

Gala Concert

**Friday, July 16, 2010 • Commonwealth Ballroom
Salon A & B**

Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel • Harrisburg, PA

featuring

Premier Performance of TANGO BLUES

for Accordion, Flute, Viola and Cello

by Roger Davidson

Mary Tokarski, Christina Busso, Alice Bish and Yulia Zhokovay

THE BUSO TRIO

Frank, Jr., Christina and Frank Busso

MARTYNAS LEVICKIS

2009 AAA International Piano Accordion Champion

VLADIMIR MOLLOV

Accordion, Bass and Drums

THE ALEX MEIXNER BAND

Featuring Alex Meixner



AAA 2010 Festival - July 14-18 - Hershey, PA

Gala Concert – Friday, July 16 - 7:00 p.m.

Ballroom – Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel

MARY TOKARSKI, Accordion

Concert Accordionist, Mary Tokarski performs both nationally and internationally as a soloist, with Symphony Orchestra, with String Quartet, and as a member of both "Buttons & Keys" (Accordion & Piano Duo) and The 'K' Trio. In February of 2010, Mary appeared with the Prince George's Philharmonic in Largo, Maryland, and has performed with the Moravian Symphony (Czech Republic), the Auckland Symphony (New Zealand), The Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra (Massachusetts), the Waterbury Symphony (Connecticut), the Bronxville Pops Orchestra (New York). She's toured mainland China with the Mantovani Orchestra, performing both in the orchestra, and as a soloist, and will appear with the Hamden Symphony in February of 2011. For 20 years Mary served as Director of Music Education at Tokarski Music Center in North Haven, Connecticut, where she taught piano and accordion, conducted the choral & ensemble programs, and supervised the pre-school programs, and served as a Music Educator in the North Haven Department of Education's Early Childhood Development Program at Green Acres Elementary School. Mary currently teaches accordion and piano at her home in Northford, Connecticut.

Mary has performed internationally in Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, New Zealand, Scotland and Switzerland – as well as extensively here in the United States. As a two-time United States Champion she represented the U.S. in the Coupe Mondiale (World Championship) events in Belgium and France, and now serves on the Board of Directors for the American Accordionists Association and as 2nd Vice President of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, Intl. which are the two national member organizations of the Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes, (IMC-UNESCO), the sponsor of the Coupe Mondiale. In addition, Mary presents Workshops and Master Classes on improving musical skills, and coaches on all aspects of performance throughout the U.S. and Canada.



Her 2 solo CDs, "Music with Mary...or my friends!" and "Music with Mary...with my friends!" have received international acclaim and Mary was chosen by New Zealand composer Gary Daverne to perform many of his compositions for accordion and symphony orchestra on his 2008 CD release "Rhapsody". As a member of The "K" Trio, Mary has 3 CD releases: "Images", "Take 2", and "Classically, the "K" Trio". For more information, to book a presentation, or to order a CD, Mary can be reached at www.accordions.com/mary.

CHRISTINA BUSSO LAMMERS, Flute

Though her first musical love may be the accordion, Christina is also an accomplished flautist. Having studied flute for over 20 years, she has performed as a member of many ensemble groups and as a featured soloist. Her repertoire has included classical favorites as well as novelty and ethnic pieces. Christina helped to establish the Wind Ensemble at American University and performed with that group as first chair in 1998 and 1999. She has performed in a number of venues and with a variety of ensembles in New York City and Washington, DC. As for many other musicians, her most memorable performance experience was at Carnegie Hall.

Christina resides in Alexandria, Virginia. She works to promote educational opportunities and scholarship worldwide as the Director of Alumni Relations for the Louis August Jonas Foundation, based in New York. In her free time she can be spotted around Old Town Alexandria with her husband, Marshall, and 2-year-old son, Alexander. Viola player,



continued



AAA 2010 Festival - July 14-18 - Hershey, PA

Gala Concert – Friday, July 16 - 7:00 p.m.

Ballroom – Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel

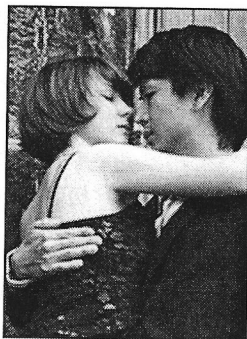
ALICE BISH, Viola

Viola player, Alice Bish grew up in Baton Rouge Louisiana. Her northern Chinese heritage and southern Louisiana upbringing colors her interpretations of both classic and modern works. She credits Burton Fine, Micheal Tree and Roberto Diaz as being her main influences as a musician. In addition to performing as a violist, Alice knits and quilts and spends most of her days juggling sound, color, texture and her duties as mother to her two awesome children.



YULIA ZHUKOVAY, Cello

Yulia Zhukoff was born in Saint Petersburg, Russia and started her cello career at the age of six, studying under Professor Alexey Lazko of the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music. In 2000, Miss Zhukoff performed in the St. Petersburg Academic Philharmonic Hall as a soloist, a chamber group member, and an orchestra member. Two years later, Yulia became a recipient of a New York Community Trust Fellowship in New York City. In June of 2005, Yulia was awarded a Music Diploma of F.H. La Guardia, and received a La Guardia Award for Excellence in Symphony Orchestra as well as the Stephen Kates Cello Award. She also received a Young Artists Diploma, Certificate of Accomplishments in Chamber Music from the Lucy Moses School of Music. During her music career, Yulia has performed throughout Europe as a soloist and chamber musician. As an award, she received a Medal of Excellence by Maj. General Elbert N. Perkins, U.S. Army in Germany in 2006. She has held annual solo cello recitals since 2004. Recently Miss Zhukoff graduated from Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music with a degree of Music Performance. Currently she continues her musical career by performing solo, chamber recitals and teaching privately.



For the past three years, Yulia has also cultivated an interest in dance, specifically Argentine Tango. She has studied and performed with Koichiro Suzuki as his dance partner and assistant. They have performed at various venues, including Penn State University, Duquesne University, The U.S. Army Band Tuba-Euphonium Conference, Slippery Rock University and others. Yulia was also a guest artist as a cellist and a dancer for Cuidado Tango Band. Currently, Yulia and her partner are teaching Argentine Tango at Absolute Ballroom; Zafira's Dance Studios, Duquesne University, and Whightman Community School in Pittsburgh, Pa. This coming November Yulia and Koichiro are planning to go to Argentina for a Tango Tour.

ROGER DAVIDSON Composer, Tango Blues

A flexible and diverse pianist and composer, Roger Davidson has a long history of playing both European Classical music and straight-ahead Jazz as well as various styles of Latin music. A specialist in improvisation, he has a life-long love of the music of Argentina and Brazil. Having just completed his third tango album, *Pasion por la Vida* (Soundbrush Records) the first to rely solely on his own compositions, Davidson is quickly becoming a certifiable-tanguero! *Pasion por la Vida* is a collaboration with the Latin Grammy Award-winning Raul Jaurena on bandoneon and produced by Argentine bassist Pablo

continued



Roger Davidson pictured above with Mario Tacca at the Carrozza Scholarship Dinner in 2009.



AAA 2010 Festival - July 14-18 - Hershey, PA

Gala Concert – Friday, July 16 - 7:00 p.m.

Ballroom – Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel



Aslan. Both of these men played on Davidson's *Mango Tango* (Rainbow Collection) in 1995 and have remained close collaborators ever since. Davidson produced Jaurena's *Te Amo Tango* which won a Latin Grammy for best Tango album in 2007. With Aslan, he teamed up as The Tango Project and produced a *Amor por el Tango* (Love for the Tango) which has received rapturous critical praise.

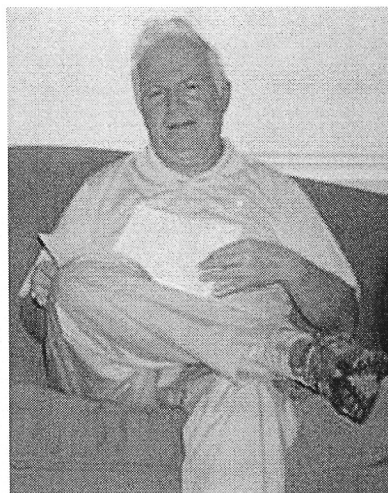
Born in Paris in 1952 to a French mother and an



Roger Davidson and Mary Tokarski work through the phrasing of *Tango Blues* at a meeting in Joe Ciccone's office in Chappaqua

American father, Davidson moved to New York City when he was a baby and has spent most of his life in the northeastern part of the United States. In the 1980's he earned Master's degree in Composition from Boston University and a Master's in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ,

where he began writing choral music – which later bloomed into an extensive repertoire. During his time in Boston he founded and directed a chamber orchestra, which gave several concerts to critical acclaim. He later spent some time in Germany, studying



voice and teaching improvisation at the Lichtenberger Institut (near Darmstadt), but returned to the northeastern U.S. and moved back to New York. His interest in jazz was strong, however, and one of the people

who encouraged that interest was the late producer Helen Keane (who was best-known for managing and producing one of Davidson's idols, Bill Evans). In the late '80s, Keane produced an album-length jazz demo recording for Davidson, although she didn't live long enough to see it become a published CD – which it was, years later, as *Ten to Twelve*, under the Soundbrush label.

In 2002 Davidson founded Soundbrush Records where he served as President until 2008. With Soundbrush he oversaw and produced almost two dozen first-rate recordings of Jazz, World and Latin music during this time, including work by David Finck, Carol Fredette, Marco Granados, Frank London, and Argentine guitarist, Pancho Navarro.

Davidson is also the founder and President of the Society for Universal Sacred Music, a non-profit organization that sponsors composers and performers at international festivals.