

Bobby Z & Polka Joy - Band Biography

Bobby Z & Polka Joy consists of Bob Zagozda on clarinet/sax/trumpet/vocals, Doug Mendick on accordion and midi-bass, Tom Hazuka on drums and vocals, Frank Siedlik on trumpet and vocals, and Len Siedlik on concertina. All the members were originally playing with the Lenny Rich band, and decided in 1983 to put together a smaller group to accommodate smaller venues. The band became very popular playing church festivals, dances, weddings, and bars, and made a recording in 1984. Soon after that, the band began to travel, and has played across Nebraska, Colorado, western Iowa, and in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, and Las Vegas. Collectively, the band members have over 250 years of playing experience. Although the group formally retired in 2022, the members still sub in other bands, and participate in jam sessions to promote polka music whenever they can. Bob, Tom, Frank, and Len have all been inducted into the Sokol Omaha Polka Hall of Fame.