



# AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

January-February 2018



AAA 80th Anniversary  
Celebration  
July 11-15, 2018  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
625 First Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Solo, Duet, Ensemble  
and Band Competitions  
Youth Jazz Program  
Exciting Workshops  
Exhibits  
Concerts featuring  
outstanding Artists  
Lifetime Achievement  
Presentation  
Sponsored by the  
American Accordionists' Association

## From the Editor:

Happy New Year and welcome to this, our first edition of the AAA Newsletter for 2018.

The first meeting of a group of New York accordionists was held at 8.00 PM on Wednesday, March 9, 1938. The subject under discussion at this meeting was to determine whether or not an association for accordionists should be formed. The meeting was attended by Charles Magnante, Abe Goldman, Joe Biviano, Pietro Deiro, Pietro Frosini, Gene Von Hallberg, Anthony Galla-Rini, Charles Nunzio, Sydney B. Dawson, Sam Roland and Byron Strep.

A motion was made by Sydney Dawson that the name of this association be The American Accordionists' Association, a motion that was seconded by Charles Magnante and carried unanimously.

Now 80 years later, a milestone for any organization, the AAA proudly continues the work of the founding members. We hope you are able to join accordionists from around the world as we celebrate this magnificent 80th AAA Anniversary at our upcoming festival in Alexandria, VA (Washington, DC) from July 11-15, 2018. With the showcase of talent ranging from soloists to groups, and an array of activities planned to inspire us all, we encourage you to make plans to attend this important and exciting event. We invite you to keep up to date by visiting [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) which will have the latest information as it becomes available.

As always, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the AAA Past-President, Linda Reed and Board of Director, Rita Davidson for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. As we offer our thanks, we also request your kind help by inviting you to submit your news items for publication so that your fellow members can see the incredible array of accordion activities happening throughout the country. Items for the 2018 March/April Newsletter can be sent to me at [goaccordion@yahoo.com](mailto:goaccordion@yahoo.com) or to the official AAA e-mail address at: [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com). Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a 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.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,  
Kevin Friedrich - AAA Newsletter Editor



## From the President:

*Happy New Year! Hope it is a good one!*

Winter is here, and the Northeast has suffered some pretty hefty storms from Mother Nature. Let's hope that the rest of the winter goes a bit more smoothly!!

Once again, we are looking ahead to spring and all the musical activities it brings. I hope you have included some into your plan, with the accordion right up front.

May 6th is World Accordion Day, and I want to remind all of you to get the accordion into the public eye – on that day, but also in advance to promote the event. Plan ahead so you can send your information and clips to the webmasters at the Confederation Internationale des Accordeonists for inclusion on the website which will feature accordion activities from around the world. Let's get the

United States represented in that list! (Just go to the Confederation website at [www.accordions.com/cia](http://www.accordions.com/cia) and select "events" and you will see World Accordion Day.)

The AAA will also sponsor a Qualifying Event for musicians who would like the opportunity to represent the U.S./AAA at the Coupe Mondiale in Lithuania September 24-30, 2018. Please email the AAA office at [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com) if you are interested in representing AAA at the Coupe, and we will arrange the day for the qualifying au-



From the President, cont'd from page 1

dition. Category requirements can be found on the CIA website at [www.accordions.com/cia](http://www.accordions.com/cia) - and then go to the page for the Coupe Mondiale.

Stay tuned for the Festival 2018 registration forms, tentative schedules and rules for the 2018 competition . . . they are almost completed, and should be on the website shortly. Please check back frequently. If you have not made your reservations at the hotel, do it today! The hotel will only honor our reduced rate until June 11th. After that, you pay their full price for the rooms! Beat the deadline, and be sure to get your registrations in early too. Lots of great events, artists and activities for everyone!

See you in Alexandria! ■

## Trifilio Tango invited to Argentinian Embassy

3rd year, 3rd album, 3rd Embassy concert:

Trifilio Tango Trio invited all to a Trilogy Concert celebrating 3 years of Argentinian tango concerts in D.C.

Founded in 2015, D.C. based TTT has always strived first to connect with audiences and then to present new and original tango music in the traditional style. With one foot in Buenos Aires and the other in Washington D.C., the group has performed internationally and nationally, with hundreds of concerts since their inception.

This celebratory concert featured brand new compositions from the upcoming album and selections from TTT's previous repertoire, as well as everyone's favorite tango classics.

The evening promised and delivered an intimate performance and unique energy. The performance was held in the beautiful gallery of the Embassy of Argentina.

Trifilio Tango will be featured at the AAA's 80th Anniversary Luncheon Concert on Thursday, July 12, 2018 at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria, VA. The group's leader and bandoneonist, Emmanuel Trifilio will present a workshop also on July 12th at the AAA Festival. Their CDs will also be available. ■



## Paolo Belanich at LIAA

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) will hold their upcoming gathering on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 6:00 PM. The featured guest artist will be noted Croatian accordionist, Paolo Belanich.



Paul Belanich started to play the accordion at 5 years old. Born on St. Peter's Island (Ilovik) in the northern part of the Croatian Adriatic Sea, he grew up surrounded by the accordion which was always the center of entertainment.

Presently, Paul performs with his brother in the Tri State area. He entertains in Slovenian and Austrian polka styles with a blend of Valtaro Musette flavor which he grew up with. Performing and playing mostly by ear he has recently recorded some of his music which consists of different rhythms other than polka and waltzes. Paul also sings in English, Croatian and Italian.

Paul always says, "What fires me up the most and gives my heart the happiest feeling, is polka music. Playing accordion since the early 60's, my love for the accordion is the same today as it was back then. I just hope that the American public realizes how beautiful the accordion is as a musical instrument."

The event will be held at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Rd, East Northport, NY 11731. Reservations are recommended by calling (631) 261-6344. For more information, please visit [www.facebook.com/LongIslandAccordionAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/LongIslandAccordionAlliance) ■

Live link for Holiday Inn hotel room reservations now available online.

See [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com), "President's Letter", 5th paragraph, highlighted in red, (Holiday Inn and Suites in Alexandria, Virginia) to locate the link.

When connected, you will have three (3) room choices all at the \$129 rate.

**ameraccord.com**

## The University of Missouri-Kansas City Community Accordion Ensemble to Perform at AAA's 80th Celebration in Alexandria, VA

The University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) Chamber Accordion Ensemble are delighted to announce that they will appear at the upcoming 80th Anniversary AAA Festival in Alexandria, VA.

All players are alumni of the University of Missouri - Kansas City, and former members of the renowned UMKC Accordion Orchestra. The players make their living in various careers, but each have remained devoted to promoting the accordion and its varied repertoire, which includes transcriptions, commissions and other original works.

They have recently performed in Chicago, San Francisco and Kansas City. In addition, they have participated in the USA contributions to World Accordion Day, when videos of their performances were broadcast during the live presentation.

The UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble performs under the direction of Joan C. Sommers who also plays as a member of the ensemble. Joan C. Sommers was awarded the title of Pro-

fessor Emerita upon her retirement from the University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory of Music (USA), where she established and taught the accordion degree program for forty years. She has arranged innumerable works for both Accordion Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble over many year, works that have been performed around the globe.

Joan C. Sommers has held numerous positions in several music organizations, including the Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG) and the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA - IMC-UNESCO) where she was recently awarded lifetime Honorary Membership.

Today she enjoys performing with fellow accordionists in duo, with other instrumentalists and with the UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble which will appear in concert on Thursday, July 12th, 2018 at the AAA 80th Anniversary Festival. For more information please contact: joansommers@kc.rr.com. ■



UMKC Community Accordion Ensemble, left to right top row: Kevin Friedrich, Cathy Sue Weiss and Ron Barrow. First row: Betty Jo Simon, Samantha Wagner, Joyce Davis and Joan C. Sommers, Director.

**2018 Contest Rules and Registration Forms are now available. Contact the AAA Office at [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com) or visit our website at: [ameraccord.com](http://ameraccord.com)**

## Guenadiy Lazarov featured in New York Times Article

The New York Times recently profiled Guenadiy Lazarov in an article showing his work as an accordion repair person and the specialized skills he acquired over time from Italian mentor Aldo Mencaccini.

The article written by Bryan Anselm for The New York Times and published on January 11, 2018, talked of Guenadiy growing up in his native Bulgaria and being mesmerized by accordionists who often performed at weddings and gatherings, performing pieces with the captivating Balkan rhythms.

"The accordion was king - there was a special respect for the instrument in our culture," said Mr. Lazarov in the article. The NY Times article reported on Mr. Lazarov's business 'The Accordion Gallery' a workshop and showroom located at his New Jersey house and of his clients ranging from hobbyists to performers such as Charlie Giordano, the accordionist who plays with Bruce Springsteen. Mr. Lazarov left his Physics career in 2007 to concentrate full time on his accordion business repair shop.

To read the article, please visit: <https://mobile.nytimes.com/2018/01/11/nyregion/the-squeezebox-surgeon.html?referer=> or visit: <http://www.accordiongallery.com/> ■



## Le Vent du Nord Concerts

Le Vent du Nord (The North Wind) is a Canadian folk music group from Quebec. The band performs traditional Québécois music which is heavily influenced by Celtic music from both Ireland and Brittany, as well as original numbers. The group's membership consists of Andre Rejean, violin, Nicolas Boulerice (vocals, hurdy-gurdy, piano accordion, piano), Olivier Demers (vocals, fiddle, foot-tapping and guitar), Simon Beaudry (vocals, guitar, Irish bouzouki), and Réjean Brunet (vocals, diatonic button accordion, acoustic bass guitar, piano and jaw harp).

Le Vent du Nord was formed in 2002 and in 2010 the group released an album, *Symphonique*, and was named Ensemble of

the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards. Their album *La part du feu* won a 2011 Juno Award. Le Vent du Nord released their eighth album, *Tetu*, in 2015 and the following year the band performed in London, England.

The group will be touring France in January, however will be back in the USA in February with upcoming concerts as follows: February 2nd, 8:00 PM at One Longfellow Square in Portland, Maine and February 3rd, 7:30 PM at the Barre Opera House in Vermont.

For more information, please visit <https://leventdunord.com> ■



## Joe Natoli prepares new AAA Commission

Joseph Natoli was commissioned in 2017 by the AAA to write two new compositions including a solo work in 2018 and an ensemble work in 2019. The solo work has been completed and titled "Sonata In F Major (in the Classical Style)" which Joe will perform at the upcoming AAA Festival in July 2018.

Joe Natoli states: "When it comes to composition, I consider myself a musical chameleon, adapting to any style according to the need and purpose of the composition, just as a chameleon adapts immediately to its current environment. Therefore I have written music in every possible genre, from contemporary Avant Garde, to quasi-minimalist, jazz, Classical, Baroque, ethnic polkas & waltzes, cinematic, neo-Romantic, ragtime, Latin, and even Pop.

I enjoy performing and composing in all styles and especially enjoy dabbling in the styles of the old masters like Bach and Haydn. On a business trip about 10 years ago, I was bored in my hotel room late at night, so I decided to write a Baroque style invention on my computer (since I had no instrument available). It turned out to be a piece that I was very happy with. Shortly thereafter I wrote two more inventions in C and G. I had written 'Sonata in D Major (in the Classical style)' for a student about 13 years ago. The exceptional student then learned and memorized it in 5 weeks, and subsequently competed with it, winning first place at both the AAMS and AAA competitions in 2004. Since then, I have always wanted to get back to a Classical sonata composition that was more of a fully developed and executed sonata within a truly virtuoso Classical context.

I particularly love Haydn's piano Sonatas. So this 'Sonata In F Major' has scratched that itch for me and is 20 pages and 12 minutes in length. It is the first time the accordion has had such a complete work written especially for the instrument in that stylistic genre. I thought this AAA commission would be a perfect opportunity for such a piece, since the AAA has had such a long association with accordionists performing Classical works of the masters.

It is my hope that this is the kind of piece that Haydn or Mozart might have written for the free bass or Stradella accordion if they had our quality instruments of today available to them. However, this Classical piece is written within the context of a composer with 21st century ears, who has the historical benefit of having heard all the music that came before it. So it takes some surprising harmonic and developmental twists and turns that demonstrate that perspective. Also, in the final movement (Presto), there is a short quote from the theme of the first movement, which is a technique that 18th century Classical composers might not have attempted. It seemed to fit so well however, that I could not resist the temptation. This is a difficult virtuoso sonata for both free bass and Stradella accordion that I am hoping the audience enjoys in July." ■



## Italian America Long Island Host attends LIAA

Dave Anthony Setteducati ( second from left ) and his wife Pauline attended the January 3, 2018 meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY. Mr. Setteducati is the host of the "Italian America Long Island" Cablevision program which is shown every Wednesday on channel 115.

Dave Anthony attended the January 3rd event to video the LIAA proceedings for a future airing on his program. A vast amount of video footage was collected and he created an interesting and informative program that features personal interviews, many segments of member accordionists performing individually and also segments of ensemble playing. Also featured in the video are Manny Corallo and Frank Toscano who were the featured guest artists for the evening. This special program featuring the LIAA on Cablevision is, right now, scheduled to be aired on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) members hope that this type of positive publicity will bring knowledge of Long Island Accordion Alliance activities to even a much wider audience on Long Island and also the whole Cablevision viewing area.

The next meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) will take place on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731 (631.261.6344). The featured guest artist will be Croatian accordionist Paolo Belanich. Reservations are highly recommended. ■



Pictured above: Dave Anthony and Pauline Setteducati with Dominic Karcic.

Below: Joe DeClemente, Dave Anthony Setteducati, Pauline Setteducati and Ray Oreggia.



## Professor Walter Maurer (1931-2017)

Former CIA General Secretary and accordion dignitary Professor Walter Maurer passed away on December 1st, 2017. Born in Vienna on May 6, 1931, where he lived his entire life, Prof. Maurer devoted his life to the accordion and was a frequent visitor to the USA in his work with the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA) as Secretary General from 1975 to 2006 and as the lead player of the Viennese Accordion Chamber Accordion Ensemble (Wiener Akkordeon-Kammerensemble). The Ensemble made many appearances in the USA, including at Carnegie Hall on March 31, 1985 where they played a program of Handel, Mozart, Seiber, Strauss and original Austrian works.

Walter Maurer spent years working with and alongside many of the USA personalities such as Joan Cochran Sommers and the late Madalena Belfiore and Faithe Deffner



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who all served as CIA Delegates and Executive Officers, as they worked to promote the AAA and ATG at an International level, often resulting in the Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships being hosted in the USA.

In addition to his work as Secretary General: Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA) (1975 to 2006), he also served as President: Harmonikaverband Österreichs (HVO), (Austrian Accordion Association) (1993 to 2009); President des Internationalen Akkordeon-Orchester-Verbandes (IAOV) now Europäische Akkordeon-Föderation (EAF); and a Board Member: Österreichischer Musikrat (Austrian Music Council).

Walter is pictured with President of the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA) Kevin Friedrich as he presented Walter with CIA Honorary Membership for over 30 years of work on the Executive of the CIA and for all his other activities on both a national level and an international level that have helped the development of the accordion. ■

## Nathan Chapeton Wins Carnegie Hall Performance

Elite Music Competition Corp. is a New Jersey nonprofit corporation, operating as a public charity pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and advancing classical music throughout the world by encouraging young artists to pursue their studies in music, showcasing their talent, and demonstrating their music potential. The corporation is founded by Alla Lovel, MM, MA, comprised of a group of dedicated and highly skilled experienced professional musicians, inspired by the power of music, and dedicated to the discovery and development of the talented musicians.

Nathan Chapeton, AAA representative to the 2018 Coupe Mondiale and student of Mary J. Tokarski, auditioned for the prestigious Elite Music Competition netting him an opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall. The auditions were held in Greenwich, CT on Sunday, January 14th and received word on Tuesday that he was the recipient of the prestigious opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall. We believe Nathan's performance date is scheduled for February 25, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Live auditions are held at various locations around the world. The Winners Recitals of the First and Second place honors are held in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The Winners Recitals of the Third place honors are held at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Caldwell University in Caldwell, New Jersey.

All the contestants, who have successfully passed the audition and performed at the Winners Recitals, are awarded Certificates of Achievement based on the judges' evaluations and the contestants' performance taking into account the following criteria: interpretation (style, musical form, phrasing, intonation, articulation, rhythmic accuracy, tempo, dynamic control, balance, and pedaling), musical achievements (memorization, tone-facility, expression), as well as the participants' age, and the complexity of the musical selection.

- Cash Prizes: Grand Prize, First Prize, Second Prize, Third Prize
- Golden Star Award Trophy: awarded to the first three best performers
- Silver Star Award Trophy: awarded to the three second-best performers
- Performance with Symphony Orchestra

Students who have been qualified and have performed at the Elite International Music Competition Winners Recital at Carnegie Hall for 5 (five) consecutive years or more or at an-

*cont'd. on next page*



## US Air Force Strolling Strings

The United States Air Force Strolling Strings will perform at the AAA's 80th Anniversary Banquet and Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to former USAF accordionist, Louis F. Coppola. A contingent of the group will entertain during dinner.

CMSgt (ret) Harry Gleeson wrote: "Lou Coppola spent over 28 years with the Band following his enlistment on October 23, 1956. During his tenure, he not only performed before presidents and kings, and traveled the world over, but he earned the distinction of being the first non-string-player to become non-commissioned officer-in-charge of The Air Force Strings.

With the Air Force Strings from the very beginning of his career, Europe and Asia-and virtually every Air Force base in the inventory-became his stomping grounds. However, some of his brightest memories are of performances in Washington, D.C. During the Kennedy administration, Lou and the Strings were featured on the cover of Life Magazine with the president and first lady. However, it was another appearance at the White House, which provided one of the major highlights of his career: celebrated violinist Isaac Stern was the evening's featured entertainment and Leonard Bernstein was a guest.

Following the official function, Mrs. Kennedy asked a small

ensemble, including Lou, to go upstairs to the family quarters and entertain Stern, Bernstein and their wives in the building's private family quarters. After awhile, Stern borrowed one of the instrumentalist's violins, Bernstein found his way to the piano, and soon Isaac Stern, Leonard Bernstein and Lou Coppola were presenting a "trio" performance of the Mendelssohn violin concerto. Mrs. Kennedy snapped their picture, and the photo remains today one of Lou's cherished treasures from his AF days.

Today the accordionist is "Master Sgt. Frank J. Busso Jr." Frank Busso Jr. 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, 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.

Their versatile repertoire includes the best of Broadway, classical, country, international and society selections. These talented Air Force musicians create a unique, awe-inspiring experience. ■



Chapeton wins Elite Music spot at Carnegie Hall, cont'd. from pg. 6

other music competition Winners Recitals held at Carnegie Hall over that period of time, are eligible to receive a Letter of Recommendation to be used for college applications.

Elite Music Competition reserves the exclusive right to award cash prizes at its sole discretion.

Alla Lovel is the honor graduate of the Master's degree program in Music of the St. Petersburg Conservatory (Russia, Professor T. Berhadsky), and has completed her second Master's in music Pedagogy at the Pedagogical University in Ukraine. Graduated from N. Rimsky-Korsakov State College at St. Petersburg Conservatory for gifted students (Russia, Professor S. Belkina). Former permanent member of Ukrainian

Government Inspection of the Board of Music Education for control of teacher's qualification of all music colleges. Developed and published a Curriculum for teachers of all music colleges and Universities throughout Ukraine. Author of pieces for piano and piano duets. A member of Music Teachers National Association, the "Golden Circle of Teachers" of America, Piano Teachers Society of America, The Leschetizky Association, American College of Musicians, Recognized by the Music Educators Association of New Jersey as a High Honor Teacher. Appeared in *Marquis Who's Who in America*. ■

## John Torcello and the LA Philharmonic New Music Group

Los Angeles based accordionist John Torcello will perform with members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group under the direction of Finnish conductor Susanna Mälkki in the Green Umbrella series directed by John Adams, which promotes original works, on Tuesday January 23 at 8.00 PM at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Beginning to play the accordion at age 7, John Torcello was a student of Al Cirrillo at Roxy's Music Store in Batavia, NY. His subsequent studies were with the great accordionist and an early proponent of the chromatic free bass instrument, Joseph Robusto; who subsequently introduced John to the late, great jazz accordionist, Russ Messina in Buffalo, NY.

It was under Messina's tutelage that John Torcello became the USA - ATG Champion in 1971 and 1972. John travelled to compete in the CIA Coupe Mondiale in Bruges, Belgium, where he attained 3rd place, and then one year later, went on to win the coveted Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships held in Caracas, Venezuela. John later completed his undergraduate Music Composition degree at the University of Toronto where he studied accordion with Joseph Macerollo. John went on to become an accomplished classical accordionist, playing venues including the Hollywood Bowl, Dorothy Chandler Music Center and the Walt Disney Concert Hall among others. Torcello often plays with orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic as well as for other important musical events.

Career highlights for John include appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group, Pasadena Pops/Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Long Beach Opera, Jacaranda Music and Idyllwild Arts Orchestra under conductors including Michael Tilson Thomas, Simon Rattle, Zubin Mehta, Andreas Mitisek, Rachel Worby, Carl St. Clair, John Williams, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Gustavo Dudamel in works by composers including DelTredici, Berg, Ades, Weill, Piaf, Kagel, Ortiz, Golijov, Bernstein, Piazzolla, Shostakovich, Dean, Eötvös, Romer and Zappa. Several of John Torcello's recordings have been re-released including: TORCELLO Music of the Baroque, TORCELLO State of the Art Accordion and Pastiche - John Torcello and Anthony Brazier (Flute), all of which are available on Amazon.com.

John's LA Philharmonic performance is part of Marcos Balter's new chamber work, an LA Philharmonic commission entitled, "Things Fall Apart"; scored for woodwinds, brass, percussion, harp, piano, accordion and strings.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Marcos Balter studied in the U.S., graduating with honors from Northwestern University, where his teachers



included Augusta Read Thomas, Amy Williams, and Jay Alan Yim. He has held positions at several universities, and is currently an Associate Professor of Music Composition at Montclair State University. His collaborators range from the Mivos Quartet to Deerhoof, and from the International Contemporary Ensemble to the Orquestra Experimental da Amazonas Filarmônica. His commissions have come from presenters ranging from Chamber Music America to the MacArthur Foundation, and his works have been featured in venues from Carnegie Hall and Le Poisson Rouge to the Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival and the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan.

When asked about the meaning of the first movement of Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, the conductor Arturo Toscanini allegedly said: "To some it is Napoleon, to some it is philosophical struggle. To me it is simply Allegro con brio." To take that staunchly abstract approach to Things fall apart, we might say that it is "about"

*cont'd. on next page*





## John Torcello and the LA Philharmonic New Music Group, cont'd. from page 8

minor seconds and diminished fifths, and their microtonal, and detuned variations and inversions. These intervals - and other harmonic stepchildren unloved in the tonal system - generate a softly pulsating, inchoate sonic field from which chords and arpeggios emerge.

The title of the piece comes from W.B. Yeats' poem "The Second Coming" (which also provided the title for Chinua Achebe's 1958 novel *Things Fall Apart*). "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;/Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world" Yeats wrote, and Balter does play with a type of musical entropy here. But there is also a sense of searching and even coalescence, and there is no "mere anarchy" to this formally rounded music.

The Concert is presented by members of the LA Philharmonic (Susanna Mälkki, Conductor), The Lyris Quartet, Joanne Pearce Martin, piano and Charles Bascou, electronics with the program and will feature four works as follows:

Francesca Verunelli - *Unfolding* (for string quartet); Marcos Balter - *Things Fall Apart* (world premiere, LA Phil commission); Francesco Filidei - *Toccata*, per pianoforte and Helmut Lachenmann - *Mouvement* (- vor der Erstarrung).

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## Mauro C. Greco

Mauro, beloved husband of the late Maddalena Belfiore Greco, passed away peacefully on December 29th at the age of 86. He was born and raised in Kearny, NJ, where he resided his entire life. Mauro graduated from Seton Hall Preparatory High School and Seton Hall University. After graduating, he served in the United States Army. Mauro was President of Montville Manor Inc., a real estate development company. His passion for the building industry was one that was well respected. Mauro was a member of the Builders Association of Northern New Jersey where he served on the board of directors and eventually became president. He received numerous honors and awards from the association commemorating his unwavering service to the building and construction industry and was named as a prestigious Life Director. Mauro was also a long-standing member of the New Jersey Builders Association where he served on numerous committees and earned the status of State Life director. Mauro had tremendous focus and dedication managing his real estate holdings.

He was a continuous long-standing member of the Kearny Lions Club and a member of the Atlantis Yacht Club in Monmouth Beach, NJ, where his passion for yachting was well known. He enjoyed spending his summers with friends and family entertaining on his boat. Through his late wife, Mauro had a passion for the accordion and was an honorary member of the American Accordionists' Association. Loving husband to the late Maddalena Belfiore Greco. Cherished father of Nat and his wife JoAnn of East Hanover, and Frank of Hackensack. He also leaves his adoring grandchildren Christopher, Adrianna, and Alex and his companion Patricia "Patty" McKaig.

Donations in Mauro's memory may be made to the Lions Club International Foundation. ■



Pictured above, Myron Floren, Maddalena Belfiore Greco and Mauro Greco at an AAA event in 1989.

Below with the late Faithe Deffner also at an AAA event in Memphis 2009.



## Russkie Musikanti to perform at AAA's 80th

The Artist Reception immediately following the AAA's Gala Concert on Friday, July 13, 2018 will feature entertainment by Russkie Musikanti.

The Russkie Musikanti is an ensemble of the Washington Balalaika Society, the largest Russian folk orchestra in the United States. The ensemble wears traditional Russian costumes and performs on authentic Russian folk instruments bringing the music of Russia and Eastern Europe to the broader community.

A typical music program includes a sampling of different styles of Russian and Eastern European music, including some music that was especially composed for these folk instruments. There are happy songs and sad songs, songs to dance to and songs to listen to – music that reflects the vastness of Russia and

Eastern Europe and the diversity of their people.

The ensemble consists of balalaikas, domras, accordion, a variety of percussion instruments, and features a vocalist. The domra is a round-backed instrument similar to instruments brought to Russia by the Mongols in the 1200's. The balalaika is a triangular shaped instrument that was originally a peasant instrument derived from the domra. The quintessential Russian folk instrument, the balalaika was perfected in the 1890's and became the professional level instrument of today.

More information about the Russkie Musikanti and the Washington Balalaika Society can be found at [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org) and on our Facebook pages. To arrange a concert, contact [crstroup@gmail.com](mailto:crstroup@gmail.com). ■



Russkie Musikanti, left to right: Cindy Stroup – Prima Domra. *Cindy organizes concerts and music. She also plays mandolin in the Takoma Mandoleers, a mandolin-guitar orchestra.* Penny Weissman – Prima and Alto Domra. *Penny plays classical guitar. She is the ensemble leader and responsible for arrangements and artistic direction.* Lisa Bell – Tenor Domra. *Lisa Bell has played violin and mandolin in various groups. Living in Croatia for six years led to her interest in Slavic music.* Peter DiGiovanni – Accordion. *Peter plays piano, arranges music, is an award winning composer, and President of Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society.* Kathy Hulan – Prima Domra. *Kathy is CFO of Washington Balalaika Society. She also plays sekunda balalaika and is a member of the Beltway Balalaikas.* Dick Hulan – Kontrabass Balalaika. *Dick also plays a number of other folk instruments and is a member of the Beltway Balalaikas.* Jane Purcell – Sekunda Balalaika. *Jane also plays piano and has performed in several choral and dance groups.* Janet Bohm – Prima Balalaika. *Jan is President of the Washington Balalaika Society. She is a member of the Beltway Balalaikas and the Reston Chorale.* Jim Pope – Alto Balalaika. *Jim also plays prima balalaika, piano, and has performed in choral groups at the Kennedy Center and across Europe.* Katia Bogdanov – Vocals. *Katia has Master's in Choral Conducting and Voice. She has been singing solo with different groups her whole life.*

## Thinking Inside the Box – 2018 Master Class and Concert Series

The 2018 AAA's Master Class & Concert Series Thinking Inside the Box, will take place July 27, 28 & 29, 2018 at the Tenri Cultural Arts Center, 43 W 13th St., New York, NY with Dr. William Schimmel, Moderator/Curator. Master Classes begin a 3:00 p.m., Concerts are at 7:00 p.m. For reservations and additional information, please call Dr. Schimmel at 212-876-0827 or via email at [accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:accordionbill@gmail.com). Cost for daily Master Class is \$25/per day; Concerts are \$35/per day; Master Class & Concert - \$50 per day or \$135 for entire weekend (all 3 Master Classes and 3 Concerts).

Complete information regarding registration will be available in the March-April AAA Newsletter.

Dr. Schimmel will perform Oltramare (music by Bruno Moretti) with the New York City Ballet on February 2nd thru the 10th at Lincoln Center. In addition, Dr. Schimmel will perform in the new Broadway revival of Carousel which opens in NYC on April 9th ■



## Squeeze-Play

### *Can a woman in her 60s find happiness in an accordion band? I've been finding out ...*

I took accordion lessons through the 1960s, until I graduated from high school in 1971. I played in Connecticut's annual contests as a soloist and with Molinaro Music's orchestra, under the direction of my teacher, Linda Soley. The experience gave me a good grounding in music theory and performance, and, more importantly, a love of playing, especially in a group. But then came college, career, and ... life. Years passed, and Henry the accordion would spend months at a time in his case.

Until last fall, when Squeeze Play came into my life. The band was the opening act for Hanzhi Wang, a fabulous classical accordionist from China. During an intermission I found myself talking with Peggy Hart, the band's leader. When she learned that I played the accordion her eyes lit up, and before I knew it I was agreeing to join the band! And now, just a few months later, I'm having a blast!

Squeeze Play comprises eight accordions, plus an electric bass, and occasionally a violinist and drummer. Several of the members have played professionally, but others, like me, are less experienced. Somehow we all fit together. I find myself holding down the melody, allowing Peggy and others to improvise. The group is flexible enough that not everyone has to show up for every gig – in the time that I've played with them, we've had as many as ten and as few as four playing together.

Our wintertime audiences are largely senior citizens at nursing homes and senior centers, and the music Peggy has chosen greatly appeals to them: old standards, patriotic favorites, ethnic dances and, of course, polkas. Did you know that there is an international law stating that when two or more accordion players appear on stage together they MUST play the "Beer Barrel Polka"? (That joke



Squeeze Play Christmas Concert at Coburg Village in Rexford, NY

never gets old!) We have a "German" setlist for Oktoberfest programs, and a Christmas setlist that features Frosty, Rudolph and Christmas carols that are guaranteed to get the audience singing, and sometimes even dancing!

And, of course, we must dress appropriately! There have been dirndls and braids for Oktoberfest, Santa hats for Christmas, and I hear new band t-shirts are on the way. Summer will bring the opportunity to play at county fairs and other local events, and Henry and I are looking forward to new adventures! ■

*Article contributed by Pam Martin Dodson*

## Happy New Year from Brooklyn Accordion Club!

BAC meeting schedule for 2018 - Mark your calendar!

January - No meeting

Sunday, February 25, 2018, 2-4pm "New Year 2018 Kick Off with Kelzmer w/ Sy Kushner"

Sunday, March 4, 2018, 2-4pm "Repair Presentation/Performance" by Emilio Magnotta of Emilio Accordions

Sunday, April 8, 2018, 2-4pm

May meeting - TBA

Sunday, June 17, 2018, 2-4pm

Sunday, July 1, 2018, 2-4pm

August - No meeting

September, October, November, December meeting dates (TBA)

Please note the meeting time has changed to 2:00-4:00.

If you have ideas/suggestions for guest presenters/performers and/or want to organize a special meeting, please let us know! BAC is a volunteer run community group, and your help is appreciated!

If you are new to BAC, please read our publication, Squeezine! (Fall 2014 / Spring 2015 / Fall 2015 / Winter 2016) to learn more about BAC or check out our facebook page to see photos/videos from our past meetings.

### **NEWS! - BAC is moving!**

In 2018, BAC meeting will be hosted at ...

Great Room at the LuEsther T. Mertz South Oxford Space/A.R.T. NY  
138 South Oxford St. (Between Atlantic Ave. and Fulton St.)  
Brooklyn, NY 11217.

The Great Room is fully air-conditioned, wheelchair accessible (ADA compliant), has a grand piano, stage (!), and is conveniently located only a few blocks away from Atlantic Terminal in the heart of beautiful historic Fort Greene neighborhood accessible by all trains: B, C, D, G, N, R, Q, 2, 3, 4, 5, and the LIRR.

Hope to see you all on February 25 at the South Oxford Space!

Thank you for your continuing supports! ■



## Accordion Virtuosi of Russia to Perform at Princeton Feb. 10

What's better than one accordion? How about 32! To be more specific, 11 accordions and 10 bayons, plus percussionists, electric keyboards, guitarists, and soloists. Founded in 1943 during the Siege of Leningrad, by Professor Pavel Smirnov, the Accordion Virtuosi of Russia survived the war and has gone on to secure a place on concert stages around the world. It has always been led by a member of the Smirnov family, first by Pavel's sons and today by his grandson. As you might imagine, its repertoire ranges from folk music from many nations (not just Russia) to arrangements of rock songs, operatic arias, and even familiar classics. For example, a typical program might include excerpts from West Side Story and the overture to Bizet's Carmen to music of Prokofiev, Scott Joplin, Strauss Waltzes, Khachaturian's Sabre Dance, and of course Tchaikovsky. In the hands of these musicians, the accordion takes on an entirely new dimension.

Concert will be in Matthews Theatre Center at Princeton at 8:00 p.m. For tickets, contact [tickets.mccarther.org](http://tickets.mccarther.org). ■



## Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) - It's History - Aims - Goals

From my very early childhood I have been exposed to the accordion, accordion music and dancing to accordion music. In my Croatian and "quasi Northern Italian" culture and up bringing the accordion was "the musical instrument of choice" - "the accordion was king."

Accordion music was always part of every major social event that I ever attended. So, no surprise that at the age of ten I started taking lessons. Eventually my love for the accordion and accordion music became the catalyst that helped direct me to a musical performing career and also a lengthy career as a music educator in the Long Island public school system.

As a long time resident of Long Island and an active performing accordionist, I knew that there were many people who either played the accordion or used to play the accordion and that there was a vast group of people who just loved accordion music and it's culture. I always felt that there was a void and lack of activities and events for the accordion locally.

Being a "dreamer," I have always felt that a periodic accordion event if structured properly would succeed. I started to bring my dream to reality when in July of 2010 I began calling various accordionists that I knew. Everyone that I contacted agreed to participate and the rest is history.

On the August 3, 2010 the very first meeting of what today is known as the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) took place at

a Commack, Long Island restaurant named Campagnola. This very first meeting included Joe Campo, John Custie, Charlie Fontana, Phil Franzese, Dominic Karcic, Emilio Magnotta, Ray Oreggia, Phil Prete, Franco Ruggiero and Mike Zeppetella. In January of 2011 we moved to our current home at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, Long Island.

The Alliance, made up of both professional and amateur accordionists, meets once a month on the first Wednesday of the month with Alliance members performing solo, in small ensembles and as an orchestra. Every month we usually have a featured guest artist(s).

We are so proud that periodically some of the finest accordionists perform at our monthly event. Some of these artists have been USA and even world competition champions. These include Beverly Roberts Curnow, Mario Tacca and Mary Tokarski. Some other artists that have performed for us include Manny Corallo, Angelo DiPippo, Don Gerundo, Emilio Magnotta, Paddy Noonan, Frank Toscano, the Scandinavian group Smorgas Bandet and internationally acclaimed vocalist Mary Mancini.

Patrons come in to have dinner and listen. Some patrons who play the accordion are invited and encouraged to participate in the "open mic" portion of the evening.

Our whole aim is to promote a love for the accordion and accordion music, bring former accordionists back to the instrument, create an environment where aficionados can attend and "celebrate the accordion and its culture."

We (LIAA) strive to create a vehicle where accordionists can perform, grow musically, meet regularly, network and in our own way further the aims and goals of the American Accordionists' Association (AAA).

In the fall of 2015 Newsday paid a visit to our event and gave us a tremendous two and one-half page write up. That article really gave our event a new impetus and helped us reach a far greater and wider audience of accordion fans.

Just this past week, January 3, 2018, we were honored by a visit by Dave Anthony Setteducati. Mr. Setteducati is the host of the "Italian America Long Island" Cablevision program which airs every Wednesday on channel 115.

He videoed our event and created a very interesting and informative program that contains personal interviews with the Alliance members and guests, many segments of member accordionists performing individually and also segments of ensemble playing. This



(left to right) John Custie, Joe Campo, Phil Prete, Phil Franzese, Ray Oreggia, Franco Ruggiero, Dominic Karcic, Mike Zeppetella.  
(Campagnola Restaurant, Commack, NY August 2010)

*cont'd. on next page*

Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA), cont'd. from p. 12 program, featuring the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA), is scheduled to be featured on his Cablevision program on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

Our members hope that this program and the positive publicity it will create will bring knowledge of Long Island Accordion Alliance activities to even a much wider audience on Long Island and also reach out to the whole Cablevision viewing area. The publicity potential is enormous.

The current Alliance nucleus consists of nine accordionists. These include Joe Campo, Joe DeClemente, Santo Endrizzi, Dominic Karcic, Bob LaBua, Ray Oreggia, Phil Prete, Frank Scardino and Greg Zukoff.

In August of 2018 we will be celebrating our eighth anniversary. We feel so proud that the formula we created works. We hope our success is an incentive to "other dreamers" out there to take the plunge and create their own local "accordion club." ■

### A World of Accordions Museum

*The magnificent 1300 Accordions and their predecessors*



A new addition to A World of Accordions Museum is their monthly newsletter entitled "Accordion Notes." Members will receive an on-line Newsletter indicating upcoming events including concerts, any renovations or reorganization of exhibits and much more.

The recent issue highlights some of the renovations including additional lighting. Costs were kept at a minimum thanks to the professional work done by band conductor Tracey Gibbons.

With the recent purchase of an additional large display cabinet, the reorganization of the Flutina is underway.

Upcoming events at the Museum include the Willard Palmer Festival and World Accordion Day on May 5-6.

For information on how you can become a member and support the Museum, please visit their website at [worldofaccordions.org](http://worldofaccordions.org)

Additionally you can support the Museum with Special Donations which provide new acquisitions, support publications and enhance effectiveness.

A World of Accordions Museum has resources collected over 25 years. Hundreds of people nationwide and worldwide have contributed to the assets of this unique institution through instrument donations, music anthologies, documents, artifacts, decorative items, recordings, and much more.

Donations should be made payable to A World of Accordions Museum and sent to: Harrington ARTS Center, 1401 Belknap St., Superior, WI 54880 ■



(left to right) Ray Oreggia, Phil Prete, Joe Campo, Charlie Fontana, Dominic Karcic, Bob LaBua, Greg Zukoff, Joe DeClemente, Frank Scardino at La Villini Restaurant, East Northport, NY August 2017 - seventh anniversary celebration



*Celebrate Good Times....*  
at the AAA's  
**80th Anniversary Festival**  
**July 11-15, 2018**

Meet and Greet • Workshops  
Concerts  
After Hours Club  
Exhibits of Instruments, Music,  
Accessories, Unique Gifts and more.  
80th Anniversary AAA Archive Exhibit

### WANTED

**12 Bass Accordions – New or "Gently" Used**  
**12-bass accordions to be used for**  
**Youth Programs.**

**For information regarding the project**  
**and the availability of**  
**12-Bass Accordions,**  
**please contact:**

**Marilyn O'Neil**  
**203-272-1202**  
**or**  
**[marilyn@ctaccordion.com](mailto:marilyn@ctaccordion.com)**

# Kidz Korner

For, by and about our student participants

From Gia Ciccone

Gia Ciccone performed at the Candlelight Christmas Concert which took place on Friday, December 15, 2017, presented by Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini at the Church of the Assumption in Peekskill, NY. Gia captured the audience with her outstanding performance of Tschaikovski's "Serenade for Strings" and Tommie Connor's, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." Gia has been a guest performer at the Candlelight Christmas Concert for the past four years and always loves appearing with her teacher, Mario Tacca. ■



From Emmanuel Gasser



Emmanuel has already planned his contribution for the next issue of the AAA Newsletter! He has written a short composition for "Kidz" of all ages entitled Kidz Korner Rag. I'm sure it is something "fun" and all will enjoy - Kidz, Performers and Listeners!

For this issue, Emmanuel has prepared something that is fun for all ages! A brain teaser entitled Accordion Brand Word Search puzzle! See if you can find all of the accordion brand names that he has listed. ■

## Accordion Brand Names



Find the following words in the puzzle.  
 Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

- |                 |             |           |             |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| AKKO            | CRUCIANELLI | JUPITER   | TITANO      |
| BALLONE BURRINI | DALLAPE     | PETOSA    | VERDE       |
| BELL            | DELICIA     | PIGINI    | VICTORIA    |
| BELTRAMI        | DIAMOND     | POLVERINI | WELTMEISTER |
| BELTUNA         | EXCELSIOR   | RECORD    | ZONTA       |
| BORSINI         | GIULIETTI   | SCANDALLI | ZUPAN       |
| BRANDONI        | GUERRINI    | SOPRANI   |             |
| BUGARI          | HOHNER      | STRASSER  |             |

### Did you know that your monetary donations to AAA are tax deductible?

As a 501 (c) (3) Corporation, the American Accordionists' Association, donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

We need your support to continue programs such as Youth Programs, Composers' Commissioning, Festival Events (Artist Sponsor, Workshop Sponsor, Meet & Greet OR Artist) Receptions). Those submitting donations will be prominently listed in the AAA Newsletter as well as in the 2018 AAA's 80th Anniversary Journal.

If you wish to make a donation to a specific area of AAA activities, following is a list of suggestions:

- AAA Youth Program Development
- AAA Composers' Commissioning

Festival

- Meet & Greet Reception
- Artist Reception
- Artist Sponsor
- Workshop Sponsor

Already a member? Then pass this along to a colleague!  
Our goal is 80 new members for the 80th Anniversary!



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION  
Mary J. Tokarski, President

Email: ameraccord1938@gmail.com

Website: www.ameraccord.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP TYPE \*  FULL - \$65  CERTIFIED TEACHER - \$65 (exam required)  ASSOCIATE - \$35

Items designated with \* are required

FIRST NAME \*  MI

LAST NAME \*

ADDRESS \*

CITY \*

STATE / PROVINCE \*  POSTAL CODE \*

COUNTRY \*

TELEPHONE NUMBER \*

EMAIL

If paying by credit card, please complete the information below

VISA  MASTERCARD  DISCOVER Expires (MM/YY) \* 3 digit code \*

AMEX Expires (MM/YY) \* 4 digit code \*

If paying by check (US currency only), please make it payable to **American Accordionists' Association**

Please mail to

Mary Tokarski  
15 Maplewood Lane  
Northford, CT 06472 USA

Phone / FAX: 1-203-484-5095

The American Accordionists' Association is a 501(c)(3) corporation. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law

Revised Jan 2018

### Did you know....?

Fun quips and stories about accordion and music greats! Contributed by Ray Oreggia, Master of Trivia!

One of Charles Magnante's best known compositions is 'Accordiana'. According to Magnante it was composed in 1927 during a break while playing in the lobby of the Hotel Barclay in New York City. It took 20 minutes to compose and was inspired by one of the technical studies by Czerny.

**Any of our readers know which of Czerny's exercises was the inspiration for Accordiana?**

**Coast to Coast**

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



**LAS VEGAS**

The 19th Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention will take place from October 15-October 18, 2018. The event features International guest artists, seminars, exhibits and the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra under the direction of Joan Cochran Sommers. Details will be announced at [www.accordionstars.com](http://www.accordionstars.com).

**RICHARDSON (DALLAS), TX**

The Texas-based 2018 National Accordion Convention is announcing the official list of presenters that have been assembled from an international pool of experts. The NAA 2018 National Convention takes place in Richardson, Texas from March 7-10, 2018.

2018 Convention Workshop Presenters in alphabetical order are:

- Dick Albreski (OK)
- Marcus Baggio (TX)
- Paul Betken (AZ)
- Gary Blair (Scotland)
- Ed Casper (AR)
- Dan/Kim Christian (CO)
- Elena Fainshtein (TX)
- Jessica Faltot (TX)
- Ian Fries (FL)
- Marcia Godwin (TX)
- Chuck Henry (FL)
- Gordon Kohl (CA)
- Shelia Lee (TX)
- Jamie Maschler (WA)
- Grayson Masefield (New Zealand)
- Randy McPeck (MN)
- Michael Middleton (TX)
- Joe Natoli (OH)
- Richard Noel (CA)
- Lori Najvar (TX)
- Bill Palmer (TX)
- Cory Pesaturo (NJ)
- Debra Peters (TX)
- Joey Petosa (WA)
- Gabe Rodriguez (WA)
- Jim Rommel (TX)
- Sharon Seaton (TX)
- George Secor (IL)
- Matt Tolentino (TX)
- Dale Wise (VA)
- Michael Zampiceni (CA)

**MONTMAGNY, QUEBEC**

The Carrefour mondial de l'accordéon festival takes place from August 30 to September 3, 2018 in Montmagny, Quebec. Since 1989, renowned accordionists from the world over have graced the Carrefour's stages with their presence. In doing so, they have helped create an international and multicultural event. In addition to the accordion's reputation for bringing people together, this event also highlights an important part of our cultural heritage, while at the same time opening the door to the discovery of world music! The program features concerts, dance evenings and outdoor entertainment. A celebration for the whole family! For further information: [accordeon@montmagny.com](mailto:accordeon@montmagny.com)

**NEW YORK, NY**

The 24th Annual Accordion Seminar directed by Dr. William Schimmel (moderator/curator) will be held during July 27-29, 2018 each day from 3.00 PM to 9.00 PM in New York City. The theme for 2018 is "Thinking Inside the Box." The seminar will be conducted at the Tenri Cultural Institute, 43A W 13th St., New York, NY. The afternoon master class sessions at 3.00 PM are open to anyone to attend the talks on various accordion related subjects. The 7.00 PM evening concerts cover a wide range of musical styles presented by invited performers. For more information, please contact Dr. Schimmel at e-mail: [accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:accordionbill@gmail.com)

**CHESHIRE, CT**

CAA Gathering on Sunday, March 25 at 1:00 at the Waverly Tavern in Cheshire. We're having a VERY SPECIAL guest artist, Michael Clarke, who will be joined by vocalist Kathy Mrazik. It's to be a typical Irish "seisiun," a shared celebration of Irish music, a collaborative, collective sharing of talent and song.



Michael is encouraging everyone to participate on accordion, so bone up on your Irish songs and come join us for a fun time.

**SAN JOSE, CA**

The Silicon Valley Accordion Club featured The Great Morgani and Adam and Emma Dohner on January 7, 2018. The Silicon Valley Accordion Society meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129 at the corner of Kiely Blvd. Doors open at 1:00 PM. The program begins with members playing their accordions. The door fee for members is \$5, \$10 for non-members, under 16 - no charge. Jim and Ron begin playing at 3:00. You are invited to visit one of their meetings and listen to wonderful performances by guests. The members are more than happy to answer any questions you may have about SVAS and how you can join.

Future 2018 performances include: February 4: Ernie Beran, Jana Maas and March 4: Reno Di Bono Trio. For further information, please e-mail: [pamk@svasociety.org](mailto:pamk@svasociety.org)

**WESTMONT, NJ**

On Monday, March 19th, Acme Accordion School in Westmont, NJ will host a student recital and invites all students to register to perform either a solo or duet selection. Time permitting, each performer can register to play but must do so, on or before February 28. Please call Acme Accordion School for more information at 856-854-6628.

**OSLO, NORWAY**

The AAA Office received an email last year from Tore and Tone Odegard of Norway that they had heard that Linda Reed moved to Florida and were trying to get in touch. Since I was the one that happened to read the AAA emails that day, I simply wrote saying, "hear I am" and yes I was

now living in Port Charlotte. I had met the Norwegian group at the Florida Accordion Association annual "Smash" organized by Karen Adam, and knew they vacationed in SW Florida regularly. So we connected and they stopped in for a visit before they returned to Norway.

The Norwegian group attended the AAA 75th Anniversary in New York City and had several performance engagements throughout the area. When we visited Norway for the Coupe Mondiale, Tore insisted that he pick us up in Oslo and brought us to their home for an evening of fun and fabulous eating! Pictured below are Tore, Linda Reed and Tone Odegard in front of our home. Looking forward to their return in 2018.



**LISLE (CHICAGO), IL**

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) will hold their annual festival from July 25 -28, 2018 at the Hyatt Hotel in Lisle, IL (near Chicago). Featured artists will include World Champions Matthias Matzke from Germany and Cory Pesaturo (USA) as well as Chicago Jazz Artist Mike Alongi. The event will also feature many other fine soloists, the ATG Festival Orchestra, President's Quartette and other talented groups. In addition, the festival will feature an original music for Accordion Concert, Vendors and a lot of FUN. For more information, please visit [www.accordions.com/atg](http://www.accordions.com/atg).

