

The Funtime Polka Party hosted by Patty Chmielewski and Michael Bell is celebrating five years on the radio! It all began with an idea of sharing their love of polka music so they produced a one-hour syndicated weekly radio show. Their idea grew and expanded from a one-hour show on one station to a two-hour show all across the U.S. on eight stations in only 5 short years!

Polka music is no stranger to the Patty Chmielewski. For over 130 years and through six generations, the Chmielewski family has been synonymous with polka music. Patty is one of the 4th generation of Chmielewski family musicians and the youngest and only daughter of Pat and Florian Chmielewski's four children. She was part of her family's popular weekly Chmielewski Funtime TV Show, produced in Duluth, MN which began in the late 1970's and aired across the U.S. and Canada for nearly 35 years. Patty was only seven years old when she made her first recording with a song called "I've Got a Polish Boyfriend" that she is most remembered for in her earlier days. In 2003, Patty was inducted in the Ironworld USA Polka Hall of Fame in Chisholm, MN alongside her father Florian and in 2006, she produced her own CD entitled "Patty and More" which showcases her energy and talent. She continues to perform several times a month with the family band that she now leads and has managed for the past 10 years. Playing alongside her father Florian, now at the age of 94, who continues to perform, will always remain one of her greatest joys.

With their ongoing passion and devotion to polka music, Patty and Michael moved their personalities to the airwaves in May of 2016. They launched their first polka radio show on KBEK 95.5FM radio in Braham, MN and named it "Funtime Polka Party". Soon after their show began, it grew in length and popularity, and now it has expanded to a two-hour weekly show now heard at these eight locations:

KDAL 610AM / 103.9FM - Duluth, MN / Saturdays, 9-11AM (CST)

COOL 106.7FM - Binghamton, NY / Sundays, 6-8AM (EST)

247PolkaHeaven.com / Wednesdays, 9-11PM / Mondays, 11AM-1PM, Fridays, 3-5PM / Sundays 4-5AM (EST)

WTCH 950AM and 96.1FM - Shawano, WI / Sundays, 6-7AM (CST)

WACD Country 106.1FM - Antigo, WI / Sundays 6-8AM (CST)

KPMI AM 1300 The Legends – Bemidji, MN / Tuesdays, 7-9PM (CST)

Pioneer Polkacast 90.1 HD2 - Thief River Falls, MN / Fridays, 2-4PM (CST)

WTCM Gold AM 1310 - Traverse City, MI / Saturdays, 7-9PM (EST)

Polka bands and record labels interested in having their recordings heard on their show can send their material to: Funtime Polka Party - 15972 Havelock Ct, Apple Valley, MN 55124 or by email in an MP3 format. Any radio station interested in broadcasting the "Funtime Polka Party" can contact FuntimePolkaParty@gmail.com It is available for syndication in any area.

In addition to hosting their own weekly radio show, Patty and Michael keep busy with many other endeavors. Together they produced a polka show with 26 episodes on Pioneer Public Television out of Appleton, MN also called the "Funtime Polka Party". These shows were recorded at the 2019 Chmielewski Polkafest at Grand Casino Hinckley which they also organized and hosted for the past seven years. They have continued to delight audiences with their spunky personalities and quickly rose to one of the top 10 shows viewed on Pioneer Public Television and the most watched program of all the Pioneer PBS offerings. You can catch these shows in



several different ways through cable, apple and satellite TV every Saturday at 5:30pm or Monday at 2:00pm or you can watch anytime online and view all episodes at www.pioneer.org/funtimepolkaparty/



Also in production is a new television program that they will be hosting called "Chmielewski Funtime Revisited". This show will bring back old footage from the 1970's through the 1990's of the popular Chmielewski Funtime TV show and will be released on Fox 21 out of Duluth, MN and made available in the Midwest and Dakotas this year. Your bound to enjoy a little blast from the past and can reminisce with this new series and perhaps you might just see a friend or relative from long-ago! They anticipate the release of these shows to be in the next few months so keep an eye out for details yet to come.

If you ever need a break from all that dancing, and need to relax and enjoy an incredible vacation, Patty and Michael also do that! They own and operate "ChmieBell Tours" and take their customers on unique and

personalized one-of-a-kind tours. Part of their uniqueness is that they host and manage all of their tours together and go with on every tour to make sure their customers receive the best and most memorable experience ever. (Pictured on right is their African Safari tour in 2020.) They host a wide variety of tours nearly every month by bus, air and/or cruise so all you have to do is decide where you want to go and they will take you there! Once you join the ChmieBell Family of customers, you'll never want to go back to anything else. Check out their website at www.chmieBellTours.com and see where you can go on your next adventure with them!



Patty and Michael run their businesses out of their home in Apple Valley, MN and their only staff is each other. Every detail is meticulously planned and designed by them and they work together 24/7. Their passion is genuine and reflected in everything they do, and they just love working together. They attribute their success to the traits they learned from their parents at an early age. Determination, hard work and the ability to connect with people and make them smile is key! Patty and Michael are truly a unique couple and whenever they attend an event, they light up the room with their smiles, kindness and compassion for everyone.

They like to share events and any special moment involving polkas on their shows and on various forms of social media. To keep everyone informed and involved, they ask family and friends to share their information to encourage others to like or better yet, attend these events. The support and friendship they receive from fans are a clear indication that they are moving in the right direction. They look forward to continuing their love and heritage of polka music through many generations, so keep an eye out, you might just see them in your area at an event near you!