



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

January-February 2015



## UPCOMING EVENTS

AAA Festival 2015

July 8-12, 2015

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

325 First Street

Alexandria, VA

Faithé Deffner Accordion Competition

\$25,000 in Cash Awards

Donated anonymously in Faithé's  
memory by an AAA member.

October 3-4, 2015

Carmen Carrozza Scholarship

Competition

and

Memorial Concert

Double Tree Hotel

Tarrytown, NY

Details to be announced.

## From the Editor

Welcome to the January-February 2015 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

As we welcome in 2015, we also welcome our new President Mary Tokarski as she takes on her leadership role at the AAA. Mary has a long affiliation with the AAA as a Contestant, Champion, an International Delegate and Adjudicator, Artist in Residence and Executive Officer, so it seems a natural step that she was elected President, as a culmination of all these roles.

As Mary begins her new role, we offer our sincerest condolences to her on the sad loss of her devoted husband Frank. Mary had just returned from her concert tour in China with the Mantovani Orchestra to learn of husband's cancer diagnosis and tragically lost him a week later. Family and friends gathered for his beautiful Funeral service in North Haven, CT on January 24th. Our thoughts are with Mary during this difficult time.

As we transition to our new Team, we offer heartfelt thanks to our outgoing President Linda Reed for leading the AAA for the last 10 years. She now joins an elite list of former Presidents who have devoted their time and energies on behalf of the accordion to promote and further the instruments place in the music world. We are delighted that Linda will continue her role with the AAA as part of our incoming Executive officers, enabling us to draw on her extensive expertise in all facets of working with the AAA.

We thank the entire slate of outgoing officers for their dedication and commitment to our organization and congratulations to our incoming team, who we pledge to support over their upcoming term of office.

Once again, thanks to Linda Reed and Rita Davidson for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. Items for the March/April 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. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a .doc Word file attachment. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file, and the larger the file size the better. We can always reduce/crop the picture if necessary, however we are unable to increase the quality from smaller pictures. The deadline for the March Newsletter will be the 15th of February 2015.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of the many upcoming events, and meanwhile Happy New Year to you all!

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor

## Mary Tokarski, New AAA President

The AAA is pleased to welcome Mary Tokarski as their new President. Even though she probably needs little introduction among the accordion world in general, as she takes on her new role, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce her to our membership.

A concert accordionist, Mary Tokarski performs both nationally and internationally as a soloist, with symphony orchestras, with string quartets and as a member of various ensembles. Mary has appeared as a soloist with the Prince George's Philharmonic (Maryland), the Moravian Symphony (Czech Republic), the Auckland Symphony (New Zealand), The Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra (Massachusetts), the Waterbury Symphony (Connecticut), the Bronxville Pops Orchestra (New York), the Hamden Sym-

phony Orchestra (Connecticut) and most recently with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (Massachusetts). She's toured China several times with the Mantovani Orchestra, performing both in the orchestra and as a soloist. She has appeared in the orchestra for the musical "Fiddler On The Roof," performed with the Wolf Trap Performing Arts Center Orchestra in the full soundtrack for "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" complete with the film, and in the opera "Four Saints In Three Acts" by Virgil Thom-



*continued on page 2*

## Mary Tokarski, AAA President, cont'd. from page 1

son and Gertrude Stein. Mary was also featured in the Westport Country Playhouse production of "Sing For Your Shakespeare" created by Wayne Barker, Mark Lamos and Deborah Grace Winer.

For more than 20 years, Mary served as Director of Music Education at Tokarski Music Center in North Haven, Connecticut, where she taught piano and accordion, conducted the choral and ensemble programs, supervised the preschool programs, and served as a Music Educator in the North Haven Department of Education's Early Childhood Development Program. Mary currently teaches accordion and piano at her home in Northford, Connecticut.

In collaboration with Karen Malan-Urbe (an English as a Second Language teacher in the Washington, D.C. area) and fellow AAA officer Joan Geller Grauman (an illustrator/artist from Maryland), Mary selected and recorded the music and narration for the guided reader children's book "An Accordion! What Is That?" released in 2010, and now in an iBook format!

Mary has performed internationally in Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Scotland and Switzerland – as well as extensively here in the United States. As a two-time United States Champion she represented the U.S. in the Coupe Mondiale (World Championship) events in Belgium and France. She has served on the Board of Directors for the AAA in multiple capacities, is one of the founders of the Connecticut Accordion Association and is a member and former Executive Officer of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG).

As an educator, Mary presents workshops and master classes on improving musical skills, and coaches on all aspects of performance throughout the U.S. and Canada, and recently at the Peter Soave Music Academy in Sauris, Italy. Sought after for her adjudicating skills, Mary has served numerous associations as a regular at festivals around the U.S., as well as serving on prestigious jury panels for world events.

Mary began her music career at the age of 7 with Michael Ferrino of Ansonia, Connecticut. During the course of her musical career, she has studied theory, performance, ensemble and orchestral training with professors from Yale University, Indiana University, Peabody Conservatory, Boston University, the University of Texas and the University of Denver. In addition, she has had extensive Kindermusik training at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell and Princeton University, and has attended numerous seminars on the psychology of teaching, technics for "special needs" learners, and LOTS of education-related topics!

Mary has the distinction of winning over 185 trophies and awards for her performances in state, regional, national and international competitions, and was elected to the *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* in 2002, the *Oxford's Who's Who* in 1992, was a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow in 2004 and received the AAMS Recognition Award in March 2011.

We congratulate Mary on her new role as AAA President, and we wish her much success as she and her team lead the organization during the upcoming term of office. ■



Mary Tokarski performing with the Auckland Symphony Orchestra  
Gary Daverne, Conductor

## Eddie Monteiro at Connecticut Accordion Club

AAA Board of Directors' member and Jazz accordionist Eddie Monteiro was the featured guest for the Connecticut Accordion Club on Sunday, January 25, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at Vasi's Restaurant, 1700 Watertown Ave. in Waterbury, CT.

Eddie has over 30 years of musical performance in classical, jazz, dance, theater, cabaret and choral ensembles and has performed as a member of the Bobby Rosengarden, Skitch Henderson, Peter Duchin, Ray Bloch, Michael Lanin and Marty Ames orchestras.

A member of pit orchestras in several Broadway shows, he has played in the revival performances of both "Evita" and "Carnival," and has also recorded radio and television jingles for "Sesame Street," General Foods, Pontiac, Colgate, Palmolive, Anheuser-

Busch, AT&T, Bannigan's and more.

In addition to serving as the lead artist of innumerable society bands performing throughout the world at social events, political gatherings and corporation conventions, in 1994 Eddie was the youngest honoree ever elected to the American Accordionists' Association Hall of Fame.

A regular performer at jazz festivals, he has appeared at the JVC Jazz Festival and the Toyota Jazz Festival both in New York City, Salishan Jazz Festival and the Centrum Jazz Festival both in Washington, as well as appearing overseas as at the North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland, the Jakarta Jazz Festival in Indonesia, Sea Jazz Festival in Helsinki, the Norwegian National Accordion Competition, Sweden's Annual Accordion Festival in Ransatter. In



## Eddie Monteiro at CAA - January 25, cont'd from page 2

January of 2000, Eddie closed the Jazz In El Tambo Festival in Punta del Esta, Uruguay performing with Paquito D'Rivera, Leny Andrade, John Patitucci and Benny Golson.

Eddie has conducted workshops and seminars at the Manhattan School of Music, Kansas City Jazz Workshop, Artists in Jazz at Pace University, Topeka Jazz Workshop and a Harmony & Improvisation Clinic in Norway. His numerous recordings include "Double Standards," "The Real Thing," "A Perfect Match" (with Nancy Marano featuring Gerry Mulligan, Roger Kellaway and Claudio Roditi), "Under Paris Skies" (with Karen Akers), "A Walk on the Wilde Side" (with Ronny Whyte), and "Jazz Influence and Arkadia Jazz All Stars: Thank You John!" (a tribute to John Coltrane). He was featured on the album with the vocal group String Of Pearls. His work has also included a soundtrack recording with Marvin Hamlisch and an appearance on film "Mortal Thoughts" with Bruce Willis.

A graduate of NYU with a B.S. in Music Education, Eddie studied accordion with Charles Nunzio, (one of the founding members of the American Accordionists' Association), piano with Madame Olga Van Till and advanced harmony studies with Marty Holmes.

He is presently a music teacher and choral director at Ann Street School (New Jersey) and is also Musical Director at Matawan-Aberdeen High School Summer Theater and vocal director for Matawan Avenue Middle School's Spring musicals - conducting, coaching and accompanying students on productions of numerous Broadway plays. "The Trio" a CD recorded with Joe Cocuzzo (drums) and Lenny Argese (guitar) was the most recent release in 2006 when the group was performing weekly at the Retreat Lounge at the Short Hills Hilton (NJ).

Eddie is a member of the Governing Board and is a Certified Teacher Member of AAA, as well as a member of Music Educators' National Conference, National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, Technology Institute for Music Educators, National Education Association, Jazz Educators Association the Sommelier Institute and is an Amateur Radio General Class Operator.

Durring his CT concert, Eddie wase joined by Jack Varanelli on drums with a special surprise opening act!

For further information regarding the CT Association, please contact: Marilyn@CTAccordion.com . ■



## Acclarion Duo in Concert

Acclarion, Canada's premier accordion and clarinet ensemble, will appear in several concerts in the U.S.A. and their homeland of Canada.

Acclarion is giving classical music a makeover! Since 2003, with virtuosic flair and entertaining banter, accordionist David Carovillano and clarinetist Becky Sajo-Carovillano have charmed audiences with their unique arrangements of classical masterpieces, sultry tangos, popular folk tunes, and original compositions in concerts that are fun for all ages.

In 2004, they recorded their debut self-titled album, featuring works by Handel, Faure, and Puccini, as well as original compositions by David, Charles Cozens, and Walter Buczynski. Regularly featured on CBC radio shows such as "Disc Drive," the "Vinyl Café," and "Studio Sparks," the CD has sold in countries around the world, including Italy, Australia, and Puerto Rico, and remains popular on iTunes. Acclarion's distinctive sound is perfectly suited to film music and has been featured in the Canadian-produced documentary, "*Sing Me to Sleep*."

Accordionist David Carovillano holds a Master's degree in performance from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Music. David has performed on numerous television and radio shows, including City TV's, "Breakfast Television," Insight Productions' "Ready or Not," HGTV's "Design for Living," Global TV/MTV's "My Fabulous Gay Wedding" and CBC's, "Music Around Us." Having competed in various music festivals throughout North America, he has received over 140 awards for his playing. He has received several scholarships from the University of Toronto.

David participated in master classes held in Venice, Italy, studying under noted accordionist, Hugo Noth. He was an accordionist with the Stratford Festival's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" and the new Mozart musical, "The Magic of Love" for which he appears on the original cast recording.

David has performed in various chamber capacities with mem-



bers of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, The Toronto Winds, and I Furiosi, as well as being featured in new music concert series presented by Collaborations and Array Music. As a composer and arranger, his music has been featured on radio, recordings, and live concert performances in North America and Europe.

For performance schedules, please visit their website at <http://www.acclarion.ca> ■

## Dr. Robert Young McMahan Performances

Dr. Robert Young McMahan was recently invited by Dr. Joe Miller, Director of Choral Activities at the Westminster Choir College of Rider University, Princeton, NJ, to perform in the WCC annual Christmas program, "An Evening of Readings and Carols," at the Princeton University Chapel.

The chapel is of cathedral size and has an audience capacity of almost 2000 people. He accompanied a sextet of singers in Benjamin Britten's "Friday Afternoons, Op. 7, No. 5" and "A New Year's Carol;" played a full introduction to Malcolm Sargent's a cappella arrangement of "Silent Night;" and played a solo, "Prelude and Sarabande" for accordion, by George Kleinsinger, which is an AAA commissioned work.

Dr. McMahan commented, "Its meditative, rather wistful mood and use of modes made it an ideal interlude for a Christmas program of this sort. This was a truly heady experience for me in that the classical accordion was exposed to some 4,000 people, mostly of educated backgrounds who have known nothing of the accordion in this capacity.

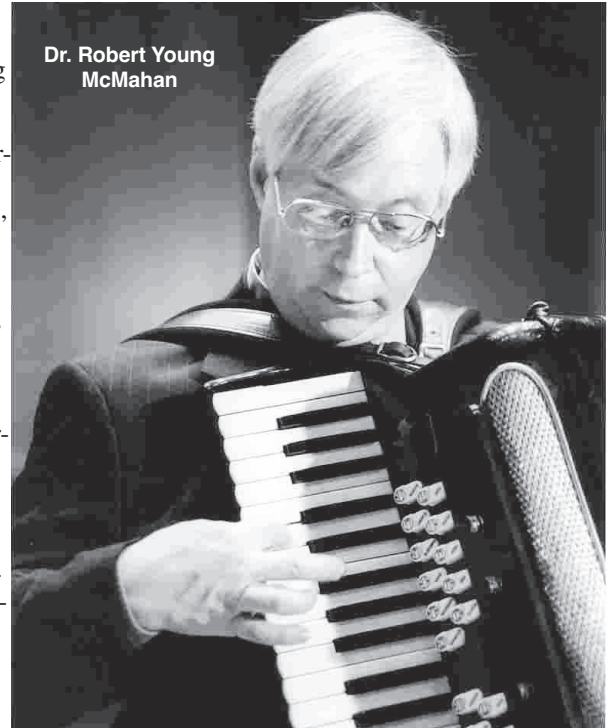
"I received multiple compliments from many people, including the Chapel organist, a noted artist, who was amazed at the accordion's capabilities and unique idiomatic qualities. This may well be the largest audience of non-accordionists who like classical music but have not heard the instrument in this capacity for which I have ever performed.

"Though the Kleinsinger is a late intermediate-level, 3-minute piece, and certainly not highly virtuosic, it demands mature interpretation and beautifully displays the accordion's lyrical and song-like qualities. In short, the situation for this concert was perfect for the accordion and this particular selection."

The program can be heard at WWFM.org by clicking on webcasts and then the program name; or one can simply click on the following to go directly to the webcast: <http://64.234.215.170/WestR&C2014.mp3>.

Dr. Robert McMahan also performed in a one-act opera in which accordion was used throughout. Performances were January 9 and 10 with the Princeton University Opera Theatre, Gabriel Crouch (conductor) David Kellett (director) in the Opera "Tobias and the Angel" (an Old Testament story), by the English composer Jonathan Dove. The first half of the evening featured Henry Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" and the second half the "Tobias and the Angel," in which he played.

Dr. Robert Young McMahan, DMA is a Professor of Music and Coordinator of Music Theory Studies, Music Dept. of The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and also serves as the AAA Secretary. ■



## Victor Prieto at Long Island Accordion Alliance

The next meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA), sponsored by La Villini Restaurant, was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 6 p.m. and featured popular New York based accordionist and Grammy Nominee, Victor Prieto.

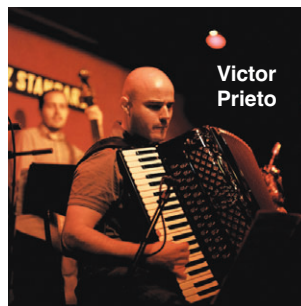
Victor Prieto was hailed by "The New York Times" as "A fiendishly skilled accordionist and composer."

His love for the traditional Galician music and classical education enriches his compositions with explosive rhythm and colors uniquely combining Galician Roots, Celtic, Brazilian, jazz, tango, and classical music.

Victor has collaborated on world stages with Yo-Yo Ma ("Songs of Joy and Peace," Sony BMG Masterworks - 2010 Grammy Winning Album), the Arturo O'Farrill Latin Jazz Orchestra, The Maria Schneider Orchestra, Emilio Solla ("Second Half" 2014 Grammy Nominated album) Paquito D'Rivera, Cristina Pato, Chris Cheek and the Christian Howes Group.

Victor Prieto holds a Degree in jazz accordion performance from Berklee College of Music, where he studied with a full scholarship, and a diploma in classical accordion from the Ouresnse - Spain Conservatory.

La Villini Restaurant is located at 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731. For more information regarding future events, please call Frank at (631) 261-6344. ■



## From Broadway to the Met

AAA Board of Directors' member Dominic Karcic performed with vocalist Cheryl Spielman in "From Broadway to The Met... plus" on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 6 p.m.

The program will offer music from "The American Song Book," Broadway, "Tin Pan Alley," opera, operetta, plus much more.

The event will take place at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731.

Originally from Astoria, NY, Dominic Karcic attended New York College of Music where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree and continued his education at the City University of New York (CCNY) where he received his Master's Degree in Music. He was a public school music teacher for thirty-two years focusing on vocal and instrumental instruction in the Long Island towns of Valley Stream, Freeport, and Baldwin. He has always played professionally in the New York metropolitan area and continues to do so today.

For more information, please call Frank at (631) 261-6344. ■



Cheryl Spielman and Dominic Karcic



## Keeping Amazing Accordion Music Alive Project

Popular accordionists Kim and Dan Christian have been performing for more than 30 years. They have played as far away as Beijing, China, and had their own production in Branson, MO for two years.

In their ongoing quest to promote the accordion, they are undertaking an online fundraising effort to enable them to perform for schools, community centers, sr. living communities, senior centers, churches, etc. where there is often little to no budget for live entertainment.

Their goal is to be able to perform a minimum of ten such gigs a month with hopes to perform for at least one elementary school assembly and one high school or college music dept. every month. This would afford performances to at least 24,000 people annually.

Kim, the 1983 AAA National Champion, has won many prestigious awards in her career, including the Honorary Bronze Medal at the CIA World Accordion Championships. She is also the two time winner of the Rocky Mountain Accordion Society Virtuoso Solo

and the Accordion Federation of North America Virtuoso Solo. She has been teaching for Young Musicians of America (Y.M.A.) for 30 years and is responsible for educating hundreds of people in the art of music. Five of Kim's students received full music scholarships at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music.

Husband Dan is the winner of the prestigious Galla-Rini Traveling Trophy Award which requires a three time win of the Rocky Mountain Accordion Society Virtuoso Solo Competition. Dan has been teaching private music lessons for 34 years. He has developed a reputation throughout the United States for directing outstanding Virtuoso Orchestras. His groups have won national Competitions in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Denver. Dan is an experienced writer and arranger of music.

Anyone wishing to support their project of bringing Amazing Accordion Music to thousands of people can e-mail Kim and Dan at: [KDCStudios@gmail.com](mailto:KDCStudios@gmail.com)



Kim and Dan Christian  
"Keep Amazing Accordion Music Alive"

## Dr. William Schimmel and Corn Mo Record Schubert's "Die Winterreise"

AAA Artist in Residence and Board of Directors' member Dr. William Schimmel and indie rock singer, Corn Mo, have released the entire cycle of Franz Schubert's "Die Winterreise" (Winter Journey) available for digital download on bandcamp.com

"Die Winterreise," published in 1828, consists of 24 songs set to the poetry of Wilhelm Müller.

Corn Mo, who has released seven albums of his own material, performs the vocal part in his own highly personal legit manner and Dr. Schimmel realizes the accordion part directly from the original piano part giving it folk-like, as well as orchestral dimensions.

The recording consists of live performances from the American Accordionists' Association Master Class and Concert Series from 2013 and 2014.

For more info: [billschimmel@billschimmel.com](mailto:billschimmel@billschimmel.com). ■



Corn Mo performing with Dr. Schimmel at recent AAA Master Class and Concert series

## Julien Labro and the Spektral Quartet

Renowned accordion and bandoneon artist Julien Labro will perform with the Spektral Quartet on January 24 at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Wheaton, IL, as part of the Wheaton College Artist Series. The concert will be held in the Coray Auditorium located on the East side of the Wheaton College Campus at the North end of the Todd M. Beamer Center.

Founded in 2010, the Spektral Quartet is widely regarded as one of Chicago's most magnetic and forward-thinking chamber ensembles. The group's inclusive approach to concert format, transforming the audience experience from a transactional one to a far more intimate phenomenon, has earned it a loyal following within and far beyond the city limits.

Deemed "brilliant" by Howard Reich of the "Chicago Tribune," Julien Labro has established himself as one of the foremost accordion and bandoneon players in both the classical and jazz worlds. His artistry, virtuosity and creativity as a musician, composer and arranger have earned him international acclaim. French-born Labro was the 2005 Winner of the AAA Vivian Vivio Stolaruk Memorial International Entertainment Competition for Accordionists.

He was influenced early on by traditional folk music and the melodic, lyrical quality of the French chanson. However, he spent every last cent of his pocket money collecting CDs by jazz legends like Charlie Parker and Miles Davis, thirsty for the originality, creativity, and the endless possibilities in their musical language. After graduating from the Marseille Conservatory of Music, Labro began winning international awards, taking first prize in the Virtuoso Entertainment Music division at the Coupe Mondiale in 1996 and the Castelfidardo Competitions in 1997. After sweeping first place in the Marcel Azzola, Jo Privat and Medard Ferrero competitions in 1995 and 1998, Labro moved to the United States to further pursue his studies and musical dream. There he embraced other genres of music, ranging from pop and hip hop to electronic/techno and rap, as well as Latin, Indian, Middle Eastern and other types of world music.

As a musician, Labro is constantly evolving artistically. He searches for new themes and untried concepts, transforming and developing his creative ideas into new projects. Piazzolla, a major influence and the reason Labro picked up the bandoneon, is also the title of his recent release on Azica Records with classical guitarist Jason Vieaux and A Far Cry chamber orchestra. It features Labro's arrangements of the tango master's "Four Seasons." Other upcoming releases include Grammy-award winning vocalist Cassandra Wilson's "Another Country" (eOne Music) and critically acclaimed Hot Club of Detroit's "Junction on Mack Avenue Records."

Labro's compositions on "Junction" reveal his broad musical inspiration, ranging from a piece that honors late pianist George Shearing ("Goodbye Mr. Shearing") to a Jean Cocteau poem read at Django Reinhardt's funeral ("Django Mort.") His arrangements

on the album, which include Ornette Coleman's "Lonely Woman" and Parisian standard "La Foule," highlight Labro's innovative approach to traditional music and his willingness to transcend boundaries in melding different genres, styles and sounds.

Labro tours with jazz groups such as the Frank Vignola Ensemble, Jazz Wagon, The Oblivion Project, and Hot Club of Detroit. His performance schedule includes jazz venues such as Birdland, Blue Note, Yoshi's, Dazzle, The Green Mill, Nighttown, Sculler's, Chris' Jazz Cafe, Dakota Jazz Club, Jazz Kitchen, and festivals such as Jazz Aspen Snowmass, Detroit Jazz Festival, Rochester Jazz Festival, Blissfest, Jazz Salt Lake City, Fontana Chamber Arts Summer Festival, Soave Guitar Festival (IT), Quebec City Summer Festival (CA), In Chad International Cultural Festival in Constantine (AL), the International Finnish Accordion Festival and the International Las Vegas Accordion Convention, where he was featured with accordion legends Dick Contino and Art Van Damme.

In addition, he has been a guest artist with numerous symphonies and chamber ensembles such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, A Far Cry chamber orchestra, the Cape Cod Symphony, the Grosse Pointe Symphony, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony, the Saginaw Symphony, the Macomb Symphony, the Bijou Orchestra, the Michigan Pops Orchestra, the Linden String Quartet, the Prairie Ensemble and the Spektral Quartet.

Recently, he has performed and/or recorded with such artists such as Brazilian pianist João Donato, vocalist Cassandra Wilson, clarinetist Anat Cohen, Lebanese oud master Marcel Khalife, saxophonists Miguel Zenón, James Carter, Jon Irabagon and Victor Goines, and guitarists Howard Alden, Larry Coryell, Tommy Emmanuel, and John and Bucky Pizzarelli.

On a creative level, Labro has been enlisted as an arranger for several professional ensembles, most recently for Ensemble Vivant of Toronto, the conductorless Boston-based chamber orchestra A Far Cry, and Curtis On Tour from the Curtis Institute of Music faculty of Philadelphia.

For more information on Julien's activities including upcoming concerts, recordings and other projects, please visit <http://julien-labro.com>. ■



Julien Labro

### 2015 American Accordionists' Association Master Class and Concerts...Chock Full O'Learnin'

The 21st annual Master Class and Concert Series will take place from August 7-9, 2015, hosted by Dr. William Schimmel as Moderator/Curator.

The Seminars "Chock full o' learnin'!, a few items to drink in - OR CHEW ON! - or eliminate" will take place at the Tenri Cultural Institute - 43A West 13th St. - between 5th and 6th Avenues in New York City, with Master Classes at 3 p.m. and Concerts at 7 p.m.

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



Dr. William Schimmel



## For AAA Members and Accordion Friends

To our members and friends:

We are pleased to make the following CDs available to our members at a discount which will in turn benefit the AAA's Youth Involvement Jazz Progra

Richard Galliano Sentimentale CD

Christian Howes Southern Exposure CD

Featuring Richard Galliano on all the tracks.

CDs are \$12.99 and the Digital Downloads are \$9.99 through the following website: [www.resrecs-rjsstudios.org](http://www.resrecs-rjsstudios.org)

Select your items, go to the shopping cart, enter your information (include AAA) & proceed to check out (you will then be directed to Paypal for payment). If you purchase a Digital Download from the Resonance Records website ([www.resrecs-rjsstudios.org](http://www.resrecs-rjsstudios.org)), you will receive an email from Resonance Records within 1-business day with your Download CODE to redeem your purchase.

To sample videos of both these recordings on ResonanceRecords.org, follow the links below:

<http://www.resonancerecords.org/video.php?vid=535>  
Behind the Scenes of Sentimentale

<http://www.resonancerecords.org/video.php?vid=536>  
Sentimentale - *The Jody Grind*

<http://www.resonancerecords.org/video.php?vid=539>  
Sentimentale - *The Island*

<http://www.resonancerecords.org/video.php?vid=524>  
Sentimentale - *Ballade For Marion*

<http://www.resonancerecords.org/video.php?vid=519>  
Richard Galliano with Christian Howes  
Southern Exposure - *Ta Boa Santa*

<http://www.resonancerecords.org/video.php?vid=520>  
Richard Galliano with Christian Howes  
Southern Exposure - *Heavy Tango*

15% of your purchase will be donated back to the AAA, so please be sure to enter AAA prior to checkout.

**Support AAA Youth  
Program activities  
with your purchase.**

**Enjoy the music!**



**AAA Festival • July 8-12, 2015  
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites  
625 First Street • Alexandria, VA 22314  
In Alexandria's Historic District  
\$119 Single or Double - Includes Parking  
Faihe Deffner Accordion Competition  
Over \$25,000 in Cash Awards  
Also Coupe Mondiale qualifying categories for  
2015 Coupe Mondiale in Finland**

**For details, contact:  
[ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com)**

## Walter Kühn, Performer, Bandleader and Accordion Evangelist, Dies at 59

Walter Kühn, who died in Manhattan on Jan. 2, at 59, was for decades an evangelist of the instrument, as a performer, bandleader and owner of the Main Squeeze, a shop on the Lower East Side that he founded.

As a performer, Mr. Kühn appeared with the *Last of the International Playboys*, the nine-piece Latin jazz ensemble he founded, which played in clubs across the country.

As a bandleader, he established the Main Squeeze Orchestra, an all-female, all-accordion ensemble of about 14 that has performed throughout New York City, playing everything from Strauss waltzes to Kinks covers.

As an entrepreneur, he opened the Main Squeeze, at 19 Essex Street, between Hester and Canal Streets, in 1996. Part emporium, part performance space, part conservatory and part hiring hall, the store gave accordion lessons, tuned and repaired instruments and sold accordions — prices range from about \$100 into the thousands — and became a mecca for players from around the world.

Accordions could be heard in genres as diverse as jazz, rock, tango, klezmer and zydeco.

Walter Werner Kühn was born in Hanau, near Frankfurt, on Oct. 10, 1955, and began studying the accordion at about 6 years old. After earning a degree in piano and bassoon from the Musikakademie Frankfurt am Main, he was offered a position as a bassoonist with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra.

He declined, preferring to make his way as a jazz bassoonist and pianist. Settling in Hamburg, he supported his musical life with a series of odd jobs. Walter moved to New York in the late 1980s to study jazz piano in Harlem, packing his accordion almost as an afterthought. The instrument would give him his livelihood, first as a performer on subway platforms and later as a visible, and audible, public ambassador.

The Main Squeeze recently lost its lease and closed on Jan. 15. There are no plans to reopen it elsewhere. On a sad note, Walter's friends gathered at the Essex Street shop and were selling many of the items left in inventory with the proceeds to be used for Walter's funeral. However one of the "guest shoppers" took the collection box and its \$600+ contents!



### "A Celebration of Walter Kuhr"

Monday, February 16, 2015 at

**Le Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleeker Street, NYC 10012**

Doors open at 6 pm, show 7pm to midnight.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased online at:  
<https://www.ticketprophet.com/events/9880/orders/new>

Performers will include the

Main Squeeze Orchestra

Walter's fellow bandmates from

The Last of the International Playboys

JP Jofre

Joe Hurley and the Gents

Corn Mo and 357 Lover

Magician, Marco Fezza

# Coast to Coast

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



## Cotati, CA

The Cotati Accordion Festival celebrated a successful year, raising a total of \$23,800 which they donated to local organizations. The annual festival offers a variety of artists spanning many musical genres. The festival's Silver Anniversary (25 years) is scheduled for August 22-23, 2015 and will introduce the new 'Student Stage'. For more information, please visit [www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com)

## Las Vegas, NV

The Las Vegas International Accordion Convention will take place in Las Vegas at the Gold Coast Hotel from June 22-25, 2015. Many well known and virtuoso accordionists will perform including Riders in the Sky, Grayson Masefield (World Champion), Joey Miskulin, Stas Venglevski, Mary Tokarski, Luciano Testani and the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra will once again be directed by Joan Cochran Sommers.

## Lisle (Chicago), IL

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) will hold their 75th Anniversary Celebration in Lisle, IL (Chicago area) at the Hyatt Lisle from July 22-25, 2015. Guest artist will be Yuri Shishkin (Russia). For more information, please visit [www.accordions.com/atg](http://www.accordions.com/atg).

## Montpelier, VT

The Summit School of Traditional Music and Culture presents the Fifth Annual Winter Folk Music Festival, 'Spice on Snow' from January 15th-18th, 2015 including Louisiana based cajun accordionist Corey Porche (pictured) and Jeremiah McLane. The festival will take place in various locations in downtown Montpelier including: Bethany Church, Skinny Pancake, City Hall, Charlio's World Famous, Sweet Melissa's, Capitol Grounds, Bagitos, North Branch Cafe, and the Summit School. This festival is supported in part by the Montpelier Alive, Skinny Pancake, Vermont Vi-



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[regisdonna@yahoo.com](mailto:regisdonna@yahoo.com).

## Rochester Hills, MI

The first Michigan Accordion Society (MAS) event was held on January 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM. The MAS plans a special 2014 MAS year end review, and in addition, Bob Berta conducted a mini-workshop/demo to show the interior workings of an accordion and discuss how it is made.

There was an open mic segment and refreshments available. Entrance fee was \$6.00 members and \$8.00 non-members. The meeting was held at the Forestre Banquet Center located at 1919 StarBatt Drive, Rochester Hills, MI.

## New York, NY

Julien Labro (Accordion and Bandonion) joined with the gifted pianist and composer Emilio Solla at the Zinc Bar in New York City on January 11 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM for a Grammy Nomination Celebration Concert. Zinc Bar is located at 82 West 3rd Street (btw Thompson & Sullivan) Greenwich Village New York, NY.

## Ogden, UT

The 29th Annual Hof Winterfest took place in Ogden, UT from January 16-17, 2015. The celebration is an

mont Public Radio, Young Tradition Vermont, WGDR Goddard Radio Station, and many others.

For a complete festival schedule, go to [summit-school.org](http://summit-school.org). For information, e-mail [director@summit-school.org](mailto:director@summit-school.org). Festival tickets can also be purchased at Vermont Violins, 2 Main Street, Montpelier.

## Anaheim, CA

Then 2015 NAMM Show will take place in Anaheim, CA from January 22 - 25, 2015 and offered many opportunities for business, music and networking. The annual show took place at the Anaheim Convention Center, 800 West Katella Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92802.

## Gilmanton, NH

The New Hampshire Accordion Association will hold their annual membership kick-off meeting on Saturday, January 17, 2015 from 12:30 - 4:00 PM at **Accordion Connection, LLC, 136 Route 106, Gilmanton, NH 03237**.

During the meeting there will be a jam session/warm-up, open mike for all accordionists followed by a business meeting, social time and play along in memory of Nils O. Lundin. For more information, please call Donna Maria Regis, Music Director at (603) 216-9582 or e-mail:

annual event, celebrating the sister cities of Hof (Germany) and Ogden. The partnership was initially formed in 1954 as one of the first Sister-City relationships created between the United States and Germany after World War II.

Among the accordionists performing at the festival, will be an outstanding accordion Quintet from the Hof Accordion Orchestra which is part of the Music School of the Hofer Symphoniker. The orchestra has toured the USA on numerous occasions, most recently during the AAA and ATG hosted Coupe Mondiale in Alexandria, VA. They recently celebrated their 30th Anniversary Concert in Hof, which included one piece for all former players, which included AAA Board of Director Kevin Friedrich, who has performed with the orchestra on several occasions.

For more information on the Winterfest, please visit [www.hofwinterfest.com](http://www.hofwinterfest.com).

## Lindenhurst, NY

Accordionist Dominic Karcic performed at the Village Lanterne Restaurant, 155 Nr. Wellwood Ave in Lindenhurst from 3:30 PM onwards on Sunday, January 18, 2015. The Restaurant is renowned for its German-American Food and live music. Please call (631) 225-1690 for more information, or visit [www.thevillage-lanterne.com](http://www.thevillage-lanterne.com).

## East Northport, NY

"From Broadway to the Met...Plus" featuring vocalist Cheryl Spielman and accordionist, Dominic Karcic on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015 at 6 p.m.

Come hear the music from the American Song Book, Broadway, Tin Pan Alley, Opera, Operetta plus much more! For reservations, contact:

**LaVillini Restaurant**  
288 Larkfield Road  
East Northport, NY 11731  
Call Frank at 631-261-6344



**AAA Open Meeting**  
**Sunday, March 29, 2015**

**2:30 p.m.**

**Hanover Marriott • 1401 State Route 10**  
**Whippany, NJ 07981**