

# Accordion Repair Basics

## August 9-12, 2009

*Harrington ARTS Center in conjunction with  
A World of Accordions Museum  
Superior, WI*

The seminar will be introduced by a tour of the museum and its resources on Aug. 9, 2009, 4:00-7:00 PM. This tour offers invaluable information on accordion-family-instruments history and evolution, the connections and interrelationships of all members of the instrument family, recognition of decade/era/ethnicity of manufacture, assessing value, companies vs. brand names, worldwide dissemination and use, aesthetic considerations, and demos of acoustic types and tuning standards.

Participants will have opportunity for hands-on work with button diatonic-, and piano-accordions. Button chromatic accordions, concertinas and bandonions will be included in demonstrations on:

- instrument handling procedures
- understanding how they play and should sound according to quality rankings  
(Beginner, Intermediate, Professional, Fine, World-Class)
- assessing condition: determining problems/solutions
- the worktable/workshop and basic equipment
- disassembly/reassembly procedures in basic maintenance and cleaning procedures
- grill cloth replacement and cosmetics
- treble keyboard work: pulling the axle, key removal and cleaning, pallets issues
- understanding how reeds work, their types and problems
- reed-banks and reed-blocks layouts
- denoting pitches; understanding shift functions
- Stradella (Standard) bass machines
- basic tuning procedures
- rewaxing and releathering
- common bellows issues
- storage, traveling, shipping, crating
- preventing problems: care of your instrument

Maximum number of participants will be ten, minimum number will be four. Sessions will begin at 9:00 AM and continue until 1:00, then resume from 5:00-7:00 PM. Snacks and coffee will be provided. Studies flow best when our instruments are used. If you wish to work on yours, prior approval is required. Students are encouraged to work with a partner, may use our tools or bring their own, and we will furnish basic supplies.

Participants will need to arrange for their travel and accommodations during the seminar and afterwards, if attending the Accordionists and Teachers Guild Festival and Competition in Minneapolis. We often work with a motel in walking distance to HARTS for reduced rates. Many types of food service are nearby.

Participation fee is \$300.00. If the seminar attendee is an ATG member, 10% will be contributed to the ATG general fund. Registration and \$50 deposit are required by July 27, 2009. Please indicate your intent by contacting Dr. Helmi Harrington, Harrington ARTS Center, 1401 Belknap Street, Superior, WI 54880, phone: 715-395-2787, email: [accordion@sprynet.com](mailto:accordion@sprynet.com). The enrollment form, schedule, (optional) tools list, protective items, (suggested) preparatory reading, and other details will follow. A notebook and folder for hand-outs is suggested. Still photography is permitted; video/audio taping is not.