



Valtaro Celebration
Magnanini Farm Windery
Saturday, November 26, 2016
Noon until 5:00 p.m.
Featuring traditional
Valtaro and French Musette
Music by a star-studded
cast of performers.

AAA Festival 2017
The Westin Princeton at Forrestal
Village (New Jersey)

Save the dates:
Wednesday, July 12 through
Sunday, July 16, 2017

Room Rates: \$129
Plus Free Parking!

Sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association

From the Editor

Welcome to the September 2016 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

The AAA was recently represented at the 69th Coupe Mondiale in Rostov-on-Don, Russia by President Mary Tokarski (AAA Delegate and member of the International Jury) and her student Nathan Chapeton who proudly competed for the AAA in the Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Competition. The first Coupe Mondiale in Russia, the festival was organized by well known AAA guest artists over the years Alexander Poeluev and Vitatcheslav Semionov, as well as renowned accordionist Yuri Shishkin. Please see the enclosed article for a full report and list of Prize Winners.

Once again my sincere thanks to the AAA Past President Linda Reed and Board of Director Rita Davidson for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. Items for the November/December 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 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 November/December Newsletter will be the end of October 2016.

We look forward to hearing from you all with your news soon.

Sincerely,
Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



Message from AAA President - Mary Tokarski

AAA Congratulates Nathan Chapeton!

Rostov-On-Don, Russia was the accordion capital of the world for this year's Coupe Mondiale. Competitors from all around the world met, made new friends, listened to new music, and celebrated the accordion!

Nathan Chapeton from Middletown, Connecticut (student of AAA President Mary Tokarski) represented the USA-AAA in the Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Division performing "Divertimento" by Andre Astier, "Take Ten" by Frank Marocco, "Waltz" by Vladimir Mollov and "Sapphire" by Karen Freemar. Several of the competition attendees were asked who their favorite performer in the division was – the answer – "the American"! Hooray for Nathan! You can hear Nathan's performance on the Coupe Mondiale website.

The judges awarded 1st place in the Junior Virtuoso Entertainment to the competitor from Brazil - Gustavo Aliandre De Almeida, 2nd place to Alexander Bodell from the United Kingdom, and 3rd place to Radu Ratoi from Moldova.

In an interview for one of the Russian television stations, Nathan commented that he would love to live in Russia for a year and be privileged



to study the accordion there as well.

From the Delegate and Jury standpoint, the Coupe Mondiale in Rostov-on-Don was outstanding. The hosting organization supplied each of us with a personal volunteer who translated for us, and made sure we got where we were supposed to be without any situations! Great thinking on their part. The language was not an issue within the event, but for "life in general" in Rostov, we were a bit at a disadvantage. My volunteer, Dasha, was a young university language student, and was a joy to spend time with. She was intrigued with our "American" sayings . . . I happened to blurt out "fat chance" when some of our congress members were suggesting I cook dinner . . . Dasha immediately wanted to know what that meant. Try explaining that one!

The Russian experience was fantastic beyond compare. Concerts featuring the Russian Accordion Stars were nightly – each more spectacular than the last. Alexander Pouleuv, Yuri Shishkin and Viatcheslav Semionov were the celebrated artists throughout the week, with so many other students of Professor Semionov and formidable artists taking the stage with them. The music was amazing, the staging and dramatic presentations were outstanding. We saw accordionists featured with a bicyclist and tango dancers; a ballerina, and even a circus performer who put nails through a board with his hands! Ouch!

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From the President, cont'd from page 1

Now, back to the United States. Next up for AAA events is the Valtaro Celebration on November 26, 2016 at the Magnanini Winery, 172 Strawridge Road, Wallkill, New York 12589. The event will feature traditional Valtaro and French Musette Music with a special Guest Artist from Italy - Giangiacoimo Bucella, along with a "star-studded" lineup including Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Dominic Karcic and Ray Oreggia, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Mary Tokarski, Gia, Joe and Reagan Ciccone, Emilio Magnotta, Fred Schwinger, Bruce Nielsen and Frank Toscano. Be there. Reservations are \$73 per person (flyer is on the AAA website at www.ameraccord.com). We hope to see YOU there!

Plans for the 2017 Festival in Princeton, New Jersey are well under way, as well as a Carrozza Scholarship Dinner and Concert in the early Spring, and a Carrozza Competition during the Festival in July – prizes will total \$8,000! Details will be announced very soon on the AAA website. Stay tuned!

We have also experienced numerous inquiries about membership, certification exams, and all sorts of information about the accordion from former players, performers, and even composers who wish to write for our fabulous instrument. We are making a difference – keep up the good work everyone!

We hope to see YOU soon! ■

Unprecedented Prize Money at 69th Coupe Mondiale in Rostov-on-Don

The major financial sponsor of the Coupe Mondiale 'TAVR' offered almost 5 million Russian Rubles in prize money. The unprecedented RUB 4,910,000 (almost US\$ 80,000.00) in prizes was the most ever offered at a Coupe Mondiale during its almost 70 year history.

Hosted by the Rostov-on-Don City Administration with the support of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) Russian member "The International Music Center 'Harmony' ", the 69th Coupe Mondiale, the first in Russia, was a terrific success, featuring some of the finest young accordionists from around the world.

20 year old Aleksandr Komelkov from Russia, a student of Vitcheslav Semionov won the coveted title, having previously won the CIA Junior Coupe Mondiale and the Masters Coupe Mondiale before winning the 69th Coupe Mondiale title before his home country audience. Aleksandr Komelkov, in conjunction with his duet partner Mihail Naumov also won the International Competition for Chamber Music.

Head of the Rostov-on-Don City Administration S. I. Gorban and Coupe Mondiale organizers Yuri Shishkin (IMC Harmony President) and Alexander Poeluev (IMC Harmony Artistic Director) welcomed accordionists from around the world to their city, one with a rich history of accordion. Participants from as far a field as New Zealand, the USA, Brazil and throughout Scandinavia and Europe gathered to take part in a spectacular series of Competitions, Con-



Prof. Semionov is pictured with his student Aleksandr Komelkov, 1st place winner of the coveted Coupe Mondiale.

Coupe Mondiale Experience

The 69th Coupe Mondiale was a great experience for me, I got to meet amazing musicians around the world, hear them play, and had a wonderful time getting to know a different culture. The Russian committee organized this event very well and was almost flawless. The concerts that took place every night were absolutely wonderful, with different kinds of music and other weird stuff ...(metal bending). One of the perks of the trip was the food, such as the local restaurants. In one of them, they served pizza and sushi at the same time! I've never been to a place that does that. Every day, I would go to the Youth Theatre and listen to other contestants. Hearing other styles of music and different techniques of playing was amazingly educational. However, by far the best part of the trip were the local volunteers. They helped us with translating and organizing the delegates/jury to where they needed to be. This was the first time that an event such as the Coupe had volunteers to help out. Whoever that came up with that idea is the best and I give them my thanks. The only way this trip could've been any better is if it was free. I hope to return to Coupe Mondiale next year and see more of our fellow AAA members! If you've never been to the Coupe please do yourself a favor and go. No questions asked, just do it.

Sincerely, Nathan A. Chapeton



certs, Congress Meetings and social events, held in a beautiful array of venues throughout the city of Rostov-on-Don, Russia.

AAA Contestant Nathan Chapeton presented a well received program performing Andre Astier: Divertimento, Vladimir Mollov: Waltz, Karen Fremar: Sapphire and Frank Marocco: Take Ten. To see Nathan's performance, please visit: www.coupemondiale.org/2016/video14jnv.htm and scroll down to contestant No. 7.

A student of AAA President Mary Tokarski, Nathan not only competed, but had the invaluable experience of listening to and meeting his fellow accordionists from around the world.

President Tokarski represented the AAA at the General Assembly of Delegates and was an extremely busy member of the International Jury for four of the Coupe Mondiale competitions including the Masters Coupe Mondiale, the Junior Coupe Mondiale, the International Competition for Chamber Music - World Music and the International



Team USA Kevin Friedrich, Liz Finch, Nathan Chapeton and Mary Tokarski

Competition for Digital Accordion. The USA was also represented by Liz Finch a Delegate for the ATG and member of the International Jury panel and Kevin Friedrich an AAA and ATG Board of Director who served as a member of the International Jury and is the CIA Ambassador.

During the General Assembly of Delegates the CIA continued its work, announcing the development of its Museum Alliance. The World Accordion Museum Alliance is a global initiative held under

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Guy Klucevsek's new CD "Teetering on the Verge of Normalcy"

AAA member and recent composer of the AAA's most recent commissioning project, Guy Klucevsek has released a new CD "Teetering on the Verge of Normalcy".

"Friendship and tributes bind this album together," Sarah Cahill writes in her Introduction for Guy Klucevsek's new "Teetering on the Verge of Normalcy" CD from Starkland. "Compared to his previous work, this heartfelt album has an especially elegiac quality, informed by the loss of comrades and colleagues."

Kyle Gann once wrote, "Klucsevsek writes the world's most abnormal 'normal' music." Cahill adds, "What is amazing, then, is how natural and right this music sounds," noting this is "an album you can dance to."

The CD features Guy's tributes to composers Erik Satie, Nino Rota, Astor Piazzolla, Kurt Weill, William Duckworth, and Lars Hollmer, and arts patron, Bob Flath. The album's performers are Todd Reynolds (violin), Alan Bern (piano), Peggy Kampmeier (piano), Kamala Sankaram (voice), Pete Donovan (bass), Michael Lowenstern (bass clarinet), and Barbara Merjan (drums).

"Teetering on the Verge of Normalcy" Track List

- 01 Moose Mouth Mirror
- 02 Hungarian Hummingbird
- 03 Hymnopedie No. 2
- 04 Roundabout Now
- 05 Haywire Rag (for Joseph Franklin, on his birthday)
- 06 The Day the Snow Fell Upwards
- 07 Song of Remembrance
- 08 Shimmer (in memory of William Duckworth)



- 09 Bob Flath Waltzes with the Angels
- 10 Little Big Top (in memory of Nino Rota)
- 11 Three Quarter Moon (in memory of Kurt Weill)
- 12 The Swan and the Vulture
- 13 Ice Flowers
- 14 Riding the Wild Tangaroo
- 15 The Asphalt Orchid (in memory of Astor Piazzolla)
- 16 Waltzing at the Edge of Dawn
- 17 Teetering on the Verge of Normalcy
- 18 For Lars, Again (in memory of Lars Hollmer)

Guy Klucevsek is a renowned, versatile and highly-respected accordionist. He 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. In addition, Guy was the recipient of a 2010 United States Artists Collins Fellowship, an unrestricted \$50,000 award given annually to "America's finest artists."

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, Vienna International Accordion Festival, and the children's television show "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." He has premiered over 200 works featuring the accordion, including his own pieces as well as those composed for him from Mary Ellen Childs, William Duckworth, Fred Frith, Aaron Jay Kernis, Jerome Kitzke, Stephen Montague, Somei Satoh, Lois V Vierk, and John Zorn.

Guy has released over 20 recordings as soloist/leader on Tzadik, Winter & Winter, Innova, Starkland, Review, Intuition, CRI, and XI. ■



Tod Reynolds and Guy Klucevsek at "Teetering" recording session

Remembering Buckwheat Zydeco 1947-2016

Buckwheat Zydeco (Stanley Dural Jr.), the accordionist, organist, singer and songwriter, achieved fame as the man who introduced the Zydeco dance music of Louisiana to the world stage. Stanley Dural died on September 24th from lung cancer at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette. He was 68.



Stanley Dural Jr. was born in rural Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1947, one of 13 children. His parents were farmers. He worked on the farm as a boy, spending much time picking cotton, later commenting, "I did a lot of hard stuff growing up. I'm glad I did, 'cause this stuff – making music – is easy!"

His father, Stanley Dural Sr., was an amateur accordionist who played traditional Creole songs around the house. In his youth, Buckwheat – the nickname referred to his braided hair, which was reminiscent of the 'Buckwheat' character in the old 'Our Gang'/'The

Little Rascals' comedy series – rebelled against his father's music. He took up the accordion, piano, keyboards and the Hammond B3 organ and gravitated toward funk and rhythm & blues, joined bands before forming his own and eventually finding commercial success.

His international performances include the 1996 Summer Olympics closing ceremony, which was broadcast to a huge TV audience worldwide, and both of President Bill Clinton's inauguration celebrations.

Dural broke new ground for Zydeco, both stylistically and commercially. In 1987, Island Records released Buckwheat Zydeco's Grammy-nominated 'On a Night Like This', the first Zydeco album on a major label. More recently, the world-travelled Dural was the first Zydeco bandleader with his own YouTube channel, 'Buckwheat's World'.

He was a "cultural ambassador in the truest sense," said Michael Tisserand, author of the 1998 book 'The Kingdom of Zydeco', which will soon be reissued with a new foreword by Dural. "He brought this traditional music to the biggest stage it ever enjoyed. It took someone with his talent, range, sense of showmanship and charisma to take it that far. He'd play songs by Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones, and stretch the music beyond its original shape", Tisserand said, "but always with the sense of celebration, excitement and cultural pride at the heart of zydeco". ■

Coupe Mondiale 2016, *cont'd. from page 2*

the auspices of the CIA, to coordinate the efforts of Accordion Museums around the world. By unifying the work, members can unite their efforts to preserve and promote the heritage and story of the accordion and related materials.

Already within the CIA member nations such as USA, New Zealand, Finland, China, Russia, Germany, Austria and more, there are several magnificent facilities, and by combing resources the CIA aims to ensure that the history and development of our instrument is protected well into the future. The officers for this new Global Alliance are as follows:

- Kevin Friedrich (CIA Ambassador, USA AAA/ATG) - Director
- Kimmo Mattia (Finland Accordion Association) - Asst. Director
- Harley Jones (New Zealand Accordion Assoc.) - Executive Officer
- Raymond Bodell (Nat'l Accordion Org. of the UK) - Exec. Officer
- Other International consultants will be invited to assist in due course

A detailed report and mission statement outlining the important goals of the World Accordion Museum Alliance will be presented at the upcoming CIA Winter Congress in Nürnberg, Germany in December.

A new voting member of the CIA was welcomed: The Kazakh National University of Arts, Kazakhstan. This marks the first time CIA has welcomed a member from Kazakhstan with the CIA contact being renowned accordionist Samgar.

Future activities of the CIA were discussed including:

- Winter Congress in Nürnberg, Germany from December 2-4, 2016 (moved up from early 2017), it will coincide with 60th Anniversary of Nürnberger Akkordeonorchester and opening of Nürnberg Xmas Market
- Coupe Mondiale in Osimo, Italy (next to Castelfidardo), September 5-10, 2017
- Winter Congress in Kokkola, Finland February 16-18, 2018
- 71st Coupe Mondiale in Kaunas, Lithuania, 2018
- Winter Congress in Talin, Estonia 2019
- 72nd Coupe Mondiale, Algarve, Portugal, September, 2019
- Winter Congress, Prague, Czech Republic, 2020
- 73rd Coupe Mondiale, proposal for August, 2020
- Winter Congress, open, 2021
- Coupe Mondiale in Germany, 2021, will coincide with 90th Anniversary Celebration of the DHV

The Prize Winners from the Rostov-on-Don, Russia Coupe Mondiale with the prize money donated by the company 'TAVR' are as follows:

69th Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Aleksandr Komelkov (Russia) - RUB 450,000 (approx. US\$ 7,000)
- 2nd. Nikita Vlasov (Russia) - RUB 350,000 (approx. US\$ 5,500)
- 3rd. Pavel Masyuk (Russia) - RUB 250,000 (approx. US\$ 3,900)

Masters Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Rodion Shirokov (Russia) - RUB 300,000 (approx. US\$ 4,700)
- 2nd. Alexey Murza (Kazakhstan) - RUB 200,000 (approx. US\$ 3,125)
- 3rd. Ksenia Yakovleva (Russia) - RUB 150,000 (approx. US\$ 2,350)

Junior Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Radu Ratoi (Moldova) - RUB 200,000 (approx. US\$ 3,125)
- 2nd. Timur Galinurov (Russia) - RUB 150,000 (approx. US\$ 2,350)
- 3rd. Viljko Milojkovic (Serbia) - RUB 100,000 (approx. US\$ 1,560)



Intl. Comp. for Virtuoso Entertainment Music

- 1st. Daniele Carabetta (Italy) - RUB 300,000 (approx. US\$ 4,700)
- 2nd. Lorenzo Bosica (Italy) - RUB 200,000 (approx. US\$ 3,125)
- 3rd. Andrea Di Giacomo (Italy) - RUB 150,000 (approx. US\$ 2,350)

Junior Intl. Comp. for Virtuoso Entertainment Music

- 1st. Gustavo Aliandre De Almeida (Brazil) - RUB 200,000 (approx. US\$ 3,125)
- 2nd. Alexander Bodell (United Kingdom) - RUB 150,000 (approx. US\$ 2,350)
- 3rd. Radu Ratoi (Moldova) - RUB 100,000 (approx. US\$ 1,560)

Intl. Comp. for Chamber Music, Classical

- 1st. Masters Duo (Russia) - RUB 300,000 (approx. US\$ 4,700)
Mihail Naumov (accordion)
Aleksandr Komelkov (accordion)
- 2nd. Serotyuk and Gitin Duo (Kazakhstan) - RUB 200,000 (approx. US\$ 3,125)
Irina Serotyuk (accordion)
Volodymyr Gitin (clarinet)
- 3rd. Venti Dita (Russia) - RUB 150,000 (approx. US\$ 2,350)
Ksenia Yakovleva (accordion)
Alexey Ivanov (accordion)

Intl. Comp. for Chamber Music, World Music

- 1st. Russian Renaissance (Russia) - RUB 300,000 (approx. US\$ 4,700)
Alexey Mykitenko (accordion)
Ivan Kuznetsov (balalaika)
Ivan Vinogradov (balalaika contrabass)
Anastasiia Zakharova (domra)
- 2nd. Masters Duo (Russia) - RUB 200,000 (approx. US\$ 3,125)
Mihail Naumov (accordion)
Aleksandr Komelkov (accordion)
- 3rd. The Pillers (Austria) - RUB 150,000 (approx. US\$ 2,350)
Daniel Piller (accordion)
Darko Piller (violin)
Nenad Jovanovic (piano)
Branko Jovanovic (tambura)

Long Island Accordion Alliance features Emilio Magnotta!

Accordionist Emilio Magnotta was the featured guest artist for the September meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) at La Villini Restaurant (631 261 6344) in East Northport, NY. This was Emilio's sixth visit to LIAA as a featured guest artist and once again his performance was outstanding. Enjoying popular support from accordionists and music lovers, so far this year every Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) event has been sold out prior to the event! The Alliance is so proud that it is responsible for the resurgence of interest in the accordion and accordion music on Long Island. October's event featured the LIAA's own "Papa" Joe DeClemente as the guest artist. ■



Pictured at the recent LIAA event are: front row - left to right: Santo Endrizzi and Joe Campo, second row - left to right: Emilio Magnotta, Phil Prete and "Papa" Joe DeClemente and back row - left to right: Ray Oreggia, Dominic Karcic, Greg Zukoff and Frank Scardino

From Broadway to the Met

The popular evening "From Broadway to the Met plus" featuring vocalist Cheryl Spielman and accordionist Dominic Karcic will take place on Wednesday October 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Attendees are invited to enjoy the music from the American Song Book, Broadway, Tin Pan Alley, Opera, Operetta plus much more.



Originally from Astoria, NY Dominic Karcic attended St. Francis of Assisi Grammar School, William Cullen Bryant high school, The New York College of Music where he earned a Bachelor of Music Degree before continuing his education at the City University of New York (CCNY) where he received his Masters Degree in Music.

Dominic was one of the founders and first President of the Adriatic Islands Charity Committee and served as its President for thirteen years. During his tenure the committee raised thousands of dollars for senior citizen homes, hospitals and churches in the Mali Losinj (Lussin Piccolo) area of Croatia. The organization's first fund raiser at the Oyster Bay catering house in Astoria, NY attracted nine-hundred and fifty people where Dominic and his orchestra supplied the music for the monumental event.

Dominic has always played both the accordion and piano professionally in the New York metropolitan area and continues to do so today. Performing with his fellow musicians "The Continental Sound" he has served as house musician at the Columbus Citizens Foundation (NYC) for over twenty-five years and he has played for organizations like the Valtarese Foundation (Parma, Italy), Fubinese Society (Piemonte, Italy), Italian Charities of Queens, NY, Italian Heritage Association of Long Island, La Pace Restaurant (Glen Cove, NY) and also at Magnanini Winery in Wallkill, NY.

His love for the Valtaro Musette music was instilled in him through his years of study with noted accordionist Peter Spagnoli. In recent years he has been involved in the preservation and documentation of this musical style. He collaborated in writing a biographical article on the life and career of accordionist John "Scudlein" Brugnoli (founder of the Valtaro Musette Orchestra) which was published in the Gazzetta di Parma (Parma, Italy) on September 10, 2002 and also was later published with a series of other articles on the Borgo Val di Taro website. His original article and research was the basis for the extensive November 3, 2008 ER Magazine (Bologna, Italy) article by Claudio Bacilieri titled "Tutti Mi Chiamano Bionda."

Dominic is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Accordionists' Association and along with fellow accordionist Ray Oreggia has given workshop presentations on the Valtaro Musette style for the AAA, the Connecticut Accordion Association (CAA), the Maryland Accordion Club and the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS).

His CD titled "Let's Dance" features musette music – tangos, waltzes, mazurkas and merengues. The CD has been featured on the Joe Farda's radio show (93.5 FM), Floyd Vivino's radio show (93.5 FM) and Louise Potenza's Ciao Italy radio show (WALK 1370 AM).

Make your reservation at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731, phone: 631-261-6344. ■

Santiago Jimenez Jr. Receives Award at the White House

At the White House, a golden moment for a great American artist, conjunto musician and Diatonic Accordion artist Santiago Jimenez Jr.

Santiago Jimenez Jr. was one of 4 recipients, and the only accordionist of the 2015 National Medals of Arts. The other three recipients were author Sandra Cisneros, film director, actor and civil rights activist Luis Valdez and playwright Moisés Kaufman.

The medal was presented to Santiago Jimenez Jr. for expanding the horizon of American music. The medals, awarded annually by the National Endowment for the Arts, are the highest honor given to artists and art patrons by the U.S. government. The presentation was on September 22 in Washington, D.C. and made by US President Barak Obama.

Santiago Jimenez Jr. has helped spread traditional conjunto music, blending the sounds and cultures of south Texas and Mexico. His lively melodies performed on the button diatonic accordion have captivated audiences for decades. ■



Above: Santiago Jimenez Jr., President Barack Obama and author Sandra Cisneros Below: President Obama presents the National Medals of Arts award to Santiago Jimenez Jr.



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Featuring traditional
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Coupe Mondiale 2016, *cont'd. from page 4*

Intl. Comp. for Digital Accordion

- 1st. Maria Kushnikova (Russia) - RUB 150,000 (approx. US\$ 2,350)
- 2nd. Valerio Russo (Italy) - RUB 120,000 (approx. US\$ 1,900)
- 3rd. Konstantin Ryabin (Russia) - RUB 90,000 (approx. US\$ 1,400)

The Coupe Mondiale festival featured not only the annual series of competitions, but also an array of concerts and activities showcasing the diverse and rich history of the accordion in Rostov. Concerts included former Russian Coupe Mondiale Champions, hosts Yuri Shishkin and Alexander Poeluev performing both solo and with orchestras including the Don Orchestra, the Rostov-on-Don Conservatory Symphony Orchestra and the Rostov Academic Symphony Orchestra, along with an impressive variety of soloists through to groups performing a variety of styles from Folk to Classical to Pop music. From the 70,000 fans listening to the accordionists in the main square, to the capacity audiences in the various Theatres located throughout Rostov, the city of Rostov-on-Don was the accordion capital of the world during the 69th Coupe Mondiale festival.

For full coverage of the event with both Daily Reports (pictures and information) and a Video Center (including videos of all contestants and concerts), please visit the extensive online coverage of the event at:

www.coupemondiale.org/2016/ru_coupemain.htm. ■

Cody McSherry, Winner of Lancaster's Got Talent Competition

Accordionist Cody McSherry won the first Lancaster's Got Talent competition, held in August 2016 at LNP Studio in Lancaster, PA., winning a \$750.00 award.

Judges were impressed with 12-year-old McSherry's stage presence, and his ability to play what they considered such a complex instrument, especially one which is not well known among his peer group.

Cody played a lively rendition of "Dance of the Comedians," from the 19th century comic opera "The Bartered Bride," by Czech composer Bedrich Smetana. The videos were available online for public voting and ten finalists were chosen with over 4000 votes cast. Cody was the only accordionist with the other nine finalists being vocalists. All performed for three judges and a live audience as well as the on-line audience watching via live streaming.

Cody is twelve years old and a seventh grade student at Resurrection Catholic School in Lancaster, PA. He began his musical studies with piano at age four and accordion at age 6. Cody also studies but-



Cody McSherry
Lancaster's
Got Talent

ton accordion, pipe organ, theater organ, saxophone, viola, and voice. He is currently studying accordion with AAA President Mary Tokarski.

Cody enjoys per-

First New York City Jazz Accordion Festival

The First NYC International Jazz Accordion Festival presented many of the finest accordionists in the USA and abroad including Eddie Monteiro, Guy Klucevsek and Simone Baron.

The first New York International Jazz Accordion Festival, organized by Victor Prieto, took place on September 17th and 18th at the Terraza 7 Club, NY. This festival celebrated the cultural heritage of the accordion. On September 17th the Eddie Monteiro Trio performed in concert, and on September 18th Guy Klucevsek presented a solo performance.

With over 30 years of musical activities, AAA Board of Director Eddie Monteiro has performed in classical, jazz, dance, theater, cabaret and choral ensembles.

Simone Baron of Arco Belo has headlined at the West Virginia Jazz Festival, Gallery O and Twins Jazz, and performs, arranges and composes for her project Arco Belo, a sextet of strings, bass, percussion and accordion/piano. Recently a guest artist in residence at the Banff Arts Centre, Simone is looking forward to her upcoming 2016-2017 residency at the Strathmore.

Guy Klucevsek 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. Klucevsek has released over 20 recordings as soloist/leader.

Festival organizer Victor Prieto is a Grammy Winner and 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 music and Jazz accordionists now a days". An accordionist, composer and educator that has changed and influenced a whole new generation of accordionists and musicians all over the world.

For further information on upcoming festivals please contact: info@victorprieto.net ■

forming regularly throughout the Lancaster area as a soloist and also with his band, Polterabend. He has performed onstage with the Alex Meixner Band and the Walt Groller Orchestra, and is the youngest member of the Accordion Pops Orchestra in New Jersey under the direction of Al Terzo.

Very active in his church, Historic St. Mary's in Lancaster, Cody is an altar server, sacristan, plays in the instrumental ensemble and sings in the adult choir. Last year, Cody played the role of Gavroche in Les Miserables and Flick in A Christmas Story, the musical, both at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Lancaster. He was cast in Servant Stage's Old Time Gospel Radio Hour, where he sang and played the accordion.

Cody and his band performed at the recent Reading Liederkrantz Button Box Festival in Reading, Pennsylvania.

For further information on Cody: pat@lmsetch.com ■

22nd Smash Year of 'The Seminars'

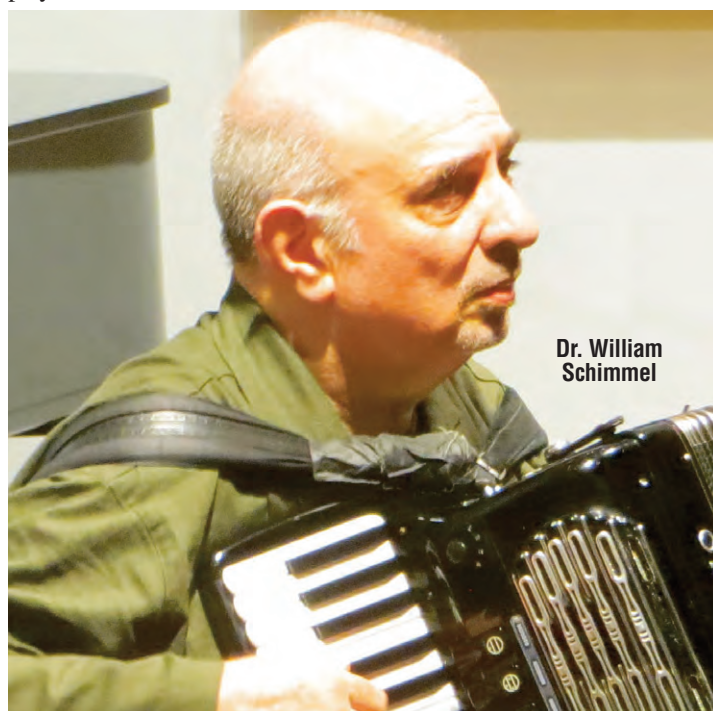
The American Accordionists' Association Master Class and Concert Series 'The Seminars' moderated by Dr. William Schimmel celebrated its 22nd Smash Year during the event 'No Place Like Home' held from July 29-31 at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City.

Music Maestro Magazine said: "The 2016 Seminars moderated and curated by Dr. William Schimmel were unsurpassably amazing: High level, high octane performances, stimulating talks and great vibes, perhaps the foundation of an Accordion artistic community, I could live off of it for a year".

The New York Times proclaimed: "William Schimmel who holds a Doctorate in Composition from The Juilliard School is a tireless champion of the Accordion who runs a yearly Seminar in New York that draws fellow players from around the world and introduces new works. He honors the populist heritage of his instrument by giving master classes on subjects like working as a strolling accordionist at restaurants. Yet for Dr. Schimmel, as he explained in a 2004 interview in *The New York Times*, there's no music that can't be played on the accordion - from Bizet to Blondie" *Anthony Tommasini*.

Time out New York says: "Under the ever watchful eye of mad-genius accordionist Dr. William Schimmel, squeeze boxers from around the globe gather for the AAA's annual series of master classes and freewheeling concerts, which includes unorthodox spins on classic standards, new pieces and all manner of unpredictable fusions."

The participants included: Micki Goodman, who presented her own new video work, Classical Bluegrass with a score by Dr. Schimmel; Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Pianist, performing in Transendencia - based on the music of Albeniz with additional music for Bass Accordion by Dr. Schimmel. Erica Marie Mancini presented her Distancia, for Accordion and Laptop. Paul Stein gave us a Melodica Medley from Michel Legrand to Perfidia. Mary Spencer Knapp gave us two new songs complete with choreography. Lee McClure told us the history of Eclecticism as well as a film noir tribute for Flute and Accordion. Ken Laufer's Symphony in the Old Style mirrored the Blues. Will Holshouser's new work mixed classic modernism with jazz with a new approach to bellows shaking. Godfrey Nelson and Lorraine Nelson Wolf performed a work entitled Heart for Accordion, Guitar, Piano and Electronics. Dr. Schimmel did a Reality on West Side Story (West Side Reality), David First played Harmonica in Home Sweet Home while Dr. S. David Stoler



Dr. William Schimmel

presented Cinematic Suite for Accordion and Guitar (Sal Azzarelli). Carl Riehl premiered Messian in Black for Accordion and Electronics.

The Master Classes included acclaimed Klezmer Violinist, Alicia Svigals, demonstrating various Klezmer varieties. City Opera Diva, Lauren Flanigan focused in on newly discovered

Kurt Weill songs not yet performed publicly - with special permission from the Kurt Weill Society.

Paul Stein gave a workshop on performing in small spaces, including house concerts. Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan told us about his own personal Accordion Odyssey starting from childhood to Academic life.

Jeanne Velonis gave us a 16th Century Scarf Dance and a work by John Tavener. Dr. Denise Koncelik was awarded the Order of the Shield Diploma for her outstanding work as an Accordionist (Dance of the Comedians/Bachtopus), flutist Burlesca (WS)/Sontag in Sarajevo (Dave Soldier) along with Dr. Mc Mahan and Devon Tipp and arranger (Carousel Breakdown WS - Main Squeeze Orchestra).

The Order of the Shield is a private studies program and the graduate and post graduate level boast a lineup of graduates and honorary members including Charles Magnate, Carmen Carozza, Joseph Soprani, Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan, Micki Goodman, Will Holshouser, Paul Stein and many more. Special thanks was given to Micki Goodman (Dr. Schimmel's wife) for contributions spanning 22 years. Also special thanks was given to Paul Stein for his constant support. Will Holshouser received a special merit award for his distinguished service of 20 years.

More highlights included performances by The Main Squeeze Orchestra performing Dr. Schimmel's Carousel Breakdown - written for them - with movement and costumes and Bachtopus, an Accordion Quartet specializing in Bachian Pieces. Here they performed Dr. Schimmel's (Anonymous Bach) Concerto in A Minor from the Accordion player's perspective, preceded by Cantus in honor of Benjamin Britten by Avro Part (arr. Robert Duncan). Will Comer played at a Master Class and received positive comments.

Dr. Schimmel gave a lecture that took us back to 1954 when there were four hits on Hit Parade that used Accordion extensively: That's Amore, Chimney Smoke, Crazy Mixed Up Song and Whale of a tale. He explained the fact that various Accordion Associations, the Ethnic Community and young people approaching teen years had their own agendas and none of the groups connected - leading to the Accordion's demise. He gave suggestions on how to connect today using Social Network as a new groups form. He called this factor Permanent Transition - demonstrating with a piece - Tango of the Blue Danube which had one foot in Vienna and one in Argentina. He also played a new rendition of Pietro Deiro's Concerto in D, one of his last compositions, paired down to five minutes with a steady beat throughout - danceable in a club - he called it the "House Version".

Doug Makofka supplied "Frippertonics" to Cantata for Regular People as well as Persichetti and his own Willys Song. Bob Goldberg explored the Tenri space with Over the Rainbow. Brian Dewan closed the weekend with Horse with no name, Do not mortgage the farm and the Crayon song. John Foti gave us an Asbury Park New Jersey Americana. Melissa Elledge gave us Accordion - Gangsta rap and a new original. Mayumi Miyaoka gave us a tribute to Charles Magnate and a Japanese folk Melody. Peter Flint premiered a new work for Bachtopus. Uri Sharlin and Sanda Weigel presented us with selections from Hans Eisler's Hollywood Songbook. Indie Rocker Corn Mo performed The Lost Chord by Sir Arthur Sullivan, Robert Schumann and one of his own songs. Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan premiered his Riffs for Accordion and Bassoon (Devon Tipp), joined Cellist Cecilia Barczyk in Introduction and Allegro by Matyas Seiber. Marni Rice performed a selection from her Cabaret of the Absurd.

The 23rd annual event in 2017 is titled The Red Lantern Accordionist. Details will be made available in upcoming editions of this Newsletter. ■

20th Semi-Annual Roland Workshop

AAA Board of Director Sam Falcetti presented his 20th semi-annual Roland Workshop on September 18th at Falcetti Music in Springfield, MA. The topic for the workshop was "How to Fake a Song in 5 Minutes - Play by Ear."

Over the years Sam has given this workshop several times, finding that it works best on the accordion with the left hand circle of fifths set up. He covered step by step what is necessary to play a song for which you have never seen the music, or ever played before.

Also included on the program were several Roland accordionists from all over New England with different applications of the popular V accordions being presented and discussed.

Performers for this event included 11 year old Angela Falcetti from Ludlow, MA., singing and performing on the Roland 1X, and also performing Blues/Jazz with the art of improvisation; Bob Mozgala from Pittsfield, MA., performing Mag-nantes' arrangements in a beautifully or-
chestrated style on the Roland 7X; Diane Quirbach from Milford, NH., using the free bass left hand with an orchestrated arrangement on the Roland 8X; John Valerio from Durham, CT., showing the wireless possibilities, using midi on the Roland 8X; Martha Flood from Adams, MA., using a #10 I Pad App to create her own backing tracks in performance with her Roland 3X.



For further information, please e-mail, peggyf1944@gmail.com or call Sam Falcetti at (413) 204-5522. ■

Dwayne Dopsie and the Zydeco Hellraisers in Concert

AAA's Search for the Hottest Accordionist Dwayne Dopsie (born 1979 in Lafayette, Louisiana), the son of the late Rockin Dopsie will perform throughout the US before heading to make his China debut. Dwayne plays a unique, high energy style of Zydeco. Although inspired by tradition, he has developed his own style. He has played the accordion since age seven and states, "This is my calling - Zydeco music is in my blood and it is my heart and soul". Dwayne Dopsie and the Zydeco Hellraisers have performed all over the world.



Dwayne Dopsie and the Zydeco Hellraisers perform as follows during October:

- October 1 - Mighty Mississippi Music Festival, Greenville, MS
- October 2 - St. Paul Church Fair, Baton Rouge, LA
- October 8 - OktoPRfest Street Festival, Port Royal, SC
- October 14 - Andouille Festival, Laplace, LA
- October 15 - Rendez-vous des Cajuns/Tribute to Rockin Dopsie, Cajun Music Radio and TV Show, Eunice, LA
- October 16 - Kentuck Festival of the Arts, Northport, AL
- October 18-24 - Chengdu, China

For further information e-mail: Lucy@DwayneDopsie.com

AAA Festival 2017

The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village (New Jersey)



Save the dates:
Wednesday, July 12 through
Sunday, July 16, 2017

Carrozza Competition
\$8,000 in cash prizes
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Room Rates: \$129 – Plus Free Parking!

"Bellows Open: The Great Squeeze Project" Opens in Connecticut!

By Marilyn O'Neil, Youth Involvement Program Coordinator



Marilyn O'Neil

Exciting news from Connecticut! AAA Youth Involvement Program Coordinator Marilyn O'Neil, who is also Acting President of the Connecticut Accordion Association, applied for a grant through the Arts and Culture Collaborative, Waterbury, CT Region at the end of July. She was notified on Tuesday, September 19, that the grant for \$3,800.00 was approved! This grant is supported in part by the Arts and Culture Collaborative, Waterbury Region, in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Waterbury Regional Arts and Culture Collaborative is one of nine regional arts organizations across the State of Connecticut that administers this program for the Connecticut Office of the Arts. The grants are intended for small arts organizations and programs, including those in schools, municipalities and community service organizations, for projects taking place between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017.

O'Neil developed and applied for the program as an individual, representing both the Connecticut Accordion Association (CAA) and the Youth Outreach Committee of the American Accordionists' Association. Both organizations are committed to reintroducing the accordion to young people. The AAA's Youth Outreach Committee, chaired by Don Gerundo, has already taken strides in this direction, with newest AAA board member Dallas Vietty presenting the accordion to classes at Lehigh Valley Charter School for the Arts this past May. Similar outreach efforts in early July with radio station WQXR in NYC involved Don Gerundo and Dallas Vietty assessing some 100 accordions for AAA's youth programming efforts. 10 of those instruments were donated to the AAA by WQXR.

Connecticut's program is called "Bellows Open, The Great Squeeze Project." It is a collaborative effort between members of the Connecticut Accordion Association and Wolcott, CT Public Schools, specifically the High School, where students ASKED to learn more about the accordion. CAA member Saverio Romanelli's grandson attends Wolcott High and he brought the request to his grandfather. An initial "test run" took place last Spring when CAA member Bob Vitale brought a video of the Youth Involvement Program's 2015 jazz ensemble performance to Wolcott High for the students to view. It was met with an enthusiastic response which eventually prompted the idea for the grant. The Grant's program is extensive, and will run from October, 2016 through the end of September, 2017. It will provide up

to 6 classes (90 minutes each) of instruction by Music Teacher and CAA Member Peter Peluso. Following the classroom work, up to 7 students will join the CAA orchestra in rehearsals either on accordion or their own instruments and, along with the CAA orchestra, deliver 2 concerts to their peers and the general public respectively.

Mr. Peluso's extensive career as a certified music teacher in Connecticut and New York includes teaching positions in Edwards, New York, as well as Farmington, and Plainville, CT. The last 25 years of his formal teaching career were spent in Hartford, CT at the Greater Hartford, CT Academy for the Arts, where he taught musical theater with high school students. Peter is an accomplished accordionist, pianist, vocal teacher and conductor of community bands, choruses and youth theater groups. He recently directed The Plainville, CT Choral Society's Youth theater production of the Broadway musical "Starmites." His career includes working with local bands as an accordionist. He acts as conductor for the CAA orchestra upon request. His many accomplishments include working with composers to premier new works. Vocal students and colleagues of Peter's have graced the CAA orchestra's performances. His musical colleagues performed at the AAA Festival in Tarrytown in 2014.

As each of us who are committed to seeing the accordion flourish for years to come do our work, it has become obvious that not only is the NEED there, but the DESIRE is evident in the enthusiastic responses we are getting from youth.

One of the areas in the grant proposal required O'Neil to provide an explanation of how the proposed project will apply the arts in new and imaginative ways. Her response is quoted below: "This will be the first time in decades that accordionists will venture out into the community to provide direct educational and experiential opportunities to youth. We have been stuck in the closet, "preaching to the choir" for over 40 years and suffered innumerable insults even as talented accordionist musicians have performed with symphony orchestras, in countless movie soundtracks and on the albums of famous rock musicians."

"In short, this project is about breaking through the barriers and confronting stereotypes that much of society has held onto for too long. Young people do NOT carry those stereotypes. They WANT to learn about the accordion. We're meeting them on their turf and giving them a chance to see just what this instruments' capabilities are." ■



Peter Peluso

Remembering Phil Franzese

Philip Franzese passed away Friday, August 26, 2016 at the age of 86. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and was a long time resident of Garden City, NY where he built the house that he and his wife Annette raised their four children. He was a successful construction contractor and real estate operator for sixty years. He is predeceased by his wife Annette, his parents Frank and Fannie, and his siblings Mary and Nicholas. He is survived by his sister Josephine, his children Denise, Frank, Tina and Philip as well as his six grandchildren. He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Phil had many passions in life, but his oldest passion was the accordion, which he loved and played for over seventy years. He began studying the accordion as a young boy in the early 1940's at the State School of Music (1397 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY) where instructions were given for twenty-five cents (\$.25) a lesson. He performed with his music school at Carnegie Hall and also the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

He fell in love with the instrument and was eventually, in his adult years, a member of the Accordion Pops Orchestra, which at that time was conducted by noted accordionist Danny Desiderio, appeared in an off Broadway musical the "White Widow" in 2007 and in August of 2010 he became one of the original members of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) which first met in Commack, NY and had been an active member ever since.

Phil's passion for music, gardening and people, intersected every summer when he would host his "Annual Garden Party" where he enjoyed sharing his gift of music and flowers with his family, friends and business associates.

If you had the pleasure of knowing Phil, you were captivated by his love for life. He truly touched the hearts of all who knew him. He was a very special person. ■



Santo Endrizzi, Mary Tokarski president of the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) & Phil Franzese

Coast to Coast

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



Peekskill, NY

Popular NY duo Mario Tacca (accordion) and Mary Mancini (vocalist) recently performed at the Bean Runner in Peekskill, NY.



Appearing with Mario and Mary were Mike Caruso (Guitar and Mandolin), David Winograd (Bass) and Randy Smith (Drums).

Lyons, NJ

The Accordion Pops Orchestra presents "An Afternoon of Music" on October 23, 2016 at 2:00 PM at the Veterans Hospital, 151 Knollcroft Road, Lyons, NJ.



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

Santa Rosa, CA

Jason Webley with The Crux and Oddhob Ensemble performed in concert on Friday, September 30, 8pm, at the 1067 Social Club, 4th St, Santa Rosa, California.

Jason Webley is known for his fusion of folk, rock, experimental and alternative music. He began as a street performer, playing accordion in the streets of Seattle, Washington, and has released several albums to date. For further information on recordings and upcoming performances, please e-mail: thecruxmusic@gmail.com

Victoria, BC

Peter and Madeleine Soave from France and Marin Nasturica from Montreal will perform with the DieMahler Ensemble in Victoria, BC, on October 22, 2016 at 2:30 PM. The ensemble will have an expanded string section, providing a beautiful backdrop against the accordions. Rainer Roth, clarinetist, will join them. Pablo Diemecke is the music director. Tickets are on sale now and will be available at the door on the day of the concert which will take place at St. Mary's Church, 1701 Elgin Road, Oak Bay, Victoria, BC. Tickets are \$25 for adults/\$22.50 for seniors. For further information: pdiemecke@gmail.com



Becket, MA

The NorthEast Squeeze-In (NESI), the Squeeze-In Festival of accordions, concertinas and free-reed music was held from September 23-25, 2016 in Becket, MA. at Camp Chimney Corners, a well appointed year round camp and conference center in the Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts.

Every year the event consists of playing music with friends, old and new in a beautiful rustic setting during a weekend of workshops, tune swaps, spontaneous sessions and jams, songs, dance and camaraderie. For further information on upcoming events, please contact: contact@squeeze-in.org

Brooklyn, NY

On Sunday, September 25, 2016, the Brooklyn Accordion Club presented a Brazilian Samba and Choro workshop presented by Vitor Gonçalves. The afternoon included a photo shoot, club meeting, open mic, and a participatory accordion workshop for all levels.

Vitor Gonçalves is a pianist, accordionist, composer and arranger from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Vitor has enjoyed an illustrious career as an in demand musician in Brazil, playing with such icons as Hermeto Pascoal, Maria Bethânia, Itiberê Zwarg, and many others, and now currently lives in New York City. Upcoming Brooklyn Accordion Club meetings in 2016 in-

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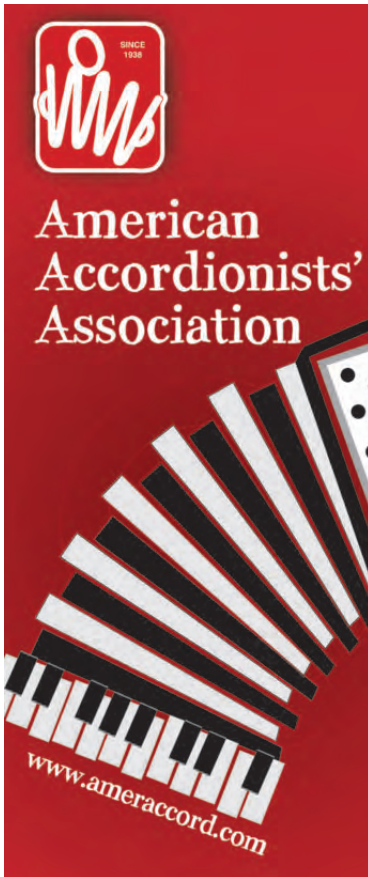
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clude Sunday, October 16, 3-5:00 PM and November 13, 3-5:00 PM at 61 Local, 61 Bergen St., Brooklyn, New York. For further information email: brooklynaccordionclub@gmail.com

Superior, WI

The World Of Accordions Museum located in Superior, WI proudly received the acknowledgement from Trip Advisor 'Top Rated Museum'. Reviews from the popular online travel service includes customer comments such as 'Largest collection in the World!', 'Amazing accordion history, collection and music' "The director was so knowledgeable and entertaining as she took us through the history of the world use of this instrument." Please visit www.worldofaccordions.org for more information.

While they last! Order your copy of the 2016 AAA Journal
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I would like to donate \$60 to sponsor an artist (your name will appear in the program).

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Open seating. Reserved seating for parties of 10 or more.

AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

Attention: Julie A. Cardona

67 Sackett Point Rd., Apt. 215 • North Haven, CT 06473

Phone: (203) 691-8808 • ameraccord1938@gmail.com

Please RSVP
on or before
November 1, 2016

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