



Eric Noltkamper

Accomplishments

- Over 30 years of musical performance.
- Engineered, Recorded, Marketed and Published 12 recordings
- Voted 5th out of 248 nominees in the “Best Local Band” category by Cleveland Fox8Hotlist in 2014.
- Voted 9th out of 341 nominees in the “Best Local Band” category by Cleveland Fox8Hotlist in 2013.
- Voted 16th out of 325 nominees in the “Best Local Band” category by Cleveland Fox8Hotlist in 2010 & 2011.
- Won the Just Plain Folks Awards for the Best Polka Album in 2009
- Won the National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame Musician of the Year Award in 2008 & 2006
- Was the 1st in his field to present his music on for MP3 downloads in 2008
- Won the National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame Sideman of the Year Award in 2003

Professional Experience

Experience

Concerts / Fairs / Festivals

Michigan: Great Lakes Folk Fest(East Lansing)

Ohio: Christmas Connection (IX Center - Cleveland), Minster Oktoberfest(Minster), Vandalia Oktoberfest(Vandalia), Drive Ins – Summer Concert Series (Chardon/Ravenna), The Cuyahoga County Fair(Berea), Oktoberfest Concert in the Park(Kettering), Lake Erie Crushers Oktoberfest(Avon),-Boardman Oktoberfest(Boardman), The Cherry Blossom Festival(Barberton), Party in the Park at Notre Dame College(South Euclid), Brunswick Community Recreation Center Summer Concert(Brunswick), Brook Park Community Days(BrookPark),-Shaker Heights Country Club- Oktoberfest (Shaker Hights), St. Francis of Assisi Church Festival(Mayfield Heights), St. Ambrose Parish Festival(Brunswick),-Jednota Club Oktoberfest(Akron), St. Nicholas Church Picnic(Barberton) St. Casimir Reverse Raffle(Cleveland), Chagrin Valley Athletic Club(Chagrin Falls), Edgewater Yacht Club Oktoberfest (Cleveland), Stow Parks and Recreation Dept. Concert(Stow), St. Ambrose Church Festival(Brunswick), DTJ Taborville(Czech Day and Harvest Fest - Bainbridge), International Festival - Sts. William & Robert Church(Euclid), Rothenbuhler Cheese Festival (Middlefield), Columbia Hills Golf Club Oktoberfest (Columbia Hills), Oktoberfest (Cuyahoga Falls), Downtown Cleveland Oktoberfest on the Square, Appalachian Outfitters Oktoberfest(Peninsula).

Pennsylvania: Maple Syrup Festival(Beaver Falls), McKean County Fair(Smethport), Sweet Corn Fest(Indiana), Slovenefest(Enon Valley), Sommerfest in the Valley(Allentown), Buhl Park Concerts(Hermitage)

Organizations

NETV(Nebraska), Alliance of Transylvania Saxons(Cleveland,OH), The Laser Center(Lansing, MI), Playhouse Partners (Cleveland,OH), Third Federal Savings & Loan(Cleveland,OH), Parker Hannifin(Cleveland,OH), COSE (Cleveland, OH), CFA Society (Cleveland, OH), JACK Casino(Cleveland).

Fund Raisers

Jump Back Ball at Playhouse Square(Cleveland), Race for the Cure Cancer Benefit(New Middleton), Cops for Kids(Cleveland)), Hershey-Montessori Spring Benefit(Concord)

Venues (Dancing, Dinner Shows, & Easy Listening Lounge)**Illinois:** Croatian Club(Joliet)**Michigan:** Little River Casino(Manistee), SAC Club(Melvindale)**Ohio:** Carrie's Cerinos(North Royalton), Sterle's Slovenian Country House(Cleveland), Cebar's Tavern(Cleveland), Piper's III Lounge(Broadview Heights), Mansfield Liederkrantz(Mansfield), Elyria VFW(Elyria), The Old Firehouse Winery(Geneva On The Lake), Croatian Lodge(Eastlake), Various Slovenian Homes(Recher, Holmes Avenue, West Park), S & S Lounge(Euclid), Podboy's(Euclid), Nottingham Tavern(Cleveland), Sneakee Pete's(Eastlake), S.N.P.J.(Kirtland), Maples Ballroom(Rootstown), Avon Oaks Ballroom(Girard), The Revolution(BrookPark), Kuzmans Lounge(Girard), American Legion(Burton), American Lithuanian Citizens Club(Cleveland), Shaker Heights Country Club**Pennsylvania:** Croatian Club(Bessemer), S.N.P.J.(Enon Valley), Maples Inn(Crosby), Moose Club(Ridgeway, St. Mary's), Cascade Park(New Castle), VFW(Coraopolis)

Community Senior Centers**Ohio:** Aurora, Barberton, Brook Park, Concord Township, Fairview Park, Geneva, Independence, Lyndhurst, Madsion, Mentor, Middleburg Heights, Oakwood Village, Parma,-Parma Heights, Solon, Twinsburg, Willoughby, Westlake**Pennsylvania:** Circle of Friends (Baden & Beaver Falls)

Nursing / Assisting Living Communities**Ohio:** Kensington Care(Aurora), Pine Valley(Richfield), Community Skilled Healthcare(Warren), Summerville at Camelot Place(Medina), Legacy Place (Twinsburg), Aurora Manor(Aurora), The Weils(Bainbridge), Copley Place(Copley), The Gables(Kent), The Gables(Hudson), Wellington Place(North Olmsted), The Jennings Center for Older Adults(Garfield Heights), Stratford Commons(Glen Willow), Deaconess Hospital(Cleveland), Western Reserve Masonic Home(Medina), Holly Hill(Newbury), Golden Age Center(Oakwood Village), Golden Living Center (Kirtland), The Residence of Chardon, The Waterford (Richmond Heights), Shepherd of the Valley(Niles, Poland, and Warren), Brookdale(Wickliffe), Brookdale(Mentor), Brookdale(Westlake), Brookdale(Medina), North Park(Brook Park), Salida Woods(Mentor), O'Brien Memorial Health Care(Masury), The Merriman(Akron), Campus of Anna Maria(Aurora), Villa at the Lake(Conneaut), Saybrook Landing (Ashtabula),-Governor's Pointe(Mentor), Bretheren Care Village(Ashland), Hilltop Village(Euclid), Park Creek Center (Parma Heights), Broadview Multi-Care Center (Parma), Hampton Woods(Poland), Homewood Residence(Richmond Heights), Royalton Woods(North Royalton), Elmwood Communities(Green Springs and Fremont), Independence Living (Parma Heights), Park Vista (Youngstown), Cardinal Retirement(Cuyahoga Falls), Forrest Meadows(Medina), Whispering Pines(Columbiana), Rockport(Rocky River), Traditions at Bath(Cuyahoga Falls), Portage Trail Village(Cuyahoga Falls), Rockynol(Akron), Sterling House(Barberton), HCR-ManorCare (Willoughby), The Atrium(Aurora), Heather Hill(Chardon), Danbury(Cuyahoga Falls), Danbury(Olmsted Falls), Maplewood (Chardon), Walton Manor (Walton Hills),St. Barnabas Villa(Northfield), Elmcroft(Sagamore Hills), Gardens of Western Reserve(Cuyahoga Falls), Gardens of Western Reserve(Streetsboro)**Pennsylvania:** Franciscan Manor (Beaver Falls), Beaver Meadows (South Beaver), Niagara Village (Erie), Springhill Senior Living(Erie), Melody Manor (Kittanning), Independence Court(Erie), Hillsdale Nursing & Rehab(Hillsdale), Bethel Park (Bethel Park), Harbour Hills (Pittsburgh), Elmcroft of Chippewa(Beaver Falls)**Illinois:** Provision Living(Godfrey), Glen Haven Gardens(Alton), Meridian Village(Glen Carbon), The Fountains(Granite City), Methodist Village(Godfrey), Salem Village(Joliet)

**Recordings
/ TV Credits**

2008 1st Living Slovenian Style Polka Band to create MP3s for Downloads
2006 Good Friends Good Music (Grammy Nominated participant)
2004 Highways & Dancehalls (Grammy Nominated participant)
2001 Nebraska Public Television – NETV Polka Passion
1999 Smokin' Polkas (Grammy Nominated participant)
1998 Shakin' Not Stirred (Grammy Nominated participant)
1996 Music Music Music (Grammy Nominated participant)
1995 Better Than Ever (Grammy Nominated participant)

Awards

2009 “Best Polka Album” - Studio To Stage - Just Plain Folks
2008 “Musician of the Year” National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame
2006 “Musician of the Year” National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame
2004 “Sideman of the Year” National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame
1999 “Best New/Young Band” National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame
1998 “Sideman of the Year” & “Best New/Young Band” National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame

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Eric Noltkamper Biography

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Eric Noltkamper became interested in the accordion and began taking lessons at the age of 13. Shortly after, he began teaching himself the banjo and guitar. By the age of 15, Eric had played his first engagement with “America’s Polka King” Frankie Yankovic. He appeared on Yankovic’s “One More Time” video and CD collection released in “1992”, and continued performing occasionally with Yankovic up until his passing in 1998.

After finishing high school, Eric left St. Louis, Missouri and moved to Wisconsin to go to college. He then started performing with many Wisconsin based bands including Gordon Hartmann, Jeff Winard, Grant Kozera, Verne and Steve Meisner.

In 1994, Eric released his first CD recording entitled "Reflections of Cleveland". On this recording, he played almost all the instruments, himself, in honor of some of the greatest Slovenian Style polka bands.

In 1995, Eric was nominated for 4 awards from the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and also performed in the All Star Band. But his love for polka music was not limited to Slovenian Style alone. That same year he joined Eddie Blazonczyk’s Versatones from Chicago, Illinois and began traveling the country, almost every week. Eric’s stint with the Versatones’ lasted almost 5 years, during which he recorded on Eddie’s "Better than Ever", "Music, Music, Music", "Shakin’ not Stirred", and "Smokin’ Polkas" releases.

In 1998, Eric married Nancy Hlad. Together they run one of polka music’s largest web sites, Nancy’s Place for Polkas, www.polkas.com. Nancy also plays the button box accordion and frequently performs with Eric and they released a recording together called “At Last” in 2008.

Now settled in Cleveland, Ohio, Eric started his own recording studio, called GreenGuy. Eric has recorded several bands including his own for demos and CDs alike.

In 2007, Eric began performing as a one man band for many area ballroom dances, and parties. He enjoys the challenge of entertaining listeners and dancers all by himself. It also gives him a chance to perform many of the standard hits from the great American songbook.

In 2008, Eric managed to be the first living Slovenian Style Polka Band to make MP3 downloads available on sites such as iTunes, Rhapsody, Amazon and more.

In 2009, Eric won the “Best Polka Album” Award from the “Just Plain Folks” independent music organization for his recording “Studio to Stage”.

In 2013, Eric placed 9th out of 341 local music candidates in Cleveland Ohio's Fox8Hotlist Contest. He also produced his first download only album, "Polkas & Waltzes From the Gostilna", as well as a single, "Our Pope Polka", for the newly selected Pope Francis.

In 2014, Eric placed 5th out of 248 local music candidates in Cleveland Ohio's Fox8Hotlist Contest. He also produced his second download only album, "For LadiesOnly", a themed album of ladies named titles.

In 2015, Eric became a mainstay at the newly established HofBrauhaus Cleveland Brewery, performing for patrons from bus tours, private and corporate parties alike. The Hofbrauhaus performances added to his already busy schedule in Northeast Ohio. Eric can be seen performing as a solo or as a duo with his wife Nancy.

Eric has released 12 of his own recordings, has performed on at least 50 other recordings some of which have been Grammy nominated. He also has numerous awards from the Polka Hall of Fame including "Sideman of the Year", "Best New Young Band", and "Musician of the Year."

Eric has recorded on the following Grammy Nominated recordings:

1995 Better Than Ever
1996 Music Music Music
1998 Shakin' Not Stirred
1999 Smokin' Polkas
2004 Highways & Dancehalls
2006 Good Friends Good Music

Eric continues to play 100 plus dates a year. Eric specializes in traditional easy listening dance music from the 30's-70's, Eric performs for events ranging from backyard parties to concerts, fairs and festivals across the United States. Eric has performed for Country, Italian, Latin, Hawaiian, Oktoberfest and Christmas theme parties as well as Ballroom and International Polka Dances including the styles of Slovenian, German, Polish and Czech.

Eric has performed in at least 27 different states, Mexico and Canada. He has performed on 3 cruises and toured the country with many of the nations top polka bands.

As an acoustic soloist or one man amplified band, Eric can provide musical entertainment and atmosphere for any event.

OKTOBERFEST ENTERTAINMENT

September 28, 2014

The Review

Save |



Nancy and Eric Noltkamper, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, perform at Saturday's East Liverpool Area Rotary Oktoberfest in Thompson Park. Nancy is playing a traditional button box, and Eric is playing a piano accordion. The fourth annual festival lasted from 12-8 p.m. Saturday. (Photo by Stephen Huba)

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Pancake fans head to Beaver County Maple Syrup Festival

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Kevin Lorenzi of The Times | Posted: Saturday, April 5, 2014 3:02 pm



Eric Nolkamper of Cleveland plays the accordion for people waiting in line for breakfast at the 37th annual Beaver County Maple Syrup Festival on Saturday at Bradys Run Park.

Admission is \$5 for MAC members; non-members pay \$10

Monday - April 28, 2014

Featured Program: Dance to the music of 'Eric Noltkamper and the Sidemen Reunion'

Eric has performed in at least 27 different states, Mexico and Canada. He has performed on 3 polka cruises and toured the country with bands such as, Frank Yankovic, Herb Eberle, Gordon Hartmann, Verne and Steve Meisner, Jeff Winard, Grant Kozera, Bob Doszak, Jack Tady, The Versatones, Lynn Marie, and countless others. He has appeared on at least 20 recordings outside of his own, performing on the bass, banjo, button accordion, drums, guitar, piano accordion, chromatic accordion, and piano.

You won't want to miss this exciting reunion of 'Eric Noltkamper and the Sidemen'.

Altered schedule that evening:

6:30 pm: Brief business meeting

7:00 – 9:30pm: ERIC NOLTKAMPER and the SIDEMEN REUNION

Admission is \$5 for MAC members; non-members pay \$10





Hofbrauhaus CLE

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TWEETS

375

FOLLOWING

1,292

FOLLOWERS

2,071

FAVORITES

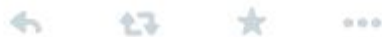
870



Hofbrauhaus CLE @HofbrauhausCLE · Nov 19



Spice up your lunch break with live polka music, happening every day here
[#atHBcle](#) [#thisisCLE](#)



A man in a black hat and vest is playing a harmonica in a scenic mountain landscape. The background features green hills, a stream, and snow-capped mountains under a blue sky. The man is wearing a light-colored shirt and a dark vest with a circular emblem. He is holding a black harmonica case with a keyboard on the front.

Eric Noltkamper

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20 Years and Counting

The St Louis Metro Polka Club celebrated its 20th anniversary March 20th with an anniversary dinner dance. It was a difficult decision to choose the entertainment for our event. St. Louis has the good fortune of many local polka bands that perform at the monthly meetings and that are showcased at our festivals. How to choose between – The AlleyKats, Danny Krausz Band, Die Spitzbuam , Dynamic Combo, Dave Hylla's Good Times Band, Herb Eberle Band, Heritage Band, JayJay Polka Lovers, St. Louis Czech Express, Joey James Orchestra, Trio Freddi , Larry Hallar's Two Star Final and Polka Connection – it was impossible. So, the club officers put on their thinking caps and decided that Eric Noltkamper 's Band would be a fitting band since Eric was born in the St Louis area and played with the Herb Eberle band for many years and has been a longtime member of the club.



Larry Hallar joins his student Eric Noltkamper on stage.

ENTERTAINMENT

Polka legend to be honored at dance at St. Pat's Center

Yankovic's wife to be special guest at Saturday event

He was the king. Frankie Yankovic, proclaimed America's Polka King, died last October, but his polka legend has not. Eric Noltkamper, at the age of 15, had a chance to play banjo with Yankovic. Now, 12 years later, he is paying tribute to Yankovic and his polka era.

On Saturday, Sept. 25, the Eric Noltkamper Orchestra will perform a "Tribute to the Late Yankovic" from 8 p.m. to midnight at the St. Pat's Center on U.S. 31 and Fulton St. Tickets for the dance are \$5 each.

Noltkamper and band member Grant Kozera recorded a tribute to Yankovic in February of 1996, titled the "Yankovic Classics." The tribute revived



Courtesy photo

Bernie Schultz, left, of Grand Haven, chums with Frankie Yankovic at a previous local gathering.

the 40s style of polka - sans drums.

Yankovic's wife, Ida, of Greensburg, Pa., will be a special guest at the tribute performance. Yankovic's cassettes and other paraphernalia will be available to purchase.

The event is a fund-raiser for St. Pat's Center.



INFORMATION

SCHEDULE

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

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- [Music & Dance](#)
- [Folk Arts Marketplace](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Guides & Craft Traditions](#)
- [Children's Programs](#)
- [Traditional Games](#)
- [Tradition Showcases](#)
- [Michigan Heritage Awards](#)
- [Talkers & Tellers](#)

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ERIC NOLTKAMPER

Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Slovenian-style Polka



Eric Noltkamer's life as a musician has followed an unusual arch - from one accordion-playing Yankovic to another. At 13, he was inspired by the popular music of "Weird Al" Yankovic to learn to play accordion and within a couple of years he was performing with "America's Polka King" Frankie Yankovic, whom Eric still considers the single most important influence on his career.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1972, Eric began taking lessons at age thirteen from Larry Hallar, a very popular St. Louis player and gained additional exposure to the polka music played at the Black Forest Restaurant in St. Louis and the Polish and Croatian halls in nearby Madison, Illinois. After teaching himself the banjo at 14, he was soon playing at picnics and dances with the founder of the St. Louis Button Box Club, Art Treppler, and his band. He had been playing banjo for only nine months when he was first invited to

play with Frankie Yankovic's band, filling in for a band member whose vehicle had broken down en route to a gig in Saint Louis. Eric continued to play with the band, off and on, until Frankie died in 1998.

During his college days in Madison, Wisconsin, played second accordion with Gordon Hartmann and his fancy-fingered Polkaholic. It was Eric's first steady band work and it allowed him to mingle with many of Wisconsin's best musicians: Jeff Winard, Verne and Steve Meisner, and Eddie Blazonczyk (and his Versatones), with whom he later toured. While touring with Hartmann in Ohio in the early 90s, Eric met Nancy Hlad, herself a button-box accordionist who had grown up in a Slovenian neighborhood in Cleveland. They married in 1998 and together run polkas.com, one of the world's largest polka websites. Eric runs GreenGuy, his own recording studio and teaches button accordion lessons; Nancy occasionally performs with Eric.

According to polka specialist, Rick March, "Eric is one of the outstanding younger musicians continuing the legacy of both the modernized style of Slovenian polka that Frankie Yankovic popularized beginning in the 1940s and _ like his wife Nancy _ is an excellent player of the diatonic button accordion in the earlier folk Slovenian style." Eric's honors from the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame include Best New/Young Band (1999); Best New Band (2000); Sideman of the Year (2003); and Musician of the Year (2006). He also appears on six Grammy-nominated recordings.

Sister Cities of Vandalia

Oktoberfest

September 10-11-12



Bratwurst and Mettwurst
Hamburgers and Hotdogs
Cabbage rolls and Sauerkraut
German Potato Salad
Chicken Dinners (Fri & Sat)
Pretzels and Popcorn
Funnel Cakes
Beer and Wine
\$3.00 Entry fee
Wrist band good all weekend
Children under 12 free
Free Parking

Hours

Friday - 6 pm to midnight
Saturday - noon to midnight
Sunday - noon to 5 pm

German Bands

Friday, Sept 10

Eric Noltkamper - 6:00 to 12:00

Saturday, Sept 11

Eric Noltkamper - Noon to 4:00
die Freudemacher - 4:00 to 8:00
Frank Moravcik - 8:00 to 12:00

Sunday, Sept 12

Frank Moravcik - Noon to 5:00

Arts and Crafts

Location




Vandalia Sports Complex
Stonequarry Road, Vandalia

Website: www.vandaliasistercities.org

Sister Cities would like to thank the community for support of our annual fundraiser for our non profit organization.

Schedule of Events

Sunday, May 24

Hr.	MasterClass Stage	Strolling Performers/ Special Events	Sommerfest
9			Photo by Hub Wilson
10			Maggie Spike <i>(Eclectic original music)</i>
11	Repertory Dance Theatre <i>(Performance dance)</i>	1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. Middle Earth Studios <i>(Family entertainment)</i>	12-2 p.m. Germanic Clubs Choruses
2		1-5 p.m. JoAnn Wilchek Basist <i>(The Cat in the Hat)</i>	12:30-1:30 p.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. Lehigh Valley Dream Weavers Dog Agility Club
3	Mayfair Idol Contest	2-6 p.m. Dick Rainer <i>(Juggler/stiltwalker)</i>	2-5 p.m. Auerhahn Schulplattler <i>(Bavarian folk dancing)</i>
4			3-7 p.m. Al Long <i>(“George Burns”)</i>
5			2:30-6:30 p.m. John Stanky and the Koal Miners <i>(Traditional, contemporary polka)</i>
6	Freddy Award Winners <i>(High school musical theater)</i>	4-8 p.m. Scott Wagstaff <i>(Ventriloquist)</i>	
7	Broadway Rhythms Dance Company <i>(Performance dance)</i>		
8			
9	Lucky Seven <i>(Rhythm & blues)</i>		7-11 p.m. Eric Noltkamper <i>(Slovenian style polka)</i>
10			

SAVE THE DATE
★ FEBRUARY
★ 26, 2011
★ JUMP BACK BALL

20
YEARS



PlayhouseSquare



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NETV special aims to capture polka craze

By: Maureen Gallagher

Posted: 10/26/01

When Sue Maryott began doing research for "Polka Passion," a [Nebraska ETV](#) special, she was just like many others, associating polka with tubas, accordions, slow waltzes and retirement homes.

What she found was something entirely different, involving young crowds and lots of energy.

Nebraska ETV wants to document polka enthusiasm in "Polka Passion," a special which will air on PBS in March as part of its annual pledge drive. For the special, Nebraska ETV will be filming a night of polka at Sokol Auditorium, 2234 S. 13th St. in Omaha, at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The show will feature four nationally known polka bands, playing a wide range of polka music. Polka Family, Eric and Nancy Noltkamper, Eddie Blazonczyk and The Versatones, and Karl and the Country Dutchmen are the four acts that will perform.

Maryott, who is the show's producer, said that she tried to find acts that were modern.

"This isn't going to be the cheesy, tubby guy playing a tuba," she said. "I want this to be upbeat and high energy, fun and contemporary."

The performance is free, but NETV is requesting reservations, which can be made by calling (402) 472-9333, ext. 787.

Ron Dadherny is co-chair of the Polka Hall of Fame. Dadherny, who lives in Omaha, is looking forward to Saturday's event.

"I plan to go," he said. "It should be a great time. Any exposure is great."

Dadherny said he hoped this event and the upcoming special would help revive polka music in Nebraska. He remarked on the lagging interest and dwindling crowds that polka faced today.

Maryott has had a very different experience in the 21/2 years she has been working on "Polka Passion." During the time she spent in Wisconsin, experiencing what she calls "polka culture," Maryott discovered

the large interest in polka from a young crowd.

"At one show that I went to, at least 70 percent of the crowd was under the age of 40, and most were high school and college age," she said. "And they knew how to dance."

The major problem Maryott faced was gaining the trust of the polka community.

"They're a little gun-shy," she said. "They're made fun of a lot."

But Maryott plans to make "Polka Passion" something different.

"This is a chance to celebrate the music and the people who listen to it," she said.

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