




Newsletter



American Accordionists' Association

www.ameraccord.com

AAA Festival 2016
July 6-10, 2016
Adams Mark Hotel
120 Church Street •
Buffalo, NY 14202
Complimentary
Excursion
to Niagara Falls
For AAA Hotel
Registered
Guests Only



From the Editor

Many of you have inquired about the September issue of the AAA Newsletter, and now we find ourselves already presenting the November publication. We actually did get an abridged 'interim' issue of the September Newsletter published for distribution at the CIA 134th International General Assembly of Delegates in Finland, however the USA member that you have now is an enhanced version. As many of you know, the actual printing of the Newsletter is handled by our immediate past President, Linda Soley Reed, who has been dealing with eye surgery. Unfortunately, what should have been a routine procedure had some complications, which required a second operation. We are delighted to report, however, that this has all gone well, and that she is back on the road to recovery. In addition, we have been overwhelmed by literally hundreds and hundreds of pictures from the summer festival which are being considered for inclusion in our festival review, so it has taken an extraordinary amount of time to process these pictures.



To move forward, we have decided to publish a double issue (September and November) which will combine the usual current news items, with our previous recorded news. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding, and we are confident that you will enjoy this double issue publication.

Once again my sincere thanks all those that have assisted in providing news items and pictures, including Board of Director, Rita Barnea who is always an avid supporter of the AAA Newsletter contributing a variety of news items from around the country.

Items for the January-February 2016 Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the official AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word attachment. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file, and the larger the file size the better. We can always reduce/crop the picture if necessary, however we are unable to increase the quality from smaller pictures. The deadline for the next Newsletter will be January 15, 2016.

Sincerely,
 Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor

Message from the President - Mary Tokarski

Attendees share thoughts about Festival 2015!

"What seduces me personally is the unique warm atmosphere of fellowship; it is marvelous to find so many talented musicians that are willing to share their gift of music with everybody." "Our children are given this wonderful opportunity not only to meet other accordionists of their age and share ideas, but to be able to talk to highly qualified professional musicians and be exposed to different styles of music . . . the festival is an essential part of their musical development." "The festival finds musicians from all parts of the world that are all masters and pioneers of the music that they play; instead of watching videos and hearing recordings of these talented artists, one is able to actually see on a real stage how such impossible movements and abilities are in fact possible. These artists excited, inspired, and shocked



me by shattering all past notions and beliefs I had about accordion and music in general."

If you missed this one, you missed a lot. Next year's Festival is scheduled for July 6-10, 2016 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo, New York. Don't miss it - there is something for everyone!

Recently at AAA - The Carmen Carrozza Memorial Weekend - October 2-4, 2015 - a weekend of musical activities highlighting the life of revered accordion artist Carmen Carrozza. It began with an Open Meeting on Friday evening, an Exhibit of his memorabilia, and a competition where young artists vied for \$6,500 in prizes. The festivities culminated with a Memorial Concert and Banquet Sunday afternoon - all at the Doubletree by Hilton in Tarrytown, NY - Carmen's home territory.

Plan ahead for April 17, 2016 – when the AAA presents a Lifetime Achievement Award to Mario Tacca at the Colonial Terrace in Cortlandt Manor, NY – details and reservations will be available soon. Visit the AAA website (www.ameraccord.com) for details on upcoming events!

Hope to see you there!
 Mary Tokarski, AAA President

Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini Recent Performances

Highly acclaimed vocalist Mary Mancini and International Champion accordionist Mario Tacca are highly sought after musicians who have performed around the world from Europe to China and throughout the United States. On August 30, 2015, they performed in New York state, at a special concert 'International Heritage Through Music' for the 150th Anniversary of the Franciscan Sisters of Peekskill. On September 11, Mary and Mario returned to the Bean Runner Cafe in Peekskill for a show from 8:00-10:00 PM. The Bean Runner Cafe features live music every weekend, and are delighted to present Mario and Mary as they performed all styles of music from Broadway to Pop and Opera. Through their diverse array of live music, the Bean Runner is now considered one of Westchester's hottest Jazz and live music venues. Visit Beanrunner-cafe.com for more info on reservations.

Mario Tacca, a Board of Director for the AAA, was born in Italy. During his childhood, his family moved to the Alsace Lorraine region of France where he began his musical studies. This is where his love and intense desire to play the accordion began. He loved the sound! He would pick up the accordion and imitate some of the songs his mother used to sing. The desire and love never diminished, despite having to walk three miles weekly to his teacher with his instrument strapped to his back!

While in France, he was the winner of many regional and national accordion competitions. He went on to become a world champion, winning the World Cup of Italy, the Grand Prix of Paris, the US National Competition and the International Accordion competition held at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Mario Tacca dazzles audiences across the US and around the world with his outstanding virtuosity and his exciting interpretations of international music, the classics and pop. Mario has recently been seen on MTV in a commercial for a pilot Italian Food program. Also, he was seen on the Food Network in a commercial for "Throwdown with Bobby Flay." His latest recording, "Journey Through the Classics" features great melodies from the Classic Repertoire.

Internationally acclaimed vocal artist Mary Mancini has been featured in the New York Times, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and the Journal News and has performed in a variety of venues around the world. Able to sing in eight different languages, Mary draws from a deep repertoire reservoir. She is adept at pop, show tunes, operatic arias, and sacred music and has received worldwide acclaim. Le Republicain Lorrain, in Alsace-Lorraine, France, writes that the "purity of her voice, the ease with which she interpreted the most difficult pieces showed that she is a great artist." The Spring City Evening News in Kunming, China, writes that "audiences were greatly impressed by Mary Mancini's singing ability... Through her music, we see her heart is smiling."

Mary has headlined numerous concert halls and festivals in North America, Europe, and China. She has performed at the Garden State Arts Center, Resorts International Casino Hotel, Taj Mahal in At-



lantic City, and Mohegan Sun Resort Casino in CT.

As a dynamic and popular performing duo, they have completed two concert tours of China. As guests of the China Ministry of Culture, they toured five cities in three weeks and performed with three symphony orchestras. Joining them on their tour was highly acclaimed Chinese tenor, Douglas Song. In addition to performing with the Symphony Orchestras, some of the most memorable moments included a performance held at the 1600 seat True Color Jazz Supper Club in the booming city of Shenzhen and in the 3500 seat Golden Opera House.

In addition to a busy concert schedule, Mary and Mario have just released their latest duet CD, "Ricordi", a collection of Italian melodies, featuring Mary and Mario in duo as well as Mario as a soloist.

Additional upcoming performances this Fall include: September 16 & 17 at Ehrhardt's in Hawling, PA (11:30 AM Luncheon Show), September 23 & 25 at The Brownstone in Paterson, NJ (11:30 AM Luncheon Show featuring Allegria - Mary, Mario and Tenor Rinaldo Togliola) and October 23 at the Italian Culture & Heritage Celebration in Centereach, NY at 7:00 PM where Mary & Mario perform again with Rinaldo Togliola in a Night of Song and Comedy. For reservations, please call Luisa Potenza 631-589-6634.

For further information on their upcoming performances and recordings, please visit <http://gioiaproductions.com>. ■

AAA Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Mario Tacca

Sunday, April 17, 2016 • 12 noon until 5:00 p.m.

Colonial Terrace

119 Oregon Road • Courtlandt Manor, New York



Accordions Around the World Festival in Bryant Park

The Accordions Around the World Festival in Bryant Park, New York ran each Wednesday, from July 1st to August 26th, with the grand finale taking place on August 28th.

Each week, 10 accordionists performed throughout the park, playing music from many countries and genres. Each year, Bryant Park has taken listeners on a cross-cultural musical journey - from France to Colombia, from the Balkans to Louisiana, from Cumbia to Jazz, and more with artists performing on accordions, harmoniums, concertinas and bandoneons.

AAA Board of Director Mario Tacca was one of the recently featured soloists, bringing the accordion to the many New Yorkers who stopped by to enjoy the evening's entertainment in the heart of New York City.

On Friday August 28th, the grand finale featured a special Accordion Band Festival with six groups featuring an accordion, performing music from Eastern Europe, Colombia, France, Ireland, Argentina, and New Orleans. The impressive line-up included: Slavic Soul Party with their throbbing funk grooves, Gypsy accordion wizardry, and virtuoso jazz chops: an acoustic mashup of the gospel, techno, funk, dub, jazz, and Latin influences of NYC's neighborhoods into a fiery Balkan brass setting; Foncho Castellar & Los Alegres De Colombia featuring Cumbia and vallenato rhythms led by the renowned accordionist and folklorist Foncho Castellar who has been promoting Colombian culture in the US for 30 years; Avalon Jazz Band, a Parisian and Golden Age swing band with a repertoire of timeless American standards and French jazz songs: old classics with a hot twist celebrating France, love, and music; Niall O'Leary Irish Band, showcasing a celebration of Irish music brought together by the former all-Ireland and World Dance Champion, who is in demand as a musician, dancer, choreographer and master dance instructor in North America, Ireland, Mexico, Japan and Thailand; Los Chantas, a blend of music from the guardia vieja to the present in the great Argentine tango tradition, the multinational ensemble plays original arrangements of songs by Gardel, Troilo, Salgán, and Piazzolla with an improvised style in milongas and clubs around NYC since 2002 and Krewe de la Rue offering a heartfelt and punchy dance hall mix of Cajun and Creole music, capturing the style and energy of the festivals and clubs throughout Southwest Louisiana.

We look forward to next summer, when Bryant Park will feature more accordionists from around the world! ■



ACCORDIONS

AROUND THE WORLD IN BRYANT PARK

JULY 1 - AUGUST 26
WEDNESDAYS, 6-8PM

A cross-cultural musical journey with 10 accordionists each week.

SPECIAL EVENT:
AUGUST 28
FRIDAY, 4:30-10PM

Accordion Band Festival

- Krewe de la Rue
- Los Chantas
- Niall O'Leary Irish Band
- Avalon Jazz Band
- Foncho Castellar & Los Alegres De Colombia
- Slavic Soul Party

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 bryantpark.org

BRYANT PARK CORPORATION

Join us for a great family get-away!



US Air Force Strings In Concert

AAA Board of Director Frank Busso, Jr. performed with the US Air Force Strings in various locations on the east coast of the United States during their summer concert series.

"Master Sgt. Frank J. Busso Jr. is the accordionist with the Air Force Strings, The United States Air Force Band, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C. Originally from Staten Island, N.Y., his Air Force career began in 2005.

Sergeant Busso attended Boston University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration in 2001. He studied accordion with Frank Busso Sr. at the Staten Island Music School in New York. Prior to joining the Air Force, Sergeant Busso was an instructor and arranger with the Boston University Athletic Bands. He was also an instructor at the Staten Island Music School, where his students earned many regional and national titles in competition.

As a competitive accordionist, Sergeant Busso received numerous regional titles from the Accordion Teachers Association of New Jersey, including the organization's virtuoso championship in 1995. He also earned multiple national titles from the American Accordionists' Association in classical, popular, and ethnic competitions. Since 2001, Sergeant Busso has performed in concert as a member of The Busso Trio at numerous summer festivals hosted by the American Accordionists' Association and the Accordionists & Teachers Guild."

The United States Air Force Strings offered seven free concerts at Snow Pond Center for the Arts (Sidney, ME), Veteran's Memorial Park (Manchester, NH), Prescott Park Arts Festival (Portsmouth, NH), Portsmouth Music and Arts Center (Portsmouth, NH), University of Hartford

Hart School of Music, Millard Auditorium (West Hartford, CT), Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Lansdale, PA) and Shenandoah Valley Music Festival (Orkney Springs, VA).

The Air Force Strings collaborated with educational organizations through its program Advancing Innovation Through Music (AIM), an educational outreach program, a special highlight of the tour. Some of the organizations which they are working with include the New England Music Camp, Portsmouth Music and Arts Center, Hartt Suzuki Institute and the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival.

For further information on upcoming performances, please contact: frank@bussomusic.com



Frank Busso, Jr.

Vitaly Kondratenko wins unprecedented \$20,000 at AAA

Russian accordionist Vitaly Kondratenko won the \$20,000 first prize, the largest prize ever offered in an accordion competition, and maybe in any classical musical competition! The Faithe Deffner Memorial Competition was held at the recent American Accordionists' Association (AAA) festival in Alexandria, Virginia in memory of their President Emerita, the late Faithe Deffner.

The four contestants were required to perform three rounds of competition. Round I was a Test Piece, Herrick's Road for accordion and percussion by Karen Fremar. Karen wrote this as an AAA commission in honor of Faithe's Gala Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009, depicting her busy life working on behalf of the accordion from her office located on Herrick's Road in Mineola, NY. Round II asked the contestant to choose any movement from Divertimento by Viatsheslav Semionov and a short classical program. Also commissioned by the AAA, Prof. Semionov dedicated Divertimento to Faithe in honor of her many years service as AAA President. Round III required a short entertainment program.

A dynamic personality in the accordion world, Faithe Deffner was born on March 17, 1931 and passed away on June 3, 2014. She translated her passion for accordion into action as she devoted her life's work to elevating and advancing the instrument worldwide. Throughout her career, Faithe Deffner has participated in almost every aspect of the accordion world.

Whether helping to fill the decks of a cruise ship with 700 participating accordion enthusiasts playing 'Anchors Aweigh' as they sailed past the Statue of Liberty, or staging the 2007 Coupe Mondiale in Alexandria, Virginia, the largest international accordion event ever staged in the USA, or arranging for Myron Floren to conduct six busloads of accordionists performing at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, or collaborating with Lawrence Welk Resorts in a two-year "Search for the Hottest Accordionist", Faithe created numerous and significant opportunities to publicly showcase talented accordionists.

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The United States Air Force Strings

Kondratenko, cont'd. from page 4

After her passing, a friend and AAA Presidential advisor, Steve Stolaruk provided a generous donation that gave an unprecedented \$20,000 first prize with additional cash awards of \$3,000 & \$2,000 for 2nd and 3rd. In addition, An Bargou and Linda Soley Reed offered additional financial support that enabled the AAA to host the 'Faithe Deffner Memorial Competition'. Host for the competition was Kevin Friedrich, with adjudicators being Joan Cochran Sommers and Joe Natoli.

Prize Winners were as follows with their programs which were performed in addition to the set piece Herrick's Road by Karen Fremar.

1st: Vitaly Kondratenko (Russia)
Divertimento (2nd mov. - Nostalgia) by V. Semionov
Rakoczy March - Liszt/Horowitz
Chiquilin de Bachin by F. Angelis
Valse Caprice by V. Semionov

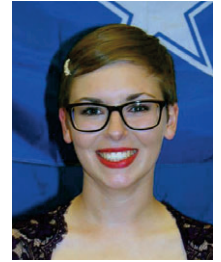
2nd: Emmanuel Gasser (Canada)
Divertimento (2nd mov. - Nostalgia) by V. Semionov

Green Sleeves & Scenarios from the Renaissance by Semionov
Accordion Rag by Rossi/Astier
Ranch of the Merry Jack by Tikhonov
Notes Vagabondes by C. Thomain



3rd: Rachel Quirbach (USA)
Divertimento (2nd mov. - Nostalgia) by V. Semionov
Concerto in A minor by Grieg, arr. Magnante
Yard Bird Suite by De Rossi
Omaggio ad Astor Piazzolla by Zubitsky

4th: Szyu Zhu (China)
Divertimento (2nd mov. - Nostalgia) by V. Semionov
Austurias by Albeniz
Winter (1st mov.) from Four Seasons by Vivaldi
Variations on an Ukrainian Theme, arr. Palmer & Hughes
Celestial Beauty Scattering Flowers by Yugu Li



Winner of the Elsie M. Bennett Composition Competition was Daniel Benedetti.

The 2016 American Accordionists' Association (AAA) festival will take place from July 6-10, 2016 in Buffalo, NY and will include an excursion to the famous landmark Niagara Falls. For more information please visit:
www.ameraccord.com. ■



Sam Falcetti Honored by MAAA

The accordion community came together at the Massachusetts Accordion Association (MAAA) June 28 meeting to honor renowned accordionist, musical pioneer, conductor, professor, competition judge and founder of Falcetti Music. The heartfelt musical afternoon included an open mike with the theme "Songs Sam Taught You" and presentation of a special award. Sam has served as a long time member of the AAA Board of Directors.

Welcoming everyone, Tony Marini, MAAA President, observed that "Today is Sam Falcetti Day," while noting that Sam remains very active in the accordion world, teaching more than 30 students ages 10-75 years old who come from throughout New England for their lessons. Sam also leads the New England Digital Accordion, which performed on August 1 from 6:00-7:30 pm as part of the Mount Carmel 90th Italian Festival, 93 Park Avenue, Enfield, CT.

A native of Wilbraham, MA, Sam began playing accordion at the age of 10. He graduated from University of Hartford with a bachelor's degree in theory and composition, and during the 1970s and '80s was an adjunct professor at Holyoke Community College and Westfield State University. His accordion college ensemble performed twice at Carnegie Hall. He was the conductor and founder of the Springfield Accordion Orchestra, which performed at the World's Fair in Japan in 1970, the David Frost Show with Roberta Flack, and the Coupe Mondiale in New Zealand in 1980, among many other prestigious appearances.

As founder of Falcetti Music, a full-line music store in Massachusetts, Sam provides Roland V Accordion sales, service, and instruction and is the distributor for all of New England. In October 2011, Sam represented the US as a judge at the 5th Roland International Festival in Rome. In April 2013 Sam conducted the first digital accordion orchestra in the country, which featured 20 Roland accordion players from across New England, at the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts (ATAM) annual festival.

Performing during the meeting's open mike session, which was themed Songs Sam Taught Us, Jim Avedisian dedicated his vocal-

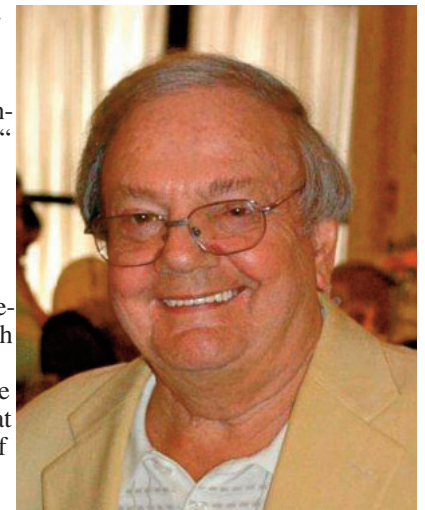
and-Roland performance of "On the Road Again" to Sam, then demonstrated the Roland's versatility with renditions of "Love Me Tender" and "La Vie en Rose." Carmen D'Angelo, who also performed during the open mike, commented, "I've been playing a Roland for about one year. It takes a lifetime! I've been working with Sam, trying to master the thing. I'm trying to do a little more with the bass than what we grew up with. It's a lot of fun and a lot of challenges."

Saluting his colleague and friend at the MAAA celebration, Paul Monte recalled co-founding the Massachusetts Accordion Teachers Association with Sam, who he described as "A great teacher and performer, a great guy and pal of mine. Sam has played the whole gamut of the accordion, from the acoustic to the Roland."

Accepting his award, Sam remarked, "This is a great day for me. All through life, all I needed was to have a goal. I wasn't seeking recognition - my purpose was to do my job. In 1952, when I was a senior at Hartford College, I opened up my store. Three years later I had 450 students."

He also recounted when and why he became an enthusiast of the Roland digital accordion. "I realized the Roland is a different kind of instrument. It can sound like any kind of orchestra you want. I had conducted major accordion orchestras, and now I had strings and oboes. We are embarking on a new instrument. You can put it on a memory stick and everyone can take it home and practice. You

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Sam Falcetti, cont'd. from p. 5

can change the key so it suits the singer. I can't wait for the day the accordion becomes popular again. MAAA, keep up the good work!"

Don McMahon spoke on behalf of all MAAA in his keynote, which is reproduced here with Don's permission. "At age 13, after five years of accordion lessons, I was ready to quit music, but a friend suggested I give it one last try at a newly opened studio, the Indian Orchard Accordion Center. During my first visit, I immediately knew there was something different about this studio. The 26 year-old owner told me about the many group performances he had planned throughout the year, the wide variety of instructional material he offered, the AccordioPhonic Octet that I would audition for, and the individualized course of study he would use. This meant that I could learn more about playing in a band, plus a healthy dose of exercises, theory, and repertoire. I was sold. The year was 1960, and the young teacher was Anselmo "Sam" Falcetti.

"It didn't take long to realize that Sam's brain was always cranking out new ways to expand the business, motivate the students, improve the level of instruction, and create a 'home away from home' atmosphere where the students could interact both musically and socially. On the business end, Sam was already planning the next market to tap and expansion to new locations. As we know, Sam could sell umbrellas in the Sahara, bikinis in Siberia, and accordions to everybody else. Then one of his customers said 'If you really have pride in your business, you would put your own name on it' and so it became the Falcetti Accordion Center.

"Motivating students was a priority for Sam, so he formed an organization of parents to assist in the efforts. Between Sam, his wife Peggy, and the Parents Club's support and fundraising, they found local, national, and international venues in Italy, Japan, and New Zealand for the orchestras to perform at, and even a spot on the nationally televised David Frost Show.

"Sam and Peggy were also founding members of the Accordion Teachers' Association of Massachusetts (ATAM), using participation in the yearly competitions to motivate students and improve their performance skills. To increase my personal motivation, Sam used to take me to local venues to hear and meet the top jazz accordionists in the area.

"To expand and improve the curriculum and get the staff working together as a team, Sam started monthly teachers' meetings to give

the teachers direction and to listen to their suggestions. He also initiated projects to generate an original curriculum to supplement what was lacking in the published material.

"Although lessons and band rehearsals were scheduled on a weekly basis, we all felt comfortable showing up at the studio at any time to practice, rehearse, form impromptu groups, and socialize with the other students and teachers. This kept us off the streets, focused on positive activities, and many lifelong friendships, and even marriages, were formed there.

"Sam was always very progressive, and he was one of the first to recognize the need to expand teaching beyond the accordion into guitar, organ, piano, and voice, so after several years Falcetti Accordion Center became the Falcetti Music Center, which then became a household name in western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut.

"Throughout his 50 years at the helm, he rarely slowed down his teaching, innovating, promoting, marketing, and expanding. When Sam eventually retired, he headed straight for the old rocking chair at his cottage. That lasted about an hour and then he was off and running with his new love, the Roland V-Accordion. Sam approached me to help demonstrate the Roland FR-7, and as many of you know, it's futile to try to fight Sam's power of persuasion. So, even though I had been away from the accordion for over 25 years, I soon joined him in his new post-retirement adventure.

"Those of you who have purchased a Roland are well aware of his free programming lessons, the semi-annual workshops he puts together, and, of course, the Roland Digital Accordion Orchestra. These are the kind of extras that grow out of his love of music and the music business.

"What I've been describing is only from my own personal perspective, and I wouldn't be the musician I am today without him, but Sam has also touched the lives of thousands of students, parents, teachers, customers, and associates. He has always been a force for positive change in the industry and in the lives of the people he's taught and worked with throughout the years.

"Sam has, of course, received many awards for his accomplishments, some were for business, some were for marketing, and some were for community service. This award, however, is being given by people who simply want to say 'Thank you for helping to advance the instrument that we all love. Thank you for showing that one person can truly be a force for progressive change. Thank you for bringing music into the lives of countless people for over five decades. And thank you for a lifetime well spent.' ■

Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) features Emilio Magnotta

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) is now well into their fifth year, and will feature an exciting line-up of guest artists.

The September 2nd meeting featured AAA Board of Director Emilio Magnotta. Emilio is an accordionist who specializes in Italian, Folk, American Standards and light classical music. He began playing the accordion when he was 5 years old. A friend of his mother gave him an accordion to play with. From the moment the accordion was placed in his hands, a passion awoke in Emilio to play it.

He studied the accordion under the accomplished accordion player, Cliff Scholl, who was a student of Pietro Frosini. Mr. Scholl wrote accordion books and conducted concerts including ones at Carnegie Hall. Under the instruction of Cliff Scholl, Emilio's passion for the accordion grew.

Emilio continues to be inspired by the great accordion players before him. His greatest idols and influences have been the works of Carmen Carrozza, Pietro Frosini, Charlie Magnante and Pietro Deiro. Emilio continues to perfect his skills in the hopes to one day be considered as great as his idols.

Emilio shares his love of the accordion and music as he entertains audiences in many different venues such as private parties,

corporate functions and outdoor festivals. Emilio also repairs and sells accordions of all brands and sizes.

The fall guest artists were Cheryl Spielman and accordionist Dominic Karcic on October 7th, and Bud and Linda Gramer (German-American Night) on November 4th.

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) sponsored by La Villini Restaurant presented an evening of accordion music with featured guest artist, Emilio Magnotta, on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 6:00 PM at La Villini Restaurant located on 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY. Phone: 631-261-6344. ■



John Smoltz recalls his accordion days during Hall of Fame Speech

Former Atlanta Braves pitcher, John Smoltz, received the sports' highest honor by being inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY in July 2015. His induction into the MLB Hall of Fame included a speech highlighting stories from his childhood and career, including him talking about his parents, how they met and how they originally wanted him to be an accordionist.



His parents, accordionists John and Mary Smoltz encouraged their son John to play from a young age. John said of his parents: "You didn't know much about sports or baseball. You pretty much knew about what you knew, and that was playing the accordion because that's how you guys met. You were accordion teachers, and I thank you for the opportunity that you started me in my quest to be the next Lawrence Welk at the age of 4. I played until the age of 7 and then I hit you with the ultimate whopper of all whoppers. At the age of seven I said, "I know what I'm gonna be in life and I'm gonna be a Major League Baseball player." You loved me enough to give me room to go after my dream." The rest is history!

John and Mary Smoltz continue as active members of the Michigan Accordion Society. ■

China Shenzhen Xixiang Music Valley International Accordion Competition

The 1st China Shenzhen Xixiang Music Valley International Accordion Competition was hailed a great success, with contestants and guests attending from all over China, Europe, the United States and the South Pacific.



Hosted by the Chinese Accordion Association (CAA), the national member of the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA), the CAA invited the CIA Executive Team to participate in the event as a guiding unit, including AAA Board of Director and CIA Ambassador, Kevin Friedrich.

The interesting competition categories included the exciting and new 'Knockout Virtuoso Entertainment' category which was held in both senior and junior divisions. Other competitions included chamber music, orchestra and classical categories.

The popular 'Knock Out' competitions had contestants compete in several rounds of competition. At the conclusion of each round, the judges decided who was able to proceed to the following round. As a reward for contestants passing through to the next round, the contestants could then choose between taking a cash prize and leaving the competition, or return the prize and proceed to the next round for an even bigger cash prize with the risk of the possibility of elimination. As the rounds progressed, the audience also had the ability to 'save' some of the eliminated contestants and put them through to the next round for another chance at the competition. This new concept met with enthusiasm from the contestants and audience alike, making it an exciting and quick moving event. The senior competition was won by Tan Jialiang (China) with 2nd place going to Viivi Maria Saarenkylä (Finland).

The event also featured a diverse array of International guest artists including Pavel Fenuik (Ukraine), Bayan Mix (Russia), Zaural Bayan Trio, The Shenzhen Fairy Accordion Quartet, Awakening Jazz Band, Chen Kai (China), Sergey Gromov (Russia), Paolo D'ascanio (Italy) and more. The quality of the festival concerts in a magnificent Concert Hall with excellent acoustics and state of the art digital lighting displays all contributed to the success.

Following on the overwhelming success of the event, it was an-

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THE AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION MASTER CLASS & CONCERT SERIES - 2016

No Place Like Home!
DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL, MODERATOR
JULY 29, 30 AND 31, 2016

Tenri Cultural Institute • 43A W13th St., NYC

China Shenzhen Xixiang Music Valley, cont'd from p. 7

nounced that it will be held biannually, with the 2nd China Shenzhen Xixiang Music Valley International Accordion Competition to be held in July 2017. The organizers have announced already that the exciting 'Knock Out' competition for seniors will be televised live on China TV. Additionally festival organizers will 'shatter' their own record that they set on July 20, 2014 for the largest accordion ensemble.

The Guinness World Record stands as follows: The largest accordion ensemble

consisted of 1,361 participants and was achieved by the China Accordion Association with the help of the Shenzhen Accordion Association (all China) at Xi Xiang Yue Gu, in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China, on July 20, 2014.

The 2nd China Shenzhen Xixiang Music Valley International Accordion Competition will break this record with a stunning 3,000 accordionists!

The CIA Executive Committee (pictured) who were invited guests includes Mirco Patarini - Italy (Music Committee Chairperson), Kimmo Mattila - Finland (General Secretary), Viatcheslav Semionov - Russia (Vice President), Kevin Friedrich - USA (Ambassador), Raymond Bodell - United Kingdom (President), Harley Jones - New Zealand (Public Relations Manager) and Li Cong - China (Vice President).

For a comprehensive review of the 2015 event, please visit: <http://www.accordions.com/china/shenzhen/2015/program.htm>



68th Coupe Mondiale Accordion Competition

The Confédération Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA), member of the International Music Council (IMC), an NGO official partner of UNESCO, held their 68th Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships and 134th General Assembly of Delegates in Turku, Finland, hosted by the Suomen Harmonikkaliitto (SHL), the Finnish Accordion Association from 6-11 October, 2015.

The United States was represented by AAA President Mary Tokarski, ATG First Vice President Elizabeth Finch (the AAA and ATG jointly share the USA CIA membership), Kevin Friedrich (CIA Ambassador and Board of Director for both the AAA and ATG), Michelle Boddicker-Scheffler (ATG member) and American guest artist Cory Pesaturo, who was invited by the organizers to perform at the Coupe Mondiale events as a winner of the prestigious Primus



Ikaalinen (Finland) International Accordion Competition. Both Mary Tokarski and Elizabeth Finch served on the International Jury panel in the various categories of competition.

During the 134th General Assembly, Concertino - NGO were welcomed as the first voting member association from Moldova and join several new members admitted during the Winter Congress in Paris, bringing the total CIA membership to 43 nations/members representing the most celebrated accordionists and accordion organizations from around the world.

Several organizations reported on their activities including Portugal who have invited the CIA to be hosted in their country, Mary Tokarski (USA-AAA) who reported on the unprecedented prize of \$20,000 first prize won by Vitali Kontradenko (Russia) in the recent International competition in honor of long time CIA Delegate and former AAA President Faithe Deffner, and Macedonia who reported on the terrific support in their World Accordion Day production.

Macedonian composer and long time accordion supporter Elizabetha Illin was unanimously approved for the CIA Honored Friend of the Accordion Award. Her works were recently featured in the USA when the renowned accordion trio from Skopje, Macedonia presented a concert in New York City.

Future activities of the CIA were discussed including:

- Winter Congress in Calabria, Italy from 18-20 March, 2016
- 69th Coupe Mondiale in Rostov-on-Don, Russia from 10-17th September 2016
- Winter Congress in Nuremberg, Germany from 2-4 December, 2016 (moved up from early 2017) will coincide with 60th Anniversary of Nürnberger Akkordeonorchester and opening of Nürnberg Xmas Market
- 70th Coupe Mondiale in Regio Emilia, 2017
- Winter Congress in Eastern Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

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68th Coupe Mondiale, cont'd. from p. 8

2018

- 71st Coupe Mondiale in Kaunas, Lithuania, 2018
- Winter Congress in Talin, Estonia 2019
- 72nd Coupe Mondiale in Algarve, Portugal, 2019
- Winter Congress in Prague, Czech Republic 2020
- Winter Congress in Switzerland
- 74th Coupe Mondiale in Bruschal, Germany, 2021 will coincide with 90th Anniversary Celebration of the DHV Showcasing a spectacular and diverse array of Finnish accordion artists, the concerts included such renowned artists as Maria Kalaniemi, Kimmo Pohjonen, The Finnish Youth Accordion Ensemble conducted by Janne Valkeajoki, Tango Orchestra - Guardia Nueva and soloists Jonna Pirttijoki and Teemu Roivainen, conducted by Raimo Vertainen and Mika Väyrynen.

American guest, Cory Pesaturo, was the featured entertainer at the CIA Headquarters, on live TV interviews with Alfa TV, throughout the city of Turku and on the Silja Europa cruise to Sweden and back.
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ATG Celebrates their 75th Anniversary

The Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International (ATG) celebrated its 75th Anniversary in Lisle (Chicago) from July 22-25, 2015, attracting attendees from as far away as China, the United Kingdom, Russia, Austria, Canada and throughout the United States. The festival featured a variety of concerts, competitions, workshops, exhibits, a Gala Banquet and a variety of social functions.

Many of the AAA Board of Directors attended the event including President Mary Tokarski, Second Vice President Linda Soley Reed and Board members Kevin Friedrich (also an ATG Board of Director), Joan Grauman, Marilyn O'Neil, Joanna Darrow (also an ATG Board of Director) and Don Gerundo and AAA member Lou Coppola.

The featured international guest artist was Yuri Shishkin from Russia. One of the world's most respected concert artists, Yuri received multiple standing ovations for his outstanding performance.

The gala concerts profiled some of the most exciting accordionists on the concert circuit today performing a variety of genres. Artists included American Cory Pesaturo and Canadian Michael Bridge who performed as soloists and also in improvised duo, pooling their

Angelica (An) Bargou passes away in Virginia Beach, VA

The AAA is sad to report the passing of long time friend of the accordion and AAA supporter Angelica (An) Bargou, age 89 years, of Virginia Beach, VA.



Faith Deffner, Pietro Deiro, Jr., Elsie Bennett and An Bargou

In the early 1960's Angelica (An) Bargou became a trusted life-long friend to the Deffner family as a nanny to the daughter of Ernest and Faith Deffner, Verne, beginning at age 6. After the passing of Ernest Deffner in 1971, An became more active in the accordion and related businesses, and for the next 50 years travelled extensively with the late Faith Deffner to accordion events all over the USA and around the globe.

Angelica was widely known in the accordion world and being quite a personality, was well liked by her many accordion friends. An passed away after a recent battle with cancer and had told her friends that she was at peace and had enjoyed a 'great life'. Pictured are Faith Deffner, Pietro 'Lee' Diero, Elsie Bennett and An Bargou.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family of Angelica Bargou, via her nephew:

Mark Habel, Dagelfinger Str. 102, 81929 Munich, Germany. ■



Pictured above are Dr. Herbert Scheibenreif (CIA Vice President, Austria), Joan Grauman, Linda Soley Reed and Dan Grauman at the ATG 75th Anniversary Banquet Reception.

vast resources of musicianship, Russian guests 'Una Sinistra', the duo of Yulia Amerikova and Alexander Selivanov and former ATG Executive officer and AAA President Mary Tokarski.

Jazz artist Frank Petrilli from Los Angeles was joined by guitarist John Chiodini while popular Scottish entertainer Gary Blair took participants through their paces on the dance floor as the event opened with a traditional Scottish Celidh Dance. Milwaukee based concert accordionist, teacher and composer Stas Venglevski presented a variety of his original works including as a soloist and in

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ATG's 75th Anniversary, cont'd from p.9

duo with Joan Cochran Sommers, while Joe Natoli showcased the possibilities of digital technology as it pertains to the accordion.

The UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble performed with Kansas City based Macedonian violin soloist Filip Lazovski and the Jarosh Accordion Ensemble from Calgary performed a variety of works during their matinee concert. The original music concert featured new works for accordion performed by the UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble, Jeff Lisenby, Amy Jo Sawyer and Joe Natoli.

Many of the festival attendees joined forces under the direction of Joan Cochran Sommers for the ATG 75th Anniversary Festival Orchestra (picture below) which featured the music of John Williams, the World Premiere of a concerto for accordion and orchestra by Stas Venglevski who was also featured as the soloist, and the magnificent arrangement by ATG Founder Anthony Galla-Rini of Smetana's The Moldau.

Festival participants enjoyed a diverse selection of workshops on topics including History of the Accordion by Helmi Harrington, Ph.D; Rhythms and Harmonies of Bulgarian and Macedonian Folk

Music by Joan Grauman; Inexpensive Studio Quality Recording at Home by Joe Natoli; Shortcuts for Sounding Great on the Roland V Accordion and Special Effects on Acoustic Accordion by Michael Bridge; Authenticity of Styles by Cory Pesaturo; Improvising Tools for Teachers and Student Enthusiasts by Gordon Kohl and Capabilities of the modern Accordion: Present and Future by Yuri Shishkin.

Competitions were held in a number of categories, many offering cash awards and were entered by accordionists including young students to adults from China, Canada and the USA.

The well attended festival was heralded a terrific success, and plans are already well underway for the 76th Competition and Festival to be held in Chicago from July 20-23, 2016. A review of the 75th Anniversary including full competition results, as well as details on the 2016 festival will be published on the ATG website soon at www.accordions.com/atg

The AAA and ATG share the United States membership of the Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA). ■



Pictured are AAA Board members Joan Grauman (left) and Marilyn O'Neil (right) performing as part of the ATG Festival Orchestra. Other AAA Board members performing with the orchestra were Don Gerundo, Joanna Darrow and Linda Reed.

Boxes of Memories – An Accordion Legacy

Paul Ramunni reports that "one thing we collect here at the New England Accordion Museum (NEAM), besides the actual accordions themselves, are the stories. The common element in all of these stories are the memories that people have from their past involvement with the accordion itself. In many cases they tell me how, as a child, they can remember their parent(s), relatives or friends of the family playing at a family gathering. The memories are usually very special, include funny stories and in all cases, very precious."

One of the latest stories I have received involved an 85 year old Russian fellow who grew up in the dark days of the Communist regime in Russia. For his entire childhood and beyond, his little red Hohner button accordion became the family entertainment center every evening. Many personal memories of his family and friends were locked up in that box. The accordion fell into serious disrepair about 20 years ago and could no longer be played. He wanted me to repair it so that he could once again "hear and relive" the sounds of that Hohner as they corresponded to the voices of his mother and father and the memories of other people in his life. As it turned out, the accordion was beyond repair, but amazingly I had another unit in the museum which was the exact same model. He kept the old one and bought the one I had. As he played it, his hands shook and

the tears came when he heard those very same old sounds from his youth. His family and friends had indeed been returned to him. And yes, the memories were sweet and precious.

We go from a story like that to simpler memories like the 75 year old lady who remembers, as a child, going to sleep each night as her dad played his accordion at the door to her room. This memory was powerful for her because her father did it so often and continued the ritual through her early childhood. She interpreted it as his way of saying "I love you." She said that he rarely said these words out loud to her, but he didn't have to. His playing effectively spoke that sentiment many times over. Music is indeed a language after all.

Not too long ago I picked up an old 1930's Excelsior square box from the grandson of a gentleman who began playing professionally during the 1930's. He told me that the family was always puzzled why dad would get these mysterious phone calls from a guy named "Al" at all hours of the day and night. And dad would always say yes to any request Al asked. They came to find out that Al was the famous gangster, Al Capone, who loved to hear accordion music at all hours of the day and night, and he would call when he needed someone to play for him. So whenever he called, dad would say yes and off he would go to meet him. The funny part of this story was that when I bought the accordion, the grandson sent me a copy of

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Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle has Unique Accordion Display

The spectacular Chihuly Garden and Glass Exhibition in Seattle includes eight Galleries, the centerpiece Glasshouse and a lush Garden featuring works of Dale Chihuly, a world renowned glass artist.

In addition to being a world renowned artist, Dale is also an avid collector, and has adorned the facility's restaurant the 'Collections Cafe' with many of his collections including ceramic dogs, bottle openers, Mexican ashtrays, pocket knives, inkwells, alarm clocks, vintage plastic radios, kitchen string holders, cast-iron dogs, fish lures, tin toys, carnival prizes, dollhouse furniture, shaving brushes, Christmas ornaments, and, hanging from the ceiling, 82 accordions!

Born in 1941 in Tacoma, Washington, Dale Chihuly was introduced to glass while studying interior design at the University of Washington. After graduating in 1965, Chihuly enrolled in the first glass program in the country, at the University of Wisconsin. He continued his studies at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where he later established the glass program and taught for more than a decade.

In 1968, after receiving a Fulbright Fellowship, he went to work at the Venini glass factory in Venice. There he observed the team approach to blowing glass, which is critical to the way he works today. In 1971, Chihuly cofounded Pilchuck Glass School in Washington State. With this international glass center, Chihuly has led the avant-garde in the development of glass as a fine art.

His work is included in more than 200 museum collections worldwide. He has been the recipient of many awards, including twelve honorary doctorates and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Visitors to the facility can choose between options that include admission to the Chihuly Garden and Glass as well as the Space Needle. Meanwhile, free reed instrument lovers need only stop by the Collections Cafe and gaze skyward to enjoy Dale's magnificent flying accordions! ■



Boxes of Memories, cont'd. from p. 10

the sheet music for the seven dwarfs song, "Heigh Ho" from the Disney movie "Snow White." It turns out that this was Al's favorite song, of all things.

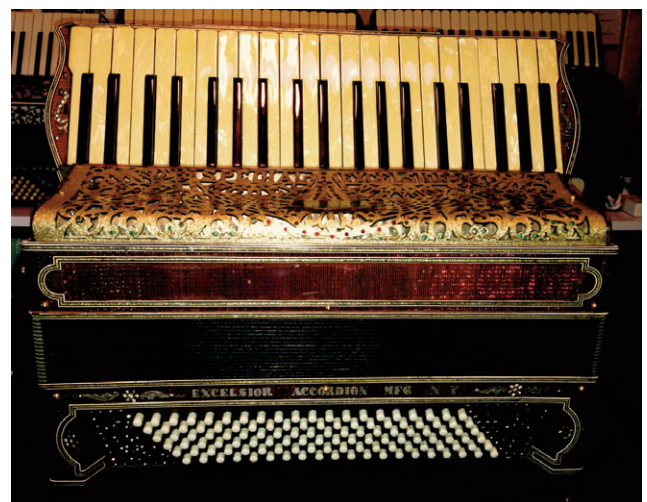
This last story is very touching. A couple of years ago a fellow stopped in to see the museum as he was passing through the area. As he walked around, he stopped in front of a small button accordion and just stared at it. I asked him if he had an accordion like that and he said yes. He told me that he and his wife could not have children and they unsuccessfully tried to work through the adoption system we have in our country. It was at this time when a friend told them they could adopt children from Russia. While he could get into the country legally, taking the child out would be a risky move. Russian laws were (and still are) very severe in matters of adoption. His friend said that he would also need a lot of cash to make the deal happen. Long story short, he went over and came back with twin sisters both 4-5 years old. But they would not talk or speak. After many doctor visits, interpreters and other people trying to help the girls, he and his wife were out of ideas and quite desperate.

Another friend saw the situation and suggested that he play Russian folk songs on his accordion. Well, he did and like a dam breaking, the girls now would not stop talking! But they kept repeating over and over the name of Kathia. There was a third and younger sister named Kathia. So my friend went back to Russia and brought her home. If you look at the accordion on the shelf, you will not see any evidence that this story ever occurred. But these stories and memories are real.

They live inside these boxes. They leave a legacy for all of us to tell others about as we move forward into the 21st century.

If you are ever in the area, please give us a call and come visit the museum. As you can tell from the stories, as well as the accordions themselves, it is a living museum with a living legacy.

Readers are also encouraged to submit their stories and instruments or pictures to be included in the NEAM's archive of historical information. For more information, please contact Paul Ramunni 860-833-1374 or visit: www.thenewenglandaccordionmuseum.com ■



Jeff Lisenby Performs in "Intersection"

Jeff Lisenby was the featured accordion soloist with a new experimental chamber ensemble in Nashville called "Intersection". They performed an accordion concerto entitled "True Love" by Pulitzer prize winner Julie Wolfe, and Tina Tallon's Pneuma Mekhanes, in Nashville at the Musicians' Hall of Fame & Museum on October 29, 2015. The program called Sea Of Tonality was conducted by Kelly Corcoran, a past associate conductor of the Nashville Symphony.

The accordion part on the Wolfe score featured abundant bellows shakes, multiple pages of glissandi and some very difficult poly-rhythmic and technical passages while the Tallon work featured long passages of rhythmically-challenging amplified air button and some very technically difficult note passages. Jeff reported that both pieces utilized the accordion very well, and both of the composers were in attendance at the event, which ended with a standing ovation.

Jeff Lisenby has music directed, arranged, and performed in the Broadway version of RING OF FIRE, played keyboards on the Cast album, and was in many subsequent versions of the show, as well as on the Today Show and was nominated for an Ovation Award in 2012 as the show's music director.

He has played keyboards and accordion with the touring shows of: Wicked, City Of Angels and Jersey Boys, and has accompanied: Brenda Lee, Pavarotti, Chip Esten, Blake Shelton, Mel Tormé, Dolly Parton, Lee Greenwood, and Donna Summer. He has also been blessed to get to play in Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Ryman Auditorium.

Jeff has won silver and bronze medals for the U.S. at the CIA Coupe Mondiale representing the ATG, and currently works with the singers on cruise ship production shows, so he gets to travel all over the world doing what he loves. Jeff also teaches adjunct in the School of Music at Belmont University, and plays keyboards on many Nashville recordings, including the Grammy-winning CD: Songs from the Neighborhood - the music of Mister Rogers, and his own A Spy in Tortuga (jazz accordion with a band) and Walkin' The Winter Wonderland (solo piano holiday music). ■



Above, Jeff Lisenby, accordionist, and Kelly Corcoran conducting Julie Wolfe's work 'True Love'.

Right: Jeff Lisenby is pictured at the Musicians Hall of Fame Museum with composer Tina Tallon, conductor Kelly Corcoran and composer, Julie Wolfe.

Dr. William Schimmel Keeps Busy Fall Schedule

AAA Board of Director Dr. William Schimmel's new CD, 'The Theater of the Accordion', on the Roven label, has been on the best seller list on Amazon.com for a number of weeks. The album features guest artist Wynton Marsalis (trumpet).



Dr. Schimmel is the featured artist in a new video 'Nina' by Serbian composer/DJ Milica Paranosic and his choral work, 'Yud Lamed Yud' had its world premiere on October 15, 2015 at the MC Gallery in New York. From September 18-21, he appeared with the New York Philharmonic performing Leonard Bernstein's score to 'On The Waterfront' and Nino Rota's score to 'The Godfather' while the movies were shown live. 'On The Waterfront' was performed again on October 11 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. On October 16, He appeared with The American Symphony at Carnegie Hall in a performance of Henri Dutilleul's 'Correspondences' for Soprano and Orchestra. Dr. Schimmel can be heard on Marcelo Zarvos's soundtrack in the new movie 'Rock the Kasbah' starring Bill Murray and all the while Dr. Schimmel continues to perform in the hit musical 'An American in Paris' on Broadway.

On November 29, 2015 his composition 'Never Say Dixieland' will have its world premiere at Spectrum performance space in New York.

William Schimmel is a virtuoso accordionist, author, philosopher and composer. He is one of the principle architects in the tango revival in America, the resurgence of the accordion and the philosophy of Musical Reality (composition with pre-existing music). He received his diploma from the Neupauer Conservatory of Music

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Dr. William Schimmel, cont'd. from page 12

and his BM, MS and DMA degrees from the Julliard School.

He has taught at the Julliard School, Brooklyn College CUNY, Upsala College, New School University, Neupauer Conservatory (Dean) and has lectured on accordion related subjects at Princeton, Columbia, Brandeis, University of Missouri, Duke University, Manhattan School of Music, the Graduate Center CUNY, Santa Clara University, The Janacek Conservatory in Ostrava, Czech Republic and at Microsoft.

He has performed with virtually every major symphony orchestra in America including a longstanding relationship with the Minnesota Orchestra, as well as virtually every chamber music group in New York including Ensemble Sospeso and the Odeon Jazz Ensemble.

He is founder of the Tango Project, which, in addition to his hit recordings with them, has appeared with Al Pacino in the film: *Scent of a Woman*, for which Pacino won an Oscar. The Tango Project also won the Stereo Review Album of the Year Award, received a Grammy nomination and rose to number 1 on the Billboard Classical Charts. He can be heard in other films including *True Lies*, *Kun Dun* and many others including films that he both scored and performed and a series of films for the Nature Conservancy which have won numerous prizes in documentary categories.

He is an authority of the music of Kurt Weill, having recorded all of Weill's music that employs the accordion. He is a prolific composer with many commissions from concert music to Broadway and off-Broadway. He has written countless accordion pieces for himself and others including a test piece for the Coupe Mondiale, the accordions' most prestigious world competition. His Portrait No. 1 for orchestra was conducted by the late Leopold Stockowski.

Dr. Schimmel's theatre works in collaboration with Micki Goodman have made accordion history. He now heads the Neupauer Conservatory Order of the Shield program, a private studies program for gifted students on a graduate and post graduate level. He conducts a successful three day master class and concert series sponsored by the American Accordionists' Association (where he is distinguished lecturer in residence) moving into its 20th season.

The CIA awarded Dr. Schimmel their distinguished Merit Award in honor of his AAA Master Class and Concert Series, as well as his contributions to the International accordion movement. He received the AAA's Distinguished Service Award for Fifty Years of Accordion activity and his work as Lecturer in Residence and is listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Great Minds of the 21st Century*.

Dr. Schimmel, and his wife, choreographer, director, filmmaker Micki Goodman co-founded and co-directs the Institute for Private Studies, a pluralistic think-tank. They have a 34 year old son, Michael, an accordionist and visual artist and a Special Olympics gold medal winner.

For further information: billschimmel@billschimmel.com ■

The Amazing Accordion Kings in Concert

The Amazing Accordion Kings performed on November 14, 2015 at 8 PM at the New Dorp Moravian Church 2015 Concert Series, 2205 Richmond Road, Staten Island, NY 10306.

Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo, and Angelo Di Pippo have successfully participated in many facets of the "accordion world". These master musicians have created beautiful arrangements covering the spectrum from opera to jazz.

From Garden City, NY Angelo Di Pippo has played accordion since the age of eight years old and is a graduate of Holy Cross College with a Master's degree from C.W. Post College and an honorary Doctorate from Five Towns College. Angelo has played in thousands of recording sessions. Frank Toscano has made music his entire life. For more than 47 years Frank has been a music educator and professional musician. For over four decades Frank has headed the 'Frank Toscano School of Music'. Born & raised in New York, Frank came from an Italian family who valued the idea of music being played in the house constantly.

Composer, arranger and music editor Manny Corallo started playing the drums at age four and soon switched to the accordion. Manny took lessons from his father's accordion teacher Frank Toscano! At age 13 he also began piano lessons with Frank and has gone on to compose and arrange piano music, first for commercials and then he began arranging for various artists and went on to scoring music for the movie *Pokemon*.

For more information, please contact:

franktee@amazingaccordionkings.com ■



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Dallas Vietty and Victor Prieto Present Accordion Workshops in Pennsylvania

On November 21-22, 2015, Victor Prieto and Dallas Vietty will bring the formula of the Victor Prieto Master Classes in Spain, to the United States.

Dallas and Victor said: *"For any and every level of accordionist, this workshop will revolutionize the way you think about accordion and music. They propose fun, deep learning, and exposure to new techniques, skills and approaches."*

What are the pre-requisites for the workshop? To make sure we aren't teaching an introduction to the accordion, you should have at least a year of accordion playing under your belt. That being said, we are encouraging all accordionists to attend. Because the concepts and experiences are so large and deep, all accordionists are going to benefit greatly from this workshop.

What topics will the workshop cover? The workshop is going to revolve around three major areas:

- Contemporary Harmony: sounds and approaches to playing the music of the last 40 years, and beyond.
- Contemporary Techniques of the Accordion: how to apply these sounds to rhythms, melodies, soloing, comping.
- Ensemble Playing: experience, learn techniques and approaches, and get feedback on playing with an ensemble. The workshop is customized to the attendees, so depending on who attends we will apply to various genres of interest, for example: folk, tango, jazz, pop, rock, funk, swing, gypsy jazz, Galician, Flamenco, to name a few.

Victor Prieto, New York City based accordionist, raised in Spain, is a Grammy Award Winner 2010 and Grammy Nominee 2014 and is well known in Europe and NYC for his approach to two hands technique, improvisational vocabulary and command of music. Victor, who has recently finished up a month of Master Classes for jazz accordionists in Spain has created and been the head of Jazz accordion departments in the US and Europe. He has recorded with Yo-Yo Ma, and many others, and plays festivals and concerts around with world with both his own projects and others.

Dallas Vietty, Philadelphia-based accordionist has performed at Iridium Club in NYC and many other festivals, clubs, and halls with his group and other groups. Dallas specializes in Gypsy Jazz and musette style for the piano accordion. As well as swing and traditional American Jazz styles, Dallas has created the new accordion curriculum for Django in June over the past 4 years. Dallas teaches accordionists all over the world via Skype.

The event took place at the Liberty Bellows Accordion Shop on 614 South 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. For further information: dallasvietty@gmail.com ■



Victor Prieto (left) and Dallas Vietty (right)

Quartetto Gelato in Concert

The Regina Symphony Orchestra (RSO) presented their first Shumiatcher Pops concert of the 2015 - 2016 Season featuring Alexander Sevastian with Quartetto Gelato on October 10, 2015 at the Conexus Arts Centre.

Virtuosic showpieces, romantic tenor arias, pyrotechnical solos, blazing gypsy show pieces, multi-instrument mastery and a World Accordion Champion, Alexander Sevastian - this is Quartetto Gelato. With a performance repertoire that circles the globe including classical masterworks, operatic arias, the sizzling energy of tangos, gypsy and folk songs, the group's theatrical stage presence and relaxed humor establishes an intimate rapport with audiences worldwide.

Alexander Sevastian is the accordionist for Quartetto Gelato which he joined in 2002. Alex (accordion, piano, bandoneon) has won four International Accordion Competitions including the Oslofjord in Norway (1998), The Cup of the North in Russia (2000), the Anthony Galla-Rini Accordion Competition in the USA (2001) and The Coupe Mondiale held in the USA (2007).

Alex began his professional career in Moscow in 1996, performing with the Russian Radio Orchestra, which he toured with as a soloist throughout Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Italy, and Japan. Alex also was a very active recitalist and chamber musician.

Highlights of his career include appearances in the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, Glinka Capella Hall (St. Petersburg), Suntory Hall (Tokyo), Minato Mirai Hall (Yokohama), Roy Thomson Hall (Toronto), Jack Singer Hall (Calgary) and Metropolitan Museum (New York). Recent solo engagements include recitals in Mexico, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, U.S.A. and Canada as well as appearances with several symphony orchestras.

From the review by Jeff Dedekker of the Leader-Post(Canada): *"It would be a huge understatement to describe Sevastian as just an accordion player. A four-time world accordion champion, Sevastian's skill on the Bayan, the Russian button accordion, is astounding."*

Alexander Sevastian and Quartetto Gelato are scheduled to appear at the 2016 AAA Festival to be held in Buffalo, NY from July 6-10, 2016. For more information on next year's festival and guest artists as it becomes available, please visit

www.ameraccord.com. ■



Finnish Accordionist Invited to Perform at Kansas City Gala

Kansas City-based Finnish accordionist Juha Silfverberg (accordion), along with his son Janne (trombone) were guest artists performing traditional Finnish Folk Music at the Gala opening of the new exhibit *'Dark Days, Bright Nights: Contemporary Paintings From Finland'* at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City.

Dark Days, Bright Nights: Contemporary Paintings from Finland gathers together and investigates the inspirations, methods, and practice of Finnish painters. *Dark Days, Bright Nights* presents 43 works of art - stylistically disparate and often visually dazzling - from 13 artists ranging from the post-WWII generation to those who have come of age squarely in the 21st century. The exhibition features 41 two-dimensional paintings, a sculptural installation, and a projected video installation and will run through February 21, 2016.

The 13 artists represented in *Dark Days, Bright Nights* were all born in Finland, and now work in locations including the city and countryside of Finland as well as Berlin, New York City, and Stockholm. Artists include Jani Hänninen, Heikki Marila, Marika Mäkelä, Jarmo Mäkilä, Rauha Mäkilä, Reima Nevalainen, Leena Nio, Vesa-Pekka Rannikko, Mari Rantanen, Mari Sunna, Nanna Susi, Sirpa Särkijärvi, and Anna Tuori. The artists selected repre-

sent a wide range of experiences and painting styles, but are connected by the Kemper Museum's philosophical focus on investigating the history of the gesture in painting and in creating a conceptual and art historic bridge from the 20th to the 21st century in both exhibition program and the Permanent Collection.

Born into a musical family in Helsinki, Finland, Juha began his accordion studies at the age of seven with Lasse Pihlajamaa, a pioneer in the accordion field. Playing the Finnish C System button accordion, he was both Finnish National Accordion Champion and Scandinavian Accordion Champion, earning the right to represent Finland when the Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships were held in Helsinki. Later, he moved to the United States to study accordion performance at the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

Juha performs regularly in a variety of musical settings from Cajun to Tango ensembles, from private parties to large corporate and community events. Juha's son Janne's passion for all things musical started at age seven. First it was the accordion, then at age 10, the trombone which later led to his B.M. in trombone performance at the University of Missouri - Kansas City, graduating in 2010.

The exhibition features 41 two-dimensional paintings, a sculptural installation, and a projected video installation and will run through February 21, 2016 at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City. ■



AAMS honors AAA Past President, Linda Soley Reed

This year's honoree by the American Accordionists Musicological Society will be AAA Past President, Linda Soley Reed. The banquet and concert will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the Marriott Hotel in Whippany, New Jersey. In addition to the AAMS Festival Orchestra, the concert program includes Don Gerundo, Lou Coppola and the Stereo Strings, Joe Natoli, Mary Tokarski and Eddie Monteiro. AAA Board member, Manny Bobenrieth will act as Master of Ceremonies.

All accordionists are welcomed to join the Festival Orchestra

which will be conducted in part by Stanley Darrow as well as Linda Reed. If you are interested in participating in the orchestra, please contact either Linda Reed or Joanna Darrow. Music will be available the end of January and will be sent to participants via email.

For additional information regarding the events please visit aamsaccordionfestival.com



Nicole Renaud and Her Rare "Lincordian"

The Lincordian is best described as a transparent accordion. It is comprised of a plexiglass body that when lit from its interior, lends the affect of a diamond shimmering in its own luminosity. It is literally a work of fine art as well as a musical instrument and only four of them exist, of which one is owned and played by Nicole Renaud. The other three Lincordians are owned by the Alexander Bonin gallery based in Manhattan, NYC.

The creator is Paul Étienne Lincoln who extended his namesake to his instrument. A British artist and engineer who resides in New York City,

he is an artist of international renown. His work has been displayed in the US in New York galleries as well as in European venues such as the Berlin Museum in Germany.

As well as an artist, Mr. Lincoln is an aficionado of music, in particular, of classical music. Subsequently, music often plays a part in Mr. Lincoln's work as it did in his installation exhibited in New York in 2000 at the Alexander and Bonin Gallery. It was entitled, *Ignisfatuus*, featuring the voice of the early twentieth century Opera singer Rosa Ponselle. Her voice played an integral role in his installation, providing the precisely timed audio accompaniment to a 29 day lunar cycle, her vocal resonance intensifying as the moon approached the zenith of her fullness in the night sky.

The Lincordian was originally a part of a large installation exhibited in 2008. It was entitled *Hyperbaric-Hypobaric*, the respiration of memory. A short film entitled *Undine's Curse* was part of this exhibit in which Nicole Renaud played the role of the Forelorn nymph, Undine. Integral to her character was the Lincordian, its bellows symbolizing undine's transition from a water creature to a creature of air.

Nicole Renaud is a French soprano accordionist songwriter and film composer who shares her time between New York City and France. After learning classical guitar as a child, she studied chanson at the "Petit Conservatoire de la Chanson de Mireille" in Paris and opera with Canadian soprano Constance Lambert in New York. She is an active performer at the crossroads of chanson/opera and performance art. She accompanies herself on the transparent luminous accordion which is now an integral part of her shows. Her latest multimedia show "Couleurs" an original cycle of songs - a love story seen through colors - was featured at the Limoges Opera (France), the Biennale de la Chanson in Brussels (Belgium), the Goetland Poetry Festival (Sweden) etc ...

Nicole has sung regularly on Franco German national television ARTE and on French national public radio France Culture for journalist and future minister of culture, Frédéric Mitterrand.

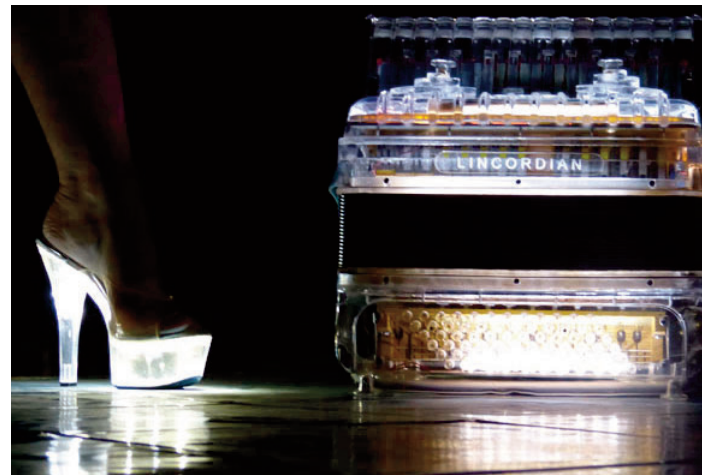
As a film composer, Nicole has had a long-standing collaboration with celebrated film animator Bill Plympton. Many of her songs were featured in his short films "Eat", "The Cow Who Wanted To Become a Hamburger", "The Fan and The Flowers" and his feature films "Mutant Aliens" and "Idiot and Angels". "Cheatin" is her first assignment composing and scoring the music



for a full length feature for which she received an Annie Award nomination.

Nicole's ethereal voice has also been heard in commercials such as an award-winning Super Bowl Volkswagen ad and a Chrysler commercial directed by actor Adrien Brody and she sings at high-end events around the world for brands such as Bulgari, Vuitton, Panerai etc ...

Whether live or on a soundtrack, Nicole's music is unearthly and haunting, with a sound that spans from a retro feel to a more futuristic vibe, her voice lifting the listener to a sublime space. She shares her time between New York, Paris and Capri and sings in French, English, Italian and German. Her shows in New York included: Saturday, December 12, 2015, New York, Christmas performance at Michael Arenella's Winterball, The Academy Mansion, 2 East 63rd Street, (Upper East side) and Sunday, December 20, 2015, New York at Sister's back room, 900 Fulton Street, Brooklyn (Clinton Hill). ■



A World of Accordions Museum Features John Scaffeo

Helmi Harrington, Curator of A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI proudly reports on the most recent of a diverse line-up of talent performing at the Hanni Strahl Concert Hall at the Harrington Arts Center including John Scaffeo who performed on November 8, 2015.

During the years that Senator Florian Chmielewski organized the annual Ironworld Polkafests at Ironworld USA Discovery Center in Chisholm, MN, many thousands of visitors enjoyed the three-day attractions that featured some of the nation's finest entertainers.

"I was allowed to show museum accordions and to present programs in the air-conditioned theater, a popular area for hot, tired dancers and foot-sore wanderers of the immense grounds. It was also an important yearly event for me and my students" reports Helmi Harrington, Ph. D. "They put us on the map when the accordion-concertina repair technicians' school (ARTS) plus its then-subsidary instruments museum was just beginning and I was new to Minnesota.

One year, a gentleman named John Scaffeo of Thunder Bay, Canada, introduced himself. I recognized his skills and invited him



continued on page 17

John Scaffeo, cont'd. from page 16

to perform with my ensemble even though he had never seen our complex scores before. He sight-read effortlessly and never missed a note.

In subsequent years we maintained only occasional contact, but I tracked his musical career with great joy. John has accumulated credits that many others envy despite the loss of all but one finger in his left hand. I never asked what had happened to that hand because when he plays there is nothing absent in the sound and nothing wrong with the hand. He is an incredible musician.

John has played at many different venues and is one of the busiest area musicians on any instrument. Besides performing at weddings and banquets, he has played with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra as "guest performer" and as "featured artist" in two sold-out

evenings. He has also performed at Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay and with the Lakehead Choral Group in such renowned plays as "Edith Piaf" and "Fiddler on the Roof". He is also a repeated guest artist in the "Elvis" Tribute band that plays at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. In 2002, he was the only Canadian entered into a North American Accordion Association Contest where he walked away with first place. John also finished in the top three in an all-Canada Roland V Accordion Competition.

John performs often with Wayne Faulconer on guitar and Enzo Riccio on drums. Their entertaining styles always leave you wanting more! For more information on A World of Accordions Museum, please visit www.worldofaccordions.org ■

68th Coupe Mondiale, cont'd. from page XX

Winners of the eight categories of competition were as follows:

68th Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Lev Lavrov (Russia)
- 2nd. Vladimir Stupnikov (Russia)
- 3rd. Arseniy Stokovskiy (Russia)

Masters Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Aleksandr Komelkov (Russia)
- 2nd. Marko Lukic (Serbia)
- 3rd. Giancarlo Palena (Italy)

Junior Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Artyom Tretyakov (Russia)
- 2nd. Dmitry Kozyak (Russia)
- 3rd. Rodion Shirokov (Russia)

Senior Virtuoso Entertainment Music

- 1st. Mahatma Costa (Brazil)
- 2nd. Viivi Maria Saarenkylä (Finland)
- 3rd. Andrea Di Giacomo (Italy)

Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Music

- 1st. Valerio Russo (Italy)
- 2nd. Daniele Carabetta (Italy)
- 3rd. Rodion Shirokov (Russia)

International Competition for Chamber Music - Classical Music

- 1st. Lion Trio (Russia)
Lev Lavrov, Alexey Mykitenko and Simon Golikov (accordions)
- 2nd. Duet (Russia)

- Aleksandr Komelkov and Mikhail Naumov (accordions)
- 3rd. Aldo Duo (Poland)
Aleksander Stachowski (accordion) and Dominik Dominiczak (clarinet)

International Competition for Chamber Music - World Music

- 1st. Virtuosity Duo (Italy)
Andrea Di Giacomo and Lorenzo Bosica (accordions)

International Competition for Digital Accordion

- 1st. Netta Skog (Finland)
- 2nd. Alexander Bodell (United Kingdom)
- 3rd. Denis Marko Dubjel (Slovakia)

For a full report including daily photo journals and video footage of contestants and concerts, please visit www.coupemondiale.org.



The USA Delegation: Mary Tokarski, Kevin Friedrich, Elizabeth Finch and Michelle Boddicker-Scheffler



Pictured are CIA Executive Committee: Li Cong (China - Vice President), Viatcheslav Semionov (Russia - Vice President), Herbert Scheibenreif (Austria - Vice President), Kimmo Mattila (Finland - General Secretary), Raymond Bodell (United Kingdom - President), Mirco Patarini (Italy - Chairperson of the Music Committee) Harley Jones (New Zealand - Public Relations Manager), Kevin Friedrich (USA - CIA Ambassador), and Seppo Lankinen (Finland - 2015 Honorary Vice President)

Coast to Coast

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



East Northport, NY

From Broadway to the Met plus featured vocalist Cheryl Spielman and accordionist Dominic Karcic took place on Wednesday September 16, 2015 - 6:00 PM. Attendees enjoyed music from the American Song Book, Broadway, Tin Pan Alley, Opera, Operetta plus much more. The event took place at La Villini Restaurant on 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731 at 6:00 PM.

If you missed any of the previous **"From Broadway to the Met"** programs, you have another opportunity.... Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. also at La Villini Restaurant (see address above) featuring romantic tenor Rinaldo Toglia and accordionist Dominic Karcic - you won't be disappointed! For reservations, please contact 631 261 6344 or www.la-villini.com *Reservations recommended!!*



San Rafael, CA

Accordionist Steve Albini and his band 'Il Sole' performed several concerts in California as follows: September 26th, 5:00 PM at the Nevada County Italian Festival, Grass Valley, CA, October 9th, 1:00 PM at the Columbus Day Civic Celebration, Cristoforo Colombo Club, San Rafael, CA and on October 17th at the Italian Rootstock Festival, Santa Rosa, CA.



Las Vegas, NV

Hubert Gall has been collaborating with this important show for many years, performing his accordions, acoustic, digital and diatonic every evening in front of approximately 4,000 people, who come to watch the show's magnificent "KA" Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas. The show has been running for 12 years at the magnificent MGM in Las Vegas!



Cotati, CA

The Cotati Accordion Festival celebrated its 25th Anniversary festival on August 22 and 23, 2015 at La Plaza Park in Cotati, California. The annual festival featured a variety of bands and soloists from all over the USA. For more information on the 2016 festival, please contact: info@cotatifest.com

Waterbury, CT

The October gathering of the Connecticut Accordion Association was held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, October 27, 2015, at Vasi's Restaurant, 1700 Watertown Ave., Waterbury, CT and featured the CAA Orchestra performing a mini-Oktoberfest with a collection of polkas and waltzes. The September 25th meeting, called "Accordion Plus" was an open mic event. Any and all musicians welcome to join with an accordionist to perform. Members were treated to some fine performances as well as the video from the Youth Jazz Ensemble that performed in Alexandria. All are welcome to our meetings: \$5.00 per person to CAA members. Non members: \$10.00 per person.

The Connecticut Accordion Association is dedicated to the promotion of the accordion through all music genres and all variations of accordion instruments! We welcome musicians who play all types of accordions.... piano accordion, diatonic, chromatic button and more.

We invite accordionists at all levels, and people who may not play the accordion, but love to listen.

Grass Valley, CA

Corky Bennett is a jazz pianist, accordionist, singer and stand up comic. He is the producer of "Day of the Accordion" which took place on Sunday afternoon, September 27, 2015, 1-8:30 PM at the North Star House, 12075 Auburn Rd., Grass Valley, CA.

Featured performers included: Corky Bennett, Pete Contino, Ron Borelli, The Trucos, Patsy Hannerink with Emcee Fran Cole. There was an open accordion jam session and socializing from 1-3:00 PM. For further information: corky@corkyben-nett.com



Coast to Coast

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



South Bend, IN

"You'll Never Walk Alone", a Tribute to America's Veterans served as a benefit concert supporting Kernan's Heroes and featuring The National Accordion Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gene Van. The concert took place from November 6-7, 2015 at the Century Center in South Bend, Indiana.

Westmont, NJ

The ACME Accordion School hosted their annual Accordion Day on November 1, 2015. The public was welcomed to the all day event featuring a variety of accordion activities. The annual free event is organized by the Acme Accordion School in Haddon Avenue, Westmont (Haddon Township), NJ.

On Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 3:00 PM the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra (WPAO) presented their annual Fall/Winter Concert featuring not only the orchestra, but a variety of guest artists. The concert is free and open to the general public. The concert took place at the William G. Rohrer Memorial Library Haddon Township Branch Camden County Library at 15 MacArthur Boulevard, Westmont, NJ 08108, Phone: 856-854-2752 or you are invited to contact the WPAO at 856-854-6628 for future programs

Minneapolis, MN

The 2015 Squeeze-in Orchestra took place on Sunday November 8th at Waite Park Recreation Center in Minneapolis. The annual event featured the Squeeze-in Orchestra Rehearsal, a Pizza Party, the grand finale concert featuring the Squeeze-in Orchestra and a variety of guest performers.

Bergenfield, NJ

On Sunday November 8th the highly versatile accordionist Fintan Stanley performed at Tommy Fox's 32 South Washington Ave, Bergenfield, NJ.



Fintan Stanley, born in County Louth, Ireland, is based in Boston, USA. In 1955 Fintan was the first to win an All-Ireland Championship title on a Continental chromatic accordion. He later played in several bands, most notably the Gallowglass Ceili Band and with Dermot O'Brien & The Clubmen and for many years has performed as a solo accordionist. He has worked mainly in the USA, Ireland and the UK, and also in Germany and Italy. For further information email: Info@TommyFoxs.com



Asheville, NC

On Accordion Time Machine, Anam Cara's experimental theatre ensemble, presents "Stuffed," a performance that's full to the brim with pieces that are personal, silly, absurd, and unique. Just in time for the holidays, gorge yourself on experimental theatre. It might not be completely nutritious, but boy will you be satisfied! The

show technically starts at 8pm, but audience members are highly encouraged to arrive when doors open at 7:30 as Accordion Time Machine hosts a range of fun surprises before the show "begins." The show took place on December 4-5, 2015 with shows at 8:00 PM at Toy Boat Community Art Space, 101 Fairview Rd., Asheville, NC.



Superior, WI

A World of Accordions Museum presents their recent and upcoming recitals held in the Hanni Strahl Concert Hall, the magnificent facility at the Museum complex. The Hanni Strahl Concert Hall is acoustically ideal and seats 1,000 people on floor and balcony levels. The concerts are as follows:

April 3, 2016, Stas Venglevski Concert

July 3, 2016, Dr. Mike Middleton and the Middletones Concert

A World of Accordions is located in Superior, WI, just minutes from downtown Duluth, and driving distance from major US cities such as Minneapolis, Milwaukee

and Chicago. Numerous hotel options are located in downtown Duluth and Superior. The Museum is located at 1401 Belknap, Superior, WI, 54880, the former church at the intersection of Belknap & Hammond. For more information, please visit www.worldofaccordions.org.



From the President . . .

Happy New Year!

January marks the completion of my first year as President of AAA. It has been an exciting year for me. Stressful at the start, with the passing of my husband Frank . . . but with the help of my accordion friends, the transition has been successful!

We have made great strides in setting up our events for the next year – so you can plan to attend every one! We count on your support for these events . . . without YOU there is no organization! Your opinion matters too, so please be sure to email any brilliant ideas you may have to the AAA account at ameracord1938@gmail.com.

Our Board of Directors has been working hard to bring AAA into our electronic world, and 2016 will be the start of the AAA YouTube Channel. Keep your eyes open for the announcement of our opening date! There will be lots of exciting information and performances there for you to peruse.

Thank you for your help in keeping the accordion alive and well in the 21st century . . . I look forward to seeing you at ALL our events for 2016 – and beyond – moving ahead into the “Accordion Frontier”!!

Be it ever so humble, there's...

No Place Like Home!

is the theme of the 2016 AAA Master Class and Concert Series to be held:

July 29, 30 & 31, 2016
Tenri Cultural Institute
43 A West 13th Street
New York, NY



Our 22nd Smash Year!

Master Classes 3 p.m.
Concerts 7 p.m.

Master Classes - \$25 • Concerts - \$30
Full Day • Master Class & Concert - \$50
Entire Weekend - \$125

For Reservations and information:
212-876-0827
billschimmel@billschimmel.com

Dr. Schimmel will once again be your guide through a maze of concepts, sounds, feelings, tastes and pieces – all by way of the accordion!

SAVE THESE 2016 DATES!

April 1-4, 2016 – MAMTG Festival - Marriott Hotel, Whippany, NJ

April 2, 2016 - Marriott Hotel, Whippany, NJ

- Coupe Mondiale Qualifying Categories
- AAMS honors AAA Past President, Linda Soley Reed - 6:00 p.m. Grand Ballroom
- April 3, 2016 – AAA Open Meeting – Marriott Hotel, Whippany, NJ

April 17, 2016 – Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner

Presented to Mario Tacca at the Colonial Terrace in Cortlandt Manor, NY



July 6-10 - AAA Festival - Buffalo

We will gather in beautiful Buffalo, NY (Niagara Falls) at the Adams Mark Hotel in downtown Buffalo.

Our guest artists will include Grayson Masefield (New Zealand), Cory Pesaturo (Rhode Island), Ginny Mac (Texas), Alexander Sevastian (Toronto) and the Quartetto Gelato (Toronto). Guy Klusevcek will premiere his new



commissioned work for accordion, too – you don't want to miss this! “Hands on” presentations by the Guest Artists and lots of workshops and sessions. Hotel rooms (single, double, triple or quad) are \$127. The reservation desk can be reached at 716-845-5100. Be sure to mention “AAA”. See you in Buffalo!!

July 29-31, 2016 – AAA Master Class and Concert Series

“No Place Like Home” - The Seminars, Dr. William Schimmel, Moderator/Curator, Tenri Center, NYC - see details at left. Watch for upcoming flyer with participants and details concerning the content of this program.

November 26, 2016
A Valtaro Celebration

Magnanini Winery in Wallkill, NY – great food, great music, great fun.

Be sure to join us!



Thank you for your patience as we have worked thru some difficult issues regarding availability of computer and printer usage. We look forward to being “back on track” this month, so please continue to send your articles and pictures to Kevin Friedrich (goaccordion@yahoo.com). Also being prepared is a “Year in Review - 2015” which will be sent with our next mailing this month.

Wishing all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!