



## From the Editor

### Welcome to the October/November edition of the 2021 AAA Newsletter!

As we begin to close out 2021, it is our great pleasure to welcome you back to our AAA Newsletter publications. During our several month hiatus, we have been regrouping our Newsletter team on behalf of our dear colleague and Past President Linda Soley Reed, who is unable to continue producing our Newsletter publications at this time. Linda has published our Newsletter for the last 10 years and we will do our best to adhere to her high standard and professional publications. We thank you for your kind understanding during this downtime and we are sure that you will be happy to begin reading about the many accordion activities being found both live and virtually. It has been an interesting year as we adapted to an online world, but we are excited to see more and more live events emerge again as we navigate the ever changing new world we live in.



As always, my sincere thanks to Past AAA President Linda Reed for her inspiration and guidance over many years, and at the same time a big thank you to our new Publisher, AAA Board member Frank Busso, Jr. I would like to also thank our Board members Rita Barnea and Joan Grauman for their outstanding work in helping source accordion events and news items from across the USA that we include in our publications.

Items for the December Holiday Season Newsletter can be sent to me at [ameraccordnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccordnewsletter@gmail.com). Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject line so that we don't miss any items that come in. As always, text should be sent within the email or as a Microsoft Word attachment if possible. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file (or similar) 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. Please send your items as soon as possible (the latest deadline is November 15) in order to ensure it is included in the upcoming Holiday publication.

After these Fall and Holiday editions in 2021, we will return to our regular bi-monthly Newsletter publications beginning with the January-February edition in 2022. Your ongoing support with the Newsletter is much appreciated and we wish you all continued success in your accordion activities.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Friedrich, AAA Newsletter Editor - [ameraccordnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccordnewsletter@gmail.com)

***Mark your calendars!***

***AAA Festival - July 13-17, 2022***

***Marriott Philadelphia West  
111 Crawford Avenue  
Conshohocken, PA 19428***

*Concerts   Workshops   Competitions   Orchestras   Exhibits  
Lifetime Achievement Award   ...and More!*

## From the President

On behalf of the AAA Governing Board members, we hope this finds you all happy, healthy, enjoying the start of Autumn, and playing your accordions!

My sincere thanks to our gifted and extremely talented Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee members who have been working tirelessly over the last year to ensure the continuing success of this unique organization.

The AAA is looking forward to getting together safely again by next summer! Please mark your calendars for what we are sure will be a terrific "return to normalcy" event. The 2022 AAA Festival will be held from July 13-17 at the Marriott Philadelphia West, 111 Crawford Ave, Conshohocken, PA. Along with stellar performers, workshops, exhibits, competitions, and some exciting new additions (to be announced soon), we are delighted to announce that we will present the AAA Lifetime Achievement Award to Frank Busso, Sr. We hope to see all of you there!

For complete information about upcoming activities as well as a record of previous events and more information about our organization, please visit our website at [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com).

In closing, we thank you, our dedicated AAA members! You are an integral part of our success and we look forward to working on your behalf to continually promote and elevate the status of the accordion.

Best regards,  
Dr. Joseph Ciccone, AAA President



## Frank Busso, Sr. to Receive Coveted AAA Lifetime Achievement Award

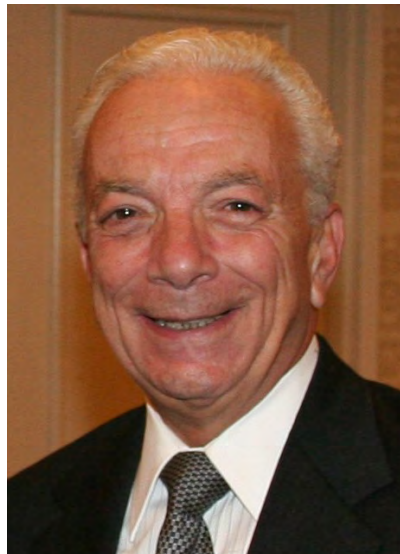
The AAA is pleased to announce that its long-time Board member, Frank Busso, Sr., will be the honored recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, to be presented at the upcoming AAA Festival from July 13-17, 2022.

Frank has served the AAA as Treasurer, Comptroller, Vice-President, President (1981, 1992-94), and as the chair of many committees, including the annual national festivals and the Young Artists Concert Series. For decades, Frank has been an educator, performer, conductor, and all-around Ambassador of the accordion.

As a young student of the Ettore School of Music, Frank won 1st place two years in a row in his Elementary school's music contest, and he won the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) US Senior A Solo Competition in 1959 at the age of 16. From 1959 to 1965, he won numerous national, regional, and state accordion championships. The national and regional competitions were sponsored by the AAA, while the state championships were sponsored by the New York State Accordion Association.

With Tony Ettore's guidance, Frank started teaching at the Ettore School of Music at the age of 18 and soon had many private students. He also conducted ensembles and bands at the school.

Frank holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from St.



Peter's College and an MBA from Wagner College. This education helped him to prepare and open his own music business "Music City," which he eventually expanded to four locations in Staten Island.

Thanks to the encouragement of the late Faithe Deffner, who had recognized him as being an ideal fit to work with the next generation of accordionists, Frank spent time with Les Ray in Florida to learn how to manage an accordion school. Frank returned to Staten Island, closed his four general music businesses, and opened the Staten Island Music School in 1977.

With Faithe's encouragement, Frank created a very successful school which, at one time, had 175 accordion students. His students and the bands repeatedly brought home trophies, and pretty soon he was teaching his own two children as well!

The Busso accordion tradition has now expanded from The Busso Trio (Frank and his two children) to include his five grandchildren, perhaps enabling The Busso Octet someday!

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented as part of the AAA Festival to be held from July 13-17, 2022, at the Marriott Philadelphia West, 111 Crawford Ave, Conshohocken, PA 19428. For more information, please visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com).

## Guy Klucevsek Appointed to New England Conservatory Faculty

Guy Klucevsek has been appointed to the part-time faculty of the New England Conservatory in the Contemporary Improvisation Department as Accordion Instructor. In this innovative program, students take one private lesson a week on their instrument to advance their performance skills, and another lesson specifically in improvisation with a faculty member who plays an instrument other than the student's.

Currently led by Hankus Netsky, and founded in 1972 by musical visionaries Gunther Schuller and Ran Blake, the Contemporary Improvisation program at New England Conservatory trains creative musicians to broaden their musical palettes and develop unique voices as composer/ performer/ improvisers.

Guy said that he is honored to have been appointed and excited to begin working with students. Excerpts from the NEC website: "NEC's Contemporary Improvisation program addresses the needs of musicians seeking to move beyond traditional boundaries. We bring together a diverse group of the world's finest young artists in a setting where they can grow as a community of composers, performers, and improvisers. With an emphasis on ear training, technique, conceptual ideas, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a wide range of improvisational traditions, the CI program is uniquely positioned to produce the complete 21st century musician."

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



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

Guy's music theatre scores include "Chinoiserie" and "Obon" with Ping Chong and Company, "Hard Coal," with the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, "Industrious Angels" for Laurie McCants, "Cirque Lili" for French circus artist Jérôme Thomas, which has been performed over 250 times world wide, always with live music, and his own piece, "Squeeze Play," an evening of collaborations with Dan Hurlin, David Dorfman and

Dan Froot, Claire Porter, and Mary Ellen Childs. He and Dan Hurlin were awarded, jointly, a BESSIE for, "The Heart of the Andes," which has played the Henson International Puppetry Festival, The Barbican Center in London, and the Ten Days on the Island Festival, Tasmania.

Guy Klucevsek has released over 20 recordings as soloist/ leader on Tzadik, Winter & Winter, innova, Starkland, Review, Intuition, CRI, and XI. Stereo Review cited his Starkland recording, *Transylvanian Software*, as a recording of special merit" (1995). He can also be heard on John Williams's orchestral scores for the Steven Spielberg films, "The Terminal," "Munich," "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," and "The Adventures of Tin-Tin," and on A. R. Rahman's score for "People Like Us."

For further information: [gklucevsek@mac.com](mailto:gklucevsek@mac.com).

## New Videos from the Air Force Strings

During the pandemic, The United States Air Force Strings has taken the opportunity to release some new music videos to reach audiences around the world. Recent releases include theme songs from the "Star Trek" franchise, a fiddle medley, the Egyptian pop hit "Longa Riad," The Greatest Showman's "Come Alive," international selections, and Jay Ungar's "Ashokan Farewell," featuring opening narration from the composer himself. Since 2005, The Air Force Strings' accordionist has been Senior Master Sergeant Frank Busso, Jr., one of our very own AAA board members.

To view the videos: [www.facebook.com/airforcestrings](http://www.facebook.com/airforcestrings)





## 2021 AAA Virtual Competition Results

The AAA joined many organizations from around the world in hosting an online competition in lieu of a normally live event. The AAA organizer Mary Tokarski took on the heartfelt, arduous task of seeing to it that our accordionists, young and old, would have an opportunity to compete virtually. Thanks to immense assistance from computer guru Mike Silvia, the competition was a success! The competition results are as follows:

### Standard Solo Elementary

Mayah Brennan SILVER

### Standard Solo Intermediate

Antoine Brennan GOLD

### Open Solo Juniorette

Caroline Lammers GOLD

Francesca Busso SILVER

Julianna Busso SILVER

### Open Solo Junior

Alexander Lammers GOLD

### Open Solo Intermediate

Gia Ciccone GOLD

### Open Solo Adult

Kaisu Lankinen SILVER

Pamela Tom SILVER

### Ethnic Solo Intermediate

Gia Ciccone GOLD

### Ethnic Solo Adult

Kaisu Lankinen GOLD

Michael Silvia GOLD

### Pop Solo Juniorette

Caroline Lammers GOLD

### Pop Solo Junior

Nicholas Busso SILVER

### Pop Solo Adult

Pamela Tom SILVER

### Jazz Solo Adult

Kaisu Lankinen GOLD

### Entertainment AAA

Josie Beach SILVER

### Honors Solo Juniorette

Caroline Lammers 1st

### Honors Solo Junior

Alexander Lammers 1st

### Honors Solo Intermediate

Gia Ciccone 1st

Max Hoffmann 2nd

### Honors Solo Adult

Janice Lavoie 1st

Michael Silvia 2nd

Pamela Tom 3rd

### Standard Duet Intermediate

Antoine Brennan and

Mayah Brennan GOLD

### Open Duet Juniorette

Francesca Busso and

Julianna Busso GOLD

### Open Duet Junior

Caroline Lammers and

Nicholas Busso GOLD

### Open Duet Intermediate

Alexander Lammers and

Max Hoffmann GOLD



**Some of our contestants:** Janice Lavoie, Mike Silvia, Pamela Tom, Kaisu Lankinen, Alexander Lammers, Caroline Lammers, Francesca Busso, Julianna Busso, Nicholas Busso, and Max Hoffmann

The AAA would like to thank all who participated, and we look forward to welcoming everyone in person at the AAA 2022 Festival in Pennsylvania, July 13-17.



Mary & Frank Tokarski

Janice Lavoie, 1st place winner of the Adult Honors Category, said it well. "I was very excited to enter the Adult Honors category when it was offered this year. It was reminiscent of my teen years, when I had to play test and choice pieces for my state championship. I found it more nerve-wracking having to submit a video as opposed to playing in front of a judge. I truly miss live performance, and look forward to when I am able to participate live again!"

This year's prize money was generously donated by The Mary and Frank Tokarski Musical Arts Fund. This fund, managed by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (Connecticut), was established in 2018. It was created by Mary Tokarski to honor her late husband Frank, who lovingly supported her music through the decades, and for her to give young people the ability to "experience the enrichment and the joy that comes from making music." North Haven High School students and American Accordionists' Association (AAA) members can apply for a scholarship or for funds to attend music conferences or competitions, "whatever they feel is going to improve their musical quality or skill." The AAA thanks Mary for this beautiful, ongoing legacy.

## Concert Series to begin Down Under

AAA Governing Board member and CIA Ambassador Kevin Friedrich will return to his native New Zealand to present a series of concerts in November and December. Kevin will present his 18th sold out Variety Show Concert on December 5, 2021 (Christmas edition) at the Dargaville Museum where he houses his Accordion Gems, A Master Collection of Accordions Through Time Exhibition. The popular fundraising concerts are held in the Lighthouse Function Center Concert Hall adjacent to the Museum facility.

In addition, Kevin will present a concert with Organist Stephen Vincent (also an accordionist) at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in his hometown of Dargaville on December 9, 2021. The historical organ (1926) is the work of New Zealand organ maker Georg Croft and was donated to the Church by the Dargaville children in honor of their Mother, Mrs. Anne Dargaville, upon her passing. One of the few remaining examples of Croft's work, the historical organ's refurbishment, was completed earlier in 2021.

The joint recital will feature a variety of material including a number of works for organ and accordion arranged by the artists as well as the World Premiere of 'Song of the Far North' for accordion and organ by renowned New Zealand composer Gary Daverne. The concert will be presented again on December 12,

2021 at the magnificent Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland. This church houses New Zealand's largest organ, designed and built by the organ building company of Nicholson & Co Ltd in the United Kingdom and it consists of 91 speaking stops spread over four manuals and pedals, with 5,432 pipes.

While in New Zealand, Kevin will also present a second series of School concerts. Last year while in New Zealand, Kevin presented 16 Concerts at the Dargaville Primary School (children ages 5-10 years) giving more than 500 young students the opportunity to learn about the accordion in an interactive and educational concert series. The school programs showcased the accordion, accordion history, construction, and different musical styles, while allowing the enthusiastic young students to participate with movement, song, and rhythm instruments, as well as all trying their hands using several 12-bass accordions.

Assisting Kevin with the School concerts will be accordionists Christine Johnstone, AWW News Editor and Director of the North Shore Music Makers Accordion Orchestra (Auckland, New Zealand), local vocalist Ros Gilmour, and Linda Emmett Litt, (percussion and timpani), the daughter of Doreen Emmett who first taught Kevin the accordion at the Dargaville Primary School in the 1970s.

For more information: [www.kevinfriedrich.com](http://www.kevinfriedrich.com).





## 74th Coupe Mondiale in Munich, Germany

The Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA) is pleased to welcome everyone to the 74th Coupe Mondiale and the 146th CIA International General Assembly of Delegates Congress in Munich, Germany. The event is hosted by the CIA member, the Deutscher Harmonika-Verband e.V. (DHV) from 13-17 October 2021 in Germany. During this time, the DHV, a founding member of the CIA, will celebrate their milestone 90th Anniversary.

The CIA Coupe Mondiale is an International competition for accordionists held under the auspices of the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA), founded in 1935 in Paris, France. The CIA is a proud member of the International Music Council, an NGO official partner of UNESCO.

With many competitions having been held virtually, the 74th Coupe Mondiale festival is the first live International competition for accordionists in over a year and will feature competitions as follows:

- 74th Coupe Mondiale
- Masters Coupe Mondiale
- Junior Coupe Mondiale
- International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music
- Junior International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music
- International Competition for Ensemble Music - Classical Music
- International Competition for Ensemble Music - World Music

With the ever changing restrictions and regulations as they pertain to American travellers, for the first time in many decades, there will be no delegation from the USA in attendance this year. However, several of the long distance overseas CIA Officials such as CIA Public Relations Manager Harley Jones (New Zealand), Ambassador Kevin Friedrich (USA), and Music Committee VP Grayson Masefield (New Zealand), will be working remotely to ensure that a full review of the event including pictures and videos of each contestant performing their full competition programs will be found online at [www.coupemondiale.org](http://www.coupemondiale.org).



## Thank you to those of you who Donated to our AAA Funds

The American Accordionists' Association offers deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the following individuals who generously donated to one or more of the special purpose funds. Here are our 2021 donors listed in alphabetical order:

**AAA General Purpose Fund:** Francisco Coelho, Fernando Costa\*\*, Giorgio Curletto, Marie Ettore, James Feaster\*, Megumi Hada, Linda Infante, William Jordan\*, Guy Klucevsek\*, Mary Kutney, Ron Mastrangelo\*, Maryanne Pyster, Peter Sbuttoni, Fred Schwinger, Richard Soderquist, Douglas Spray\*, Sandra Zera

**Composers Commissioning:** Joanna Darrow, Pamela Grayson, Guy Klucevsek\*, Ron Mastrangelo\*, Peter Peluso, Douglas Spray

**Carrozza Scholarship:** Joanna Darrow

**Linda Soley Reed Lifetime Achievement Award:** Peter Sbuttoni

**AAA Scholarship:** Ron Mastrangelo\*

**AAA Youth Program:** Joanna Darrow

\* Donation of \$100 or more    \*\* Donation of \$700

If you would like to donate to any of these important funds, please consider doing so when you renew your membership dues, or you can donate at any time by visiting the 'Store' section of the AAA website found at [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com).

## Ksenija Sidorova to Perform with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO)

During the February 3-5, 2022 concert series, renowned accordionist Ksenija Sidorova will perform with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as part of the Delta Classical series.

Praised as “revelatory” (New York Times) with “breathtaking virtuosity” (The Observer), Ksenija Sidorova is the leading ambassador for the classical accordion. Both a unique and charismatic performer, Ksenija is passionate about showcasing the vast capabilities of the instrument. Her repertoire spans from Bach to Piazzolla, from Efrem Podgaitis and Václav Trojan, to Erkki-Sven Tüür and George Bizet, as well as new accordion concertos composed especially for her, plus a multitude of chamber projects.

Ksenija works with leading orchestras including NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, MDR Sinfonieorchester [Leipzig], Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, Kammerorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Tonhalle Orchester-Zürich, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, and prestigious conductors including Paavo Järvi, Thomas Hengelbrock, Vasily Petrenko, Kristjan Järvi, Michal Nesterowicz, and Jan Willem de Vriend.

Encouraged to take up the accordion by her grandmother steeped in the folk tradition of accordion playing, Ksenija started to play the instrument at age 6 under the guidance of Marija Gasele in her hometown of Riga. Her quest for more exposure to both classical and contemporary repertoire took her to London where she became a prize-winning undergraduate and postgraduate at the Royal Academy of Music studying under Owen Murray.

Ksenija will perform the work, *Aconcagua*, by Astor Piazzolla. Written in 1979, it quickly found its way into concert halls the world over. The publisher, Aldo Pagani, nicknamed it “Aconcagua” because, as he said, “this is the highest peak of Astor’s oeuvre and the highest [mountain peak] in South America is Aconcagua.”

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992) was an Argentine tango composer and bandoneon player. His oeuvre revolutionized the traditional tango into a new style termed *nuevo tango*, incorporating elements from jazz and classical music.

Astor Piazzolla was born in Mar del Plata, Argentina in 1921 to Italian parents, Vicente Nonino Piazzolla

and Asunta Manetti. Astor Piazzolla spent most of his childhood with his family in New York City, where he was exposed to both jazz and the music of J. S. Bach at an early age.

In 1950, he composed the soundtrack to the film *Bólidos de Acero*. In 1953 Piazzolla entered his Buenos Aires Symphony in a composition contest, and won a grant from the French government to study in Paris with the legendary French composition teacher Nadia Boulanger.

Piazzolla returned from New York to Argentina in 1955, formed the Octeto Buenos Aires with Enrico Mario Francini and Hugo Baralis on violins, Atilio Stampone on piano, Leopoldo Federico as second bandoneon, Horacio Malvicino on electric guitar, José Bragato on cello, and Juan Vasallo on double bass to play tangos, and never looked back. In 1990, he suffered thrombosis in Paris, and died two years later in Buenos Aires.

Among his followers, his own protégé Marcelo Nisinman is the best known innovator of the tango music of the new millennium, while Pablo Ziegler, pianist with Piazzolla's second quintet, has assumed the role of principal custodian of *nuevo tango*, extending the jazz influence in the style.

In the summer of 1985 he appeared with his Quinteto Tango Nuevo at the Almeida Theatre in London for a week-long engagement. On September 6, 1987, his quintet gave a concert in New York's Central Park, which was recorded and, in 1994, released in compact disc format as *The Central Park Concert*.

For tickets, please visit the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra website at <https://www.aso.org>.





## The Seminars, presented by Dr. William Schimmel

Dr. William Schimmel, curator of the 2021 Virtual Accordion Seminars, shares: "The 27th annual edition of the Seminars, sponsored by the American Accordionist's Association, were a great success! The event took place July 30, July 31, and August 1 on Zoom.

"Both the lectures and concerts presented the accordion in fashions yet to be explored to a wider public, much like a laboratory or incubation of new ideas or new takes on old ones." Dr. Schimmel hosted the entire weekend and introduced each performer or performers as well as all of the lectures and demonstrations.

The topics included: a new AAA commissioned work; 51 Ways to go Oom-pah; Playing the Accordion for Babies; The Use of the Accordion for Special Needs Adults; Sea Shanties; The Accordion in Confined Space; The Accordion and Alcohol - including Happy Hour; The Accordion and No Alcohol - Coffee and Culture; exciting new videos; The Accordion and the "Chi"; The Resonance of the Accordion when Absent; Which/What - Which accordion for what purpose; unusual accordions and accordion replacements and how to use them; Art Songs, Indie Songs, and new takes on Rapture Hymns and Psychedeliia.



Featuring a large and diverse cast, the artists included: Micki Goodman, Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan, Paul Stein, Will Holshouser, Dr. Denise Koncelik, Godfrey Nelson, Lorraine Nelson Wolf, Michael Schimmel, Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, John Foti, Jeanne Velonis, Bachtopus, The Main Squeeze Orchestra, Mary Spencer Knapp, Charita Paramikatorn, Sarah Starpoli, Miwa Gemini, Jennie Muoio, Erica Marie Mancini, Carl Riehl, Doug Makofka, Bob Goldberg, David Stoler, Benjamin Ickies, Corn Mo, Brian Dewan, Mike's Place (Mike, Edith, Keith, Tony, Brian, Micki), Ted Nash, The Yorkvillians, Melissa Elledge, Rachel Quirbach, Rachel Swaner, Elaine Yau, Peter Flint, Robert Duncan, Mayumi Mayaoka, Dan Cooper, Michio Suzuki, John Ferraro, Dave Soldier, David First, Peter Jarvis, Linda Reed, Raymond Storms, Natasia Thweatt, Gene Pritsker, Quentin Tice, Milica Paranosic, Elliott Sharp, Dr. Schimmel, and others.

Dr. William Schimmel is a well known accordionist, composer, and academic based in New York, where he organizes the annual Master Class and Concert Series (The Seminars). He received the Merit Award from the CIA for his contributions spanning fifty years plus the "Accordionist of the Year" Award in 1988.

As a Juilliard trained musician, he is frequently asked to play with the New York Philharmonic and other orchestras around the country. He also performs in the pit orchestras on Broadway, his most recent performance being the accordionist for the award winning production of "An American in Paris." Over the years, Bill's music has been included in television shows and films. His best known appearance is in the tango scene of "Scent of a Woman," starring Al Pacino.

Dr. Schimmel learned the accordion as a child and attended Juilliard School of Music where he received his doctorate in composition. While he was still a student at the school, his career was launched after he recorded songs of avant garde composer, Luiano Berio. An authority on Kurt Weill, Dr. Schimmel has recorded all of Weill's music with accordion. Beginning in 1981, Schimmel's Tango Project has released a string of acclaimed recordings on the Nonesuch and Newport Classic labels. The first Tango Project recording went to No. 1 on Billboard's classical charts and was named Record of the Year by Stereo Review magazine.

For more information on The Seminars: [accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:accordionbill@gmail.com)





## A Lifetime of Treasurers Reborn at A World of Accordions Museum

Accordion collector Alain Papineau reflects that upon his relocation back to Paris, France, combined with his memory of a then-unknown lady knocking at the door to passionately photograph his burgeoning collection of accordions some 25 years ago, his keeping in touch thereafter and the coincidence of the timing of her birthday, were the series of events that came together to suggest that the timing was right to now entrust and transfer his and partner Christiane's now greatly expanded collection of 350 accordion treasures from Washington, DC, to the loving and capable hands of renowned accordion curator Helmi Harrington and her magnificent A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI.

Thanks to the impeccable organization and preparation by Judy Carrier (a dear friend of Alain and Christiane Papineau) and her team, coordinating the logistics of packing the instruments, shelving and accompanying materials, the Museum team was able to complete the potentially arduous task of loading and transferring the instruments and 90 boxes of music-related items from the nation's capital to their new home in Superior with relative ease.

After a cross country journey, this

spectacular gift of a lifetime arrived in Superior, where a stunning cross section of unique instruments re-emerged to adorn the Special Exhibits area. Representing a diverse variety of instruments from the evolution of the accordion, ranging from early Flutinas to incredibly rare hybrid double keyboard instruments, to beautiful art embellished and highly decorative models, the Papineau instruments serve as shining stars representing the diversity of the accordion family, complimenting the already extensive holdings of A World of Accordions Museum.

A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, Wisconsin houses the world's most extensive and inclusive collection of instruments showcasing the accordion's history. This one-of-a-kind museum profiles the accordion's evolution from the times of the Cyrill Demian patent to the largest and most elaborate concert instruments of today, as well as the incredible array of variants found in-between.

For information on the ever expanding collection of the more than 2,000 accordions and special exhibits found at A World of Accordions Museum, please visit [www.worldofaccordions.org](http://www.worldofaccordions.org).



## Dominic Karcic Performs in New York

AAA Board of Director Dominic Karcic will perform at his second event for the Morgagni Medical Society of New York this season. The first event was held on Wednesday, September 13 at the Ducati New York, 155 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY, and the second will be on Wednesday, October 13 at Zero Otto Nove, 2357 Arthur Avenue, Bronx, NY.

From his very early childhood, Dominic was exposed to the accordion, accordion music and dancing to accordion music. In his Croatian and Italian culture upbringing, the accordion was the musical instrument of choice - "the accordion was King."

Originally from Astoria in New York City, AAA Board member, accordionist, pianist, and band leader Dominic Karcic earned a Bachelor of Music degree from New York College of Music and a Masters degree in Music from the City University of New York (CCNY).

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 fundraiser at the Oyster Bay catering house in Astoria, NY attracted 950 people, and Dominic and his orchestra supplied the music for the monumental event.

Dominic has always played professionally (accordion and piano) in the New York metropolitan area and continues to do so today. He and his musicians, "The Continental Sound," have been house musicians at the Columbus Citizens Foundation (NYC) for over 25 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 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.

Dominic was the driving force behind the 2010 establishment of the popular Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA), a regular gathering of accordionists featuring a diverse array of artists presenting a variety of musical styles. For further information please write to [dkarcic10@gmail.com](mailto:dkarcic10@gmail.com).



## Joan Grauman and Dr. William Morse in Concert

For decades, the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Dr. William Morse, has performed annual outdoor concerts for the Golden, Colorado Arts Festival. The festival takes place each August in downtown Golden, along the beautiful Clear Creek and Historic Park.

Due to the pandemic, the orchestra has not been meeting in person for over a year. This year, in lieu of an orchestra performance, small ensembles of mostly orchestra members played for two evenings during the festival. The first night featured a brass quintet and several small string groups.

The second night of performances featured the accordion! Joan Grauman and Dr. (Bill) Morse played a set of duets by Frank Marocco, Stas Venglevski, Guy Klucsevsek, and a few classical pieces arranged for two accordions by Bill Morse.



The accordion was also featured in "Tryptych," a trio consisting of cello, piano, and accordion, a group that has delighted Colorado audiences for several years. Tryptych played several selections by Astor Piazzolla and ended with excerpts from the gorgeous "Enigma Variations" by Elgar, all arranged by Bill Morse.

These musicians were joined by a terrific cello sextet for an evening of fun and, as a few audience members stated, "wonderful live music - finally! It has been way too long!"

For further information on this and other performances, please contact [graumanjoan98@gmail.com](mailto:graumanjoan98@gmail.com).



## Stas Venglevski and the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra

Renowned accordion artist Stas Venglevski will perform the Concerto No. 2 for Accordion and Symphony Orchestra, by the late Anthony Galla-Rini, with the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. William Morse. The Jefferson Symphony Orchestra is delighted to be able to open their concert season with this magnificent but seldom heard work.

The Jefferson Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1953 and is a 75-member ensemble based in Golden, Colorado. Featuring fine musicians from many walks of life, the orchestra, under Maestro William Morse, continues to perform the most challenging of repertoire. Music Director and Principal Conductor Dr. William Morse shares, "We are proud to unite our audiences through their shared love for the arts. It is our 69th season. What motivates them to play in is the same thing that motivates the thousands of people who attend the concerts – a love of good music." Dr. Morse programs repertoire that adds a new dimension of awareness and engagement to audiences. The symphony has brought a new dimension to the quality of life in Jefferson County.

Excerpts from the website: Dr. William Morse has been Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra since 1999. The orchestra continues to develop and flourish under his leadership. Dr. Morse holds Bachelor and Master degrees in music from Oberlin Conservatory and a doctorate in orchestral conducting from the University of Arizona. He has also studied at the Mozarteum Academy of Music in Salzburg, Austria. He is Professor Emeritus at Metropolitan State College in Denver where he conducted the Metropolitan State Symphony Orchestra and taught Advanced Conducting and Music Theory. He also plays the accordion and has written arrangements for the accordion and other instruments.

A man of diverse musical talents, Dr. Morse is fond of the literature for symphony and chamber orchestra. His dynamic conducting style, innovative musical taste, and outstanding musicianship have made him very popular with Colorado audiences.

Stas Venglevski is an accordionist, musician, arranger, entertainer and teacher. Excerpts from his website: His repertoire includes his original compositions and a broad range of classical, contemporary, and ethnic music. He has toured extensively as a soloist throughout the former Soviet Union, Canada, Europe, and the United States, including numerous performances with Doc Severinsen, Steve Allen, and with Garrison Keillor on the Prairie Home Companion. Additionally, he has performed with symphony orchestras throughout the United States. He is a regular participant with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Arts in Community Education Program (ACE), has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra, has done television commercials, and has performed in theater productions. Stas has produced numerous recordings and has published several books of original compositions.

Under the guidance of Friedrich Lips, Stas's artistry, dazzling technical command, and musical sensitivity have brought him to the forefront among concert accordionists. He has performed in solo concerts in Canada, Europe, throughout the former Soviet Union, and in many events in the United States. His acclaim has advanced through theater productions, television commercials, and appearances with celebrities. He has been further distinguished as premiere performer of numerous original compositions. In service to the accordion community, Stas accepted duties as board member and president of Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International, at which festivals he has performed, adjudicated, and conducted his orchestral compositions.

In 2010, he founded Accordion XXI Century Series to share with Midwest audiences the skills and cultures of gifted artists from all over the world in unique musical experiences. As composer and arranger, Stas touches the souls of countless accordionists through self-published scores and recordings. In his Master Classes, aspiring accordionists gratefully receive intelligent advice and tactful counsel by this inspired and inspiring adjudicator. Additional information about Stas and his music can be found at [www.stasv.com](http://www.stasv.com).

The concert will take place on October 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM at the Green Center, Colorado School of Mines, in Golden, CO. Tickets are available by visiting <https://www.jeffsymphony.org>.



Stas Venglevski and Dr. William Morse

## Gia Ciccone Shines Among the New Generation of Accordionists



It is always uplifting to witness the musical talents and progress of the younger generation. Gia Ciccone is such a person – talented, motivated, and always willing to share her musical talents with others. From a family of accordionists, Gia’s proud dad is AAA President Dr. Joseph Ciccone, and the late Carmen Carrozza was her Great Uncle.

14 year-old Gia Ciccone is in the 9th grade at Somers High School in Somers, NY. She started taking accordion lesson at the age of 5 with her Great Uncle, Maestro Carmen Carrozza. Gia has consistently entered and won many prizes at the American Accordionists' Association's Annual Festival/Competitions and has been studying accordion and general music with Mario Tacca for six years.

Gia has participated in The AAA's Youth Orchestra under the direction of Mary Tokarski and has been featured as a Guest Artist for Mario Tacca & Mary Mancini's "A Candlelight Christmas Concert," The Connecticut Accordion Association, The Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fundraiser Events, The Valtaro Reunion, Mario Tacca AAA's Life Achievement Award Concert, The Feast of St Joseph the Worker, The AAA's Youth Outreach Program, The Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble, The Accordion Pops Orchestra, and the 2019 American Accordionists' Association's Gala Banquet/Concert.

On May 19, 2019, Gia became the first student accordionist to receive The DeBellis School of Performing

Arts Music Scholarship and was the First Place Winner of the 2019 Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Competition Junior Division, which took place in King of Prussia, PA on July 16, 2019 at the American Accordionists' Association annual Festival.

At the 2021 AAA Virtual Competition, Gia won the following awards:

- 1st Place - Honors Intermediate (Cascade & Tico Tico)
- Gold - Open Solo Intermediate (Hungarian Dance #5)
- Gold - Ethnic Solo Intermediate (Samba Italiano)
- Gold - Evaluation Solo (Tico Tico)

For further information about Gia please contact [drjcciccone@aol.com](mailto:drjcciccone@aol.com).



Mario Tacca and Gia Ciccone



## A World of Accordions Museum (AWAM) Repair Seminar

A World of Accordions Museum (AWAM) curator Helmi Harrington, Ph. D. presented a seminar and course teaching Antique Accordion Restoration at the renowned A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, Wisconsin. The week long course, one of several in the series, focused on reeds, with topics and practical work assignments including identifying dislodged reeds (a common occurrence in antique instruments), removing, cleaning, and treating all the reeds, dealing with rust and age related issues, sequencing according to keyboard configuration, cleaning and prepping the reed blocks, reed leather work, and finally waxing the reeds back into place. In this seminar, each topic's complexities paid particular focus to how it applied to antique instruments.

Participants included AAA Board member Kevin Friedrich and local Duluth, MN based Symphony Conductor, musician, and accordionist Tracey Gibbens. Additional assistance for the course was provided by Museum volunteer Robin Floyd.

During the timeframe of the weeklong course, several of the AWAM Board of Directors met with the Mayor of Superior, Jim Paine. The Mayor is an enthusiastic supporter of his community and has been proactive in recognizing the importance and uniqueness of A World of Accordions Museum in Superior. The Mayor has invited A World of Accordions Museum to display several instruments at the City Hall offices to create awareness of the 2,000 instruments housed in the adjacent World of Accordions Museum. The Mayor was excited to hear that the Museum was the recent recipient of a substantial donation of 350 instruments from a private Washington, DC and Paris based collector Alain Papineau. A preliminary display of instruments from these holdings is on display in the Special Exhibits area at the Museum.

Helmi Harrington founded A World of Accordions Museum and Harrington ARTS Center, and also

established the curriculum for – and teaches – accordion repair. She has been recognized in various Who's Who listings, through regional awards and the Confederation des Accordéonistes Internationale (CIA) (2006). She is writer of accordion-related articles for Groves New Dictionary of Music (London, 2000 Edition), the American Accordionists' Association Newsletter, and various scholarly journals, compiled and edited Charles Magnante: America's Great Accordionist, and has approximately 60 music books and recordings available through Harrington ARTS Center Publications.



Rod Dingman, Roger Schmitz, Kevin Friedrich, Helmi Harrington, Mayor Jim Paine, and Tracey Gibbens

Helmi completed a Ph.D. dissertation in Musicology on composer Hugo Herrmann under Dr. John Grubbs of the University of Texas, a double Master of Music degree from the University of Houston in Music Literature and Applied Piano under Dr. Elmer Schoettle, a Bachelor of Music degree in Applied Piano and Performer's Certificate from the University of Houston under Prof. Albert Hirsh. She studied with Dr. Armin Fett of the Staedische Musikschule Trossingen, from which she received an honorary degree, and Dr. Albert Feil of the Universität Stuttgart. Her many awards include a Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst scholarship. She holds certificates as Master teacher in accordion and piano from the National Music Teachers' Association and the Minnesota Music Teachers' Association.

Future classes in the series pertaining to antique accordions will include Tuning, Bellows Work, Bass Mechanics, and general aesthetics and restoration. For more information about A World of Accordions Museum: [www.worldofaccordions.org](http://www.worldofaccordions.org)



Kevin Friedrich, Robin Floyd, Helmi Harrington, and Tracy Gibbens