

2010 ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

(Elect 1, unless otherwise noted)

CULTURAL/HERITAGE

American Slovenian Citizens Assoc.
(ACME Club)
Glasbena Matica Singing Society
Slovenian National Home East 80th
SNPJ Heritage Room
Joe Valencic

SUPPORT/PROMOTION

Joe Gabrosek & Gene Kovack
Kathy Paulenich & Kay Sefcik
Val Pawlowski
Jack Tady Polka Place
United Musicians Polka Assoc. of
PA (UMPAPA)
Pam & Jerry Zagar

BUTTON BOX- INDIVIDUAL/DUO

Joe Grkman, Jr. Dick Tady
Ron Likovic Joey Tomsick
Joe Novak Fred Ziwich

BUTTON BOX - GROUP

Fairport Jammers
Magic Buttons
Mahoning Valley Button Box Club
Polka Pirates
Western PA SNPJ Button Box Club

VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Christine Hibbs John Ross
Nancy Novak Dick Tady
Kim Rodick

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR - INDIVIDUAL

Bob Kravos Brian O'Boyle
Eric Noltkamper Dick Tady
Joe Novak

BAND OF THE YEAR

Klanecnik & Friends
Bob Kravos & the Boys in the Band
Joe Novak & Friends
Eddie Rodick Orchestra
Dick Tady Orchestra
Fred Ziwich ISM

RECORDING OF THE YEAR

"It's Never Too Late" (Jerry Kernz)
"Best of Cleveland" (Bob Kravos)
"Jammin'" (Fairport Jammers)
"Stay All Night" (Alex Meixner)
"Timeless" (Walter Ostanek)

BEST SIDEMEN

(elect 3)

Gary Byndas (Fred Ziwich ISM)
Bob Ferritto (Joe Novak & Friends)
Joe Gill (Dick Tady Orchestra)
Ed Gould (Dick Tady Orchestra)
Steve Grkman (Joe 'Grkmania'
Grkman Band)
Phil Hrvatin (Joey Tomsick Orchestra)
Brian O'Boyle (Jack Tady)
Frank Puskar (Karl Lukitsch)
Mike Yanek (Joe Novak & Friends)
Brian Zupancic (Joe Novak & Friends)

NEW ORIGINAL POLKA OR WALTZ

Bella Luna Waltz (Dick Tady)
Come Home Safe Polka
(Fred Scherz, Sr.)
Donuts Polka (Alex Meixner)
I'm Here Waltz (Jerry Kernz)

GREATEST ALL TIME CLEVELAND-STYLE HITS

(elect 2)

Give Back My Heart Waltz
(Daj, Daj Srcek Nazaj)
Happy Days Polka
Iron Mike Polka
Kamnik Polka
No Beer In Heaven Polka
Pony Tail Polka
Red Lips Red Wine Polka
Squeezers Polka

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(elect 2)

Fred Kuhar Bob Timko
Dick Sodja Fred Ziwich
Hank Thunander



ACHIEVEMENT - *continued from page 1*

Timko's Polka Place was a popular Cleveland night spot. Timko recorded three albums, and two CDs.

Fred Ziwich plays accordion, button box, clarinet, and saxophone. He started his own band at age 17. He became a professional musician in 1973, joining the Hank Haller orchestra. Since 1977 Fred has led the International Sound Machine. He is heard on 24/7 Polka Heaven. He recorded 16 cassette albums for World Renowned Sound, and has recorded 20 albums of his own, plus recording with Walter Ostanek and others. Fred is a past music director of the Polka Awards Show, and serves on the Board of Trustees.

PHOF members will vote for two candidates for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Announcement of the 2010 inductees will be made at the Preview Meeting on October 14.

PREVIEW PARTY AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, October 14 - 7 p.m.

Euclid City Hall
Council Chamber
585 E. 222nd Street
Euclid, Ohio

The Board of Trustees cordially invites all members of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame to attend a Preview Party at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, October 14, 2010, at Euclid City Hall Council Chambers 585 East 222nd Street. Annual Awards nominees will be introduced. The

2010 Lifetime Achievement Honorees will also be announced, as well as the recipients of the Trustees Honor Roll.

The two Greatest All-Time Hit Songs voted in by our members will be performed by your favorite musicians. Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there.



Paul Wilcox, Polka TV Icon, 1925 - 2010

Every Sunday afternoon, polka fans across the Midwest invited Paul Wilcox into their homes. The television and radio personality hosted the hour-long "Polka Varieties," syndicated from WEWS in Cleveland for 27 years, from 1956 to 1983. The show featured various popular bands that played Slovenian-style polkas and waltzes, Polish, German, Italian and Czech-style music. Wilcox led the only television program for polka music in the U.S. at that time. He passed away in Florida on Friday, June 18, at age 85.

From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., families and polka-lovers tuned their TV dials to Channel 5 to enjoy top names in Slovenian and nationality music, such as Richie Vadnal, Johnny Pecon, Cilka Dolgan, Wally Chips and Ed and Gilda Cifani. "America's Polka King," Frankie Yankovic and his Yanks were the first band to perform on the show and remained popular guests throughout the run of the program.

Wilcox also introduced performances by local Slovenian cultural groups, including the Zarja Singing Society, the Kres Dancers, and the SNPJ Slovenian Junior Chorus. During its later years, "Polka Varieties" reached 30 television markets and broadcast Slovenian entertainment into thousands of homes.

Wilcox and Yankovic teamed up to lead more than sixty polka tours to Slovenia and worldwide. For his promotion of polka and nationality music, Wilcox was added to the Trustee Honor Roll of the Polka Hall of Fame and Museum in 2003.

"Paul Wilcox was a legend in polka television," said radio host Tony Petkovsek, chairman of the American Slovenian Polka Foundation which operates the Hall of Fame and Museum. "He was also a great fan and promoter of Slovenian music and culture."

Wilcox was a distinguished flyer in the United States Air Force in World War II and a POW during the Korean Conflict. He began on radio in 1947. His career included the "Paul Wilcox Polka Radio Show," which he hosted from 1973 to 1988 on various stations in Cleveland. He was also a news and sportscaster at WEWS, Cleveland's ABC affiliate, in the 1960s. He retired to Florida in 1990. Wilcox will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

In Memoriam

Ed Romp

Polka enthusiast, PHOF member, and writer for the Polka Times, Ed Romp passed away, at age 80, on May 29. Ed was a great supporter of polka music and attended National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame events, took photographs and wrote follow-up articles on a regular basis. Ed lived in the Toledo area with his wife of 56 years, Dorothy. His in-depth articles in the Polka News gave readers a good idea of up and coming polka bands, as well as favorite musicians, and a fine report on the events he attended.

Our sympathy to Dorothy, his five children, and extended family.

Fran Prijatelj

Polka Hall of Fame member, Fran Prijatelj passed away in June. She was 90. Fran was a button accordion player with the Buttonnaires. She gained fame in a photograph on the front page of the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper at the opening of the new Polka Hall of Fame and Museum location, in 2002. Fran appeared in a color photo wearing a Slovenian costume, along with her daughter Joann Bowman.. There is a plaque in the entrance of the PHOF Gift Shop with the photo and article. Each year Fran and Joann would dress in Slovenian costume and march, passing out candy to spectators, with the Polka Hall of Fame float at the Memorial Day parade in Euclid. Our deepest sympathy to her four children, 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and sisters Mitzi Urbanic and Ann Barbish.

For many years, polka bands from Cleveland have adapted melodies that were composed and recorded by bands from Slovenia.

The story of "Triglavski Valcek" or "Triglav Waltz" is a case of a folk song going full circle, from Slovenia to Cleveland and back to Slovenia.

The Hoyer Trio first recorded the song in 1926. Pecon-Trebar later called it the "Whispering Waltz" on a Capitol recording. The Lojze Slak Ensemble recorded the song as "Triglavski Valcek" on Jugoton records in 1969.

The Hoyer recording of "Triglavski Valcek" on Columbia Records, (#25044) had two main melodies based on folk songs that Matt Hoyer remembered from growing up in Europe.



The main melody, with some alteration, became the "Whispering Waltz" on the Pecon-Trebar for Capitol (#57-90021). Pecon and Trebar added two different second parts of their own. The flip side featured "An Old Fashioned Polka", and both were released on 78 and 45 recordings.

Where this gets interesting is that "Triglavski Valcek" was not recorded in Slovenia until 43 years after Hoyer's

record. The song is on the Slak album "Triglav," The album states that "Triglavski Valcek" was based on old themes, with new lyrics by Leo Svetek, while all of the other songs are original melodies by Slak.

That Lojze Slak LP album "Triglav" has supplied much material for American Slovenian button box players, and the songs are part of their standard repertoire. The five songs are: the title cut "Triglav Polka" (not to be confused with the waltz), "Pozdrav Z Dolenjske" (called "Old Timer's Waltz" by Pecon-Trebar), "Mamici" (a tribute to Slovenian mothers), "Ta Sosedov Francelj" (My Neighbor Frank), and Polhar Polka. Special Thanks to John Hasper, and his web site WWW.Polkas.nl for supplying some of the above information.



Polka Vibes *from the Gift Shop*

A couple of new CD releases are now available at the Polka Hall of Fame Gift Shop: Button Box Magic by Dick Tady, and a trip down nostalgia lane with Walter Ostanek and Frankie Yankovic in the album "The Two of Us." Tom Brusky has a brand new, versatile CD, called "The First Forty Years". For fans of the "Hoboes" and a new audience, the garage-style band has issued a DVD. The Hoboes performed on the original Gong Show in the 1970s, and

the DVD includes a glimpse of the appearance.

Billy Frank, Don Srnick, Phil Yan, and Tony Verch are some members of the Hoboes.

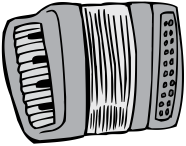
Back to school time may be a good opportunity to purchase some novel musical gifts for the youngsters in the family. The PHOF Gift Shop has harmonicas for \$4.50 and kazoos for \$3.50. Young and old music lovers can get into the spirit of polkas with a Jingle Wristband at \$4.50.

A full-stock of nationality magnets

are made of ceramic with sayings such as: "Not Only Good Looking but Slovenian Too," and others such as "Born to Polka."

Currently in stock are large signs stating "PARKING FOR SLOVENIANS ONLY" Others Will Be Towed at \$6.50. The price for the items does not include postage. Order on-line through Paypal at www.Polkafame.com, or call toll-free 866-66POLKA.

Fred Ziwich will be a special guest at the Gift Shop October 23, special discounts that day, no admission.



The National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame

Founded to showcase artifacts and memorabilia and to trace the evolution and history of Cleveland-Style Polka Music from its Slovenian origins with colorful displays and audio/visual presentations. Complete retail sales of cassettes, CDs, videos and Polka souvenirs. Accessible from downtown Cleveland via Interstate 90. Exit East 222nd Street, proceed North to 605 E. 222nd Street.

HOURS FOR POLKA HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP:

Noon till 5 p.m., Tuesday thru Friday • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., on Saturday • Closed Sunday and Monday
www.polkafame.com • (216) 261-FAME (3263) • Toll Free 1-866-66POLKA

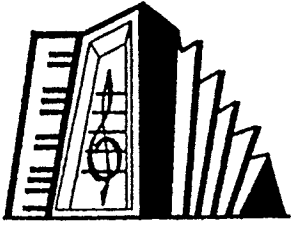


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Polka Hall of Fame Slovenian Sausage Festival Returns to SNPJ Farm, Wednesday, September 15



Vote for the best Slovenian klobasa at the 7th annual Slovenian Sausage Festival, hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, Wednesday, September 15. This year, your favorite polka bands and sausage-makers return to SNPJ Farm for seven hours of non-stop music and munching, from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Dance to the finest Cleveland-Style orchestras, including Joey Tomsick, the Chardon Polka Band, Hank Haller,

Milan Racanovic, the Penn-Ohio Polka All-Stars, the Al-Ray Combo, the Polka Pirates, Magic Buttons, the Fairport Jammers and Canada's Polka King Walter Ostanek.

You can sample sausages from several makers and then vote for your tastiest choice. A variety of treats and refreshments awaits you between musical numbers. The 2010 King of Klobasa is announced at 6:00 p.m. This year's entrants include Azman Quality

Meats, Raddell's Slovenian Sausage Shop and Maple Heights Catering.

Advance tickets at \$7 are available at the Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd Street, in Euclid. Admission at the gate is \$8. SNPJ Farm is at 11000 Heath Road in Kirtland, Ohio, off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306. Call the Polka Hall of Fame for tickets and details, (216) 261-FAME or toll-free (866) 66-POLKA.



Five Candidates Up for Election for Lifetime Achievement



By Cecilia Dolgan

Five accordionist-bandleaders have been nominated for Lifetime Achievement in the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame. They are: **Fred Kuhar, Dick Sodja, Hank Thunander, Bob Timko, and Fred Ziwich.** Members will vote for two inductees to receive the organization's highest honor in 2010. Fred Kuhar and Hank Thu-

nander have appeared on the ballot previously.

Impact in the field of polka music is one of the criteria considered for this Award, and all of the nominees have made their mark nationally or regionally.

Here are some of their accomplishments, nominees listed in alphabetical order.

Fred Kuhar had a polka band continuously for 38 years. He recorded a series of five albums with his band playing Pecon-style of polka music. Fred produced seven Johnny Pecon "live" performance CDs, and preserved the Pecon sound for posterity. Fred also served as president of the American Slovenian Polka Foundation for nine years, and initiated transferring 78 polka recordings to CDs.

Hank Thunander has made a major contribution to Cleveland style polka music on the Iron Range of Minnesota and neighboring states. Hank was born in Michigan to parents of Swedish and Italian heritage. He began playing polka

music in the 1960s, and recorded his first album in 1972. He played with the Frankie Yankovic orchestra for Midwest engagements. Hank has recorded seven albums. He hosted a polka radio show for ten years. He was inducted into the Ironworld Hall of Fame in 1993.

Dick Sodja joined the Kenny Bass band at age 17, and was the lead accordionist for 15 years. Dick has written polkas and was the arranger. He then performed with Frankie Yankovic's TV band on a regular basis. Dick joined Al Markic in the late 1960s to form the Almars Orchestra. He operated a music store for more than 30 years. Dick played on more than 200 recordings. He later formed the Dick Sodja band.

Bob Timko is considered to be one of the premier accordionists born in Cleveland, Ohio.. For many years, Bob was an accordionist and sometime bass player with the Kenny Bass orchestra. In the late 1960s, the Bob Timko orchestra became one of the hottest Cleveland-style polka groups in the Midwest.

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