

## Circles of Confidence

### Sharon Seaton, Facilitator

This workshop is intended for players who are willing to perform before the group and not simply observe. Each session will be limited to eight (8) participants due to time constraints.

#### **Purpose:**

This workshop is designed to offer accordionists an opportunity to perform before supportive musicians who will encourage them and share ideas about performance. Suggestions for improving playing technique and a discussion of ways to perform at one's best (!) are the primary objectives of the session. This session will be very interactive; members of the group will share thoughts about performing and perhaps have questions they want to pose to the group.

Accordionists of all skill levels are invited to join this group. Come prepared to play a musical selection? that is 90-100% ready for performance.

We will talk about issues that make musicians (you?) nervous and reluctant to play before others. The first issue may be the 90-100% preparation. How do you know when a piece is ready to perform?

#### **Other common performance questions:**

- Should I use my music to perform?
- What if I play by memory and I forget?
- What do I do if I am not paying attention to my notes—my mind is wondering--and I suddenly lose my place?
- How do I know when I am “good enough” to perform?
- How can I stop my hands from shaking when I perform?
- What if I play and “mess up?” What will the audience think about me?

#### **Things to listen/watch for when observing group members play:**

- Connecting with the audience
- Appropriate volume
- Keyboard articulation: Correct touch for the type of music selection
- Bass technique
- Bellows technique
- Phrasing
- Steady beat and correct rhythm
- Musicality

#### **Remember:**

When you are evaluating another musician, do it with a “soft” touch. Keep it positive! We want everyone to leave this place in a happy mood, feeling they are a better performer than when they came in.