

Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Inductee



Rudy Witthus

Inducted in 2005

Rutherford Witthus was born in Green Isle Township in 1914. At the age of eight, Rudy began playing a seventy-six-key, three-reed concertina. He did not graduate from his country school, because by the age of 15 he was already a full-time musician. When Rudy was 20, he played a concertina solo at the 1934 World's Fair in Chicago.

Over the years, Rudy played with many groups, including The Silver Knights, Bill's Hoopee Concertina Band, Jerry's Bohemian Band, Raus Troubadours, Garnet's Dance Band, Blue Gordon's Dance

Band, Guy Leo Orchestra, and the Blue Gordon Trio. He also entertained at Minnesota Harvest Orchard for over 25 years.

Rudy married in 1937 and has three children. Slivers Dewanz once commented that "Rudy has paid his dues." This proves to be a very accurate statement considering Rudy's musical career.

