



# AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association page 1

March-April 2019



## Carrozza Scholarship Competition

July 17-21 2019

AAA Festival in

Valley Forge, PA

Visit us online at

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for complete details and  
entry form.

## Carrozza Scholarship Fundraiser

September 8, 2019

Famee Furlane

College Point Queens

Sponsored by the  
American Accordionists' Association

### From the Editor:

Welcome to the March-April 2019 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

The busy summer season is just around the corner and we hope you are making your plans to attend the upcoming AAA Festival from July 17-21, 2019 to be held at the Valley Forge Casino Resort (Radisson Hotel) in King of Prussia, PA. Please visit the AAA website at [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) for all the latest information including our exciting array of inspiring guest artists, competition information and registration details.

We hope you enjoy reading about the variety of accordion activities taking place across the country by accordionists of all genres performing in a variety of settings. If you have an upcoming performance, please let us know so that we can share it with our readers.

My sincere thanks to Past AAA President, Linda Reed for her ongoing work in making the final Newsletter Publication and Board of Director Rita Barnea for her work in helping source accordion events across the USA that we often include in our Newsletter publications.

Items for the May-June 2019 Newsletter can be sent to me at [goaccordion@yahoo.com](mailto:goaccordion@yahoo.com) or to the official AAA e-mail address at: [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com) Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. As always, text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word attachment if possible. 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-June Newsletter will be the 15th of April 2019.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and thanks in advance for sending in your news!

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



### From the President:

Welcome to the March-April issue of the AAA Newsletter. Hopefully the snow and ice will be gone shortly and the flowers will begin to bloom and to quote Robert Browning, "...and all's right with the world." Reservations are coming in for our AAA Festival 2019 at the Valley Forge Casino Resort (Radisson Hotel). Please visit the AAA website often ([ameraccord.com](http://ameraccord.com)) for updates and reminders. New feature on the site will list upcoming events under Breaking News. Be sure to watch for updates frequently. If you want to list your club or organization on the Breaking News feature, please send the details to [ameraccord1938.com](mailto:ameraccord1938.com).

Best wishes to our affiliate organizations that are hosting events during March and April, especially the Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble, American Accordionists Musicological Society, Connecticut Accordion Association (two events), Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts' New England Music Festival as well as the Accordion Pops Orchestra. Information on these events can be found in this issue of the AAA Newsletter.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Valley Forge at the 2019 AAA Festival. There is a full array of events for all ages including Master Class sessions with Michael Bridge, Workshops on several topics including Music Writing Programs, Bass Lines, Bellow Shakes, "Ghost" Fingering, Ensemble playing and so much more. If you need additional registration forms, don't hesitate to drop a note to [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com).

Wishing all a Happy Spring and a very Happy Easter!

Dr. Joseph A. Ciccone



Visit us online at [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com)

## Buried Treasure for Harp and Accordion by Dr. William Schimmel

On Wednesday, April 3, 2019 between 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM, accordionist Dr. William Schimmel will join forces with Harpist Kathryn Andrews on a project entitled Buried Treasure for Harp and Accordion. The presentation will be a feature at the upcoming weeklong event at the Lincoln Center in New York City. For a full list of events, please see the article found within this publication.

Versatile harpist Kathryn Andrews fears no challenge on her instrument. Whether it be collaborating on a contemporary work, playing with an orchestra, or performing as a soloist, Kathryn's unique interpretation, technique and musicality make her one of the most recognized harpists in New York City.

On Broadway, Kathryn was the principal harpist for the 2018 production of Rogers and Hammerstein's *Carousel* starring Renée Fleming. She has performed on *Hello, Dolly!*, *Wicked*, Rogers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, *The Fantasticks* and *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. She has performed with The Bronx Opera, The Queens Symphony, The Chelsea Symphony, The Manhattan Camerata and The West Point Band. She was a featured soloist with The Chelsea Symphony in their 2009 and 2012 seasons.

An avid promoter of new music, she is a founding member of Duo Scorpio and Trio Kavak, both New York City based new music ensembles performing and commissioning contemporary classical works.

Kathryn has a Master Degree from the Manhattan School of Music in *Orchestral Performance* and a Master Degree from the Mannes College of Music in *Classical Harp* where she studied with Susan Jolles. In 2009, she was awarded the *Orchestral Performance Award* from the Bel Canto Institute in Florence, Italy for her interpretation of the bel canto style winning a solo recital in Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Schimmel's work was inspired by a segment of the musical *Carousel* that both musicians were performing in, and was premiered at the 2018 Annual Master Class and Concert Series in New York City. ■



## Dr. William Schimmel keeps busy Performance Schedule

Dr. William Schimmel (Accordion) performed with The New York Philharmonic in a concert that featured the renowned soprano, Rene Fleming. Dr. Schimmel also accompanied Ms. Fleming in the Broadway run of *Carousel* in which the cast album received a Grammy Nomination.

In January, Dr. Schimmel performed at the Prototype Festival in New York in a new opera by Philip Venable entitled "4.48 Psychosis" based on the play by Sarah Kane depicting her last moments. The performances took place at Baruch College. Originally from London, this was the American Premiere. It received rave reviews in every major New York Paper and Concerto. Net singled out Dr. Schimmel, calling him "The Venerable Bill Schimmel."

Also in January, Dr. Schimmel did a tour of Germany performing in Elliott Sharp's Opera, "Port Bou" - along with Jenny Lin, piano and Nicholas Isherwood, Bass Baritone. The performances took place in Bonn and surrounding cities.

On February 3, Dr. Schimmel performed with The Israel Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall under the direction of Zubin Mehta. He, with the orchestra, accompanied Itzhak Perlman in the tango "Por

Una Cabeza", the very tango that Dr. Schimmel initiated with The Tango Project in the film, "Scent of a Woman", starring Oscar winner for the role, Al Pacino.

On April 24, 25, 27 and 30, Dr. William Schimmel will perform with The New York Philharmonic in Thomas Larcher's *Symphony No. 2*. Originally conceived as a concerto for orchestra, Thomas Larcher's *Symphony No. 2* takes the form of a classical symphony but retains elements of the original idea, reaching from the intimacy of chamber music to the immense diversity of a full orchestra. Thomas Larcher stated: "I want to explore the forms of our musical past under the light of the (musical and human) developments we have been part of during our lifetime. How can we find tonality that speaks in our time? And how can the old forms speak to us? These are questions I often ask myself. This piece is very much about different forms of energy: bundled, scattered, smooth, kinetic or furious."

This is Dr. Schimmel's 43rd season with The New York Philharmonic. For further information: [accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:accordionbill@gmail.com). ■

### *Thanks to the following for their generous donations.*

#### **Up to \$500**

Nat & Frank Greco, *General Fund*

#### **Up to and including \$100**

Guy Klucevsek, (2) *Composers Commissioning & Scholarship*

Gloria Pope, *General Fund*

Bruce R. and Roseanne Rancke, *Scholarship\**

Sandra J. Zera, *Geneal Fund*

#### **Up to and including \$50**

Linda R. Haney, *Scholarship*

Fred Schwinger, *Youth Promotion*

Allen Somer, Sr., *Scholarship\*\**

Fred Schwinger, *Youth Promotion*

#### **Up to and including \$25**

Lorna Anderson, (2)

*General & Composers Commissioning*

Eileen Apruzzese, *General*

Georgio F. Curletto, (3) *General, Scholarship*

*and Composers Commissioning*

Manfred Foge, *Youth Promotion*

Sergio Fresco, *Scholarship*

Samuel M. Gentile, *General*

Dr. Frank Mellana, *General*

Richard Metro, *Scholarship*

Joseph J. Piori, *Scholarship*

*\*In memory of Ralph Scheuermann*

*\*\*In memory of Tony Lovello*



## The Walls are Made of Song featuring Michael Bridge

Accordionist Michael Bridge and the Ladom Ensemble have released a new album, "The Walls are Made of Song."

A totally unique ensemble comprising Accordion, Cello, Piano and hand Percussion, the Ladom Ensemble was formed 10 years ago at the University of Toronto and has toured across Canada.

You may have noticed their name is "modal" spelled backwards, which points to their Persian and Balkan musical influences, along with Tango, Classical and Celtic flavours which form their musical tapestry.

The title track, "The Walls are Made of Song," was inspired by one of Rumi's poems, which reads: "In the house of lovers, the music never stops, the walls are made of song, and the floor dances." It was written by the ensemble's pianist and resident composer, Pouya Hamidi.



Through their original music, adaptations of classical and folk tunes from Iran, the Balkans, Central Europe, Argentina (and many more), and their collaborations with Canadian composers. They do

not represent any one tradition but instead present a uniquely Canadian mosaic of coming together through music in a divided world. The album is available on iTunes, Amazon and Spotify.

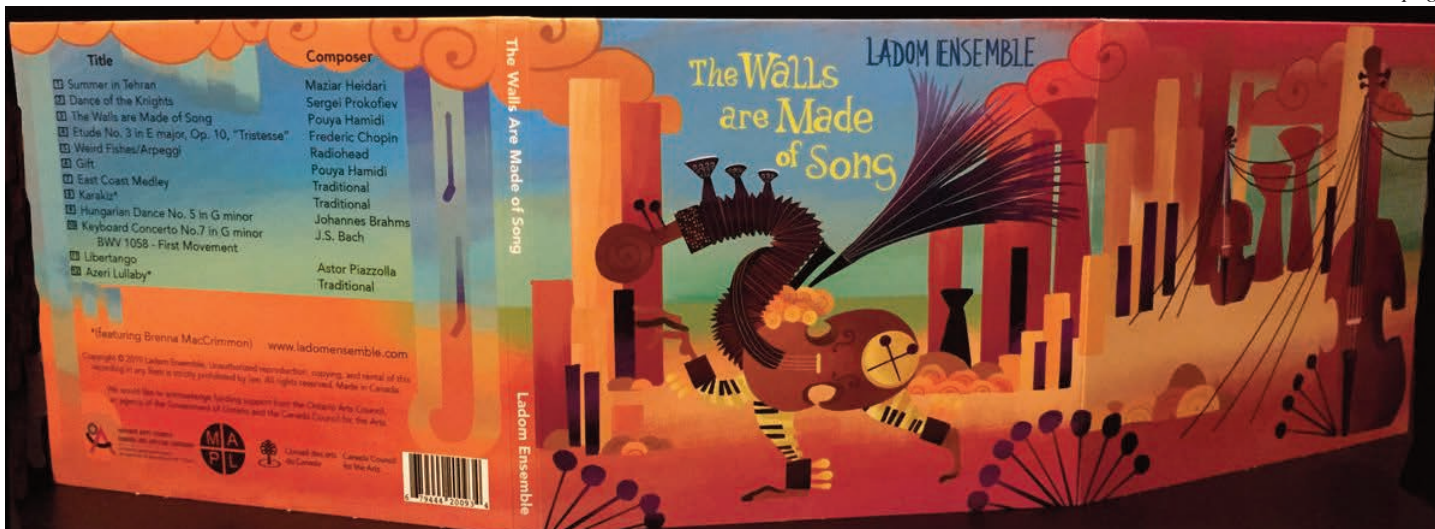
Accordionist Michael Bridge has been a full-time member of the ensemble for the past five years and is pursuing his doctorate in accordion performance at the University of Toronto.

The group was co-founded by pianist and composer Pouya Hamidi, and features cellist Beth Silver and percussionist Adam Campbell. The ensemble is managed by Andrew Kwan Arts Management and based in Toronto.

Michael Bridge is a captivating young musician, redefining the sound and image of his traditional instrument. Named one of CBC's "30 Hot Classical Musicians Under 30," he is internationally recognised for his dynamic stage-presence and unique musical versatility. His repertoire includes classical masterworks, baroque, jazz, world music, folk dances, contemporary classical, and digital accordion compositions which showcased the diverse genres possible with the accordion and removes stereotypes concerning the limitations of the instrument.

Michael made his solo orchestral debut with the Boston Pops at 17, and has performed on four continents, now playing over 100

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2019 AAA Festival July 17-21, 2019  
 Valley Forge Casino Resort  
 Valley Forge (King of Prussia), PA 22314  
**Guest Artist - MICHAEL BRIDGE**





### The Walls Are Made of Song, cont'd. from p.3

concerts per year. He is a founding member of Double- Double Duo having toured Ecuador, Poland, France and across Canada with his collaborator, Dr. Kornel Wolak (clarinet). Their debut album launched in 2015, entitled 'Rock Bach'. He performs in Ladam Ensemble, an acoustic Iranian-Serbian-classical-tango quartet.



An ardent supporter of new music, Michael has over thirty world premieres to his credit, including works by Anna Pigdorna, Airat Ichmouratov and Pouya Hamidi. As a composer, he wrote and recorded two folk albums and is the primary arranger for several of his chamber ensembles.

He has gratefully received support for his academic work and touring from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council, The Sylva Gelber Music Foundation, the Government of Alberta and the University of Toronto.

The American Accordionists' Association is delighted to be presenting Michael as their 2019 Guest Artist. For further information: michael@michaelbridgemuic.com ■

### 57th Annual New England Music Festival

The 57th Annual New England Music Festival will be held from April 5-7, 2019 at the Boston Marriott Newton, Newton, MA. The New England Music Festival is an annual musical competition sponsored by the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts, Inc. (ATAM). The festival averages more than 3000 entries and 800 contestants from all across New England. New this year, the ATAM NE Music Festival will be opening a category for adults.

All events are free and open to the public, while entry fees for contestants vary by category. During the festival, contestants take part in accordion, guitar, bass guitar, drum, percussion, piano, violin and voice competitions. Solo, duet and group categories are also offered. Non Competitive Categories include evaluation solos and festival group divisions. Contestants must be students of ATAM teachers.



Ron Calabrese

The three-day features a daily "Battle of the Bands" with cash awards being given to the Junior, Intermediate and Senior winners in their divisions. The Accordion, Guitar, Drum, Voice, and Piano Championships are also held Friday evening and Saturday with cash awards given to all competitors.

An awards banquet is held on Saturday evening with more than 500 in attendance. A \$500 and a \$250 cash scholarship is awarded to a contestant accepted as a Music Major in college. More than \$5,000 in cash is awarded to winners throughout the weekend. Contestants are evaluated by judges from all over the country.

At the event, students will have an opportunity to participate in workshops, compete in age-level categories, perform for evaluation, and attend concerts. One of the best things about the event – contestants can participate regardless of their experience level or ability.

Ron Calabrese will be recognized this year for his participation as an adjudicator in the Guitar divisions and will be made an Honorary Member of the ATAM. As a guitar player with over 50 years of music experience, Ron Calabrese has performed with various bands and ensembles throughout the Northeast playing multiple styles of music from rock and pop to jazz and classical. Beyond his MBA, Ron has a B.A. in Music with a major in Music Education and a minor in Jazz. He has written numerous

### Accordions and Tchaikovsky

The rather seldom programmed Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 2 was brought to life by the Seattle Symphony Orchestra on February 2, 2019 as part of their regular concert series. The work is significant in that Tchaikovsky scored four accordions in the 3rd Movement of the five movement work.

For the Seattle Symphony Orchestra concert, accordionists Gabe Hall-Rodrigues, Ray Harris, Micah Bisson and Jamie Maschler formed as Ray Harris described "the accordion section of the Seattle Philharmonic" for the performance. The conductor invited the accordionists to stand for their parts in the Scherzo to feature this unique addition to the orchestra and the audience erupted in



cont'd. on page 5

Top Photo: Gabe Hall-Rodrigues, Ray Harris, Micah Bisson and Jamie Maschler.

in second photo at right, the accordionists are seen standing.



compositions, has produced and recorded multiple guitar albums and has presented his personal guitar technique at music seminars. As a resident of Broad Brook, CT, Ron is currently a member of multiple diverse groups and ensembles, enjoys writing and recording his own compositions and arrangements, and has been an ATAM judge for 14 years.

For more information please call Peggy Falcetti, Chairperson at (413) 204-1022 ■

### Remembering Gene DeBellis

Eugene DeBellis passed away on March 16, 2019. He attended St Lucy's Elementary School, Seton Hall Prep H.S., N.Y.U., and graduated from Seton Hall University with a B.A. in Music Education. Gene was an Army Veteran of the Korean War and was the Conductor for the U.S. Infantry Band in 1950, He was the Director, owner and respected educator at DeBellis School of Performing Arts, 1952-2014. He was Conductor of D.M.S. Alumni Band and President of Accordion Teacher's Association of New Jersey. Member of Mid Atlantic Music Teacher's Guild. Performer and Guest Conductor of N.J. Accordion Pops Orchestra. President of Newark Chapter of N.J. Opera. President of Federation of Italian American Society. He was honored by Who's Who of Italian American Culture, awarded the Keys to the City in New Orleans for Italian cultural preservation, he received the Fine Arts Music achievement award by the A.T.A and MAMTG of New Jersey as well as the DeBellis School of Performing Arts Director's Award 60th Anniversary from Staff and Students.



Devoted and loving husband to Lorraine C. DeBellis, co-director of DeBellis School of Performing Arts. Loving and precious father and adored by daughter Cynthia J. DeBellis-Ketay, Father in law to Richard Ketay; Gentle, loving Grandfather to Gina and Michael Ketay. ■



## Accordions and Tchaikovsky, cont'd.

vigorous applause after the movement. The five movement Suite includes: 1. Jeu de sons - Andantino Un Poco Rubato; 2. Valse Moderato - Tempo Di Valse; 3. Scherzo burlesque - Vivace, Con Spirito, (including the quartet of accordions); 4. Rêves d'Enfant - Andante Molto Sostenuto and 5. Danse Baroque - Vivacissimo.

As mentioned on the Seattle Symphony Orchestra website: Although Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's four orchestral suites are exemplars of everything that is loved about his music, they still remain relatively unknown to audiences in spite of their great potential appeal. This concert features a rare performance of the Orchestral Suite No. 2, a boisterous, tuneful and joyous work deserving of more popularity.

In 2016, thanks to the initiative of Russian accordionists Yulia Amerikova and Alexander Selivanov, the January 17 performance of the same work by the State Academic Symphony Orchestra "Evgeny Svetlanov" under the direction of Vladimir Jurowski in the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow, allowed audiences to listen to the work, with the four accordions performing on reproductions of the original accordions (Diatonic accordions in E), as would have been used in Tchaikovsky's time.

At the request of Alexander Selivanov, the Scandalli Factory in Italy manufactured a set of four matching instruments built exactly to authentic specifications. This was the first time since the Tchaikovsky period, that instruments as conceived by the composer had been used. The four diatonic accordions were played by Sergey Osokin, Yulia Amerikova, Maria Vlasova and Alexander Selivanov.

The original styled accordions garnered great interest from both the audience and the experiment was recognized as very successful in adding originality to the orchestral sound.

In other performances, such as with the Seattle Symphony and with Joan C. Sommers and invited members of the University



Top Photo: Authentic reproduction of the accordion used in Tchaikovsky's time.

Above: Sergey Osokin, Yulia Amerikova, Vladimir Jurowski Maria Vlasova and Alexander Selivanov.

of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Accordion Orchestra performing with the Kansas City Symphony, modern concert accordions have been used and always intrigue and delight the fellow musicians and audience alike.

Additional performances of Suite No. 2 include the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Henry Lewis (1976). The accordion parts were played by Maddalena Belfiore, Frank Busso, Sr. and Linda Soley (now Reed).

Another performance in 2006 with the Waterbury, CT Symphony under the direction of Leif Bjaland featured accordionists Mary J. Tokarski, Julie Cardona, Marilyn O'Neil and Linda Soley. This concert also featured an accordion ensemble which included Mary Tokarski, Julie Cardona, Marilyn O'Neil, Kathy DiCocco, Karen Buccitti, Sandy Zera, Linda Soley Reed and Bob Vitale. Also at this event, the CAA Orchestra performed for the opening night reception immediately following the concert. ■



Pictured left is the actual Score for Suite No. 2, Op. 53. Notice the tempo as Vivace, con spirito. The entrance accordion part which appears throughout is compromised by the "Vivace" tempo and the long rests.

Directly above is an enhanced portion of just the accordion parts.

### Suite No. 2, Op. 53

#### III. Scherzo humoristique

(Для надлежащего эффекта этой пьесы, аккордоны весьма желательны, но не необходимы. Они должны быть в строе E и в 10 клавишах. Используйте в партии первого и второго аккордона прижимать правой рукой клавиши 4<sup>ю</sup> и 7<sup>ю</sup>, а мизинец третьей и четвертой правой клавиши 2<sup>ю</sup> и 3<sup>ю</sup>. В в другой рукой должны нажать оба большие клавиши. Большими пальцами обозначены в партии партии струны, получаемые от клавиш правой руки; жемчужина аккорда и бас получаемые от клавиш левой руки.)

Vivace, con spirito. (♩ = 152)

Flauto I.

Flauto II.

Flauto III. (Piccolo.)

Oboi.

Corno Inglese.

Clarineti in A.

Fagotti.

Corni in F. 1. 2. 3. 4.

Trombe in E.

2 Tromboni Tenore.

Trombone basso e Tuba.

Timpani in H. E. C.

Piatti e gr. Cassa.

Ad libitum. L'emploi de ces instruments n'est pas indispensable pour l'écou- tion du morceau, mais l'auteur suppose que leur sonorité est bien propre à augmenter l'effet.

1. 2. 3. 4.

Accordions. Аккордоны.

Violino I.

Violino II.

Viola.

Celli.

Contra Bassi.

Vivace, con spirito.



## NAMM Accordion Exhibition...Still Growing

Frank Busso, Jr. recently visited the NAMM Exhibit in Carlsbad, CA and brought us some new photos of the exhibit. Pictured at right, Frank is checking out the A. Rosato accordion added to the exhibit. The instrument was said to belong to Ginger Rogers.

Another addition is the Hammond Chord Organ (c. 1956) and a bass accordion on loan from the Titano Accordion Company.

"The entire museum is very nicely done. Not huge, but still quite nice. Accordions appear in various displays, not just the special exhibit at the end," said Frank.

The exhibit runs thru August 13th and they are continually adding

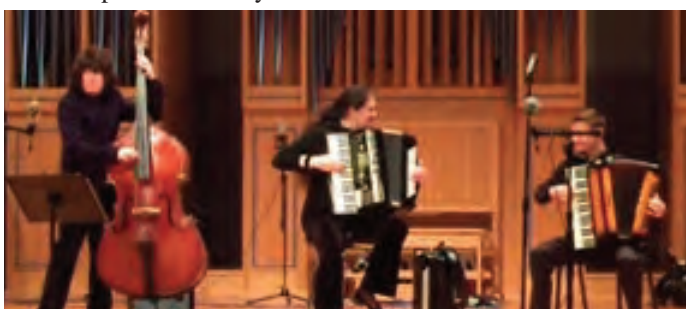


new items as well as performances.

If your travels take you to Carlsbad, please stop in and visit this truly unique display. See page 12 for additional information regarding the NAMM Museum ■

## Vince Demor, Degree Recital

Several local accordionists and some out of town guests as well attended St. Petersburg's Gibbs College of Music degree recital of Vince Demor. The Concert Hall is magnificent and when Nina Wegmann, Vince's teacher, stated that degree recitals usually only attract 2 or 3 people, but today's audience had already grown to 70+. Joan Grauman and I got the word out to our new-found accordion pals, and several members of area Accordion Clubs attended in addition to some of the music department and Vince's family and friends including Dario and Maria Ebbri from Westchester County (NY). The music school auditorium is spectacular...any musician would



be honored to perform on that magnificent stage.

Vince's performance was excellent! Performing Bach Prelude in C minor on his recently acquired Giulietti Super Continental Bassetti which was donated to Vince. The instrument originally belonged to the late William F. Cosby.

His remaining program consisted of "Whatever You Do," by Karen Fremar, "Jealousy" - Tango, "Dark Eyes," "Love Smiles" and a trio with Nina and Bob Wegmann performing "La Comparita" (top photo).



Nina and husband, Pictured above: Top row: Nina Wegmann, Linda Reed, Joan Grauman, Vince Demor and Julia (friend of Nina) Bob on 1st row: Svetiana (also a friend), and Charla Rots. Bass (and/or Guitar), (pictured above right) complimented the remainder of the program with French Music from the movies, Mardiantia and other selections making a wonderful, entertaining afternoon. ■

## Welcome New Members

### Professional Members

Suzanna Beites  
Jack Kruper

### Associate Members

Robert Bartels  
Mary Ann Covone  
Judy Ernst  
Sean J. Valdepenas  
Diane Young  
Denis Zatuliveter



### Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA)

La Villini Restaurant of East Northport, NY sponsored the recent meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) on February 6, 2019. The featured guest artists were the very entertaining Scandinavian group "Smorgasbandet." A lively accordion group based in Long Island, New York they actively perform around the Tri-State area and beyond.

The group specializes in Scandinavian music with American music mixed in too, customizing personal Sing-A-Longs, Audience Participation with Songs & Dances.

Jeanne, the daughter of the late maestro Walter Eriksson, was brought up in the very Scandinavian community of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. She has been dancing since age 5 and playing accordion and piano since childhood. Swedish-American of the Year 2005, Jeanne was knighted by the King of Sweden in 1996 with the Order of the Polar Star medal.

A member of the Vasa Order of America, she is emcee and ringleader at the annual Swedish Midsummer in Manhattan with thousands attending, and is a member of Sons of Norway, SWEA, FAWN, and Society Åland of NY. Her grandparents immigrated to America in the early 1900s from Sweden and Finland.

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

Chad Widman is Jeanne's son and is a "natural". A very animated percussionist. He creates all of our Video & Social Media & Website Creations "Widman Productions". Johnny Soderlund is Wayne's son and also a gifted musician. A percussionist and guitar player for Smörgåsbandet since he was a very young boy, he is the SRS Sound Engineer for the latest recordings of Smörgåsbandet.

Walter Eriksson Jr. is the son of the late maestro Walter Eriksson. He was brought up in the very Scandinavian community of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. "Wally" has been involved in the Scandinavian community since childhood and plays several instruments, Nyckelharpa, Drums, Guitar and the Violin.

The March event featured popular guests Mario Tacca (accordionist) and international vocalist Mary Mancini.



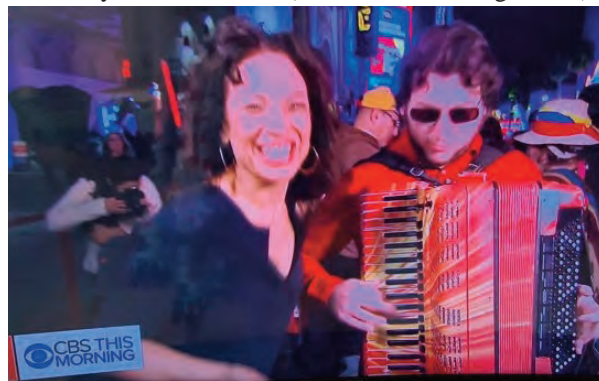
### Cory Pesaturo in Los Angeles

Cory Pesaturo received national attention on *CBS This Morning* while performing on their January 31, 2019 show in Los Angeles. The segment was about highlighting unique things about the two Super Bowl Cities, Boston and Los Angeles. CBS contacted Cory to perform, and they recorded him performing in front of the Grauman Theatre in Hollywood.

Cory also performed for three days at the MoMM (Museum of Making Music) stage at the 2019

NAMM Convention in Los Angeles, California where he managed to meet and spend time with fellow artists Herbie Hancock and multi Grammy winner, Michael Bublé. Cory also attended the 2019 Grammy awards as part of the Academy.

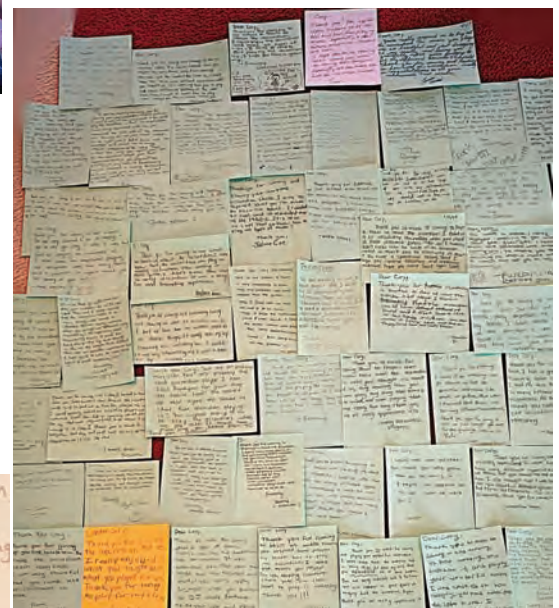
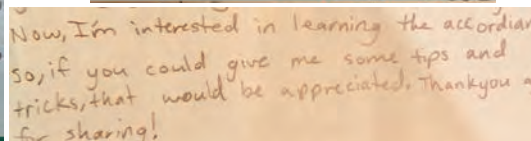
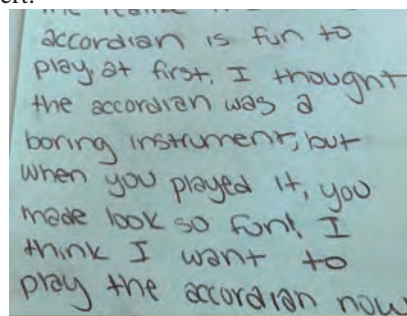
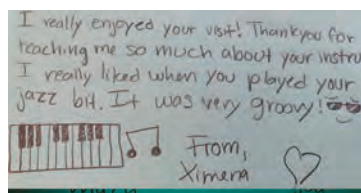
In addition, a regular at the popular Jazz venues throughout Los Angeles, Cory performed at the popular Vibrato's, a renowned Jazz Club in Bel Air owned by Herb Alpert.



Cory Pesaturo with Michael Bublé

### Middle School Presentation

While in LA, Cory had the opportunity to speak to a group of students about the accordion. The kids were thrilled and excited. Some even expressed interest in playing. Here are some of the comments from the student body:

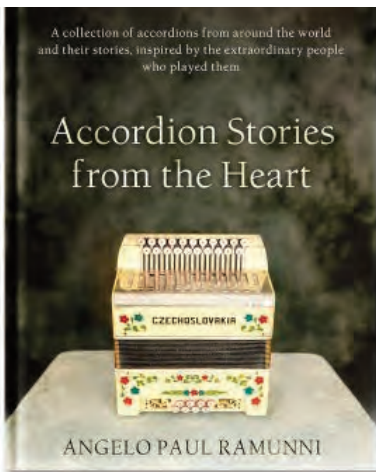




## Accordion Stories From The Heart

New England Accordion Connection and Museum owner and author Paul Ramunni recently released a new book, "Accordion Stories from the Heart". A book signing and mini-concert was held at Geer Village Senior Community in his hometown of Canaan, Connecticut on Feb. 9, 2019, the first in a series of book signing events.

At the signings, founder of the New England Accordion Connection and Museum Co. in Canaan, Conn., Mr. Ramunni shared stories from his



new book. He also performed a number of accordion songs, and answer questions from attendees. Books were available for purchase along with the author's autograph before and after the mini-concert.

"Accordion Stories from The Heart" provides a wealth of stunning photos and loving insights into the exceptional, very emotional

stories involving many featured accordions from around the world. In his book, Mr. Ramunni tenderly describes the extraordinary people who played and listened to this beautiful musical instrument over the past two centuries.

The 143-page hard-covered "Accordion Stories from the Heart" is appealing to all with its warm and fascinating accordion-related stories. The book features more than 70 photos of spectacularly decorated hand built accordions of multiple colors and ivory like keyboards. They originate from many countries around the world and date back as far as 1829.

Mr. Ramunni's privately operated New England Accordion Connection and Museum Company showcases over 500+ stunningly beautiful accordions plus a studio where he repairs, buys and sells remarkable hand crafted accordions. He also offers for sale over 10,000 pieces of sheet music and accordion related books.

"Accordion Stories from The Heart" is filled with very personal and easily read accordion stories. The book's retail price is \$39.95 and is also available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Upcoming signings will include:

Saturday, April 6 – 1:00 to 2:00 PM (David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main Street, Falls Village), Saturday, April 13 – 1:00 to 2:30 PM (Southbury Library, 100 Poverty Road, Southbury- reservations requested through the Library by calling 203-262-0626), Friday, April 26 – 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM (Middlebury Senior Center in Shepardson Community Center, 1172 Whittemore Road, Middlebury), Sunday, May 19 – 2:00 to 3:00 PM (Brandywine Living of Litchfield, 19 Constitution Way, Litchfield).

For more information, please contact Paul at 860-833-1374 or E-mail: [ramunni@comcast.net](mailto:ramunni@comcast.net). ■

**Please visit page 14 for  
advertising and exhibitor information  
for the AAA 2019 Journal  
which is distributed at the  
Festival in Valley Forge, PA**

## Weird Al Yankovic Grammy Award

Accordionist and parody writer Weird Al Yankovic won a 2019 Grammy on February 10, 2019 for Best Boxed or Special Limited Edition Package, beating out fellow nominees Guns N' Roses and the Grateful Dead.



"Weird Al" Yankovic now has the distinction of being the first recording artist with a Grammy Award for an album packaged inside an accordion! His career retrospective box set is called "Squeeze Box: The Complete Works of 'Weird Al' Yankovic".

The collection packed all 14 of his studio albums, plus a 15th disc of rarities, into a container replicating the shape of one of his favorite accordions, each disc afforded its own slot within the expandable bellows. Two editions were created: one containing CDs, the other for 12-inch vinyl LPs.

Yankovic shared the award for Squeeze Box: The Complete Works Of "Weird Al" Yankovic with Meghan Foley and Annie Stoll, who joined him on the project. ■



## BLUES, HUES AND VIEWS - a New CD by William Schimmel and Elliott Sharp

Dr. William Schimmel (Accordion) and Elliott Sharp (Del Arte Ancuman Guitar and Mandocello) have recorded a new CD centered around the Blues. It contains Roots as well as Contemporary departures - always returning to the main scourcignalle of The Blues.

The Official release date is March 19, 2019 but pre-orders can be made on Amazon.com. The Album will also be available for digital downloads.

The titles of each track are: 1 "Breaking News", 2 "Clickbait", 3 "Blues in the Box", 4 "Armenia Intake" (after Scrapper Blackwell), 5 "Not a bug, It's an Amphibian", 6 "MetOcala Modulators" and 7 "Always a Ray of Sun in The Blues, Never in The Tango".

For further information: [accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:accordionbill@gmail.com). ■





## Accordion Mixology at Lincoln Center

Dr. William Schimmel will curate a six day accordion event at the Lincoln Center in New York City from April 1-6, 2019, presented by The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center: Reeds, keys, bellows or air... A vast universe of music, drawn from an accordion!

Dr. William Schimmel kicks off a week-long accordion festival with an evening of eclectic, enchanting, amusing, and enraging accordion creations. From polka to punk, from Schubert to circus, Schimmel and friends will squeeze out every echo of accordion magic.

Join the opening night celebration of the Library's newly acquired William Schimmel archive on April 1, 2019 from 6-7:30 PM. The late morning afternoon events each day will take place at the Vincent Astor Gallery and the April 1st evening event will take place at The Bruno Walter Auditorium - both at the library. All of the events are free. Reservations are necessary for Monday evening April 1 and the closing day April 6. The theme of each day and the participants are listed below.

Dr. Schimmel reports that all of the Accordions used in this event are Piano Accordions - Piano Keyboard on right side - Bass Buttons on left - The American Experience. This mindset began after World War II when the Accordion was starting to be "Americanized": heard on radio, seen on early TV, used as a "filler" in Broadway Pits, seen and heard in Carnegie Hall as a Classical instrument and seen and heard at The Stork Club as a Jazz instrument and Vegas. The Ethnic Accordion stayed in ethnic communities such as Duluth, while the "Other Accordion" flourished in the east and west coasts.

As a piano accordionist, Dr. Schimmel states that he had the honor and pleasure (and still do) to play his instrument practically everywhere in all capacities. He is dedicating the week to who he considers the great piano accordionist pioneers, a short list including: Pietro Deiro, Guido Deiro, Phil Baker, Charles Magnante, Carmen Carozza, Daniel Desiderio, Andy Arcari, Art Van Damme, Bill Palmer, Bill Hughes, Dick Contino, Alice Hall, Leon Sash, Johnny Grande, Bill Haley and the Comets, Clifton Chenier, Lawrence Welk and Myron Floren, Dr. Jacob Neupauer, Rudy Molinaro, as well as bands such as Tom Waits, Nirvana, Duran Duran and the participants that you will see and hear during the week, the new generation taking it to places that nobody imagined 25 years ago.

### Participants include:

**Day 1 (April 1st):** The Vincent Astor Gallery- Dr. William Schimmel, Curator, *THE BUILT IN IRONIC DUALITY: Hip and Square, Elegant/Vulgar, Beautiful/Ugly, Old/New, Classy/Ain't got no class.* Participants include: 11 AM to 5 PM Nelson and The Wolf - Godfrey Nelson and Lorraine Nelson Wolf, David First, Will Holshouser, Melissa Elledge, Erica Marie Mancini, Dr. Denise Koncelik, Paul Stein and Dr. William Schimmel.

6 to 7:30 PM at the Bruno Walter Auditorium: Classical, Contemporary, Indie and Tango with Dr Hugo Goldenzweig, Corn Mo, Dr. Denise Koncelik, Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan, Emanuel Borowsky, Cecylia Barczyk and Dr. William Schimmel.

**Day 2 (April 2nd):** - The Vincent Astor Gallery from 2 TO 5:30 PM - Dr. William Schimmel, Curator "ACCORDION MIXOLOGY" 1. An installation by Dr. William Schimmel containing a collage of Accordion Books past and present, useful and useless, fun and questionable, educational, intellectual, smart and dumb. A Non Historical display of Accordions in the realm of today's design issues in everyday usage. 2. A presentation of Videos directed by Micki Goodman - featuring Ms. Goodman and Dr. Schimmel in every aspect of music and movement.

**Day 3 (April 3rd):** Vincent Astor Gallery from 11 TO 5 PM Dr. William Schimmel, Curator, "CAROUSELS. ZOMBIES, TENTACLES AND OTHER GASEOUS MATTERS": An Interactive day for Children and Adults alike. The Main Squeeze Orchestra: Kat-

rina Yaukey, Charita Patamikakorn, Mina Gemini, Rachel Swaner, Elaine Yau, Melissa Elledge, Sarah Starpoli, Dr. Denise Koncelik, Rebekah Allen, Micki Goodman, Erica Marie Mancini, Kathryn Andrews, Bachtopus, Robert Duncan, Mayumi Mayoaka, Peter Flint and Dr. William Schimmel.

**Day 4 (April 4th):** Vincent Astor Gallery from 11 to 5 PM Dr. William Schimmel, Curator, "THE ACCORDION OF LIBERTY" The Accordion as part of (but not limited to) The Jewish Experience: Dr. Denise Koncelik, Will Holshouser, Bob Goldberg, Lisa Kirchner, Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan, Corn Mo, Paul Stein and Dr. William Schimmel.

**Day 5 (April 5th)** Vincent Astor Gallery from Noon to 5 PM Dr. William Schimmel, Curator, "PUNKORDION", The Accordion with an edge: Benjamin Ickies, Milica Paranosic, Ted Nash, Carl Riehl, David Stoler, Mary Spencer Knapp, Erica Marie Mancini, The Yorkville Duo, Dan Cooper, Elliott Sharp and Dr. William Schimmel.

**Day 6 (April 6th):** The Vincent Astor Gallery from 11 to 1 PM Dr. William Schimmel, Curator, "AN ARTSY SING A LONG" Bring an Accordion - or not: Brian Dewan, John Foti, Denise Koncelik and Dr. William Schimmel.

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
The Bruno Walter Auditorium  
111 Amsterdam Avenue  
New York, NY 10023

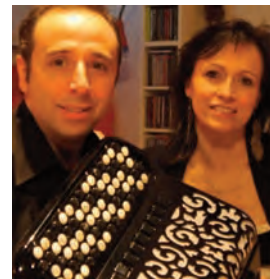
General Admission for **Accordion Mixology:**

*Drink in the Essence of the Accordion* is Free. Optional donation for the Library for the Performing Arts is appreciated. For further information: [accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:accordionbill@gmail.com). ■

## Jac & Co to perform on the East Coast of the USA

Formed in Savoie, France, the band Jac & Co comprises husband and wife duo Corinne (vocalist) and Jacques (accordionist) Pellarin. Their eclectic music repertoire, made of French classics songs (Edith Piaf, Yves Montand, Charles Aznavour, Juliette Gréco, Charles Trenet, Dalida, etc), many international songs (Cole Porter, Pink Martini, etc), evocations of soundtracks (« Un Homme, une Femme », etc) or Jacques Pellarin's originals compositions (tango, Latin music, gypsy music, French songs and Paris, etc) has led them to several tours in USA and UK, but also to many concerts in France and Switzerland. With only voice and accordion, Jac & Co captivate audiences and transport them to the dance-halls and street side cafés of France's yesteryears.

Jack & Co will be on tour in the USA performing from May 8-31 on various nights at the 'A la Maison' French Restaurant in Ardmore, Philadelphia (please check for specific dates) and from May 19-26 and June 2 at Paris Bistro Jazz cafe in Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia, PA (also check for specific dates). For further information, please contact: [jacques.pellarin@wanadoo.fr](mailto:jacques.pellarin@wanadoo.fr). ■





## AAMS Festival Honored Dee Langley

Joanna Darrow and the American Accordion Musicological Society present The 2019 AAMS Festival was held on Friday March 15, 2019 from 6-9:PM and Saturday, March 16, from 10:AM to 10:PM at the Westmont United Methodist Church, Recreation Hall, 200 Emerald Ave, Westmont-Haddon Township, NJ.

Each day included fascinating and relevant workshops plus 3 Festival Orchestras. The three directors were Dr. Fawzi Habousche, Dee Langley, and Rachel Quirbach.

The guest of honor/guest artist this year was Dee Langley. Dee Langley specializes in both solo and ensemble works for the accordion having appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Duluth Symphony Orchestra, Ancia Quartet, Minnesota Sinfonia, Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, Nautilus Music Theater, Ethnic Dance Theatre and Flying Foot Forum.

Ms. Langley is winner of the 2012 Minnesota Emerging Composer Award (Orkestar Bez Ime - World Music), the 2011-2012 McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians.

Founder and coordinator for the NE Accordion Festival, she is also a former president of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International, currently on the Advisory Board of World of Accordions Museum and teaches accordion for Minneapolis Community and Technical College as well privately at her home in NE Minneapolis.

Several workshops were presented including: Rachel Quirbach - "Wellness for Accordionists"; Dallas Vietty - "Experiencing Rhythms"; Rick Kaplan - "Applying Button Box Techniques to Piano Accordion"; Charles M. Nunzio - "The Life of Charles Nunzio, Messenger of Music"; Dee Langley - "Releasing Performance Anxiety"; Bachtopus - "Music for Ensembles".

On Saturday, March 16, at 7:00 PM, the Honoree Banquet took place to give recognition to Dee Langley. Dr. Lou Persic, Anita and Bob Siarkowski will provide the music. Dr. Joseph Ciccone presented a congratulatory certificate to Dee Langley from the American Accordionists' Association.

The Gala Concert featured Festival Orchestra 3 conducted by Dr. Fawzi Haboushe, Suzy Andres, Dallas Vietty and guest, Festival Orchestra 2 conducted by Dee Langley, Westmont Accordion Club, and Joanna Darrow.

For information on their 2020 event, please contact: acmeaccordion@gmail.com or call: 856-854-6628 ■



## World Accordion Day in Superior, WI

A World of Accordions Museum will host a World Accordion Celebration in conjunction with their 7th Annual Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival. World Accordion Day, an initiative of the CIA will open with an Introduction to the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) by Ambassador Kevin Friedrich, the Superior, WI Mayor Jim Paine will deliver City proclamations and an Introduction of the AWAM Board Members, Life Members and Special Recognitions will be presented by Museum curator, Helmi Harrington, Ph. D.

The May 4th Concerts and Presentations will be provided by Mary Tokarski, Murl Allen Sanders, Betty Jo Simon, Joan C. Sommers and Stas Venglevski, Henry Doktorski and the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) Chamber Accordion Ensemble.

The May 5th Concerts and Presentations will be provided by Dance Attic: Suzi and Jimi, Dr. Michael Middleton, Stas Venglevski and Aydar Salahov, Helmi Harrington, Ph. D., Jane Christison, Willard A. Palmer, III, Stas Venglevski and Accordion Concertina Music Band: World Accordion Music. For more information, please visit [www.worldofaccordions.org](http://www.worldofaccordions.org). ■

### WORLD ACCORDION DAY

In conjunction with the 7th Annual  
Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival

**A World of Accordions Museum at Harrington Arts Center**  
1401 Belknap Street, Superior, WI 54880 Phone: (218) 393-0245

Admission: \$25 per event, \$75 per day or \$125 for both days, refreshments & food available  
[www.worldofaccordions.org](http://www.worldofaccordions.org)

*Introduction to the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA): Kevin Friedrich  
Mayor Jim Paine: Proclamations  
Introduction of AWAM Board Members, Life Members, Special Recognitions: Helmi Harrington*

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Concerts and Presentations:

Mary Tokarski  
Murl Allen Sanders  
Betty Jo Simon  
Joan C. Sommers & Stas Venglevski  
Henry Doktorski  
UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble



**May 4, 2019**

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**May 5, 2019**



Concerts and Presentations:

Dance Attic: Suzi and Jimi  
Dr. Michael Middleton  
Stas Venglevski & Aydar Salahov  
Helmi Harrington, Ph. D.  
Jane Christison  
Willard A. Palmer, III  
Stas Venglevski  
Accordion Concertina Music Band: World Accordion Music

## Accordion Pops Orchestra

Al Terzo - Conductor



Presents

### Impressions in the Spring



**Sunday - May 19th @3:00 p.m.**

**East Brunswick Cultural Arts Center**  
721 Cranbury Road - East Brunswick, N.J.  
Donation - \$10.00

### Celebrate World Accordion Day!

Join your friends and colleagues at the  
**World of Accordions Museum**  
Superior, Wisconsin.

For accommodations, contact the following  
located in Superior, Wisconsin  
**Holiday Inn Express**  
or  
**Best Western Bridgeview**



## Accordion Program at Frank Carey High School

On Tuesday, March 5, 2019 accordionist Dominic Karcic and vocalist Ron Morton (aka Rinaldo Toglia) made a "getting to know the accordion" presentation to the Italian language students at H. Frank Carey High School in Franklin Square, NY. This was the third time that the presentation was made at that school. The Italian language teacher, Ms. JoAnn Radoslovich Molina, was the event coordinator. About 75 eleventh and twelfth grade Italian language classes attended the session.

The program consisted of some history of the accordion, a discussion of its various parts, a look at and presentation on accordions of various sizes (a 12 bass accordion, a student model 120 bass instrument and a professional electronic Roland accordion).

Dominic played various selections for the students that were aimed at giving the students a good idea of the capacity, timbres and capabilities of the instrument. Selections included a My Fair Lady Medley, Tarantella Medley, Accordion Boogie (Charles Magnante arrangement) plus he also accompanied vocalist Ron Morton in great renditions of La Donna Mobile, Funiculi - Funicula, Chela La, Reginella Campagnola and Time to Say Goodbye.

A fun part of the event was having all the students and teachers participate in the singing of well known Italian melodies that included That's Amore and Volare.

Also attending the event were two members of the Italian Genealogical Society, authors Mario Toglia and Dr. Marilyn Verna who informed the audience about their on going efforts to preserve Italian history and culture. ■



Pictured above, author, Mario Toglia, accordionist, Dominic Karcic, Vocalist, Rinaldo Toglia, Ms. JoAnn Radoslovich Molina (event coordinator), author Dr. Marilyn Verna and H. Frank Carey High School principal, Mr. Christopher Fiore



*Remembering a Legend...*

### Charles Magnante

*An Afternoon of Magnante Favorites*

Sunday, April 28, 2019 • 2:00 p.m.

Admission \$15/person

Waverly Tavern - 286 Maple Ave. • Cheshire, CT 06410

Featuring performances of Magnante selections by  
 Joe Ciccone ❁ Will Comer ❁ Peter Peluso  
 Nathan Chapeton ❁ Mary Tokarski

*Slide Show Presentation* – Ray Oreggia & Don Gerundo

## A World of Accordions Museum

One of our unique sound-effects instruments is this 1980s assemblage made by a Philadelphia farmer. The standard 1930's accordion bears the name, Jos. Saius, about which no history has been discovered. The piano keyboard controls five octaves of bells through individual electronic wires fed through an umbilical from the accordion. The accordion itself contains three treble and five bass reed sets which sound in conjunction with the bells when stimulated by bellows movements.

The bells sound pure and clean, adding marvelous effects to special pieces such as Carol of the Bells as performed by Robin Floyd during our holiday recital. It will be sounded again during our World Accordion Day and Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival on May 4 and 5, 2019.

The instrument was discovered by Stanley Darrow, who offered it to AWAM for purchase in the 1990s. At that time it was not functional and was merely set up as a museum display. In 2013-15, Bob Ward, store owner and famed repairer of area organs, was called to the museum to assess our electronic keyboards. He saw the instrument and volunteered to restore it in a series of processes that took ingenuity and uncounted work hours.

This display is now situated in the foyer of the Hanni Strahl Concert Hall. Over the years, the display was shown in various placements in the concert hall (see below). ■



Reservations required for the Magnante event.

Call Marilyn at  
 203-272-1202

Please note: There will be no food service during the event. Guests are invited to arrive early and enjoy lunch in the Waverly Tavern Restaurant before the event. Seating is limited. Please RSVP as soon as possible.



*The following article appeared recently in a local CT newspaper and we thought you might find it interesting. If the strings can do it, why can't the accordion?*

## String Program Flourishes

By Steve Bigham  
(Waterbury Republican-American)

WOODBURY – Not all that long ago, the Region 14 music program was coming up a few notes short.

Its music department was teaching kids how to play all the wind instruments, but a string instrument program did not exist.

That all changed 10 years ago in part with help of the Woodbury-Bethlehem Music Foundation, which provided funding to help kick-start a string program that has flourished ever since.

Today, there are about 150 students in grades 3-12 that are playing stringed instruments like the violin and cello.

On Monday, the success of the Region 14 string program was on full display as members of the Nonnewaug High School orchestra performed for the Woman's Club of Woodbury. It was all part of a presentation put on by former music teacher Bill Geddes, who was instrumental in creating the organization 14 years ago.

The Woman's Club of Woodbury, which is open to women of all ages, was established in 1896 and today is the second oldest ongoing club of its kind in the state.

"We were around before women were allowed to vote," said club co-chair Kathy Anderson.

The club started the Holiday House Tour fundraiser in 1995, which involves more than 100 volunteers. Held on the second Saturday in December, the popular event sees more than 700 visitors who are escorted through a selection of Woodbury's finest homes.

Geddes taught music for 35 years, 18 of which were in Region 14, which serves students in Woodbury and Bethlehem. Upon his retirement, he established the group to ensure that music in the school system continued to grow.

In addition to its support of the schools, the foundation also helps sponsor the annual concert series put on by the Friends of the Senior Center, and helped start the popular ukulele program that has drawn large crowds on Friday nights.

In all, the organization has provided more than \$120,000 in support to the local music scene since 2005. It was around that time that a mother of one of Geddes' students suggested a parent group be established to help support music.

"I thought we should be more than a parent group, that we should have a community group that would have a little bit more gravitas and could do more things," Geddes said. "I particularly was interested in feeding the program at a younger age."

It's paid off.

The Woman's Club has long been known as a big supporter of the community through funds raised at its annual holiday house tour. Recently, music was added to the club's list of charities.

"The Woodbury-Bethlehem Music Foundation has helped make huge upgrades in the overall program and we thought it would be a good idea to hear about it," said club co-chair Claudette Volage. "Before they had the string program in the schools, it was very rudimentary. Bill is very dynamic and forward thinking and he has really helped make a difference."

Monday's performance was serendipity as members of the quartet were among the very first students to have the opportunity to learn the violin, among others, back when they were third-graders. Amy Perras, the district's instructional leader for the arts, said the success of the string program is the result of Geddes and the efforts of the foundation.

"It's awesome to see the kids as musicians and to see how they have taken advantage of the opportunities in music because of the support of the foundation," she said.

Much of that financial support came from the late Rute Ann Leever of Bethlehem, who bequeathed a large amount of money in

## Brooklyn Club - Save the Date!

Brooklyn Accordion Club Spring Meeting w/ Open Mic at Park Slope Community Garden's Annual Spring Festival on Saturday, May 11 (Rain date is Sunday, May 12) Time: TBA Admission: Free! Visit the following for more information: <https://www.615green.org/>

It's an open community event, and everyone is welcome!

The festival will be filled with music all day. One hour slot will be reserved for BAC.

Interested in performing a couple of tunes? All levels welcome!

Please RSVP your spot.



## At NAMM Museum on March 22nd

Jonathan Piper, Curator of the NAMM Museum has provided us with the following upcoming events for the Museum.

*"We have a few accordion-related events coming up. The next concert is Creosote and Frank Petrilli on March 22nd:*

<https://www.museumofmakingmusic.org/events/creosote-frank-petrilli>

*We don't have any accordion concerts in April, but then we have Los Texmaniacs in May, Renee de la Prade in June, and Michael Bridge in July (and a couple more that'll pop up along the way). All in all, we've got a great selection of artists who are able to show off a huge range of what the instrument can do.*

More anecdotally, I'm really happy to tell you that we've been getting LOADS of people putting on and playing accordions. Kids are spending 10, 15, 20 minutes hanging out and playing. It's a blast to watch! My 11-year old niece is visiting from New Jersey right now, and she enjoyed playing the accordion so much that she announced she's going to ask her school music teacher if she can start taking lessons.



Pictured above are Creosote featuring Gabe Hall-Rodrigues and Jamie Maschler, Michael Bridge and Frank Petrilli (far right).

support of music locally.

The Woodbury-Bethlehem Music Foundation has also long sponsored NHS students who perform side-by-side with the Woodbury Symphony Orchestra, including for the past two years, a concert by the well-known orchestra at the high school where students from all region schools are bused in for the event.

"We got every kid in Region 14 to be able to see a professional symphony orchestra perform," Geddes said. "That was huge."

Due to construction at the high school, this year's performance, slated for April 5, will be held at Pomperaug High School. ■

*This article is reprinted in its entirety from the Waterbury (CT) Republican with permission by the author, Steve Bigham.*

## Coast to Coast

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



### NEW YORK, NY

2019 Accordion Seminars "That Means What!?" The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Master Class and Concert Series under the direction of Dr. William Schimmel, Moderator and Curator will take place from July 26-28, 2019 at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City. For more information and online ticketing, please visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com).

### LAS VEGAS, NV

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention 20th Anniversary Celebration will take place from October 14 - 17, 2019 featuring a line up of Accordion Stars including Prof. Friedrich Lips (Russia), Cory Pesaturo (USA) and Joan Cochran Sommers conducting the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra. For registration details please visit [www.accordionstars.com](http://www.accordionstars.com) or contact event organizer Paul Pasquali at [paul@accordionstars.com](mailto:paul@accordionstars.com).

### BALTIMORE, MD

The Django Jazz Festival will be held in Charm City, Baltimore, Maryland on February 22nd and 23rd. The event will include a Django Fest Workshop by the duo Passarinho (which features accordionist Dallas Vietty and Bryce Milano on mandolin). The duo was formed because of their shared passion for instrumental music from around the world. They enjoy playing gypsy jazz (the music of Django Reinhardt) and quickly discovered a variety of common musical interests from Bulgaria to Brazil. For further festival details email: [info@creativealliance.org](mailto:info@creativealliance.org).

### LEAVENWORTH, WA

The annual Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration will take place from June 20-23, 2019 featuring Competitions, Workshops, Lessons, Vendors, a Jam Session and more! For more information, please visit [www.accordioncelebration.org](http://www.accordioncelebration.org).

### RICHARDSON, TX

The annual National Accordion Association festival will take place from March 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Richardson, TX.

Dick Albreski, Markus Baggio, Sabine Baggio, Nick Ballarini, Nancy Bernstein, Paul Betken, Nickolas Bratkovich, Gail Campanella, Jane Christison, Jerry Cigler, Elena Fainshtein, Jessica Falot, Max Frauenthal, Marcia Godwin, Kami Gunnoe, Gabe Hall-Rodrigues, Tiia Kerttunen, Greg Klugiewicz, Gordon Kohl, Brett Lane, Shelia Lee, Jamie Maschler, Matthias Matzke, Randy McPeck, Mike Middleton, Eddie Monteiro, Joseph Natoli, Larry Nickel, Bill Palmer, Cory Pesaturo, Debra Peters, Rebecca Ratliff, Lionel Reekie, Jim Rommel, Norman Seaton, Sharon Seaton, Michael Soloway, Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni, Ron Uhlenhopp, Arlyn Visentin, Tom Visentin, Mary Wright.

For information on their 2020 event, contact Norman Seaton, NAA President  
E-mail: [natlaccordion@sbcglobal.net](mailto:natlaccordion@sbcglobal.net)

### SANDY SPRING, MD

Accordionist Dallas Vietty and guitarist Lisa Liu will perform on April 12, 2019 at 8:00 PM at Sandy Spring

Museum, 17901 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860. Tickets are \$20. The museum's intimate Dr. Bird Room provides a cozy and relaxing setting.

Dallas Vietty is a well known accordionist in the USA. Lisa Liu is an incredibly accomplished guitarist. For one night only, they are bringing Gypsy Jazz to Sandy Spring. This style of music exploded on the scene in the 1930s with the help of famed European guitarist Django Reinhardt. For further information: [info@sandyspringmuseum.org](mailto:info@sandyspringmuseum.org)



### GULF SHORES, AL

The 2019 Waterway Village Zydeco & Crawfish Festival takes place on Saturday, April 20, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The annual Waterway Village Zydeco & Crawfish Festival (free admission) boils up beaucoup (French for a lot) of fun! Eat great food and dance to the infectious rhythms of some of the best Zydeco bands from around the South. Zydeco groups featuring accordionists include: Rusty Metoyer and Zydeco Krush, Excelsior, Lil Nate and the Zydeco Big Timers, Dwayne Dopsie (winner of the AAA's Search for the Hottest Accordionist) and the Zydeco Hellraisers, Chubby Carrier and Step Rideau.

The event location is Waterway Village in Gulf Shores-Under the Intracoastal Bridge (North & South Side), 225 E. 24th Ave., Gulf Shores, AL 36542. For further information Phone: (251) 968-1174 or e-mail: [info@harleysports.com](mailto:info@harleysports.com).



### FISH HARMONICS HOUSE CONCERT

Fish Harmonics is a Philadelphia-based ensemble, led by accordionist Rob Curto, that plays adventurous American roots music influenced by celtic, old time, and modern bluegrass sounds. The band brings a unique free-wheeling and improvisational energy to both classic tunes and original compositions. Join Rob with Fish Harmonics and Slowey and the Boats for a House Concert at Rigby Mansion on Sunday, April 14, 2019 from 2-5 PM and on May 11 from 7-9 PM at the River House, Capon Bridge, WV.

### SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CLUBS & CONCERTS

A few of the AAA Southwest Florida gang (Joe Cerrito, Joan Grauman and yours truly - Linda Soley Reed) attended a morning concert in Sarasota featuring the delightful Hanzhi Wang. Hanzhi thrilled the audience with her flawless performance. She also hosted a question and answer segment where people just marveled at "what the accordion can do." Her appearance was through the Institute of Lifetime Learning - the audience was



attentive and appreciative and attentive even at 10:00 a.m.!! Later that same week it was off to St. Petersburg, Gibbs College of Music for Vince Demor's degree recital. See article and photos on page 6.

Sarasota Suncoast and Tampa Bay  
The Sarasota Suncoast Accordion Club meets on the 1st Thursday of the month. Thanks to Ron and Janet Kendzior and Jimmy Chaich for getting us out for a delightful, fun evening, good friends, good food and especially good music. Pictured below are the Port Charlotte/Northport gang with special thanks to Chris Brettschneider for chauffeuring all of us!



Larry & Chris



Above Gene, Vern & Fred

At right: Group Jam



## Attention All Accordion Clubs!

The AAA Festival July 17-21 in Valley Forge, PA will feature a gathering of Club Members and Coordinators.

AAA Board Member, Ray Oreggia, will host the "Club Pub" on Thursday, July 18, 2019 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Valley Forge Hotel in the Radisson Tower Lower Conference area located on the lower level. Want to participate? Contact Ray at [roreggia@aol.com](mailto:roreggia@aol.com)

ATTENTION ASPIRING COMPOSERS - We have received information regarding the International Francisco Escudero composition competition. If you would like to receive the details, please drop an email to [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com) with your email address.

ATTENTION VIRTUOSO and US CHAMPIONS AFTER 1984. If you were a first place winner of the AAA Virtuoso Solo or United States Virtuoso Solo category after 1984 but did not participate in the Coupe Mondiale, please send us an email and include your name, category you won, your instructor and selection(s) performed. This will help us update our website which only lists US Champions until 1984. Although you may not have attended the Coupe Mondiale, you are still considered a US Champion.





# AAA 2019 FESTIVAL

Visit our website for full details:

[www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com)

## AAA Souvenir Journal

Camera-ready copy must accompany ad order.  
Journal size is 8 1/2 x 11; Ad size cannot exceed 7 1/2 x 10

### AAA ANNUAL SOUVENIR JOURNAL


Full Page . . . . .	7 1/2" x 10" . . . . .	\$200.00
Half Page . . . . .	7 1/2" x 5" . . . . .	\$120.00
Quarter Page . . . . .	3 3/4" x 5" . . . . .	\$65.00
Business Card . . . . .	2" x 3 1/2" . . . . .	\$40.00

Multiple page discounts available.  
Provide clean black and white copy.  
Any photograph to be used  
must be a high resolution JPEG or PDF.

### DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS: JUNE 1, 2019

The Journal is very comprehensive containing  
Festival Programming and Schedule, Artist Bios,  
AAA Archival Information and more.

*For technical assistance or if you require  
AAA to re-design your ad, please contact  
Linda Reed (203) 556-0002 or Fax (941) 883-4588*



COMPETITION  
WORKSHOPS  
EXHIBITS  
CONCERTS  
YOUTH PROGRAM  
FESTIVAL  
ORCHESTRAS

## AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

### *AAA Festival 2019*

Valley Forge Casino Resort • 1160 First Avenue  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
\$20.00



EXHIBIT SPACE AVAILABLE  
INCLUDES 2 CLOTHED TABLES

Must be reserved on or before 6/1/19

Contact Exhibit Chair Frank Busso, Jr. for additional information:  
[frank@bussomusic.com](mailto:frank@bussomusic.com)



2' x 4' signage also available

**JOURNAL ADS:**    Full Page       1/2 Page       1/4 Page       Business Card

**EXHIBIT SPACE:**    \$250 includes 2 6' clothed tables (additional 6' tables - \$20 each)

Payment Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa    MasterCard    DiscoverCard    Am. Express           

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form with checks payable to **American Accordionists' Association (AAA)** and mail to:

**AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION**  
Attention: Mary Tokarski, Festival Chairman • 835 Mix Ave., Apt. T1 • Hamden, CT 06514  
Phone: (203) 691-5362 • FAX: 941-883-4588 • [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com)



# American Accordionists' Association

Contest Chairman, Mary Tokarski  
835 Mix Ave., Apt T-1 • Hamden, CT 06514 • Phone (203) 691-5362 or Fax 941-883-4588  
E-mail: ameraccord1938@gmail.com

## COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(for office use only)

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Yrs. of study: \_\_\_\_  
Name #2 (for duet) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Yrs. of study: \_\_\_\_  
Sponsored by AAA Member \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please list title of each selection and composer on the reverse side of this entry form.

Please mark ALL solo categories on one form. Please print or type clearly.  
Deadline for receipt of applications is June 1, 2019.

Registration MUST be included below.

(Only one registration required regardless of the number of entries.)



### SOLOS

- Open Juniorette Solo – up to 9.....3 min.
- Open Junior Solo – up to 12.....5 min.
- Open Intermediate Solo – up to 15.....6 min.
- Open Senior Solo – 16 & over.....8 min.
  
- Open Founder's Jrette. Solo-up to 9..... 3 min.
- Open Founder's Jr. Solo - up to 12..... 5 min.
- Open Founder's Int. Solo - up to 15..... 6 min.
- Open Founder's Sr. Solo - 16 & over..... 8 min.
  
- Open Ethnic Jrette. Solo – up to 9.....3 min.
- Open Ethnic Jr. Solo – up to 12.....4 min.
- Open Ethnic Int. Solo – up to 15.....5 min.
- Open Ethnic Sr. Solo – 16 & over.....6 min.
  
- Open Pop Jrette. Solo – up to 9..... 3 min.
- Open Pop Jr. Solo – up to 12..... 4 min.
- Open Pop Int. Solo – up to 15..... 5 min.
- Open Pop Sr. Solo – 16 & over..... 6 min.
  
- Open Jr. Jazz Solo – up to 15..... 3 min.
- Open Sr. Jazz Solo – 16 & Over.....5 min.

- Evaluation Solo.....3 min.
- Adult Open Solo..... 6 min.
- Adult Ethnic Solo..... 5 min.
- Adult Pop Solo.....5 min.
- Adult Founder's Solo..... 6 min.
- Adult Jazz Solo.....5 min.

### DUETS

- Open Juniorette Duet – up to 9..... 3 min.
- Open Junior Duet – up to 12..... 5 min.
- Open Intermediate Duet – up to 15..... 6 min.
- Open Senior Duet – 16 & Over.....8 min.
- Open Adult Duet ..... 8 min.
- Open Mixed Duet .....6 min.

### ENSEMBLES AND BANDS

- Open Junior Ensemble – up to 12..... 6 min.
- Open Senior Ensemble – Pro/Am..... 10 min.
  
- Open Junior Band – up to 12.....8 min.
- Open Senior Band – Pro/Am.....12 min.
  
- Entertainment AAA – Pro/Am..... 15 min.

### STANDARD CATEGORIES

- See *Standard Music List*
- Standard Solo Prep
  - Standard Solo Elementary
  - Standard Solo Intermediate
  - Standard Solo Advanced
  
  - Standard Duet Elementary
  - Standard Duet Intermediate
  - Standard Duet Advanced

### BENNETT COMPOSITON COMPETITION

Please note deadline date for this category is  
**JUNE 1, 2019**

- Elsie M. Bennett Original Composition  
Competition.....see rules
  
- COUPE MONDIALE QUALIFYING CATEGORY  
Contact Mary J. Tokarski (mary.tokarski@comcast.net)  
with questions and the category that you wish to enter.  
Rules and repertoire requirements are on the CIA  
website at www.coupemondiale.org  
(Entry Fee - \$30)

### Please Check:

- Entry Fee per Solo (\$30) x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Entry Fee per Duet (\$36) x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$18 per member
- Entry Fee per Band/Ensemble  
(\$60) x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Entry Fee Bennett Original  
Composition (\$25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Entry Fee Coupe Mondiale  
Qualifying Category (\$30) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Contestant Registration includes  
up to five (5) family members  
\$35 REQUIRED \$ 35.00
- Non-sponsored Entry (\$65) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
- TOTAL THIS ENTRY \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name, city and state CLEARLY as you wish it to appear on your name badge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The American Accordionists' Association is not responsible for any delay, bodily injury, loss or damage to the property of the participating contestants or spectators. I hereby attest that all information given is correct and that I am familiar with and will abide by the rules governing the contest.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Parent or Guardian

Mail entries to Mary Tokarski, Contest Chairman - Phone 203-691-5362; Fax 941-883-4588





**List title of each selection performed including category and composer.**

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Selection to be performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Selection to be performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Selection to be performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Selection to be performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Selection to be performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Selection to be performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Composer: \_\_\_\_\_