



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

March-April 2015



From the Editor

Welcome to the March 2015 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

As the exciting array of summer activities rapidly approaches, we remind you to make plans to attend our 77th Annual Competition and Festival to be held in Alexandria, VA. Full details are available at www.ameraccord.com so we invite you to check back for updated information as it becomes available!

Once again, thanks to Linda Reed and Rita Davidson 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 .doc Word file 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 the 15th of April 2015.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of the many upcoming events, and meanwhile a very Happy Easter to you all!

Sincerely,
Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



Accordionist to Perform with New Haven Symphony

Accordionist Nathan Chapeton will have an exciting Spring, to say the least! He has worked diligently to improve his musical skills on the accordion, and it has paid off with an amazing opportunity!

He was chosen from among 13 candidates at Middletown High School to perform as a soloist when they present "Middletown High Goes to the Symphony" with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. He will perform Pietro Deiro's Concerto in E, Rondo Movement as a soloist with the symphony.

Students from Middletown High School's Concert Band, String Orchestra, and Concert Chorus will perform WITH the New Haven Symphony at this event, along with several other student soloists.

The New Haven Symphony partners with the Bushnell Center for the Arts in Hartford to host the event. Maestro William Boughton of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Maestro Edward Cumming, University of Hartford Orchestra, and Neely Bruce, Wesleyan University Professor of Music, will share the podium during this magnificent collaboration between the High School, local University, and the community.

Nathan Chapeton (14), a student of Mary Tokarski of Northford, CT has studied the accordion for almost six years now, and just this past October represented the United States at the Coupe Mondiale (world accordion championship) in Salzburg, Austria. He competed in the Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Category, which highlights the talents of young accordionists (under the age of 18) from countries around the world. Nathan's program consisted of music by famed Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla, Bulgarian composer Todor Gerov, Russian composer Vladimir Zubitsky and American composer/accordionist John Pezzolo. He plans to represent the U.S. again in the 2016 Coupe Mondiale being held in Rostov on Don, Russia.



AAA Festival 2015
July 8-12, 2015
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
625 First Street
Alexandria, VA
For reservations:
1-877-834-3613
Reservation Code: A34

Faithe Deffner
Accordion Competition
\$25,000 in Cash Awards
Donated anonymously in Faithe's
memory by an AAA member.

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Nathan Chapeton, cont'd. from page 1

Nathan has also recently appeared as a Guest Artist at the Long Island Accordion Alliance, the Brooklyn Accordion Club, and the Connecticut Accordion Association's annual holiday Concert at the Blackstone Library. His plans for the future include introducing the accordion to young people around the United States through performances and workshops on the qualities of the instrument and its music.

The concert will take place on May 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM. at The Bushnell Center for the Arts in Hartford. Tickets for the concert and further information can be obtained online at www.middle-townschools.org/symphony or email symphony@mpsct.org. ■

John Torcello in Concert

John Torcello recently performed with the Jacaranda Chamber Ensemble under the direction of conductors Daniel Alfred Wachs & Mark Alan Hilt.

John hails from a small community in Western New York State called Batavia. A graduate of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Music; he has a Bachelor of Music degree in Composition. He also holds an MBA in Marketing/Management from Woodbury University in Burbank, California.

John is an accomplished musician; appearing on occasion, as part of the orchestra, as a classical accordionist, with ensembles such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic in venues including the Hollywood Bowl, the Walt Disney Concert Hall and Dorothy Chandler Music Center and has performed under such legendary conductors as John Williams and others.

John performed the accordion part in works by Hindemith and Weill on the following program:

- Kurt Weill - Violin Concerto
- Paul Hindemith - *Kammermusik No. 1* (with John Torcello)
- Igor Stravinsky - *Octet for Winds*
- Darius Milhaud - *Saudades do Brazil*
- Weill - *Three Penny Opera Music* (with John Torcello) ■



A World of Accordions Museum

A World of Accordions Museum, an affiliate of the AAA is pleased to announce continued growth and holdings over recent times.

Museum curator Helmi Harrington, Ph. D., reports that in 2014, the World of Accordions Museum's holdings grew by four major estates: Donald Hulme, Sylvia Prior, Willard Palmer and Faithe Deffner. These important contributors to the American cultural scene live on in museum

displays and their life-works remain preserved in our files. Their massive donations of music and periodicals are currently being organized in the Accordion Resource Center Library Room.

Donald Hulme died in poverty but his life was rich in accomplishments and recognitions. We are grateful to Martin Kessler (FL) for providing us with the recordings, photos, and extant documents of his life. Donald's last remaining Cordovox accordion is displayed in our Electronic Accordions room, while the 200-bass Hohner Gola, said by Charles Nunzio to have been Hulme's when we purchased it years ago, is shown with some memorabilia. Draped above the second bass section of the Gola is a novelty mini-Hohner the bellows of which extend six feet.

Dr. Willard Palmer's musical estate has arrived in segments from 2013 onward. Donated by his son, Willard Palmer III, 41 additional boxes arrived late last year and a few more have been announced. During the process of boxing the materials, Bill provided us a rough-sorting and labeling of the contents that greatly simplifies its merging into existent categories. Although we presumed Dr. Palmer's underlay materials and working documents would be substantial, we are amazed at the extent of his musicological resources that resulted in his life-work accomplishments. Additionally, correspondences with major musical figures contribute valuable insights into many aspects of our cultural history.

The Sylvia Prior Studio music remaining from her large California practice was graciously donated by her daughters Adrian and Sylvania. This 1,300 lbs. shipment includes accordion catalogs, a rare mini-Excelsior (pictured), some of his special Sylprio accordions, the earliest Guilietti now among our holdings,



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A World of Accordions Museum, cont'd from page 2

over a hundred accordion figurines, and thousands of titled pieces and music-compilations new to the museum. We were astonished to find the titles organized alphabetically in manila folders that could be incorporated into our file cabinets with relative ease. Added to this display is another Sylprio piano accordion already among our holdings. The display is graced by photos dating from grandfather Sylvester Prior's studio (begun in 1917).

The Deffner Legacy Room is filling with contents from 29 boxes of materials Kevin Friedrich was able to obtain from Faithe's daughter Verne Deffner Uvezian during the closure of Faithe's New York office. After storing the items in his NY home, Kevin drove them to us, and with help from Roger Schmitz (Hutchinson, MN), carried the weighty materials to the Deffner Legacy Room.

We are grateful for the wealth of historic items that Faithe retained during her five-decade participation at the center of the accordion world. Considered in conjunction with items already classified in the adjoining American Accordionist's Association Archival Collection room, which includes historian Elsie Bennett's papers, we are confident that we have a complete perspective into American accordion activities over the last century. ■

Dr. William Schimmel Keeps Busy Concert Schedule

Accordionist Dr. William Schimmel appeared with the North/South Consonance Ensemble under the direction of Max Lifchitz during their Midwinter Festival performing new works by composers from Ireland and the USA.

The concert included Frank Corcoran's *Quasi una storia* (Nearly a Story); Max Lifchitz's *Brightness Aloft*; William Schimmel's *Max to Max*; and Thomas Whitman's *Anniversary Fanfare*. Terry Riley's *Half-Wolf Dances Mad in Midnight* will receive its East Coast premiere in a performance marking the composer's 80th birthday. Dr. Schimmel's performed as soloist on his recently completed work for accordion and strings.

Since its inception in 1980, North/South Consonance has brought to the attention of the New York City public over 1,000 recent works by composers representing a wide spectrum of aesthetic views. Its activities are made possible in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Special funding for this program provided by Culture Ireland and the Music Performance Trust Funds.

The composers were present at the concert to introduce their works and meet with the audience. The event is part of the Composers Now Festival. Performers and composers are available for media events and interviews and may be contacted through the North/South Office at ns.concerts@att.net.

On February 27, Dr. Schimmel performed with The New York Philharmonic under the direction of Alan Gilbert in *AMARCORD* (Fellini) by Nino Rota on the Great Performances at Lincoln Center - Channel 13 (NY) program.

Continuing his busy schedule on March 7, Dr. William Schimmel played a concert with famed Klezmer violinist, Alicia Svigals, at The Rockland County School of Music in New City, New York. From March 9th to the 14, Dr. Schimmel was in residence at the EMPAC Center in Troy, New York performing and giving workshops with The Talea Ensemble culminating in a performance of Enno Poppe's "Speicher".

On March 16 he joined Serbian DJ and Composer Milica Paranosic in a performance of her punk influenced work "PUSH" at a Harlem Club. On March 28 he will join soprano Lauren Flanigan

THE AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION MASTER CLASS & CONCERT SERIES - 2015 The Seminars

Chock Full O' Learnin',



AUGUST 7, 8 and 9, 2015

**Tenri Cultural Institute
43A West 13th Street
(Between 5th and 6th Avenues)
New York, NY**



in a concert that benefits The Music and Mentoring House in Harlem. The concert will take place there.

On April 18, he will again join the Talea Ensemble in a new work by Irish composer Ann Cleare written for Dr. Schimmel and the ensemble at The Kitchen in Manhattan. April 25, he will perform in Elliot Sharp's Opera *PORT BOU*, about the last day of philosopher Walter Benjamin. The performance will take place in Berlin, Germany at the Konzerthaus Berlin in Mitte in the Werner Otto Seal.

On May 2, he will perform his 1971 masterpiece, *PAROUSIA*, for solo accordion at the Look and Listen Festival taking place at the Whitebox Arts Center in Manhattan and on May 3, he will do a performance of 'An American in Paris' on Broadway. May 6 to 10, he will perform in the musical, 'Zorba', At the Encore Series at New York's City Center. May 28, he will perform Clemens Gadenslatte's *E.P.O.S. 1 les premiers. cris and Semantical Investigations 2* at the Austrian Cultural Forum - again with The Talea Ensemble.

For further information: billschimmel@billschimmel.com ■

AAA Open Meeting

Sunday, March 29, 2015 – 3:00 p.m.

Marriott Hotel

1401 State Route 10 • Whippany, NJ 07981

Special Guest

Presentation by **Jeanne Velonis**

“A Night At The Grammy’s” – Unforgettable!

“Intersections in my recording and accordion lives”

Jeanne is a classical recording engineer who works with Judith Sherman, who was the Grammy Winner for Classical Producer of the Year! She will highlight some of the music behind this Grammy, discuss the recording process from mic placement to mastering, the Grammy experience – and - the Intersection: points where her accordion life and her work life cross over (including at the Grammys).

Be There!

Guy Klucevsek in Concert

New York accordionist Guy Klucevsek will undertake a Concert Residency - 40 Year Composer Retrospective from March 17 - 22 at The Stone, located at the corner of Avenue C/2nd Street in New York City.

John Zorn’s renowned THE STONE presents Guy Klucevsek | A 40 Year Composer Retrospective, a weeklong residency performed and curated by Guy Klucevsek. For six consecutive nights, some of today’s top artists from both the jazz and new music scene join Klucevsek in performing his pieces written over the past four decades (1972-2014), including three world premieres and seven New York premieres.

This residency marks the collaborative culmination of a decades-long relationship between Klucevsek and Zorn that was born in 1984. “After hearing Zorn’s Rugby for the first time, every idea I had about performing and composing was challenged,” says Klucevsek. “Though my pieces sound nothing like Zorn, their episodic structure and mixture of popular music sources with art music techniques came directly out of my experiences with Zorn and the free improv scene of the 80s.”

Surveying his last 40 years of writing, Klucevsek has composed over 100 pieces for solo accordion, and more than 30 pieces on commission from dance and theatre companies.

His music entertains and engages even as it addresses musical ideas of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. While occasionally referencing the traditional accordion repertoire, Klucevsek’s music incorporates a dash of Eastern European paprika and dance rhythms, a sprinkle of Tex-Mex accordion and flamenco guitar, and a peppering of post-modern avant-garde music. “There is always something happening beneath the simple melodies and harmonies — tremolos, counterpoint, polymeter - to add density,” explains Klucevsek of his own compositions.

Klucsevsek is a major contributor to the accordion renaissance of the last 25 years. “I began playing in 1952, when the accordion was the most popular instrument in America,” says Klucsevsek. “The most amazing thing about being an accordionist for 40 years has been to experience the dramatic shifts in public opinion about the instrument.”

Guy Klucsevsek is one of the world’s most versatile and highly respected accordionists. He has performed and/or recorded with Laurie Anderson, Bang On a Can, Brave Combo, Anthony Braxton, Anthony Coleman, Dave Douglas, Bill Frisell, Fred Frith, Rahim al Haj, Robin Holcomb, Kepa Junkera, the Kronos Quartet, Natalie Merchant, Present Music, Relâche, Zeitgeist, and John Zorn.

Travelling with your Accordion

For the many accordionists who have had problems taking their accordion onto the plane. This is a welcome ruling to protect your precious accordion when you travel.

As of March 6, 2015, it’s official and no longer at the discretion of the various airlines. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, musicians who board planes must be allowed to carry on their instruments provided they fit in the overhead bin.

If this space isn’t large enough, the musician is also permitted to purchase a second seat in which to stow their musical companion.

One caveat: the airlines don’t have to prioritize musical instruments ahead of any other carry-on luggage, so if the bins are full, you’ll still have to check your instrument at the gate.

To remedy this, the U.S. Department of Transport suggests that musicians may want to pay the airline’s fee for priority boarding to ensure that there will be room for their gear.

Please visit the March edition of www.accordionusa.com for the links to the complete ruling and further travel tips for travelling with a musical instrument. ■

Guy is the recipient of a 2010 United States Artists Collins Fellowship, an unrestricted \$50,000 award given annually to "America's finest artists." In November/December 2014, he was awarded a fellowship to the MacDowell Colony to pursue his creative work.

He has created a unique repertoire for accordion through his own composing and by commissioning over 50 works from composers including Mary Ellen Childs, William Duckworth, Fred Frith, Aaron Jay Kernis, Jerome Kitzke, Stephen Montague, Somei Satoh, Lois V. Vierk, and John Zorn. He has composed over 20 dance scores for choreographers including Karen Bamente, Martha Bowers, Angela Caponigro, David Dorfman, Anita Feldman, Victoria Marks, Stuart Pimsler, and Mark Taylor.

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.”

Klucsevsek has released over 20 recordings as soloist/leader on Tzadik, Winter & Winter, innova, Starkland, Review, Intuition, CRI, and XI. Stereo Review cited his Starkland recording, Transylvanian Softwear, 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.” Recent concerts included:

March 17, 8:00 PM | The Klucsevsek/Bern Unit

Guy Klucsevsek (accordion), Alan Bern (accordion & piano)

Guy and Alan first joined forces in 1998, and have played together as a duo, off and on, ever since. Tonight’s program features music from their two Winter & Winter releases - Accordance (2000) and Notefalls (2007) - plus more recent work including the New York premieres of The Day the Snow Fell Upwards (2011) and Haywire Rag (A Waltz) (2010). They will perform several of Alan Bern’s compositions as well.

March 18, 8:00 PM | Teetering on the Verge of Normalcy: Music for Dance and Theatre

Guy Klucsevsek (accordion), Peter Brown (voice), Jed Distler (piano), Kamala Sankaram (voice), Todd Reynolds (violin), Margaret Leng Tan (toy piano, toy instruments)

Guy Klucevsek, cont'd from p. 4

Klucsevsek has created scores for dozens of dance and theatre productions over the years (subsequently receiving two Bessie Awards for his work). Tonight's ensemble pays homage to his theatrical side with music from *Chinoiserie* (for Ping Chong and Company), *Fallen Shadows* (for Karen Bamonte Dance Works), *Industrious Angels* (for a one-person show by/with Laurie McCants), and *Ruth Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (for Lionel Popkin Dance Company).



March 19, 8:00 PM | Guy Solo Guy Klucevsek (accordion)

Klucsevsek has written over 100 pieces for solo accordion. This program features pieces from four decades, 1982 - 2014, from his recordings *Scenes from a Mirage* (Review), *Transylvanian Software* (Starkland), *The Well-Tempered Accordion* and *The Heart of the Andes* (Winter and Winter), and *Dancing on the Volcano* (Tzadik), as well as the New York premiere of *Bob Flath Waltzes with the Angels* (2014).

March 20, 8:00 PM | The Bantam Orchestra Guy Klucevsek (accordion), Mary Rowell (violin), Erik Friedlander (cello), Pete Donovan (bass)

Klucsevsek assembled this string trio plus accordion for two dance scores in 1990: *Citrus*, *My Love* for Stuart Pimsler, and *Passage North* for Angela Caponigro. This stellar ensemble also recorded two albums together with this instrumentation: *Citrus*,

My Love (1992, recrc/Swiss, out-of-print) and *Stolen Memories*. This program will feature selections from those two recordings as well as several pieces from *Flying Vegetables of the Apocalypse* (1991, XI), and the world premiere of *For the First Time* (2014), featuring Erik Friedlander, cello.

March 21, 8:00 PM | Buffalo Braunschweiger Guy Klucevsek (accordion), Steve Elson (saxes & clarinets), Pete Donovan (bass), Barbara Merjan (drums)

The debut of a band showcasing some of his latest work, tonight's program features premieres of Klucsevsek's music for trio and quartet. Pieces include: world premiere of *The Swan* and the *Vulture* (2014), New York premieres of *Three Quarter Moon* (in memory of Kurt Weill) (2014), and *Little Big Top* (in memory of Nino Rota) (2014), both commissioned by The University of Wisconsin - River Falls.

March 22, 8:00 PM | AAATT (All Accordions All the Time) Guy Klucevsek (accordion), Art Bailey (accordion), Nathan Koci (accordion & bass accordion)

Marking the debut of Klucsevsek's new accordion ensemble, tonight's program features music that he wrote for his long-time band, the *Accordion Tribe* (1996 - 2010). One of the pieces Guy is most excited about doing is *Toronto: (sevenths)* (1972), the first performance of this piece in over 20 years. Art Bailey and Nathan Koci will also contribute a composition each to this program. Other works on the menu include: the world premiere of *Music for Mobiles* (2013), commissioned for a video by Keith LoBue; and the New York premieres of *Euroslavian Wedding Dance* (2014), and *As They Waltz off into the Sunset* (2014), both commissioned by the University of Wisconsin - River Falls.

For more information, please visit www.guyklucevsek.com ■

Joey Cook on American Idol

Eccentric Joey Cook put her own spin on Keith Urban's country song when she played her accordion and sang the tune "Somebody Like You" on a recent American Idol show.

She wowed all three judges with her unique presentation of the song and made it totally her own. 'Joey it was fantastic!' Keith told her, clearly genuinely impressed. 'That's what artists do, you take a song, make it yours. It was perfect.' Both Jennifer Lopez and Harry Connick, Jr. agreed!

Joey Cook is a 23-year-old restaurant server from Woodbridge, Virginia. When not working, she's playing her favorite instrument, the accordion. Her grandfather has always wanted her to audition for American Idol, so she was at the audition on Wednesday, January 14.

Joey says she's always had a thing for obscure instruments. She started out with the ukulele and then one night she had a dream about playing the accordion. She wants to get on American Idol more than anything in the world. As she said, "I'd like to show people that I'm better at more than just waiting tables." American Idol fan Karen Mikolasko writes: "She's definitely got character

going for her."

Joey was one of 12 female performers as all the women sang for viewers' votes for the first time, the night after the 12 remaining men did the same. The final 24 will be whittled down to 16 by next week. The women appeared to have a harder time impressing the judges, with several clearly not doing well but Joey impressed them all. ■



AAA FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

This year, the lovely Holiday Inn in Alexandria, VA, will come alive with the music of jazz great Eddie Monteiro, US virtuoso champion Joe Natoli, Russia's award-winning bayanist and composer Prof. Viacheslav Semionov and others.

What a picture perfect location for what is shaping up to be a super exciting event! The 2015 AAA Festival will be held in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia within walking distance of restaurants, shops, galleries and the beautiful historic waterfront.

There will be wonderful workshops on topics such as the role of the accordion in the US Army Band (SGM Manny Bobenrieth), the role of the accordion in and the managing of the Mantovani Orchestra (Ken Moulton), the music of Eugene Ettore and using the accordion in the classroom (Rita Davidson Barnea), Klezmer and Balkan ornamentation (Lauren Brody), the stories old accordions can tell (Paul Ramunni) as well as workshops by Dr. Robert Young McMahan partnered with Melody Ben Flah on "detuned" accordions in middle eastern music and Professor Joan Cochran Sommers - How to Prepare for a Rehearsal.

The AAA Festival Orchestra will be led by conductor and director of the Accordion Pops Orchestra, Al Terzo. The Festival Orchestra will perform at the Saturday evening banquet along with special guests, the US Army Strolling Strings, under the direction of accordionist SGM Manny Bobenrieth.

This year's event will feature a competition honoring the memory of AAA's President Emerita, Faithe Deffner. \$25,000 in prize money has been donated for this competition.

There will be opportunities for young accordionists to play in the Youth Orchestra directed by AAA President Mary Tokarski, and in the Youth Jazz Ensemble (which includes other instruments) directed by jazz accordionist Bob Vitale.

Many of our local members will be featured on this year's program. Opening the "Meet and Greet Reception" on Wednesday will be the Crystal Strings featuring Frank Busso, Jr. on accordion, Luncheon Concert celebs include Robert Ford and daughter, Rocio, an award winning castanet virtuoso, Mark Nejacko & Nick



Eddie Monteiro



Grayson Masefield



Joe Natoli



Prof. Viacheslav Semionov



Dr. Robert Young McMahan & Ceceylia Barczyk

Sungenis, Ken Kunec and the Potomac Accordion Ensemble, directed by Joan Grauman.

Other competitions and concerts will take place during the event, and there will be an exhibit room filled with new accordions, gifts for accordionists, the AAA Archives and an enchanting accordion museum exhibit.

Registration forms, a downloadable flyer and other information on the festival are enclosed and also available on the AAA website – www.ameraccord.com



The United States Army Strings

ATAM New England Music Festival

The New England Music Festival sponsored by the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts takes place April 10-12, 2015 at the Newton Marriott in Newton, MA.

The Festival is an annual musical competition and 2015 will be its 53rd event. The Festival averages more than 2000 entries and over 700 contestants from all across New England.

All events are free and open to the public. Entry fees for contestants vary by category. During the festival, contestants, ages through 22, take part in accordion, guitar, bass guitar, drum, percussion, piano, violin and voice competitions. Non-competitive categories include evaluation solos and festival group divisions. Contestants must be students of ATAM members. Over \$4000.00 in cash will be awarded throughout the weekend.

The three day event takes place Friday through Sunday. On Friday evening and Sunday the Junior and Senior Battle of the Band competition takes place in the Grand Ballroom. On Saturday and Sunday continuous group competitions and Entertainment Solos are also held in the Grand Ballroom. Solo & Duet competitions are ongoing and all Championship competition is held on Friday evening.

An awards banquet is held on Saturday evening with more than 400 in attendance. A \$500.00 scholarship and cash awards and trophies are presented to Championship, Entertainment, all NE Cup Solos and Improvised Drum contestants. At the banquet AAA President and long time adjudicator and supporter of the festival, Mary Tokarski will be recognized as a Lifetime Honorary Member of the ATAM.

At the event students will have an opportunity to participate in workshops, compete in age-level categories, be evaluated and have fun at a Dance Party on Saturday evening.

Internationally famous accordionist, Cory Pesaturo, will be performing in concert on Sunday afternoon in the Grand Ballroom.

For more information, please contact Peggy Falchetti: peggyf1944@gmail.com ■



Mary Tokarski

Weird Al Yankovic in Concert

Weird Al Yankovic (born 1959) is an American singer-songwriter, comedian, accordionist, parody artist, record producer, satirist, music video director, film producer, actor, and author. Yankovic is known for his humorous songs that make light of popular culture and often parody specific songs by contemporary musical acts.



Al Yankovic

Since his first-aired comedy song in 1976, he has sold more than 12 million albums, recorded more than 150 parody and original songs. He is not related to the late polka accordionist Frank Yankovic, though they have performed together.

Weird Al begins his 'Mandatory World Tour' in May, with a total of 88 concert dates in the USA, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, UK and Ireland. The first of these dates include:

- May 12th to 16th – Planet Hollywood, Las Vegas, Nevada
- May 19th – Brady Theater, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- May 20th – Hudson Performance Hall, Oklahoma City
- May 22nd – Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Biloxi, MS
- May 23rd – Ryman Auditorium, Nashville, Tennessee
- May 24th – Horseshoe-Tunica Bluesville, MS
- May 26th – Center for the Performing Arts, Bloomington, Illinois
- May 28th – Murat Theatre at Old National Centre, Indianapolis, Illinois
- May 29th – Soaring Casino and Resort, Mount Pleasant, Michigan
- May 30th – Jacobs Pavilion at Nautica, Cleveland, Ohio
- May 31st – Palace Theatre, Greensburg, PA ■

ATG 75th Anniversary Celebration

The fellow member of the CIA with the AAA, the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) will celebrate their 75th Anniversary Festival in Lisle (Chicago), IL, from July 22-25, 2015. The Board of Directors is working hard to prepare for this splendid Diamond Anniversary at the Hyatt Lisle.

The ATG is honored to present Yuri Shishkin from Russia as their featured guest artist. Yuri has won numerous international competitions in Germany and Italy, including ATG's 1990 Anthony Gallarini International Competition. He is a sought after musician promoting the bayan and the accordion by doing lectures and master classes in major cities around the world and at International festivals and competitions. You will not want to miss this rare opportunity to hear Yuri in concert in the USA!

The ATG also welcomes Frank Petrilli and his Quartet. Frank, a native of Los Angeles, CA has been playing professionally since the



Yuri Shishkin

ATG's 75th in Chicago, cont'd. from p. 7

age of 16. He is not only accomplished on the accordion but also on the B3 Organ and Saxophone. He has performed at many of the major accordion festivals and clubs in the U.S. as well as on TV, and on several important venues in Europe.

Former ATG President and current Board member Stas Venglevski, will also be a featured soloist during the Festival as well as performing as the soloist with the Festival Orchestra on one of his newest compositions, Rondo-Fantasy, written especially for this event.

Popular Joe Natoli returns with his outstanding command of the Roland V Accordion and the festival will open with popular Scottish Entertainer Gary Blair. AAA President, Mary Tokarski, is also schedule to appear, and in addition, Helmi Harrington, Ph.D.

will present her magnificent travelling display from the World of Accordions Museum.

Several of AAA personalities actively participate on the Board of Directors for both the AAA and the ATG including Kevin Friedrich and Joanna Arnold Darrow. In addition, AAA President Mary Tokarski and the late Faithe Deffner have also served on both boards as Executive Officers, and on occasion the AAA and ATG have jointly hosted the Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships, the most recently being in 2007 in Alexandria, VA.

For information on workshops, concert artists and the 75th Anniversary Festival Orchestra, please visit www.accordions.com/atg. ■

CIA Begins 80th Anniversary Celebrations

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) a member of the International Music Council (IMC), an NGO Official Partner of UNESCO, celebrated the beginning of their 80th Anniversary year by holding their General Assembly Winter Congress meeting in Paris, France, the city in which they were founded in 1935. Attracting participants from 16 nations, the 133rd General Assembly was held on board a boat on the river Seine in the heart of Paris.

President Raymond Bodell welcomed everyone to the Congress, an event which was quite significant considering it launched the 80th Anniversary of the CIA, a milestone for any organization. The Executive and Music Committees met to conduct their business meetings, and were then joined by International delegates from as far away as Brazil, the USA, China, Scandinavia and all throughout Europe for the General Assembly meeting. Sincere thanks were given to the Harmonikaverband Österreichs (HVÖ) for their superb organization of the recent 67th Coupe Mondiale in Salzburg, the largest Coupe Mondiale competition ever held.

President Bodell welcomed his new teams on both the Executive Committee and Music Committee who were elected to office at the General Assembly in Salzburg. Signalling a strong beginning for the new term of office, all but two of the 14 members of the committees were able to make it to Paris.

During the business conducted by the CIA, several new members were welcomed to the Confederation including: Czech Republic - The Prague Conservatory (Jiri Lukes - Director), Hungary - "Az Ifjú Harmonikásokért" Alapítvány - For the Young Accordionists" Foundation (Papp Olga - President), Latvia - Naujene Music and Art

School (Spodris Kacans - Head of School), Netherlands - Nederlandse Organisatie voor Accordeon & Moundharmonica - NOVAM (Frans de Bie - Member of the Board) and Portugal - Mito Algarvio - Associação de Acordeonistas do Algarve (João Pereira - President). In addition, the current member from Portugal has undergone a name change only, from O Conservatório Regional de Castelo Branco to the Folefest Accordion Association.

The CIA offers two awards, up to two CIA Merit Awards and up to four Honored Friend of the Accordion Awards per year. This year no applications were received for the Honored Friend of the Accordion Award, however both of the applications for the CIA Merit Award were granted, with the recipients being Vincenzo Canali (Italy - Director of the Castelfidardo Accordion Museum) and Alexander Sklyarov (Russia - renowned Bayanist).

As is customary each year, the host nation of the Coupe Mondiale nominates one of their officials to act as CIA Honorary Vice President. This year, the CIA bestowed this honor to Seppo Lankinen. A popular accordion personality if Finland, Seppo is a long standing Vice President of the Finnish Accordion Association.

Several enhancements were made to the 2015 Competition guidelines, based on our continual striving to provide the best experience possible for our contestants who often spend considerable time and money preparing for and supporting our competitions. The full guidelines will be available on the Coupe Mondiale website very soon, however a basic overview of the two main changes are:

Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Music: Instead of being held in two rounds of competition each with a 7 minutes time limit, this category will now be held as one round with a playing time of 12 minutes.

continued on page 9



CIA Celebrates 80 Years, cont'd from p. 8

In the International Competition for Chamber Music, to accommodate the diverse instrumentation and varied cultural backgrounds of our competitors, the CIA will split the category into two, with one category being for classical music, and the other being for 'World Music'.

For the exact competition guidelines and rules, please visit www.coupemondiale.org.

The Coupe Mondiale website is being updated with all the information pertaining to the upcoming 68th Coupe Mondiale to be held from October 6 -11, 2015 in Turku, Finland. Guests are encouraged to arrive by the 5th of October, and invited to stay after the event, so that they can embark on a 24 hour accordion cruise from Turku to Sweden and back, leaving on the Sunday evening.

The CIA Congress was delighted to have the opportunity to welcome Laurent Jarry to present his new book 'Trésors de Lames - Accordéons - Bandonéons'. A beautiful coffee-table book, it features photographs of 200 accordions and bandoneons selected by Laurent Jarry for their beauty, the richness of the materials and fabrics they are made of, their diversity and the originality of the craftsmanship they display and the book is enhanced by a rich content of documents and archives. It is punctuated by a variety of texts and

quotations from art world personalities, describing their views about these instruments. The book is prefaced by Pierre Étaix, long-time lover of the accordion. President Raymond Bodell interpreted for Mr. Jarry as he explained his passion for the project which has taken many years to put together.

The Congress concluded with a spectacular 80th Anniversary Dinner and Cruise on the Seine aboard a private boat "Le Canotier" featuring music by two former CIA competitors who reside and teach in Paris, Jean Ribiero and Stefane Belleville. It was a fitting celebration reflecting on the wonderful and varied accordion activities such as competitions of all genres, Commissions and promotions of new original works for accordion, eight editions of World Accordion Orchestra, IMC Membership, World Accordion Day and more, which began in Paris some 80 years ago. President Raymond Bodell had the pleasure of thanking the Confederation and all the Delegates for supporting the spectacular event in Paris.

The next meeting of the CIA General Assembly will take place on October 6th, 2015 in Turku, Finland at the Radisson Blue Marina Palace. For more information, please visit www.accordions.com/cia or www.coupemondiale.org. ■



American Accordion Musicological Society

The American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS) announces activities to be held at the 27th Annual Festival of Workshops from March 27 thru March 29, 2015 in Whippany, NJ

In addition to the workshops, enjoy two magnificent concerts and a Banquet honoring Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini for their support of the AAMS and the accordion world.

The Friday Night Concert will treat attendees to an Italian Experience thru Music. Enjoy a kaleidoscope of Italian culture thru all things Italian. Music from Italian composers such as Vivaldi, Scarlatti and Frescobaldi will be interspersed with original accordion music by Italian composers such as Frosini and Berio. Frosini's arrangement of "Carnival of Venice" will be presented along with Folk Music from various regions of Italy. Guest Performer for this event is Fabio Turchetti, who hails from beautiful Italy will perform "MURALES"- original music composed for 3 row diatonic accordion with tributes to the Italian tradition. Also included in this program will be: Dee Langley, Joanna Darrow, Jim Vandelly, Bernie Gardzallo, Lenn Feldmann and the Westmont Accordion Club. Saturday Night Banquet Entertainment and Concert will present

Dinner Music provided by Dr. Louis Persic, and strolling musicians Vladimir (accordion) & Annie Mollov (violin). Saturday's Gala Concert will feature this year's Honorees and exciting duo Mario Tacca & Mary Mancini (accordion & voice) in a program titled "Music from the Heart." Vladimir Mollov of Bulgaria will perform a program of "Flavors from Europe". This program will be rounded out with a performance by the Virtuoso Accordion Winners of the MAMTG competitions and the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra directed by Stanley Darrow.

For more information contact: Joanna Darrow 856-854-6628 or visit www.aamsaccordionfestival.com ■



Celebrate Spring with the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS)

We hope the shoveling is behind all of us now so we can celebrate the 12th birthday of WMAS in warm sunshine! Come and join us for this celebration on Sunday, March 15 at 4 pm. We will have cake, dance instruction, dance music provided by our members, plus an Irish play-along in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Lee Paulson will be our "greeter", serenading us with her beautiful music as we begin our meeting.

The club's ensemble, the Potomac Accordion Ensemble, will celebrate spring in Frederick, Maryland on Saturday, April 4 with a 2-hour concert of Broadway and light opera music, international folk tunes and some John P. Sousa favorites. The event will take place at the lovely Dublin Roasters Coffeehouse from 2 to 4 pm. This will be the sixth time the ensemble has performed at this venue.

WMAS hosts a guest artist concert each spring, and one in the fall. We are delighted to be featuring the terrific accordionist and entertainer, Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton on April 19! Dan has been a regular performer on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" and has performed worldwide with his orchestra "Café Accor-

dion Orchestra" as well as others. Hope to see you there! The duet team of Joan Grauman and JoAnn Pankow will be the greeters.

The May 17 meeting will be all about the fascinating "button box". Featured performers and presenters will be Silvia Eberly, Frank Videgar, Joan Grauman and others TBD (young folks with busy school schedules).

Please check our website regularly for upcoming events, photos and other information pertaining to the accordion: www.washingtonaccordions.org or contact Joan Grauman: joangrauman@verizon.net



Joan Grauman

ATTENTION ALL ACCORDIONISTS!

Bryant Park looking for Accordionists for Summer Series: Accordions Around the World

If you remember back to our 75th Anniversary in NYC, we performed at this great series during our celebration . . . great fun! Lots of exposure for the accordion. Here's the information from Ariana Hellerman. If you are interested in participating, be sure to contact Ariana at arianaslist@gmail.com.

Accordions Around the World is made up of accordionists of different musical genres that play in different pockets of Bryant Park. We have had many cultures and genres represented in the two years the series has been running. We've also received a lot of press, from the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, ABC News, and NY1.

Here are details on the 2015 series:

- The weekly event will take place on Wednesdays in July and August 2015
- Accordionists will play from 6 - 8pm
- Multiple accordionists play each week in different parts of the park (note: not on the stage.)
- Each accordionist will receive between 1-2 gigs over the course of the season.
- Accordionists must have polished material.
- We can offer \$150 per gig. Given the prime location of Bryant Park as well as the uniqueness of the series, we have found that artists have accessed new fans, the media, and other accordionists for collaborative projects. Last year, accordionist participants were on TV, featured in print media, and many new musical projects/collaborations came out of the series.

I am looking to book the following dates for solo accordionists: July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 and August 5, 12, 19 and 26

If you are interested in participating, I need the following information from you:

- Indicate which of the dates above you are available to play. I will get back in touch with you to confirm your dates.
- Your name (i.e., how you would like to be billed in the program)
- Your website (if you have one) YouTube clip (if you have one)
- Your handles for Twitter, Facebook and Instagram
- Phone number
- What is the two to four-word description of the style of music you'll be playing? Since this is Accordions Around the World, the description should include a region of the world and/or a musical genre. (e.g. Cumbia from Colombia; Blues and Rock-n-roll; Zydeco from Louisiana; French Musette + Waltz)
- Are you willing to be interviewed by the press? Y/N
- What type of accordion or free reed instrument do you play? (e.g., button accordion, piano accordion, bandoneon, concertina, harmonium, etc.)
- What is your profession?
- Do you have any bands (that include an accordionist) to recommend?
- Please reply directly to Ariana Hellerman
<arianaslist@gmail.com>



Calling All Students! Join the Junior Festival Orchestra! *Have some accordion fun!*

Conductor, Mary Tokarski

Are you an accordionist 18 years of age or younger? Want some fun playing in an orchestra? What? You've never done that before? It is GREAT FUN!

In 2012 one of my life-long dreams came to life . . . The first AAA Junior Festival Orchestra was incorporated into our Festival! Only one year earlier, Cody McSherry and his parents attended the Open Meeting at the AAA Festival, where Cody (only 8 years old at the time) asked why there was no opportunity for young people to participate in the Festival Orchestra.

I had contemplated taking on this mission for many years before this, and decided to take the bull by the horns and get it going. So far, we have had orchestra members from Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia and even Canada, Russia (via Virginia) and New Zealand.

Each year, the students have surpassed my greatest expectations in selecting and preparing the music, literally "knocking the socks off" the audiences at the events.

We began the journey in Baltimore in 2012 performing the Austin Powers Theme "Soul Bossa Nova" and a James Bond Medley. The 75th Anniversary Festival in New York City proved to be even more spectacular . . . And the music continued to be more challenging . . . *Elizabethan*



Serenade and *Rock Island Rock*. Things went so well in rehearsal, we added the *Angry Birds Game Theme Song* to our concert!

Last year's orchestra in Tarrytown, NY included an incredibly beautiful work from Andre Astier called "*Piece dans le style Ancien*" (complete with great challenges for the performers), *Squeeze Box Rock*, and a special presentation of Carmen Carrozza's original work "*Cascade*", including Carmen's niece Gia Ciccone as a member of the orchestra!

This year's music will include *The Typewriter* by Leroy Anderson (who also played accordion), *P.H. Boogie* by the great accordion duo of Bill Palmer and Bill Hughes, and *The Jamaican Rumba* by Arthur Benjamin.

The orchestra rehearses during the festival days (July 8-11, 2015) - and never interferes with the competition timing and events. The performance is at the Awards Concert on Saturday afternoon, July 11, 2015. I look forward to seeing YOU there. ***Come join the fun!***

Youth Involvement Program

Marilyn O'Neil, Coordinator of the Youth Program, reports that several of the accordionists from last year will again be joining the ensemble with the prospect of 2 or 3 additional members. Returning are Rachel Quirbach, Will Comer, Nathan Chapeton and Cody McSherry. Marilyn is "on the hunt" for the non-accordionists for the two arrangements that were selected for 2015 - "Satin Doll" and "The Way You Look Tonight" which have been specially arranged by Ray DeBrown. Long-time AAA member, CT based Bob Vitale, will conduct the ensemble this year.

Marilyn has re-connected with the young musicians from the New York area who participated in both 2013 and 2014 Festivals and they will re-unite at the May 31st CAA meeting at Vasi's in Waterbury. The group will perform the selection's from the 2014

Festival that were arranged by Vladimir Mollov, "Manha de Carnival" and "All the Things You Are." Don Gerundo will conduct the group at the May 31st. CAA meeting.

2015 AAA Festival Orchestra

Al Terzo, conductor of the New Jersey-based Accordion Pops Orchestra will be the conductor of the 2015 AAA Festival Orchestra which opens the Banquet Program on Saturday evening. This year's selections will feature Broadway and Cinema melodies including:

A Night At The Oscars
Titanic
Shenandoah
Exodus
Pirates of the Caribbean

The AAA Festival Orchestra will rehears Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 3:30 p.m. (location to be announced). All registered participants in the 2015 AAA Festival are welcome to participate. Please email your contact information including cell phone and email address to: ameraccord1938@gmail.com and indicate your performance level. If you have played in previous orchestras, please select the part that you are most comfortable playing.



Coast to Coast

*...a sampling of accordion events across the USA!
Contact the individual organizations for updates.*



East Northport, NY

Accordianist Dominic Karcic and vocalist Cheryl Spielman will appear in "From Broadway to the Met" on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 6.00 PM. Guests are invited to come and enjoy the music from the American Song Book, Broadway, Tin Pan Alley, Opera, Operetta plus much more.

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) met on March 4, 2015, marking four years of accordion activities on Long Island. Their March event featured guest artist, Paul Belanich.

Both events are held at La Villini Restaurant located at 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731. For reservations or information, please phone (631) 261-6344.

New York, NY

The Victor Prieto Trio recently presented "A Musical Voyage" at the Cervantes Institute in New York City. Victor Prieto is hailed by The New York Times as "A fiendishly skilled accordionist and composer" and by the All About Jazz as "One of the best World musicians and Jazz accordionists nowadays".

His album "Victor Prieto" has been nominated to the Grammys for his collaboration in the Album Second half, in the Latin Jazz Category. Trio: Victor Prieto, accordion; Carlo De Rosa, bass; Vince Cherico, Drums. For further information: vpcruz@gmail.com

Brooklyn, NY

The Brooklyn Accordion Club welcomed accordionist Uri Sharlin (pictured below) who gave a presentation on Brazilian "Forro" music on Thursday, March 5, 2015.

Uri Sharlin is a Brooklyn-based composer, accordionist, pianist and arranger. Born in Israel, he moved to New York where he earned a BFA degree with honors in Music Performance from the City College of New York. Upon graduation Uri formed collaborations with prominent musicians such as Antony and the Johnsons, Natalie Merchant, Avi Avital and Frank London. Uri was also featured as a pianist and composer in the acclaimed HBO series Flight of the Conchords.

He has become known as a "wonderfully free flowing accordionist" (All About Jazz), as well as for his "masterfully crafted arrangements" (AllMusic.com).

The Brooklyn Accordion Club was founded in 2013 and aims to build a community of accordion players of all levels and admirers in the heart of Brooklyn. For further information on upcoming activities, please contact: brooklyn-accordionclub@gmail.com

San Francisco, CA

The musical trio 'Whiskey and Women', performed for the San Francisco Accordion Club on March 15, 2015.

Renee de la Prade is the accordionist for the group. Renée was adopted as a baby by a loving family in the rural town of Nicasio, California. Her father Xavier was an accordionist and French teacher, her mother Candy loved country music. From a young age, she studied piano and guitar and dreamed of growing up to play rock-n-roll. In addition to her accordion skills, Renee later went on to become the producer and editor of the Accordion Babes Album and Pin-Up Calendar.

Whiskey and Women got their name from their first street performance together: they had only

an hour to earn enough money to buy a bottle of Jameson. It was a cold, rainy day in Edinburgh, Scotland. They had never rehearsed a lick of music together. Whiskey and Women play Irish, Scottish and Welsh drinking songs, sea shanties, Cajun two-steps, honky-tonk originals, impromptu harmonies and a whole lot of stomp and holler. For further information: info@sfaaccordionclub.com.

Austin, TX

Texas Folklife is pleased to announce its ninth annual Big Squeeze accordion contest for up-and-coming Texas musicians, 21 years of age or younger. The contest is one of the ways in which Texas Folklife carries out its mission to preserve and promote Texas's diverse cultural heritage. The contest recruits players in all genres of the Lone Star State's accordion-based music, including German, Czech, and Polish polka; Creole, Cajun, and zydeco; and conjunto, norteño, and Tejano.

The contest takes to the road this spring in order to meet young accordion players in their communities and see them perform in talent showcases. For more information, please visit: www.texasfolklife.org.

Waterbury, CT

On Sunday, April 26, 2015, the Connecticut Accordion Association Orchestra conducted by Linda Reed, will perform for "Dinner, Music, and Wine, Italian Style". The event presented by the men and women of the Pontelandolfo Club and Waterbury Chapter of UNICO National takes place at 1:00 PM. Price is \$40/person at LaBella Vista! The Ponte Club, 380 Farmwood Road, Waterbury, Connecticut.

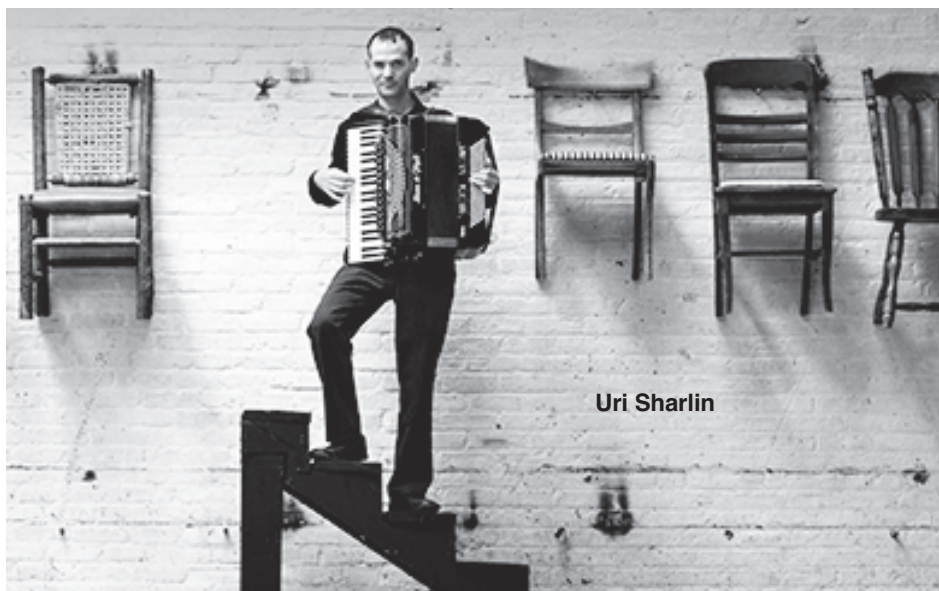
Proceeds benefit the Saturday Italian Language and Cultural Programs for Youth. For tickets contact: Saverio: 203-756-1140, Bob: 203-592-8785 or Marilyn: 203-272-1202

Northampton, MA

Django in June 2015 Dates are June 16-21, 2015 at Smith College, Northampton, MA. Concerts will be held on June 19 and 20 at the Academy of Music.

Django in June is New England's premier occasion to celebrate, study and just plain enjoy the musical tradition associated with the inimitable Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt. That tradition is now known by many names: Gypsy jazz, hot (or Hot Club) jazz, Gypsy swing, jazz gitan... Whatever you call it, it offers one of the most ebullient, accessible and unique jazz styles on the planet.

You can participate in Django in June in three ways: 1. Register for all of Django Camp, 2. Register for the Django Camp "weekend option" or 3. Attend concerts. For further information: please contact Andrew Lawrence (Event Organizer) Phone: 413-320-8154 or e-mail: django-june15@gmail.com.



Uri Sharlin

Open Meeting – Sunday, March 29th - 3:00 p.m. – Marriott – 1401 State Route 10 – Whippany, NJ