



Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

MARCH 2014



From the Editor

Welcome to the March 2014 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

As our dramatic Winter season comes to a close, we can all start preparing to venture out and begin enjoying the array of upcoming accordion activities across the country!

I'm sure many of you are involved in many different concerts and activities this summer, so we invite you to let our readers know by submitting the necessary information for publication in our next issue.

Once again my sincere thanks to the AAA President Linda Reed and Board of Director member Rita Barnea for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter.

Items for the May 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 that 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 from smaller pictures. The deadline for the May Newsletter will be April 15, 2014.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of the many upcoming events.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



American Accordion Musicological Society Festival

The American Accordion Musicological Society in conjunction with the Mid Atlantic Music Teachers Guild presents Accordion Extravaganza 2014 honoring Accordionist Jim Vandelly on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at The Hanover Marriott Hotel, 1401 Route 10 East, Whippany, NJ.

In 1948, a travelling representative of the Rosita Lee Studios knocked on the door of the Vandelly family in Townsend, Massachusetts. He showed Jim a 12 bass accordion, and that started his adventures in the accordion world.

The representative was George Janis, and he was Jim's teacher until 1955, when the Vandellys moved to Los Angeles.

Jim continued taking lessons in Alhambra from Sam Petrone for two years. But it was George Janis who will be remembered fondly in Jim's memory. Many years later, in 1961, Janis and his combo played at Oak Hill Country Club, in Fitchburg and Jim was working there for the summer. Jim bought Janis' private accordion, and played it for 30 years.

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- APRIL 6, 2014**
Carrozza Scholarship Dinner
Magnanini Winery
Walkkill, New York 12589
12 noon to 5 pm
- JULY 9-13, 2014**
AAA Festival
Double Tree Hotel – Reservation: AAF
455 South Broadway
Tarrytown, New York
- AUGUST 1-3, 2014**
Master Class & Concert Series
The Everyday Accordion
Ordinary x Proper = Radiant
Tenri Cultural Center
43A W 13th Street
between 5th & 6th Ave.
New York, NY
- SEPTEMBER 28, 2014**
Celebrating the Music of the Valtaro
Guest Frank Toscano
Riccardo's by the Bridge
2101 245th Avenue
Astoria (Queens), NY
12 noon to 5 pm
Dinner and Dancing



Westmont Philharmonic Accordion Orchestra

American Accordion Musicological Society Festival, cont'd. from page 1

While in the USAF in Texas, Jim began to play solo gigs at the Officer's Club at Goodfellow AFB, and at the River Club in San Angelo. When Jim and his wife Kathy moved to the D.C. area in 1968, Jim played several gigs on both piano accordion and Russian balalaika at private parties and at the Smithsonian Institution's ethnic music weeks in December in the early 1980s.

In 1993, the Balalaika Domra Society of America went on a floating music tour from Moscow to St. Petersburg. Many members of the Washington Balalaika Society were also members of the BDAA. Jim played at Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall, Yaroslavl Concert Hall, and Glinka Hall in St. Petersburg. In 1997, when Jim retired from his 28-year teaching career, he met Stan and Joanna, and took a few lessons to improve his playing, he then joined the AAMS. He competed in a few AAMS conventions thereafter.

In 1989, Jim joined the newly-formed Washington Balalaika Society, as its first accordion player. He remained with WBS through 2001. He joined with several members of the WBS, and they were the Beltway Balalaikas ensemble. Jim played Russian bayan and piano accordion with the "BB's" for several years. The ensemble played at an Inaugural Ball for President George W. Bush in January of 2001. Thereafter, the "BB's" played at the British and Russian embassies on several occasions.

Jim travelled to Stockholm, Sweden in 2000 and 2001, as a guest accordionist with the Kazbek Russian Orchestra. His Swedish friends were also members of the Balalaika/Domra Association of America. While continuing membership in the AAMS, Jim joined the newly-formed Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society in 2004, and has been a continuing member of both organizations.

Accordionists Bruce Gassman and Lou Persic will provide music during the dinner. Following the banquet, there will be an exciting concert which includes: Featured Guest and Honoree Jim Vandelly, Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra and Westmont Accordion Club, Potomac Accordion Ensemble conducted by Joan Grauman, Mary Tokarski, Lenn Feldmann, Dr. Robert McMahan, Bernie Gardzalla, and Suzy Andrew.

At this time, the U.S. premiere of Bjorn Bolstad Skelbred's composition "ConVerGence" which will be performed by Dr. David Bebe (cello) and Rocco Anthony Jerry (accordion).

Honorees of the American Accordion Musicological Society:

- 2014 Jim Vandelly
- 2013 Beverly Roberts Curnow - PA
- 2012 Dan Desiderio - PA
- 2011 Mary Tokarski - CT
- 2009 Dr. Robert McMahan - NJ
- 2008 Rik Kaplan - D.C.
- 2007 Lenn Feldmann & Stan Darrow
- 2006 Dr. Lou Persic - PA
- 2005 Anthony Ettore - NY
- 2004 Joe Axsmith - PA
- 2003 Carmelo Pino - Wash. DC
- 2002 Charles Nunzio - NJ
- 2001 Sherrie Darrow - NJ
- 2000 Dr. J. C. Neupauer - PA
- 1999 Carmen Carrozza - NY
- 1998 Mervin Conn - Wash. DC
- 1997 Samuel Fire - PA
- 1996 Msg. Stanley Kloskowski - NJ



Jim Vandelly

The festival's opening takes place on Friday, March 28 at 7:30, and is titled "The French Experience" with Bruce Gassman as MC. Headlining will be "The Crowdaddies" with accordionist Kraig Greff. Accordionist and songwriter, Kraig Greff, was the recipient of three 2008 Emmy Awards! - The Crowdaddies were invited to perform with Dr. John and the Neville Brothers on the 2009 Mardi Gras Mambo tour! Expect a lively mix of French Louisiana's Cajun/Zydeco and New Orleans Funk.

Also an accomplished session pianist, Greff brings with him the experience of years of international touring. His keyboard talents have backed such greats as jazz legends Joe Williams, Della Reese, Dianna Ross and Barry White. He has also performed as a guest artist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to being Musical Director and performing with The Crowdaddies and occasionally with jazz and big bands, Kraig's company, Tonal Vision LLC, creates music, audio, video and multimedia productions.

Accordionist Dallas Vietty performs with the Musette Project which explores the French accordion waltz music of 1920s-1950s known as Musette. Sometimes called Swing Musette or Bebop musette, it is a genre within a genre most closely connected with the music called Gypsy Jazz/Jazz Manouche. Luke Hendon and Ben Wood play guitar with the group.

Also featured is Dee Langley playing traditional Musette accordion. Winner of the 2011-2012 McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians and 2012 Minnesota Emerging Composer Award (Orkestar Bez Ime - World Music), Dee resides in Minneapolis, MN.

AAA Board of Director member and teacher/concert artist, Joanna Darrow, has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, performs internationally and is Co-Director of Acme Accordion School and the AAMS. Joanna will share the elegant music of JP Rameau. This concert is sponsored by Rik Kaplan on behalf of the American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS). Doors open at 6.00 PM with a Hot Gypsy Jazz Workshop at 6:15 PM presented by Dallas Vietty.

For more information and reservations please contact Joanna Arnold Darrow, Phone (856)-854-6628 visit www.aamsaccordionfestival.com or e-mail: acmeaccordionschoolmusikgarten@verizon.net



Coast to Coast

...will return in the May issue.

Please send notices of your upcoming events so that we can update this feature regularly on our website.

Send to:

**goaccordion@yahoo.com
and the AAA e-mail address at:
ameraccord1938@gmail.com**

Clifton Chenier receives a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award

On Saturday, January 25, 2014, the day before the live broadcast of the Grammy Awards, the late Clifton Chenier, Louisiana's Zydeco king, was presented a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award was accepted for Louisiana's King of Zydeco by Mike Vital and C.J. Chenier at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles during the Special Merit Awards Ceremony and Nominee Reception. Vital, Chenier's nephew, and C.J. Chenier, Clifton's son and longtime member of his Red Hot Louisiana Band, appeared together on stage to honor a man who "changed the history of music."

Each shared brief memories about Clifton Chenier, who died in 1987, as film strips of the man rolled across a huge screen. Vital said, "When Clifton was 16, he fought and struggled to play that accordion. People laughed and joked about it for years. Somehow, he started doing private dances at my grandmother's house. It grew into something big where they started doing dances on the road. Not knowing it would lead to a Grammy award, not knowing it would lead to a Lifetime Achievement Award. I'm just glad to accept this award and meet C.J."

Clifton Chenier, an Opelousas, LA. native and long time resident of Lafayette, took the Creole accordion music of his youth, mixed it with R&B, blues and jazz, and presented it on an international stage, introducing the world to Zydeco. A 1983 Grammy winner for the "I'm Here" LP, Chenier was inducted into the 2011 Grammy Hall of Fame for his album, "Bogalusa Boogie."

C.J. Chenier called his father a brave pioneer. "I've been a musician all my life," said C.J. Chenier. "I know what it takes to get here. Back in the '40s, my father took the accordion and decided to hit the road. He wanted to play this music that nobody else knew about. He brought it to the world and to me! This award legitimizes Zydeco by being recognized by the Recording Academy."

Clifton Chenier joins other music greats such as Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson and Johnny Cash who have received Grammy's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is part of a 2014 induction class that includes the Beatles, the Isley Brothers, Kris Kristofferson, electronic music pioneers Kraftwerk, Maud Powell and Armando Manzanero who also were honored at the event Saturday and were acknowledged during the live Grammy broadcast.

Terrance Simien, one of this year's Grammy nominees and a previous Grammy winner, attended the awards ceremony. "It was unbelievable to see something that I thought I'd never see in my lifetime, but it was very well deserved," Simien said. "Clifton Chenier belongs up there with those other monumental artists. I feel very proud to be a part of the legacy, to be playing Zydeco music." ■



Clifton Chenier



Chenier's nephew and agent, Mike Vital (left) and Chenier's son, C.J. (right) accepted the award for Louisiana's King of Zydeco

Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) Concerts

The March meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) sponsored by La Villini Restaurant was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 6 p.m. featuring Fabio and Fabio Lucarelli.

The Lucarelli family are four generations of accordionists, all with the same name! The first Fabio began performing on the accordion professionally during the days of Vaudeville. Fabio Sr. was a self-taught musician and entertained with the clarinet and accordion. He founded Fabio's Accordion School in Derby, CT.

Many years later, his son, Fabio Jr., used his lunch box to pretend he was playing an accordion. At the age of seven his father began to teach him. Later, they became known as Fabio & Fabio and he also gave accordion lessons.

With his accordion, Fabio was sent to the front lines in Korea where he performed for the troops and officer clubs with Eddie Fisher. After the service, Fabio Jr. continued playing with Bob Kay's Orchestra and formed the Fabio Trio in the early 1960s touring from Florida to Greenland.

The accordion was always an integral part of the Lucarelli fam-

ily life. In 1957, at the age of three, Fabio the 3rd was given the accordion by his grandfather. Those days were known as the Golden Age of Accordion. Fabio practiced while his father was on the road, joining him when the Trio was on their East Coast tour.

They continued performing as a father/son duet calling themselves Fabio & Fabio.

Fabio 3rd continued his accordion



The Lucarellis – Fabio & Fabio

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LIAA Concerts, cont'd. from page 3

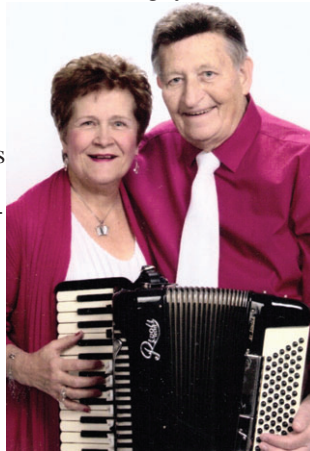
career performing in many venues and became a regular on the WICC Italian House Party in Bridgeport, CT. Fabio 4th was inspired by the recordings of his grandfather taking lessons from the great jazz artist, Dominic Mecca, of Waterbury, CT. During elementary school, he was the first and only accordionist in the Salem School Band!

Taking the Fifth in Montmagny

Anita LeBlanc Siarkowski reports that Montmagny, in the French province of Quebec, Canada, will be the setting for the 26th annual Carrefour Mondial de l'Accordeon from August 28 - September 1, 2014. Since 1989, Montmagny has showcased accordionists from the world over, preserving accordion traditions in this annual, international festival. The event draws 40 - 50,000 accordion enthusiasts, who share a passion for their beloved musical instrument. In 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 wide are seen and heard all over Montmagny at exhibits, conferences, workshops, indoor and outdoor entertainment, dances, concerts, live accordion music in 10 Montmagny restaurants, and the accordion museum (Musee de l'Accordeon) - a French colonial style structure from the 1800s displaying a vast collection of chromatic, diatonic, and piano accordions.

The 2014 event will feature U.S. performers, Anita and Bob Siarkowski from Connecticut. This year, the couple is taking the fifth, being their 5th time. A husband and wife accordion team is unique, with their audience invariably expressing appreciation of the duo's artistic performance and coordinated, theme oriented attire, reportedly unprecedented.



Anita & Bob Siarkowski

Eventually he was introduced by his father on WICC radio and they continue to this day as the 3rd generation of Fabio & Fabio, performing many of the arrangements passed down to them by their grandfather.

The concert is held at the regular LIAA meeting venue, La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY. ■

For Anita and Bob, their work is play, its a labor of love, fitting for Labor Day weekend. On several occasions over the years, the accordion duo has entertained diners at La Couvee at the elite Hotel L'Oisieliere in Montmagny. Their lobby is the setting for after hours jamming "en masse," where the Siarkowskis join several other accordionists and the camaraderie is extraordinary during Carrefour Mondial de l'Accordeon.

During this impromptu rendezvous, music is the universal language and the accordion is the international instrument. Multiple musical styles and languages permeate the ad lib atmosphere, with the accent on "fun!" Fortunately, Anita, of French descent with two years of high school French, is able to navigate through the very French province of Quebec. "Laissez les bon temps roller!" Let the good times roll!

Anita and Bob Siarkowski are Charter/Advisory Board members, and active members of the Connecticut Accordion Association. Bob gives private lessons on all keyboard instruments - accordion, piano, organ, electronic keyboard at his Plantsville, Connecticut studio, Bob's Music Center. Anita, a Registered Nurse, Medical Case Manager, entertains as an accordion soloist in various theme-oriented programs for organizations, assisted living facilities, wineries, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.) and with Bob as an accordion duet for their accordion associations. The Siarkowskis met through the accordion, performed as an accordion duo at their own wedding and at their 50th wedding anniversary on September 15, 2012 - with an accordion cake, accordion favors, and the live band, "Squeeze Box!" This year, they've decided to 'take the 5th for the International accordion festival in Montmagny, Quebec, Canada!

For more information, please visit:

www.accordeon.montmagny.com

Mary Tokarski will be a featured performer at the Carrefour Mondiale de l'acordeon from Aug. 28-Sept. 1

Juha Silfverberg and Martín Cuéllar perform Piazzolla

Kansas City based accordionist Juha Silfverberg appeared with Martín Cuéllar (piano) and friends, performing the music of Astor Piazzolla at Heath Recital Hall at Emporia State University (KS). In addition to Juha, Cuéllar was joined by violinist Jeremy Starr, singer Andrea Garritano, the Emporia State University (ESU) Graduate Trio, double bassist Riley Day and pianists Pamela Cordle, Melinda Groves and Liu Li.

Juha opened the concert performing "Jeanne y Paul," music made famous in the 1972 film "The Last Tango in Paris." Concert reviewer Marcia Lawrence (for The Gazette) said that "his performance set the stage for an emotion-studded concert."

Lawrence went on to say "The melancholy 'Ave Maria,' one of the few Piazzolla compositions written for voice, featured the operatic range of soprano Andrea Garritano. The piece is a sensitive and expressive testament to Piazzolla's Catholic heritage. In fact, the composer suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on his way to Mass at Notre Dame in Paris, never regained consciousness, and died in his beloved Buenos Aires two years later on July 4, 1992.

Twenty-year old undergraduate piano performance major, Liu Li, gave full play to the emotion of the visceral "Tangata." The composition is rich with elements of both jazz and what Cuéllar described as "cocktail music." In duet with Cuéllar, Li's lush piano was a high spot of the evening.

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Martin Cuéllar and Juha Silfverberg

Silfverberg and Cuéllar, cont'd from page 4

Unusual, at least for this listener, was Janne Silfverberg's trombone performance of "Milogna Sin Palabras" (Slow Dance Without Words). The composition alludes to Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words," brought to somber life by the lonely and sonorous trombone. Also an accomplished conga and timbale player, Janne is following in his father Juha's footsteps as a piano and accordion technician in Kansas City.

Next came Piazzolla's best-known composition "Libertango," a play on the Spanish word for liberty - "libertad" - and the word tango, fully intended to convey the essence of Piazzolla's avant-garde musical style. Pianists Melinda Groves and Pam Cordle brought the audience to their feet with an impassioned performance. Intensity and speed built perfectly, burning to a flawless finish.

Post intermission, as is the way with tango, the mood changed abruptly. A quartet of Cuéllar on piano, Juha on accordion, Jeremy Starr on violin and Riley Day on double bass offered up the brooding "Soledad" (Solitude). A tribute to Piazzolla's self-described guardian spirits of air and sea, the piece was lightened by the sweetness of Starr's violin and leavened with Cuéllar's heartfelt piano.

Evocative of the sudden changes that are hallmarks of the "Nuevo Tango" style, "Romance del Diablo" (Devil's Romance) called to mind a heart-rending expression of love gone bad. The quartet (Cuéllar, Juha Silfverberg, Starr and Day) began with a dark, daunting melody and executed a seamless segue into the exquisite but utterly sad final notes.

The final selection was the complex and poignant "Adios Nonino" (Farewell, My Father). Composed in less than an hour, only days after the death of Piazzolla's father in 1959, the piece runs the gamut of emotion. Day's percussive double bass provided a throbbing thickness to the fast-slow-fast-slow coda pattern led by a forceful Cuéllar on piano. The pointedly masculine sound was syncopated with Silfverberg's expressive accordion and Starr's last sweet note fading, forlorn into the night.

Cuéllar concluded, "There is an emotional immediacy to the music of Piazzolla. His music goes straight to the center of our being and cuts through any walls, reaching us in a very powerful way and in the process moving us deeply.

Juha Silfverberg was born into a musical family in Helsinki, Finland, and began his accordion studies at the age of 7 with the late Lasse Pihlajamaa, a well known pioneer of the accordion in Finland.

Playing the 'Finnish C System' button accordion, Juha was both Finnish National Accordion Champion and Scandinavian Accordion Champion, earning the right to represent Finland at the CIA Coupe Mondiale held in Helsinki, Finland.

As a soloist and with various ensembles including The International Trio (with Kevin Friedrich and Juha's wife, Julie) Juha has performed from New Zealand to Japan and throughout the US and Europe and Scandinavia. Juha was the first foreign student to study accordion performance with Joan C. Sommers at the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC).

Currently Juha's career as a full time musician sees him playing professionally as a soloist and with various groups such as Cajun and Klezmer ensembles, as well as serving as an accordion and piano technician in the greater Kansas City area. ■

Fremar Foundation for Accordion Arts Commission

Julie Gettler Silfverberg (Kansas Accordion Champion) will be the featured guest artist on the upcoming "Music & Merlot" concert presented by the Fremar Foundation for Accordion Arts on June 1st, 2014. The concert, featuring "The Accordion & Film Music" will feature popular Kansas City-based group, 'Vivant' with musicians Dr. Karen Fremar, Dee Sligar, Janne Silfverberg, Melody Stroth and Brian Steever, with musical guests Judy Johnson (flute) and Beth McCallum (cello). The concert will be held at the All Souls Unitarian in Kansas City on Sunday, 4:30 PM with cocktails being served at 4.

Julie grew up in Ft. Scott, Kansas. When Julie was 8, her mom came home one day and asked her if she would like to learn how to play the accordion. Julie said, "Sure!".... a couple of years later, she added piano lessons. Margie Fremar (mother of the renowned composer and artist, Karen Fremar) was her teacher. Julie successfully participated in many music festivals and she was the Kansas Accordion Virtuoso Champion for three consecutive years.

In 1980, Julie received her Bachelor of Music degree in Accordion at the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) where she also met and married Juha Silfverberg from Finland, the first foreign student to study accordion at UMKC. They lived in Helsinki for the next five years and then moved back to the States in 1985. Julie is a member of the accordion group, The International Trio (with her husband Juha and Kevin Friedrich) that has toured in Finland, New Zealand, Estonia and the USA. Julie runs a very successful music studio in Overland Park, KS., where she teaches accordion and piano to students five years to adult. Julie serves on the Board of Directors of the Fremar Foundation for Accordion Arts. Julie and Juha were former competition chairpersons of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG), and Julie was also a former President of the Federated Teachers of Fine Arts., Inc. and the Mid-America Music Association (M.A.M.A.)

The Fremar Foundation for Accordion Arts has commissioned composer Jason Schuefler to compose a collaborative work that includes the accordion, also to be presented at this concert. Schuefler has previously scored for the accordion in his music for Theater. Mr. Schuefler's original music and sound designs have been heard on film and locally at the New Theatre Restaurant and the Coterie and Unicorn Theatres. Commercially, his original music has been placed on MTV, VH1 and A&E among others. His music cues are signed with national and international production music libraries.

Vivant! who will host and perform at the concert, recently performed a program of tango and new classical works for the Kansas City Musical Club on February 3, 2014. Members Karen Fremar and Julie Silfverberg (Accordion), Melody Stroth (Piano), Judy Johnson (Flute), Beth McCollum (Cello), Dee Sligar (Bass), and

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Fremar Foundation, cont'd from page 5

Janne Silfverberg (Hand Drums), performed three new Piazzolla arrangements by Karen Fremar and Fremar's The Java House. Julie Silfverberg performed a new solo work by Fremar assisted by Dee Sligar, Bass and Janne Silfverberg (Bongos). The group was appreciated with a standing ovation and a reception given by the club. KC Music Club Program Chairman, Sanna Cass, invited *Vivant!* to return for a second year to perform for the club after their popular performance last season.

For more information, please visit:

www.fremarfoundation.com

Martynas Levickis tours the US with Violinist, David Garrett

Lithuanian accordionist Martynas Levickis, is a renowned musician who recently completed his degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and has acquired all the knowledge and technical expertise of a professional classical musician, but enjoys a variety of genres, as is evident with his current collaboration with violinist David Garrett on their U.S. tour.

In 2010, while he was still studying at the Royal Academy, Levickis won the "Lithuania's Got Talent" TV show and became a household name in his homeland.

When he first began experimenting with the accordion as a three-year-old child, he was merely experiencing the sheer instinctive joy of music. "My uncle, who was the main influence behind my musical education, bought that first accordion for me. It was a very small instrument and there wasn't a lot you could play on it. A few years later I got a huge Russian accordion. I used to play in front of the mirror so I could see the keys and where to put my fingers."

Some visiting relatives heard the young Martynas play and recommended a music teacher. At eight, he enrolled in a music school, and when he was 12, his teachers began entering him in competitions. He won awards all over Europe, and advanced steadily to a conservatory. In 2004, he was the first accordionist to be awarded Lithuania's Queen Morta prize. His prodigious musical talent was becoming his passport to the wider world, and in 2008 Levickis made his move to London. In 2009 he won the 71st American Accordionist Association competition in Memphis, and in 2010 he took second prize at the Gala-Rini International Competition in California. Also that year, he won the International Competition for Piano Accordion at the CIA Coupe Mondiale.

Violinist David Garrett, a former child prodigy of the classical world, signed to Deutsche Grammophon when he was only 13. He now provokes Garrett-mania among hordes of international fans with his spectacular fusions of rock and pop with symphonic or baroque traditions. To him, it's all music and all equally valid.

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Accordion Pops Orchestra in Carrozza Memorial Concert

The Accordion Pops Orchestra under the direction of Al Terzo will present a memorial tribute to Carmen Carrozza at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, NJ on Sunday, April 27th, 2:00 p.m.

The concert, with Master of Ceremonies Lenny, Feldmann, will also feature Norwegian accordionist Havard Svendsrud. Tickets for the dinner and concert are \$50.00 with the proceeds going towards the Carmen Carrozza Scholarship fund as well as the Alzheimer's Foundation.

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; the orchestra 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 more information, please contact Rosemarie Cavanaugh at (732) 257-8198. ■



Havard Svendsrud



Martynas Levickis



David Garrett, violin and Martynas Livickis, accordion

Garrett & Levickis tour U.S., cont'd from page 6

"I never stopped playing classical music," he points out. "But when you become really accomplished on the violin, you can literally do anything. It's just a matter of what you really want to do with music."

In his teen-wonder years, it looked as if he was all set for a long career as a classical soloist. He worked with leading orchestras around the world under such esteemed maestros as Claudio Abbado and Zubin Mehta, and mastered the major works from the violin repertoire. But he knew that there was a different life beyond the hothouse bubble of classical music, and he took the gamble to leave Europe and head for the teeming melting pot of New York. He kept up his classical studies at the Juilliard school, but the city offered him all kinds of musical and personal opportunities.

Garrett's art lies in the way he opens a two-way street between classical and popular music. His version of Coldplay's "Viva La Vida" makes use of sophisticated electronic multitracking, but also incorporates something of the spirit of Minimalist composers such as Philip Glass or Michael Nyman. When he takes on the crushing weight of Queen's bombastic anthem "We Will Rock You," he makes room for some daredevil classical flourishes in between the enormous rhythmic explosions detonating all around him.

His work is often described as "crossover," but whatever it is, he believes that it "poses an even greater challenge than classical music does because you want to present things to your listeners in a completely new light while putting on a superb violinist's performance."

Martynas and David will be performing at:
 March 13, Riverside Theatre - Milwaukee, WI
 March 15, Chicago Theatre - Chicago, IL
 March 18&19, Best Buy Theater - New York
 March 21, Benedum Center - Pittsburgh, PA
 March 22, Oakdale Theatre - Wallingford, CT
 March 23, Hanover Theater for Performing Arts - Worcester, MA
 March 27, Robert W. Woodruff Arts Center - Atlanta, GA
 March 28, Palladium - St. Petersburg, FL
 March, Coral Springs Center for the Arts - Coral Springs, FL ■

Surprise Guest at CAA Meeting

The recent Connecticut Accordionists' Association (CAA) meeting attendees were surprised by an unexpected appearance by accordionist Tony Mecca, a well known jazz accordionist, originally from Waterbury, CT. Tony, now 91, recently relocated back to the area from Florida.



Seated left to right: Mary Tokarski, Julie Cardona and Marilyn O'Neil. Center: Karen Buccitti, Ginger Grider, Dorothy Gondek and Michael Dran. Top row, Dennis Maxfield, Mark Schaarschmidt, Art Piel, Steve Balog, Bob Czarnecki, Art Daigle, Fred Schwinger, Don Gerundo, Bob Vitale, Ralph Corbo (guitar) and Linda Soley Reed, conductor.
 Absent from photo: Sandy Zera, Gerry Hertel, Jeanine Cariri, Pam D'Angelo, Mary Mascolo, Kathy DiCocco, Ken Reed and Mike Rasimas (percussion).

Joan Sommers performs with Tango Group, Cucharada

Joan Cochran Sommers performed at the Lawrence, KS Arts Center on Saturday, February 22, 2014. The group, Cucharada, included guitar, violin, flute, piano, string bass and Joan on accordion. Included in the program performed by the complete group were the tangos: "La Yumba" by Pugliese, "Toda Mi Vida" by Troilo, Azabeche by Stamponi, "Ilusion de mi Vida" by Brunelli, "Comme il faut" by Arolas. In addition, Joan and the flute player were presented in a special duet of Tango pour Claude by Richard Galliano and were given continued resounding applause of approval by the audience.

Founded in December of 2011, Cucharada is anchored by a trio of artists including Guitarist Sean Mawhirter, violist/violinist Kelly Bohling and flautist Guy Montes. Together they enjoy bringing Tango music (and its various subtypes) including some of the time-tested material, as well as more recent "Nuevo-Tango".



Tony's accordion career saw him in New York, while his brother Domenic ran the Mecca School of Music in Waterbury, CT. Local accordionists, Bob and Anita Siarkowski both studied at this school at various times, meeting at a later date as part of Dom Mecca's all accordion orchestra concert!

Several of the CAA attendees enjoyed meeting up with Tony again including Bob Siarkowski who was Tony's jazz accordion student for a couple of years in New Rochelle, New York, Don Gerundo of Westchester, NY, who also studied jazz with Tony Mecca and Gerry Hertel who remembers hearing Tony play at Carnegie Hall. Tony's son, Bill, commented that Tony was the first accordionist to perform at Carnegie Hall.

CAA 10th Anniversary

April 27th marks the 10th Anniversary of the CT Accordion Association and they will celebrate with a concert featuring the CAA Orchestra under the direction of AAA President, Linda Soley Reed. Many special guests will be appearing and performing at the meeting which will be held at Vasi's Restaurant, 1700 Watertown Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06708 at 1:00 p.m. Call Marilyn O'Neil for reservations at 203-272-1202. ■

Stas Venglevski to Perform Composer Awareness Concert

Well known accordionist Stas Venglevski will present this special solo recital for all composition students and composition faculty at the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) on March 20, 2014, in cooperation with Professor Chen Yi and Emerita Professor Joan C. Sommers. He will perform, as well as answer questions about the instruments, accordion and bayan, as well as composition details in writing for the instruments. The event is being presented in hopes of introducing the accordion to many new young composers who may write for it in the future.

Joan Sommers writes that both the accordion and the bayan have an increasingly large, comprehensive, and impressive repertoire available to its players. The collection, just as for other instruments, continues to multiply because of artists such as Stas Venglevski who has made real contributions to this growth through dazzling sensitive performances of his own original compositions, as well as of those deriving from a broad range of classical, ethnic and contemporary music from throughout the world.

His performances have convinced many contemporary American composers to learn about the instrument and to write for it. His recordings of these compositions on his several CDs provide ample proof of the possibilities of the instrument when in the hands of an artist such as Stas Venglevski.

The program notes for the concert are quite interesting, as they profile the works of several contemporary composers including:

***Incipit Vita Nova* by Yehuda Yannay**

Yehuda Yannay, a prolific composer whose works have appeared on several Venglevski recordings, is introduced today with his *Incipit Vita Nova* written for the recovery of his closest relative living in Israel. It is also the first composition for solo accordion that he has written for Venglevski, his friend and long-time musical collaborator. Written for soprano saxophone, clarinet and marimba, *Five Pieces for Three Players*, a review in the *Kansas City Star* stated: ... "among its fetching moments... the fourth piece created some uncanny echoes in the rafters of St. Mary's Episcopal Church." Yannay is a composer, conductor and professor of music theory and composition at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. A musician of international reputation, he is the creator of more than 120 works for virtually all musical media. Yannay is co-author and performer in films, videos and stage works. He is devoted to the organization and conducting of performances of music by living composers. In 1971, he founded the "Music From Almost Yesterday" concert series and continues to present numerous concerts of 20th Century music to the public every season.

***Last Call For Carbon* by Mark Mantel**

To quote the composer: "This work is a grand miniaturization of the harmonic, and to some degree, formal structure of my forthcoming opera, "2100." I felt it necessary to use the somewhat traditional 2 channel playback idea so that I could create a dynamic between the performer, and another entity' - the rest of the ensembles and performers in the opera - in order to replicate a fundamental notion of opera, the dialogue. I wanted Stas to be the sole character, however, so we recorded many chords and harmonies and sounds, all performed by Stas, and I simply manipulated them according to certain kinds of musical behaviors that will be developed in the opera. There are no other sounds or instruments in the audio playback. Also, I certainly wanted to make sure that the piece reflected the nuance, virtuosity, and elegance that Stas brings to his instrument and his performance, so I decided (to) treat the whole piece as a kind of a fantasy and wildly changing narrative of textures and emotions.

While the opera concerns itself with the deadly serious nature of the industrial revolution, automation, our precarious dance with existence, as well as the very short time we have actually inhabited

this planet, I want this sketch, this brief iteration, to bring some sense of hope and humanity to us while we are still here. Peace." Mantel

***Breath and Bone* by Jerome Kitzke**

Originally commissioned for and written by Guy Klucevsek, *Breath and Bone*, was first performed by Mr. Klucevsek on March 23, 1996 at Merkin Concert Hall in New York City. It is composed for solo free bass accordion and vocals. It is dedicated to the memory of Gregory Charnon (1955-1995) and his indomitable spirit.

***Incantation* by David Bohn**

The inspiration for "Incantation" came from the initial discussion that led to the composition of "Fantasy:Gathering Threads." Stas had been working on Jerome Kitzke's "Breath and Bone" and was interested in working on other pieces that explored the combination of spoken voice and accordion. In "Incantation," the archaic names of the letters of the Cyrillic alphabet are recited in both Old Slavonic and English over a combination of ritornello and ground-bass form.

Bohn has written before for Venglevski; his "Suite in 5 Movements for 12 Bass Accordion" was recorded on the Venglevski CD "ACCORDION XXI CENTURY" released in 2013. Bohn received degrees in composition from the University of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Illinois. His works have been performed in a variety of venues in the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East. He currently resides in West Allis, WI, and is the music director at St. John's Lutheran Church in West Milwaukee. He is the President of the Wisconsin Alliance for Composers, Vice-President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Organ Historical Society, and is on the board of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

***Bennachie* by Paul Rudy**

"Bennachie" (Gaelic, pronounced Ben-ah-ee,) is a mountain range in the northeast of Scotland where I hiked its most prominent peak, Mither Tap, with my close friend Pete Stollery. On that same trip, I climbed Ben Nevis (the highest point in the UK). Traveling through the highlands of Scotland reminded me of the alpine tundra I've spent considerable time on in the Colorado Rockies. "Bennachie" is about both of these places, Scotland the Rockies, and the freedom I feel when toiling up mountains and at high elevations. The vistas on top of a summit are always similar: wide open 360 degree views that both remind how big the world is, and at the same time, how small (and isolated in short time spans) we are humans. There are significant differences in vegetation and the individuality of each mountain - there is always something special to bring home from each in terms of memories and sensations. I've tried to capture those sensations here, both from the mountains themselves and from the

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Stas Venglevski, cont'd from page 8

exhilaration of climbing out of trees and onto the tundra.

Selections from "Animal Suite" by Stas Venglevski "Tortoise Lament," "Cheetahs' Chase," "Cats' Ball," "Cock Fight" and "Mice Party Polka"

Each of these pieces is a short gem with the usual melodic and rhythmic strengths so abundant in all Venglevski compositions. However, like many composers who have written pieces with a title suggestive of children, perhaps, these pieces are not for children to play; instead they are based on subjects in which children undoubtedly are quite interested. These pieces require a superb musician with ample technique to present them properly and would be very appropriate on any concert program. ■

CIA Winter Congress in Sarajevo

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) held its 2014 CIA Winter Congress in Eastern Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina from February 28 – March 2, 2014. The General Assembly and associated receptions were hosted by the CIA member Muzicka Akademija Istocno Sarajevo (Eastern Sarajevo Music Academy) under the direction of Zoran Rakic.

President Raymond Bodell welcomed all those in attendance to the CIA's first event held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the 131st General Assembly of Delegates and Winter Congress and then gave thanks to Aleksandar Milojevic and his team for the successful hosting of the 66th Coupe Mondiale in Victoria, B.C., Canada hosted by the CIA member the BC Accordion Society.

Attendance was recorded as follows:

Executive Committee: Raymond Bodell (President), Herbert Scheibenreif (Vice President), Kimmo Mattila (General Secretary), Frederic Deschamps (Chair - Music Committee), Kevin Friedrich (Ambassador), Werner Weibert (2014 CIA Honorary Vice President). CIA Music Committee: Frederic Deschamps (Chairperson), Vitacheslav Semionov (Vice Chairperson), Grayson Masfield (Member), Andreas Nebl (Member), Vladimir Blagojevic for Vojjin Vasovic (Member)

Delegates: Anna Bodell and Alison Worthington (National Accordion Organization of the United Kingdom), Anica Karakutovska, Zorica Karakutovska and Elizabeta Ilievska (Ljubitelji na Klasicnata Muzika in Skopje, Macedonia), Georg Hettmann (Deutscher Harmonika-Verband e.V. - DHV), Jörgen Sundeqvist (Sveriges Dragspelares Riksförbund, Sweden), Alexander Poeluev (International Music Center "Harmony" - Russia), Werner Weibert (Harmonikaverband Österreichs - HVÖ), Alexander Selivanov (Russian Alliance of Harmonica & Accordion Performers), Ville Mattila and Jaakko Vikman (Suomen Harmonikkaliitto - SHL, Finland), Viacheslav Semenov and Vladimir Borovikov (Interregional Assoc. of Bayanists & Accordionists - MABA, Russia), Vladimir Blagojevic (Dept. of Accordion at Faculty of Art Kragujevac - FILUM, Serbia), Mirco Patarini (Italian Accordion Culture - IAC, Italy), Frederic Deschamps (European Music Academy - EMA,

Milwaukee Accordion Club to feature Eric Noltkamper

Join the Milwaukee Accordion Club (MAC) on Monday, April 28, 2014 for their featured program and the Dance music of Eric Noltkamper and the Sidemen Reunion.

Eric has performed in at least 27 different states, Mexico and Canada. He has performed on three polka cruises and toured the country with bands such as, Frank Yankovic, Herb Eberle, Gordon Hartmann, Verne and Steve Meisner, Jeff Winard, Grant Kozera, Bob Doszak, Jack Tady, The Versatones, Lynn Marie, and countless others. He has appeared on at least 20 recordings outside of his own, performing on the bass, banjo, button accordion, drums, guitar, piano accordion, chromatic accordion, and piano.

For more information, please visit www.accordions.com/mac ■



France), Grayson Masfield (New Zealand Accordion Association - NZAA), Kevin Friedrich (USA-AAA and USA-ATG), Zoran Rakic, Danijela Rakic, Danijela Gazdic, Valentina Dutina and Sandra Ivanovic (Muzicka Akademija Istocno Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina), Andrej and Ina Stashevski (Guests at Congress from Ukraine)

Proxies Assigned: Anna Bodell for Tibor Racz (Methodical Centre of Accordion – Marta Szokeová - MCA, Slovakia) and Kevin Friedrich for Joan Sommers (CIA Vice President).

Apologies: Joan Sommers (Vice President CIA Executive Committee, USA), Tibor Racz (Vice President and Delegate for Methodical Centre of Accordion Marta Szokeová - MCA, Slovakia), Harley Jones (CIA Public Relations Manager, New Zealand), Vojjin Vasovic (member CIA Music Committee and Delegate of Dept. of Accordion at Faculty of Art in Kragujevac - FILUM, Serbia), Mindaugas Labanauskas (Vice President of Lithuanian National Accordionist's Union), Aleksandr Petrosyan (President Interregional Assoc. of Bayanists & Accordionists - MABA, Russia), Dalibor Boljun (Okud-Istra Pula, Croatia), Miljan Bjeletic (Faculty of Arts of the University of Niš, Serbia), Betty Jo Simon (President, USA-ATG), and Linda Soley Reed (President, USA-AAA).

The following is a summary of the General Assembly, with the full minutes being prepared for distribution by the General Secretary at a later date.

The longstanding Premier Voting member from the Netherlands the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Accordeon en Mondharmonika

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CIA Winter Congress in Sarajevo, cont'd from page 9

(NOVAM) withdrew CIA membership, citing extreme financial hardship making it necessary at this time.

Two new Voting Members were accepted to the CIA membership including:

- VZW Accordeon Salon (Belgium) – CIA contact: Jef de Haes
- International Art Centre and Acco Holiday Festival of Kiev (Ukraine) – CIA contact: Yan Tabachnik.

Two other applications were received at the Congress, so the Executive Committee recommended to the General Assembly that the decision would be taken on their membership at the General Assembly in Austria by which time they would have a chance to review the applications. The two associations pending approval are:

- Instituto Oswaldinho do Acordeon in Brazil
- Kulturna Mreža Jugoistočne Europe in Croatia.

One of the CIA Voting members from Lithuania has been re-named. The organization previously known as the Kaunas Accordion Society is now known as: Lithuanian National Accordionist's Union with Kazys Stonkus (President) and Mindaugas Labanuskas (Vice President).

CIA 80th Anniversary - 2015

The 2015 Winter Congress will begin the year long 80th Anniversary Celebration of the CIA which was founded in 1935 in Paris. To celebrate this, the CIA will host their 133rd General Assembly of Delegates and Winter Congress from 6-8 March 2015 in Paris at the Hotel de Louvre in the center of Paris. This promises to be an exciting beginning to our 80th Anniversary year, and already plans include inviting many of the former World Champions to join our festivities.

As plans for the Coupe Mondiale in Austria are well underway, the 2015 Coupe Mondiale is also being prepared in Turku, Finland from the 6-11 October. President, Raymond Bodell attended a Press Conference in Turku just prior to the Winter Congress, where he viewed the venue and met organizers in Finland. Plans are underway to have an extensive exhibition of the CIA Archives at this event. Ray Bodell and Kevin Friedrich will be assisting in this work and will spend some time in Finland working on the project.

Three nominations had been received for our CIA Awards. All were accepted as follows:

- CIA Merit Award: Luigi Brutti (Italy)
- CIA Merit Award: Herbert Scheibenreif (Austria)
- CIA Honored Friend of the Accordion: Marco Cinaglia (Italy)

The Music Committee finalized plans for the promotions of the new compositions that were accepted into the CIA Composers Port-

folio. The new works will be promoted through the CIA website and social media with the performance of the work and a sample of the score being available, as well as bio information on the composer and ordering information. They will also publish information online to assist composers in writing for the accordion. This will be updated periodically and coordinated by Grayson Masefield.

The Austrian Accordion Association (Harmonikaverband Österreichs - HVÖ) will hold a special category of competition under the auspices of the CIA to celebrate their famed composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Rules will be published very soon, but the competition will be for 1 - 6 accordion(s) with a 15 minute time limit. Candidates performing their favorite Mozart work will be chosen from submitted videos and adjudication will be open to all members of the CIA International Jury as well as the audience and Internet viewers watching on Livestream. The Trossingen Conservatory is donating a first prize of 1000.00 Euro.

As previously announced, this year's World Accordion Day will be broadcast from the CIA Headquarters from the evening of May 6, through the evening of May 7, 2014, in Ikaalinen. Host this year include Grayson Masefield, Frederic Deschamps, Raymond Bodell, Kimmo Mattila and Kevin Friedrich. CIA members have been contacted concerning details of submitting material for inclusion.

The General Assembly in Salzburg, Austria will oversee General Elections for all CIA committee positions (except President which was held in Victoria, Canada), will be held on Tuesday 28th October at 11.00 am. Positions up for election include Vice Presidents (3), General Secretary, Public Relations Manager, Chairperson of the Music Committee as well as the Music Committee itself, with positions of Vice Chairperson and five members open for election.

Other items discussed pertained to ensuring that the necessary tools were available to ensure Livestreaming of the Coupe Mondiale and Static Video for playback were available, that our contacts with the International Music Council and its membership representing all areas of the music world were continued to be developed, that our archive collection be continually expanded and that our automation from our technical team can continue to grow.

President Raymond Bodell offered sincere thanks to the host of the Winter Congress, the Muzicka Akademija Istocno Sarajevo (Eastern Sarajevo Music Academy) under the direction of Zoran Rakic. For all information on upcoming events please visit www.accordions.com/cia and www.coupemondiale.org.

Special thanks to AAA Board Member, Kevin Friedrich, who reported on this event. Thank you, Kevin! ■

Master Class and Concert Series (The Seminars) by Mayumi Miyaoka

How did you find out about the seminar? And what motivated you to attend one?

I've been playing accordion for about ten years, and I've always enjoyed being involved in the communities of accordion players and enthusiasts. As my husband and I were relocating to the East Coast at the end of the year 2010, my former accordion teacher from San Francisco Accordion Club, Sharon Walters recommended that I contact Dr. William Schimmel. Soon after we settled in Brooklyn, I contacted Dr. Schimmel, and he informed me of his Summer Seminar. I immediately registered for the seminar because it sounded like a lot of fun, and I wanted to meet accordion players and enthusiasts in NYC area.

Tell us about the seminar. What are they like?

The seminar covers all things accordion; history, philosophy, techniques... The seminar is opened with an introduction by Dr. Schimmel, and leads to topical presentations. The previous presentations include introductions to Claviola, accordion look-alike instrument,

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Ordinary + Proper
= Radiant



Sheng, the oldest ancestor of the reed instrument, and sound textures that you could create on an accordion etc. After the presentations, the floor is open for informal performances. You can perform a piece or two and receive critique from the audience. I've found the audience very friendly and supportive, and the comments received from them have been very helpful in improving my performing skills.

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Master Class & Concert Series, cont'd. from p. 10

You have been attending the seminar every summer ever since. What do you like about it?

Each summer, I learn something new from the presentations by Dr. Schimmel and his fellow musicians. It is inspiring to find out about the projects and the experiments that others have been working on. The concert in the evening is a must see, too!

Do you recommend the seminar to others? And why?

Yes, definitely! It is a great way to meet with accordionists and other musicians, and to learn about the infinite possibilities of the instrument. Regardless if you are new to the accordion or an experienced player, you will leave the seminar with inspiration to squeeze more!

Mayumi Miyaoka is the Founder of the Brooklyn Accordion Club which was formed last year. Through her efforts, the club has been selected as a Community Arts Fund grantee this year.

"Brooklyn Accordion Club is sponsored, in part, by the Greater New York Arts Development Fund of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC)." Congratulations! ■

The 2014 Mesa Accordion Event

By Gwyneth Lister, San Francisco Accordion Club

Accordions from morning to night – and a wonderful time was had by all. The 2014 Mesa Accordion Event included accordion players from 18 states, Canada and Italy. There were 55 players in the orchestra, wonderful workshops and lots of time to enjoy others performers in the evenings. Dan and Joan Grauman did an outstanding job organizing the event and our conductors were Stas Venglevski, Musical Director and Conductor and Joan Cochran Sommers, Guest of Honor and Assistant Conductor. Both were very special and worked to keep us on our toes.

The highlight of the Saturday night event was the celebration of Joan Cochran Sommers's 80th Birthday. Joan established the accordion degree program at Kansas City Conservatory of Music in 1961. Until her retirement in 2000, it was one of the most comprehensive accordion programs in the world. People were in attendance to honor Joan from American Accordionists' Association and the Accordionists and Teachers Guild International. A wonderful video was shared with good wishes to Joan from all over the world. Joan conducted two selections: "West Side Story Potpourri" and a medley from "Les Miserables." Both received a standing ovation from the audience of 350 people.

Stas Venglevski conducted "Moon River," "Variazioni in Blue," "My Funny Valentine," and two of his own pieces: "Polka Accelerando" and "Big Chuich Tarantella." Stas has shared his outstanding music with the San Francisco Accordion Club several times. He is a well known composer and tours extensively as a soloist.

The soloist for *Bring Him Home* from "Les Miserables" was Roza Borisova, an international Cello teacher and performer in the U.S. and Europe who is married to Stas Venglevski. She also received a standing ovation.

It was a wonderful week - we were sad to see it end, but many old friends were seen and new friends were made. We all love the accordion!!!

Thanks to Gwyneth Lister for allowing us to reprint this article on the Mesa Event from the San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter. Thanks, Gwyn! ■

AAA Valtaro Celebration Recognizes Frank Toscano

On Sunday, September 28, 2014 the AAA will host a Valtaro Celebration featuring music of the Val-Taro region of Northern Italy and recognizing one of the performers of the music known as Val-Taro, Frank Toscano. The event will be held at Riccardo's in Astoria (Queens) New York on Sunday, September 28th from noon until 5 with non-stop music for listening and dancing. Information will be available shortly - visit our website at www.ameraccord.com for details.



Born and raised in New York, Frank Toscanocame from an Italian family who valued the idea of music being played in the house constantly. Without a choice from his father, Frank took lessons on the Accordion under the direction of Emilio Chiesa and never dreamed that it would become the passion of his life! "Emilio provided me with a solid classical foundation, for which I am forever grateful. I was very fortunate to have such a great teacher who was also a Virtuoso Accordionist." As Frank continued through the years practicing, he mastered the instrument and it was only natural for him to become a professional musician. He wanted more though...more music... and so he learned, studied jazz and mastered the art of playing the Piano (taught himself) and at the age of twenty-one opened the Frank Toscano Music School.

Now some 50 years later, the school continues to flourish with young and not-so-young talent. Still teaching everyday, his undying passion for music and performing never seems to subside.

He has performed live with, and for, many artists including Michail Baryshnikov and Aidan Quinn and can also be heard on many recordings of other artists too numerous to mention. Frank performed for Steve Schirripa and the entire Soprano's cast to help launch an up-and-coming new T.V. show, He has also had the pleasure of performing with Joe Piscoppo and Vocalist, Debra Toscano. Frank has performed many steady engagements at many prominent clubs in the Tri-State area such as the Playboy Club, North Hempstead Country Club, Rockland Country Club and many more. Currently you can hear Frank perform solo at the Magnanini Winery and also in concert with the newly formed "Amazing Accordion Kings".

Among his accomplishments Frank has just finished arranging, conducting & performing on three great CD's. "Accordion To Frank", a solo CD which embraces the flavor of Traditional styled music laced with a hint of Modern Jazz paying homage to his Accordion heritage. The "The Amazing Accordion Kings" Volumes One and Two were arranged, performed and conducted with two other great Accordionists, Angelo DiPippo and Manny Corallo. These latest CD's contain compilations of Opera to Jazz. Frank Toscano, a true musician, a true professional...and most certainly a true artist. ■



AAA Members attending Mesa Event: Left to right: JoAnn Pankow, Peter DiGiovanni, Betty Fisher, Don Gerundo, Barbara Beier, Lenny Feldmann, Linda Soley Reed, Joan Grauman with "Metronome" (aka Metro), Lynn Ewing, Karen Lee, Amy Jo Sawyer, Brian Money, Marilyn O'Neil and Joan C. Sommers.



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Join us...

■ **April 6, 2014 – 12-5 pm**
Carrozza Scholarship Dinner
Magnanini Farm Winery • Wallkill, NY

Non-stop entertainment featuring Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo, Mary Tokarski and Julie Cardona, Frank Carozza, Dominic Karcic & Ray Oreggia, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Emilio Magnotta, Bob and Anita Siarkowski, The CT Accordion Orchestra conducted by AAA President, Linda Soley Reed and Special Guests Albert Manginelli, Cody McSherry, Rachel Quirbach & Nathan Chapetan.



■ **July 9-13, 2014**
AAA 2014 Festival

Double Tree by Hilton, Tarrytown, NY
Competitions • Workshops • Exhibits

Competitions for all ages including Coupe Mondiale qualifying categories. Guest Artists Vladimir Mollov, Dallas Vietty, Frank Carozza and more. Attendees are invited to perform with the AAA Festival Orchestra, AAA Jr. Festival Orchestra, and the Youth Involvement Jazz Program. Visit our website for competition rules, special categories and selections for Standard Solo and Duet categories.



■ **August 1-3, 2014 – 3-5 pm; 7-9 pm**
Master Class and Concert Series

The Everyday Accordion
Ordinary + Proper = Radiant
Tenri Cultural Institute, New York, NY
Master Class 3-5; Concerts 7-9

Three consecutive days of seminars, workshops, lectures, discussions and performances with accordionist-composer-author-philosopher, Dr. William Schimmel as Moderator/Curator.



■ **September 28, 2014 – 12-5 pm**
A Valtaro Celebration
Riccardo's by the Bridge
Astoria (Queens), NY

Guest of Honor – Frank Toscano
Non-stop dining, music and dancing!
Open Bar (5 hours)
Cocktail Hour with Hot and Cold
Hors D'Oeuvres served Buffet Style
Dinner Choice of:

Prime Rib
Chicken Francese
Broiled Salmon

