



Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

SEPTEMBER 2013



From the Editor

Welcome to the September 2013 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

As the accordion world celebrates the end of a spectacular summer including our AAA 75th Anniversary Competition and Festival held in New York City to the 66th Coupe Mondiale out in Victoria, BC, we have all enjoyed a feast of accordion music and friendship featuring a diverse array of accordion genres presented by some of the world's most renowned artists.

Congratulations to the AAA and all those who made the 75th Anniversary Festival such a tremendous success. A magic blend of paying homage to the rich and stellar history of the AAA and those that worked so hard to promote the advancement of the accordion over the last 75 years, to presenting the latest in cutting edge technology as it pertained to the accordion, the Festival was a Gala showcase of accordion and the many and diverse artists that play it.

Once again my sincere thanks to the AAA President Linda Reed, Board of Director Rita Davidson, and all those that have had the chance to submit items for inclusion in this publication. Items for the November Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the official AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so we don't miss any items that come in. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word .doc (not docx) attachment. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file, and the larger the file size the better. We can always reduce/crop the picture if necessary, however we are unable to increase the quality of smaller pictures. The deadline for the December Newsletter will be the 30th of November 2013.

Thank you all for your wonderful support and it was great to see many of you in person at the various accordion events over the last few months.

Sincerely, Kevin
Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



AAA's 75th Anniversary in New York City

After years of planning, the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) celebrated their 75th Annual Competition and Festival in New York City from August 14th to 18th. The event was enjoyed by all who attended and participated in the days filled with wonderful accordion music, workshops, competitions,

concerts and musical camaraderie.

AAA President Linda Reed expressed her sincere thanks to all the performers, workshop presenters, contestants, exhibitors, assistants and members who contributed to making the AAA's 75th Anniversary such a successful and memorable event.

Opening Day – Reception

Sponsored in part by a generous donation from Frank & Carmela Busso



Frank Busso and Dr. Joseph Ciccone appear to be having a lively conversation

Below: Linda Reed, Joan Sommers and Mary Tokarski share a laugh!



Abpve: Donna Regis (Accordions Now-New Hampshire) and Ginger Grider (CT)

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AAA's 75th Anniversary, cont'd. from page 1



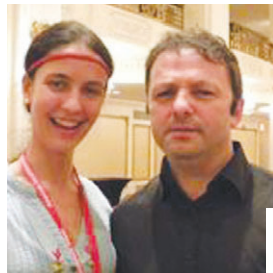
Above: Helen Foster and Maureen Kendrick take a moment away from the AAA Reistration Desk.



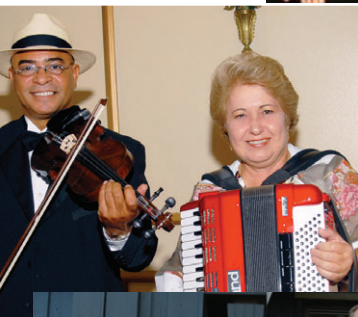
Joan Sommers and Mary Tokarski join Kevin Friedrich

International Concert

On Thursday, August 15th, 'The International Concert' featured Australian **Cathie Travers** (left), New Zealand entertainer accordionist/vocalist **Lionel Reekie**, (right) Italian virtuoso **Mirco Patarini**, pictured below with Liza Poelueva, the German accordion orchestra, **Musikforum Olching** (below) conducted by **Karin Renner-Kiese**, and accordionist **Maricarmen Vazquez** with violinist **Gerardo Aguilon**,



(below left) finishing with the **Gamle Aker Spelemannslag** from Norway featuring Norwegian Champion



Einar Thokle Hovden. All were superb and presented an exciting and varied program highlighting the versatility of the accordion.



Bryant Park

A special thanks to the NYC Bryant Park organizers (especially Ariana Helleman and Ethan Lercher) for being a part of the AAA's 75th Anniversary.

New York City welcomed the accordion by featuring the AAA artists as its evenings entertainment for its summer concert series "Accordions Around the World" in Bryant Park on Thursday, August 15th. Many of the AAA Festival participants and International guest artists performed in the outdoor concert attended by hundreds of



Buses brought the performers from the New Yorker Hotel to Bryant Park. Each performer was given an AAA T-shirt with the giant AAA 75th Anniversary logo on the back of each shirt. Huge signs welcomed the many performers pictured above including Dominic Karcic, Ray Oreggia, Alex Chudolij, Alexander Poeluev and Lionel Reekie to name a few.

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AAA's 75th Anniversary, cont'd. from page 2



Rachel Quirbach (left) and Alex Poeluev (below) were just two of the wonderful performers who provided entertainment in various areas of Bryant Park.

Others included:
Tor Stumo
Nathan Chapeton
Gia Ciccone
Cody McSherry
Amanda & Michael Parziale
Sam Thomas
Maricarmen Vazquez and Gerardo Aguillon
The Alamo Angels
The Old Aker Band and Musikforum Olching



New Yorkers and tourists. A highlight came when all the musicians joined together for a wonderful rendition of "New York, New York" led by AAA Vice President and Public Relations/Festival Coordinator Frank Busso, Sr. (see photo below) TV cameras and media were present throughout much of the evening, showcasing and interviewing many of the featured entertainers such as Alexander Poeluev (Russia) and Lionel Reekie (New Zealand), as well as some of the local participants.

The Carmen Carrozza Luncheon & Concert

Sponsored in part by a generous donation from Alex Carozza, Alex Music, NYC

The Friday Carmen Carrozza Luncheon and Concert featured a heartfelt and moving tribute presented by Carmen's daughter Marianne Carrozza (pictured above right with Beverly Roberts Curnow). The concert featured CIA Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Champion Beverly Roberts Curnow who performed works



by AAA Commissioned composer Paul Creston, United States Champion Mary Tokarski, AAA Representative to the 66th Coupe Mondiale Competitions Sam Thomas, and former World Champion Mario Tacca and acclaimed International vocalist Mary Mancini.



Luncheon Concert Performers included Sam Thomas, Mary Tokarski, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini.



75th Anniversary Gala Concert



The Friday evening 75th Anniversary Gala Concert included the 2002 CIA Coupe Mondiale World Champion Alexander Poeluev who appeared both as a soloist and with his wife, guitarist Liza Poelueva, Joe Natoli, Joe Cerrito, The "K" Duo (Mary Tokarski and Julie Cardona), Dr. Robert Young McMahan and William Trigg (Percussion), Sam Thomas and Dr. William Schimmel who presented a new



75th Anniversary Gala Concert performers included: Dr. Robert Young McMahan and William Trigg, Sam Thomas, Dr. William Schimmel The "K" Duo Joe Natoli Joe Cerrito and Guest Artist Alexander Poeluev.

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75th Anniversary Gala Concert and Workshops



work titled "Crestonia," written in memory of his experiences studying with the late Paul Creston.

In addition to the terrific concerts, a variety of workshops including some from a historical perspective were presented including: Joan Grauman's "Carnegie Hall and the Accordion" and "The Women Who Made a Difference," Don Gerundo's "Finale, Music Writing Software Program"; Joe Cerrito and Elliot Seif discussing the life of Joe Biviano; Ray Oregonio's presentation about AAA founder, Charles Magnante; Joe Natoli's "Effective Orchestration Techniques for Digital Instruments (Roland)," Dr. Robert Young McMahan presenting "The Life and Times of the AAA Founders" and "The Two Pietros - Frosini and Deiro," Joan Sommers, "Remembering Anthony Galla-Rini," The Old Aker Band (Norway) "Old Fashioned Scandinavian Dance Music," Eddie Monteiro paying tribute to Charles Nunzio, Mary Kathryn Archuleta talking about "Local Festivals, Competitions and Fun for All Accordionists," Paul Ramzni of the New England Accordion Museum, "Boxes of Memories and Stories" and Dallas Vietty's, "The Art of Gypsy Jazz."



Pictured above: Alexander Poeluev and Liza Poelueva

Below: Junior Festival Orchestra
Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble
Banquet Entertainers: The Stereo Strings (bottom left)
featuring Lou Coppola (center)

AAA President, Linda Reed, with husband Jim, daughter, Becky and granddaughter, Brooklynn (bottom right)

Awards Concert

Competitions were held throughout the festival. Categories included solo, duet and ensembles. Prior to the announcement of the competition winners at the Awards Concert, the ceremony featured performances by the Junior Festival Orchestra (conducted by Mary Tokarski), Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble (conducted by Joe Cerrito), Albert Manginelli (2012 US Virtuoso Solo Champion) and Peter DiGiovanni who spoke about the AAA Founders. Andre Frey, winner of the Elise M. Bennett Composition Category performed his winning composition, "Scenes d'un Reve Tranquille".

Adding to the excitement of the festival competitions this year was the international participation of contestants from as far away as Germany and New Zealand sharing some of the top places with their young American counterparts.

See Competition results on next page.

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Competition Results

Open Solo

Junior: 1st - Alexandra Reekie, 2nd - Nathan Chapeton, 3rd - Cody McSherry
Intermediate: 1st - Tor Stumo, 2nd - Liuba Pak, 3rd - Liam McCool

Open Original Solo

Junior: 1st - Nathan Chapeton, 2nd - Cody McSherry
Intermediate: 1st - Tor Stumo, 2nd - Alexandra Reekie, 3rd - Liuba Pak

Founders Solo

Junior: 1st - Alexandra Reekie, 2nd - Nathan Chapeton, 3rd - Cody McSherry
Intermediate: 1st - Tor Stumo, 2nd - Liam McCool

Open Ethnic Solo

Junior: 1st - Alexandra Reekie, 2nd - Nathan Chapeton, 3rd - Cody McSherry
Intermediate: 1st - Julian Schwarz, 2nd - Liuba Pak
Senior: 1st - Michael Parziale

Open Pop Solo

Juniorette: 1st - Angela Falcetti
Intermediate: 1st - Tor Stumo
Senior: 1st - Michael Parziale

Standard Solo

Prep: 1st - Gia Ciccone
Elementary: 1st - Angela Falcetti, 2nd - Darien Williams, 3rd - Felipe Gonzales & Randy Harris
Intermediate: 1st - Gracie Bernardi

Adult Solo

Open: 1st - Monique Bellemare
Ethnic: 1st - Yimeng Huang

Standard Duet

Elementary: 1st - Felipe Gonzales & Darien Williams, 2nd - Randy & Ruby Harris

Open Duet

Intermediate: 1st - Julian Schwarz & Tom Hasler, 2nd - Tor Stumo & Nathan Chapeton
Senior: 1st - Monique Bellemare & Reine St-Louis, 2nd - Mike Bulboff & Cody McSherry

Open Ensemble

Senior: 1st - Philly Squeeze, 2nd - Alamo Angels Ensemble

Open Band

Senior: 1st - Busso Senior Orchestra

Entertainment AAA Showcase

Alamo Angels
Busso Festival Orchestra



Awards, cont'd.

The Youth Involvement Program, coordinated by AAA Board Member Marilyn O'Neil, marked its third year with an excellent performance conducted by Joe Cerrito, whose years of running a music studio and mingling with youngsters made him perfect for the job. The accordionists included Sam Thomas, Albert Manginelli, Racuel Quirbach, Liam McCool, Tor Stumo, Nathan Chapeton and Liuba Pak. Other instrumentalists included Sam Stein, Gianni Manginelli, Matt Buckley, Deanna Forella, Katarina Hoeger, Karen You, Rebecca Poole, Mitch Guido, Catherine Chung, Ryan Cohen, Kaitlin Damico and Chris Forella performing on sax, trumpet, trombone, flute, clarinet, bass and guitar, with percussionist Mike Rasimas.

The AAA Junior Festival Orchestra conducted by Contest Chairperson and Festival Coordinator Mary Tokarski included Nathan Chapeton, Peter Chudolij, Gia Ciccone, Albert Manginelli, Cody McSherry, Liuba Pak, Joseph and Rachel Quirbach, Alexandra Reekie, Tor Stumo, Bob Vitale, and Mike Rasimas.

AAA 75th Anniversary Gala Banquet.

The closing concert at the Gala Banquet featured the AAA 2013 Festival Orchestra performing "New York, New York," directed by AAA Vice President, Frank Busso, "Pietoro's Return March" in honor of AAA Founder, Petro Deiro, directed by AAA President Linda Soley Reed and the "Creston Fantasy for Accordion and Orchestra" conducted by Joan Cochran Sommers, Mary Tokarski, soloist. This was the first time the work had been performed with accordion orchestra backing – arrangement by Joan Cochran Sommers. The performance concluded with Joan con-

ducting her magnificent arrangement of "Les Miserables" featuring New Zealand Tenor, Lionel Reekie, on "Bring Him Home." While attendees celebrated the finale to the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the AAA in the stunning Grand Ballroom of the Hotel New Yorker, strolling accordionist Lou Coppola and his Stereo Strings ensemble, including Stephanie Myers, James Queen, David Swanson and John Coppola, provided elegant entertainment as they serenaded guests throughout the evening.

Plans are being made for the 76th AAA Competition and Festival to be held at the Double Tree in scenic Tarrytown, New York from July 9th to 13th, 2014. For further details:



66th Coupe Mondiale in Victoria, Canada

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) (IMC-UNESCO) held its highly acclaimed 66th Coupe Mondiale in Victoria, British Columbia from August 17-25, 2013, where it was hosted and organized by the Canadian CIA member, the BC Accordion Society under the direction of 2013 CIA Honorary Vice President Aleksandar Milojevic.

A magnificent event, CIA President Raymond Bodell (United Kingdom), on behalf of the CIA Executive Committee and members, welcomed participants from more than 25 countries to the impeccably organized event which attracted contestants, International Jury members, CIA member delegates, former CIA Champions and artists, manufacturers, and visitors from around the globe, who eagerly supported the weeklong festival with capacity attendance.

The 66th Coupe Mondiale was won by Russian accordionist Alexander Kolomytsev. In an intensely close race to the finish line, from the top three contestants, over three exciting rounds of competition where each won one of the three rounds, the overall winner Alexander Kolomytsev achieved a winning mark of 23.92 narrowly edging out second place winner Nikola Pekovic of Serbia with a mark of 23.89. As if that wasn't close enough, just fractions of a point behind them was third place winner, Serbian Marko Sevarlic with 23.72. Incredibly, over three rounds of competition and more than an hour of some of the most magnificent music ever played on and composed for the accordion, spread over several days with marks averaged between nine members of the International Jury, the final results came down to a few hundredths of a mark, making for one of the most closely contested Coupe Mondiale titles in CIA history.

The festival was truly an accordion lovers dream. The pinnacle of accordion events, the 66th Coupe Mondiale festival showcased the accordion in a diverse array of settings from the elite of the classical competition to entertainment and Jazz, from solo to duo to ensemble, from the exhilarating and dynamic Concertino ensemble from Moldova, to the winners of the 2012 CIA International Competition for Ensemble Music, the Esse Quintet (Russia), from the ancient Flutina of the early 1800's to the latest in Digital technology, from parades to concerts, from workshops to trade shows, from transcriptions to brand new original works being presented for the first time, from accordions performing with strings through to choirs and other instruments, the 2013 Coupe Mondiale in Victoria had it all!

Canada hosted the staging of the remarkable 97 piece CIA World Accordion Orchestra VII. Well known Canadian conductor Mau-

reen Jarosh conducted *Danse Villageoise* by Canadian composer Claude Champagne and founder of the World Accordion Orchestra Joan Cochran Sommers (CIA Vice President) conducted", her magnificent arrangement of selections from "Les Miserables featuring New Zealand Tenor, Lionel Reekie. The orchestra comprised many CIA officials including Raymond Bodell (CIA President and Concert Master), Kimmo Mattila (General Secretary), Herbert Scheibenreif (Vice President), Kevin Friedrich (Ambassador) and other guests such as the members of Concertino, Jazz artist Renzo Ruggieri, former CIA World Champion Alexander Sevastian, Scandalli President and well known Italian artist Mirco Patarini, President of the Chinese Association of Accordionists (CAA) Li Cong, President of the Austrian Accordion Association (HVO) Werner Weibert, President of the USA's Accordionists and Teachers Guild, Intl. (ATG) Betty Jo Simon and many others including contestants, delegates and guests. The video of the performance can be found on the World Accordion Orchestra page of the Canadian review on www.coupemondiale.org

Held in the impressive two tiered Alix Goolden Concert Hall, with its magnificent pipe organ as a backdrop, attendees at the 66th Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships were treated to a weeklong celebration of the accordion featuring some of the world's finest young accordionists in competition in harmony with the seasoned artists of today.

Featured guests included the popular ensemble from Moldova 'Concertino', renowned Jazz artist Renzo Ruggieri, Roland expert Ludovic Beier, well known US accordionist Cory Pesaturo (CPEZ) who performed solo and with violinist Yasmine Azaiez, Esse Quintet, the Voronezh Trio, Jelena Milojevic, who performed solo and with clarinetist, Francois Houle, and the Vox Humana Choir, 2007 World Champion, Alexander Sevastian, who performed as soloist and with the Emily Carr String Quartet and members of the Ballet Victoria, who performed to original accordion works.

Workshops included a look into 'The World of Jazz' by Renzo Ruggieri (Italy), a presentation on the all new Roland FR-8X by the leading exponent of the Roland accordion Ludovic Beier (France) and an Accordion History Lecture/Demo by Dr. Helmi Harrington (USA).

Nestled in amongst the various CIA events, was the Roland Canada Finals, where top Roland artists from Canada competed for the right to represent their country at the International V-Accordion competition in Rome in October. A Canadian accordionist who is

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66th Coupe Mondiale in Victoria, Canada, cont'd. from page 6



Naomi Harris

Alexander Sevastian (2009) joined together for an 'All Star' Roland Trio.

In their endeavors to promote new compositions for the accordion, the CIA held a showcase of new solo works for the accordion in 2012/2013 which were being presented at the Coupe Mondiale for the first time. The new pieces were evaluated by the Interna-



Tor Stumo

No. 1 by Sergei Lobkov
-Paco by Gorka Hermosa

During the Coupe Mondiale festival, the CIA held its 130th General Assembly of Delegates, where President Raymond Bodell (United Kingdom) was re-elected unopposed for a second term of office. The elections for all other positions will be held at the 132nd General Assembly of Delegates in Salzburg, Austria next year.

The CIA presented their prestigious CIA Merit Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the International Accordion movement to Miljan Bjeletic (Serbia) and Joseph Petric (Canada) and began making plans to host World Accordion Day next May in Ikaalinen, Finland at the CIA Headquarters, hosted by Frederic Deschamps, Grayson Masefield and fellow members of the CIA Executive team.

Event organizer Aleksandar Milojevic was credited with the tremendous outcome of the festival and its focus on the young competitors. From organizing more than \$30,000 in cash prize money which he was able to award to the top five ranking place getters in each category, to arranging home stays for the overseas competitors, to showcasing the elite of the classical Coupe Mondiale competition at the evening concert, to highlighting each of the competitors on the Gala Awards Ceremony, his legacy as organizing an International festival of the highest artistic quality, featuring some of the

quite well known in the USA, Michael Bridge, dazzled the audience with his spectacular rendition of the 1812 Overture by Tchaikovsky, which even began, much to everyone's amusement with the tuning of the orchestra. Previous winners of the competition Ivan Preanicov (2008), Jelena Milojevic (2010) and



Rachel Quirbach

tional Jury members as well as delegates, contestants and audience members. After hearing all the compositions in concert, the works selected to be promoted by the CIA as part of their 2013 Composers Portfolio were as follows:

- Beijing 2011 by Franck Angelis
- Valse-Caprice by Viatcheslav Semionov
- Fantastic Suite "Images"

world's leading artists in a variety of genres, will always be remembered as a highlight for the accordion in 2013.

For the first time, the Coupe Mondiale competitions and select concerts were Live Streamed. A popular addition to this years festival, coordinator Frederic Deschamps was able to allow viewers from around the world to view the competitions as they happened, with all performances being archived for later viewing. In addition to the Live Streaming, daily reports including details and pictures from each day's activities as well as video footage is available at the Coupe Mondiale website where readers can enjoy easy access to the videos of the top three place getters in each category, as well as full results from the competitions. Many thanks to Harley Jones, Carol Yan, Graham Laurie and Alison Worthington for their dedicated commitment and assistance to ensure that all the events were documented through pictures and video footage.

The top three winners from each of the categories of International competition were as follows:

66th Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Alexander Kolomiytsev - Russia
- 2nd. Nikola Pekovic - Serbia
- 3rd. Marko Sevarlic - Serbia

Masters Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Nikola Kerkez - Serbia
- 2nd. Sergey Lobkov - Russia
- 3rd. Pavel Mikhalev - Russia

Junior Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Bozidar Rajic - Serbia
- 2nd. Mao Junhao - China
- 3rd. Aleksandr Komelkov - Russia

Intl. Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music

- 1st. Radu Laxgang - Moldova
- 2nd. Tian Jianan - China
- 3rd. Matteo Marinelli - Italy

Junior Intl. Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music

- 1st. Lorenzo Bosica - Italy
- 2nd. Jiacheng Xue - China

3rd. Jean-Baptiste Baudin - France



Intl. Competition for Ensemble Music

- 1st. Balin-Vioyan, Tian Jianan (acc) & Yuan Gong (vln) - China
- 2nd. Duo Jeux D'anches, Nikola Kerkez & Marko Sevarlic (accordions) - Serbia
- 3rd. Boreas, Alexander Matveichuk & Konstantin Izotov (accordions) - Russia



Intl. Competition for Digital Accordion

- 1st. Klavdiya Tarabrina - Russia
- 2nd. Michael Bridge - Canada
- 3rd. Alicia Baker - USA-ATG

The USA, represented by its joint CIA members, the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) and the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, Intl. (ATG) was well represented at the festival with contestants in sev-

66th Coupe Mondiale in Victoria, Canada, cont'd. from page 7

eral categories, each presenting themselves as wonderful ambassadors of both the USA and the accordion. Each of the US contestants performed programs that were not only technically sound and professional, but full of musicality and artistic presentation. Each can be proud of their accomplishments and should feel very satisfied with their efforts. The nature of a competition, is that it results in a ranking, and only one person will ultimately take 1st place, however each of our US contestants should consider themselves winners, and



the efforts put forward by themselves and their teachers and families to achieve their world rankings, is truly commendable. I'm sure each of the US contestants enjoyed the experience of this gala International competition. The US achievements were as follows:

International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment
 11th. Sam Thomas (USA-AAA)
 13th. Alicia Baker (USA-ATG)
 15th. Jamie Maschler (USA-AAA)

International Competition for Ensemble Music:
 6th. En Canto (USA-AAA)

Junior International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music:
 11th. Rachel Marie Quirbach (USA-AAA)
 12th. Torleif Rafeek Stumo (USA-AAA)
 13th. Naomi Harris (USA-AAA)

International Competition for Digital Accordion
 3rd. Alicia Baker (USA-ATG)

In addition to the contestants and attendees from the United States, Mary Tokarski (AAA Board of Director), Kevin Friedrich (AAA and ATG Board of Director) and Joan Sommers (ATG Board of Director and AAA Member) served as members of the International Jury for several of the competitions, while Joan Cochran Sommers, founder of the World Accordion Orchestra, conducted her magnificent arrangement of Les Miserables for World Accordion Orchestra VII, featuring Lionel Reekie (New Zealand Tenor). ATG President, First Vice President and Treasurer Betty Jo Simon, Liz Finch and John Neu respectively and Board member Donna Dee Ray, and Joan Grauman (AAA Board Member and Historian) performed in the World Accordion Orchestra, while AAA affiliate 'A World of Accordions Museum' under the direction of Dr. Helmi Harrington presented a standing room only workshop on the history of the accordion, and offered a popular weeklong exhibition with a travelling display from the Museum.

For a full review of the event including pictures, videos and results, please visit the Canadian event under www.coupemondiale.org



Roland V-Accordion Festival US Finalists Selected

The finalists for the 2013 Roland Corp. U.S. V-Accordion Festival, selected from video and performance submissions are:

- Joseph Natoli, Wooster, Ohio
- Cory Pesaturo, North Providence, Rhode Island
- Sergei Teleshev, Eugene, Oregon
- Sam Thomas, Spokane, Washington

The winner of the Roland Corp. U.S. V-Accordion Festival which was held in September, was Segei Telesjev. Sergei received a brand new Roland FR-8X accordion and a fully sponsored trip to Rome, where on October 19th, he represented the U.S. in the Roland International V-Accordion Festival 2013.

Further information online at: www.rolandus.com/go/v-accordion_festival

Tribute to Carmen Carrozza by his daughter, Marianne Carrozza

The following tribute was read at the Carmen Carrozza Luncheon and Concert at the AAA 75th Anniversary Celebration in New York City. Marianne is pictured at right with Carmen at the AAA's 2012 Carrozza Scholarship Dinner at Villa Barone in Mahopac, NY

On behalf of my brother and family I would like to thank all of you for being here to pay tribute to the life of Carmen Carrozza and to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the American Accordion-

ists Association.

Also a special thanks to Linda Soley, President of the AAA, and all the talented artists performing this afternoon.

Carmen Carrozza loved life, he was the most passionate and disciplined man I will probably ever know – a true force of nature. He was a husband, father, brother, uncle, composer, teacher.. and the role that gave him the most joy... a grandfather to his 4 grandchildren, Joseph, Sofia, Derek and Lucas. But ... the true essence of Carmen Carrozza was that he was an exceptionally gifted musician.

When he was a young boy, he and the accordion found each other and began a lifelong relationship that became the driving force in his life. From humble beginnings he went on to be recognized as the greatest classical accordionist.

Music carried him to the heights of his career and thru all the chal-



Tribute to Carmen Carrozza, cont'd from page 8

lenges in his life. Even when he could no longer perform, it was music that kept him vibrant. His passion for the accordion was overwhelming. So much so that my brother and I had a running joke that there were actually 5 of us in our immediate family: my mother, my father, my brother, me, and the accordion. His devotion and respect for the accordion was unwavering, as evidenced by his lifelong endeavour to elevate it to its rightful status as a serious classical instrument.

My brother gave a speech several years ago in tribute to our dad and said "When he strapped on the accordion, he and the instrument became one, the bellows became his breath, the music came from his soul" – this is so true. The moment he began to play the first note and closed his eyes, he was transported to a magical place, and if you were lucky enough to hear him perform, he took you along for the ride. The intimacy between artist and instrument was extraordinary.

Someone once said to me after hearing my dad perform Chopin's "Fantasie Improptu," that they felt like they just had a religious experience. It was as if he surrendered to the music and let it flow thru him. For him, music expressed what words couldn't describe.

He of course was passionate about the classics, but he thoroughly enjoyed performing all types of music, whether on stage, at a nursing home, a wedding, or a family gathering, the joy he radiated while playing the accordion was infectious.

He was a pioneer –performing original works, and collaborating with many composers like Paul Creston, Virgil Thompson, Alan Hohvannes: he was recognized as a virtuoso by Arthur Fiedler and Andre Kostelanetz - his performance of Paul Creston's Concerto for Accordion and Orchestra performed with the Boston Pops, is a benchmark of technical and artistic achievement, a true masterpiece. His accomplishments and accolades are too long to list, yet, thru it

all he remained humble, for he believed he was given a special gift that he wanted to share with the world. When he was interviewed in 2007 he said his dream was "to see the accordion back in the lime-light". I know he would want his music to continue to inspire and encourage new compositions for the accordion. He was a past President of the AAA and remained a supporting member of the organization that meant so much to him.

He was very proud that The Carrozza Scholarship fund was established to promote and support young artists - and speaking of young artists, he would be so proud to know that his great niece Gia Ciccone was competing here in her first contest!

As we were growing up, my father practiced for hours in his music room – so my brother and I had the privilege of listening to the classics performed by a master, we had our own private concerts. We were so lucky to have had this experience, for it was the most beautiful music we ever heard, and it instilled in us an appreciation for our father as a true artist, and the accordion as a complete, versatile and unique instrument. We are so proud to have had him as a father.

I cannot speak about my dad without mentioning my mom. She was the general behind the scenes who protected him, cared for him and supported him in every way. I don't think he could have accomplished all that he did without her. They were a great team. We miss my father very much, but he will always be in our hearts, and we are comforted knowing that his spirit will forever live on in his music and dedication to the instrument that he truly loved.

I would like to end with a quote from Plato, that my father would have truly appreciated. "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." - Plato. Thank you.

Accordion Pops featured Beverly Roberts Curnow & Cody McSherry

The Accordion Pops Orchestra (APO) conducted by Al Terzo will present a concert featuring Beverly Roberts Curnow, well known Pennsylvania accordionist, AAA Board of Director and former CIA Coupe Mondiale World Champion. In addition, the ten year old accordionist, Cody McSherry from Conestoga, Pennsylvania, will join her on the program.

The concert was held on Sunday, September 29th, 2013 at the Shannondell Auditorium, 10000 Shannondell Way, Audubon, Pennsylvania.

APO conductor Al Terzo is a teacher, arranger, and conductor who has been with the orchestra since its inception in 1970. He is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, New Jersey Music Teachers Association, and National Association of Music Educators. Mr. Terzo serves on the governing board of the American Accordionists Association and is a founding member of the Mid Atlantic Music Teachers Guild. He is an accomplished accordionist who has performed at the Garden State Arts Center and Newark's Symphony Hall. Currently Mr. Terzo teaches accordion and piano in New Jersey.

The orchestra's roots can be traced to 1970, when it was organized by the Accordion Teachers' Association of New Jersey. Over the next ten years it performed at various community functions throughout the state under the direction of its first conductor, Dr. Jacob Neupauer of Philadelphia.

In 1980 the orchestra members took a leave of absence, but four years later the membership was reorganized under the direction of the late Eugene Ettore of Livingston, New Jersey. In 1985, Daniel

Desiderio was invited to act as a guest conductor of the orchestra and a few years later the A.T.A. of NJ appointed him as conductor in residence. The name of the orchestra was formally changed to the Accordion Pops Orchestra and its membership was expanded beyond the original members from New Jersey to include performers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York,

Delaware, Maryland, and Rhode Island. Maestro Desiderio retired as conductor in May 2011 and turned over the baton to Al Terzo.

Most of the twenty-five plus members of the orchestra are professional musicians or teachers. Many are soloists in their own right.

The orchestra performs a repertoire of light classical, Broadway, big band and popular music. It has entertained audiences at concert halls, county fairs, festivals, schools, and playhouses at many locations primarily in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. For further information: al-terzo@hotmail.com



Beverly Roberts
Curnow



Cody
McSherry

New CD by Dr. Karen Fremar

Composer/Accordionist Karen Fremar released a new CD, "Fremar: Night at the Pla-Mor." The works are all original works written by Fremar that feature the accordion in a group setting or with electronic backing. The works are mostly Latin influenced. The CD is available for purchase or download at CDBaby.com and iTunes as well as most international digital music sites. Search under "Fremar" and get the tracks you want for your ipod or computer.

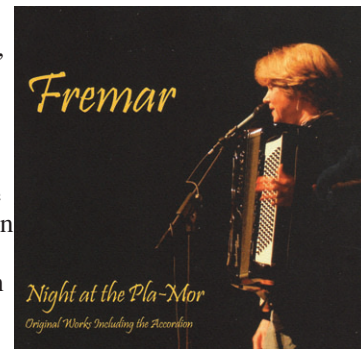
Tracks include: Night at the Pla-Mor, Introduction & Allegro, The Java House (Fill it to the Rim, Dark & Vibrant (Tango), The Last Drop, Caramel Latte Blues, Frappe Freeze), Whatever You Do, Grasping for the Wind (To Honor Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans), Free (Tango), Sterling Illusions, Herricks Road, Fanphasia - Jammin', Bubbling Brook and Vexation.

The CD features many professional musicians and alums of the UMKC Conservatory of Music as well as Vivant! Featured musicians include: Karen Fremar, Accordion/Keyboards; Julie Silfverberg, Accordion/Keyboards; Judy Johnson, Flute; Ronda Adams, Electric Violin; Beth McCollum, Cello; Jason Scheufler, Guitar; Dee Sligar, Bass; Melody Stroth, Piano; Gail Overly, Backing Accordion; Janne Silfverberg, Trombone/Hand Drums; David Sager,

Percussion; Sarrah Cantrell, Vibes/Drums; and Brian Steever, Drums.

Karen Fremar holds a Ph.D. in Music Theory from the University of Kansas. She is an active ASCAP composer and heads the Fremar Foundation for Accordion Arts, a non-profit charitable organization in Kansas City. Karen Fremar is a professional studio and chamber musician. She won

the AAA United States Accordion Championship, 1st place in the CIA Accordion World Popular Music Competition and 3rd place in the classical Coupe Mondiale in Stockholm, Sweden. She writes for and performs with the popular mixed instrument ensemble Vivant! The new CD is a collection of Karen Fremar's new music that features the accordion in updated and unique settings. For more information: vivant@vivantsound.com



Roland FR8X New Product Showcase and Workshop

On Sunday afternoon, September 22nd at 1:30 PM, the 14th Semi-Annual Roland V- Accordion event was held at Falcetti Music, 1755 Boston Rd., Springfield, Mass.

Falcetti Music is happy to announce the return of former Roland Artist and Clinician, Don McMahon to showcase the latest version of the Roland V-Accordion, the FR8X. Joining Don, will be his lovely and talented vocalist wife Leslie to further showcase the interaction between acoustic voice and digital capabilities of the Roland FR8X. The workshop portion will be on "How to Accompany a Singer or Instrumentalist", which also includes "How to use your Roland to Perform in Different Styles".

Don McMahon was "discovered" in 1973 by jazz saxophone great, Charlie Venture, who settled in Hartford to form a trio featuring sax, drums, and Don on Cordovox. During this 3 year stint with Charlie, the trio also performed in Boston, New Yor., and Chicago where they opened a series of 13 concerts for the legendary violinist, Stephane Grappelli. don also performed with Zoot Sims, Buddy Tate, Kenny Davern, Vic Dckenson and Jimmy McPartland.

Since 1979, Don has maintained a dual career as a test systems engineer and part time musician. He switched to piano in 1980 and revived the accordion only twice to perform with Luciano Pavarotti in 1988 and 1972. in 1999, he became the arranger and keyboardist for his vocalist wife's jazz band, "The Leslie Alexandra Sextet". For years, they judged and performed at the ATAM New England Music Festival in New ton,MA.

In early 2005, at the urging of former teacher Sam Falcetti, Don tried the new Roalnd FR 7 V-Accordion and rekindled his love for the accordion.From May 2008 until April 2011, he was a product specialist for Roand V-Accordions, presenting workshops, demos, and concerts around the country. Now when demonstrating the Roland V-Accordions locally, he often highlights its versatility by accompanying his wife, Leslie.

Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini in Concert

Highly acclaimed vocalist, Mary Mancini, and International Champion accordionist, Mario Tacca, are highly sought after musicians who have performed around the world from Europe to China. A little closer to home in recent months, they have enjoyed a busy summer schedule performing at the Magnanini Winery and the Villa Vosilla and of course, as featured artists at the Carment Carrozza Luncheon Concert during the 75th Anniversary of the AAA in New York City in August.

Beginning the Fall concert schedule, on September 10th, 11th, and 12th they performed at an Italian Festival themed show at Ehrhardt's Waterfront Resort on Lake Wallenpaupack in Hawley, PA. On September 15th they performed again at the Magnanini Winery in Walkkill, NY. For more information and reservations, call 845-895-2767.

At the end of the month, on Saturda,y September 29th, Mary and Mario were the guests at the 'Make A Joyful Noise' monthly concert series at Lake of the Woods Church, 1 Church Lane, in Locust Grove, VA. For further information e-mail: mariotacca@hotmail.com

To learn more about their exciting performance schedule which includes dates through 2014, please visit www.gioiaproduct.com.



Accordéon with a French Twist

Anita (*LeBlanc*) Siarkowski documents her recent visit to Montmagny in her story titled 'Accordéon with a French Twist'.

Montmagny, in the French province of Quebec, Canada, was the setting for the 25th annual Carrefour Mondial de l'Accordeon from August 29, 2013 through September 2, 2013. Since 1989, renowned accordionists the world over have graced the stages of Montmagny with their talent, discovered a world of music, highlighted Quebec's cultural heritage, and preserved accordion traditions.

Artists come together for this international accordion festival to share their passion for this musical instrument in all of its many forms – attracting 40,000 to 50,000 accordion enthusiasts annually.

The artistic programming of The Carrefour Mondial de l'Accordeon masterfully unveils the charm, versatility, and character of the accordion. During this unforgettable cultural event, musical styles highlight the instrument's range with folk, classical, jazz, rock, and popular repertoires. During the entire festival, accordionists from far and near are seen and heard all over Montmagny at exhibits, conferences, workshops, indoor and outdoor entertainment, Quebecois and popular dances, international concerts, in 10 Montmagny restaurants sponsoring accordionists, and the accordion museum (Musée de l'Accordeon) – a French colonial style structure from the 1800s displaying a vast collection of chromatic, diatonic, and piano accordions – along with books, artifacts, and instrumental recordings.

The 2013 event featured performers from Canada, Italy, France, Denmark, Scotland, England, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Tunisia – plus U.S.A. representatives, Cory Pesaturo of Rhode Island), and Anita and Bob Siarkowski of Connecticut – the accordion duo's 4th year. Their audience invariably expresses appreciation of the only husband and wife team's artistic performance and their coordinated, theme oriented attire – claiming it to be unprecedented.

For Anita and Bob, their work is play, apropos for Labor Day weekend being a labor of love. Over the years, the accordion duo has entertained dinner guests at La Cooevie in Montmagny's elite Hotel L'Oiseliere on several occasions. The hotel lobby is the setting for the annual after hours jam "en masse," camaraderie extraordinaire, where the Siarkowskis join several other accordionists during Carrefour Mondial de l'Accordeon.

Music being the universal language and the accordion the international instrument, multiple musical styles and languages permeate the atmosphere in ad-lib fashion, with the universal accent on "fun!" Fortunately for Bob (who did just what he told his grandmother he would do before meeting Anita, marry a French nurse) and Anita, given her French heritage plus 2 years of high school French – was able to serve as interpreter in the very French province of Quebec.

At the Siarkowskis' premier experience at this impromptu rendezvous, "les accordéonistes" were just getting into it as the man-



Anita & Bob Siarkowski

ager approached them at midnight, pointed to his wristwatch, and stated (en Francais)... "C'est finis!" (You need to stop the music! The guests are trying to sleep!) The Quebecois never missed a beat! On that very note, they responded (in native tongue) to the Monsieur... "Why?!? Look around you! The guests are here! They came for the music!" Touche! (Lobbying in more ways than one!) From then on, live accordion music filled the air "night and day" during the annual festival – as late (or early as) 5:30 am in the lobby! Let the music play! Laissez les bon temps roller! (Let the good times roll!)

To this day (and night), the hotel manager not only welcomes the accordion enthusiasts to Carrefour Mondial de l'Accordeon, but gets into the act, playing his part by hosting the group, keeping the bar open, serving complimentary coffee "in time" to accompany the snacks provided by the guests! What more could a hotel shift supervisor ask than to have a group "in good spirits" (in more ways than one!) keep him company practically all night, with live entertainment yet? (Otherwise "Monsieur" would have to "shift" for himself, by himself! N'est ce pas?!?)

The Siarkowskis are Charter/Advisory Board members of the Connecticut Accordion Association, and active members of the American Accordionists' Association. Bob gives private lessons on all keyboard instruments – accordion, piano, organ, electronic keyboard at Bob's Music Center in Plantsville, Connecticut. Anita, a Registered Nurse, Certified Case Manager, Independent Consultant – also entertains as an accordion soloist with various theme oriented attire and repertoire (ethnic, holiday, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.), plus with Bob as an accordion duo for special occasions.

The couple's most recent performance was in Montmagny, Quebec, Canada for the August/September 2013 Coupe Mondial de l'Accordeon. Anita and Bob met at accordion school, played at their own wedding, and at their 50th wedding anniversary on September 15, 2012 – when they danced "to the tune of" "Squeeze Box" band, had a made to "scale" piano-accordion cake, chocolate piano-accordion favors, and celebrated "accordionly"!

Information regarding the Montmagny festival is available on their website, accordeon.montmagny.com

Remembering Sylvia Prior

The accordion world was saddened to learn of the passing of well-known supporter of the American Accordionists' Association and the accordion world in general, Sylvia Prior.

Sylvia was born in Los Angeles, California on March 14, 1922 to Sylvester Louis Prior and Mary Louise Landon Prior. She passed away peacefully on August 9, 2013 in Ventura, California.

Sylvia taught accordion and piano in Los Angeles and later in



Sylvia Prior

Remembering Sylvia Prior, continued from page 11

Oxnard for nearly 60 years, carrying on the business her father started in 1917. She loved teaching music and took great pride in knowing that she had touched the lives of countless students during her career. Although supportive of both the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) and the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG), Sylvia was also closely involved with the Accordion Federation of North America (AFNA) in various executive positions for the association over many years.

The most important thing in Sylvia's life, however, was her family, especially her two daughters. Sylvia was a devoted mother who taught by example the importance of kindness, generosity and compassion. She was one of a kind and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Sylvia is survived by her daughters, Adrian Jo Guidotti (David Ross) and Sylvana Louise Guidotti, M.D. (Kevin Wells), as well as her sister Patricia Kessen (Willard), and her nephew, Jeffery Kessen.

She is also survived by many devoted friends and her faithful dogs Gina and Scout. Sylvia was predeceased by her big sister Dorothy-mae Nelsen, husbands Tito Guidotti and Richard Westhouse, and her niece and goddaughter, Dorothy Lee Pabst.

Her family would like to thank the physicians and staff who cared for Sylvia at the Ventura County Medical Center and Victoria Care Center, especially Doctors James Helmer, Joseph Esherick and Jacqueline D'Orazio. The family is also grateful to Westwood Home Care and Sylvia's primary caregiver Mida, who enabled her to remain in her home with her pets for her final years.

Services were held on Saturday, August 17th at 11:00 a.m. at Santa Clara Mortuary and Cemetery, 2370 North H Street, Oxnard, CA.

Donations in Sylvia's memory may be made to the Sisters of Notre Dame, California Province, 1776 Hendrix Avenue, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, Attn: Advancement Office, or to your favorite charity.

Victor Prieto Trio in September Concerts

New York-based Spanish jazz accordionist Victor Prieto performed a series of concerts with bandleaders Cristina Pato and Christian Howes and Southern Exposure in five US States during September.

September 9th - Austin, Texas

September 14th - Madison, Connecticut

September 15th - Lake George, New York

September 21st - Madison, Wisconsin

September 22nd - Dakota, Minneapolis, Minnesota



Victor Prieto with YoYo Ma

Victor Prieto is a native of Galicia, Spain, born in the town of Orense in 1975. At the age of nine, Victor was encouraged by his mother to study the accordion, an instrument deeply ingrained in Galician folklore. While studying classical accordion at the Orense Conservatory, Victor understood the immense musical potential of his instrument and branched out from the classical education by concurrently taking harmony, arrangement and improvisation classes at Estudio Escola de Musica (Santiago de Compostela, Spain). In 1998 Victor received a scholarship from Berklee College of Music where

he majored in performance under the direction of Joanne Brackeen. Berklee, where Victor was the only one to date to specialize in accordion, did not offer any classes focusing on accordion. Uninhibited by these circumstances, Victor created his own study program applying the expertise offered by educators at Berklee to the accordion.

In 2002, Victor moved to New York where he quickly established himself on the jazz scenes. As a leader Victor has performed at many prestigious venues and events such as Berklee Performance Center, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Blue Note, NY, New Jersey Performance Art Center, Three Rivers Musical Festival, Williamsburg Jazz Festival, Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center.

Victor has performed and recorded with Yo-Yo Ma ("Songs of Joy and Peace," Sony BMG Masterworks. "2010 Grammy Winning Album"), Arturo O'Farrill Latin Jazz Orchestra, Billy Hart, Jeff Ballard, Paquito D'Rivera, Matt Wilson, Donny McCaslin, Lionel Louke among others and is involved in projects such as Cristina Pato, Emilio Solla's Jazz Tango conspiracy and The Maria Schneider Orchestra.

He teaches Master Classes in Spain, Italy, Portugal, USA and has headed the jazz accordion studies at the Brooklyn Conservatory (2003 - 2004). He is a recipient of numerous awards and prizes for excellence in accordion performance and composition, among them are: the Creative Performer award from the Spanish Association of Artists and Performers, and the first prize at CMZK's Concourse of Composition (Argentina).

For further information e-mail: victorprieto2001@yahoo.com

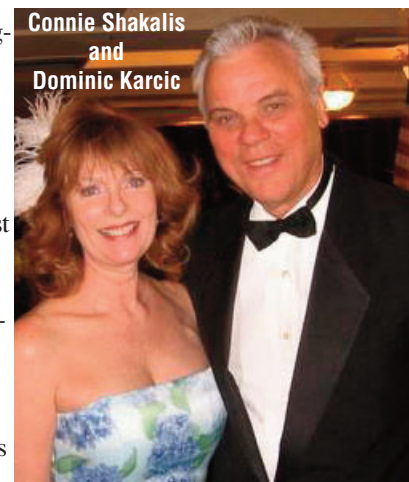
From Broadway to the Met at Villini Restaurant

Villini Restaurant (East Northport, NY) initiated a new monthly event "From Broadway to the Met... plus" featuring accordionists Dominic Karcic and guest artist vocalist Connie Shakalis. This event marked the third anniversary of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA).

Originally from Astoria, NY, Dominic Karcic has lived in Com-mack, Long Island for the last forty-two years and has played accordion and piano professionally in the New York metropolitan area and continues to do so today. Some of the venues / patrons for whom he and his musicians, "The Continental Sound," have performed include the Columbus Citizens Foundation (NYC), the Valtarese Foundation (Parma, Italy), Fubinese Society (Piemonte, Italy), Italian Charities of Queens, NY, Society for Italian Culture of Long Island, Italian Heritage Association of Long Island and also Magnanini Winery in Wallkill, NY.

His love for the Valtaro Musette music was instilled in him through his years of study with noted accordionist Peter Spagnoli. In recent years, he has been involved in the preservation and documentation of this musical style.

In June of 2003 Dominic joined the Board of Directors of the American Accordion-



Connie Shakalis and Dominic Karcic

continued on page 12

Broadway to the Met, continued from page 12

ists' Association (AAA) and contributes articles for the AAA Newsletter. He and fellow accordionist Ray Oreggia have given workshop presentations on the Valtaro Musette style for the American Accordionists' Association (AAA), Connecticut Accordion Association (CAA), Maryland Accordion Club, the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS) and the Istria Women's Club (Astoria, NY).

In June of 2005, he was one of four participants in Mario Tacca's CD titled "Nostalgia / Mario Tacca and Friends." In February '08 he released his first CD titled "Let's Dance." The CD features musette music – tangos, waltzes, mazurkas and merengues. The CD has been featured on the Joe Farda's radio show (93.5 FM), Floyd Vivino's radio show (93.5 FM) and Louise Potenza's Ciao Italy radio show (WALK 1370 AM).

His love for the accordion has only grown over the years. His greatest interest lies in Valtaro Musette music and he hopes that he can contribute to the enrichment and preservation of this very festive and unique musical style.

In August of 2010 he founded the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA), which will celebrate its third anniversary this coming August. The widespread success of LIAA events has endeared it to accordionists and accordion music lovers from all over the New York Metro area and has made it (LIAA) and its events the "voice of the accordion on Long Island."

Connie Shakalis studied voice and theater at Indiana University, and in the 1980s moved to New York City to pursue a career in musical theater. During the following years, she toured the U.S., performing roles such as Maria (and the Baroness) in *The Sound of Music*, Dolly (and Mrs. Molloy) in *Hello Dolly*, Nellie in *South Pacific*, Magnolia in *Show Boat*, Fiona in *Brigadoon*, Woman #1 in *Side by Side* by Sondheim, and Vera in *The Ten Little Indians*.

Connie has performed with Van Johnson, Edie Adams, Robert Morse, and Victor Borge. She writes one-woman acts, which she has performed in nightclubs throughout Manhattan and in Indianapolis. She also performs "Songs from the Gilded Age" on Long Island. At La Comedia Theater in Ohio, she won the Outstanding Performer Award.

The next 'From Broadway to the Met' evening will take place on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

A Great Success for the 2013 Accordion Seminars

19th season from July 26-28, 2013 at Tenri Cultural Institute in New York. The Title was: The Accordion is 3D – No Glasses required".

The moderator/curator, Dr. William Schimmel states that it was one of the best ones yet: intriguing workshops, stellar performances and, most of all, a collegial attitude in its presentation.

He went on to give some feedback on what he thinks makes the Seminars different than any other event concerning the accordion.

1. The weekend is totally about the accordion and its culture. No stars – only the accordion.
2. The weekend is entirely non-competitive.
3. We present ideas and we are always learning.
4. We provide an intimate atmosphere which empowers anyone who chooses to attend.
5. We listen to every idea that is presented to us and we take it seriously. No one is ridiculed or put down over an idea that doesn't seem

to "fly" at the moment.

6. Everything is presented in a clear cut fashion. Everyone who attends will understand what we are saying or doing. There is no esoteric shop talk.

7. There is something for everyone. If you attend, we urge you to "stick it out" and suspend your judgment. There will be inevitably something for you in it.

8. We present innovative information and yet we always present too much of it. Our concerts are a bit too long and our workshops make one's head spin. One participant said that her head spun for over a year due to all of the information that was presented in a short span of time.

9. Many of the spectators become actual participants in time. We are interested in everyone who attends. We are interested in helping you realize your goals. Anyone may attend – at any level. All we ask of you is to come with an open mind and most of all, a warm heart.

10. There is a certain "humility" to those who attend and participate at the Seminars. Ironically, many of the participants and presenters come from the greatest universities and conservatories in the world. We span the horizon: Juilliard, Peabody, Mannes, Oberlin, New England Conservatory, Columbia, NYU, Harvard, Yale – yet there is a certain "humility" in those who are there to serve the accordion in the best light that they can. They consider it to be a privilege and, yes, it can be humbling at times. Although we believe that there is something for everyone in the Seminars, we also realize that they may not be for everyone.

11. We raise the bar extremely high yet we also present ideas that show the accordion in new and unusual manners as well as new takes on old ideas. This may be at times startling, due to the fact that our ideas about technique and process in general may differ greatly from conservatories and academic institutions – yet still maintain a "schooled" philosophy due to the "rub" and friction between the two. This is part of what we call "The built in ironic duality". We revel in the "rub". We don't look for the easy way out.

12. We believe that the accordion is in a better place since the Seminars. And we say that proudly and we also say it with humility. Time out New York has called the Seminars "The Apotheosis of the Accordion" - the laboratory where ideas are bred. Accordions Worldwide has stated: "Once again, Dr. Schimmel, aided and abetted by his dancer wife Micki Goodman, has unstintingly and imaginatively produced an event that appears to be unlike any other in its scope and imaginativeness."

13. If you feel that the Seminars are for you – join us next year for our 20th Anniversary!

Participants come from the local New York area, across the United States as well as China, Japan, Argentina, Croatia and Nor-



way.

Featured participants and performers on this years event were as follows: Micki Goodman, Paul Stein, Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan, Dr. Mark Birnbaum, Will Holshouser, Art Bailey, Doug Makofka, Ingrid Kvale, Brian Dewan, Martini Li, Yoichi Fukui, Martina Li, Marina Jerry, Melissa Elledge, Mark Nathanson, Benjamin Ickies, Godfrey Nelson, Lorraine Nelson Wolf, Dragica Banic-Curcic, Peter Flint, Erica Mancini, Dr. Ronald Sarno, Dave Soldier, Mayumi Miyaoka, Tomoko Sugawara, Hu Jianbing, Rachel Swaner, Genevieve Leloup, Joy Betchler, Charlie Tokarz, Robert Haulfrecht, Dan Simon, Di J Noizepunk, Jed Distler, Dan Simon, Patrick Grant, Joseph Pehrson, Dejan Bosovic, Dr. Rocco Jerry, David Stoler, David First, Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Lee Mc Clure, Ken Laufer, John Foti, Kathleen Tipton, Marni Rice, Bob Goldberg, Corn Mo, Di J Noizepunk (Gene Pritsker), Jed Distler, Dan Cooper, Patrick Grant, Joe Pehrson, Milica Paranosic, Dr.

William Schimmel and many more.

(Photo on left) Paul Stein played the Claviola with his teacher William Schimmel on the accordion in concert Saturday evening at the 19th annual Master Class & Concert Series in Manhattan sponsored by the American Accordionists' Association and curated by Dr. Schimmel.

Paul Stein, a regular participant said, "It is hard to believe that I have been on the program all 19 years. Saturday afternoon, I conducted a workshop about the Claviola and the melodica (along with Bill). Thanks to accordionist Mayumi Miyaoka for capturing the moment. It is a very humbling experience for me to be surrounded by so many incredibly talented musicians."

Deiro delights – Ettore elaborates – Frosini Fascillitates – Ellegaard is elegant – Magnante magnifies - Palmer is pedagogy – John Gart grabs you WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DO? FIND OUT – AT THE SEMINARS!

To all who contributed to the September Newsletter, my sincere apologies for not being able to finalize this until now and here it is November! I encountered many personal issues that prevented me from finishing until now. My sincere gratitude to Kevin Friedrich for his untiring devotion and patients. Kevin writes the AAA Newsletter and the next issue will be a December issue. So please get your information to Kevin and I promise there will be a timely December Newsletter.

*The Coast to Coast section of the Newsletter will soon be digital so that we can update and add events throughout the month. Please send your activities and events to me at **ameraccord1938@gmail.com** for inclusion.*

To those members who supported the 75th Anniversary Celebration in New York City, Thank You! I think our Founders would have been proud!

Our December Newsletter will include remembrances of two devoted and outstanding teachers, August Arruda, Jr. and Robert Paolo both of Rhode Island. You are missed.

Coast to Coast

*...a sampling of accordion events across the USA!
The following are the events that "were" scheduled for September. Contact the individual organizations for updates.*

Santa Barbara, CA

Accordionist Iñaki Diéguez, from the Basque town of Irún in northern Spain, visits California in September. Iñaki will be appearing at the Santa Barbara Accordion Club on September 8th, Chino Basque Club - September 13th and the San Francisco Accordion Club on September 15th.

For further information email: inaki-dieguez@gmail.com



Las Vegas, NV

The Sixth Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention at the Gold Coast Hotel was held October 28-31st. The event stars Joey Miskulin, Gee Rabe, Dick Contino, Stas Venglevski, and Jeff Lisenby. Guest artists also include Peter & Mady Soave, Mary Tokarski, Gordon Kohl, Gina Brannelli, Liz Finch, Pete Barbutti and many more. You can participate in the Sixth Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra conducted by Professor Joan Cochran Sommers. For more information: 800-472-1695.

Milwaukee, WI

On September 23, 2013, The Milwaukee Accordion Club (MAC) featured accordionist Peggy and Hansi Mueller at their 'Oktoberfest' celebration. Known primarily for her German, Swiss, Austrian 'old country' styles, Peggy will entertain with

an 'Oktoberfest' program. Hansi Mueller, Peggy's husband and a first generation Bavarian, will be joining her in this performance. Hansi plays wooden spoons (Lof-felschlagen) which were hand carved in Austria. Admission is \$3 for MAC members; non-members \$5. For more information, please visit www.accordions.com/mac

Strathcona (Vancouver) BC

Accordion Noir Poster 2013 The Sixth Annual Accordion Noir Festival was held at the Russian Hall, Strathcona from September 12-15, 2013. Some of the featured artists this year were: Steve Normandin, Montreal; Renee de la Prade, San Francisco; Willow Rutherford, Toronto; David P. Smith, Victoria. Additional performers will be listed in future articles.

The Accordion Noir Society (est. 2011) exists to promote the use of free-reed aerophone instruments and the enjoyment of listening to the music they make on all different kinds of squeezeboxes, both in a pre-recorded, broadcast (and podcast) context and in a setting of live music performance, both in and around our home of Vancouver, BC, Canada, and to wider audiences. For further information: accordion.noir@gmail.com

East Northport, NY

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) sponsored by La Villini Restaurant presented an evening of accordion music by featured guest artist, John Custie on September 3, 2013 at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY.

John Custie has been an active professional in the music industry for more than thirty years and his performances include private and corporate functions, Broadway

productions, concerts, recording sessions, radio and TV appearances. His performance abilities include a wide variety of styles, from Bach to Rock, Contemporary Pop to Jazz, Rhythm n' Blues, and a wide array of Latin and World music. The next meeting of the LIAA will take place on Wednesday, October 2nd where the featured guests will be the Amazing Accordion Kings!

Union, NJ

Norwegian accordion virtuoso, Havard Svendsrud, performed in a concert with the Accordion Pops Orchestra conducted by Al Terzo. The event took place at Kean University, "Wilkins Theatre" 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey on Sunday, October 20, 2013 at 3:PM. For more information about upcoming concerts and the APO: al-terzo@hotmail.com

Costa Mesa, CA

The 5th annual Accordion Festival, also known as 'The Big Squeeze' was held on Sunday, September 29 during the Orange County Market Place, the festival will adhere to its quest to showcase the accordion's diversity with a slate of accordion based bands and soloists playing everything from jazz and blues, rhythm and funk, to Cajun and Tex-Mex, to Latin and tango. This event runs from 10 AM to 4:00 PM and is included in the \$2 Market Place admission. Children 12 and under are free. For a more information on future events: call 949-723-6660 or visit www.ocmarketplace.com

Lunenburg, MA

Accordionist Gary Morin will perform on September 27 from 7:PM to 8:30 PM on The Friday Night Concert Series at the Drawbridge Puppet Theatre, 1335 Massachusetts Ave., Lunenburg, Mass. Tickets are \$8.00 For further information: 1-978-582-6565.



Here's What's Happening at AAA in 2014

APRIL 6, 2014

Carrozza Scholarship Dinner
Magnanini Winery
Walkill, New York
12 noon until 5 pm

JULY 9-13, 2014

AAA Annual Festival
DoubleTree Hotel
Tarrytown, New York
Competitions with significant Cash Awards
Workshops
Exhibits
Concerts

AUGUST 1-3, 2014

Master Class &
Concert Series
Tenri Cultural Institute
13th Street
(between 5th and 6th)
New York, NY

SEPTEMBER 28

Tentative Valtario Celebration
Time and Place
to be announced shortly.

**Send us your
upcoming events
for the Digital
version of
AAA
Coast to Coast**

American Accordionists' Association
c/o M. Kendrick
120 Valley View Road
Stratford, CT 06614



American Accordionists' Association



www.ameraccord.com