



# AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

May-June, 2016



**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**



Sponsored by the  
American Accordionists'  
Association

## From the Editor

Welcome to the May 2016 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

Our summer festival in Buffalo is fast approaching, and hope many of you are able to attend this exciting event, showcasing a variety of accordionists from the USA and abroad. Included in our lineup will be Angela Conti, a delightful young 8 year old accordionist and author, who will present her new series of children's books! You can read more about her in this Newsletter. It promises to be an exciting event located adjacent to Niagara Falls, one of the United State's premiere tourist locations.

You will have all received information that this Newsletter is now available in both printed format and as a .pdf file, which can be e-mailed to you. While some prefer to have a printed copy to browse at leisure, there are also a number of people who enjoy having their news presented in an electronic format, and thus a digital version is another means for the AAA to take advantage of the technology available today. Be sure to let the AAA know of your preference, and they will be happy to arrange your Newsletter delivery accordingly.

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

Items for the July 2016 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 Word attachment. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg or similar 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 July 2016 Newsletter will be the 15th of June 2016.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



## Message from AAA President - Mary Tokarski

### It's Spring!

### YouTube is blooming with accordion entertainment and the world is watching!

It's time for flowers, sunshine and great music events (I'm not sure Mother Nature got the memo though!). We start the warmer weather with an explosion of festivals, concerts and shows celebrating the accordion. Be sure to plan your participation in at least a few to stay connected with friends, accordionists (amateur and professional) and to network in our field.

Along with plans for all sorts of events, the AAA is implementing lots of new things - including our NEW AAA YouTube Channel - Here's the link - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrF\\_Kw7mAn1ZPAUPnyb44Wg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrF_Kw7mAn1ZPAUPnyb44Wg)

The channel is blooming with performers from our recent events and will continue to grow each month. Stay tuned and by all means send your "likes" to all your friends. Let's spread the ac-

cordion word.

A large part of the AAA's focus is on our young people - not only those who already play - but those we want to bring into our bouquet of flowering Accordionists. We are implementing a pilot program starting soon to bring our message into the schools. We will keep you posted on the progress, and give you reports on what works . . . and what doesn't!

Celebrating the youth already in the accordion world is imperative for our future. The Governing Board is working hard at involving young performers in every arena and venue. The summer's SqueezeFest in Buffalo is a great example. We have young artists from New Zealand, Rhode Island, Texas and Canada coming in for the event. Workshops, concerts, Orchestras, competitions . . . we will have it all.

The Youth Involvement Program jazz ensemble and Junior Festival Orchestra have become

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## From the President, cont'd from page 1

annual favorites of attendees, and have produced amazing results – the Conductor of this year's Youth Involvement Program is a product of past programs. Mitch Guido is an amazing saxophonist who graduated from Macaulay Honors College of Queens College and the Aaron Copeland School of Music with a degree in Music Education with a concentration in composition. He currently is an educator at Westlake Middle School in Westchester, NY and will join us in Buffalo to "lead" the Youth Involvement Program jazz ensemble. Amazing, isn't it? And it is exactly what the program was designed to accomplish – getting non-accordionists to appreciate all the accordion has to offer.

The Junior Festival Orchestra conducted by Mary Tokarski has enticed participation from young accordionists from around the nation – and internationally from New Zealand, Canada and Russia. Music for this year's orchestra includes "Pirates of the Caribbean", "Beguine di Roma" (Biviano) and "Polka Accelerando" (Venglevski). Hope to see your young accordionists participate!

The Festival Orchestra for 2016 will be conducted by Past-President Frank Busso. Music will be forwarded to anyone who wishes to perform in the orchestra at the Saturday Evening Banquet and will include "Sleeping Beauty Waltz" (Tchaikovsky), "Rhapsodia Andalusia" (Gotz) and "Melody in A Minor" (Piazzolla).

Plan to join us at the "After Hours Club" in Buffalo too. Bring your accordion, and entertain with the best. Each evening will be hosted by one of our Guest Artists! See YOU at the Buffalo SqueezeFest July 6-10, 2016. ■

## Cotati Celebrates its 26th Year!

The 26th annual Cotati Accordion Festival will be August 20-21, 2016 from 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM at La Plaza Park in Cotati, CA. Accordion virtuoso, veteran instructor, and West Coast pioneer of the electronic accordion, Lou Jacklich, has been selected to be the Honorary Director of the 2016 Festival, recognizing his outstanding full-time career as an accordionist which spans over 70 years... and still counting!

This year's Festival has a "Western" theme featuring: the Doo-Wah Riders, Debra Peters and the Love Saints and the Vivants. There is also a great line-up of International players representing countries including: Canada, China, Croatia, Finland, Portugal and Serbia. Accordion celebrities Jelena Milojevic, Cory Pesaturo, Michael Bridge, Sourdough Slim, Steve Balich Polka Band, Those Darn Accordions, and a host of others will be performing. A wide variety of regional and musical genera (e.g., Country, French musette, Gypsy jazz, Western, Blues, Cajun, Zydeco, and Latin) are in store. Roberta Cantow will show her new documentary, "Accordion's Rising", Sheri Mignano Crawford is organizing the Student Stage and other surprises are also planned including another wonderful grand finale!

The Cotati Accordion Festival is a non-profit event and in 2015, seven primarily youth organizations benefited from a total of \$23,150 in donations! Visit the CAF web site [www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com) for details on performers, student stage, schedule, parking, benefits to local youth groups, vendor information, advertising and more. ■

**2016 26TH ANNUAL**  
**COTATI**  
**ACCORDION**  
*Festival*  
**August 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016**




Lou Jacklich  
 Honorary  
 Director  
 Cotati 2016

## Michigan Accordion Society Youth Scholarships Awarded

The Michigan Accordion Society has generously recently awarded several thousand dollars in Youth Scholarship programs, including to the National Accordion Association and to the American Accordionists' Association. Funds were made possible through the generous musical support as well as financial donations of the friends and family of the Tony Dannon Memorial Student Scholarship Endowment Fund: [www.michiganaccordion.org/endowment/index.html](http://www.michiganaccordion.org/endowment/index.html).

Funding is designed to be used to help foster youth Accordion programs.

As the Michigan Accordion society continues to celebrate their 20th anniversary they are proud to announce the hosting of their Youth Scholarship program this year on June 21, 2016 in Berkeley Michigan. \$500.00 will be awarded to each youth accordion performer, designated to be used for future accordion lessons. To qualify, the youth accordion performer must be 17 years of age or younger and their accordion instructor must be a member of the Michigan Accordion Society and be prepared to perform three pieces at their June 21st event.

The Michigan Accordion Society, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, was established in June 1996, by a group of accordion enthusiasts and professionals as an association for promoting and sharing the music of the accordion. Currently there are over 200 members. Their primary purpose is to promote the accordion as a beautiful and versatile instrument which is capable of accompanying music of all types, from classical, jazz, and rock, to the more traditional polkas and folk songs.

Their other main purpose is sharing accordion music within the communities and beyond. Their monthly music events include professional artists and amateurs playing a variety of music. All members and guests are encouraged to participate in their "ACCORDION JAM".

For further information, contact MAS President Joe Recchia: [jrecchia@comcast.net](mailto:jrecchia@comcast.net). ■

## World Accordion Day - 2016

The Confédération Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA) was pleased to present the 6th staging of World Accordion Day on May 6, 2016.

The CIA's first World Accordion Day was held on May 2009, marking the 180th birthday of the accordion - May 6, 1829, the date the accordion was first patented, in Vienna, Austria, by Cyrill Demian. Since then, the CIA World Accordion Day has been very successful, generating a lot of positive publicity for the accordion, including through several 24 hour live broadcasts and other promotions and reviews of activities from all corners of the globe.

From a solo performance to a Concerto with a 100 piece Symphony Orchestra, from a Duet or Trio to a 40 piece Accordion Orchestra, from the majestic sounds of the handmade acoustic reeds to the latest in Digital Technology, from newly commissioned original works to dazzling transcriptions of the classics, from Classical to Jazz, from Ethnic to Pop, from the pit orchestra in a Broadway Show

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MAS President, Joe Recchia, presenting a donation check to the AAA to Board of Director, Eddie Montiero.



## Julien Labro in Concert

Accordion virtuoso Julien Labro presented his Princeton University debut with two concerts on Thursday, April 14, 2016 where he performed on accordion, bandoneon, and accordina.



Julien Labro

With listeners seated in-the-round on the stage of Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall for a program entitled 'The Big Squeeze', Labro introduced the instruments and his program directly to the audience as he performed music by Bernhard Molique, Astor Piazzolla, Isaac Albéniz, Gabriel Fauré, Fernando Otero in addition to his own original compositions. Accompanied by pianist Gregg Kallor at both programs, Julien was also joined by bassist Jorge Roeder and drummer Richie Barshay.

French-born Julien Labro graduated from the Marseille Conservatory, then began winning international awards, taking 1st prize in the CIA Coupe Mondiale Entertainment division in 1996 and the Castelfidardo International Festival in 1997.

After sweeping other international competitions, Labro moved to the USA some years ago, where he has further pursued his musical career. He is proficient in the jazz, classical music, world music and also an expert on the music of Astor Piazzolla.

When Julien was nine years old in France, he returned home from school and watched an accordionist on TV. The accordion is a common instrument in traditional French music. When he asked his parents if he could learn the accordion, they were at first hesitant. They rented an instrument and signed him up for lessons. Within a very short time, Julien knew that his future was as an accordionist. At the age of 13, he enrolled at the Marseilles Conservatory of Music where he discovered jazz. After he was graduated from high school, he attended Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Otero and Labro recorded two hours of music in a warm and relaxed environment in New York City, in a playful mood, apparently both with the feeling of meeting an old friend after a long time. Strongly lyrical as solo performers, Labro and Otero merge into a full and interactive musical speech, alternating rhythmical and melodic protagonism and quickly exchanging leading roles.

The album probably derives its name from the word "CHAT" which in French means cat, the way these two musicians call each other in their multilingual conversations.

Upcoming Performances include: two shows at the Lincoln Center's MidSummer Night Swing in New York City, Classical (6:00 PM) and Jazz (9:00 PM) on July 7 with the Astoria Tango Orchestra directed by Daniel Binelli. On August 18 and 20 Julien Labro will perform with Frank Vignola and Guests Crested Butte, CO at the Crested Butte Music Festival. For further information please e-mail [julien@julienlabro.com](mailto:julien@julienlabro.com). ■

## Mario Tacca receives AAA Lifetime Achievement Award

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Mario Tacca on Sunday, April 17 at the Colonial Terrace Oval Ballroom in Cortlandt Manor, New York where guests included Emilio Magnotta, Beverly Roberts Cumow, Mary Tokarski, Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo, special guest Uncle Floyd Vivino and Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini.

Mario Tacca was born in Italy and 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!

Among his many accomplishments, Mario has twice been the guest of the Chinese Minister of Culture, touring several cities in China (along with his wife Mary Mancini, and tenor Douglas Song) and performing with several symphonies.

Mario is very active in the accordion community and has held several offices for and currently serves as a Board Member for the AAA. Mario spends about 200 days out of the year touring and performing with his wife, internationally acclaimed vocal artist Mary Mancini. He also maintains a very active recording career.

While in France, he was the winner of many regional and national accordion competitions. He won 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 virtuosity and his exciting interpretations of international music, the classics and pop.

Mario joins his fellow recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award including Carmen Carrozza (2002), Dick Contino (2003), Charles Nunzio (2004), Tony Dannon (2005), Frank Marocco (2006), Faithe Deffner (2009) and Joan Cochran Sommers (2011). For information on this and other AAA Awards, please visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com). ■



Mario Tacca

### Program

Welcome: Dominic Karcic, Master of Ceremonies  
Invocation: Father Michael Morrow

#### Musical Presentations

By  
Mary Tokarski  
Guy Lombardi  
Gia Ciccone  
Beverly Roberts Cumow  
Manny Corallo & Frank Toscano

#### Dinner

PRESENTATIONS – REFLECTIONS – COMMENTS  
THE COMEDY OF FLOYD VIVINO\*

#### Musical Presentation

By  
Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini  
Special Guest – Rinaldo Toggia, Tenor

#### Finale Ensemble

"Patriotic Medley"  
Mario Tacca, Mary Mancini & Friends  
Julie Cardona, Manny Corallo, Beverly Roberts Cumow,  
Bruce Nielsen, Fred Schwinger, Frank Toscano,  
Mary Tokarski  
Bass: David Winograd  
Drums: Ricci Saracino

Cocktail Hour Music Provided by Emilio Magnotta

\*Mr. Vivino's performance is sponsored  
through the generosity of the  
Ciccone Family

## World Accordion Day - 2016 cont'd. from p. 2

to the background music in a TV Commercial, from Tchaikovsky to Gubaidulina, from the tiny diatonic instruments to the multi octave concert models, from the shelves of a Museum to center stage at Carnegie Hall, from Private Music Studios to the most esteemed and respected Conservatories in the world, there is no limit to where one might find the accordion, or have the opportunity to enjoy the variety of ways in which it is utilized.

This International promotion serves as an exciting means of bringing accordionists and enthusiasts together while showcasing the various genres of music in which the accordion is found. Please visit [www.accordions.com/cia](http://www.accordions.com/cia) and select World Accordion Day to see the various accordion activities that took place around the world by both CIA members and fellow accordionists alike. ■

## Stas Venglevski to Lead Cruise Orchestra

The Honors Accordion Orchestra Cruise will leave Galveston, TX on the Royal Caribbean Liberty of the Seas, November 6-13, 2016 where guests are invited to join Stas Venglevski as he directs the Orchestra Retreat, with the final concert taking place onboard. Limited to only 50 accordionists, the musical arrangements will accommodate all levels of accordionists, with the rehearsals being planned during the days at sea, while the port days are designated as free.



Royal Caribbean has invited the Honors Accordion Orchestra to perform the final concert on board the ship and there will also be an additional concert on the final Sunday night in Houston featuring Stas in concert for those who wish to overnight in Houston after the cruise. As a bonus, Stas is personally inviting accordionists to be part of his Chamber Orchestra that will have their own rehearsal schedule.

The music will be sent to you very early and there will be a recording accompanying every song for your ease in practicing. Also, each evening, following the last rehearsal, there will be an opportunity to "show off" so bring your music and plan to perform with your personal ensembles.

Registration opened on April 1, 2016. The registration fee is \$150.00 and participants can book directly with Royal Caribbean by calling 800-465-3595 (Group # 2013714 - "Honors Accordion Cruise"). A \$250.00 deposit per person (\$500 per cabin) which is 100% refundable until due date - will hold your reservation until Aug. 1 when the balance is due. Please call Shelia Lee at 281-788-6667 or e-mail her at [slee@shelialee.com](mailto:slee@shelialee.com) for details. ■

## AAA Sponsors Composition Competition

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) is sponsoring the Elsie M. Bennett Composition Competition for acoustic accordion. The general purpose of the Elsie Bennett Composition Competition is to add to the solo concert repertoire of the acoustic accordion.

The AAA under the guidance of Elsie M. Bennett, who was AAA President from 1973-1974, funded and commissioned more than 50 works in a body of noteworthy literature that has been used both nationally and internationally.

Elsie's desire to promote the accordion and original accordion literature inspired her to help launch the AAA Composers Commissioning Committee which she chaired from the beginning until she retired in 2004. The prestigious array of composers Elsie enlisted reads like a "Who's Who" of contemporary giants of the twentieth century.

Among the AAA commissions were works by Robert Russell Bennett, Joseph Biviano, Henry Brant, Joel Brickman, Henry Cowell, Paul Creston, David Diamond, Nicholas Flagello, Lukas Foss, John Franceschino, Karen Fremar, Louis Gordon, Jose Halac, Ernst



Elsie Bennett pictured with Robert Russell Bennett

## Long Island Accordion Alliance 5th Year Celebrations

The next meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) sponsored by La Villini Restaurant is on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 - 6 PM as members continue their fifth year of "celebrating the accordion on Long Island". Attendees are invited to enjoy the music of guests artists Ray Oreggia and Dominic Karcic.



Dominic Karcic & Ray Oreggia

Upcoming meetings feature:

- July 6th - Greg Zukoff
- August 3rd - Smorgasbandit
- September 7th - Emilio Magnotta
- October 5th - Joe DeClemente
- November 2nd - Bud and Linda Gramer

Members of the LIAA

(left to right Dominic Karcic, Ray Oreggia, Phil Prete, Joe Campo and Santo Endrizzzi) attended the recent American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Mario Tacca (center) "Lifetime Achievement Award Gala" at Colonial Terrace in Cortlandt Manor, NY on Sunday, April 17th, 2016 where they presented Mario with a plaque in recognition of his very successful and distinguished career as a great accordion virtuoso.



The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) is hosted at La Villini Restaurant located on 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY. Phone: 631-261-6344. Reservations are recommended.

For more information e-mail: [dkarcic10@verizon.net](mailto:dkarcic10@verizon.net) or visit [www.facebook.com/LongIslandAccordionAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/LongIslandAccordionAlliance) ■

Krenek, Normand Lockwood, Otto Luening, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Paul Pisk, Riegger Wallingford, Dr. William Schimmel, Elie Seigmeister, Jose Serebrier, William Grant Still, David Soldier, Carlos Surinach, Alexander Tcherepnin, Timothy Thompson, and Virgil Thomson.

Elsie's additional professional affiliations included membership in A.S.C.A.P., as well as The Brooklyn Music Teachers' Guild, The Affiliated Accordionists of New York State, The Long Island Music Teachers Association and the Accordion Teachers Guild. For a number of years she edited the AAA Newsletter and archived the organization's publications. Her personal complete collections of accordion publications was donated to A World of Accordions Museum upon her passing, and serves as a valuable resource for researcher scholars.

A panel of prominent accordionists and composers will be assembled by the AAA to judge all submissions. There will be first, second and third place awards presented when entries merit them. The winning compositions will receive a cash prize and be featured at this summer's exciting AAA Festival, 'Buffalo Squeeze Fest', in Buffalo, NY, July 6-10, 2016.

For further information please visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) or e-mail: [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com) ■

## Guy Klucevsek April Concerts

Guy Klucevsek was featured in several important musical events on the West coast during April, 2016. In sharing his thoughts about his music Guy says: "I am a concert accordionist who specializes in composing for accordion, much of it solo, but also in combination with other instruments, e.g., multiple accordions (Accordion Tribe), string trio (The Bantam Orchestra), duos with violin (Todd Reynolds), accordion and piano (Alan Bern) saxophone (Phillip Johnston), and in small band contexts (Ain't Nothin' But a Polka Band, Buffalo Braunschweiger)". Much of his music has been commissioned for collaborations from the worlds of dance, theatre, film, performance art, puppetry and object theater, the audio book, and even the circus.

While many of my pieces are inspired by, and dedicated to, composers from the "art music" world e.g., Béla Bartók, John Cage, Lou Harrison, György Ligeti, Astor Piazzolla, Erik Satie, just as many are inspired by accordion traditions from around the world, particularly eastern Europe and the Americas, as well as the Slovenian-American polka/waltz tradition I grew up within western Pennsylvania. I have been commissioned by the American Accordionists' Association to compose an accordion solo which I will premiere at their July, 2016, convention in Buffalo, NY.

Among Guy's April appearances are his ongoing Artist-in-Residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts, Marin Headlands, CA, which lasts through May, where Guy will work on composing his solo piece commissioned by the American Accordionists' Association, which he will premiere at the AAA Buffalo Squeeze-Fest in July. While in residence at Headlands, Guy performed Presidio Dialogues on April 7 at the Presidio Officers' Club, San Francisco, CA. Guy presented a one-hour lecture/demo about his influences

and his musical language. In this dynamic presentation, Klucevsek discussed the influences on his music and playing, including such diverse sources as the Slovenian/American polkas and waltzes he grew up with; the ac-



ordion traditions of eastern Europe, Brazil, and Argentina; cajun and Tex-Mex music; and 20th-century composers such as Satie, Bartok, Piazzolla, and Stravinsky. He illustrated his talk with live excerpts from his own music, showing the many unique techniques he has developed on accordion to realize his compositional ideas. Guy Klucevsek's participation was made possible by a residency sponsored by the Headlands Center for the Arts.

On April 21 Guy appeared at Berkeley Music of Fine Arts/Pacific Film Archives (BAMFA) where he presented a 30-minute solo set as part of a larger event which took place throughout the building, with other artists including composer Paul Drescher, and homemade instruments. Most recently, Guy performed a solo concert on April 30 at the Fifth Street Farm in Berkeley, CA, which is one of Guy's favorite venues in the USA.

For information on Guy's upcoming projects and performances, please contact: [gklucevsek@mac.com](mailto:gklucevsek@mac.com) ■

## Young Accordionist Author Receives Popular Acclaim

Angela Conti is 8 years old and began playing the accordion at the age of 5. She and her brothers Paul and Joseph, ages 9 and 6 years old, also play the accordion in both solo and trio pieces. They are members of the Chicago Accordion Club and have performed on stage there as well as in local talent shows and competitions such as the Granquist Music Competition and the Illinois Music Association Annual State Olympic Contest. They are planning to attend the upcoming AAA Buffalo Squeeze-Fest in July.

In May 2015, while only 7 years old, Angela authored and illustrated her first children's book, *Miss Swirly Pepper: The Case of the Spicy Pretzel*. The book's main character, Miss Swirly Pepper, is an accordion-playing girl who reveals an amazing talent. She can "swirl" back in time to solve the mysteries in her daily life. Angela's first book signing event was held at the Chicago Accordion

Club in October 2015. The feedback from her customers has been very positive.

In November 2015 Angela released her second children's book, *Miss Swirly Pepper: The Case of the Missing Everything!* Since both books' debut, Angela has heard from so many parents and grandparents who have purchased the books to give to their children and grandchildren. They tell her that they hope the books will inspire the young ones in their life to use their own talents to create something unique. They also say that they enjoy the fact that Miss Swirly Pepper plays the accordion in each book.

While the target age is thought to be 3 to 10 year olds, Angela has heard that many older school children have also enjoyed reading the books too. She has her first two books in several public town and school libraries. With the help of her fans spreading the word, Angela has now sold hundreds of copies and has shipped her books to 7 states and even Canada! You can learn more about Miss Swirly Pepper and find out about her next book release through her website, [www.MissSwirlyPepper.com](http://www.MissSwirlyPepper.com). Books can be ordered through her website or at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com). She looks forward to seeing everyone in Buffalo! ■



Angela Conti, Author  
*Miss Swirly Pepper*  
*The Case of The Spicy Pretzel*



At  
the  
Traff!

Friday, July 8 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Ginny Mac • Cory Pesaturo  
Bob McMahan &  
Nora Sirbaugh  
Grayson Masefield  
Guy Klucevsek  
Alexander Sevastian  
& Quartetto Gelato

## New England Digital Accordion Orchestra

The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra performed in the Festival Orchestra Division at the recent ATAM Festival in Newton, Massachusetts. This is the 54th Anniversary of the Festival sponsored by the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts. The Orchestra performed at this event for the first time in 2013. This Orchestra is a dream come true for its conductor and AAA Board of Director, Sam Falcetti and is the only Digital Accordion Orchestra in the USA.

Throughout centuries many types of Orchestras and Bands have had their own identity from the Symphony, Woodwind and String Orchestras to the Swing, Marching and Ethnic Bands. Each served a purpose in musical evolution. Even the 30's and 40's had their Banjo, Hawaiian, Guitar and Accordion Bands which were popular throughout the United States.

There has never been an Orchestra that could do it all until now. The Orchestra's unique sound is history in the making. The Orchestra performed Celebration, Fiddler & If I Were a Rich Man

medley, Conflict (a medley of Civil War Songs), and New York, New York. Listeners can hear horn and wind sections, strings, guitars, and of course the accordion in beautifully orchestrated arrangements. An article on the Orchestra's history was in both an International Magazine from Germany and the Music Trade Magazine in the USA.

After a two year hiatus the Orchestra re-formed due to the many requests from the original performers and Roland Accordion owners who wanted to join. In March of 2015 the group was re-organized and opened for Deanna Martin & Bobby Rydell at the Mt. Carmel's 90th Italian Festival in Enfield, CT. On May 29th the Orchestra will be performing at the International Food Festival in the Coliseum on the Eastern States Grounds in West Springfield, MA. and are anticipating more performances this summer.

For more information about the Orchestra contact [samfalcetti@gmail.com](mailto:samfalcetti@gmail.com) or call: 413 204 5522. ■



## Another Unusual Italo-American Accordion

by Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D. - *A World of Accordions Museum*

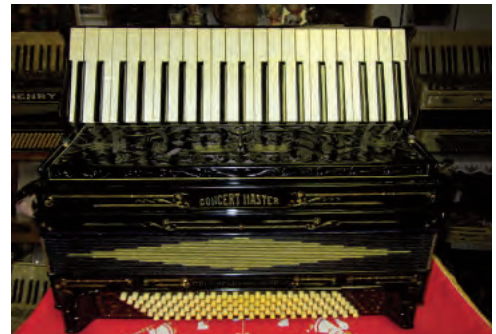
In December, 2015, Mr. John M. Vivona (Round Rock, TX) indicated his interest in placing his father's Italo-American Special Concert Master piano accordion in the museum. Since shipping an accordion said to have been produced in the 1930s risks loosened reeds and other damages, and since I was driving back from Christmas holidays spent in Texas, the possibility of picking it up at Vivona's home presented itself favorably.

Besides me, the car's inhabitants were son Charles, his wife Kystal, my two German Shepherd dogs, and our luggage. We decided we could crowd together a bit more in order to make space for one more item. Working with A World of Accordions Museum is a close experience!

At Vivona's home I peeked into the accordion case and was immediately intrigued by the unfamiliarity of the instrument's distinctive grill pattern, its etchings showing winged snake-like creatures blowing wind. It was this grill that inspired renewed research into the rich heritage of the Italo-American Accordion Company (Chicago) and this accordion in particular. In AWAM's documents I found the grill design advertised in use on Italo-American's "Polytone" model in "Accordion News," October, 1937 and pictured on accordions made for students of Andy Rizzo, often referred to as "Teacher of Teachers." Rizzo's accordion is displayed in the museum.

The history of the Italo-American Accordion Company involves many aspects of the 1900s American experience: immigration, busi-

ness establishment, diligence, innovative production, social impact, and development of industry milestones. According to a 1931 Italo-American catalog, the company was established in 1900 by A. Petromilli, Bramante Piatanesi, A. Piatanesi, and Oristo (Demo) Piatanesi. Shown in that catalog are many models ranging in price from \$325 to \$600, with endorsements by William Rizzo, Frank Salerno, George Pantalone, Mary Delight, and Phil Baker. Later catalogs proudly advertise endorsements by artists of the times, including John Krachtus, Merv Conn, Santo Santucci, Joseph Spano, Mario Moschino, and Andy Rizzo. Through splits in ownership and resulting independent businesses, this company significantly influenced many well-known accordion companies, among which are North American, Piatansi, Diamond, Exce/Imperial, Giulietti, and Crown. They also advertised their products prominently named Polytone, Italotone, and Gloria, among others.



Italo-American Accordion

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## Italo-American Accordion, cont'd from p. 6

In the early 1950s, John Piatanesi (Bramante's nephew) sold the company to Joe Romagnoli, an Italian immigrant who, from the age of 6, made accordions in Castlefildardo. Joe, known for his excellence as a craftsman, had been working for Italo-American and had married Anna Piatanesi in 1948. After Joe's death in 1994, Anna Romagnoli continues to operate the Chicago business with her daughter Roseanna, though they no longer make Italo-American accordions.



In many ways, Vivona's donation is a standard 41/120. The "Concert Master" model has 4/5 reed banks, split palm master shifts, one bass shift. Treble reed-block settings are shown in arched windows on the grill face.

The personal story of this instrument's functional life is similar to many that we know about. In a letter by his son John, displayed in total with the accordion, the following segments have been excerpted.

John Peter Vivona was born in Cortland, NY, in 1919. His parents were immigrants from Sicily, entering the USA at Ellis Island in 1905 and settling in NY in 1924. Around 1932-1935, John acquired this accordion, took lessons, and by 1938 was an accomplished accordionist. He took various jobs before joining the USAF (Air Force). He expected to be transferred often and did not want the accordion to be damaged, so he asked his sister to store the accordion.

His military career called him to numerous installations, one of which was to the Florida Everglades where he contracted spinal meningitis, and lapsed into a coma for six weeks. While many people with this disease died or suffered permanent impairments, John recovered and was returned to active duty. He received several commendations for exceptional service. He married, had two children, and retired in 1960 at Randolph AFB. His career spanned 22 years during which he rose to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. During the next 21 years he remained at the Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union where he acted as Teller, Loan Officer, Chief Loan Officer, and Branch Manager in New Braunfels, Texas, where he settled with his family. Around 1965, John asked his sister to ship his accordion to him. He played his favorite pieces from memory, soon finding that the instrument had deteriorated during interim years. He stored it in his home for 16 years hoping to find a resource for its restoration.

John died suddenly in 1981 at the age of 61 during a dinner and dance with his wife. Physicians present at the event were not able to revive him. Consensus opinion was that he had suffered a brain aneurysm that was a latent effect of his bout with meningitis. He was buried with full military honors on May 28, 1981.

Soon after its installation in the museum, John's sister Regina Hardeman decided to donate her father's 1938 Hohner Chromonika with original case and German instructions (translated on the reverse of the ascription plaque).

For more information on the amazing collection of instruments, please visit [www.worldofaccordions.org](http://www.worldofaccordions.org).

**Friday, July 8, 2016**  
**Bus (4) leaves hotel at**  
**8:30 a.m. for Niagara Falls,**  
**returns at 1:00 p.m.**  
**Transportation to the Falls is no**  
**charge for hotel guests.**  
**For tickets for Maid of the Mist,**  
**<http://www.maidofthemist.com>**



## Trio Voronezh with Ballet Fantastique, Oregon

The Trio Voronezh, featuring accordionist Sergei Teleshev, performed with the Ballet Fantastique on May 6-8, 2016, at the Hult Center, in Eugene, OR. The music includes works by J.S. Bach, Vivaldi, Mozart, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Shostakovich and Schnittke as well as some works by contemporary Russian composers and folk music.

The musicians of Trio Voronezh have been playing and performing since they were young children, around the age of six. They continued their classical training and pursued further study at the Conservatory in Voronezh, Russia. Vladimir Volokhin went on to win the title of National Champion in the All-Russia Domra Competition in 1988. Valerie Petrukhin has performed with many famous Russian folk orchestras and ensembles and currently is being an honored member of the Sierra Nevada Balalaika Society. Sergei Teleshev won many regional and international accordion competitions and was an award-winning finalist in the 1995 World Accordion Competition, held in Klingenthal, Germany. Together they formed the Voronezh Trio in 1993. The folk trio named themselves after the working-class city from which they studied and perfected their craft, a city of over a million people, and approximately 350 miles south of Moscow. In 1995, Trio Voronezh sprang onto the International stage after they were discovered playing classical favorites and folk tunes in a Frankfurt, Germany subway station.

The band made its U.S. debut in 1996 at the Oregon Bach Festival. Since that concert, the trio's career has continued to rise, with live concerts in Europe, a music video filmed in the USA, and their return to the Oregon Bach Festival in 1997 and 1999.

Prior to their 1998 U.S. tour, Trio Voronezh made an appearance on public radio's A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor. The trio went on to perform at Houston's Society for the Performing Arts; the cities of Ann Arbor, Chicago, Portland, and St. Louis; and the Universities of Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Nebraska, and Los Angeles, as well as Amherst, Dartmouth College, New York's Rockefeller University and Stanford.

In 2003, the trio made its debut in the orchestral persuasion with the Phoenix Symphony in a highly successful collaboration with Doc Severinsen. During the 2003-2004 season, Trio Voronezh performed with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, and in numerous recitals across the country. Since then the Trio has performed with major symphony orchestras throughout the U.S., Canada and Russia. In addition to five Albums released in the following years, the Trio was featured on a 2007 release of "Peter and the Wolf", along with the London Symphony Orchestra. For further information on upcoming performances, please e-mail:

[info@triovoronezh.com](mailto:info@triovoronezh.com).



### GlamourTango to Perform in New York City

GlamourTango, a group showcasing female artists in Tango, performed on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 - 7:00 PM at the Cutting Room, 44 East 32nd St. in New York City.

GlamourTango presents a multimedia show of music and dance, theatrical set and lighting, created as a tribute to those women who quietly wrote the pages of Tango from the very beginning. This is a unique approach within the Tango style, since all performing artists are female. GlamourTango was conceived and is directed by Uruguayan-American pianist and Musical Director Polly Ferman. This passionate celebration of women in Tango consists of an Internationally renowned musical quartet as well as dancers, and a vocalist takes the audience on a musical journey through the 20th century, showcasing a fresh and renovated vision of the role of women in Tango.

Shinjo Cho is the group's bandoneonist. She is also a pianist and accordionist and a versatile solo and ensemble musician embodying many musical traditions. Her musical path began with piano in her native Korea at the age of five. After immigrating to the US in 1991, she continued her study with Peter Coraggio in Hawaii and later with Ingrid Clarfield in Princeton, New Jersey, where she studied piano performance and pedagogy at the Westminster Choir College. During this time, she won numerous scholarships and competition prizes and performed at the Carnegie Hall. Shinjo traveled to Serbia for an immersion in Balkan music and studied bandoneón in Argentina.

She has collaborated with international music, dance, and film artists in multidisciplinary projects. Equally at home with classical music, she participated in the Marlboro Music Festival under the direction of Leon Fleisher and performed with the Cleveland Orchestra in 2012 at the Severance Hall.

Currently, Shinjo splits her time between Buenos Aires, Argentina and the US, performing extensively as a bandoneonist and pianist. She is a principal bandoneonist and assistant director of Orquesta Tipica La Hannibal and in May 2015, she performed as a solo pianist at the inauguration of Centro Cultural Kirchner, which was broadcast live on Argentine national television.

For more information, please visit <http://www.glamour-tango.com>.



Linda Reed presented with an original water color created by AAA Board member, Joan Grauman, as Manny Bobenrieth and Don Gerundo look on.

### Spring Happenings at the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS)

Each spring and fall, WMAS hosts a "Guest Artist Series" concert. On April 17, the club was treated to a concert by Baltimore, MD's own "Bean Soup Project", featuring accordionist Duffy Llama. The Bean Soup Project is the culmination of 20 years of song writing talent and perseverance. The group consists of three main song-writers: Bob Sturgill on vocals and guitar, Lindy McNutt on vocals and guitar and Duffy Llama on vocals, accordion and keyboards. The group is rounded off by Ken Horanoff on bass and Box Turtle Bob Chirnside on drums. At our WMAS concert, Duffy's wife Holly Degen joined in on washboard. As its name suggests, the Bean Soup Project is meant to be a mixture of many tastes and textures – and they are totally delightful! They received a well-deserved standing ovation from the many members and friends who attended their concert.

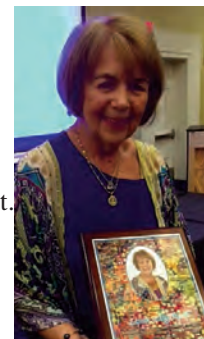


The next WMAS meeting on May 15 featured a workshop by the club's music director, Joan Grauman. Joan gets questioned often, when people want to purchase new and used accordions, about reed configurations, accordion size, instrument age and condition, what one needs when playing a particular type of music, etc. She hopes to answer these questions and demonstrate different piano accordions in her workshop entitled "Understanding your accordion and understanding your needs when choosing a new instrument". On June 12, the club will host its 13th annual Spring Members' Concert.

Guests are always welcome! Check out the WMAS website for upcoming events and other accordion-related information in the Washington, DC area: [www.washingtonaccordions.org](http://www.washingtonaccordions.org).

### AAMS Festival 2016

AAMS 2016 has come and gone and leaves us with many very special memories. Among them - the Honoring of the wonderful Linda Soley Reed with a sample of her wit and dignity. Linda helped tremendously in putting the entertainment together for the Honoree Banquet. Not only was there the wonderfully successful Festival Orchestra, but The Stereo Strings, under the direction of Lou Coppola, performed during the banquet. Guest artists during the Banquet included Joe Natoli, Mary Tokarski, Eddie Monteiro and MAMTG Virtuoso Champion Nathan Chapeton, student of Mary Tokarski. Performing Pre Concert and Pre Banquet music was Dr. Louis Persic and Don Gerundo.



While Saturday Night focused on Linda, the Friday Night work-  
*continued on page 9*



### AAMS, cont'd from p.8

shop and Concert Theme was, "Everything Irish". Featured presentation of the evening was the virtuosic duo team of McGillian and Kelly, who rendered quite a display of artistry and technique coupled with quite a sense of humor. Also performing on this program was Anita and Bob Siarkowski, the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra, Westmont Accordion Club and AAMS co-chair Dee Langley. Featured Friday evening workshop for this year's event was presented by Dean Ratzin and Bob Lijana. "Jigs, Reels, Politics and Religion" was as informative and entertaining as you can imagine.

Workshop presentations from Paul Ramuni, Dallas Vietty, Joe Natoli, and Dee Langley were exceptionally informative and Educational, ranging from History of the Accordion, Recording in the Home Environment, using your ear to memorize melody and harmony and Performing Off the Page.

#### 2017 is currently being planned

Honoree for 2017 is the very special Dee Langley. Theme for the Friday Night Concert will be "Music from the Balkans."

See you then: **March 31, April 1 & 2, 2017** in Whippany, NJ.

Thank you to all those not mentioned for their support and assistance. ■



Dee Langley

### Buffalo SqueezeFest - Niagara Falls Excursion

On Friday, July 8, 2016, the AAA's Buffalo Squeeze Fest participants will head to Niagara Falls. The bus trip to Niagara Falls is complimentary to all AAA guests who are registered at the Adams Mark Hotel.

We begin departing the hotel main lobby at 8:30 a.m. arriving at the Park at approximately 9:00 a.m. While at the Park, you might want to take a boat ride on the Maid of the Mist. The boat holds 600 passengers and they depart every 15 minutes from the Maid of the Mist Landing in Niagara Falls. Purchase tickets at the Maid of the Mist official website: <http://www.maidofthemist.com>

Adult tickets are \$18.25; Child 6-12 years - \$10.65; 5 and Under FREE with accompanying adult. The prices are in U.S. dollars and include the \$1.25 per person cost of the elevator, which is necessary to reach their landing. Reservations are not accepted.

**Method of payment** — Cash, Visa, MasterCard, Discover. Personal checks are not accepted.

*Journey into the heart of one of North America's most powerful waterfalls. Hear the thundering roar of 600,000 gallons of water falling right before your eyes. Feel the mighty rush of the mist on your face aboard the Maid of the Mist. It's the only way to experience one of the world's most amazing natural wonders right here in the U.S.A.*

**From or To Canada:** If you're crossing the border from (or to) Canada, bring a valid passport and one other form of ID. Citizens from some countries may need a temporary resident visa.



### Dallas Vietty Joins Staff of Acme Accordion School



Dallas Vietty

Award-winning accordionist and educator Dallas Vietty is one of the most in-demand young accordionists performing jazz and swing in the United States today. Dallas' unique style comes from his background in the American jazz tradition, as well as deep study and immersion in the European swing tradition of Django Reinhardt (Gypsy Jazz) and the French musette and jazz accordionists.

As band leader of three groups (Hot Bijouxx, Musette Project, Tempus Fugit) Dallas remains very active on the East Coast concert and festival scene. His groups have performed at some of the top U.S. festivals: Djangology NYC, TEDx Philly, Djangoary Festival, to name a few. As a sideman his performances have taken him to legendary venues such as The Iridium Jazz Club NYC, BB King's Time Square, The Highline Ballroom NYC, and the Philadelphia Kimmel Center Verizon Hall.

Along with his passion as a performer, Dallas is equally dedicated to providing innovative accordion education. Since 2011, he has been conducting workshops and publishing teaching materials for the American Accordion Musicological Society, American Accordionists' Association, Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society, and many more groups. Dallas has been invited 4 consecutive years as teaching artist at the internationally-renowned Django in June summer Gypsy Jazz intensive. In early 2013, Dallas founded the popular online teaching platform RebelReed, which has educated and provided private accordion instruction to scores of students across the US, Canada, Germany and Australia. He holds a position as Visiting Instructor at Lafayette College, and is co-leading a series of master classes in Philadelphia. With his breadth of professional teaching practice, Dallas Vietty has arisen as a foremost expert in the realm of Gypsy Jazz for piano accordion.

Growing up in Southern California's Mojave Desert, Dallas showed a proclivity for music at a young age. He began as a jazz pianist, starting private instruction at 12, and spent several summers at the famous Idyllwild Summer School for the Arts. At California State University Northridge, Dallas pursued Jazz Studies, and performed throughout the LA metro area, Hawaii, and Japan. But piano was soon superseded by a passion for accordion. Dallas moved to the East Coast and fortified his independent education at New Jersey's Acme Accordion School, studying fundamental technique and Free Bass education. Dallas continued his accordion education with Roberto Cassan in technique and expression, and with Grammy Award winning accordionist Victor Prieto on contemporary jazz, classical accordion and extended technique. He has also studied with world-renowned saxophonist Ben Schachter. In 2015, Dallas Vietty became a Siwa & Figli Featured Artist. In April 2016, Dallas officially joined the staff of Acme Accordion School.



Magnanini  
Winery, Restaurant  
and Distillery

Save the date  
Saturday,  
Nov. 26, 2016  
12 noon



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## Coast to Coast

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



### Kansas City, MO

The UMKC Community Accordion Ensemble will perform a Free concert on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at 2:00 PM in Pierson Auditorium on the UMKC Campus, 5000 Holmes, Kansas City, MO. Performing works by Bach, Gordzei, Handel, Hermosa, Liszt, Piazzolla, Saint-Saëns and Venglevski, the concert will also feature Stas Venglevski as soloist, and Stas and Joan C. Sommes as duo artists. The ensemble will also appear on Thursday, July 21st as part of the ATG Festival in Chicago, IL.

### New York, NY

The 2016 Accordion Seminars turn 22 while curator and moderator Dr. William (Bill) Schimmel turns 70. The 2016 Seminars are called 'No Place Like Home'. There's no place like home - wherever that may be: the home you left - the home you came to - the home you adopted - the home away from home - wherever it may be - THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE IT - STEPHEN FOSTER (or Don Amici) GOT IT RIGHT. AAA Board of Director Dr. Schimmel, will once again be your guide through a maze a concepts, sounds, feelings, tastes and pieces - all by way of the accordion, from July 29, 30, 31, 2016 with Master Classes at 3:00 PM and Concerts at 7:00 PM at the Tenri Cultural Institute, 43 W. 13th Street in New York City. For reservations: (212) 876-0827 or visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com).

### Milwaukee, WI

On June 27th the Milwaukee Accordion Club will feature Ryan Kautzer and his Yankovic Tribute Band in an evening that will be filled with happy dance music including polkas, waltzes and a variety of other styles. Joining Ryan on stage will be band members Clayton Michener, playing guitar, banjo, drums and doing vocals, Aaron Rathke, drums and vocals, as well as an additional variety of musicians. For more information, please visit [www.accordions.com/mac](http://www.accordions.com/mac).

### Gilmanon, NH

The New Hampshire Accordion Association (NHAA) is delighted to announce the revival of a happy tradition – a joint meeting with NHAA's close "accordion cousins" – the Massachusetts Accordion Association (MAA). On Saturday, May 14, 2016, thanks to the organizational efforts of Gary Morin, MAA Vice President, and Suzanne Welch,

NHAA Executive Secretary, members of MAA will visit NHAA's home at Accordion Connection LLC in Gilmanon, NH for a joint MAA-NHAA meeting and Play-along session. For more information: email Donna Maria Regis [regisdonna@yahoo.com](mailto:regisdonna@yahoo.com) or call Suzanne Welch at 603.267.8600

### Rayne, LA

The Rayne Frog Festival Committee in conjunction with the Rayne Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture is pleased to announce it will be hosting a Cajun (single-row diatonic) Accordion contest. The contest is part of the 44th Annual Rayne Frog Festival, Frog Capital of the World at the Frog Festival Pavilion and Grounds to be held from May 11-14, 2016 in Rayne, Louisiana. The Rayne Frog Festival Cajun Accordion Contest is open to Cajun (single-row diatonic) accordion players of all ages and abilities. The contest will be judged by a panel of accordion players selected from the Cajun music industry. 2016 Rayne Frog Festival Band Line-Up on Saturday, May 14, 2016 include 5:30-7:30 PM: Leroy Thomas and Zydeco Roadrunners (the Jewel of the Bayou), 8:00-10:PM: Ryan Foret and Foret Tradition and 10:30 - 12:30 PM: Wayne Toups and Zydecajun. For information on the accordion contest: Call Blaine Dupont @ (337) 349-1969 or email [blaine.dupont@yahoo.com](mailto:blaine.dupont@yahoo.com).

### San Francisco, CA

Accordionist Stas Venglevski was the featured artist on April 17, 2016 at the San Francisco Accordion Club gathering. A two-time first prize winner of bayan competitions in the Republic of Moldova, Stas is a graduate of the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow where he studied with the famed Russian bayanist, Friedrich Lips. Stas' repertoire includes his own original compositions, a broad range of classical, contemporary and ethnic music. For more information on Stas, his recordings and published music, please visit [www.stasv.com](http://www.stasv.com).

### Westport, CT

June 17th "Coffee-house at the Wheeler" will become a French boite, or café, when it returns with singer/guitarist Suzanne Sheridan and accordionist Don Gerundo performing an evening of café songs by Edith Piaf and Jacques Brel. Get ready to sip



some French wine, eat a little brie and crackers while relishing the sounds and flavors of Paris. To reserve, call 203-222-1424. For details. Sponsored by: Webster Bank of Westport

### Connecticut on the Move

The CAA's May 22nd Orchestra Concert and Buffet Luncheon was totally sold out!! The concert focused on Broadway/movie themes and included some of our "rising accordion stars" - the versatile Klettner boys, Anton and Joseph will perform utilizing the accordion with their other instruments and the 2016 AAA Representative to the Coupe Mondiale in Russia, Nathan Chapetan, also performed. Other selections will feature orchestra member Jeanine Cariri on flute and the conductor of the AAA 2016 Youth Jazz Program, Mitch Guido on saxophone. A silent auction topped off the afternoon's activities with prizes donated by CAA Orchestra members.

The next gathering of the CAA will be held on June 12th at the New England Accordion Museum and will feature Tony Lovello.

### Email Or Paper Copy?

For those members who have provided us with email addresses, we recently requested that they tell us their preference on receiving Newsletters – via email (electronically) or paper copy (via mail). Either way is okay with us. To date, we've received many responses to this request and for those of you who responded, THANK YOU. For anyone who hasn't gotten back to us yet, we'd appreciate it if you'd take a moment to email us and let us know your preference (electronically or via mail). Since the May-June newsletter is already on its way, and if we haven't heard from you yet, you will be placed on the paper copy list. Again, thank you for your responses. Have a great Spring!

Julie Cardona ( [julie.a.cardona1@gmail.com](mailto:julie.a.cardona1@gmail.com) )



# AAA 2016 Festival - July 6-10 - Buffalo, NY

## Workshops – Tentative Schedule

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 6 - 4:00 P.M.**

***Developing a career as a professional accordion player in North America***

**Alexander Sevastian**

Alexander will be talking about his experience with concert bookings through the management, finding concerts on his own, and different types of collaborations in which he has taken part.



clinical settings. Come ready to sing and play in a mock music therapy session!

**THURSDAY, JULY 7- 1:00 P.M.**

***The Art of the Jam Session: Accordions in Bands and Jams***  
**GINNY MAC**

GINNY will touch on the various roles of the accordion in bands and jam situations. The versatility of our fine instrument allows us the opportunity to play many unique roles alongside other instrument-alists. *With hands-on time after the workshop.*



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 6 - 5:00 P.M.**

***Playing for Uncle Sam***  
**MANNY BOBENRIETH**

SGM Manny Bobenrieth will speak about what it's like being the accordionist with the United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own". The U.S. Army Strings, a premier ensemble of the U.S. Armed Forces, provide a musical backdrop for many of the country's most notable events. Their mission is to serve as musical ambassadors for high-level military and government events at home and abroad, as well as in concert for public audiences. The U.S. Army Band is currently seeking qualified applicants to audition on accordion as SGM Bobenrieth will be retiring in the near future.



**FRIDAY, JULY 8 - 2:00 P.M.**

***Building a Piece of Music - Practice and Memorization***  
**GRAYSON MASEFIELD, PRESENTER**

This masterclass will focus on practicing techniques and different exercises to spend your practice time efficiently. It will also utilize these techniques to accelerate your memorization of your music. *With hands-on time after workshop.*



**THURSDAY, JULY 7 - 9:00 A.M.**

***Authenticity of Style***  
**CORY PESATURO**

Cory will take a simple tune known by all, and work it through the mechanics of various genres to show the intricacies of each, and demonstrate how the same song can sound completely differently in many aspects including ornamentation, feel, tempo, groove, improvisation type, scales, chord changes and substitutions, and more. See what it means to truly play Klezmer to jazz to Irish and many more styles as opposed to just playing a written arrangement in a specific genre. *With hands-on time after the workshop.*



**SATURDAY, JULY 9 - 9:00 A.M.**

***Radio Days Accordion: A Sampling of Once Popular Accordionist Compositions of the Past and an Examination of Their Music***

**DR. ROBERT YOUNG McMAHAN, PRESENTER**

A look at the lives and accordion works of once prominent artist/composers of the middle third of the twentieth century. Among these now under-represented figures of the past will be Fred Tedesco, Gene Von Hallberg, Joe Biviano, John Gart, and Hugo Hermann. Join us for some fun, and "don't touch that dial!"



**THURSDAY, JULY 7 - 10:00 A.M.**

***Music Therapy: A New Frontier for the Accordion***

**RACHEL QUIRBACH, PRESENTER**

You've heard from many sources that music is good for your brain. But how? In this workshop, learn about how music and the brain interact, how that translates to the field of music therapy, and how we can use the accordion in a wide variety of



**SATURDAY, JULY 9 - 10:00 A.M.**

***Unusual and Unorthodox Techniques for Accordion***

**GUY KLUCEVSEK, PRESENTER**

Some of the techniques discussed in this workshop include: various kinds of tremolos (finger & bellows), metric independence of the hands (playing one meter in the left hand against a different one in the right hand), playing right hand melodies with the thumb, and imitating other instruments (guitar, bagpipe, mandolin).

