



# AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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

March-April 2020



## *The Accordion World Has Lost one of its Finest* **Louis F. Coppola Passed Away - April 20, 2020**

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) is very saddened to report that our beloved Louis F. Coppola passed away on Monday, April 20, 2020, from complications of leukemia.

Born May 25, 1937 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Lou, with his magnetic and endearing personality, spent his entire life spreading joy with his beautiful accordion music. A great ambassador for the accordion and a tremendous supporter of the AAA, Lou will be greatly missed!!

Please visit [ameraccord.com/festival2018-14.htm#coppola](http://ameraccord.com/festival2018-14.htm#coppola) for additional information.



## From the President

Dear AAA members,

It is with great disappointment that due to the circumstances surrounding the Corona Virus (COVID-19) emergency, we have made the necessary decision to cancel the AAA Festival July 9-12, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in Alexandria, Virginia. Our guest artists have been working hard over many months to prepare this wonderful event and we are so sorry that we will not be able to share these magnificent performances with you. Hopefully our artists will be available to perform at our 2021 AAA Festival in West Philadelphia.

We are committed to public safety, including that of our many loyal attendees, guests and performing artists, and to help support the nation's strong efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19, we join a long list of events that have already been cancelled.

For those who purchased event packages and tickets, we offer them the following options: 1) a full refund, 2) leaving it as a donation or 3) applying it to the 2021 AAA Festival at the Marriott Philadelphia West Hotel in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania July 14-18, 2021, The rate for the hotel remains the same - \$130 plus free parking.

We sincerely apologize for this cancellation but feel it is absolutely necessary for the good of everyone at this time.

Please be safe and take care of yourself and your families.

God Bless, Joseph A. Ciccone, AAA President

## From the Editor

As we began 2020, we could never have imagined the impact that Covid-19 would have, progressing from a distant and looming concern to shutting down the world in a matter of weeks.

Almost all live events from around the world have either been postponed or cancelled, and it seems like it will be some time yet before things return to a sense of normality. Luckily, people's ability to share their creative talents and love of music with an audience has continued via online means and range from creating virtual orchestras to presenting pre-recorded or livestreamed performances.

As always, 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 outstanding work in helping



source accordion events across the USA that we often include in our Newsletter publications.

Items for the May-June 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. 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. Please send your items as soon as possible in order to ensure it is included in the upcoming publication.

Thank you in advance for your continued support with the Newsletter and we wish you all continued music making and the joy it brings to all.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor

## Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts Postpones March Festival

Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the New England Music Festival, (one of the largest in the USA), has been postponed. This event was scheduled to be held from March 27th to March 29th. The 58th 3 day event has been rescheduled at the Newton Marriott Hotel from July 24th to 26th. The Festival averages more than 1000 entries and 600 contestants from all across New England. Contestants must be entered thru an ATAM member. The only exception is the Adult Accordion division. Since the competition was cancelled only two weeks before the event, the set up of the event should remain the same.

Depending on the attendance remaining the same the committee plans to accept new entries from those who were not able to



compete in the March event that was postponed. This will include adults not presently enrolled. A final decision will be made and appear in the June 1st issue of the US National Accordion News and the AAA Newsletter.

The Accordion Teachers Association of Mass. is proud to bestow Honorary Membership upon Rita Davidson Barnea at their Festival in July. Rita is the National Editor of the US National Accordion News.

For more information and questions about the ATAM Festival please go to the ATAM Web Site or contact Peggy Falcetti-Chairperson (413-204-1022). ■



Because so many of us are finding that with many restaurants closed, and so many events canceled and/or postponed, we have omitted our Coast to Coast page in this issue since they all have the same message: **Canceled until further notice!** Well, some of us have created innovative ways to **Keep the Music Alive...Keep the Accordions Playing!** If you have something to share, please send it to [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com) and we'll get it posted on the AAA site!

Please send the new additions to the AAA youtube site which can be accessed by visiting [ameraccord.com](http://ameraccord.com), select MENU, scroll down to NEWS & MEDIA, select Youtube videos and sit back and enjoy

Here are a ideas to **Keep the Music Alive...Keep the Accordions Playing** from our members and friends:

■ **From Chicago accordionist, Frank Rossi:** Since all my shows are now canceled, I decided to use my music to help others cope with our current situation. After all., my logo states "Frank Rossi bringing the joy of music to thousands... one at a time" So I decided to put on a monthly Facebook LIVE show titled "FRIDAYS WITH FRANK." Every Friday from 7-9pm Chicago Time I put on an interactive show encouraging friends & fans to message their song requests. Today marks Week 5 and our views have been incredible.... from 2-5000 per show! The shows are primarily shot at my home where I invite a guest musician or two to join in the fun. We are very careful to stay 6 feet distance and adhere to the seriousness of the times. HOWEVER, my shows are about FUN & LAUGHTER!

■ **Cup of Joe with Papa Joe.** Greetings from Bellerose, Queens, NY, the epicenter of the Corona Virus. As you may know, my passion is to perform for people at Restaurants, Halls and Clubs. However since New York got hit with the virus we have been ordered to stay home since March 17th, so my last gig performance was on March 15th, which was for a birthday party. All of my gigs since that date (March 17th) have been cancelled because of the NYS Stay Home requirements. Unfortunately, the virus also caused the closing of the NYC Public Schools, so the PS203Q Accordion Band hasn't met anymore and it hurts not see their faces as they perform for the other students and their parents. I truly miss seeing the kids each week.

So what can an accordionist entertainer do when he is ordered to stay home? Well you can spend a lot of time practicing, which is good, however, it doesn't feed the performer's personal satisfaction of seeing and hearing the positive responses from one's customers. So, like several of us performers, we had to come with another way to deal with our situation, so several of us started reaching out to the public by doing on-line Live Performances.

On March 26th, I decided to start doing live secular performances on "Face Book Live". Every Thursday afternoon, I set up my all of my equipment in preparation of performing that night at 7:30 pm on Facebook Live. I put on a 60 to 90 minute performance and watch the responses come in. I usually play American-Italian style songs that reflect the 1940's thru the 1970's era. Most shows yield about 500 viewers with one of my shows yielding as many as 1.2K viewers. Doing that has helped me to connect with people as far as Australia, some being other accordionists and others just being average people who just want to hear and see something good for a change.

Since I also have a passion for Gospel music, on Sunday - March 29th, I started playing a 15 minute weekly live performance session of Gospel Music at 10:30am. That session may not yield as many listeners, but is still reaching over 100 viewers of people who are spiritually minded and are praying for this virus situation to end.

Periodically, I also sit in the front half of my driveway, toward the front of my house, and play for the nearby neighbors who seem to enjoy the music. I usually get a few smiles and they also wave to me. Unfortunately, as of this date, April 17th, we have been told that the shut-in order will continue through May 15th, which means I will be continuing my Thursday nights and Sunday mornings for a while longer. I pray that this virus will end soon so I may go back to enjoying the reality of playing more gigs again for parties and restaurants.



## Just Released! "VIGNETTES, Short Pieces for Accordion"

by Joan Grauman

Today is March 20, 2020. I am truly honored and delighted to be sitting at my computer writing about Guy Klucevsek's amazing just released new masterpiece for the accordion world! It has been so hard to concentrate on ANYTHING other than international virus concerns lately—and I am certain many, if not all of you, can relate!! You can most likely also relate to where my mind is heading now: time to relearn how to use our time and energies wisely and creatively as we stay in our homes 24/7, and pray that when this virus is no longer a concern (soon, I hope!!), we will all be healthy and more appreciative human beings....and better accordionists!

I can think of no better way to start improving your musical skills and boost your spirits than to head to your computer (hmm...you are most likely using it right now), find the website "starkland.bandcamp.com" and order Guy Klucevsek's "VIGNETTES, Short Pieces for Accordion", a truly delightful and mesmerizing book containing 24 of Guy's compositions for accordionists of all skill levels. Even before you take a look or listen to the first piece, the titles of these short gems will surely bring a smile to your face (check out "*Eleven Large Lobsters Loose in the Lobby*")! Be sure to also order the supplemental recordings, which are included in the price of the book, exquisitely performed by Guy and several fine fellow accordionists. Joe Natoli, well-known accordionist and close friend of Guy's, summed up the essence and joy of delving into this compilation so beautifully:

"As a fellow composer, I have watched Guy's musical output take shape over many years, since we first met and became fast friends in the late 1970s. His diversity of thought, his love of the accordion, and love of music are immediately apparent when listening to and/or performing each of these amazing little gems.

As far as I know, this is Guy's first attempt at his own personal publishing project and like everything Guy does, he put his heart and soul into it, achieving the amazing results of an absolutely beautiful keepsake publication. The artwork, the pictures, the quality of the printed pages, and the printed music itself all combine to provide a very special, nostalgic, and artistic walk through Guy's life. Enjoy and cherish your copy. I know I will do the same with mine. Congratulations Guy on producing this artistic achievement!"

Guy Klucevsek is one of the world's most versatile and highly respected accordionists. He began his studies at the age of 5, has been playing ever since, and will tell you he has always been thankful he made the choice to play the accordion "at an age when we act first and foremost on our instincts."

His instincts, his warmth and wit, plus his innovative musical taste and diverse musical talents have led him to become an internationally celebrated composer and accordion virtuoso.

### Creating This Collection:

Not only is Guy respected by fellow accordionists worldwide, he has always been a tremendous promoter of accordionists whose playing he enjoys and respects. In the summer of 2019, he was deep into the process of writing a set of pieces dedicated to several of these accordionists. Once finished, he thought, "*What do I do with these now, since I have retired from performing?*" Since Guy's goal was to share his music with people, he decided to make these scores available to as many players as possible. And since these pieces were all relatively short in duration, he gathered other short pieces that he had written over the years and decided to publish the



collection as a book. "What began as ten pieces expanded to a dozen, then a baker's dozen, then twenty, and finally settled in at twenty-four." Wanting an "aural reference to go with the visual", Guy asked these accordionists, plus several others to record these compositions for this project. "First of all, all of the players are my friends, and I wanted to celebrate, not only my compositions, but the community of wonderful players out there with whom I have played, hung out, and so enjoyed hearing over the years."

### The Players:

The easiest part for Guy was matching players with pieces he wrote specifically for them: Alan Bern, Will Holshouser, John Torcello, Jeanne Velonis, Nathan Koci and Dallas Vietty. With his older pieces, he chose players who he felt could really capture the style and mood of a piece: Paul Schuberth, Cory Pesaturo, Joe Natoli, and Alex Meixner. Guy played several of the compositions as well. Joe Natoli was chosen for "*For the First Time*" as this one was written for free bass and is a jazz ballad, and Joe excels at both. Another example: Cory Pesaturo was chosen to play "*Gimme a Minute, Please (My Sequins Are Showing)*" dedicated to the Swingle Singers. "*I absolutely KNEW that Cory would nail the sound and off-beat rhythmic feel of this piece,*" Guy said. Alex Meixner was chosen for the beautiful "*C&M Waltz*" because he plays this style of Slovenian-American waltz so authentically and beautifully. What a terrific group of musicians playing a terrific and uplifting compilation of delightful pieces ranging from gentle waltzes to jazz to classical!

Dallas Vietty was truly honored to be included: "*For my entire life as an accordion player, Guy Klucevsek's music has been a creative inspiration to me. There is a freshness, energy, and personal style to Guy's music that has always drawn me in and made me feel welcome.*"

Guy himself played 12 of the 24 pieces. Most of these were recorded in his home by his close friend Jeanne Velonis, who he describes as a "*brilliant engineer and lover of the accordion.*" Jeanne lovingly described the experience: "*Essentially, I turned the house into a recording studio.....There are some challenges to living-room recordings. We had to unplug the phone and remove the clock and turn off the air conditioning on a very, very hot day, and bells of the neighboring church went off every 30 minutes! For all that, the sessions went smoothly and we all had a great time.*"

The book itself is beautiful! Filled with engaging comments and photos, explanations of musical terms and, of course, the 24 terrific compositions. The pages of the book are of a heavy stock, so there is no print through, and it is wire bound so it will open flat on a music stand and to facilitate page turns. It is available both in hard copy format and as a digital download file, so it can be ordered online from anywhere in the world, and it can be read from either a music stand or a digital tablet. The book comes with audio recordings of each piece, which will be available only as digital downloads. Go to: [www.starkland.bandcamp.com](http://www.starkland.bandcamp.com). You can order the book there and also read more about Guy Klucevsek in the fascinating Press Release! To order the HARD COPY book (and remember to ask for the supplemental recordings), please go to: <https://starkland.bandcamp.com/merch/vignettes-short-pieces-for-accordion-physical-book-of-scores-bonus-recordings>

I, too, have always enjoyed Guy as an amazing composer, performer and good friend, and I know what I will be practicing and listening to for the next several months! In the words of Dallas Vietty, "*Guy's music makes me want to play the accordion.*"

Stay well, everyone, and keep playing those accordions!! ■



## Daily Hymn with Mary Mancini and Mario Tacca

During the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, music remains one of the most powerful healers. Mary Mancini and Mario Tacca having been sharing their music in daily inspirational music video releases on YouTube.



Internationally acclaimed vocal artist Mary Mancini has been featured in the New York Times, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and the Journal News and has performed in a variety of venues around the world. Able to sing in eight different languages, Mary draws from a deep repertory reservoir. She is adept at pop, show tunes, operatic arias, and sacred music and has received worldwide acclaim.

Accordionist Mario Tacca, an AAA Board of Director was a world champion, winning the World Cup of Italy, the Grand Prix of Paris, the US National Competition and the International Accordion competition held at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Mario Tacca dazzles audiences across the US and around the world with his outstanding virtuosity and his exciting interpretations of international music, the classics and pop.

Mary and Mario share, "We're very happy to be in touch with you to bring you our hymn for today. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers each day as we lift all of us and those around you in prayer. As you know, Italy has been suffering through this pandemic for weeks, starting before us, and it's still ongoing. Also, as many of you know, we have been traveling to Italy to visit Mario's relatives for many years. And some of you travelled with us when we took groups to the Amalfi Coast, Sicily and Tuscany. What wonderful memories!

So today, we add a dedication to all the people of Italy who are suffering, those who have perished, doctors and medical workers, and to all of our family there who must work and those who are in quarantine. The hymn we have chosen, "Va Pensiero", is the most famous of all Italian Renaissance Hymns. In the Opera Nabucco, 1842, by Giuseppe Verdi, it is called "The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves". This hymn was also proposed to be elected as the National Hymn.

This will come in a different format today - the soundtrack is from our CD, "Ricordi", along with a slideshow of some of our memorable photographs from Italy, which we hope you will enjoy. For further information: [manciniandtacca@gmail.com](mailto:manciniandtacca@gmail.com) ■

## The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra: Now on YouTube!

The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra, founded and conducted by Sam Falcetti, was featured at the 29th annual First Night celebration in Chatham, MA last year. This 21-piece Orchestra was one of the 70 bands that performed throughout 10 different venues at this event. Two concert programs were played at the First United Methodist Church with over 400 people in attendance. Thanks to Bert Quirbach, Jim Avedisian, Marissa Falcetti, and Don McMahon for making this entire project happen, starting with the video taken at the concert to the editing and uploading of the video to YouTube.

This one of a kind orchestra is made up of talented longtime and more recent players, some professional and others hobbyists, who have made the change to a digital accordion which produces their orchestral sounds.

"Many types of orchestras and bands have had their own identity," says Maestro Falcetti, "From the symphony, woodwind and string orchestras, to the swing, marching and ethnic bands from different countries – each served a purpose in musical evolution. There has never been an orchestra that could do it all, until now."

It is important for accordion enthusiasts throughout the world to hear how the acoustic accordion has expanded through digital technology, and also what the only United States Digital Accordion Orchestra has achieved both orchestrally and musically in the last 5 years. Close your eyes and you won't believe you are hearing an accordion orchestra.

Testimonial from Ginny Hamblet, Entertainment Coordinator at First Night Chatham: "WOW! Let me repeat that... WOW!! Your Digital Accordion Orchestra was very well received at our New Year's Eve Celebration of the arts at First Night Chatham. The audience could not believe the versatility of the pieces that your group presented. We have heard nothing but rave reviews from those who attended. We hope you will perform for our event next year."

For more information, please visit the Orchestra's new Facebook page (New England Digital Accordion Orchestra). You can see the orchestra's performance at First Night Chatham on YouTube by searching "New England Digital Accordion Orchestra – Chatham First Night" or by clicking this link:

[https://youtu.be/\\_pduLrYqyC4](https://youtu.be/_pduLrYqyC4)

Below is a list of songs performed in the YouTube video:

|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Celebration           | Birth of the Blues         |
| Evergreen             | Star Wars Medley           |
| Gonna Fly Now         | Fiddler on the Roof Medley |
| New York, New York    | Beatles Medley             |
| James Bond Medley     | Conflict (Civil War Songs) |
| Polka Medley          | Birdland                   |
| Your Mama Don't Dance | God Bless America          |

For any additional information, please contact Sam Falcetti at [samfalcetti@gmail.com](mailto:samfalcetti@gmail.com) or 413-204-5522. ■



# AAMS Festival in Cherry Hill, NJ

The 30th American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS) Festival was held on March 6th & 7th in Cherry Hill, NJ. It was a whirlwind of accordion music, workshops, meeting new and old friends, accordion orchestras, solos and more.

During the festival there were workshops and two festival orchestras which were directed by guest conductors Dee Langley and festival honoree Joan C. Sommers. Joanna Darrow directed the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra.

Three very informative workshops were presented: (1) Joan Sommers: "Really Useful Technique to be Mastered in Pieces Instead of Exercises! And The Importance of Sight-Reading Skills!" (2) Joe Natoli: "Combining Studio Quality Digital Home Recording with Video Production" and (3) Al Terzo and Friends: Al Terzo, John Madrowsky, and Suzanna Beites performed including biographical and historical information on standard literature of the accordion repertoire.

A Question and Answer Panel including Joan Sommers, Joe Natoli, Dee Langley and Al Terzo provided fascinating perspectives on the accordion.

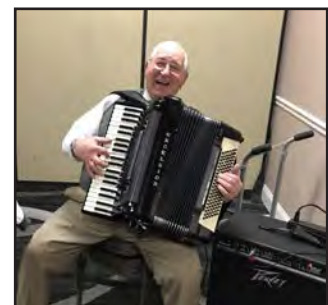
The highlight of the festival was the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Joan Sommers at the Saturday evening banquet. MC Lenny Feldmann provided witty and informative comments to the slideshow organized by AAA Historian, Joan Grauman including photos of Joan Sommers' illustrious career. Music was provided by Dr. Lou Persic.

After dinner, the orchestras, ensembles, and soloists performed. Festival Orchestra 1, conducted by 2019 AAMS Honoree Dee Langley was very enjoyable including Dee's comments on the selections performed and her busy career. Joan C. Sommers directed Festival Orchestra 2 including lyrical intricate arrangements. The soloists included Al Terzo, Dee Langley and Joe Natoli.

In less than 48 hours, the intensive and educational fun weekend included something for everyone at all levels of ability and interest. Joanna Darrow deserves much praise for her organizational skills and providing all with a memorable weekend. ■



AAA President Dr. Joseph A. Ciccone, Prof. Joan C. Sommers, AAMS Festival Director - Joanna Arnold Darrow, and ATG President Joe Natoli



Above left Al Terzo and right, Joe Natoli, Concert Artists. Left, Joanna Darrow and Dee Langley at Registration Desk and above, Dr. Lou Persic entertained at Gala Banquet

## Concert Program

### Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra Joanna Darrow, Conductor

Caravan.....D. Ellington  
Nordish Sonate..... (3rd Movement).....G. Mohr

### Al Terzo

### Festival Orchestra 1 Dee Langley, Conductor

All I have to do is Dream      Boudleaux Bryant  
Amor Del Bajo Corrales      Costa Rican Folk Medley  
Jubilee Polanaise.....O.M. Zukowski  
Sova "The Owl".....Rroma (Gypsy)/ arr. D. Langley  
Sudarushka Dyevushka      Russia/arr/ D.Langley  
Trencanska Polka      Slovakia/ arr. D. Langley

### Joe Natoli

### Festival Orchestra 2 Joan Cochran Sommers, Conductor

Seagate Overture (James Swearingen).....Arr. by Paul de Bra  
Il Postino (Luis Bacalov).....Arr. by Paul de Bra  
Thoroughly Modern Millie (James Van Heusen)  
Arr. Anthony Galla-Rini

### Dee Langley

### Trio

Joan C. Sommers • Dee Langley • Joanna Darrow

Entrr' Acte.....G/ Bizet /arr. Paul De Bra  
Musical Shenanigans.....Stas Venglevski

### Festival Orchestras 1 & 2

Joan Cochran Sommers, Conductor

Beauty and the Beast Medley (Alan Menken)....Arr. Joan C. Sommers  
(Based on an orchestral arrangement by Calvin Custer)



Trio performers, Joan Sommers, Dee Langley and Joanna Darrow performed Entrr' Acte (Bizet) and Musical Shenanigans (Venglevski).

# Yvonne Marts Donates Very Special Accordions

AWAM board member Yvonne Marts (Fergus Falls, MN) phoned me in December of 2019 to say she wanted to donate her best accordions to the museum, knowing how much I appreciate the Hohner Emperor and Hohner Morino models. They are mid-twentieth century models, well treated and loved by this "Certified Accordion Technician" known as "The Accordion Lady of Fergus Falls." They will join other accordions she has donated and will be displayed with pride."



As a model, the Hohner Emperor was built in Germany in 1936 and then again in 1957-61 according to Dr. Martin Haeffner's *Ewig Jung Trotz Vieler Falten [History Unfolds!]*. Judging by construction materials and design, this Emperor IV (left, foreground), without serial number, was probably built in the early 1960s. Its treble section offers eleven treble shifts and one palm-master for the 41 keys in four reed-banks while the bass section offers five shifts in five reed-banks.



The Hohner Morino VM, offers eleven treble shifts and five bass shifts controlling five reed-banks in each section. Its treble features triple-middle reeds tuned tremolo and its bass has 127 buttons. The model was built from 1948 to 1970. This instrument, without mute, probably originated in 1940-60s.

When I arrived at Yvonne's home, I was surprised by additional donations from Marge Hansen, also of Fergus Falls. They are delightful instruments - Hohner "World's Fair" Bohemian-type diatonic, Concertone two-row "Viennese" diatonic, Scholer Anglo concertina, and an unusual child's toy. All are in excellent condition - like new. Fine additions to the museum collection!

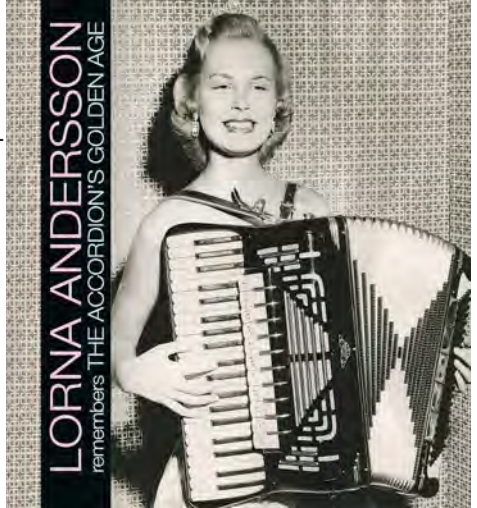
Yvonne had notified the "Daily Journal" newspaper of her donations to AWAM and my expected arrival to pick them up. Reporter Johanna Armstrong printed a November 23, multi-page story about Yvonne's life and accordion-related occupation.

In addition, the Museum also received two instruments from Lorna Andersson. For many accordionists, the world is filled with friends. Sometimes our circles intertwine in surprising ways.

At ATG some years ago, Museum Curator Helmi Harrington met Pamela Tom (CA), who subsequently played in the band for

the AWAM World Accordion Day 2019 May festivals, where she presented Helmi with one of the few remaining CDs that her friend Lorna Andersson (NC) had made.

Helmi was immediately impressed by the precision and perfection of Lorna's performances, her skilful handling of the instrument, and her musical sensitivity and is now included among the CDs played when museum visitors view the displays.



In October, 2019, Helmi wrote an "Accordion Notes" newsletter entitled "A Five-Generations Treasure," about a German button diatonic whose owner died leaving her trusted friend (Patricia Bock, Milwaukee) charged with the promise of providing it a caring home. Pat sent it to the Museum, now displayed in its own glass case atop our early diatonic accordions display case.

After reading that newsletter, Lorna Andersson was inspired to offer us a "little concertina" she had acquired many years ago. When the package's wrappings were removed and the hexagonal wood case showed itself, the little concertina turned out to be a Lachenal Anglo concertina manufactured in London around 1873. This is a rare and valuable instrument in nearly perfect condition, a wonderful addition to the Museum's Early Instruments cabinets and a likely participant in future concerts.



After conversing with Lorna by phone, she offered another of her prizes which turned out to be a Russian folk instrument known as "Saratovskaya Garmoshka" likely made before 1950. It is a one-row (10-key) button diatonic accordion with three bass buttons and two bells, individually triggered by the tonic bass and chord. Again, it is virtually perfect. Its beauty is eye-catching and will be placed at the head of our display shelf of Russian accordions.

The Museum's 2020 World Accordion Day concert would have included Lorna in performance had it not been forced to cancel the event due to Covid-19 restrictions. In the bio sent for our festival brochure, she mentions a plethora of successes: she won third place as the California entrant for the 1957 Miss America Beauty Pageant playing her accordion with orchestral accompaniment. She went on to play for 2,000 American troops; was shown in national television commercials; modelled for major clothing stores; formed the "Polka Dots" band; earned a Master's degree in Special Education; spent 24 years as classroom instructor, administrator and director; and recorded for Jedoodle Records.

Stimulated through her accordion, her life story can be a model for many, along with her generous and kind spirit. ■

## Gary Daverne Video "This is My Life"

by Rita Barnea

Gary Daverne ONZM has recently released a pictorial slideshow, "This is My Life" looking at the illustrious life of the New Zealand composer, orchestral conductor and record producer. Gary was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 1996. He held the position of Music Director/Conductor of the Auckland Symphony Orchestra from its formation in 1975 until 2010 when, on retiring, he was appointed Music Director Emeritus. Daverne has also conducted many major orchestras around the world. He has composed music for symphony orchestras, brass and military bands, children's songs and musicals with more than 500 television and radio advertising jingles, film soundtracks and pop songs. Daverne is New Zealand's most prolific composer and arranger of music for the accordion. As a music producer Daverne has released over forty albums achieving one Platinum and two Gold records.

Since his retirement from the Auckland Symphony directorship position, he has gone back to his pop and rock 'n' roll roots as a record producer, digitally re-mastering, mainly for internet re-release on his Viscount label, archive recordings that he produced in his earlier years, along with producing new recording projects. He is still actively involved as a guest conductor with orchestras and as a musical arranger and composer.

During the 2014/15 period, Gary was musical director for three highly successful children's musicals at the Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre in Auckland. Two of these musicals: Robyn Hood – Outlaw Princess (words by John Reynolds) and Cats of Ponsonby (words and story by Ray Prowse), Gary had composed the music for some 40 years ago but had recently revised and updated. The third show was The Rockin' Tale of Snow White.

Other recent compositions by Gary include: Auckland March, Silver Fern March, 2nd Rhapsody for Solo Accordion and Or-

chestra and Dardanelle, a major work for orchestra and choir commissioned in 2016 by Turkey for their 100-year Gallipoli centenary.

In June 2015 he released his first book, From the Podium, sharing tales from his life of forty years conducting orchestras and choirs around the world. See <http://www.garydaverne.gen.nz> for details.

The superb video includes the soundtracks of his original compositions with photos of Gary, his awards, the ensembles he has conducted, the programs, and the important, talented people he has met during his musical career. You will also see photos of Gary as a young man in the various bands he played with as well as the instruments he plays. It is a personal account of the many fabulous experiences he has had and which he now wants to share with the world.

I really enjoyed Gary's video, learning about all the musical activities he has been involved in since he was a child. His is life of enjoying music, people, and places. Above all, he is a person who shares in a kind and friendly manner. Gary has contributed immensely to the accordion world with his compositions, both solo and ensemble. Over the years, Gary conducted his Auckland Symphony Orchestra featuring many outstanding accordionists from around the world.

See the attachment which will tell you about his CD's and give you the necessary information to order them. I highly recommend acquiring his CD's and compositions.

For more information on Gary Daverne, please visit [www.garydaverne.gen.nz](http://www.garydaverne.gen.nz) ■



## Brooklyn Accordion Club, Live on Zoom!

By Jeanne Velonis

The coronavirus may have put a temporary halt to all public gatherings in person, but that did not stop the Brooklyn Accordion Club from meeting on Sunday, April 12. The meeting was held online, using the Zoom platform, with all participants joining in from the safety of their homes. The meeting was co-hosted by Mayumi Miyaoka and Blythe Bonaffons, with Mayumi guiding the proceedings. It was a great success and was greatly enjoyed by all.

The online meeting was well attended. In addition to the usual suspects hailing from Brooklyn



Karolina  
Mikołajczyk &  
Iwo Jedynecki  
from Poland

and the other four boroughs of New York City, the group had guests from towns and cities across the country and the world! Philadelphia, Boston, and a few "Upstate" NY locations were just some of those represented in the meeting.

Several members of the San Francisco Accordion Club attended! It truly was an international gathering as well as a national one, as the day's performers all joined in from their respective countries: Jorge Arribas played for the BAC from Spain, Ladislav Horák from the Czech Republic, Gary Blair from Scotland, and the duo of Karolina Mikołajczyk (violin) and Iwo Jedynecki (accordion) from Poland.

Jorge kindly shared scores with the BAC of the pieces he performed. Karolina and Iwo provided the BAC with a game as part of their performance, when they played a medley of Hollywood movie themes and challenged the group to name the tunes as they appeared! This the audience did using the typed "chat" tool, so as not to interrupt the performance.

Some members were mighty quick with their ID-ing ability.

The participants' mics were muted whenever they were not speaking or playing, to minimize background noise and eliminate feedback. How, then, did they applaud the performances? Using Zoom's tools, they were able to post emoji of clapping hands or a thumbs-up! And, of course, the performers could see the audience smiling and clapping on their screens.

The next meeting of the Brooklyn Accordion Club is scheduled to take place Sunday, April 26th, from 2-3 PM EST, also on Zoom. Rob Curto will be the featured guest and will give a presentation on Brazilian music.

For more information on the Brooklyn Accordion Club, please contact [brooklynaccordionclub@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynaccordionclub@gmail.com). ■

Screenshots by Robert O. Duncan



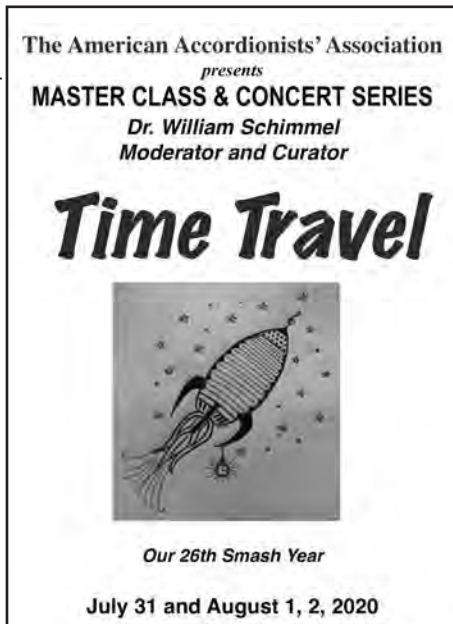
Mayumi Miyaoka co-hosted the meeting from her home

## Annual Master Class and Concert Series to be Presented Online

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) will present a 2020 Master Class & Concert Series with Dr William Schimmel, moderator and curator from July 31st to August 2nd, 2020. For the first time, this event will be presented OnLine and will consist of 2 one-hour segments each day: 1st hour (3:00 p.m.): Master Class: Talks/Workshops and the 2nd hour (4:00 p.m.): Concert/Performances. The cost is \$25 per one hour session or \$40 per day; \$110 for 3 days.

**Please provide your email address so we can provide directions on "how to tune in."**

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 Schimmel appears in the famous Tango scene. 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. He has served and continues to serve as Artist in Residence of The American Accordionist's Association (AAA) where he also serves as Distinguished Lecturer in Residence and member of the Governing Board.



The Seminars were brought to the AAA by Dr. William Schimmel with the idea of presenting all facets of the accordion to The New York Artistic Community, with the notion of finding ways to find new angles of expression, composition, video art, performance, dance, design, trapeze, as well as new takes on old ideas and bringing the Accordion Ancestry into fresh new light. The response has been overwhelming in the establishment of an accordion culture in New York City and its influence has gone global.

For further information please visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) or contact Dr.Schimmel at: [Accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:Accordionbill@gmail.com) ■



The Mystical Accordion - an entirely free access YouTube composed/performed by William Schimmel

Keep the Music Alive....Keep the Accordions Playing! cont'd from p. 2

### Atlanta Accordion Club on Zoom

The Atlanta (Georgia) Accordion Club held their first Zoom meeting on Sunday, April 19th. Biff Astra introduced Mark Lamback who hosted the meeting. Once music started, only one player will be heard. All other participants will be "muted" to help insure barking dogs, ringing phones, etc., don't disrupt things. Each player will be asked to play one tune. And then we'll move to the next player until all have played once. Then we'll start over again. Some members just listened...playing was not required. There was no cost to participate.

**Who Would Ever Think Anything Like This Would Ever Happen!** "...During The Course of This Tragic Epidemic! As a Professional Musician, the Corona Virus has placed a Black Cloud over many of my Musical events. This has also affected many of my Colleagues as well. I've lost many of my booking's beginning with Paczki Day thru the end of June. This has also affected many of my other Colleagues as well. To Continue to be able to Perform our Music, I've been recording Music Video's, on facebook for our Public Audience, to hear and enjoy! It's always a great feeling to be able to share our talent with all of our facebook friends! and Accordion Colleagues. In this time of silence, it has also brought me closer to " God " with this Great Gift that he has instilled within me, which I'am very thankful for. All My Very Best To All of You Stay Well Stay Safe...and God Bless!

**Accordionists get creative - LiveStream is the concert venue during the COVID-19 outbreak.** You can stay connected and support fellow accordionists during this time by following concerts hosted online. The following artists are all providing online concerts on their Facebook accounts. Please connect with them directly: Michael Bridge, Toby Hanson, Josh Hou, Jamie Maschler, Grayson Masefield, Alex Meixner, Gabe Hall-Rodrigues, Alicia Straka, Matt Tolentino, Rob Reich.



## Alexander Poeluev... Live Online Concert in May 2020!

Due to the situation in the world today and the ways it has affected all our lives we are making new projects in new formats. For this reason Alexander will perform a live concert for his audience.

The program will contain music in all genres and styles from classical pieces to the most modern ones. This virtuoso and emotional performance will be held live on his YouTube channel and is free to watch. During the concert the audience may make any donations that they wish.

### About Alexander...

Alexander Poeluev was born in Rostov-on-Don, Russia on January 12, 1981. He began his music studies at the age of six at the music studio of A. S. Shachnev.

From 1991 to 1996, Alexander was enrolled in the Tchaikovsky Music School in the Class of Selected Members of the All-Russia Musical Society of I. N. Pilipenko.

In 1996 he entered the Rostov State College of Arts, qualifying for the special class of S. S. Galkin for Outstanding Russian Artists.

After completing one year of studies, he continued his education at the A. Shnitke Music College in Moscow in the distinguished class of Russia's National Artists, and went on to win several international competitions under the tutelage of noted educator, composer and accordion virtuoso, professor Viatcheslav A. Semionov.

1997-2000 - Schnitke State Music College in Moscow

2000-2003 - Schnitke State Music Institute in Moscow

2003-2005 - Gnessins Music Academy of Russia

2005-2007 - Postgraduate study at Gnessins Music Academy

### Alexander Poeluev, concert accordion artist

In 1997, Alexander became the double winner of the All-Russia competition for accordion players in Belgorod (Russia) and in 2002 at the "Coupe Mondiale" International Competition, in Copenhagen (Denmark), he won in two top categories: SENIOR COUPE MONDIALE and COUPE MONDIALE INTERNA-



TIONAL PIANO ACCORDION category.

In 2005 he became the laureate of the Stolaruk International Entertainment Competition sponsored by the American Accordionists' Association which was held in Detroit, Michigan. In 2006 Alexander was awarded first place in the first international competition held in Shanghai (China).

Alexander has performed in New Zealand, Australia, USA, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine and in many cities of Russia. He is currently an active concert artist, frequently serves as an adjudicator at international competitions and organizes concerts in Rostov-on-Don for noted performers.

Poeluev's concert program includes music by J. S. Bach, D. Scarlatti, N. Paganini - F. Liszt, E. Grieg, F. Mendelssohn, P. Tchaikovsky, S. Prokofiev, S. Rachmaninov, and also A. Piazzolla, V. Semionov, A. Kusiakov, V. Tchernikov, V. Vlasov and many others.

Alexander Poeluev's performances are distinguished by his great mastery of the instrument, brilliant technique and virtuosity and sensitive interpretations. ■



- Two time Coupe Mondiale accordion winner - Seniors Coupe Mondiale and Piano Accordion Class(2002).
- Winner of Int'l. competitions in United States and China.
- Has played concerts in more than 30 countries including New Zealand, Australia, United States and in many cities of Russia.
- Jury member of prestigious accordion competitions all over the world.
- Repertoire includes virtuoso and emotional pieces in classical and even rock styles
- Has held masterclasses and accordion courses in almost every city he has visited.

"Many of us are now learning and working from home. I am already running Masterclasses in Russian and am now offering a separate Masterclass in English."

Although I speak some English, my wife Lisa is an English interpreter and together we are prepared to offer Masterclasses for English speaking participants only.

This workshop is open to all levels of playing ability including accordion teachers. The live online workshop, using the Zoom App, will be an open format. For all those playing and teaching the accordion I will share my experience and answer your questions live. The class will be recorded and a copy of the video will be available to those who participate. Cost of the one hour Masterclass is \$12.00 payable via PayPal before the class.

Every participant can ask 1 question. Questions to be submitted before the class so we can discuss the answers in detail together.

The first of these Masterclasses will be near the middle of May. Date and time of class will be announced once we have established who the participants are.

Please contact Edward Petrowski Jr. if you are interested. Edward will assist me in gathering participant information and offer assistance downloading and using the Zoom App. His contact email is [EPetrowskiJr@iCloud.com](mailto:EPetrowskiJr@iCloud.com) • phone is 203-605-8807.

Please email Edward:

- Your name
- General information on your accordion experience
- Your question for Alexander
- Your time zone

Look forward to seeing you in May!

*Alexander Poeluev*

**Check out Alex Poeluev on FaceBook and his YouTube Channel for date and time of concert!**



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**\$67.00 per person:**

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Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (at \$67.00 per person made payable to the AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION for \_\_\_\_\_ attendees or charge my credit card (shown at right). I / We cannot attend, however, enclosed is a tax deductible donation to the Carrozza Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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*Cocktail Hour: 12 noon-1:00 p.m.  
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*Wonderful music for dancing featuring:*

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Dr. Joseph Ciccone  
2 Gramatan Avenue Suite 206  
Mt Vernon, NY 10550**

**Cell 914-224-1241 • Drjcciccone@aol.com**

**RESERVE NOW!** Donation of \$67.00 per person includes dinner and entertainment if purchased before September 1st, 2019. After September 1st, seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Make checks payable to AAA and mail to: Dr. Joseph Ciccone, 2 Gramatan Avenue, Suite 206, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550, Phone (914) 224-1241 or email Drjcciccone@aol.com

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**Cost: Each one hour segment - \$25**  
**Master Class & Concert - \$40**  
**All 3 days - \$110**

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  - Brian Dewan
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  - Melissa Elledge
  - Mark Nathanson
  - Benjamin Ickies
  - Godfrey Nelson
  - Lorraine Nelson Wolf
  - Dragica Banic Curcic
  - Erica Maire Mancini
  - Dave Soldier
  - Mayumi Miyaoka
  - Dan Cooper
  - The Yorkvillians
  - Max Maples
  - Michiyo Suzuki
  - Rachel Swaner
  - The Main Squeeze  
Orchestra
  - Milica Paranosic
  - Peter Jarvis
  - David Stoler
  - Lauren Flanigan
  - David First
  - Mary Spencer Knapp
  - Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig
  - Lee Mc Clure
  - Ken Laufer
  - John Foti,
  - Kathleen Tipton
  - Bob Goldberg
  - The Famous Accordion  
Orchestra
  - Corn Mo
  - Rachid Eladlouni
  - Carl Riehl
  - Linda Reed
  - Rita Barnea
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  - Jeanne Velonis
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  - Jenny Cho
  - Elliott Sharp
  - Jennie Muilio
  - Elaine Yau
  - Carita Patamikakam
  - Kathryn Andrews
  - Ted Nash
  - and many others
  - and a few surprise guests
  - and  
Dr. Schimmel

**Use this form to mail in your reservation and payment! OR register online at ameraccord.com**

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\_\_\_ Daily Full Session - Master Classes, Workshops and Concerts - \$40

Check dates  Friday, July 31  Saturday, Aug.1  Sunday, Aug. 2 @ \$40 Daily \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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For information, please phone (212) 876-0827  
Mail check or credit card information to: AAA Treasurer, Ray Oreggia, 36 Renee Road, Syosset, NY 11791-2831  
E-Mail Address Required so that we may provide "tune-in" information!

**Stay Healthy,  
Practice the following and Remember  
*We're All In This Together!***

**Drink lots of hot liquids**  
*Coffee, Tea, Soups, warm water*

**Take a sip of warm water every 20 minutes to  
open and unblock your airways**

**Gargle with antiseptic in warm water, vinegar, salt or lemon daily**

**Bathe or shower after being outside; avoid sitting down  
or touching anything...go straight to shower  
wash clothes immediately and if you can't,  
hang them in direct sunlight**

**Don't smoke!**

**Wash metal surfaces in your home like handles and doorknobs  
regularly and avoid touching them when outside**

**Avoid the common flu, avoid drinking cold things**

**If you have any discomfort in your throat, address it immediately**

**Wash hands every 20 minutes in warm water & foamy soap**

**Eat lots of fruits and veggies  
And if you must stay home...**

**PRACTICE YOUR ACCORDION**

***FYI animals do not transmit this disease!***