

Kathy Zamejc Vogt from St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Influenced by her Slovenian heritage and the ever-present Cleveland-style music at home, Kathy began playing the button accordion in 1982.

In addition to appearances with local polka bands, her early performances included four guest spots on Walter Ostanek's "Polka Time" television show in Kitchener, Ontario.

In 1985, she became a founding member and the music director of the Lipa Park Button Box Club. In 2000 and 2002, the group won the coveted Button Box Group of the Year award from the Polka Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. The Club retired in 2004 after almost 20 eventful years.

In the 1990s, Kathy could be seen performing with Nashville-based polka artist LynnMarie, and was a guest on her recordings "One Look", "All Over It", and the Grammy-nominated "SqueezeBox" and "Speechless". During this time, she was the first female ever nominated in the Sideman category at the Polka Hall of Fame annual awards show.

In 2004, Kathy released her debut solo CD "The Girl Next Door". This recording garnered her a nomination for Recording of the Year by the Polka Hall of Fame in 2005, and helped her earn a nomination for Individual Button Box Artist of the Year.

For many years, she was the strolling musician Buffalo's "Waldfest", and Toledo's "German American Festival". She was also a member of the Cleveland all-girl polka band, "The Girl Friends", and continues to provide music for the local Bavarian dance group, GTEV Alpenroesl.

In 2010, she was a featured button box artist on Milwaukee-based Tom Brusky's recording "The First Forty Years". Also that year, she was a guest performer with the Jimmy Sturr Orchestra for a national PBS television special filmed at Caesar's Casino in Windsor, Ontario.

A lifetime member of the Cleveland-style Polka Hall of Fame, Kathy also is an avid supporter of polka music. For over twenty years she has hosted a bus trip to Tony Petkovsek's Thanksgiving Polka Weekend in Cleveland, and over these same years has brought her enthusiastic bus of Canadian polka supporters to numerous polka events in the U.S. such as the Button Box Bash and Slovenefest. She has also hosted a cruise, and four tours to Europe and Slovenia with Kollander World Travel.

Her name, pronounced Kathy ZAMMECK VOKED (or VOIT) is a little complicated, so her American polka friends began calling her KathyfromCanada, or KC, by which she is popularly known.