A ‘versatile instrument’

Would you like to try the accordion?
This Logan woman can show you how

By Devin Felix
staff writer

I’m probably safe to assume no one else started playing the accordion for the same reason Chrisy Swindler did.

In 2004 she watched “Turkish Star Wars,” a notoriously bad Turkish rip-off of the famous science fiction film. She was so entertained by the film that she wrote a song about it and decided the accordion was the perfect instrument on which to play that song. She borrowed an accordion from a friend, drew on skills gained from years of piano lessons, and began playing the accordion.

Swindler found a teacher and took lessons for several years, and now she offers to teach beginning accordion lessons to anyone who is interested. She made fliers, which she put up all over town, offering accordion lessons for $10 per hour. She teaches lessons in her home or, for a bit more money, she will make house calls. She also has accordions of varying sizes for rent.

So far, she’s got only one student — a USU student — but she expects to get more as soon as she improves her fliers and increases her marketing efforts.

“A lot of people don’t know what the accordion is,” she said.

Many of those who are familiar with the instrument associate it only with polka. Indecisive and large German people, but it’s actually a very versatile instrument, Swindler said.

“You can play anything on the accordion,” she said.

The second hand of the accordion has a keyboard similar to a piano. The right hand works a series of dozens of small buttons, which the player can press to create different types of chords, including major, minor, diminished and others. It has a full sound, and stands alone or plays well in groups.

Swindler and her husband, Doug, moved to Logan several months ago after graduating from Brigham Young University in Provo. There, she performed at the request of friends treating their girlfriends to romantic Italian dinners, at church activities and with friends just for fun. The friend who first loaned her his accordion sometimes accompanied her on his clarinet, fiddle or musical saw.

She hopes the accordion will bring in some extra income while she works a part-time job and prepares to take the GRE test before beginning graduate school.

Swindler’s accordion’s name is Joanna.

Wanna play?
For information on taking beginning accordion lessons from Chrisy Swindler, call 801-318-0432. Swedier has accordions available for rent to students.

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CEO's, famous investors hit hard by market drop

Less rich today

Wanna play?

Carem Tappas is the director of the accordion program at Utah State University.

New York (AP) — Here’s something that might provide a bit of solace amid the plunging values in your retirement accounts: Warren Buffett is losing lots of money, too. So are Kirk Kerkorian, Carl Icahn and Sumner Redstone.

They are still plenty rich, but their losses — some of paper and others actually realized — illustrate how few have been spared in today’s punishing market when even big-name investors, corporate executives and hedge fund titans are all watching their wealth evaporate.

The portfolio damage for some of these high-flyers has soared to billions of dollars in recent months. And they can’t just sit back and watch it all unfold.

Warren Buffett, Chairman & CEO, Berkshire Hathaway Inc., is seen at the company’s annual shareholders meeting in Omaha, Neb. on May 3. Despite Buffett’s warnings about the stock market, his losses have been more than $10 billion, according to Forbes magazine.

Ap photo