



*Gala
Concert*

Accordion Pops Orchestra

Mario Tacca
AAA Champion

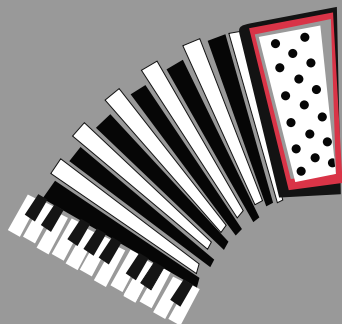
Grayson Masefield
World Champion

Joey Miskulin
Grammy Winner

FRIDAY, JULY 14 2023
MARRIOTT PHILADELPHIA WEST
W. CONSHOCKEN, PA



Proudly presented by the
**American
Accordionists'
Association**



ACCORDION POPS ORCHESTRA

The Accordion Pops Orchestra traces its roots to 1970 and its first director, Dr. Jacob Neupauer. After performing under well-known directors, including Eugene Ettore and Daniel Desiderio, the orchestra has performed under the baton of Al Terzo since 2011. With members from numerous states in the northeastern US, the orchestra consists entirely of accordions, complemented by percussion. The 30 members include professionals, teachers, and amateur musicians. The orchestra performs a repertoire taken from a wide range of musical categories, including Broadway, popular, movie themes, and light classical. It performs in concert halls, festivals, playhouses, clubs, churches, and retirement homes.

Conductor Al Terzo is a music teacher, arranger, and conductor. He has been a member of the orchestra since its inception in 1970. In addition to serving on the AAA governing board, Al is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, the New Jersey Music Teachers Association, and the National Association of Music Educators.

MARIO TACCA

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. Always dazzling his audiences around the world, Mario is the eighth recipient of the AAA Lifetime Achievement Award.

GRAYSON MASEFIELD

Born in Auckland, New Zealand, Grayson is the first person to win world championships in classical, virtuoso, and digital accordion categories. He is the Instrumental Music Teacher for Accordion at the University of Auckland and is the founder of AOTANGO. Grayson studied in France with Frederic Deschamps, earned a Master in Specialised Music Performance degree at HEMU Lausanne, Switzerland with Stephane Chapuis, and completed a Masters of Studio Pedagogy degree from the University of Auckland. He is regularly invited to adjudicate and/or appear as Guest Artist at international competitions he has previously won. At the 2010 Coupe Mondiale in Croatia, Grayson was elected to the prestigious CIA Music Committee and is currently its Vice-Chairman.

Grayson's extensive repertoire, including concert works and entertainment selections, can be heard on his three albums and in many live performances available on YouTube. He has worked with several of the world's leading composers, such as Frank Angelis (France), Gorka Hermosa (Spain), Petri Makkonen (Finland), and Gary Daverne (New Zealand) to perform and record new original works for the accordion.

The **American Accordionists' Association (AAA)** is the oldest accordion association in the United States. We are dedicated to building community among accordion enthusiasts of all ages and musical abilities. We proudly promote the great musicianship of our AAA members and share accordion news worldwide in order to foster greater appreciation of the accordion.

Your membership keeps you up to date on accordion events and helps to fund AAA events and projects. Associate membership for hobbyists is just \$35/year!



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JOEY MISKULIN

Joey is the first accordionist to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. His 2018 induction into the "Nashville Cats" is the highest accolade given to a very select few recording session musicians. The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's Nashville Cats series spotlights musicians and session singers who have played important roles in country music history, and his award ceremony highlighted the hundreds of albums he recorded with some of music's greatest names that, to date, resulted in over 100 million sold. The Garth Brooks album where Joey was featured using his PANcordion has reached over 50 million in sales! He is the tenth recipient of the AAA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joey is extolled nationally as accordionist, arranger, spontaneous improviser, studio musician, pedagogue, and unequalled entertainer. In a music career spanning more than four decades, Joey has collaborated with a range of artists including Paul McCartney, John Denver, Ricky Skaggs, Andy Williams, Ricky Van Shelton, Emmylou Harris, Frankie Yankovic, Garth Brooks, and many others. Although principally known as a superb performer, his talents extend to many production credits that include Disney/Pixar in Toy Story, and recently in Shanghai, China, where he spent two weeks working with the Walt Disney Company.

Joey toured the United States with Frankie Yankovic as his featured accordionist for six years, writing and arranging songs between performances. In the 1990s, he joined Riders In The Sky, and with them is billed as "Joey the Cowpolka King." This wholesome Western-style group brings smiles, laughter, and excellent musicianship to every audience.



*The American Accordionists' Association
thanks our performers for sharing their
time and talent with us!*