary career, **Bruce Springsteen** has been one of the most influential rock musicians, known for his gritty, heartland rock anthems and poetic lyrics that tell the stories of working-class America. While his primary focus has always been his storytelling, iconic voice, and electric guitar, the harmonica also played a significant role in defining his sound. Springsteen's use of the harmonica has not only added texture and emotion to his songs but has also become an essential part of his musical identity. From his early albums to his stadium concerts, the harmonica has been a constant companion in Springsteen's vast catalog of hits, including the song "Waitin' On a Sunny Day" (link at right).

Springsteen's love for folk, blues, and early rock 'n' roll can be traced back to his youth, where he first encountered the harmonica through artists like Bob Dylan and Howlin' Wolf. In fact, the harmonica became an early instrument of choice for Springsteen, not only for its rich, expressive tone but also because it tied into the working-class, blues-driven ethos that Springsteen would explore throughout his career.

Modern Day: Reviving and Revolutionizing the Harp

In the 21st century, the harmonica has seen a remarkable resurgence in rock music. Though its roots are deep in blues, folk, and early rock 'n' roll, modern musicians have resurrected the instrument, breathing new life into it through fresh, innovative applications. This revival is thanks to artists who blend traditional elements with contemporary sounds, showing that the harmonica's place in modern rock is both vital and dynamic.

Bringing a new level of artistry to the harmonica, proving it could be a driving force in rock and funk, was **Lee Oskar**, a member of the band WAR. His unique style, phrasing, improv, and rhythmic precision, added depth and emotion, as in the hit "Spill the Wine".

While best known for his rich voice, keyboards and songwriting, **Stevie Wonder**'s skill with the harmonica is equally iconic and has left a significant mark on popular music. One of his most notable contributions is his harmonica solo in the classic "Fingertips".

The Harmonica's Enduring Impact

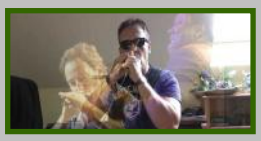
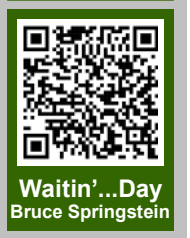
The harmonica has always had an essential place in rock and roll, bridging genres and cultures while adding its unmistakable voice to countless classic tracks. From blues to punk to modern rock, the instrument has transcended its roots and become a symbol of raw emotional expression in popular music. Whether played in the hands of pioneers like **Little Walter**, legends like **Bob Dylan** and **Mick Jagger**, the storytellers of rock like **Neil Young** and **Bruce Springsteen**, or modern rockers like **Stevie Wonder** and **Lee Oskar**, the harmonica continues to serve as a versatile, evocative voice for musicians across generations.

Its legacy in rock and roll is secure, proving that a tiny instrument with a simple design can evoke profound, timeless emotion--a perfect reflection of the genre itself.

Masters of Harmonica - Next Issue

The Beatles played a key role in popularizing the harmonica during the 1960s, integrating it into their early rock sound, as in "I Should Have Known Better", and helping to introduce the instrument to a wider, mainstream audience. They drew on influences from American blues, folk, and rock 'n' roll, where the harmonica was a staple, and incorporated it into hits like "Love Me Do" (1962) and "Please Please Me" (1963). **John Lennon**, in particular, became known for his harmonica playing, using it to add depth and texture to many of the band's early tracks. The harmonica's presence in the Beatles' music gave it a fresh, upbeat energy, and their massive popularity helped establish the instrument as a symbol of youthful rebellion and musical versatility during the early days of the British Invasion.



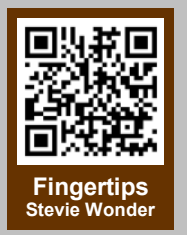




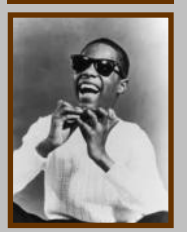




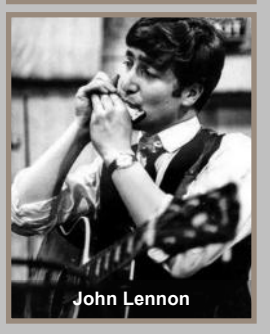








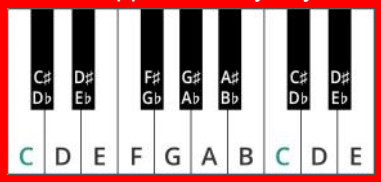
Scales

By Bill Dulin

Musical scales are notes in alphabetical order, arranged by pitch to form a progression between one note and the same note an octave apart. The notes in a major scale may be sung “Do-Re-Mi…”

The starting note of a scale is the first note of the key. For example, the starting note of the C Major scale is C and the rest of the notes are in alphabetical order: D, E, F, G, A, B and C.

Knowing the musical scale for each key is a good way to know what sharps or flats to expect in the music to be played. If you can remember the progression 2-2-1-2-2-2-1, it is not necessary to memorize all of the scales. The numbers represent half steps (distance from one piano note to the next) and can be applied to any key.



For example start with Eb. The next note in the Eb scale will be two half steps up or F. The next note will be G (two more half steps) then comes Ab (one half step) then Bb (two) then C (two), then D (two) then Eb (one). Sheet music that has three flats at the start is always in the key of Eb. This will work on any major key.

I find that playing the scales helps to improve my musical ability.

Harmonica Slide Sticking?

By Linda Jacobs

During recent GHC meetings, I overheard a few chromatic players mention that the slide on their harmonica was sticking. So, here are a few tips to try.

To free a stuck slide, play the harmonica to warm it up. Then, gently move the button and slide from front to back (from front cover to back cover) rather than trying to push the button.

Another way to release a sticking slide is to place the harmonica mouthpiece downwards in a shallow container with **just enough** clean warm water to cover the slide assembly. Be careful to not immerse any of the comb, especially if wooden. Gently push the button a few times until it starts to move more freely, then take it out and tap it dry, holes down, being careful not to get the water into the main body of the harmonica. Dry with holes down.

If the slide continues to stick, take it to one of the GHC experts who will be happy to help.

Music Note Values

By Jim Solari

In a 4/4 time signature, there are four beats in a measure, and a quarter note (1/4) holds the value of one beat. The top ‘4’ indicates the number of beats, while the bottom ‘4’ specifies what note gets the beat. This is what gives the 4/4 time signature its ‘steady heartbeat’ -- a consistent, predictable rhythm that serves as the foundation of a piece.

Music Note		Value
Whole Note	=	4 beats
Half Note	=	2 beats
Quarter Note	=	1 beat
Eighth Note	=	1/2 beat
Sixteenth Note	=	1/4 beat
2 (Joined) Eighth Notes	=	1 beat
4 (Joined) Sixteenth Notes	=	1 beat

Singin' in the Rain Arranged by Linda Jacobs

"C" DIATONIC 4 7 (6) 6 (5) (4) 4 (5) (5) 6 (6) 7 4 (4) (5) 6 (6) 7 (6) 7 7 (6) 6 (4)
CHROMATIC 1 4 (3) 3 (2) (1) 1 (2) (2) 3 (3) 4 1 (1) (2) 3 (3) 4 (3) 4 4 (3) 3 (1)

𝄋 To Coda

I'm sing-in' in the rain, just sing-in' in the rain. What a glor-rious feel-ing, I'm hap-py a - gain.
dancin' in the rain, just dancin' in the rain,

10
7 7 (6) 6 (4) 4 7 (6) 6 (4) 7 7 (6) (4) 5 (6) (4) (5) (4) (5) (4) 4 (4)
4 4 (3) 3 (1) 1 4 (3) 3 (1) 4 4 (3) (1) 2 (3) (1) (2) (1) (2) (1) 1 (1)

I'm laughin' at clouds so dark up a - bove. The sun's in my heart and I'm read-y for love. Let the

18
(5) 6 (6) 7 4 (4) (5) 6 (6) 7 (5) (5) 6 (6) 7 (6) 7 7 (6) 6 (4) 7
(2) 3 (3) 4 1 (1) (2) 3 (3) 4 (2) (2) 3 (3) 4 (3) 4 4 (3) 3 (1) 4

stormy clouds chase ev'ry - one from the place. Come on with the rain, I've a smile on my face. I

26
7 (6) 6 (4) 4 4 7 (6) 6 (4) 4 7 7 4 5 5 (6) 4 (5) 4
8 (7) 7 (5) 4 4 8 (7) 7 (5) 5 8 8 5 6 6 (7) 5 (6) 1

D.S. al Coda

walk down the lane with a hap - py re - frain, Just singin', just singin' in the rain. I'm

34
7 (6) 6 (5) (4) 4 (5) (5) 6 (6) 7 4 (4) (5) 6 (6) 7 (6) 7 7 (6) 6 (4) 4
4 (3) 3 (2) (1) 1 (2) (2) 3 (3) 4 1 (1) (2) 3 (3) 4 (3) 4 4 (3) 3 (1) 4

sing-in' in the rain, just sing-in' in the rain. What a glor-rious feel-ing, I'm hap-py a - gain. I'm

42
7 (6) 6 (4) 4 7 (6) 6 (4) 7 7 7 7 5 5 (6) 4 (5) (9)
4 (3) 3 (1) 1 4 (3) 3 (1) 4 8 8 4 6 6 (7) 5 (6) (10)

8va

laugh-in' at clouds, so dark up a - bove. I'm dancin' and singin' in the rain. Yeah!



Don't miss this HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC!
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Gene Kelly 1957

Song History NPR

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2. Hold your camera over a QR code so that it's clearly visible in your smartphone's screen. Cover nearby QR codes.
3. Tap the link or follow the directions on the screen to complete the action.

Quick tips: Make sure that your phone is connected to the internet. Also, if you don't see a notification pop up, see if the Scan QR Codes feature is enabled. To do that, open the Settings app and tap "Camera", then verify that "Scan QR Codes" is on.



CLICK the QR code if accessing from a computer.

GHC Calendar

Upcoming Events

Mar 11	**6 - 7 PM**	**McClaren Blues Harmonica Lesson**, Rock Church, Brentwood MO
April 26	**1:15 - 4 PM**	**Spring luncheon**, Miss Sheri's Cafeteria, Sappington MO 63123
Jul 22	**6-9 PM**	**Christmas in July**, Rock Church, Brentwood MO 63144
Sep 27	**11 AM-4 PM**	**Annual picnic**, Love Park, Ballwin MO 63021
Dec 9	**6-9 PM**	**GHC Christmas party**, Rock Church, Brentwood MO 63144

Performances

For most recent updates, check the GHC Calendar, link above.

Mar 7	**1:30 PM**	**Garden Place Columbia**, Columbia IL 62236
Mar 12	**2:30 PM**	**Delmar Gardens - Meramec Valley**, Fenton MO 63026
Mar 19	**2 PM**	**Laclede Groves**, Webster Groves MO 63119
Mar 28	**2 PM**	**Cedarhurst of Tesson Heights**, St Louis MO 63128
Apr 4	**2:30 PM**	**Delmar Gardens South**, Sappington MO 63128
Apr 9	**10 AM**	**O'Fallon Senior Center**, O'Fallon MO 63366
Apr 16	**2 PM**	**Dolan Memory Care Homes**, Creve Coeur MO 63146
Apr 28	**2:30 PM**	**Benedictine Living Community - At the Shrine**, Belleville IL 62223

College & Oasis Classes

Mar 13, 20 & 27	**Diatonic Workshop, Oasis** - Center of Clayton 63105
Apr 3, 10 & 17	**Chromatic, St. Louis Community College** - Meramec 63122
May 1, 8 & 15	**Diatonic, St Louis Community College** - South County 63129

Weekly Meeting *Everyone's welcome!*

Meetings (practices) held each **Tuesday**, **6 - 9 pm**, at **The Rock Church**, 9125 Manchester Rd

Contact Us

Give us a call or send an email for more information about our club, performances, and classes.

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