

**RHYTHM BONES
SOCIETY**



**BONES
FEST
XVIII**

**AUGUST
7-10
2014
GRAND
RAPIDS
MI**

RATTLE IN THE RAPIDS

Program

Welcome to Grand Rapids and Bones Fest XVIII!

My hopes for this year's Bones Fest are to draw out those former students of Percy Danforth who still are in the Michigan area. For many years Percy taught percussionists at the University of Michigan how to play his pine bones. There are also many folks from Wheatland who learned one week-end and then put the bones in a drawer. Often when I play the bones (un-announced!) people will remember someone who played years ago.

What is it about playing the bones that is so satisfying? There is a certain joy that comes from keeping and subdividing time with noisemakers. The potential of the rhythm bones is simple but yet limitless. The more you learn, the more you realize you COULD learn. The Rhythm Bones Society exists to celebrate this never ending process of playing and mastering the bones.

I've attended several fests over the years and always enjoy meeting and hearing new players. People tend to develop unique styles which affect those that they teach. Many bones players think they're the last on earth till they hear of our Rhythm Bones Society.

Grand Rapids is a historic furniture-manufacturing center and is still home to five of the world's leading office furniture companies. "Furniture City" has a more common modern nickname of "River City", referring to the landmark Grand River.

Also known for Alexander Calder's abstract sculpture, La Grande Vitesse, the community has always supported the arts and has a thriving ballet, opera and a Grammy nominated symphony. The city has received national attention for ArtPrize, the world's largest art competition voted on by the public, which draws thousands to see free public art.

Many thanks to all who have helped put Bones Fest XVIII together. Dan & Lisa Verhil at one Trick Pony, Laura Szczepanek from "that Polish Girl Catering", Jay Round, Tom Devries, Matt Kilroy and Jim Foerch for sound and music, Geoffrey Broomberg for the t-shirts, Anthony Carpenter for a graphic design, Dick Michigan for his insight, Mark Hammond for support and many other volunteers. Special thanks to my beautiful wife, Stacey, who has put up with my noisy lifestyle for decades.

As Ev Cowett, father of the Rhythm Bones Society, loved to say "May your bones be with you!"

Your host in Grand Rapids, Bill Vits cell 616-443-1874

Bonesfest XVIII "Rattle in the Rapids" Program

Riverfront Hotel - 270 Ann St. NW 49504
One Trick Pony - 136 Fulton St E. 49503
Guest House - 634 Stocking Ave. NW 49504
Rosa Parks Circle - 135 Monroe Center St NW 49503

Thursday

- 5pm Happy Hour at the Landing Lounge at the Riverfront Hotel
- 7:30pm Kick off party for early arrivers at One Trick Pony Restaurant Hosts Dan & Lisa Verhil featuring Sean and Seamus O'Tool

Friday

- 10am Registration opens at the Guest House
Vendors can set up and jamming till 11:30
- 12 noon Lunch in downtown GR on your own with a flash mob performance at Rosa Parks Circle
- 2pm Workshops/clinics and jamming at the Guest House
- 2-3pm Stephen Brown - beginning bones
- 3-4pm Celtic Kilroy-harmonica & bones
- 4pm Remembering Percy 'Bones' Danforth with Sue Barber (see Page 5)
- 4:30pm Board Meeting
- 5-6:30pm Catered Polish dinner with Kielbasa, sauer kraut & pierogies.
- 7-9:30pm Casual performances and jamming at the Guest House
- 10pm Riverfront Hotel Hangout or night on the town

Saturday

- 10am Second day registration and jamming till 11:30
- 12 noon Lunch in downtown GR on your own
- 2pm Workshops/clinics and rehearsal at the Guest House
- 2-2:30pm Bill Vits - Rudimental Bones
- 2:30-3:30pm Skeffington Flynn-beginner tips and Bones history
- 3:30-4:30pm Spike Bones Extravaganza
- 4:30-5pm General Membership meeting

5-6:30pm Dinner at the Guest House (Chicken, lasagna)
7:30-10pm Public Performance at the Guest House with
local musicians Jay Round & Tom Devries
10:30pm Afterglow at the Hotel and night on the town

Sunday

9am Closing Breakfast at the hotel

Grand Rapids attractions include:

The Gerald R. Ford Museum
Frederick Meijer Sculpture Gardens
Grand Rapids Public Museum
Founders Brewery
Grand Rapids Art Museum

Check experiencegr.com for more Grand Rapids information.

Directions

Directions from Riverfront Hotel Grand Rapids 270 Ann St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 to One Trick Pony Restaurant 136 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Head east on Ann St NW across Grand River Bridge 0.2 mi
Turn right onto Monroe Ave NW 0.7 mi
Turn left onto Leonard St NW 0.2 mi
Turn right onto Plainfield Ave NE 0.2 mi
Continue onto Division Ave N 1.3 mi
Turn left onto Fulton St E
Destination will be on the right 0.1 mi
One Trick Pony Grill & Taproom
136 Fulton St E, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Directions from Riverfront Hotel 270 Ann St. NW GRR, MI 49504 to Guest House 634 Stocking Ave. NW

Head west on Ann St NW 0.1 mi
Continue straight to stay on Ann St NW 249 ft
Turn left onto Turner Ave NW 1.3 mi

Turn right onto 6th St NW 322 ft
Take the 1st left onto Broadway Ave NW 0.2 mi
Turn right onto 3rd St NW 0.3 mi
Slight left onto Blymier Ct NW 249 ft
Take the 1st right onto Stocking Ave NW
Destination will be on the right 449 ft

Directions to downtown Rosa Parks Circle 135 Monroe Center St NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503 from Guest House

Head southeast on Stocking Ave NW toward 3rd St NW 0.3 mi
Turn left onto Bridge St NW 0.6 mi
Turn right onto Monroe Ave NW 0.3 mi
Slight left onto Monroe Center St NW
Destination will be on the right

Directions from Hotel to downtown Grand Rapids

Head west on Ann St NW 0.1 mi
Turn right onto Turner Ave NW 0.3 mi
Turn right to merge onto US-131 S 0.2 mi
Merge onto US-131 S 1.8 mi
Take exit 85B toward Pearl St/Downtown 0.3 mi
Take Pearl St NW to Monroe Center St NW 0.4 mi
Merge onto Mt Vernon Ave NW 272 ft
Turn left onto Pearl St NW 0.4 mi
Turn right onto Monroe Center St NW
Destination will be on the right 98 ft

Sue Barber

Helping us remember Percy Danforth is Sue Barber who in 1978 in collaboration with Percy wrote an instruction booklet with an accompanying audio cassette tape of examples. This booklet is still available now with a CD. Sue also wrote a history titled 'The Bones: Ancient to Modern' that we have placed on our rhythmbones.org website. Sue, thanks for helping us.





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