




AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association page 1

September-October 2019



American Accordionists' Association

www.ameraccord.com

Save the Dates!

AAA Festival
July 8-12, 2020
 Featuring
Cory Pesaturo
Joey Miskulin
Sam Reider
 and **The Divas!**

Carrozza Scholarship Dinner
September 13, 2020
12:00 to 5:00 pm
Famee Furlane of NA
College Point Queens (NY)

Visit us online at
ameraccord.com

AAA Festival 2019

The 81st AAA Festival and Competition was held July 17-21, 2019 in King of Prussia, PA. It was very well attended, an event filled with excitement, camaraderie, great talent, collegial competition plus more!

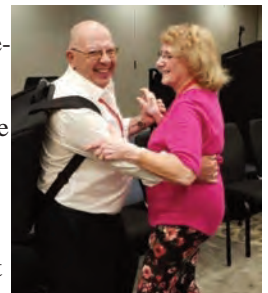
Attendees were enthused to meet old friends, make new friends, play together, hear young and upcoming accordionists and learn about both the acoustic and digital accordions.



Papa Joe, Frank Busso, Sr., John Pemo and Joe Campo delighted all at Meet and Greet

The first day, Wednesday, began with workshops by Joe Natoli and Dr. Robert Young McMahan, opening of Exhibits, and the AAA's Meet and Greet reception for all. The amazing "After Hours Club" hosted by Michael Bridge featured impromptu performances by Michael Bridge, Mario Tacca, Cody

McSherry, Nathan Chapeton, "Papa Joe" DeClemente and more. Each night featured an After Hours Club filled with surprises and spontaneous performances!



It's polka time as Papa Joe DeClemente and Mary Tokarski take the dance floor.



Mary Mancini, Beverly Roberts Cumow, Rita Bamea, Magumi Hada, Rosemarie Cavanaugh, Joan Grauman, Jeanne Velonis & Beverly Fess surround AAA Treasurer, Ray Oreggia.

Carrozza Scholarship Dinner and Lifetime Achievement Award - Joey Miskulin

By *Domenic Karcic, Chairman*

The 2019 edition of the Carrozza Scholarship Fund Raiser took place on Sunday, September 8th at the Famee Furlane of N.A. in College Point, NY.



AAA President, Dr. Joseph A. Ciccone and Joey Miskulin

This event also served as the venue for the American Accordionists' Association to present grammy winner and country music hall of fame member Joey Miskulin with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

The event was a total success on many levels featuring great food, good wine, plenty of dancing, great camaraderie and most of all, plenty of talented accordionists creating great music.

The twelve noon arriving patrons were met with music supplied by the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) featuring their talented members (see photo far right). They offered a diverse mix of toe tapping continental style music (waltz, polka, tango, rumba and merengue).

They were followed by lilting dance music supplied by Mario Tacca, Mary Mancini and Phil Battiston (pictured bottom right) who were followed by Frank Toscano and later Domenic Karcic (pictured above far right). *cont'd. on page 3*



Pictured above, LIAA members Joe Campo, Frank Scardino, John Pemo, Greg Zukoff, Joey Miskulin, Phil Prete, Bob LaBua, and Domenic Karcic



From the Editor

Welcome to the September - October 2019 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

We hope many of you had the chance to enjoy the 81st AAA Festival from July 17-21, 2019 at the Valley Forge Casino Resort (Radisson Hotel) in King of Prussia, PA.

Many of our members will be actively involved in a variety of events showcasing the accordion over the Holiday Season so we hope you share these diverse array of events with our readers by submitting your news to us as soon as possible!

My sincere thanks to Past AAA President, Linda Reed for her ongoing work in making the final Newsletter Publication and in particular our Board of Director Rita Barnea for her work in helping source accordion events across the USA that we often include in our Newsletter publications.



Items for the final 2019 edition, the November-December Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the official AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. As always, text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word attachment if possible. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file, and the larger the file size the better. We can always reduce/crop the picture if necessary, however we are unable to increase the quality from smaller pictures. The deadline for the November-December Newsletter will be the 15th of October 2019.

Thank you in advance for your continued support with the Newsletter and we look forward to hearing about your many diverse activities.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor

From the President

Welcome to all of our new AAA Members and especially to all of our current members who attended the 2019 AAA Festival in Valley Forge as well as the wonderful audience we had for the 2019 Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund Raising event and Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to accordion legend, Joey Miskulin.



It was the 25th anniversary of the AAA's Master Class and Concert Series held in July at the Tenri Cultural Institute in NYC under the guidance of creator and event organizer, Dr. William Schimmel. Plan ahead to see what is in store for you at the 2020 Master Class, entitled Time Travels which will be held July 31, August 1 and 2 at the Tenri Center on 13th Street in NYC. Save the dates!

Thanks to all who attended Festival 2019 in Valley Forge, especially to all of our dedicated workshop presenters as well as concert performers, we thank you for your time and amazing talent which made this event unique.

From the first day of the Festival, our members were ready and willing to help and perform at the Meet and Greet and After Hours Club. What a great way to start the 2019 Festival! Thanks to all the performers who made this an event to remember and especially our dedicated board members: Mary Tokarski, Contest Coordinator, Linda Soley Reed, Artist Liaison and Coordinator, Frank Busso, Jr., Exhibitor Liaison, Marilyn O'Neil, Youth Involvement Program Coordinator, Joan Grauman, Workshop Coordinator, Frank Busso, Sr., Public Relations Coordinator, Treasurer Ray Oreggia, MC and workshop presenter together with AAA Comptroller, Don Gerundo, Mario Tacca: workshop presenter, Performer and Adjudicator, Manny Bobenrieth: MC and Adjudicator, Eddie Montero, Al Terzo, Joanna Darrow, Alex Chudolij, Beverly Roberts Curnow: Adjudicators; Marilyn O'Neil: Bob Vitale Youth Involvement Jazz Band Coordinator, as well as Mitch Guido, conductor; Rita Dvidson Barnea: for taking such wonderful Photos and her outstanding articles on accordion-susa.com, Sam Falcetti Workshop presenter and Adjudicator and last but certainly not least, our own Jeanne Velonis, sound engineer par excellence who together with Don Gerundo, coordinated the sound and microphones needed to put on the fabulous concerts and workshops we all enjoyed.

To our guest artists, thank you for sharing your amazing talent - Luncheon Concert performers, Nathan Chapeton & Mitch Guido, Stanislav Culcicovschi who performed "last minute" because our guest artist, Sam Reider had a family event that could not be missed and especially to our Philadelphia native son and lifelong AAA member, Joe Soprani who performed and shared stories of his amazing career with the accordion. Pasta Night Guest Artists, Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini as well as performers Chris Brettschneider, Cody McSherry and Ray Oreggia; thanks also to the Club Pub, Ray Oreg-



The Ciccone Family Welcomes All to the 2019 AAA Festival
Mom and Dad Ciccone (Tony and Jean),
Dr. Joe, Regan, Gia, Ethel and Sifon

gia, coordinator – Long Island Accordion Alliance and the Westmont Accordion Club, Thank you for sharing your talents and beautiful music.

So many workshops! And the audience attended and participated and asked for more!!! They learned the different types of bellows shakes, various types of accordions, Music Writing Programs from beginner to superstar, a bit of history of the great Charles Magnante, how to employ creative bass lines all to enhance your performance and make your experience unique.

The orchestras were outstanding. Mary Tokarski conducted the Junior Orchestra, Mitch Guido took charge with the Bob Vitale Youth Involvement Jazz Band, and the lovely Vesna Mehinovic conducted the AAA 2019 Festival Orchestra.

The audience was dazzled by the unique electronics employed by the Concert artists. Petar Maric with his brilliant technique and knowledge of electronics presented a unique program of challenging and creative selections while the finesse of Michael Bridge with his flawless technique and brilliant electronic expertise on the 1812 Overture enchanted the audience. Lest we forget the wonderful premier of "Child's Play," for two accordions, cello and unusual percussion instruments written by our own Joseph A. Natoli and performed with Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Accordion, Cecylia Barczyk, Cello, and Bill Trigg, Percussion conducted by Vesna Mehinovic. Bravo to all for a unique and exciting performance.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 Carmen Carrozza Scholarship competition

Nathan Chapeton – Senior division and Gia Ciccone - Junior division Bravo!

A Special Thank You to Lind Soley Reed and Kevin Friedrich for their dedication to AAA and making it possible in having such a spectacular Newsletter! ■

AAA Festival 2019, cont'd from p. 1

The Thursday Luncheon Concert MC'd by Manny Bobenrieth included Nathan Chapeton (AAA USA Representative to the 2019 Coupe Mondiale), Saxophonist Mitch Guido, Stanislav Culcicovschi, 2nd place winner of the previous AAA Carrozza scholarship competition, and an outstanding performance by Philadelphia's native son, Joe Soprani.

The Pub Club (coordinated by Ray Oreggia) – new at AAA this year – featured outstanding performances by the Westmont Accordion Club which included Gretchen Betz, Carol Comegno, Janet Fisher-Hughes, Janet King, Carol Lingo and Glen Zuroski as well as the Long Island Accordion Alliance which in-



Stan Culcicovschi



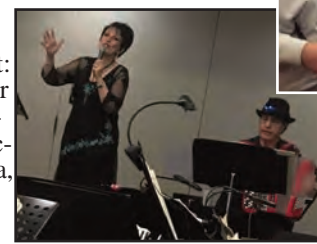
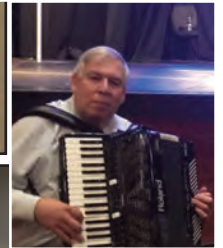
Joe Soprani



cluded, Papa Joe DeClemente, Joe Campo, Frank Fontana and Frank Scardino.

Pasta Night featured more wonderful performances including Ray Oreggia, Chris Brettschneider, Cody McSherry, Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, followed by the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra conducted by Joanna Arnold Darrow.

Pictured here, far left Joanna Darrow conducts the Westmont Philharmonia Orchestra, Top right: Chris Brettschneider complete with Gondolier hat, Cody McSherry, Ray Oreggia, Mary Mancini and Mario Tacca.



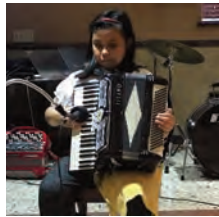
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Carrozza Scholarship Dinner and Lifetime Achievement Award - Joey Miskulin, cont'd from p. 1

Midway through the afternoon, Carrozza 2019 Junior Division Scholarship winner Gia Ciccone played a great rendition of her teacher's (Mario Tacca) arrangement of Carnival of Venice and Carrozza 2019 Senior Division Scholarship winner Nathan Chapeton played Unforgettable.

AAA president Dr. Joseph Ciccone followed presenting Joey Miskulin with the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award. All of the AAA members present that included Rita Barnea, Frank Busso, Jr., Frank Busso, Sr., Don Gerundo, Domenic Karcic, Linda Soley Reed, Mario Tacca and Mary Tokarski joined President Ciccone in congratulating Joey. After acknowledging the award, Joey treated the audience to several entertaining selections. More great dance music followed.

Special thanks to Frank Busso, Jr. together with Frank Busso, Sr. and Carmela Busso who traveled from Virginia to bring Joey an instrument for his performance at the Carrozza event. Joey who is suffering from a torn rotator cuff which is



Pictured above: Gia Ciccone, Nathan Chappeton, winners of the 2019 Camen Carrozza competition in Junior and Senior divisions. Frank Busso, Jr. and Joey Miskulin, long-time friends..

Pictured above: Frank Busso, Sr. & Joe Ciccone, Linda Soley Reed & Joe Ciccone, Rita Barnea with Joey Miskulin, The Miskulin family, daughter Katie & husband Brian O'Boyle, Joe & Pat Miskulin, Dr. Leslie Strong & Rita Barnea, Mario & Mary Tacca, Lillianna & Alex Chudolij and Guy Lombardi & Neve.

AAA Festival 2019, cont'd from p. 3

On Friday, there were performances at the King of Prussia Mall with Major Sargent Frank Busso, Jr. coordinating the events. The Busso Orchestra performed as did Papa Joe DeClemente and many others.

The Friday Night Gala Concert with the Joseph Natoli Chamber Ensemble (with Dr. Robert Young McMahon, William Trigg and Cecylia Barczyk), presented Joe Natoli's new composition, *Child's Play* for Chamber Ensemble and a solo piece written by and performed by Joe Natoli dedicated to Guy Klucevsek entitled Friendship. Michael Soloway and Joe, Peter Maric and Featured Guest Artist, Michael Bridge showcased their talents.

During the festival, there were competition and evaluation categories for all ages, AAA Junior Festival Orchestra rehearsals, AAA Festival Orchestra rehearsals, as well as the Bob Vitale Youth Jazz Ensemble featuring our accordion students paired with brass and percussion students from local elementary/middle schools (thanks to Doug Raines, their middle school music instructor, and Mitch Guido who adapted the arrangements to accommodate the younger musicians); Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble which combines accordions and other jazz instruments performed on the Saturday Afternoon Concert program. Master classes/workshops were presented by Michael Bridge, Sam Falcetti, Mario Tacca, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Joe Natoli, Cody McSherry, Ray Oreggia and Don Gerundo.



Performers at King of Prussia Mall included the Busso Orchestra, Gia Ciccone and Cody McSherry and Nathan Chapeton with Cody McSherry and Mitch Guido on Sax.



Andrew Wu (w/bow tie) is pictured with his grandfather, Dr. Ciccone and his dad. Grandfather is a well-respected accordion teacher in China with numerous award-winning students. Our Chinese friend known to all of us as Panda, studied with grandpa Wu. Andrew competed in the AAA competition this year.



Pictured above Mario Tacca presenting a workshop on "His Musical Life" and Sam Falcetti's workshop dealt with creative bass lines. He is pictured above with Peggy Falcetti.

Above are Petar Maric, Nathan Chapeton and Michael Bridge; far right Joe Natoli is pictured with Eddie Monteiro. Below, the Chamber ensemble performed AAA commissioned work "Child's Play" with Dr. Robert Young McMahan, accordion, Cecylia Barczak, cello, Bill Trigg percussion, Joseph A. Natoli, accordion - composer, and Vesna Mehinovic, conductor.



Time to Party! The Reception following the Gala Concert was fantastic...great food and beverage and non-stop entertainment. Above, Lou Coppola escorts two beauties, Joan Grauman and Beverly Roberts Curnow; Floridians Chris Bretschneider and Linda Soley Reed; dueling accordions: Papa JoeDeClemente and Frank Busso, Sr.; it sure was great to see Dan Desiderio with Rosemarie Cavanaugh for another evening of wonderful music, meeting new friends and visiting life long pals. In the words of George and Ira, "

Who Could Ask for Anything More!"

AAA Festival 2019, cont'd from p. 4

The Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble which combines accordions and other jazz instruments performed On the Sunny Side of the Street and Cold Duck Time performed at the Awards Concert.

The Gala Banquet which was featured the 2019 AAA Festival Orchestra conducted by Vesna Mehinovic, performed Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 12, 3rd Movement (Handel), Fugue on a Macedonian Theme (Mehinovic), Humoresque #7 (Dvorak) and Valse from "Serenade for Strings" (Tchaikovsky).

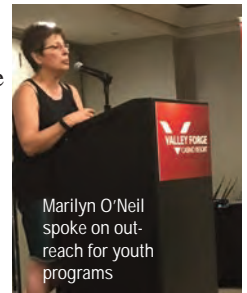
Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Winner Gia Ciccone performed "Waltz Allegro" by Magnante. Will Comer performed his composition as an Elsie Bennett Competition 2nd place winner (1st place winner *Awkward Moment* by Dan Mastroianni who was unable to attend, AAA Coupe Mondiale Representative, Nathan Chapeton performed. It was inspiring to hear them perform. Special thanks to Don Gerundo for providing the dinner music entertainment.

TV News Coverage and newspaper articles let everyone know about the AAA Festival. A detailed report of the 2019 AAA Festival was included with photos and videos in the August USA news.

Farewell Breakfast on Sunday morning, brought many members and guests to our discussions on youth programs and how we can make our events better.

Special thanks for their great efforts, hard work and commitment go to Dr. Joseph Ciccone, AAA President; Mary Tokarski, AAA Contest Chairman and Festival Coordinator, Linda Soley Reed, Festival Coordinator; Ray Oreggia, Treasurer, Don Gerundo, Comptroller, Jeanne Velonis, Sound Engineer (together with Don Gerundo), Rachel Quirbach, Secretary; Frank Busso, Public Relations, Hotel Liaison; Frank Busso, Jr. Festival Coordinator, Exhibits; Joan Grauman AAA Archivist, Media and Workshop Chair; Marilyn O'Neil, Youth Involvement Program Coordinator; Mitchell Guido, Youth Program Jazz Ensemble Conductor.

Be sure to make plans for next years' AAA Festival in Alexandria, Virginia from July 8-12, 2020. Details in future publications. ■



Marilyn O'Neil spoke on outreach for youth programs



AAA Bob Vitale Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble
Mitch Guido, Conductor



AAA 2019 Junior Festival Orchestra
Mary Tokarski, Conductor

AAA Festival 2019, cont'd from p. 5



AAA 2019 Festival Orchestra
Vesna Mehinovic, Conductor



Max Hoffman, Nicholas Busso, Caroline & Alexander Lammers are holding band trophy!



Congratulations, Caroline! Looks like you won a few trophies!



Above: Ray Oreggia & Don Gerundo entertained at Saturday's Gala Banquet; Right: Don Gerundo solos.



Entertainment AAA



Michael Bridge and Frank Busso, Jr. at the exhibits



Cousins!

Juliana & Nicholas Busso, Alexander & Caroline Lammers & Francesca Busso

The Busso Orchestra's "Let's Dance" medley, featured Max Hoffman and Alexander Lammers, lead accordions, as Nicholas Busso and Caroline Lammers danced to Let's Twist Again



Above, Nicholas Busso and Caroline Lammers



Rita Barnea receives signed copy of "Child's Play" from composer, Joseph A. Natoli



Child's Play: Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Cecylia Barczyk, Bill Trigg and composer Joseph A. Natoli, Vesna Mehinovic, conductor.



Joanna Darrow conducts the Westmont Philharmonia Orchestra



Banquet guests Bob and Betty Fischer, Ken Reed (former CT orchestra member now living in PA), and Ann and Fred Schwinger

Papa Joe's Mission

When Dr. Joe Ciccone read your email, he immediately forwarded it to me to include in the AAA Newsletter. *"Ethel and I read your Email, It brought tears of Joy to us. Thank You so very much for sharing with us. This is what life is all about serving others through our Faith and bringing joy to others.."*

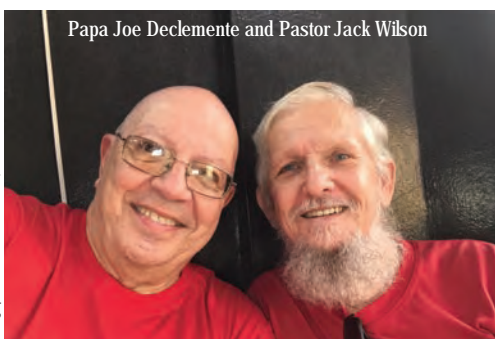
God has Truly Blessed you with the gift of bringing Joy to people through your musical talents (Accordion/Singing/Teaching and your genuine personality) I'm sure all the kids and church people fell in Love with you just as we have.

Our Prayers are with you and all your new and old friends there in the Philip-pines."



Papa Joe Declemente packed and ready to go!

During the latter part of 2018, my granddaughter Emily expressed her desire to go to Ireland for her upcoming 16th birthday in 2019. She wanted to include my daughter Susan and my wife Janet, leaving me alone at home



Papa Joe Declemente and Pastor Jack Wilson

for about a week. That situation stirred up the idea of visiting my old buddy Jack in the Philippines who was the pastor of the Payatas Baptist Church which is located northeast of Manila. So I purchased airfare tickets to the Philippines.

Pastor Jack Wilson has a fantastic music ministry to the children in the Philippines, which includes; violins, piano, guitars and flutes, however no one there plays the accordion. So my original thought was to bring my accordion on the trip so I could use it to minister to the kids. After further consideration I thought it might be better to see if I could get a couple of accordions and some music books to donate to their church.

During the next few months I was able to acquire a few accordions but none suitable for the kids. Then I got a call from another buddy who worked for the Salvation Army who told me he had a broken medium size Casino accordion. I got hold of that box and had to do major surgery on the bass machine to fix it. After further discussion, the Salvation Army agreed to donate that box for my trip which was perfect for the older kids.

During January 2019, I reworked several other accordions, sold them and bought a beautiful small red Weltmeister Stella accordion which was perfect for the smaller kids.

On April 23rd, I got a call that one of my former students wanted



to donate his old accordion to someone, so I told him about my planned trip. It now looks like I will be taking 3 accordions to the Philippines.

It's now July 22nd with only a few days to go. About a week or so ago, Pastor Jack informed me that it was going to be his 20th Anniversary on July 29th and he wanted me to play for him.

Well, it's July 24th and the taxi is due to pick me up at 11pm tonight. I'm all packed up & ready to go. On July 25th, at 1:45 am, I took the 16 hour flight to Manila to see Pastor Jack.

I arrived in the Philippines at 6:30am and met Pastor Jack Wilson and his family. On Saturday, I had the opportunity to meet the adults and kids from his church. I fell in love with them immediately.

All three accordions that I brought with me made it in perfect condition. I also met Assistant Pastor Ben Quezada who instantly wanted to learn how to play. So we gave him the challenge that if he learned a song in 1 week we would give him 40 Pesos (about \$.80). He has been practicing "Amazing Grace" ever since.

On Sunday morning before Pastor Jack preached he asked me to play a song so I played and sang "Why Me Lord". I believe that the words to that song say it all. After several days I found that 2 other people



Pastor Jack and wife, Malou celebrating their 20th anniversary with daughters Linda and Laura.



from the



church wanted to learn to play the accordion too. These people are incredible. I just fell in love with them.

My trip home was scheduled for Monday, August 5th and I know that I will be shedding some tears when I have to say my goodbyes.

What a blessing it has been to meet these people and share my Faith & Music with them. ■



The church is located in Payatas Philippines which is 25 miles northeast of Manila. All photos are from Payatas.

Henry Doktorski to Perform for Atlanta Opera's Production of "Frida" in October

Henry Doktorski (pictured far right) has been selected to play accordion for the Atlanta Opera's production of "Frida" by Robert Xavier Rodríguez on October 5, 9, 11 and 13, 2019.

"Frida" is a fantastical theater piece combining pantomime, puppetry, movement and vocal performers. Frida enlists mariachi instruments to heat up this blend of tango, zarzuela, ragtime, 1930s jazz and vaudeville. The story conjures a vivid portrait of the courageous revolutionary and magical realist Frida Kahlo as she struggles with her torrid marriage to Mexican muralist Diego Rivera.

Accordionist Henry Doktorski grew up in East Brunswick, New Jersey, and attended twelve years of Catholic Schools. He received a Bachelor of Music degree with a double major in Piano Performance and Music Education at Park College (today Park University) in Parkville, Missouri. He received a Master Degree in Music Composition at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2016 he moved to Southern California.

Henry began accordion lessons at the age of seven and studied with Anthony Maiorana at Hi-Way Music in East Brunswick. In high school he abandoned the accordion and began playing a Farfisa organ with a rock band. Around the same time he joined the Saint Peters High School (New Brunswick, New Jersey) choir and

discovered classical music and his lifelong career. In college he studied Piano Performance and Music Education.

Later he discovered the classical accordion subculture and became hooked on classical music for the accordion. Since then he has performed with dozens of symphony orchestras, including the Pittsburgh Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Tanglewood Festival Orchestra, Fairbanks Alaska Summer Arts Festival Orchestra, and others.

The performance takes place at the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center, 1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. For information, please call 770-730-5600 and tickets are \$25.00 or e-mail: henrydoktorski@gmail.com. ■



Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini in Fall Concerts

AAA Board of Director, accordionist Mario Tacca and International vocalist Mary Mancini are pleased to announce their Fall 2019 performance schedule.

- Thursday, September 19 and Friday, September 20 - at the San Gennaro Italian Festival luncheon show at The Brownstone in Paterson, NJ. Show starts at 11:30 AM both days. For info and reservations, call Ace in the Hole Productions at 1-800-831-9801.

- Saturday, September 21, 8:00 PM - Cabaret Show at The Bean Runner Cafe in Peekskill, NY. For reservations, call 914-737-1701.

- Tuesday, October 8 at 11:30 AM - Mario will be one of the featured performers in the Duelling Accordionists luncheon show at The Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ. For info and reservations, call Ace in the Hole Productions at 1-800-831-9801

- Thursday October 3, November 7 and December 5 at 6:30 PM, Mario will present the Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble at the Taormina Restaurant, Peekskill, NY. For reservations, call 914-739-4007.

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

While in France, he was the winner of many regional and national accordion competitions. He went on to become a World Champion, winning the World Cup of Italy, the Grand Prix of Paris, the US National Competition and the International Accordion competition held at Carnegie Hall in New York City.


Internationally acclaimed vocal artist Mary Mancini has been featured in the New York Times, the Forth Worth Star-Telegram, and the Journal News and has performed in a variety of venues around the world. Able to sing in eight different languages, Mary draws



from a deep repertory reservoir. She is adept at pop, show tunes, operatic arias, and sacred music and has received worldwide acclaim.

Mary has headlined numerous concert halls and festivals in North America, Europe, and China. She has performed at the Garden State Arts Center, Resorts International Casino Hotel, Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, and Mohegan Sun Resort Casino in CT. As a dynamic and popular performing duo, they have completed two concert tours of China.

For more information on Mario and Mary and their upcoming performances, please visit: www.manciniandtacca.com. ■



The Connecticut Accordion Association
presents

CAA Holiday Concert

Seasonal Melodies

Saturday, December 7, 2019
3:00-4:30 PM

This concert will feature traditional holiday favorites,
both contemporary and classical,
performed by the CAA Orchestra under the direction of
Peter Peluso

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
355 Camp Street
Bristol, CT

Suggested donation is \$10.00 per person

Note: This concert is co-sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association*

RSVP or obtain additional information, call (203) 272-1202
Visit us on the web at www.CTAccordion.com

Bill Schimmel and the Yorkvillians

AAA Board of Director, Dr. William Schimmel performed with the Yorkvillians on Saturday, September 7, 2019 at Symphony Space, Bar Thalia, 2537 Broadway in New York City.

The Yorkvillians include Dan Cooper (8 string bass guitar), Bill Schimmel (accordion), Michiyo Suzuki (clarinet) and John Ferrari (drum set). From the term for residents of the Yorkville neighborhood on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, The Yorkvillians are a new instrumental combo led by composer-bassist Dan Cooper and composer-accordionist William Schimmel.

Dan Cooper, a Manhattan-native composer and multi-instrumentalist, was educated at Columbia, New England Conservatory and Princeton. He has composed for Absolute Ensemble, Albany Symphony, Empire State Youth Orchestra, Shakespeare & Company, and Imani Winds, among others. A director of Composers Concordance and a SUNY professor, he has performed at numerous venues internationally, from CBGB's to Town Hall, Sydney Opera House and Royal Albert Hall.

Dr. William Schimmel, one of the principal architects in the resurgence of the accordion, holds Bachelor of Music, Master of Science, and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in composition from the Juilliard School. Schimmel's music has been featured in a number of television shows and films, perhaps most notably 'Scent of a Woman' starring Al Pacino, where he appears in the famous Tango scene. Dr. Schimmel performs music in many genres, has commissioned and premiered hundreds of new works, has written a number of books and articles and has made numerous recordings and videos.

A native of Japan, Michiyo Suzuki began her musical studies with piano at age three, violin at age six and clarinet at age thirteen.

Bryant Park Accordion Festival in the Heart of New York City

The Bryant Park Accordion Festival *Accordions Around the World Finale* took place on Friday, August 16, 2019 hosted by Mickela Mallozzi (Emmy Award-winning host of Bare Feet with Mickela Mallozzi).

The Accordion Festival, a five-hour finale to the annual Accordions Around the World series at Bryant Park, featured the diversity of the accordion. This special event featured Toot Sweet (Avant Garde Cabaret), Aces of Rhythm - pictured (Tango from Argentina), Fedor Chistyakov (Russian Rock & Roll), Los Texmaniacs (Texas-Mexican Conjunto) and Rey Vallenato Beto Jamaica (Vallenato from Colombia).

Ariana Hellerman, the series curator of Accordions Around the World, recounted, "Accordion is often confused for yester-year kitsch in America; but, in many parts of the world, it's one of the most important instruments that convey the sound of the region. In New York, we are lucky to have access to many of these cultures. In addition to showcasing the versatility of the instrument and providing an intimate and accessible performance experience for audiences and passers-by alike, a priority for Accordions Around the World is to give communities where the accordion is played, a space and platform for sharing their cultures in the heart of Manhattan. We aim for the artists in this series to be reflective of the city.



THE YORKVILLIANS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2019 AT 9:30PM
SYMPHONY SPACE - BAR THALIA
2537 BROADWAY (AT 95TH ST), NYC
FREE ADMISSION

DAN COOPER - 8-STRING BASS GUITAR
BILL SCHIMMEL - ACCORDION
MICHIYO SUZUKI - CLARINET
JOHN FERRARI - DRUM SET

[HTTP://WWW.YORKVILLIANS.NYC](http://www.yorkvillians.nyc)

[HTTP://WWW.SYMPHONYSPACE.ORG/EVENTS/THE-YORKVILLIANS](http://www.symphonyspace.org/events/the-yorkvillians)

She studied with Charles Neidich at Purchase College Conservatory where she received her MFA degree and at SUNY Stony Brook in the DMA Program. As a recitalist and chamber musician, she has performed internationally, particularly in contemporary repertoire. Ms. Suzuki is a member of Absolute Ensemble and NY Licorice Ensemble, has recorded and toured extensively with those groups.

John Ferrari has appeared and/or recorded with Bang On A Can All Stars, Da Capo Chamber Players, Manhattan Symphonietta, Perspectives Ensemble, The Group for Contemporary Music, Orpheus Chamber Players, Riverside Symphony, Locrian, Cygnus, Pittsburg Collective, and many others. He holds DMA and MM degrees from SUNY Stony Brook, and a BM from William Paterson University where he serves on the performing arts faculty. With the Meridian Arts Ensemble in residence, in fall of 2007 he joined the faculty of Manhattan School of Music's graduate Contemporary Performance program.

For further information on other performances, please e-mail: billschimmel@billschimmel.com. ■



This year's Accordion Festival is particularly special; for the first time we feature conjunto tejano, music from the Texas and Mexico border. Los Texmaniacs, anointed by the legendary Flaco Jimenez as the next generation purveyors of conjunto, join us direct from San Antonio. We also have El Rey de Vallenato, a winner of one of the most important accordion festivals in the world, Colombia's El Festival de la Leyenda Vallenata, which was an inspiration for the creation of Bryant Park's Accordions Around the World series."

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Bryant Park Accordion Festival, cont'd. from p. 9

This series is part of Bryant Park Picnic Performances presented by Bank of America, presenting world-class music, theater, and dance performances in Midtown Manhattan. All performances are free to the public and designed to be enjoyed casually – no tickets required. At each show, the park lends out 250 free picnic blankets for audience members to relax on while enjoying the show on the Lawn.

The Bryant Park Corporation (BPC), a private not-for-profit company, was founded in 1980 to renovate, finance and operate Bryant Park in New York City. BPC is funded by income from events, concessions and corporate sponsors, as well as an assessment on neighboring properties and does not accept government or philanthropic monies. In addition to providing security, sanitation, and horticultural services, BPC offers restaurants, food kiosks, world-class restrooms, and a wide range of free events throughout the year. The Midtown Manhattan park is visited by more than 12 million people each year and is one of the busiest public spaces in the world. BPC's website www.bryantpark.org offers more detailed information and a schedule of upcoming events.

We will be sure to provide details on next year's 2020 Accordions Around the World festival as the details are announced for next summer. ■

Sam Reider and the Human Hands

Sam Reider and The Human Hands will be performing everything from Bartok and Tchaikovsky to Joni Mitchell, teaching a workshop on composition at the Stanford Jazz Festival, and collaborating with amazing musicians all over the east coast. Sam Reider is a composer, accordionist, pianist and singer from Brooklyn, NY. He's been featured at Lincoln Center and on NPR and collaborated with pop stars, jazz and folk musicians around the world. Reider is the leader of a "staggeringly virtuosic band" (RnR Magazine) of bluegrass and jazz musicians based in Brooklyn called The Human Hands.

Following the release of their critically-acclaimed record *Too Hot to Sleep* (2018), Sam and the Human Hands have appeared at major festivals and venues throughout the US and the UK and performed live on the BBC. Irresistible melodies, fiery improvisation and otherworldly sounds collide



in what *Songlines Magazine* has dubbed "mash-up of the Klezematics, Quintette du Hot Club de France and the Punch Brothers." *Too Hot To Sleep* features Eddie Barbash (The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, Jon Batiste and Stay Human), Alex Hargreaves (Turtle Island Quartet, Live From Here, Sarah Jarosz), Dominick Leslie (Hawktail, Ricky Skaggs Band, Deadly Gentlemen), Roy Williams (Stephane Wrembel), Grant Gordy (David Grisman Quintet) and Dave Speranza.

Reider grew up in San Francisco, the son of a musical theatre composer and klezmer musician. He began performing at a young age, and was interviewed on Marian McPartland's "Piano Jazz"

72nd Coupe Mondiale in Shenzhen, China

The 72nd Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships and Festival was held in Shenzhen, China from August 13 - 17, 2019 under the auspices of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) hosted by the Chinese CIA member, The *cont'd. on next page*



on NPR when he graduated high school. At Columbia University, he fell in love with American folk music. While writing his senior thesis comparing the song writing of Woody Guthrie and Ira Gershwin, Sam began studying bluegrass and old-time, transcribing the fiddle melodies for the accordion and learning to sing the songs. This set him off on a journey that has taken him from back porches and dive bars to concert halls and major festivals in practically every state in the country.

Representing the U.S. Department of State as a musical ambassador, Sam has travelled to China, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Estonia, Turkey and Azerbaijan, carrying his accordion on his back everywhere he goes and collaborating with international artists. Sounds and stories from these travels frequently serve as the inspiration for Reider's compositions, which together form an ongoing musical travelogue.

As a side-man, collaborator and recording artist, Reider has worked with artists including Sierra Hull, Jorge Glem, Phoebe Hunt, Courtney Hartman, Jon Batiste and Stay Human, T-Pain, David Amram, Nellie McKay, Ranger Doug, the Brother Brothers and more. A passionate educator, Reider leads ongoing performances for public school students throughout the New York City area in partnership with Jazz at Lincoln Center. He has designed curricula and taught courses at the Stanford Jazz Festival, San Francisco Jazz, and other private institutions around the country.

Keep a special eye out for August 8th at Bard College's Fisher Center Spiegelent where they are teaming up with the Catskill Jazz Factory and award-winning vocalist Kéren Tayár for a tribute to Joni Mitchell and other singers of the Sixties.

The Human Hands will be touring in October with numerous dates in the Northwest, Colorado and Northeast including October 11th - Monmouth, OR, 13th - Ferndale, CA, 15th - Boise, ID, 16th - Enterprise, OR, 17th - Prosser, WA, 18th - Seattle, WA, 19th - Portland, OR, 20th - Denver, CO, 22nd - Ft. Collins, CO, 24th - Beaver Creek, CO, 25th - Georgetown, CO and November 1st - Burlington, VT. ■

For further information please visit:
<http://www.samreidermusic.com>.

72nd Coupe Mondiale, Cont'd. from p. 10

Accordion Association of Chinese Musicians Association (CAA).

The largest event ever held by the CIA, the competition featured 160 competitors in seven categories (Coupe Mondiale, Masters Coupe Mondiale, Junior Coupe Mondiale, Virtuoso Entertainment, Junior Virtuoso Entertainment and Ensemble Music in both Classical and World Music divisions) judged by more than 50 jury members.

The 142nd General Assembly of Delegates was attended by over 75 Delegates from around the world including Executive Officers, Music Committee members and International Delegates.

At the General Assembly, CIA President Mirco Patarini (Italy) welcomed Delegates to the second CIA event held in China, the 72nd Coupe Mondiale Festival in Shenzhen. Apologies for non-attendance were recorded and the minutes of the 141st General Assembly in Tallinn, Estonia were adopted. The General Assembly were offered reports from Mirco Patarini (President), Kimmo Mattila (General Secretary), Harley Jones (Public Relations Manager) and Alexander Selivanov (Chairperson of the Music Committee).

CIA Members reported on activities including:

- Sonja Palinich (President of the New Zealand Accordion Association) announced a new 2020 competition promoting the music of New Zealand composer Gary Daverne.
- Lionel Reekie announced the Australian Accordion Teachers Association (AATA) festival in Sydney from the 25th - 28 July, 2020.
- Liz Finch and Joan Sommers reported on the national festival held in Denver, CO and the upcoming 80th ATG Anniversary Celebrations to be held in Los Angeles from August 5-9, 2020.
- Mary Tokarski reported on their 2019 festival and upcoming 2020 Festival in Alexandria, VA from July 8-12, 2020, as well as the Lifetime Achievement Award dinner for renowned US entertainer Joey Miskulin.
- Herbert Scheibenreif reported on the World Diatonic Competition for all ages and styles held in Austria.

At request of the current appointee Kevin Friedrich, the position of the CIA Ambassador, an Executive Appointment from 2009 was clarified and modified. With several changes in Administration that made that appointment, it was an appropriate time to re-examine this position, which has served as a part of the CIA Executive Committee for 10 years. The Congress considered three options (1) to keep the position as an open ended appointment, (2) to allow a new appointment by each administration or (3) to make the position a formal voting member of the Executive decided by the General Assembly. The General Assembly in Tallinn, Estonia chose to make the role of Ambassador a Voting member of the Executive Committee. The General Assembly in Shenzhen ap-

proved the formal statute change to make this an elected voting member of the CIA Executive Committee. The call for nominations and voting for the position of Ambassador will take place to coincide with the Winter Congress in Prague, 2020.

In addition to the competitions, numerous concerts were held including featuring renowned Chinese and International guests including the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra - Lin Daye, Conductor with soloists Mao Junhao, Tan Jialiang, Radu Ratoi and Yuri Shishkin; 'Double Sense' Cao Ye and Tan Jialiang; Beijing Children's Palace Baidi Accordion Orchestra, Chen Weiliang - Conductor; The Motion Trio (Poland) and Radu Ratoi (the immediate past Coupe Mondiale Champion).

The grand finale of the Coupe Mondiale festival was the Gala Concert featuring all the winners from the festival culminating in the magnificent World Accordion Orchestra XI under the direction of Joan C. Sommers and Chen Weiliang. The orchestra comprised some 140 players including the contestants, the Chinese hosts and many of the International Jury and Delegates.

The World Accordion Orchestra performed three works. (1) 'Carefree! The Yi People' a piece adapted from the Folk Songs of the Yi people, the home (Yi) of the Sheng, the instrument from which the principle of the accordion and the reeds inside producing sound is derived. (2) The Triumphal March from Aida by Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). The work was given its first performance in Cairo, Egypt, in December, 1871. After being first commissioned by Isma'il Pasha, Khedive (Viceroy or Governor) of Egypt, for a performance in January of that year, the premiere was delayed to the December date because of the Franco-Prussian War. (3) In honor of the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the People's Republic of China, the concert concluded with the magnificent "Long live the Motherland!". Composed by Liu Chi and Qin Yongcheng and adapted by the Beijing Children's Palace Accordion Orchestra, the piece of music connects the theme and the melody of two well-known songs, 'My Homeland' and 'Me and My Homeland' with great finesse, expressing the sincere love and gratitude to the great Motherland.

Founded in 1935 as a global entity comprising National accordion organizations from around the world, the CIA has continued the tradition of accordion excellence for more than 80 years. The organization moves around the world at least twice a year, with the Coupe Mondiale held during its Summer Congress, followed by the Winter Congress which brings the excitement of an international event to the host countries, offering members an opportunity to experience first-hand its diverse global accordion



CIA Executive Committee: Harley Jones (New Zealand - Public Relations Manager), Kimmo Mattila (Finland - General Secretary), Li Cong (China - Vice President), Mirco Patarini (Italy - President), Viatcheslav Semionov (Russia - Vice President), Jörgen Sundeqvist (Sweden - Vice President), Joan C. Sommers (USA - Honorary Member), Kevin Friedrich (USA - Ambassador), Alexander Selivanov (Russia - Chairperson of the Music Committee).

72nd Coupe Mondiale, Cont'd. from p. 11

cultures, while uniting that diversity and promoting the status of the instrument.

Representing the USA in Shenzhen were Liz Finch (ATG Delegate and International Jury Member) and Joan Cochran Sommers (ATG Delegate, CIA Honorary Member and Conductor of the World Accordion Orchestra), Mary Tokarski (AAA Delegate and International Jury Member), Nathan Chapeton (student of Mary Tokarski and competitor in the Coupe Mondiale Masters category representing the AAA), Kevin Friedrich (CIA Ambassador and Board member of both AAA and ATG) and guest Gail Campanella an ATG member from California, attending her first Coupe Mondiale.

The United States Premiere Voting member, the AAA presented one competitor, Nathan Chapeton who competed in the Coupe Mondiale Masters category. Attracting more than 50 entries, the category was adjudicated over three full days of competition.

Nathan gave an outstanding and artistically superb performance and in this most demanding of categories, the largest ever hosted at a Coupe Mondiale, he placed very creditably in the top third of the players at 16th place. Nathan Chapeton performed: J. S. Bach - Prelude and Fugue In G Major, Viatcheslav Semionov - Prophetic Dream, Franck Angelis - Suite, Mov. III Asia Flashes and A. Kusyakov - Sonata No. 6.

The prize winners of the Coupe Mondiale included:

72nd Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Rusinov, Kirill (Russia)
- 2nd. Tian, Jianan (China)
- 3rd. Malkhasyan, Artem (Russia)

Masters Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Ratoi, Radu (Moldova)
- 2nd. Ukrainskiy, Nikita (Russia)
- 3rd. Milojkovic, Veljko (Serbia)

Junior Coupe Mondiale

- 1st. Yarinenko, Petr (Russia)
- 2nd. Kiriukhin, Arsenii (Russia)
- 3rd. Kuramshin, Artur (Russia)

Virtuoso Entertainment Music

- 1st. Aliandre De Almeida, Gustavo (Brazil)
- 2nd. Tretiakov, Artem (Russia)
- 3rd. Matveychuk, Alexander (Russia)

Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Music

- 1st. Kuramshin, Artur (Russia)
- 2nd. Lin, Haoyang (China)
- 2nd. Gong, Ke (China)

International Ensemble Music - Classical

- 1st. Accordion Duet (Russia) - Rostislav Burnashev and Nickolay Zhigalov (accordions)
- 2nd. Star Dazzle Heart (China) - Yuhan Cheng (accordion) and Xingzhou Rong (violin)
- 3rd. Fusion (Russia) - Ilona Savina (accordion) and Nikita Ukrainskiy (bayan)

International Ensemble Music - World Music

- 1st. Ice And Fire Tango Orchestra (China) - Dan Wang (bandoneon), YouHeng Qiao (Jazz guitar), DongYue Xie (double bass), FuHai Jiao (piano) and ZhenYuan Liu (violin)
- 2nd. The Gardel Trio (Russia) - Denis Davydov (accordion), Felix Ventouras (piano) and Xing Liu (violin)
- 3rd. Meng's Boys (China) - Junhan Sheng and Zhekai Zhu (Accordions) and Jiayi Song (Electric Accordion)

For a complete review including Daily Reports and Videos of all contestants and Concerts, please visit www.coupemondiale.org and follow the link to the Shenzhen festival. From the home page you can choose the Daily Reports or Video Center to see the online coverage.



The Accordion World Mourns the Loss of One of its Finest: Lynn Singleton Ewing, 1951-2019

By Joan Grauman, AAA Historian

It is with great, great sadness that I write about the sudden death of my long time close friend, Lynn Ewing. Although I had been asked to write for the AAA and ATG newsletters weeks ago, it has simply been too painful to put my thoughts, feelings and facts into words until now.

Lynn called me from the airport on August 9, just hours before she died. She was so upbeat and really looking forward to this trip to see her daughter. When Lynn and her husband Gail arrived in Albuquerque, they all went out to dinner, then came home and enjoyed a few card games together. As the sun was rising the following morning, Lynn took her last breath.

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Accordionist Lynn Singleton Ewing, long time resident of San Carlos, California, died suddenly of cardiac arrest on August 10, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, while visiting her daughter Kristin Meeker.

Lynn was born and raised in San Diego, California where she studied the accordion, competed in the Western States accordion competitions, and taught beginning accordion and band. As family, work as a flight attendant, remarriage and the pursuit of a college degree became priorities, the accordion was set aside.

After hearing a concert 25 years ago, featuring Seattle's beloved accordionist Bonnie Birch, Lynn was inspired to pick up her accordion again. She immediately became very active in the San Francisco Accordion Club. Soon Lynn was a member of the club's delightful "ACE Ensemble", under the direction of Joseph Smiel, Sr., began performing duets with the renowned accordionist Sharon Greyhosky, and eventually became the president of the San Francisco Accordion Club. Lynn also joined the group "AbsolutAccord", under the direc-



tion of Richard Yaus. This stellar group of accordionists performed regularly throughout California for several years.

Soon Lynn was attending accordion camps, and the Cotati, ATG and AAA Festivals. Once you met Lynn, you could never forget her: her sparkling beauty and loving personality lit up every room she entered. A knowledgeable and dependable musician, she was always ready and willing to help whenever and wherever needed.

Lynn and I met in the summer of 2005 at the Silver Falls Accordion Camp in Oregon. We were roommates and became instant, life-long friends. During the fourteen years since we first met, we travelled together all over the US, the San Juan Islands, British Columbia, France and Italy with accordions in tow. In between, we celebrated family weddings, our birthdays and other occasions together whenever we could.



Lynn Ewing and Joan Grauman at the ATG Festival, two weeks before Lynn's death.

I want to emphasize that the accordion was not the only thing in her amazingly full and productive life. Lynn and Gail Ewing were married for 34 years and between them had four children and six grandchildren. The couple traveled extensively worldwide. They were also members of the Unitarian Universalists Church of San Mateo. During those years, Lynn served as Director of Religious Education, sang in their choir, officiated at weddings, and the list goes on.

One would think that such a busy person would have little time for other relationships. Not so with Lynn. She was a true friend to so many. *I could not have asked for a better, more dedicated friend. RIP, my caring, energetic, musically gifted, very loving "sister".*

A celebration of Lynn's life will take place on October 12, 2019 at 10:30 am at the Filoli House and Gardens: 86 Canada Road, Woodside, California. Gail Campanella and I have been asked to be the accordionists for this celebration. A buffet lunch will be served after the service. If you plan to attend, please email deeanamc@yahoo.com ■

Remembering Verne Uvezian Deffner

Verne Uvezian (nee Deffner) born on September 22, 1953, passed away September 21st, 2019 just one day shy of her 66th birthday.

Verne Uvezian (nee Deffner) was the only child of the late Ernest and Faithe Deffner, and grew up in Greenwich Village in New York City, before the family business relocated to Mineola, (Long Island) New York. More recently she lived in Garden City and East Williston, NY before settling in Boynton Beach, FL.

After majoring in English in College, throughout her career Verne worked in Graphic Arts, Copy Editing, Proofreading and Publishing and Sales as well as periodic tenures with her Mother Faithe Deffner at the family business 'Ernest Deffner Inc.' which was founded in 1934.

More recently Verne became a published author, with her popular Children's book 'The Day Benny Stuck His Neck Out' addressing the issue of 'bullying' because children were different. (NB. Benny the Giraffe, the



book's main character, was different from everybody at home or in his school - he had a short neck). "It teaches children that disabilities can be looked at in a positive light. You have to believe that being different is a wonderful thing. It gives children a marvelous sense of compassion because they are different and they know how a caring gesture or word can make them feel better," she said. She focuses her message on ability rather than inability.

After the 2014 passing of her Mother, accordion identity Faithe Deffner, Verne was instrumental in ensuring all her Mother's historical materials from a lifetime of work in the accordion industry were transferred to the World of Accordions Museum in Superior, Wisconsin, where they became part of The Deffner Legacy display. A mammoth undertaking, more than 70 boxes of materials were driven from New York to the Museum. Faithe was a major inspiration in expanding the World of Accordions Museum to its current location, and thanks to Verne's efforts, the Deffner Legacy will be showcased for generations to come.

Verne married Ronny Uvezian in June 2010 and the couple celebrated in a reception with friends and family on August 28th 2010 in Bayville, Long Island. After several years in New York together, the couple moved permanently to Florida in 2014.

Details of a memorial service in October will be forthcoming, meanwhile messages of condolences may be sent to: Ronny Uvezian, 11742 Caracas Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33437.

Pictured above, portrait photo of Verne, bottom photo, copy of children's book "The Day Benny Stuck Out His Neck" written by Verne, below with husband, Ronnie and Faithe at AAA Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to Faithe Deffner at Tavern on the Green, wedding photo, Verne, Ronnie, Faithe and Kevin Frederick. ■



Los Angeles Based Composer Leonard 'Lenny' Stack Passes Away

Renowned Los Angeles based composer, arranger and music director Leonard 'Lenny' Stack has passed away. Born on 18 June 1938, Lenny passed away on September 22, 2019 at age 81. Lenny is survived by his wife Lora.

During his career, Los Angeles native Lenny Stack wrote arrangements for the Doc Severinsen Tonight Show Band, the Buddy Rich Big Band and the Louis Bellson Big Band. A talented composer, Lenny wrote original songs for recording artists including Diana Ross and Dionne Warwick. In addition to being an Emmy Award winning arranger, he had also been the musical director, composer and arranger for many television series, specials and motion pictures including the Golden Globes, the SAG Awards and the American Music Awards. Lenny Stack's Big Band is known for its appealing arrangements and excellent execution by some of Los Angeles's most talented musicians.

Leonard (Lenny) Stack received his Bachelor of Music in Composition from the University of Southern California (USC) and studied composition with Halsey Stevens, Robert Linn, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Miklos Rosza.

He has published numerous works for various classical ensembles consisting of: Sonata for Clarinet and Piano, Ballads No. 1 and No. 2 for Flute and Piano, Scherzo for Saxophone Quartet and Scherzo for 3 Clarinets and Bass Clarinet published by Southern Music Company in addition to two works for Accordion Orchestra.

His two compositions for Accordion Orchestra include 'Lest We Forget' and 'Film Noir: City at Night.' Both works were composed at the request of his close friend and Los Angeles based work colleague Liz (Elizabeth) Finch.

Lest We Forget was commissioned by the UMKC Accordion Orchestra for the inaugural World Accordion Orchestra held at the 2007 American Accordionists' Association (AAA) and Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) jointly hosted CIA Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships Festival in Alexandria, VA (Washington, DC), USA.

The programmatic element in it deals with the insanity and misery leading up to and resulting from war. Contained in the composition are jingoistic cries for victory overwhelmed by the suffering of humanity. The music begins with a bleak and austere opening section, which then segues into the first combative episode. This scheme repeats itself throughout the composition. After the battle is a sad, wistful melody followed by another disruption of the peace. Then, a fugal section is employed, followed by the inverted fugal subject meant to depict the clash of opposing armies. Then there is a recapitulation of that sad, wistful melody which serves as a short reprieve between battles. When the military drums begin we have the final clashing of armies with a trite patriotic theme in the back-



Pictured above: Leonard Stack (right) with World Accordion Orchestra Concert Master Kevin Friedrich and conductor Joan Cochran Sommers in 2007 at the conclusion of the World Premiere of Lest We Forget.

ground. Finally all is still, victor and vanquished lie together mortally wounded and the short angry coda summarizes the entire folly.

Marking his first accordion composition, Lenny attended the World Premiere performance of Lest We Forget, conducted by Joan Cochran Sommers on Saturday, 18 August 2007.

His second work Film Noir: City at Night was performed by World Accordion Orchestra II in Glasgow, Scotland on Saturday, 25 October, 2008, also conducted by Joan Cochran Sommers. The programmatic idea for Film Noir, is of a dark deserted street at night where menace lurks anywhere. The second theme announces a "floozy" sauntering in. The middle section increases in tension and violence as all sorts of mayhem occurs. Finally the main theme is recapitulated and it ends with a quiet ominousness. This music is reminiscent of the film noir movies of the late 1940's and early 1950's.

Film Noir: City at Night has since been performed under the direction of Joan C. Sommers by groups such as the University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) Accordion Orchestra (2009), the ATG Festival Orchestra (2019) and is to be performed by the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra in October.

A member of ASCAP and the Television Academy, Lenny won the coveted Emmy Award for arranging for the television special, "Screen Actor's Guild 50th Anniversary and an Emmy nomination as Musical Director of the television special, "Disneyland's 30th Anniversary Celebration." ■

New Zealand Accordion Association (NZAA) Announces the 2020 Competition

The New Zealand Accordion Association (NZAA) announces the 2020 International Video Competition and Promotion of Accordion Music by renowned New Zealand composer Gary Daverne pictured at left. This is a great opportunity for the teacher and one winner accordionist to visit New Zealand.



This is a free online "Video Competition for Accordionists of all ages and nationalities" with a 1st prize of two round trip air tickets to New Zealand to the 2020 South Pacific Accordion Championships, 30-31 May 2020, Auckland, New Zealand. Accommodation for 3 nights included plus some additional other concert/holiday possibilities.

Contestants must send a .mp4 video recording of one (or more) work/s composed by Gary Daverne who has a wide repertoire of compositions for accordion including: solo, accordion duet or accordion with another instrument, accordion trio/ensemble or accordion with string ensemble, accordion orchestra and accordion soloist with accordion orchestra or accordion soloist with string orchestra or accordion soloist with symphony orchestra. The accordion music is available for any contestant free of charge upon request.

The international jury for the competition will be the composer Gary Daverne and New Zealand accordionists who have performed and premiered many of Gary Daverne's works for accordion both solo and with other instruments including Symphony Orchestra, Kevin Friedrich, Grayson Masefield and Stephanie Poole. (See enclosed flyer for additional details.)

Entries online close January 5, 2020. For detailed information, please visit:

<http://www.accordion.co.nz/2020/VideoDaverneCompetition.htm>



Hank Thunander Concert



October 27, 2019

2:00 PM

\$25.00

The famed Hank Thunander is a favorite entertainer throughout the region and beyond. His personable nature radiates through his music in an amazing breadth of repertoire.

Hank has many recognitions to his credit, including election to the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. Often featured in Chmielewski FunTime, and Minnesota State Fair events, Hank is an amazing musician in his ability to tailor programs to suit various audiences and to respond to requested tunes. While known for his spontaneous interpretations in any "key," and for his stylistic accuracy in performing 18 types of polkas, Hank can also incorporate other dimensions in his programs. For example, he plans to explain the music demonstrated as a learning experience to benefit accordionists and musicians in our hall.

Personally befriended with Frankie Yankovic, Hank promotes old-time, ethnic, and popular modern favorites. His Cleveland-style polkas are enhanced through his use of a 1937 Italo-American Special piano accordion, very much like the one we restored for his friend of long-standing, Joey Miskulin. We have several similar accordions displayed in the museum.

The concert is sponsored by Barbara and Dennis Vargason of Superior as a special fund-raiser for the museum. Their son Paul Vargason will play a set or two. ■

Mae West and the Count: Love and Loss on the Vaudeville Stage

In the world of sober musical research, it is not often that the word "titillating" can be used. Often even the word "fascinating" may be difficult to apply. This book has every element of enjoyable reading—humor, a lusty love affair, and facts that shed light on an era in American life.

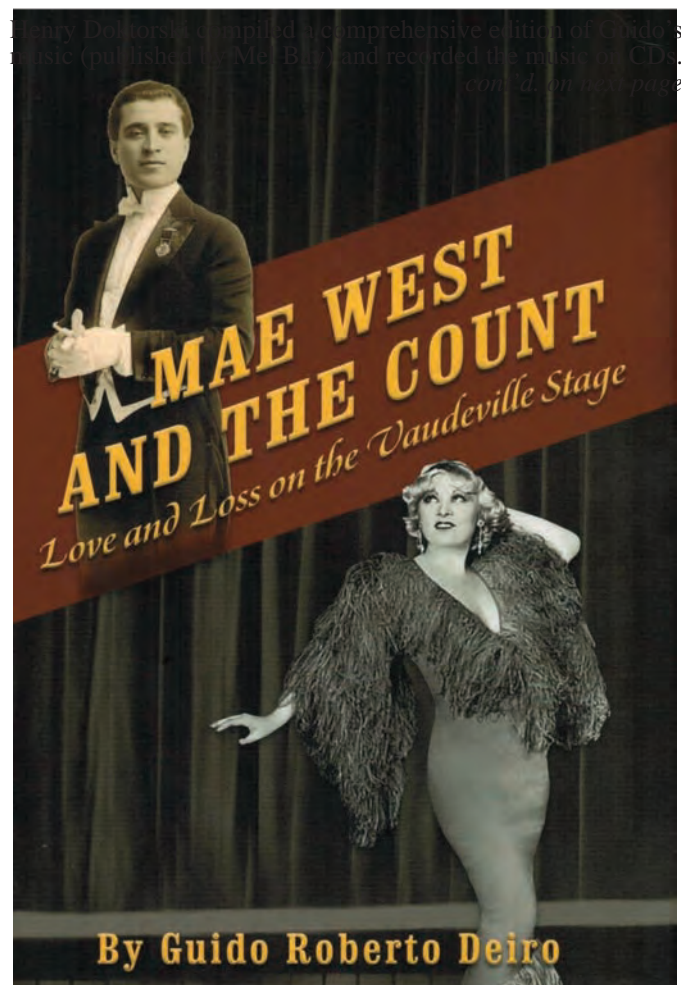
The book *Mae West and the Count: Love and Loss on the Vaudeville Stage*, is exceptional. Written by the son of Guido Deiro and based on his father's oral reports and written documents, the biographic novel delves into the lives of an accordion virtuoso and a notorious beauty whose dual rise to fame in vaudeville and theater stardom remain legendary. The sometimes glorious, sometimes tragic incidents read as factual; fictionalizations are not readily apparent. The writing is detailed but not overworked.

Guido's life story tells of numerous eccentricities and love affairs, the most notable of which is certainly his involvement with and eventual marriage to stage and film star Mae West. He was a handsome, charismatic, and spirited person who gained substantial wealth through his performances, music schools and instrument sales. He was responsible for manufacture of various accordions, some of which are pictured in the book and are identical to models found in our museum.

An Italian pioneer among accordionists in America, Guido's performances shaped the dreams of many as he composed and performed music that is still considered dazzling entertainment. Accordionists should follow the track of author Count Guido Roberto Deiro's view that his father's story goes beyond interesting reading to amend conventional views of the history of piano accordions in America.

Guido's performance accordion was installed in our concert hall at Henry Doktorski's special concert in 2005. It stands alongside that of his brother's (Pietro Deiro) in the Special Exhibits Area. Both instruments were donated to AWAM through the generosity of Deiro family members, who bequeathed Guido's estate to the CUNY Center for the Study of Free-Reed Instruments, headed by director Allan Atlas.

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Mae West, cont'd.

He also wrote definitive descriptions and histories of the accordions. Books and recordings are available for purchase online. Available on Amazon.

Henry Doktorski's entire lecture and recital from the 2019 World Accordion Day event titled "The Life and Music of the Brothers Deiro" can be viewed on Youtube at the following link. This is a free link, but please consider making a donation to A World of Accordions Museum to help support the continuation of these types of presentations and performances. Donations can be made at the Donate link on A World of Accordions website.

The Life and Music of the Brothers Deiro

Mae West and the Count can be recommended to everyone who enjoys famous and infamous personalities and their roles in American cultural life—and especially to accordion aficionados. Published by outskirts press, ISBN 978-1-9772-1064-7, the printed book sells for \$21.00 (paperback) to \$36.00 (hardbound).

Mae West and the Count is available on Amazon.

NB. We were recently notified that Count Guido's son, Robert passed away. He was recently part of the opening of the NAMM Museum's Accordion Exhibit which ran thru mid-August. ■

Bridge & Wolak Midwest Tour

From October 22 - November 17, 2019, "Bridge & Wolak" featuring accordionist Michael Bridge and clarinetist Kornel Wolak will be making their USA touring debut with 19 concerts throughout the USA Midwest. If they're not coming to your area this time, keep watching for their March 2020 USA tour.

Michael Bridge (accordions) and Kornel Wolak (clarinet) are an internationally acclaimed duo, pushing the limits of their instruments and musical styles into the 21st Century. They perform a uniquely orchestrated repertoire of classical, world and jazz fusion. With deft virtuosity, and endless wit, Bridge & Wolak have been called the "Victor Borges of the 21st Century."

Fun-loving gentlemen (with seven degrees in music performance), they offer a complete suite of educational programming. In demand on three continents, they were *nominated for the BC Touring Artist of the Year award in 2019. "Watch and be amazed!"* —CBC. www.BridgeWolak.com. ■



**BRIDGE & WOLAK
USA TOUR 2019**

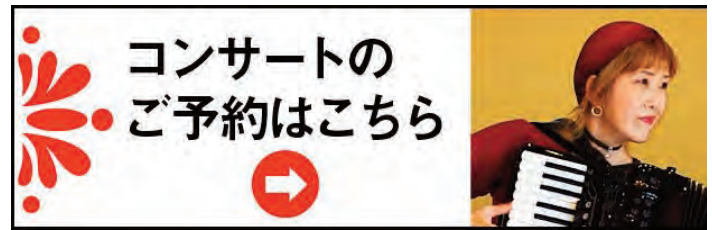
Sept 6 - Arts Midwest	Nov 4 - Hibbing, MN
Oct 14 - Arts Northwest	Nov 6 - Sheboygan, WI
Oct 22 - Glencoe, MN	Nov 8 - New Ulm, MN
Oct 23 - White Bear Lake, MN	Nov 9 - St. James, MN
Oct 24 - Albert Lea, MN	Nov 10 - Fremont, NE
Oct 26 - Wahpeton, ND	Nov 11 - Grand Island, NE
Oct 28 - Hettinger, ND	Nov 12 - Rock Springs, WI
Oct 29 - Williston, ND	Nov 15 - La Porte, IN
Oct 31 - Hazen, ND	Nov 16 - Freeport, IL
Nov 1 - Devils Lake, ND	Nov 17 - Watertown, WI
Nov 3 - Alexandria, MN	

www.BridgeWolak.com

Thomas Jonathan Shamla wins \$10,000 Aviation Scholarship

Thomas Shamla (15), the son of John and Dr. Jenny Shamla of South Range, WI, has been named among 80 students and 20 teachers awarded \$10,000 each in scholarships for aviation instructions. Results of the national search were announced on June 17, by Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

The awards are part of a You Can Fly High School Flight Training Scholarship Program. The scholarships totaling \$1 million recognize exceptional, aviation-minded students age 15 to 18 and teachers dedicated to advancing aviation education in their classrooms. The AOPA was endowed by The Ray Foundation whose founder, venture capitalist, philanthropist, and pilot James C. Ray (1923-2017), believed that aviation plays a formative role in the lives of its devotees and that flight training helps build "character and confidence," providing participants with tools for success in other areas of their lives.



WAM's World Stage
Becomes More Global as

Mihoko Goto

Offers Concert
on
October 12, 4:00 PM

Our world stage is becoming more global as we look forward to welcoming Mihoko Goto as the first Japanese accordionist to present a concert for AWAM at HARTS. She is one of Japan's leading accordionists, whose unique sound and performance style is highly praised at home and abroad.

Her musical experiences are impressively diverse. After graduating from Osaka College of Music with a major in piano, she taught in the school system for twelve years while independently pursuing studies in contemporary music. She then decided to advance her music studies in Hong Kong and in England, with Nick Ariondo in Los Angeles and with Viacheslav Semionov in Moscow. Upon her return to Japan, she participated in the Roma ensemble "Tengo" as well as offering solo concerts. Her international travels continued as Tengo became "Friendship and Exchange Artists" for Russia's 300th anniversary of the founding of the city of St. Petersburg. She was solicited for television and radio performances while also releasing three consecutive albums through Victor Entertainment. Subsequent musical activity in NYC, Germany, Russia, Finland, and always in her homeland Japan, have brought her fame and respect.

Much of her popularity may be attributable to her large repertory that incorporates characteristics of many musicological styles-- traditional Japanese, Russian, Classical, flamenco, rock, and other world music.

We happily anticipate a unique experience.

Donations to defray expenses are requested in lieu of admission fees. Please be generous—Mihoko is coming to the USA from Japan specifically to play in our hall. Donations can be made by credit care or via PayPal by clicking on the donate button in the box below on the World of Accordions Museum website. ■

Thomas gives special thanks to his English teacher Adam Helbach for recommending him for this scholarship and to flight instructor Ryan Quigley who will be working with him at Richard I. Bong Airport, Superior, WI. Thomas aspires to be an airline pilot.

Thomas, a student at Northwest High School, South Range, WI, is listed on the High Honor Role, is involved in the school's cross country run, track and ski teams, and he plays trombone in the school band. Helmi Harrington, Thomas' accordion instructor, calls him an "exceptionally excellent student who advances quickly and easily in an inspired musical manner." ■



Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble

We are proud to share with you a photo (far right) of the Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble from their performance last night at the 2019 Westchester County Doctors of Distinction Awards, which was held at the Surf Club in New Rochelle, NY. The event was coordinated by WestFair Publications. The Ensemble was the featured performer during the cocktail hour reception.

Make sure you reserve your seats now for the Ensemble's next performance at Taormina Restaurant next Thursday, October 3 at 6:30pm! It will be an evening of great music and Taormina's delicious Italian style meal. Call now to reserve a table - 914-739-4007.

Hope to see you there! ■

IDEAS Symposium 2.0 – Registration Still Open

The biggest and most exciting event of the year for IDEAS is our second annual IDEAS (International Digital Electronic Accordion Symposium 2.0) to be held Nov 6-10, 2019 at the beautiful Avalon Inn & Resort Conference Center located in Warren, Ohio (USA).

Come and be a part of accordion history - an accordion event like no other ever experienced in America. Take a front row seat at the accordion event that will signal a paradigm shift in what accordion events can be, and with respect to IDEAS - will be into the future.

The Symposium features a comprehensive 4 full days of immersion into the exciting world of digital accordions and will offer several paths or "tracks" from which participants can choose to tailor their individual musical journey to include classes, lectures, presentations, demonstrations and hands-on-the-keyboard workshops that match each participant's experience, knowledge, and areas of interest. Whether desiring to maximize the benefits of the digital accordion during public performance, or to enhance playing enjoyment and creativity in private at home, the IDEAS Symposium promises all participants (from novice to advanced), a track to musical discovery, fun, and interaction with your fellow IDEAS members.

Further, there is opportunity to learn, discuss, and have your questions answered by renowned faculty whose only goal is to enhance your abilities, understanding, and appreciation of your instrument. They will participate in showing you how to leverage your Symposium experience to help elevate your musical journey to a higher orbit.

This video provides some of the highlights of the 2018 Ideas Symposium and contains excerpts from some of the concerts performed by the faculty of the Symposium. The performances were a great way to see how the features of the digital accordion can be used to entertain with a highly diverse range of music and musical genres.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_cWRP-OIPw&feature=youtu.be

There has never been an American accordion event that gives so much, teaches so much, and entertains so much. It will provide an activity-filled four days that will leave you musically enriched while providing your spouse or significant other with a most affordable vacation in a 5-star venue. They will have the ability at all three of the Avalon locations to enjoy concerts as well as full spa facilities, multiple restaurants, Olympic-sized indoor pool, world class health club, indoor tennis, racquetball, a first-rate golf course, and other recreational facilities, including the new \$14M all-weather Roman Spa that was just built in 2019. Free shuttles to two of Avalon's sister resorts make the possibilities endless.

The Faculty continues to evolve tremendously and stay tuned for more information. Rest assured also that we have locked in the finest digital accordion talent in the world to perform for you, all equally brilliant and exciting. Watch this site carefully (www.gr8ideas.org) for upcoming surprises.

This year's registration is \$995, and we are offering three incentives this year towards registration costs.



Remembering Achille Alonzi

Achille Florino Alonzi was born on October 25, 1932, in Piscinisco, Frosinone, Italy to Rosalba Capaldi and Achille Alonzi. There he met the love of his life, Edda Pelosi, and they were married almost 63 years. He had two daughters, Marilyn (predeceased) and Rosanne, and two sons, Achille III and Roland; daughters-in-law Susan and Jennifer; grandchildren Edward, Elizabeth, and Patterson; sisters Fiorentina (predeceased), Gilda, twin Rosalba, and Gemma.

Achille spent his career as a private music teacher and at Arnold Bakery. He was an accomplished musician and bocce player. A deeply spiritual man, Achille was a lifelong parishioner of Corpus Christi Church and The Society of the Holy Name. He was a true gentleman who saw the good in everything, and a caring, gentle soul, beloved by all. Achille was known for his quick wit, easy smile, and genial nature. His wife, children, and grandchildren were devoted to him, and life will never be the same for them. ■



Paid members will automatically receive a \$100 discount

We also offer a referral incentive program:

Refer 1 new registrant = \$200 discount

Refer 2 new registrants = \$400 discount

Refer 3 new registrants = Registration waived!!

The spousal/partner program will still be available at \$295, which includes all food, concerts, and use of any of the three Avalon facilities (including spas, new \$14M Roman spa, world class fitness center, Olympic size pool, indoor tennis, and recreation centers).

So once again, you can see that we are bringing you the finest in digital accordion knowledge sharing, entertainment, and total immersion. Come and be a part of accordion history again in 2019. You will be thrilled at what's in store for you on every level. Check out the GR8 Ideas website www.gr8ideas.org for more details.

The registration window is OPEN! Either send in your registration requests via the web site address above or send them directly to thegr8.ideas@gmail.com.

November 3rd is National Accordion Day

Come Celebrate

The joy of the Accordion on
ACCORDION DAY - November 3, 2019

The public is invited to attend all Accordion Day events
Admission is FREE

Sunday - November 3, 2019. 10:30 AM thru 3:00 PM

Location:

**Acme Accordion School
322 Haddon Ave.
Westmont (Haddon Township), NJ 08108**

Events begin at 10:30 AM where accordionists may sign up to perform during an open mic until 11:30.

11:45 to 12:30

**Set up for the Accordion Day photo
Bring your accordion if possible.**

**Our goal is 150 accordion players or more.
All ages invited. • Enjoy meeting new friends.
Bring your family.**

The mass photo will be followed by a concert featuring
guest performer:

Al Terzo



Al Terzo started accordion lessons at the age of 7. Teachers and coaches included Flora Foscatto, Louis Iorio, Charles Nunzio, and Eugene Ettore. He studied at Major School of Music in Irvington, NJ and was Concert Master of the Sano Accordion Symphony. Al earned the title of: 1970 New Jersey Virtuoso Champion during the 1970 ATA of NJ competitions. Al was also a founding member of the

ATA of NJ Teachers Orchestra. Currently he is conductor of the Accordion Pops Orchestra. Al teaches accordion and piano in students homes. He is married to the former Kathy Kump and has 2 children, Frank and Regina, as well as 4 grandchildren, Benjamin, Brianna, Peyton, and Aria.

Save the Date

Sunday, November 3, 2019. 10:30 AM thru 3:00 PM

Location:

**Acme Accordion School
322 Haddon Ave.
Westmont (Haddon Township), NJ 08108**

In addition to Mr. Al Terzo, the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra. Dr. Lou Persic and the Westmont Accordion Club is also performing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CONTACT: Joanna Darrow - 856-854-6628

Hope to see you there!

Welcome New AAA Members

Associate Members

**Nadine Roth
Stephen Hirsch
Mitchell Gust
Mary K. Evans
Bonita L. Stambaugh**



*Thanks to the following for their
generous donations*

Up to and including \$100

**Jeanne Velonis, Youth Programs
Pete Sbuttoni, Youth Programs
Pete Sbuttoni, General Fund
CAA, Youth Programs
Ginger Grider, Youth Programs
Brandy DePhillip, Youth Programs
Antonino D'Eramo, Youth Programs
Jim Blasiak, Youth Programs
Steve Balog, Youth Programs
Cristina Busso, Youth Programs
Rita Barnea, General Fund
Don Gerundo, Composers Commissioning
Lindsay D. Ramcharran,
Carrozza Scholarship**

Up to and including \$200

**Linda Infante,
Carrozza Scholarship**

We appreciate your support!

Coast to Coast

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



PORTLAND, OREGON

The Rose City Accordion Club has operated the accordion camp for over twenty years. After twenty plus years of the Rose City Accordion Camp (RCAC) camp residing at Silver Falls Conference Center, the camp will move to a new location in 2020. The new venue, the Collins Retreat Center in Eagle Creek, Oregon features double rooms, dining room and activity rooms are under one roof. This huge facility is still nestled under familiar tall firs with an inviting outdoor area. Pre-registration for RCAC camp 2020 underway now. With the new facility, attendance is limited. If you are interested in attending camp 2020 (June 7-12, 2020), please send a \$100 deposit to Fran Maddox: 3429 SE 162nd, Portland, OR 97236. Registration forms will be released in October.

The Rose City Accordion Club, located in Portland, Oregon, is a non-profit organization comprised of individuals who share enjoyment of and enthusiasm for the accordion. The Club embraces all styles of accordion music and welcomes all who have an interest in the accordion whether they play or not. Their intent is to promote the future of the accordion and the enjoyment it gives to all. For further information: rferrero02@yahoo.com

LOUISVILLE, KY

Dr. Paul Merenbloom will present a concert 'Classical Accordion and Strings' on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 2:00 PM, Hilton Seelbach Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. The concert will feature Anastasia Lee, (vocals), Egle Ona Bartkeviciute (accordion) and the Beo String Quartet, with Sean Neukom (viola), Jason Neukom (violin), Ryan Ash (cello) and Aviva Hakanoglu (violin).

The music venue at the Hilton Seelbach Hotel is directly across the street from Louisville's entertainment and retail complex, Fourth Street LIVE. Come to the Grand Ballroom at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in downtown Louisville, on Sunday, October 27, 2019, for the 2:00 PM concert. "Classical Accordion and Strings" is open to the public. \$32 for adults; \$26 for students. Children under 12 will be admitted free of charge and will be given front row seats with their families. For further information: Cell: 502-759-0248 or e-mail: Paul.Merenbloom@va.gov.

LAS VEGAS, NV

The Las Vegas International Accordion Convention 20th Anniversary will take place from October 14 - 17, 2019 and will feature an array of renowned guest artists including the Russian legend Prof. Friedrich Lips. Guests will enjoy an array of activities including performances, seminars and the annual Las Vegas Accordion Orchestra under the direction of Joan C. Sommers.

Please visit www.accordionstars.com or contact event organizer Paul Pasquali at paul@accordionstars.com for more information.

SEATTLE, WA



Accordionist Jamie Maschler will be the accordionist for the Play, "Indecent" at the Seattle Rep from September 20-October 26, 2019. Jamie said, "I feel like I've been prepping for this show my whole life." She is excited that (1) she finally gets to play with Kate Olson, (2) Alexander Sovronsky is an amazing music director and (3) the entire cast is amazing. "Indecent" is a powerful drama from Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel. "Indecent" charts the true story of a controversial 1906 play, Sholem Asch's "God of Vengeance."

2019 Performance dates are: Preview Performances September 20, 21, 22, and 24 at 7:30 PM; Pre-Play Design Talk September 24 at 6:45 PM; Opening Night: September 25 at 7:30 PM; Captioned Performance October 3, 7:30 PM; Post-Play Actor Talk October 3 at 7:30 PM; ASL Interpreted Oct. 12 at 2 PM; Audio Described Performance October 12 at 2 PM and Post-Play Actor Talk October 16 at 2:00 PM. For tickets: <https://www.seattlerep.org/plays/1920/indecent> or for further information, please e-mail: jamie.maschler@gmail.com.

SPRINGFIELD, MA

The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra in its fifth season of public performances as the only act of its kind in the USA, performed at the Spencer Fair, in central MA. on Saturday, August 31, 2019 on the West Gate Stage and again on September 17, 2019 at the Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, MA., the 3rd largest fair in the USA attracting over a million attendees.

Formed and conducted by AAA Board Member and nationally recognized accordionist and music educator, Sam Falcetti, the orchestra of 21 players hail from across New England and harness their digitally enhanced accordions in a variety of musical styles.

The Orchestra's final concert for 2019 will be in Chatham, MA. on Cape Cod at their "First Night" New Year's Eve celebration. To arrange a per-

formance or for further information, please contact Sam Falcetti at (413) 204-5522 or e-mail: samfalcetti@gmail.com.

ACCORDION POPS ORCHESTRA

AUDUBON, PA

The Accordion Pops Orchestra, conducted by Al Terzo, continued its 49th season with a performance on Sunday, September 22, 2019 at 3:00 PM at Shannondell in the Valley Forge - Auditorium in Audubon, PA. Gia Ciccone, winner of the AAA's Carmen Carrozza competition, Junior division which was held in July, 2019 was the guest artist.



The Accordion Pops Orchestras' roots can be traced to 1970, when it was organized by the Accordion Teachers' Association of New Jersey. Over the next ten years, it performed at various community functions throughout the state under the direction of its first conductor, Dr. Jacob Neupauer of Philadelphia. In 1980 Eugene Ettore took over as conductor of the group until his untimely death in 1984. In 1985, Daniel Desiderio was invited to act as a guest conductor of the orchestra and then appointed him as conductor in residence. The name of the orchestra was formally changed to the Accordion Pops Orchestra and its membership was expanded beyond the original members from New Jersey to include performers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Maryland, and Rhode Island. Maestro Desiderio retired as conductor in May 2011 and turned over the baton to Al Terzo. For further information on upcoming performances, please e-mail: webmaster@accordionpops.com.

Coast to Coast is cont'd. on page 20



Coast to Coast

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



CONNECTICUT ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

WOLCOTT, CT

OKTOBERFEST
featuring Art Daigle
Accordion/Vocalist

Thursday, October 24th at 6:00 p.m.
East Street Eatery
at Farmingbury Hills Golf Course
141 East Street
Wolcott, CT

Call and reserve a table: 203-879-8823.
Come join us for dinner,

Good Music and Friendship.
Bring your accordion and play at open MIC!
Free Admission.

RSVP to Marilyn at 203-272-1202
by Monday, October 21, 2019.

Visit us online at www.CTAccordion.com
Co-sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association

WESTMONT, NJ

The AAMS event honoring Joan Sommers is pleased to announce the MC for the banquet will be AAA Board Member, Manny Bobenrieth. The event will be held March 6 & 7, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The hotel is located at 2349 Route 70 West in Cherry Hill, NJ 8002. For reservations, call 856-665-6666. Hotel rate is \$110.00 per night plus taxes.

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN ACCORDION SOCIETY

WMAS kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a visit from Mariachi Esmeralda! This five-piece local band surprised the group by starting their first song outside, and out of sight, and then proceed-

ing to the front of the room. With their lively arrangements, the band delighted with mariachi standards and probably was amused that so many of us could sing along with "Cielito Lindo," "Llorar y Llorar," and other songs.

Our next meeting, on the 20th of this month, will be our annual Oktoberfest. This event depends on participation by a lot of people. So here's what we need from you:

Sign up to play something people can dance to, sing along with, or (pretend) drink to, or to lead the group in a circle dance or whatever you can come up with.

Bring your accordion and your Oktoberfest sheet music.

Bring German/Austrian dishes to share.

Invite your friends and family.

Come early to help set up and decorate

Serve as greeter; please sign up!

TIME TRAVELS

The AAA Master Class and Concert series hosted by Dr. William Schimmel is set for July 31, August 1 and 2 at the Tenri Cultural Institute on 13th Street between 5th & 6th Avenues, in NYC. Last years' event celebrated it's 25th anniversary. Additional details on the 2020 Master Class & Concert Series will be available in the November-December issue of the AAA Newsletter.

BENNETT COMPOSITION WINNERS

Coming in the November-December Issue, *Meet the Winners* of the Elsie Bennett Composition Competition: Dan Mastroianni - 1st place for his competition entitled *Awkward Moment* and Will Comer - 2nd place for his competition *Apres Noli M'a Partie*; Nathan Chapeton, *Fantasy* and Rachel Schutt *Hommage a Notre-Dame de Paris*

WANTED

We have a member who is looking for someone in the Rochester, NY area to play a 100th Birthday in Maplewood, NY (near Rochester). The birthday boy is originally from the Netherlands, loves accordion music and the family is looking to celebrate with some "lively tunes" on December 21st at the nursing home where he resides. Please contact the AAA office at ameraccord1938@gmail.com and we will send you the contact information.

JOE SOPRANI AT PHILLY MET

I have been asked by the Philly Pops to join them in a production of NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS at the Philadelphia Met. I am working on a very interesting accordion part that is quite different and challenging. The iconic Hollywood Halloween tradition comes to Philly as The Philly POPS and Live Nation present two performances of Disney's The Nightmare Before Christmas. Live to Fil at the Met Philadelphia. In a nod to the Hollywood Bowl's productions of Tim Burton's masterpiece, The Philly POPS will perform the film's classic score alongside the original film. Everyone is invited to attend in costume; Tim Burton-themed costumes are especially encouraged.



MEET "THE DIVAS"

You know them as the women on the AAA Board of Directors: Officers, Chairman, Co-Chairman, Committee Organizers, Coordinators, Editors, Proofreaders and so much more and now you will get to hear them as the professional musicians they all are. See the November-December issue of the AAA Newsletter.

LONG ISLAND ACCORDION ALLIANCE The LIAA will feature Accordion Virtuoso,

CHARLIE SAUSSE



Our Wednesday, January 8 the featured guest artists will be accordionists Manny Corallo and Frank Toscano

Wednesday,
November 6, 2019
6 PM

La Villini Restaurant
288 Larkfield Road
East Northport, NY 11731
631 - 261 - 6344

Seating is limited and reservations are recommended.



American
Accordionists'
Association



The American Accordionists' Association

presents...

Festival 2020

Save the Date:

July 8-12, 2020

Come join us at the
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Alexandria, VA

\$130 Single or Double, Triple, Quad

Guest Artists



Festival
Orchestra
Mary Tokarski,
Conductor



Sam Reider • Cory Pesaturo • Joey Miskulin

Plus the *Divas*

Lifetime Achievement Award

presented to

Linda Soley Reed

with a tribute to all the
Great Ladies of the AAA

...Past and Present



Exciting
Competitions
Workshops
Youth Involvement
Jazz Ensemble
Junior & Senior
Festival
Orchestras



Video

COMPETITION FOR ACCORDIONISTS

WIN A TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND

to the 2020 South Pacific Accordion
Championships & Festival,
30 - 31 May 2020 in Auckland



FREE
ENTRY



TO ENTER:

Play any one or more accordion compositions by renowned New Zealand composer Gary Daverne

Video your performance and save as .MP4 file

Enter online & send your video before
5 January 2020

Prize: Airfare & Accommodation for two

A chance to compete in the 2020 South Pacific
Accordion Championships



Open to musicians of any age and nationality
See online for full details and conditions



accordion.co.nz/2020/VideoDaverneCompetition.htm