



Newsletter

The official membership publication of the American Accordionists' Association

May/June 2022

From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2022 Edition of the AAA Newsletter!

As the year reaches its halfway point, we hope you are enjoying a variety of performances and accordion events, either in-person or online. World Accordion Day was celebrated on May 6 and featured a large and varied array of events all around the world. To see how your fellow accordionists celebrated this annual event, we invite you to visit www.accordionists.com/cia, and under "Events," select World Accordion Day and the 2022 Reports.

Thank you all for your support with the AAA Newsletter. We are delighted to be able to share your news and activities with our readers. We appreciate hearing from you!

My sincere thanks to our Layout Editor, AAA Board member Frank Busso, Jr. I would like to also thank our Board members Rita Barnea and Joan Grauman for their outstanding work in helping source accordion events and news items to include in our Newsletter publications.

Items for the Summer 2022 Newsletter can be sent to me at ameraccordnewsletter@gmail.com.

Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box so we don't miss any items you send to us. As always, text should be sent within the email or as a Microsoft Word attachment if possible. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file (or similar) 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 issue.

We wish you a wonderful summer of music and friendship!

Sincerely,

Kevin Friedrich, AAA Newsletter Editor - ameraccordnewsletter@gmail.com



The 2022 AAA Virtual Competition is Here!

As we prioritize the safety and health of our members and guests, we are thrilled to bring back our virtual competition categories for one more exciting year!

Solos Duets Ensembles Bands

Contestants of All Ages and Abilities

Cash prizes generously donated by The Mary and Frank Tokarski Musical Arts Fund

***See contest rules, entry forms, & video submission guidelines at
www.ameraccord.com***

A World of Accordions hosts World Accordion Day and Palmer Festival

A World of Accordions celebrated its annual World Accordion Day and Dr. Willard Palmer Festival in Superior, WI on May 6-8, 2022. Featuring concerts, lectures, a festival orchestra, two polka services, and several social events, the festival was hailed a tremendous success, bringing in both live and online audiences.

Featured guests included the Mayor of Superior, Jim Paine, Museum President and curator Helmi Harrington, PhD, Dr. Mike Middleton (both solo and with The Middletones), CIA Ambassador, AAA Board Member and Museum Vice President Kevin Friedrich, Dee Langley (both solo and with the Masked Accordion Ensemble), AAA Board Member Joanna Arnold Darrow, Jazzlynne Skye, John Scaffeo, Mary Kay and Katherine Archuleta, William Popp, Accordion Concertina Music and Friends Accordion Band conducted by Tracey Gibbens, Hostfest Ensemble, and Dr. Craig Funderberg.

Visitors to the World Accordion Day and Palmer Fests were treated to an array of activities showcasing the diversity of the accordion, an introduction to the extensive Alain Papineau collection donation, as well as guided tours of the Museum displaying more than 1,400 instruments tracing the evolution of the accordion from 1829 to today.

Highlights included three proclamations presented by Mayor Paine and a showcase called “Meet the Family,” where Kevin Friedrich, assisted by Jane Christison and Chad Walker, introduced attendees to 18 different members of the accordion family found in the Museum exhibits.

Proclamations from the Mayor included World Accordion Day (May 6), Dr. Willard A. Palmer Day (May 7), and Social Music Celebration Day (May 8).

The “Meet the Family” presentation began with Kevin performing the oldest instrument in the Museum holdings, a 193 year old 6-key Flutina and finished with the magnificent 160 Bass Titano Emperor Super V instrument owned by the late Dr. Willard A. Palmer. Other instruments included the Luttbeg double (left and right hand) piano keyboard, a dual right hand button and piano accordion, a pedestal accordion, Flutter accordion, diatonic, Tanzbar mechanical, Fire Tiger, and more.

A World of Accordions volunteer technician Chad Walker kindly lent his expertise to restore many of the instruments to playing order, while Jane Christison provided accompaniment on several of the performances including for the Cello and Bass accordions, bandoneon, and the unique bell accordion.

To conclude the main festival activities, a 20-member accordion orchestra under the direction of Tracey Gibbens presented a concert of popular pieces showcasing original

accordion composers.

For the second year, an additional celebration was held on the Sunday morning featuring two Polka Services, whereby popular Hymns were either adapted to polka-style performances, or the words from popular hymns were set to popular accordion classics.

Plans are already underway for the 2023 World Accordion Day celebration. For more information, please visit www.worldofaccordions.org.



UMKC Community Accordion Ensemble Concerts

University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC)
Community
Accordion Ensemble
directed by Joan Cochran Sommers



Mary Ann Covone, Ron Dake, Ron Barrow, Kevin Friedrich, Cathy Sue Weiss
Betty Jo Simon, Samantha Wagner, Joan C. Sommers, Christine Jarquio Nichols & Jane Christison

WELCOME!

Saturday - 11 June 2022 - 3:00 PM
The Swan Dive Event Center at Vivilore Restaurant
10815 Winner Road, Independence, MO 64054
*Allow time after the concert to enjoy the Gardens, Art Gallery and Gift Items.
Reservations are necessary for dinner after 5. Call (816) 836-2222. Full Menu & Bar.*

Sunday - 12 June 2022 - 2:00 PM
Kansas City United Church of Christ Social Hall
205 W. 65th Street, Kansas City, MO 64113

FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED!
For Information: Joan C. Sommers (913) 722-5625

The University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) Community Accordion Ensemble will present two Kansas City area performances coming up soon: June 11 at 3:00pm at the Swan Dive Event Center at Vivilore Restaurant in Independence, MO; and June 12 at 2:00pm at the Kansas City United Church of Christ Social Hall at 2:00 PM.

Under the direction of Joan C. Sommers, who both conducts and plays as a member of the ensemble on certain pieces, the members of the ensemble are alumni of the University of Missouri – Kansas City Conservatory of Music accordion program, which was founded in 1961. After the retirement of Professor Emerita Joan C. Sommers, the University was happy to allow the accordion group to continue its legacy using the UMKC name and offers rehearsal and instrument storage space for the group.

The accordion ensemble will perform a varied program, including original works for accordion orchestra, transcriptions of popular classics, and even a saxophone work featuring bass accordionist Ron Dake on alto saxophone accompanied by the ensemble.

Admission to these Kansas City area concerts is free, with donations greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact joansommers@kc.rr.com.

ATG features 80-member 80th Anniversary Orchestra

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) will conclude its 4-day festival with a magnificent 80-member orchestra to celebrate its 80th Anniversary Festival. The orchestra will perform six pieces conducted by Joan Cochran Sommers, and AAA Board Member Kevin Friedrich will serve as Concertmaster. The program will include transcriptions of classic repertoire, arrangements of popular music, and original works for accordion.

Conductor Joan C. Sommers was awarded the title of Professor Emerita upon her retirement from the University of Missouri – Kansas City Conservatory of Music, where she established and taught the accordion degree program for 40 years. She has arranged innumerable works for both accordion orchestra and chamber ensemble over many years, works that have been performed around the globe. She has held numerous positions in several music organizations, including the ATG and the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA – IMC-UNESCO), where she was recently awarded lifetime Honorary Membership.

For more information on this and other activities scheduled during the 80th Anniversary celebrations, please visit www.atgaccordions.com.



Rita Barnea Presents Virtual Concerts Honoring Ettore's 100th Birthday



Rita Barnea recently presented two virtual concert/lectures in celebration of the 100th birthday of the late Eugene Ettore. On April 27, Rita presented "The Music and Life of Eugene Ettore," organized by Shirley Johnson and Laura Niland for the 2022 Not Just Oompah Workshop and Concert Series. On May 17, Joe Natoli, founder and president of the We Love Accordion group, sponsored the free virtual concert that featured Rita discussing the music and life of Eugene Ettore, along with her performance of many of his virtuoso compositions. Rita is looking forward to more presentations of live or virtual concerts of the music of Eugene Ettore.

At the age of 4, Rita filled glasses of water to create a musical scale and tapped out little songs with a spoon! Her parents took her to Major Music in Irvington, NJ, where Eugene Ettore became her accordion teacher at the age of 9.

From the very first minute, Rita loved the first little red accordion that was given to her, and to this day, not a day goes by that she isn't either playing, listening to, or writing about the accordion.

After years of instruction and playing in bands, she performed in many venues with the Sano Symphony, conducted by Eugene Ettore. Rita also studied the piano and the viola. Auditioning on the accordion for the University of Connecticut Music Department, she was also a Music Education Major. For over 30 years, she taught Pre-K to Grade 5 vocal and special education music in the West Orange, NJ Public Schools, using the accordion to accompany her students. On beautiful, warm days, she took her classes and accordion outside to teach lessons.

Rita has served as the National News Editor and coordinator of www.accordionusa.com for over 14 years. This popular news site covers accordion events, artists, concerts, etc. taking place in North America. Rita welcomes accordion news, photos, and information for the USA News, and readers are invited to submit items for publication to ritabell@aol.com.

Rita enjoys presenting workshops and concerts on the "Life and Music of Eugene Ettore," "The Use of the Accordion in the Teaching of Music in School," and "How to Organize a Children's Birthday Party," centered around the use of the accordion. She has performed in recitals, concerts, workshops, and at accordion festivals throughout the country.

Rita is the creator and curator of the Eugene Ettore Memorial Website, containing photos, articles, and other valuable information about Eugene Ettore and his vast achievements: www.accordions.com/memorials/mem/ettore_eugene/

Eugene Ettore began to study the accordion at age 5 with his father, Antonio, a vaudeville accordionist. Truly a renaissance man with varied interests, Eugene always excelled in any subject that he devoted himself to. He specialized in accordion compositions and arranging music for concert solo and ensemble accordion groups, organ, and guitar (pop and standard tunes.) Mr. Ettore has to his credit over 300 published and unpublished copyrighted works of all genres. He was the author of method books for the accordion, French horn, recorder, and melodica, and the Chief Editor and Arranger for Pietro Deiro Publications from 1955 to 1965.

Eugene served as both President and Vice President of the American Accordionists' Association (AAA), where he was awarded "Outstanding Composer and Arranger." He also served as Vice President of the Accordion Teachers Association of New Jersey. He was the recipient of ASCAP Standard Pane Awards for 1964 and 1965, and listed in 1955's "Who's Who in the East."

In honor of Eugene's accordion legacy, Rita Davidson Barnea has released the "Music of Eugene Ettore" album as a free download, available at www.musicforaccordion.com/eTracks/inform/davidson/index.htm

For further information on scheduling a live or virtual concert, please contact ritabell@aol.com.



Spotlight on AAA Member Brandy DePhillip

Joan Grauman recounts that she met AAA member Brandy DePhillip at the 2018 AAA Festival in Alexandria, VA. Now living in Maryland and recently playing her accordion again after a several year hiatus, Brandy saw the ads for the festival on Facebook and she and her husband decided to join us. It was terrific having her there! Brandy returned to the AAA Festival in 2019 and won the top award in the Adult Pop competition. Since that time, Brandy's music has taken her to many wonderful places, she now studies accordion online with Joe Natoli, and she regularly performs in the Maryland area.

Brandy says: *"I started playing accordion at age 10, also playing the violin starting at age 6. I studied accordion in an accordion studio in Orange County, CA for seven years. I was raised on classical and gospel music. Once I became an adult, I started playing solos and in bands: Country Western and 50s-70s pop music."*

As has happened with many accordions, Brandy's instrument ended up in the closet for decades so she could "live a normal life." That life did not suit her and, as she describes so well, "Music has returned to my life and I am loving it. This is my 'normal' now."

Brandy currently plays a Roland FR-8x and 4x. "I love the different sounds that I can create with these 'virtual' accordions!" She enjoys learning and relearning about the accordion from Joe Natoli, who also helps her learn the ins and outs of the Roland V-Accordion. A very enthusiastic musician, Brandy is spreading this joy in her southern Maryland area "where children have no idea what an accordion is and the older crowd has forgotten about the accordion and the beautiful music it produces."

Brandy will perform at several private parties and senior centers in Maryland throughout the summer. If you are in the Annapolis area on June 26, you can hear her perform at the beautiful Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center in Solomons, MD. This special event celebrates the Calvert Library's Summer Splash. She will be the opening act for Grammy nominated musician, author, and educator, Pierce Freelon's performances.



Meet New AAA Secretary Rita Barnea

At the May 10 AAA Board meeting, Rita Davidson Barnea was appointed the new Secretary of the AAA. Rita has served as a member of the AAA Board for many years.

For over 14 years, Rita has served as the National Editor of www.accordionusa.com Accordion USA News, she presents workshops and concerts on the "Life and Music of Eugene Ettore," "The Use of the Accordion in the Teaching of Music in School," and "How to Organize a Children's Birthday Party," centered around the use of the accordion, and performs recitals at accordion festivals throughout the USA.

Rita retired from a 30-year career as a public school music teacher in West Orange, NJ, where she used her accordion every day in the classroom, taking advantage of its portability to conduct classes in the cafeteria, outdoors, and on the building's upper floors. Her red accordion, covered in stickers, was loved by her students, who all wanted to carry it for her from class to class!

Rita continues to be involved in interesting accordion activities. She had the opportunity to perform with the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra at the United Nations several years ago in New York City, where she premiered New Zealand composer, Gary Daverne's "Concert Waltz for Accordion and Strings." She also performed Eugene Ettore's "Manhattan Concerto" with two symphony orchestras. Rita said, "I feel very honored that I was given the opportunity to perform his concerto

with an orchestra. I have always felt that his music is orchestral in nature, not only bringing out the unique characteristics of the accordion, but also demonstrating that his compositions definitely lend themselves to orchestral arrangements, which is something that I would like to see happen in the future."

Rita recounts that Eugene Ettore was one of the first proponents of the "Power of Positive Thinking" with his students. While preparing for competitions or concerts, he would teach techniques of relaxation and focus by using several powerful statements before performances, such as:

- I play with confidence, determination, and accuracy.
- I recollect easily and at will. (This statement also applied to taking tests in school.)

Rita found these statements/mantras to be extremely helpful in reducing anxiety and assisting in total focus on learning and performance, and she uses them even today.

Rita, as National Editor of the Accordion USA News for almost 15 years, has produced over 175 issues of www.accordionusa.com, including over 5,250 articles, achieving over 12 million page views during her tenure as editor.

Rita looks forward to her role as Secretary of the American Accordionists' Association and is proud to serve the organization in this capacity. For further information on Rita and her varied activities, please contact her at ritabelll@aol.com.



Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS)

The Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS) is still going strong as it enters its 20th year! WMAS was created by three women: Karen Malan-Uribe, Mara Cherkasky, and Anne Johnson. Their first meeting was held on February 11, 2003. The timing was just right as interest in the accordion was on the rise all over the country. Their mission has always been “to bring together accordionists and promote accordion music in the National Capital region.” That first meeting, which was promoted in several newspapers in and around Washington, DC, brought 25 enthusiastic attendees, many whom decided to take their accordions “out of the closets” after decades for this new club. Most never left.

“official” guest artist. Their impressive roster of artists over the years has included Grayson Masefield, Stas Venglevski, Frank Petrilli, Dallas Vietty, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Mary Tokarski, Gail Campanella, Dominic Karcic, Ray Oreggia, The Busso Trio, and Joe Natoli, just to name a few. Special guests from the DC area have included Rose-Marie Coppola and Lou Coppola.

In the spring of 2019, Joan turned over the job of Music Director to Peter DiGiovanni. In Joan’s words, “Peter is doing a fantastic job - incredible, really!” Peter took the club through the pandemic with well-organized virtual meetings and a delightful virtual holiday concert. Additionally, he has conducted two in-person holiday concerts, which included several of his excellent compositions and arrangements.



WMAS Members in the 2004 Halloween Parade

In late 2003, Joan Grauman (AAA Board Member and Historian) was recruited by the club. Within months, she became the Music Director, a position she held until leaving the Washington, DC area in 2019. She founded the Potomac Accordion Ensemble, a small group of accordionists from WMAS in the fall of 2004. Joan directed this group, which performed in several AAA festivals as well as several American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS) banquets for over a decade. She was also the conductor of the WMAS Holiday Orchestra (2004-2018) in the annual festive holiday concert and potluck dinner. This event has consistently brought close to 140 attendees each year.

In the fall of 2004, WMAS created its “Guest Artist Series,” which brings in guests accordionists in the spring and fall each year. The guests are well-known musicians from outside the DC area, who present programs for the club during its Sunday meetings. This has been a huge success from the start! Rita Davidson was the first

WMAS was pleased to hold an in-person Member Concert on June 19. Their first in-person Member Concert since 2019, WMAS members were invited to play a selection of their own choice for the audience. Upcoming WMAS concerts include bandoneon artist Emmanuel Trifilio on July 17, and another appearance by Stas Venglevski on September 25. Both concerts will be at 4:00pm at Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church in Falls Church, VA.

For more information on WMAS, including concert photos and events calendar, you are invited to visit www.washingtonaccordions.org, or to contact Peter DiGiovanni at (703) 919-5701 or peter@musicisfoever.com.



WMAS members at 19th Birthday Celebration: Mara Cherkasky, Joan Grauman, Karen Malan-Uribe, Peter DiGiovanni

Canadian Premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's Fachwerk

Canadian artist Michael Bridge gave the Canadian premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's magnificent accordion concerto, *Fachwerk*, with Esprit Orchestra in Toronto's iconic Koerner Hall on June 9.

Soloist Michael Bridge recounts: *"I believe Fachwerk (2009) is among the best and most exciting works that exist for accordion today. The concerto is scored for accordion soloist, string orchestra, and percussion. It has been performed hundreds of times around the world, but not yet in Canada.*

Preparing this concerto became a deep personal passion. In September 2021, I traveled to Iceland to hear Geir Draugsvoll (for whom it was written) rehearse and perform the concerto with the Iceland Symphony. He was very generous; we had all our meals together that week, and he shared the story of Fachwerk with me, including his 30-year history with the composer, the evolution of the cadenzas, and his experiences performing it – now over 50 times."

Sofia Gubaidulina, one of the world's foremost living composers, has written 14 works for accordion from solo sonatas to concerti. She was born in the Tatar Republic of the USSR, and has resided in Hamburg, Germany since 1992. Her music is deeply linked to her spirituality and, in the case of *Fachwerk*, the structure of the accordion itself.

Fachwerk literally means "Wooden Scaffolding" and refers to a style of German architecture where the structural wooden beams are exposed and the joints are visible, forming crosses. The modern concert accordion has several button layouts on one instrument; Gubaidulina's idea was for the accordionist to play the same button sequence with both hands, but on different button systems so that the mirrored actions produce different tones. Gubaidulina then found an ingenious way to turn this concept into a beautiful cadenza, by locating starting points for each hand that, when layered, sound haunting, austere, and sublime. Hence, she recounts, "The accordion itself wrote the cadenza," from which the entire concerto blossomed.

Michael Bridge's performance with the Esprit Orchestra, Canada's only orchestra dedicated to performing and promoting new music, under the direction of Alex Pauk, also featured a pre-concert talk at The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Ontario.

ESPRIT LIVE 2022!
 8:00pm Concert
 7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
 at Koerner Hall

Act 4 Thursday June 9

Sofia Gubaidulina
Fachwerk
 for accordion, percussion and orchestra

Alison Yun-Fei Jiang
Sanctuary

Thomas Adès
Polaris
 voyage for orchestra

Michael Bridge – accordion
Alex Pauk – conductor

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

turn this concept into a beautiful cadenza, by locating starting points for each hand that, when layered, sound haunting, austere, and sublime. Hence, she recounts, "The



Pioneer Women of the AAA - Alice "Essie" Bradshaw Armstrong - considered the "Sweetheart of the Accordion" in the early years of the AAA

By Joan Grauman, AAA Historian

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to write about this incredible woman who spent her entire life playing, selling, teaching, and promoting the accordion. The most incredible thing is that, although Essie was very much involved when the AAA was founded in 1938, and worked closely with many of the founders of the AAA, we really did not know of her existence - until recently. I am ever so grateful for Essie's daughter Kathy Marcus' persistence in locating me, telling me all about her mother, and sending me so many delightful and insightful papers and photos about her mother's early years in the New York area accordion world.

Alice "Essie" Bradshaw was born in Chinook, MT in 1917. The family moved to Spokane, WA a few years later. Essie began studying the piano and piano accordion as a young child in Spokane. After graduating from high school in 1935, she became well-known in Spokane as an accordion soloist, playing at many prestigious social events.

In 1936, Essie flew to New York City to study at Juilliard School of Music. She quickly became an accordionist on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC radio) staff, and she worked at the H. Selmer and Excelsior Accordion Company. Soon, after meeting Joe Biviano at the radio station, Essie became an accordion instructor at the Joe Biviano School of Music on West 48th Street in New York City. Joe and his then-partner Gene von Hallberg made Essie the school's Assistant Director.

In the 1930s, women were not usually placed in the foreground in the world of the popular new instrument: the accordion. While you may never find old radio photos featuring Essie, which is surprising as she was a very beautiful young woman, Essie was very respected and loved by her colleagues. I now have a collection of wonderful promotional photos of the well-known accordionists who wrote to Essie on their photos. Johnny Serry referred to Essie as "Sweet Stuff." Joe Biviano wrote, "...our most capable and charming assistant." The excellent duo of brothers Anthony and Dominic Mecca wrote, "...our dear friend and 'Sweetheart of the Accordion.'" Brothers John and Charles Magnante each wrote: "The First Lady of the Accordion" (John), and "to a FINE accordionist and great teacher!" (Charles). The first meeting of the AAA was held on March 9, 1938. At the second meeting, held on April 9, 1938, Essie was presented with the second Certificate of Membership in the AAA (see photograph of this certificate). It was signed by two of the founders, Sam Rowland and the first AAA President, Pietro Deiro, Sr.

In 1940, Essie performed at Carnegie Chamber Music Hall at the Joe Biviano School of Music's student recital. Charles Magnante arranged the G Minor Fugue, by JS Bach, for four accordions so the four teachers could perform together: Joe Biviano, Gene von Hallberg, Alice "Essie" Bradshaw, and John Magnante. Essie continued to teach at the Biviano studio until 1943 when she married and returned to Spokane, WA.

Upon her return to Spokane, Essie went back to her name Alice. Alice Bradshaw Armstrong never stopped playing or teaching music. In her later years, after retiring from the Hoffman Music Company in Spokane, Alice and her husband, John B. Armstrong moved to South Hill, WA, where she became involved in a choir. This choir, a traveling ministry, performed in every state and made several trips to Europe. Alice "Essie" played her accordion all over the world with this choir. She was also a member of the Spokane Accordion Ensemble, directed by Ilmar Kuljus, during the 1990s.

Sadly, Alice developed Alzheimer's and eventually had no memories of the beautiful life she had led. "She taught my brother and me to be strong and caring people," her proud daughter Kathy said. Alice "Essie" Bradshaw Armstrong died at the age of 100 1/2 in 2018.



Accordions in the Heart of New York City

Bryant Park, located in the heart of New York City, is excited to announce the 2022 season of Picnic Performances presented by Bank of America: 26 live and in-person music, dance, and theater events produced in partnership with a diverse and storied lineup of New York City’s performing arts institutions. Over 20 of this season’s events will also be available to live-stream in their entirety.

The season opens on May 27 with New York City Opera’s staged, costumed, and live music-supported production of Rossini’s “The Barber of Seville,” and closes on September 17 with an American Symphony Orchestra 60th Anniversary concert. In between, don’t miss five nights of contemporary dance with established and rising companies; performances in partnership with Carnegie Hall Citywide, The Town Hall, Joe’s Pub, and The Classical Theatre of Harlem; the post-pandemic return of Bryant Park favorites Emerging Music Festival and Accordion Festival; as well as new collaborations with Jazzmobile, Asian American Arts Alliance, and Steinway Artists.



The September 16, 2022 Accordion Festival will showcase world music performers, featuring the accordion and accordion-related instruments. All performances are free to the public and designed to be enjoyed casually – no tickets required – with ample seating available and free picnic blankets for audience members to borrow. Attendees may bring their own food or purchase from on-site food and beverage vendors near the Lawn. COVID-19 vaccinations and masks are not currently required, but Bryant Park will continue to monitor and follow updated New York City and New York State COVID-19 guidelines throughout the summer.

The Accordion Seminars

Dr. William Schimmel’s Accordion Seminars will be held July 29-31, 2022. Celebrating its 28th year, as in the previous two years, the event will held virtually.

The theme is “Too Much Information, Too Little Time, But We Do It Anyhow.” This year’s seminars will be presented by a new organization, “The Accordion Global Association.” Master classes will be 3-4pm, with concerts 4-5pm.

The distinguished list of participants includes: MIcki Goodman, Paul Stein, Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan, Will Holshouser, Godfrey Nelson, Lorraine Nelson Wolf, Dr. Denise Koncelik, The Main Squeeze Orchestra, Doug Makofka, Jeanne Velonis, Sari Kalin, Brian Dewan, Robert Duncan, Mayumi Miyaoka, Corn Mo, Erica Marie Mancini, Mary Spencer Knapp, Benjamin Ickies, Dan Cooper, Peter Flint, William Komaiko, Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Gene Pritsker, Peter Jarvis, Bachtopus, David First, Lauren Flanigan, Bob Goldberg, Carl Riehl, and Rita Davidson.



Offering a variety of presentations, topics will include: In your Face; Out of your Face; The New Professional; The Vague Panther - dealing with navigation of rough waters; The Technique of Ideas; The Technique of Chops; Ideas & Chops; The Accordion as Homing Pigeon; Accordio Yoga; Zen Phrasing Revisited; Accordio Meditation; De-stressing with your Accordion; Fun with a Purpose; Fun with a Porpoise; Hard Work – with Payoff (Instant Gratification); Hard Work with Delayed Payoff (The Art of Patience); Contraction & Release; Aught Culture & Reverse Irony; New Works; Old Works - New Angles; Nothing New, but How We Look at it; The Accordion as Smile - La – Phone Morality & the Accordion.

Tickets are \$150 for the entire weekend or individual event tickets are available to purchase for \$25 per session. For further information, please contact Dr. Schimmel at accordionbill@gmail.com or call (212) 876-0827.

Northport Historical Society Celebrates Croatian Day

The Northport Historical Society in Northport, NY, celebrated Croatian Day on April 3, featuring a 90-minute presentation by Anton Angelich. Mr. Angelich, who is a food scientist and also teaches at McGill University, addressed a capacity sellout audience. The event was also livestreamed internationally. Topics included the early history of the Croatian nation, evolution of the Croatian language, migration to the United States, Croatian contributions/achievements in just about every phase and aspect of American society, and the contributions of Croatians to the local Northport, NY community.

Following the lecture, refreshments were served and Croatian accordion music was performed by Dominic Karcic. Some of the melodies played included traditional Croatian polkas - Oj! Marica Pegla, Slusaj Mati, Moja Baba Je Pijana, Vičeras Je Naša Fešta, Spavaj mi, Spavaj, Ančice and Ciribiribela Mare Moja and traditional Croatian waltzes - Daleko mi je biser Jadrana, Poci Cù Na More, Kucavica, and Samo Nemoj Ti.

For information on upcoming performances, please contact Dominic at dkarcic10@gmail.com.



Far right: Anton Angelich, with Dominic Karcic's arm around his shoulder, along with members of Northport's local Croatian community.

Long Island Accordion Alliance features Some Enchanted Evening

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) invites music lovers to join them for "Some Enchanted Evening," featuring music and fine dining with vocalist Gina Haver and accordionist Dominic Karcic.

With a background encompassing opera, oratorio, recitals, and theater, Gina Haver is well-known to audiences throughout the New York City metropolitan area. She was recently heard in Mozart's Laudate Dominum at Merkin Concert Hall with New York Selah Ensemble, with which she also performed as soprano soloist at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. Ms. Haver was also the featured soloist in Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem, Handel's Israel in Egypt, and Orff's Carmina Burana with New York Choral Society Summersing at CAMI Hall; as well as in chamber music concerts at New York's 92nd Street Y, and with the New York Chamber Players. Also a prominent operatic artist, Ms. Haver has performed with The National Chorale at Avery Fisher Hall and with Northport Opera, New York Opera Forum, Hofstra Opera Theater, Genesis Repertory Ensemble, NY Singers Theatre, and Long Island Opera. She is also a founding member of the professional Long Island-based opera ensemble, OperAlive.

Ms. Haver is an experienced wedding singer and has performed in countless wedding ceremonies throughout the metropolitan tri-state area. As a church cantor and pianist, she is also available to offer suggestions for appropriate wedding ceremony music.

The event will be held on Wednesday June 22, 2022 at 6:00pm at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road in East Northport, NY. For reservations, please call (631) 261-6344.



Dr. William Schimmel at the New York Public Library

On June 16 at 6:00pm, Dr. William Schimmel will appear at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts – Bruno Walter Auditorium at 111 Amsterdam Avenue in a program called “New Takes on Schubert.”



Dr. Schimmel will appear alongside distinguished associates in concert including Dan Cooper, Corn Mo, Brian Dewan, Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Will Holshouser, William Komaiko, Dr. Denise Koncelik, Erica Mancini, and Dr. Robert Young McMahan as they offer fresh perspectives on Schubert and other composers, showing the accordion's melodic dimension. Attendees are invited to hear the accordion as a lyrical, sentient being.

In 2019, Dr. Schimmel curated a six-day residency, Accordion Mixology, at the Library for the Performing Arts, and is excited to return with this new program. He holds BM, MS, and DMA degrees, with a doctorate from the Juilliard School. He has performed with countless ensembles in New York, including the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, Jazz at Lincoln Center, many contemporary ensembles, on Broadway, and on numerous European tours. His Tango Project albums have reached #1 on the Billboard charts along with Stereo Review Album of the Year and Grammy nominations. He has performed in many movie soundtracks, and can be seen and heard in Scent of a Woman starring Al Pacino. His current album, The Theater of the Accordion, features trumpeter Wynton

Marsalás and has reached #2 on the Amazon charts. He has performed with rock stars as diverse as Sting and Tom Waits, who stated: “Bill Schimmel doesn’t play the Accordion...he IS the Accordion.” NPR regarded him as “The World’s Greatest Accordionist” and The New Yorker named him “Gotham’s Happy Warrior of the Accordion.”

Dr. Schimmel resides in Manhattan with his wife, Micki Goodman, a dancer/choreographer and video artist. Together they have produced numerous videos that can be seen and heard on YouTube. Dr. Schimmel’s works are currently being archived at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

As of March 14, the Library encourages mask wearing in all public spaces. For further information, please contact Dr. Schimmel at accordionbill@gmail.com or call (212) 876-0827.



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