



2025 Events Series

We are excited to announce our 2025 events series is now finalized! We will likely add additional lectures and talks throughout the year as part of our PHMC Historical and Archival Records Care grant project but those will be announced later as we determine topics. However, the dates listed below represent the finalized concert dates. If any changes are made or last-minute cancellations happen those updates will be posted to our Facebook page.

Friday, April 11th 7pm- Dennis Geib, pianist

Friday, April 25th 6pm- Nic "Pennsylvania" Landon, "Accordions in America: History, Evolution, & Culture"

Friday, May 9th 6pm- Dr. Samuel De Palma, opera concert

Friday, June 13th 7pm- Mitch Littler, blues guitar

Sunday, June 29th 1:30pm- Mostly Brass, brass band

Friday, July 11th 7pm- Richard Freysinger, soft rock

Friday, August 8th 7pm- Venango Brigade, Civil War music

Friday, September 12th 7pm- Dr. Amber Shay Nicholson, classical pianist

Friday, October 10th 7pm- Elena Stenkina, accordionist

Friday, November 7th 7pm- Gravel Lick, bluegrass band



Archaeologist Bill Black speaks on the Falling Springs Rock Shelter at a joint event with the DeBence and Venango County Historical Society.

History Corner: Reproducing Rolls, the QRS Marking Piano, and working through the Museum's Music Roll Collection

One of our big wintertime projects has been the organization of the roll room and the inventory of the music rolls in the collection. Our amazing volunteer Lydia Hipple has spearheaded this project, and we wanted to highlight an interesting history as part of it.

A highlight within the piano rolls the museum holds are the rolls recorded from live performances by famous pianists. Many of these are by names such as Liberace, "Fats" Waller, Jelly Roll Morton, Roger Williams, etc. The widespread distribution and dissemination of these rolls/performances began with founder Melville Clark's invention

of the QRS Marking Piano in 1912. As according to the American Society of Mechanical Engineer's description of this landmark piece of engineering it was "one of the first machines to produce master rolls for player pianos by recording actual performances." There were other such devices developed but the QRS piano is the only one we know of that is still in existence.

To return to the rolls though this contraption produced exceptional musical recordings that were able to accurately reproduce the playing style of famed musicians. This opened a new world of musical enjoyment. People who were used to the crackly and slightly distorted sound of phonographs could have live performances by the noted musicians of the time on demand in their homes.

The museum's collection highlights many of these rolls, from QRS as well as other companies who adopted the innovation. In working through the music roll collection Lydia has noted her surprise and delight every time she encounters one of these rolls. We are looking for additional volunteers to help with this project, either at the museum cataloging rolls, or remotely transcribing cataloged rolls!



Volunteer Lydia Hipple cataloging in the roll room

2024 Annual Report

The museum's 2024 annual report is posted to the DeBence website now. The annual report is a summary of our activities for the year, what was accomplished and what our goals for 2025 are.

Highlights from the annual report this year include the significant increase in admissions recorded for 2024, two museum assessments, and an improved standard of care for the collection. In 2025 we hope to expand on the base we have built to improve the museum's educational and interpretive value as well as continue to build on the programming we already offer.

Thank you to everyone who made an exceptional 2024 possible, our volunteers, staff, board of directors, donors, and visitors!

Admission Changes

Starting April 1st, 2025, the museum will be increasing prices. This is due to increased costs within the museum. However, we have instituted programs to keep the museum accessible for everyone, despite this increased cost.

Also starting April 1st there will be free admission passes for the museum available at all Oil Region Library Association locations. Patrons will be able to 'check out' these passes which are good for up to four people to get into the museum for no charge. In addition, we have instituted a local discount, anyone residing in Venango County is entitled to \$1 off admission.

We hope this increase will help the museum remain fiscally stable, as well as allow everyone to enjoy our resources and programming.

Adults- \$10

Seniors- \$9

Students- \$6

Kids 5 and Under- Free

Groups of 10+ - \$7 each



Volunteer Morgan King packing a World War II Navy uniform for safe storage.

Call for Volunteers!

As the museum is getting ready to open in April, we have found that we are in need of additional volunteer help! We are always happy to tailor job descriptions and projects to your interest level. Please reach out if you are interested. You can also visit our website and click on the 'Volunteer' tab where you will find a list of some sample volunteer positions as well as a downloadable application which you can email, mail, or bring to us in person.

Newsletter via email

If you would be interested in receiving the newsletter via email, please let us know by emailing debencemuseum@verizon.net.

Our Opportunities & Wishlist

We have set up gift list/registries at Amazon and Walmart. These work much like wedding registries. When searching for our wish list/registry you must use our name – DeBence Antique Music World.

Editing Newsletter List

If we haven't heard from you in 3 or more years, please let us know if you would like to continue receiving the newsletter. We are looking to clean up our mailing list and ensure we are not spam mailing anyone!

Memberships

We invite those of you who are not now members to join us. Members receive free admission on visits to the museum as well as our exclusive member newsletter!

Annual memberships

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Individual-\$35 | Family-\$50 |
| Edison Club-\$100 | Music Box Club-\$250 |
| Nickelodeon-\$500 | Calliope Club-\$1,000 |

Please consider filling in the appropriate blanks and returning your fully tax-deductible donation. Thank you for your past interest and we look forward to hearing from you. You may use Visa or MasterCard if you prefer.

Yes, I'd like to join one of your Annual Clubs! Please note which level.

Name _____ **Club Name** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **email** _____

Card Type (Circle one) M/C or Visa **Card Number** _____

Expiration Date _____ **Cardholder please sign here** _____

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