



Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

MAY-JUNE 2014



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

From the Editor

Welcome to the May 2014 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

As we begin the busy summer season, it is my pleasure to present to you accordion news from across the country. Some of the news items are from our members who are busy performing around the nation, while others pertain to a variety of interesting accordion events that might be of interest to our members.

Please be sure to let us know of your activities, so that we can share them with our readers who enjoy following accordion activities across the country and around the world, both in this printed edition, as well as in previous issues that are available online on the AAA website.

Once again, my sincere thanks to the AAA President Linda Reed and Board of Directors member Rita Davidson for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. Items for the July 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 July Newsletter will be June 15, 2014.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of the many upcoming events and meanwhile, thank you all for your tremendous support



Mozart Prize at 2014 Coupe Mondiale - Austria

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) 74th Coupe Mondiale and Festival will feature a category specifically dedicated to Austria's beloved Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The event, hosted by CIA member, the Harmonikaverband Österreichs (HVÖ) from October 27 to November 2, 2014 will take place in Mozart's home city of Salzburg, where Mozart was born on January 27, 1756.

The special Mozart category is for soloists, duos or ensembles up to a maximum of six musicians. Ensembles must have at least one accordionist and can be made up of multiple accordionists or accordionists with other instrumentalists. The candidate must present one Mozart piece, and part of a work is allowed, with a playing time of 15 minutes maximum.

The 1st Prize of 1000 Euro for the best interpretation of Mozart is being sponsored by Hohner-Konservatorium Trossingen.

For full details and requirements as well as a full schedule of events including advance ticket sales and accommodation information, please visit www.coupemondiale.org ■



Many of you have indicated that you would like to receive notifications via e-mail. If you would prefer receiving e-mails containing the newsletter and notification of any upcoming events, please send your e-mail address to ameraccord1938@gmail.com and indicate EMAIL in the subject line.

AAA Annual Master Class and Concert Series

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) annual Master Class and Concert Series will take place from August 1-3, 2014 with Master Classes from 3-5 p.m. and Concerts from 7-9 p.m. The Everyday Accordion: "Ordinary x Proper = Radiant" will be held at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City. You can choose any or all of three consecutive days of seminars, workshops, lectures, discussions and performances with accordionist-composer-author-philosopher, Dr. William Schimmel as Moderator/Curator.



*Stockhausen: a composer using an old form is enlisting a corpse
Schimmel: lets make miracles and raise the dead*

*Streep: gee Mr. Nichols, what do I get to do next? (re: Silkwood)
Schimmel: what do I get to do today? The more variety, the happier I am*

Welcome to the 20th anniversary year. It seems that every year, the accordion descends on New York – usually at the end of summer. And then everyone goes home until next year – or so it seems. What about the accordion in everyday life? In your home? In the Concert Hall (proper)?, the performance space? The bar and grill (ordinary)? At your sweet sixteen or 65th birthday? Or at a new music concert? At the strip mall? (or the strip club?), or at your place of worship? Why can't the accordion be an everyday affair? In our lives 24/7 – part of an actual radiant culture – sophisticated! strategic! real! unreal!

Join us for a weekend of our greatest hits, new ideas, old ideas made new and bold angles. Find out how the accordion fits into your daily life – everyday. In ordinary life – in proper life – in radiant life! For further information: billschimmel@billschimmel.com or call 212-876-0827. ■

Cage: everything we do is music

Schimmel: the accordion is music everyday

Columbus: the world is round

Friedmann: the world is flat

Schimmel: the world is bellows pleated – full of ins and outs

Dizzy Fingers: The Life of Joe Soprani

Accordionist Joe Soprani performed to a sell-out enthusiastic crowd on Sunday, March 9, 2014 at the World Cafe Live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where the world premiere of "Dizzy Fingers: The Life of Joe Soprani" took place.

Joe Soprani's performance (he will be 80 years old this summer) was a lesson to everyone who is involved in playing and learning music. Music is a life-long hobby or vocation. Playing an instrument is something everyone can do throughout life, no matter what level.

The musicians in the ensemble were: Joe Soprani, accordion; Len Oranzi, guitar; Ed Hagopian, piano; Bill Zinno, bass and Patrick McHenry, drums. The audience was delighted with the selections offered and Joe's performance was described as lively and inspiring.

After the musicians performed, film producer Brendan McGeehan introduced the world premiere of "Dizzy Fingers: The Life of



Joe Soprani" which explores a remarkable life filled with music. With the help of interviews with people in Joe's life, including Obie O'Brien (Bon Jovi), Susan Ashbaker (Opera Company of Philadelphia), and Joe Parente (president, Local 77), the film examines the true talents of a masterful musician. With the accordion seeing a great resurgence in contemporary pop and indie music, the time is now to recognize the man who never left it behind.

Brendan is a true utility player in the music industry. A trained recording engineer and studied musician, he is adept and comfortable behind the board, in the producer's chair, as well as performing bass, piano, guitar, or ukulele on the other side of the glass.

After the program, both Joe and Brendan graciously greeted their audience. This interesting documentary is highly recommended. For further information: joesoprani@gmail.com or mcgeehan.brendan@gmail.com

AAA members and friends got to see this wonderful documentary at the March 30th Open Meeting at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany during the MAMTG and AAMS events, and Brendan will be at the AAA Festival in Tarrytown to present a workshop on filmmaking and also to show the documentary to anyone who is interested. ■

Festival and Fund-raiser Honoring Willard Palmer

A World of Accordions Museum is proud to announce the May 3-4, 2014, second annual festival celebrating Dr. Willard Palmer, whose musical estate is preserved in this institution. Palmer's genius affects generations in world culture from the 1940s into the future. Translated into 17 languages and used by music teachers worldwide, Palmer-Hughes piano, organ, guitar, and accordion method books (numbering 790) tutor inestimable millions of aspirants at all levels. His 145 Masterwork editions for Alfred Music are considered definitive for Baroque, Classic, and Romantic epochs' performance practice.

The focus of this event involves presentation of Palmer's magnificent 10-foot harpsichord encased in gold leaf and vermillion,

featuring two manuals and eleven-pedals controlling six plectra. The instrument, built in 1979 by A. Cecil Taylor with soundboard hand painted by southwest artist Grant Tinkler, was transported to the museum in the summer of 2013 and installed at stage-center in AWAM's Hanni Strahl Concert Hall. After years of musical silence, restorations were undertaken by engineer Roger Schmitz and harpsichord builder Paul Wartman with advice from Willard Palmer, III.

Over twenty performers playing accordions, violins, piano and folk drums in solo, ensemble and orchestral settings are slated in concerts featuring original works for free-bass accordion by Hans Brehme, Hugo Herrmann, Palmer editions and unpublished man-

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Festival and Fund-raiser Honoring Willard Palmer, cont'd. from page 2

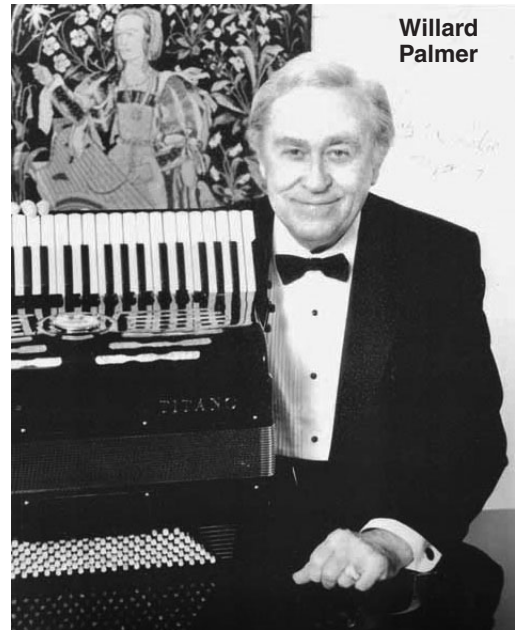
uscripts. DSSO violinist Carolyn Carver and museum curator Helmi Harrington will present programs including UMD lyric soprano Amanda Bush and Palmer's great Titano Super Emperor. Harrington will also present a lecture/demonstration of two-dozen historic instruments explaining ethnic and artistic differences that inspired their inventions, tuning specialties and pitch organizations. Her research into the dissemination of Equal Temperament through accordion-family instruments will be described.

Event highpoints will be entertainments by Willard Palmer, III, master of magic, mystery and mirth, who has delighted royalty and commoners throughout the world. This multifaceted entertainer combines music, humor and encyclopedic knowledge in ways that astounded all who heard him at last year's festival. He and his wife, Julie, who are generous donors of the Palmer estate, will elucidate cultural influences through music on banjos and accordions.

A curator-guided tour of the museum will include displays about its affiliate organization The American Accordionists' Association. The AAA Archival Collection room offers a public face and research repository for this group that contributes to social, cultural, and musical history since its founding in 1938.

The beloved, prize-winning chronicler of cultural history in the Midwest, Dr. Anthony Bukoski, will read from his new work "Pulaski Day in Polka Town."

Refreshments will be provided throughout both days. Admission is \$50.00 for all events, \$15.00 per individual event. ■



AAA Valtaro Celebration

On Sunday, September 28, 2014, the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) will host a Valtaro Celebration featuring music of the Valtaro region of Northern Italy and recognizing one of the performers of the music known as Valtaro, Frank Toscano. The event will be held at Riccardo's in Astoria (Queens), New York on Sunday, September 28 from noon until 5 p.m. with non-stop music for listening and dancing. The event will be held at Riccardo's by the Bridge, 21-01 wrth Avenue, Astoria, NY 11102. Cost is \$67.00 per person and includes open bar, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, choice of Prime Rib, Boneless Breast of Chicken Francese or Broiled Filet os Almon, dessert and coffee. Details and order form will be available shortly on the AAA website, www.ameraccord.com.



Born and raised in New York, Frank Toscano came 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 and performing on three great CDs: "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 Amazing Accordion Kings," volumes one and two were arranged, performed and conducted with two other great accordionists, Angelo DiPippo and Manny Corallo. These latest CDs contain compilations of Opera to Jazz. Frank Toscano is a true musician, a true professional and most certainly a true artist. ■

Joey Miskulin in Upcoming Concerts

The band "Riders in the Sky," featuring accordionist Joey Miskulin, was recently featured at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee.

"Riders in the Sky" is comprised of lead singer/guitarist, Ranger Doug (Douglas B. Green), singer/fiddler Woody Paul (Paul Chrisman), singer/bassist, Too Slim (Fred LaBour) and accordionist Joey, the Cowpolka King (Joey Miskulin).

Based in Nashville, Riders in the Sky has performed in over 6,200 live performances, almost 300 national television appearances, over 200 public radio shows, 700 Grand Ole Opry appearances, three television series (including a 1991–92 CBS Saturday morning show), an appearance on an episode of "Duck Dodgers" on Cartoon Network and more than 30 albums. The group also wrote and appeared in numerous Christmas specials on TNN and CMT in the 1990s.

Riders in the Sky performed with "America's Got Talent" finalist, Taylor Ware at the Grand Ole Opry when she was nine years old. They also appeared in an episode of "Barney & Friends." The Riders currently appear as musical spokesmen in a series of Yella Wood commercials. These popular ads spoof the 1930s era Western singing cowboy serials. They have won two Grammy Awards and have written and performed music for major motion pictures, including "Woody's Roundup" from "Toy Story 2" and Pixar's short film, "For the Birds."

Joseph M. Miskulin is a hall of fame accordionist and producer of Grammy Award-winning albums. In a music career spanning more than four decades, Joey Miskulin has collaborated with a range of artists including Paul McCartney, John Denver, Ricky Skaggs, Andy Williams, Ricky Van Shelton, Emmylou Harris, Frankie Yankovic and many others. He is a performer, studio musician, producer and pedagogue.

He appeared in U2's movie and album, "Rattle and Hum," and his TV credits include the "Tonight Show," "Donahue" and other national appearances.

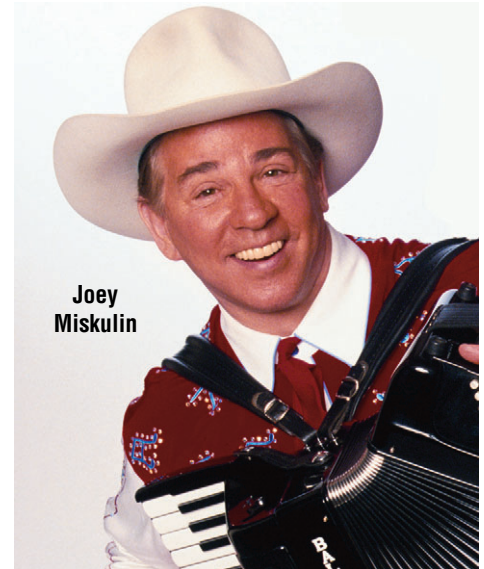
Future performance dates are:

May 26, 2014 Pigeon Forge, TN - Dollywood's Celebrity Theatre

May 27, 2014 Pigeon Forge, TN - Dollywood's Celebrity Theatre

May 31, 2014 Des Moines, IA - Temple Theater

May 31, 2014 Des Moines, IA - Temple Theater



Renowned Hollywood Composer is Crazy About Accordion!

Bear McCreary is an American composer and musician living in Los Angeles, California. He is best known for his work on the reimagined "Battlestar Galactica" television series and for the TV series "The Walking Dead" and more recently McCreary won an Emmy for his role in "Da Vinci's Demons" for which he composes all the music.

McCreary, of Irish and Armenian descent, was born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and spent most of his formative years in Bellingham, Washington. He is the son of author Laura Kalpakian and professor Jay McCreary of the University of Hawaii.

McCreary earned degrees in Composition and Recording Arts from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, and is a classically trained pianist and avid accordionist. He studied under the renowned film score composer Elmer Bernstein during which time he reconstructed and reorchestrated Bernstein's 1963 score for "Kings of the Sun." Their collaboration allowed for the complete score to be available as a soundtrack album for the first time in forty years. He has also directed and produced several music videos for his brother Brendan McCreary's band, Young Beautiful in a Hurry.

McCreary has composed all the music for "Da Vinci's Demons", an American historical fantasy drama series that presents a fictional account of Leonardo Da Vinci's early life. The series premiered in the United States in 2013 and was renewed for a second season, which debuted March 22, 2014.

As an accordionist, "Prelude to War" for Accordion Orchestra, in which he plays all the parts, is a project he initiated after seeing fans uploading performances to YouTube of his piano compositions for the series, on instruments other than piano. He wondered if he could contribute something himself and he picked up his accordion and started playing around with some of his "Battlestar Galactica" tunes.

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Bear says: "The only piece from the "Battlestar Galactica" (BSG) score that actually featured accordion was "The Dance" from Season 3, and of course, making a video of that was always an option. But, that piece is fairly repetitive and not a good example of all the sounds an accordion can create. So, I wanted to try something a lit-

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Hollywood Composer Crazy About Accordion, cont'd from page 4

tle more ambitious, well, actually a LOT more ambitious. I decided to try one of the most complex and dynamic pieces I ever wrote for Battlestar: "Prelude to War."

"My first plan was to arrange it in such a way that it could be played in one take. While this is technically possible, it required dramatic alterations to the music and there were elegant contrapuntal lines that would have had to be completely removed from the music. So, I opened the door to allowing 'a few' overdubs. 'A few' quickly escalated!

"Eventually, I decided that I'd try to recreate EVERY SINGLE NOTE from "Prelude to War" and transcribe them exactly as they existed in the original recording to the accordion. The percussion was especially challenging, and I had to get clever with my mic placement to get something even vaguely resembling a taiko drum sound out of my antique instrument.

"But, I think it worked. Every sound you are hearing in this song is coming from my accordion. I recorded it all through a Sennheiser MZX 8000, and used minimal EQs. I ran the final mix through a simple Altiverb concert hall setting. There are no samples, no hidden instruments, no trick edits."

For more information on this engaging young Hollywood composer and accordion lover, please visit: www.bearmccreary.com. ■



AAA Board Member Joins World of Accordions Museum Board

Dr. Helmi Harrington, Curator of the World of Accordions Museum, is proud to announce the appointment of Kevin Friedrich to its Board of Directors during his visit in January 2014.

Kevin's breadth of expertise extends to many fields which we expect will greatly benefit this institution.

As past-president of the Confédération Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA), he is respected in accordion circles worldwide. In addition to being on the Board of Directors for the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG), Kevin also serves on the Board of the American Accordionists' Association (AAA), with which the Museum is affiliated, and is a performing artist of renown.

As founder/curator of the "Accordion Gems, A Master Collection of Accordions Through Time" at the Dargaville Museum, in Dargaville, New Zealand, and having successfully establishing the "CIA Archive Collection" housed in Ikaalinen, Finland, he is intimately familiar with operations and requirements of this type of organization. His regard for our museum and friendship with its curator (Dr. Helmi Harrington) have solid for decades. The board unanimously welcomes his involvement in our future.

The Museum houses thousands of important and historical instruments profiling the diverse and rich history of the accordion family, an extensive collection of music titles, tributes to accordion greats and institutions that shaped the accordion life in the United States, and features the important American Accordionists' Association



Dr. Helmi Harrington and Kevin Friedrich

Archival room for which Kevin made suggestions to enhance the displays illuminating social, cultural, and musical contributions of their stellar 75-year history.

Kevin is looking forward to helping World of Accordions Museum, under the curatorship of long-time friend, Dr. Helmi Harrington and her Board of Directors, in their work to preserve the history of the instrument and all those that have taken it to the tremendous heights it enjoys today.

While visiting the Museum, Kevin conducted an extremely interesting "Celebrity Interview" with Dr. Helmi Harrington for Accordions Worldwide. This interview will be published in the next edition of the AAA Newsletter. ■



Pictured at left is an elaborate display of AAA magazines dating back to the early 1950s

Bryant Park in New York City Once Again Features Accordionists All Summer Long

Visitors and residents of New York City alike are invited to relax in Bryant Park after work as New York City offers "Accordions Around the World" from 5- .00 p.m. each Tuesday evening from May 6 to July 29, 2014.

Each summer for many years now, accordionists have performed to throngs of New Yorkers relaxing in the open air haven of Bryant Park, and this year listeners will enjoy a cross-cultural musical journey from France to Colombia, from the Balkans to Louisiana, from Cumbia to Jazz and more, with accordions, harmoniums, concertinas, and bandoneons. Accordionists will perform throughout the park while a band with different infectious, global beats performs each week on the Fountain Terrace.

Attendees of the 75th AAA Festival in New York City will remember the magnificent massed accordion orchestra conducted by Frank Busso performing in Bryant Park, as well as numerous other performances by International Guests such as Alexander Poeluev (Russia) and Lionel Reekie (New Zealand), as well as numerous American accordionists who were stationed in all areas of the park for visitors to enjoy.

Bryant Park is situated behind the New York Public Library in midtown Manhattan, between 40th and 42nd Streets & Fifth and Sixth Avenues. Take the B, D, F, or M train to 42nd Street/Bryant Park or take the 7 to 5th Avenue. ■



Clareman Noel to Perform in New York City

Clareman Noel is considered by many to be Ireland's greatest concertina player. He revolutionized the sound of the little hexagonal-ended squeezebox back in the 1970s with a style and repertoire that supplemented classic Clare concertina playing with sophisticated ornamentation and chordal accompaniment borrowed from the uilleann piping tradition. Noel is a magnificent solo performer that New Yorkers haven't had a chance to hear in a long time, and listeners are advised to mark this rare appearance on their calendars, as one is never certain when this legend might be heard again in person in the Big Apple.

Noel Hill comes from County Clare on the west coast of Ireland, where the concertina tradition is so strong the instruments was nicknamed "the Clareman's Trumpet" and legend has it there was once a concertina in every other household. It was into one of these households that Noel Hill was born, and as a young child Noel was forbidden to touch his older brother's concertina. But he couldn't keep his hands off the instrument and was always stealing away with it. One

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AAA Festival 2014
July 9-13 • Double Tree by Hilton
Tarrytown, New York

**Competition information, event packages
advertising options all online at
www.ameraccord.com**

**Performers and Workshops
will be updated shortly.**



Guy Klucevsek in Concert

Guy Klucevsek, a well known concert accordionist around the world, has performed and/or recorded with Laurie Anderson, Bang On a Can, Brave Combo, Anthony Braxton, Anthony Coleman, Dave Douglas, Bill Frisell, Rahim al Haj, Robin Holcomb, Kepa Junkera, the Kronos Quartet, Natalie Merchant, Present Music, Relâche, Zeitgeist, and John Zorn.

He is the recipient of a 2010 United States Artists Collins Fellowship, an unrestricted \$50,000 award given annually to "America's finest artists." During his career, he has premiered over 50 solo accordion pieces, including his own, as well as those he has commissioned from Mary Ellen Childs, William Duckworth, Fred Frith, Aaron Jay Kernis, Jerome Kitzke, Stephen Montague, Somei Satoh, Lois V Vierk, and John Zorn.

Performances include the Ten Days on the Island Festival (Tasmania), the Adelaide Festival (Australia), the Berlin Jazz Festival, Lincoln Center, Spoleto Festival/USA, BAM Next Wave Festival, Cotati Accordion Festival, San Antonio International Accordion Festival, Vienna International Accordion Festival, and the children's television show "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood."

His 1987 project, *Polka From the Fringe*, a collection of commissioned polkas by Fred Frith, Elliott Sharp, Bobby Previte, Carl Finch, et. al., toured around the world and was released on 2 CDs on the Eva label, and were named "best recordings 1992" on WNYC-FM's "New Sounds" program.

In 1996, he founded Accordion Tribe, an international ensemble of composer/accordionists Otto Lechner (Austria), Maria Kalanemi (Finland), Lars Hollmer (Sweden), Bratko Bibic (Slovenia) and himself. They toured internationally from 1996-2009, are the subjects of Stefan Schwietert's award-winning documentary film, *Accordion Tribe: Music Travels*, and released 3 CDs on the Intuition (Germany) label.

His music theatre scores include "Chinoiserie" and "Obon" with Ping Chong and Company, "Hard Coal," with the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, "Industrious Angels" for Laurie McCants, "Cirque Lili" for French circus artist Jérôme Thomas, which has been performed over 250 times world wide, always with live music, and his own piece, "Squeeze Play," an evening of collaborations with Dan Hurlin, David Dorfman and Dan Froot, Claire Porter, and Mary Ellen Childs. He and Dan Hurlin were awarded, jointly, a BESSIE for, "The Heart of the Andes," which has played the Henson International Puppetry Festival, The Barbican Center in London, and the Ten Days on the Island Festival, Tasmania.

Klucsevsek has released over 20 recordings as soloist/leader on Tzadik, Winter & Winter, Innova, Starkland, Review, Intuition,

Clareman Noel, cont'd from page 6

day when his brother was laboring through a hornpipe, Noel gave himself away by taking the concertina and playing the tune with ease. That got everyone's attention, and he's had it ever since.

Noel Hill has taken the humble concertina from the house dances of County Clare on the west coast of Ireland to stages throughout the world. The concertina, like Irish music itself, is currently enjoying a tremendous increase in popularity, and Noel Hill is at the forefront of this movement, not only as an awe-inspiring performer but as teacher and a well respected authority on Ireland's music.

In his hands, the concertina is a new instrument, yet resounds with the integrity of generations, for Noel Hill makes the music new not through experimentation in other genres, but through consummate exploration and illumination from within traditional Irish music.

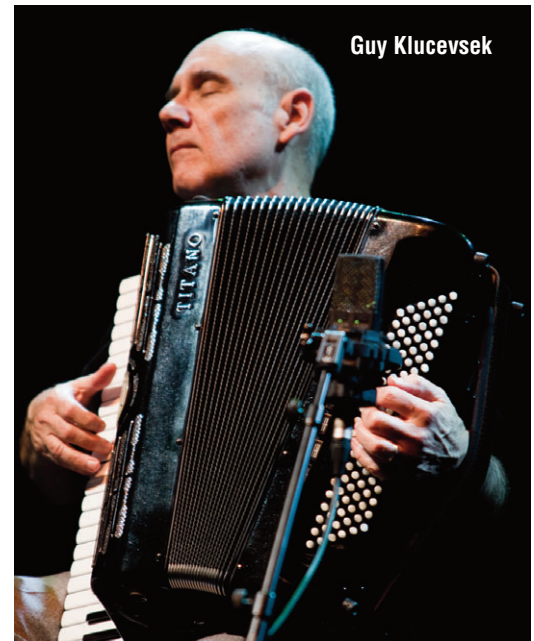
Noel's concert will appear as part of the Blarney Star Concert Series on Friday, May 16, 8:00 p.m. at Glucksman Ireland House, at NYU in New York City. ■

CRI, and XI. Stereo Review cited his Starkland recording, Transylvanian Software, as a recording of special merit" (1995). He can also be heard on John Williams's orchestral scores for the Steven Spielberg films, "The Terminal," "Munich," "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," and "The Adventures of Tin-Tin," and on A. R. Rahman's score for "People Like Us."

His upcoming concert engagements include: Sunday, May 18, 2014, Sunday, 7 p.m. in Brooklyn, NY; May 30, 7:30 p.m. in San Francisco, CA - Walking Distance Dance Festival

Ruth Doesn't Live Here Anymore, inspired by the life and work of modern dance pioneer, Ruth St. Denis. Choreography by Lionel Popkin, music for accordion & violin by Guy Klucevsek, performed live; May 31, 2014: Berkeley, CA, House Concert; June 8, 2014: 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. in Los Angeles, CA; June 12-14, 2014 in Los Angeles, CA: Ruth Doesn't Live Here Anymore; August 2-3 2014: Chatham, NY Ruth Doesn't Live Here Anymore.

For more information on these performances, please visit: www.guyklucevsek.com ■



Guy Klucevsek

Guy Klucevsek will be featured artist at the AAA Festival in Tarrytown, NY on Friday evening, July 11 in the Grand Ballroom of the Double Tree by Hilton. Violinist, Todd Reynolds, will join Guy for this performance. He will also present a "Meet the Composer / Performer" workshop.

For ticket information, please visit www.ameraccord.com

Accordionist to Appear at Carnegie Hall

This fall, famed Carnegie Hall in New York City will be the venue for accordionist, Branko Džinović when he performs in Weill Recital Hall on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 7:30 p.m..

Branko Džinović is an accordion artist focused on contemporary repertoire. He holds a Master's degree from the Anton Bruckner Private University for Music in Linz, Austria, and is currently pursuing a DMA degree at the University of Toronto.

Branko has participated in numerous accordion competitions; records for Radio Belgrade, Radio Austria 1, and the BBC; and tours internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. An avid proponent of avant-garde music, he has shared the stage with improvisers such as Pavel Fajt, Mia Zabelka, and many more. Džinović also composes in various genres, and has composed soundtracks for two award-winning short films.

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Accordionist in Carnegie Hall, cont'd. from page 7

He was born in 1981 in Šabac (Serbia), where he began his accordion studies at primary music school. Following this, he attended secondary school with Serbian professor, Radomir Tomic in Kragujevac.

At the CIA Coupe Mondiale in London in October 2001, he won first prize in the inaugural International Competition for Piano Accordion receiving the title of "World Champion" in this division. This prestigious competition win resulted in a highly successful concert tour of Australia and New Zealand, organized by the Australian Accordion Teachers Association and the New Zealand Accordion Association.

The exact program will be announced. However he plans to include works by Berio, Salvatore Sciarrino, John Zorn, Stravinsky, and others. ■



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Dominic Karcic with Tenor Rinaldo Toglia

Accordionist Dominic Karcic and tenor Rinaldo Toglia recently performed at Antonette's Classico Restaurant in Rockville Centre, NY on Thursday, April 24, 2014. Performing music from the American Song Book, Broadway, Tin Pan Alley, Opera, Operatta plus much more, the popular accordion and vocal duo offer something for all.



Originally from Astoria, NY, Dominic Karcic attended New York College of Music where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree and continued his education at the City University of New York (CCNY) where he received his Master's degree in Music.

Equally at home with classical, as well as cross-over music, Rinaldo is a popular guest artist in many resorts throughout, the country from Florida to Phoenix. Rinaldo's night club act has been showcased at New York's famous Cabaret clubs, "Feinsteins at the Lowes Theatre" and "Birdland." Rinaldo has toured the world as a headliner for major cruise lines such as Holland America and Cunard.

For information on upcoming performances, please e-mail: Dominic Karcic: dkarcic10@verizon.net ■

Long Island Accordion Alliance features Smörgåsbandet

The next meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) sponsored by La Villini Restaurant will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 6.00 p.m. Attendees are invited to enjoy the festive music of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) and featured guest artists "Smörgåsbandet."

Smörgåsbandet features Jeanne Eriksson Andersen and Wayne Söderlund (Accordion and Vocals) and Chad Widman (Drums and Vocals). Attired in their Scandinavian folk costumes, Smörgåsbandet is bound to bring back memories or make new ones with their

extensive repertoire. They love what they do and they do what they love!

Jeanne is the daughter of the late well-known accordionist Walter Eriksson, and was brought up in the very Scandinavian community of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. She has been dancing since age 5 and playing accordion and piano since childhood. Swedish-American of the Year 2005, Jeanne was knighted by the King of Sweden in 1996 with the Order of the Polar Star medal. Her grand-parents immigrated to America in the early 1900s from Sweden and Finland.

Wayne's paternal grandparents were from Sweden, and Wayne has been playing accordion all his life. Specializing in jazz, Wayne discovered Scandinavian music through the Scandinavian Accordion Club of NY, where he met Jeanne and Chad.

Chad is Jeanne's son and is a "natural" and very animated percussionist.

Smörgåsbandet has performed at the Norst Hostfest in North Dakota; the Scandinavian Festival of Atlanta, Georgia; Scandfest of New Jersey; Sweden Day of New York; Scandinavian Night at Eisenhower Park, Long Island, NY; and countless Scandinavian events on board yachts, in restaurants, banquet halls, picnics and private backyards!

The LIAA meets at La Villini Restaurant on 288 Larkfield Road in East Northport, NY 11731 beginning at 6.00 PM. For reservations, please contact: 631-261-6344 or visit: www.la-villini.com. ■



Youth Involvement Program - 2014

Marilyn O'Neil, Coordinator

What does it mean when kids want to come back to something??? It's the question I've asked myself several times since I began planning for this year's Youth Involvement Program. And the answer leaves me with a childlike smile on my face.

They like it. Period. **BIG SMILE!!**

Nearly all of the accordionists who participated last year are returning to play in the Jazz ensemble that will be conducted by Vladimir Mollov. Returnees include Rachel Quirbach, Liam Mc Cool, Tor Stumo, Nathan Chapeton, and Liubov Pak. These young accordionists are clearly either on their way to or have already achieved virtuoso status in the accordion world. They see the value in "pressing on the envelope" by adding a jazz experience to their list of accomplishments on the accordion.

But let's face it: they're kids. So when I asked them to tell me why they want to return for another round of "Youth Involvement," they all said the same thing: **IT'S FUN!!!** And I can say that it **IS** fun, and not only for them. This old lady gets to relive her youth by watching these young people tackle a demanding (yet understanding) conductor, learn music that's challenging, rehearse for just a few hours and, finally, deliver a performance before a crowd of seasoned accordion listeners.

I most recently relived my youth in a big way at the Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Event, held April 6 of this year. A fresh faced, blue-eyed Cody Mc Sherry approached me with a mixture of child-like innocence and burgeoning confidence. "I'd really like to be in the jazz ensemble," he stated. It was clearly a question, not a statement. I looked down, realizing this boy had probably grown 3 inches since I'd last seen him, and that I'd probably be looking up at him come July. But more than that, he reminded me of being a child so mesmerized by a musical instrument, so determined to express himself through it, so full of joy at doing so, that the answer to his question was obvious.

"You really want to do this?" I asked

"Yes!" he replied, with the confidence of a very old soul.

"Then you're in!!" was my reply.

Cody had just become our newest addition to the Accordion section of the Youth Involvement Program. **BIG SMILE.**

And what of the rest of this year's ensemble? We welcome back Mitch Guido and Catherine Chung on sax, Deanna Forella on flute, Rebecca Poole on clarinet, Kaitlin D'Amico on bass guitar, Matt



Buckley on trumpet and Mike Rasimas on drums. All of them, with the exception of Mike (CT), are from the New York area, and they have arranged their hectic summer schedules to play once more alongside their accordionist colleagues. And I use the term "colleagues" on purpose, folks. The majority of these young musicians, under the direction of jazz great Joe Cerrito, joined us last year for a preliminary rehearsal at my house in Connecticut. I recall watching them traipsing up my driveway, instruments in hand, skepticism on their faces.

After all, the majority of them had jazz ensemble experience; some of it pretty extensive. Most of them had never even seen an accordion before. We all watched them warm up with a mixture of recognition and awe. (All of us except Cerrito, of course....)

Then they heard the accordions, and I can say with a good degree of confidence that both groups of musicians, accordionists and non accordionists alike, had an eye opening experience. **"THIS WORKS!! AND IT'S FUN!!!"**

BIG SMILE.

Move to New York. More rehearsing, eating together, listening to each other jam and solo, and finally performing to the delight of both Conductor and audience; Exhilarating and **FUN**. No pressure to compete. Just the joy of a good push on the musical envelope; a chance to see what else musical lies within.

This year's conductor follows a line of experienced, committed and highly respected jazz accordionists who have led our youthful participants over the last 3 years; among them, Eddie Monteiro, Don Gerundo and Joe Cerrito. Mr. Vladimir Mollov is an internationally recognized Balkan Folk and Jazz accordionist, having studied extensively in Bulgaria. He has won numerous awards in his native country, as well as in Italy for his skill on the instrument. An accomplished composer and arranger, Vladimir has created original instrumental pieces combining Balkan Folk, Jazz and Fusion styles. He concerts regularly and recently released his first album. He is a featured artist for Siwa and Figli Accordions. He is arranging the pieces for this year's program. A new father, Vlad is very excited about the prospect of working with this year's musicians in a unique program format.

As Program Coordinator the fourth time around, I continue to marvel at the feelings this experience brings out in me. A kid at heart, it's easy to relate to the youthful exuberance. As a mother, I can feel pride when I watch them play, and when I see the looks on their parents' faces as they, too, watch their kids perform. As a sister of sorts, I tagged alongside Eddie Monteiro and Don Gerundo, holding up the fort for my "brothers." And I couldn't help but feel daughterly awe for Mr. Cerrito, who stepped right back into his role as leader of the band.

It remains an honor to do this for the AAA and for the accordion world. On to New York!! ■

Meet Lauren Brody

By Joan Grauman

We are excited to announce that well-known New York City accordionist and singer Lauren Brody will be presenting a workshop at the 2014 AAA Festival in Tarrytown, NY. In her workshop, "The 'Trill' of Balkan Music", Lauren will present a survey of the gorgeous, but finger-challenging ornamentation in Bulgaria, Romania and Macedonia.

Lauren Brody was born in New York City, and has been involved with music since early childhood. A classically trained pianist, she received a B.A. in music from the City University of New York, and pursued a Master's Degree in Music before changing course to devote herself to the restoration and tuning of pianos.

Lauren first became aware of Bulgarian music as a teenager, and was so deeply impressed with what she heard that, in 1969, she made her solo first trip to Bulgaria. That initial trip sparked a life-long interest and commitment to the music and the culture, despite the fact that Lauren has no Bulgarian ancestry. In 1971, during the Communist era in Bulgaria, when visitors from the West were not welcome in the region, it is remarkable

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Lauren Brody

Lauren Brody, cont'd from page 9

that she received a stipend from the Bulgarian government to do post-graduate study in Bulgarian folk music at the State Music Conservatory in Sofia.

It was during this period that she was first introduced to old 78 rpm recordings of Bulgarian folk music. These recordings were to become a subject of great future interest for Lauren. Visit her website www.songofthecrookeddance.com to see the results of years of research and collecting. Because of her efforts, a substantial body of excellent old recordings were recovered, preserved and re-mastered.

In addition to her research activities, Lauren has been an active performer and teacher of Bulgarian folk music and singing. She appears on two CDs as vocalist and keyboard player with the Yuri Yunakov Ensemble, and has been teaching at seminars since the early 1970s. Lauren has just started a blog on Balkan accordion playing called "Lauren Brody's Accordion Bytes" at www.laurenbrody.com/blog. She leads a dual life as a Klezmer musician, and has been a member of the Klezmer bands Kapelye and Mikveh, with whom she has appeared in films, recorded and toured extensively through the U.S., Canada and Europe. ■

Master Class and Concert Series (The Seminars)

by Erica Mancini

Each year that I attend The American Accordionists' Association Master Class and Concert Series, I fall in love. It's not the crisp white piano keys, the smooth varnish, and shiny metal adornment, nor is it the beeswax, wooden blocks, or little round buttons that make my heart ache. It's not the physical object that enchants me, but rather the spirit of the accordion that captivates me.

One year ago, I had just graduated from NYU Gallatin, The School of Individualized Study. I was passionately looking for a job, wearing a sundress, and playing my accordion. Now, one year later, my job is my passion—wearing sundresses and playing accordion. While at Gallatin, my main focus delved deep into the study of sub-cultures, music, and identity. I explored many fields, spanning from ethnographic research to critical theory to the accordion. I studied privately under Dr. William Schimmel, who mentored me through my whole college experience not only as an accordionist, but also as a scholar. He was able to bring cohesion to the wide breadth of my studies through his keen ability to piece together seemingly unrelated concepts, oftentimes through the familiar lens of the accordion. His pedagogy proved to be a perfect fit for my education because of the vast amount of interdisciplinary knowledge needed to create challenge and innovation.

An oily and distorted reflection looks back at me from the slick, licorice lacquer of the accordion nestled on my lap. The shiny metal clasps are like miniature fun house mirrors, making my gazing face as well the surrounding room of The Tenri Cultural Institute distort, like a glass fishbowl. It is at The Seminars, now celebrating it's twentieth year, with Dr. Schimmel as a curator and moderator that the otherwise parallel tracks of our individual journeys collide, and the collective identity of the community has a chance to incubate. Though our paths only cross for a short moment in time, we have the privilege to share with one another valuable knowledge and experiences gleaned from the past year. We divulge secrets and dreams, questions and uncertainties to one another. Without fail, I always leave the weekend of The Seminars injected with a magic tonic of inspiration that reawakens the spirit of self-motivation, education, passion, experimentation, and determination that to me represents the spirit of the accordion that I love so much. ■

Carrozza Scholarship Dinner

The Carrozza Scholarship Dinner, chaired once again by Dr. Joseph Ciccone, was a huge success and we were delighted to have a few of our young performers participate. Thanks to Cody McSherry, Rachel Quirbach, Nathan Chapetan and Albert Manginelli and their families for their participation and the young musicians even took part in the Grand Finale when all the pros and the youngsters performed the "Jolly Caballero."



Thanks to the musicians who gave of their time and music for the Scholarship Dinner: Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo, Frank Carozza, Ray Oreggia, Dominic Karcic, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Julie Cardona, Mary Tokarski Emilio Magnotta, Anita & Bob Siarkowski, the Connecticut Accordion Orchestra conducted by AAA President, Linda Soley Reed, and Master of Ceremonies – Lenny Feldmann. Let's not forget our amazing percussionists: Mike Rasimas, Phil Battiston and Ricci Saracino. Thank you – your talents are appreciated!

Congratulations to Ray Banach of North Arlington, NJ who won the 50/50 raffle! See you next year.



Above: Albert Manginelli, Cody McSherry and Nathan Chapetan join the group jam. Missing from photo was Rachel Quirbach



Right: Beverly Roberts Curnow joins Ray Oreggia and Dom Karcic for a set of dance music.



Left: Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo and Frank Carozza team up for some favorite Italian melodies.

Photos courtesy of Pete Sbuttoni.

Coast to Coast

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

Austin, TX

The festival 'Squeezebox Mania' celebrated its eight year at Threadgills WHQ, Barton Springs, Riverside, Austin, Texas, on Saturday April 12th, featuring Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys, Joel Guzman & Sarah Fox with Los Aztexs, and Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones in concert, as well as workshops by Steve Riley and Joel Guzman on diatonic accordion. The festival was founded by Joel Guzman & Sarah Fox.

Hampton, NJ

The date for the New Jersey based Accordion Pops Orchestra's tribute to the late great classical accordionist Carmen Carrozza has been changed from Sunday, April 27th, 2014 at 2:00 PM at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, New Jersey to the new date of November 2, 2013.

Lenny Feldmann will be the commentator and master of ceremonies. Norway's accordion virtuoso Håvard Svensrud, who performed with the orchestra at Kean University in October 2013, will return as a featured soloist.

Dinner and concert tickets are \$50. All proceeds will benefit the Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund. For tickets and information please contact: Rosemarie Cavanaugh 732-257-8198 or for more information about the Accordion Pops Orchestra: alterzo@hotmail.com

Los Angeles, CA

Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience won Best Regional Roots Music Album at the 2014 56th Grammy Awards which took place in Los Angeles, CA. on April 6th, 2014. The Grammy Awards, for more than 50 years, are the only peer-presented award in the recording industry, without regard to album sales or chart position. Simien recently released his 9th recording, Grammy winning 'Dockside Sessions' featuring four traditional zydeco songs (sung in French), a contemporary French piece, three Bob Dylan covers, and a song each originally by the Grateful Dead and Toots & the Maytals.

Terrance Siimien, 8th generation Louisiana Creole has become one of the most respected and accomplished artists in American roots music today. He and his band mates have performed

over 7,000 concerts, toured millions of miles to over 45 countries during their eventful career.

Lincoln, NE

Members of 'Paddywhack' held a reunion at the Loft in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Saturday April 12. The reunion featured and evening of songs from the British Isles and the USA and was held as part of the LAFTA music series. Paddywhack, featuring accordionist Dan Newton, first started to play over 30 years ago and was the only group in the state of Nebraska playing Celtic music at that time.

New York, NY

Accordionist, composer and musicologist Dr William Schimmel forthcoming engagements include several performances in New York including: May 7 (7.30 pm), 9th (8.00 pm), 10th (8:00 pm), 11th (7.00 pm) at Irma La Duce, City Center, New York, May 17th - Compord Ensemble performing Dr. Schimmel's 'Accordiomass' at the Queen's New Music Festival, New York and June 14th, 7.00 pm - Rossini's 'Petite Missa Solennele', St. George Choral Society Summer Music Festival, Church of the Incarnation, NY. For more information: billschimmel@billschimmel.com

Cotati, CA

The 24th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival is scheduled for August 16th and 17th, 2014 in Cotati, California. Not only will you enjoy a few days of fabulous music but you will also be contributing to a worthwhile cause.

The Cotati Accordion Festival is a non-profit organization established in 1991 to promote the love of the accordion and to support local youth service organizations. To date they have contributed in excess of \$320,000 to the youth of the community. For more information: 707-664-0444 or visit www.cotatifest.com

Leavenworth, WA

The 21st Leavenworth Accordion Festival will be held from June 19-22, 2014. Sponsored by the Northwest Accordion Society, the festival will feature competitions, workshops, jam sessions, concerts, an accordion Parade and accordion vendors. Attendees are invited to celebrate accordion music

from ethnic to jazz. For more information and featured performers, please visit : www.accordioncelebration.org

San Francisco, CA

California, here we come as the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) is preparing for another exciting Festival July 23-26, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza San Francisco International Airport Hotel.

We are delighted to feature Stas Venglevski as our Special Guest Artist. ATG also welcomes jazz accordionist Frank Petrilli and his Quartet as well as International guests from China and Italy. Xia Gang is a famous Chinese Bayanist who has many titles to his name internationally while Antonio Spaccarotella is a young Italian accordion artist who has won many International competitions and teaches modern and classical accordion at the Nuove Armonie Musical Institute (Italy). Other guest artists will be Jeff Lisenby and the Peter Di Bono Trio. For updated information, please visit www.accordions.com/atg

Kansas City, MO

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 Unitar-



ian in Kansas City on Sunday, 4:30 PM with cocktails being served at 4. For more information, please visit: www.fremarfoundation.com

East Northport, NY

The June meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) sponsored by La Villini Restaurant is on Wednesday, June 4, 2014. Featured guest artist will be well known New York based accordionist Ray Oreggia. La Villini Restaurant is located at 288 Larkfield Road in East Northport, NY 11731. For reservations, please contact: 631 261 6344.

Connecticut

The Connecticut Accordion Association recently celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a Luncheon and Concert at Vasi's in Waterbury. The AAA Junior Festival Orchestra conducted by Mary Tokarski and the CT Accordion Orchestra, conducted by Linda Soley Reed were featured. The youngsters dazzled the audience and included newcomer, Will Comer (Connecticut), Luba Pak (Virginia), Cody McSherry (Pennsylvania) and Nathan Chapetan (Connecticut). Kudos to co-President Marilyn O'Neil for getting the local Waterbury Republican newspaper for their participation and beautiful article (<http://www.rep-am.com/news/local/800555.txt>)

The Club's June 22nd meeting will be an afternoon at the New England Accordion Museum in Canaan, CT. If you want to join us, contact Marilyn O'Neil at www.ctaccordion.com

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Festival 2014 Performers

American Accordionists' Association



Vladimir Mollov



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Guy Klucevsek
and
Todd Reynolds



Dr. Robert
Young
McMahan



Todd Reynolds



Frank
Carozza



Steve Albini



Dallas
Vietty



Mario Tacca and Friends
Julie Cardona, Beverly Roberts Curnow and
Mary Tokarski
Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini

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