



# MMHF News

June 2012

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## Donnie Klossner one-man band

By Joyce Reese

In an interview with Donnie Klossner I asked, "How do you achieve the sounds of horns, strings, or rhythm and putting it all together in a fine sounding band using your concertina?"

Donnie works with a Roland electronic module unit, MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) containing over 100 programs, which is made for talented musicians with full knowledge of music and the know-how



to separate the language. It was developed to be an accompaniment for virtual accordion which has no reeds. There are three baskets containing rhythm for different types of songs. The songs are selected from a menu on the module which is stored on a flash drive. Donnie can obtain the sounds of any instrument, rhythm and vocals to form a band or orchestra of his choosing. The concertina has three channels which can be plugged into the module; one channel for the right side of the concertina and two channels for the left side. It is push and pull, a sensing device which activates the switch on the module.

When writing an arrangement, Donnie has two things in mind; what to play and how to play it with the machine in mind as it does part of the calculation.

Foot pedals electronically control the rhythm section. There is a basic and four variations. Donnie can adjust bass rhythm to tempo, volume or to suit what he wants to be playing.

Vocals are done with another machine through chord recognition played on the left side of the concertina. One switch controls turning on or off for single vocal. Another selects

through the machine to vocal harmonizer in different patterns. One can choose the number of voices to harmonize and has choice to change for a deep voice (Barry) to a very high voice (Ethel).

Donnie treated me to a few strains of La Vie En Rose played in french sounding instruments.

## Nominees to be inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame 2012

On Friday, November 2, 2012 the following will be inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame:

Leonard "Skeets" Langley-World Champion Accordionist-Champlin Chordayres- Male Chorus-Milan

LeRoy Glaser-Country Music-Sauk Rapids

Koener, Ray & Glover-Blues & Folk Music-Twin Cities

Canoise-Rock Music-St. Cloud

Jerry Minar-Old Tyme-New Prague

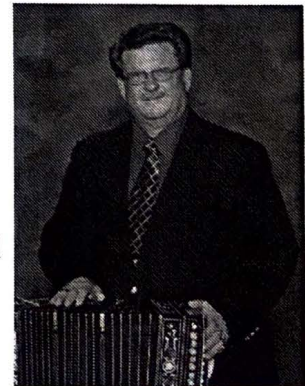
Reserve your space at the induction ceremony, 507-359-1490 or mmhf@newulmtel.net.

## Paul Wendinger to be inducted into International Polka Music Hall of Fame

Family members received word that Paul Wendinger is being inducted into the International Polka Music Hall of Fame in the Deceased Category. The event will be held on Saturday, August 3, 2012 at the Embassy Suites in

Independence, Ohio. In

the living category, Craig Ebel and Wally Dombrowski will be inducted, and the Pioneer Category recipient is yet to be announced.



## MMHF Memorials

Elda Schroeder - Patrick & Kelly Weber, Marville Schmidt, Peter & Dodie & Joleen Wendinger, Jon & Lisa Wendinger, Nancy Brooks.

Roselyn Frederick - David & Cynthia Meyer, Jerry & Bonnie Ubl.

Elmer Rathmann - Norman & Arlene Krebs.

Fred Schultz - Peter & Dodie & Joleen Wendinger,

Florence Schultz, Patrick & Kelly Weber.

Otto Werner - Ann Vogel, Charlie & Lucy Braunreiter.

Harry Niesen - Ray & Mary McCellan, John & Lois Gag, LaVerne Schapekahm, Jillian Wagner, Carol Kramer, Charlie & Lucy Braunreiter.

Ken Arsers - Don & Opal Dewanz, Vivian Dewanz, Peter & Dodie & Joleen Wendinger, Lee & Pattie Traurig, Sam, John & Clarice Arsers.

Ruth Abraham - Charlie & Lucy Braunreiter.

Elmer Scheid - Margaret Frank, Hillard & Marlys Klaustemeier, Jerome & Judy Kadlec, Bud & Patty Schnobrich, Marville Schmidt, LeRoy & Delores Flor, Johnny Helget, Syl & Rose Mallak, Madonna Hillesheim, John & Lois Gag, Arnie & Ruth Nachreiner, Al & Doris Drage, Beverly Berg, Marie Brandel, Jim, Jeanette, John & Joann Sobuelr, Elayne Hoffmann, Wally Bauer & Joyce Dauer, Larry Dunow, Ed & Caroline Mathiowetz, George Maha, Rollie & Arlis Forstner, Tom & Ginny Berg, Andy & Sharon Walter, Curt & Jo Boettger, Roland Meyer, Frank Melmer, Tom & Diane Franta, Dan Retka, Peter & Dodie Wendinger, Joleen Wendinger, James & Geri Wagener, Alyce Steffel, Deltah Niemi, Leander & Shirley Forster, Vickie Swanson, Joyce Reese, Jim Bartels & KNUJ Radio, Don Walser, Ray Portner, Diane Neubarth, Raph Melchert, Marlys Johnson, Sleepy Eye Concertina Club.

Leon Bushard - Charlie & Lucille Braunreiter.

Hilda Fritsche - Marlys Johnson.

## Obituaries

Harry R. Neisen  
1930 - 2012

Harry R. Neisen, New Ulm, died Friday, April 20, 2012. Funeral service was held on Arpil 25 at St. Paul's Luthern church in New Ulm. Music was very important to Harry. He was a band instructor at Pemberton and Swea City, IA and over the years played with many bands in the New Ulm area including Michael's Minstrals, Marigold



Dixieland Band, Fezz Fritsche, Six Fat Dutchmen and Ernie Koopman.

Elmer Scheid  
1920-2012

Elmer Scheid passed away May 4, 2012. His funeral was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, New Ulm. He began playing his father's button concertina at age 4. Elmer played his first professional job at age 13 with the John Fritsch Band and several other New Ulm bands. He formed his own band in 1951, playing 95 percent of the wedding dances at George's Ballroom in New Ulm and the Orchid Inn in Sleepy Eye. Scheid's popular band soon began playing the five-state area and was the only Minnesota Band invited to participate in the National Polka Festival in Milwaukee in 1968. The band's recordings were listed in the top three according to "Fritz the Plumber" on Milwaukee radion station WMLL. He was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in 1995.

Myra Fritsche  
1918 - 2012

Myra Fritsche, wife of the late Fezz Fritsche, passed away on May 13, 2012 in New Ulm. A private family funeral service was held at Minnesota Valley Funeral Home and burial was in the New Ulm cemetery. She and Fezz hosted many musicians and their families during Polka Day celebrations. She enjoyed traveling with Fezz and even played drums on some occasions.

Bruno Randles  
1929 - 2102

Bruno Randles, Cannon City, CO. and formerly a New Ulm resident passed away on May 13. He was cremated and his ashes were spread in the Colorado mountains. Bruno played trombone with the USO band in WWII and worked with many New Ulm bands including the Six Fat Dutchmen. In the 1950s he formed his own band, the original Jolly Brewers. After he sold his band in the 1960s, he and his family moved to Colorado. Bruno was also a well-known artist.

Kenneth Arsers  
1930 - 2012

Kenneth Arsers, New Ulm pssed away on May 14, 2012. His funeral was held at Minnesota Valley Funeral Home with burial in New Ulm City Cemetery. In 1948 he became a member of the United Sates Navy Band in Washington D.C. joining his brother, Bill, in the french horn section. During his career with the Navy Band, Ken participated in 6 presidential Inaugral Parades, ceremonies at the White House, concerts in the Washington D.C. area, funerals at Arlington Cemetery and

numerous concert tours with the Navy Band. Ken, Bill and Sam Arsers all served with the band at the same time, the first time in history three brothers were members of the Navy Band. His brother, John, was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in 2008.

**Dorothy Kahle**  
1925 - 2012

Dorothea Kahle, New Ulm, passed away on June 6, 2012. Mass of the Christian Burial was held June 11 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm, with burial in the New Ulm Catholic cemetery. As wife of local musician, Roman Kahle, she traveled with him to many dance jobs. Roman was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in 1998.

**Eddie Blazonczyk**  
1942 - 2012

Grammy Award-winning polka great, Eddie Blazonczyk, Chicago, who began playing the lively music in the 1950s and went on to earn the nickname "Polka King" after starting his own band and label, has died at the age of 70. In 1962 Eddie formed the band, Versatones, which after a brief time venturing into pop music, landed him on Dick Clark's American Bandstand, and toured the U.S. and Canada. Eddie attracted so many people to the polka audience. They knew it was an evolution of the music. His son described his father as a kind of music mogul, a founding member of the International Polka Association, a disc jockey and polka music promoter. The president of the Association said Eddie was good at what he did and

that's why he was called the "Polka King". Eddie played many instruments but preferred the bass, and he sang lyrics in both English and Polish. "For his fans, this is truly the time that music died," said Eddie's son.

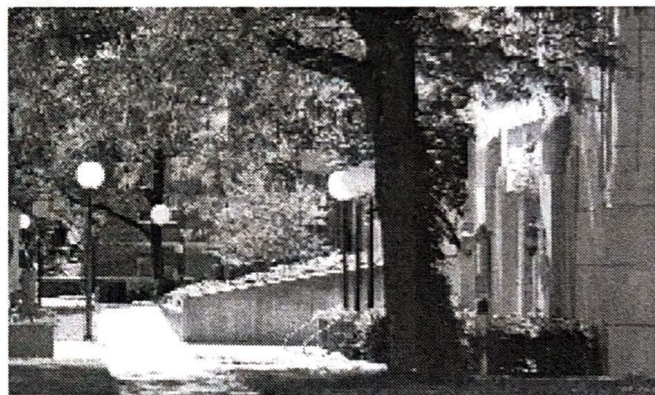
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### Minnesota Music Hall of Fame MUSEUM

Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Saturday

Phone: 1-507-354-7305 • Fax: 1-507-359-6643

email: [mmhf@newulmtel.net](mailto:mmhf@newulmtel.net)

**Charlie Braunreiter, Administrator**  
**Carol Steinhaus, Assistant**

## Coming Events

### Bavarian Blast

July 20-22, 2012

Brown Co. Fairgrounds, New Ulm  
Dance your Lederhosen off at this  
German Festival.

### Riverblast

August 31 & September 1, 2012

Riverside Park, New Ulm  
Music • Food • River History Center

### MMHF Banquet and Induction Ceremony

Friday November 2, 2012  
Turner Halle, New Ulm  
beginning at 5:00 p.m.

### Inductee Showcase

Saturday, November 3, 2012  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
MMHF Museum



### Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, Inc. Board Members

**Officers:** Dayle Besemer-President 507-359-1566, Brian Filzen-Vice-President 507-217-6970, Alma Forst - Secretary 507-359-9039, Dodie Wendinger-Executive Director/Treasurer 507-359-9014.

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