



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

March-April 2018



AAA 80th Anniversary
Celebration
July 11-15, 2018
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
625 First Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Solo, Duet, Ensemble
and Band Competitions
Youth Jazz Program
Exciting Workshops
Exhibits
Concerts Featuring
Outstanding Artists
Lifetime Achievement
Presentation
Sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association

From the Editor:

Welcome to the March and April edition of the 2018 AAA Newsletter. The first meeting of a group of New York accordionists was held at 8.00 PM on Wednesday, March 9, 1938. Now 80 years later, the work of these renowned personalities in attendance including Charles Magnante, Abe Goldman, Joe Biviano, Pietro Deiro, Pietro Frosini, Gene Von Hallberg, Anthony Galla-Rini, Charles Nunzio, Sydney B. Dawson, Sam Roland and Byron Strep continues on under the auspices of the American Accordionists' Association.

The anniversary celebrations will take place at the upcoming festival in Alexandria, VA (Washington, DC) from July 11-15, 2018. With the showcase of talent ranging from soloists to groups, and an array of activities planned to inspire us all, we encourage you to make plans to attend this important and exciting event. We invite you to keep up to date by visiting www.ameraccord.com which will have the latest information as it becomes available.

As always, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the AAA 2nd Vice President, Linda Reed and AAA Board Member, Rita Davidson Barnea for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. As we offer our thanks, we also request your kind help by inviting you to submit your news items for publication so that your fellow members can see the incredible array of accordion activities happening throughout the country. Items for the 2018 May/June Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the official AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com. Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word attachment. 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.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,
Kevin Friedrich - AAA Newsletter Editor



From the President:

Spring is almost here! Thank goodness!

I truly hope that you have had a great 2018 so far. AAA is gearing up for our 80th Anniversary Celebration, and honestly, it is shaping up to be the best ever.

Our new website is launching this month, and we hope that you will find it exciting, informative, and easier to use than ever. Special thanks to Harley Jones of Accordions Worldwide and his staff for making this new site so special.

Festival is on its way – check out the website for rules and regulations, categories, entry forms, registration forms and the tentative event schedule.

Workshop titles and presenters will be posted soon. Remember, hotel reservations MUST be made by June 11th in order to get our special rates.

There is an event for everyone at this 80th anniversary, so be sure to join us in Alexandria – and to participate in the Festival Orchestra under the direction of Professor Joan Cochran Sommers - it will be an experience to remember. ■

See you there!



The Sad Passing of Alexander Sevastian

The music world was deeply saddened to learn that the Toronto-based accordion virtuoso Alexander Sevastian passed away on Friday, February 16, 2018 in Ajijic, Mexico while on tour with Quartetto Gelato.

Alexander was a renowned artist (accordion, piano, bandoneon), who won four International Accordion Competitions: the Oslofjord in Norway (1998), The Cup of the North in Russia (2000), the ATG Anthony Galla-Rini Accordion Competition in the US (2001) and The CIA Coupe Mondiale held in the US (2007) jointly hosted by the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) and the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG). Born in Minsk, Belarus, he attended the Glinka Musical College (Minsk) and then pursued advanced studies at the Gnessin Academy of Music in Moscow where he received his Masters in Performance degree in 2002, studying with renowned performer and pedagogue, Friedrich Lips.

A previous guest of both the AAA and ATG, Alexander Sevastian began his professional career in Moscow in 1996, performing with the Russian Radio Orchestra, which he toured with as a soloist throughout Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Italy, and Japan. Highlights of his career include appearances in the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, Glinka Capella Hall (St. Petersburg), Suntory Hall (Tokyo), Minato Mirai Hall (Yokohama), Roy Thomson Hall (Toronto), Jack Singer Hall (Calgary) and Metro-



politan Museum (New York). Recent solo engagements include recitals in Mexico, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, USA and Canada as well as appearances with many North American Symphony Orchestras.

Alexander Sevastian and his family moved to Canada in April 2001. After joining Quartetto Gelato in 2002, he completed the Advanced Certificate in Performance program at the University of Toronto where he studied with Joseph Macerollo. In April of 2008 he made his debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Peter Oundjian, playing the Malcolm Forsyth Accordion Concerto at the New Creations Festival, which he then performed with the orchestra on their 2009 tour of Eastern Canada.

Alex is survived by his wife Anya, their young children Vladimir (14) and Maria (4), his brother Vitali and his mother Nadya.

A GoFundMe site has been set up to assist the Sevastian family at www.gofundme.com/alexander-sevastian-memorial-fund ■



AAA Historian Joan Grauman writing monthly articles celebrating AAA's 80 years

At the request of Harley Jones, founder of Accordions Worldwide, Joan Grauman is writing articles monthly about the formation of the AAA and of interesting moments in its history. The first three articles can be found (January, February and March) at www.accordionusa.com. Here are links to these articles



“What Events Led to the Formation of the American Accordionists' Association”

(<http://accordionusa.com/2018graphics/AAA-Formation.htm>)

“Joseph Biviano and Charles Magnante – A Lifetime Commitment to the American Accordionists' Association (AAA)”
(<http://www.accordionusa.com/2018graphics/Biviano-Magnante.htm>)

“Beverly Roberts Curnow – Accordion Queen and World Accordion Champion still bringing joy with her beloved instrument!”

(<http://accordionusa.com/2018graphics/AAA-Curnow.htm>)

The fourth article will be online on April 1. These articles will soon be on the Archival Information portion of the History section of the AAA website. ■

Gala 80th Anniversary Banquet

Saturday, July 14, 2018

Grand Ballroom

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

625 First Street • Alexandria, VA

6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour (cash bar)

Entertainment

Ballroom Foyer

7:00 p.m. Dinner Service Begins

Main Ballroom

AAA 80th Anniversary Festival Orchestra
conducted by Joan Cochran Sommers

PLUS Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation to
Louis F. Coppola

Entertainment throughout the evening

Glamour Tango features a Celebration of Women in Tango

On Thursday, March 29, 2018 Polly Ferman (piano) and Glamour Tango will present a showing which celebrates Women in Tango. She is joined by Eleonora Ferreyra (bandoneon), Melisa Atoyán (violin), Iris Ornig (double bass), Mariela Marco (Vocalist) and Mariana Parma, Karina Romero, Azul Ibanez Fernandez (dancers).

The Tango Show, a rousing all-female multi-media music and dance program was conceived by Ferman and demonstrates that music from the Rio de la Plata can be enjoyed from a different perspective, dynamic and decorative, without losing its most basic essence.

Glamour Tango was premiered in Uruguay in 2008 and has since been performed throughout South America, China, and in numerous U.S. cities including Chicago, Milwaukee, New York and San Francisco. The all-female cast of musicians, vocalist and dancers, which hail mainly from Argentina and Uruguay, perform irresistible tango music by Astor Piazzolla, Horacio Salgan, Anselmo Aieta, Pintín Castellanos, Rosita Quiroga, Enrique Mendizabal, Daniel Binelli and more.

The production will take place in New York City at the Aaron Davis Hall, West 135th Street & Convent Avenue (129 Convent Avenue) offering two shows at 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM with tickets for General Admission \$20 and for Seniors and



Students \$10 which can be purchased at www.citycollegecenter-forthearts.org. ■

Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts (ATAM) 56th Anniversary

The Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts, ATAM, will sponsor and celebrate their 56th New England Music Festival at the Boston Newton Marriott in Newton, MA on April 6-8 2018. This year the Festival will be celebrating their 41st year at the Newton Marriott along with Peggy Falchetti celebrating her 41st year as chairperson.

The three day event includes music students from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire & Rhode Island participating in accordion, bass guitar, drum, guitar, piano, violin & vocal categories. Students may compete in various solo, duet, ensemble, band, orchestra & battle of the band categories. Contestants who participate do so regardless of their ability, experience, or level. Over \$5,000.00 in cash awards and scholarships will be given out. The Festival averages more than 2500 entries. All events are free and open to the public.

ATAM President, Jay Latulippe from NH, is happy to announce that the ATAM will recognize Kevin Friedrich, internationally famous accordionist, concert artist, educator and adjudicator. The award will be presented at the Saturday evening annual awards banquet. This is a well deserved honor.

For further information refer to the ATAM website www.atamnemusicfestival.com. ■

Kevin Friedrich

Born and raised in New Zealand, Kevin Friedrich began playing the accordion at the age of nine. After earning the title of New Zealand Solo Accordion Champion for two years Kevin moved to the United States to study accordion with Joan C. Sommers at the University of Missouri, Kansas City where he obtained his Bachelor of Music. He furthered his studies at the Conservatoire in Paris, France studying with CIA World Accordion Champion, Max Bonnay.

After serving as a Vice-President for eight years, Kevin served two four year terms as President of the Confédération

Internationale Des Accordéonistes (CIA), the umbrella organization for 43 countries and their National Accordion Associations and the voice of the accordion at the International Music Council, an NGO official partner of UNESCO. At the conclusion of his Presidency, Kevin was unanimously elected by the CIA Executive Committee to his current position of CIA Ambassador, a role created specifically for him.

Through his work as CIA Ambassador, Kevin travels to many International festivals around the world, often resulting in fascinating projects such as playing in the successful Guinness World Record event where 2,260 performers set the record for the largest accordion orchestra, held in Shenzhen, China on July 14, 2017. Kevin also enjoys working to preserve the history of the accordion. He established his own accordion museum in New Zealand and serves as Vice President of the world's largest accordion museum, A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, Wisconsin. Kevin was recently appointed President of the International World Accordion Museum Alliance (WAMA).

Kevin currently makes his home in New York City and serves on the Board of Directors for both the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) and the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG). ■



The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA)

La Villini Restaurant of East Northport, NY is sponsored the March meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) was held on March 7, 2018. The featured guest artists were accordionist Mario Tacca and vocalist Mary Mancini.

Dominic Karcic, organizer, stated that as a long time resident of Long Island and an active performing accordionist, he knew that there were many people who either played the accordion or used to play the accordion and that there was a vast group of people who just loved accordion music and it's culture. He always felt that there was a void and lack of activities and events for the accordion locally. Being a "dreamer," I have always felt that a periodic accordion event if structured properly would succeed. He started to bring his dream to reality when in July of 2010 I began calling various accordionists that he knew. Everyone that he contacted agreed to participate and the rest is history.

On August 3, 2010 the very first meeting of what today is known as the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) took place at a Commack, Long Island restaurant named Campagnola. This very first meeting included Joe Campo, John Custie, Charlie Fontana, Phil Franzese, Dominic Karcic, Emilio Magnotta, Ray Oreggia, Phil Prete, Franco Ruggiero and Mike Zeppetella. In January of 2011 we moved to our current home at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, Long Island.

The Alliance, made up of both professional and amateur accordionists, meets once a month on the first Wednesday of the month with Alliance members performing solo, in small ensembles and as an orchestra. Every month we usually have a featured guest artist(s).

The LIAA is proud to periodically feature outstanding guest artists including Beverly Roberts Curnow, Mario Tacca and Mary Tokarski. Some other artists that have performed for us include Manny Corallo, Angelo DiPippo, Don Gerundo, Emilio Magnotta, Paddy Noonan, Frank Toscano, the Scandinavian group Smorgas Bandet and internationally acclaimed vocalist Mary Mancini. Patrons come in to have dinner and listen. Some patrons who play the accordion are invited and encouraged to participate in the "open mic" portion of the evening.

The LIAA aims to promote a love for the accordion and accordion music, bring former accordionists back to the instrument, create an environment where aficionados can attend and "celebrate the accordion and its culture." The LIAA strives to create a vehicle where accordionists can perform, grow musically, meet regularly, network and in our own way further the aims and goals of the American Accordionists' Association (AAA).

In the fall of 2015, Newsday paid a visit to the LIAA event and gave a tremendous two and one-half page write up. The article really boosted the LIAA event enabling a far greater and wider audience of accordion fans. In addition on January 3, 2018, the LIAA was honored by a visit by Dave Anthony Setteducati. Mr. Setteducati is the host of the "Italian America Long Island" Cablevision program which airs every Wednesday on channel 115.

This resulted in the event being videoed and the creation of a very interesting and informative program that contains personal interviews with the Alliance members and guests, many segments of member accordionists performing individually and also segments of ensemble playing. This program, featuring the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA), is scheduled to be featured on his Cablevision program on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

Members hope that this program and the positive publicity it will create will bring knowledge of Long Island Accordion Alliance activities to even a much wider audience on Long Island and also reach out to the whole Cablevision viewing area. The publicity potential is enormous.

The current Alliance nucleus consists of nine accordionists. These include Joe Campo, Joe DeClemente, Santo Endrizzi, Dominic Karcic, Bob LaBua, Ray Oreggia, Phil Prete, Frank Scardino and Greg Zukoff.

In August of 2018 the LIAA will celebrate their eighth anniversary. The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) meets at 6:00 PM the first Wednesday of the month at La Villini Restaurant (631-261-6344), 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731. Reservations are highly recommended. For more information, please contact Dominic Karcic at (631) 864-4428. ■



Pictured left to right: Ray Oreggia, Phil Prete, Joe Campo, Charlie Fontana, Dominic Karcic, Bob LaBua, Greg Zukoff, Joe DeClemente, Frank Scardino at the seventh anniversary celebration in 2017.



2018 AAA Festival • Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites - Alexandria, VA • July 11-15, 2018
Meet and Greet • Workshops • Concerts • Competitions. • After Hours Club
Exhibits of Instruments, Music, Accessories, Unique Gifts and more.
80th Anniversary AAA Archive Exhibit

World Accordion Day

World Accordion Day is an initiative of the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA) and has been very successful, generating a lot of positive publicity for the accordion. A key part of this event is the World Accordion Day website, which serves as a hub of activities.

On May 6, 1829, Cyrill Demian (1772–1849) an organ and piano maker of Armenian origin, accompanied by his two sons Karl and Guido, filed a patent in Vienna, Austria for the accordion.

Consign: No. 1433 listed a new type of instrument consisting of a small box with “feathers of metal plates and bellows fixed to it” making it easy to carry and play. The new instrument was seven to nine inches long, three-and-a-half wide, and two inches high. The bellows were fixed above the box with five claves fixed below. The makers claimed it was possible to perform marches, arias, melodies, even by an amateur of music with little practice and to play the loveliest and most pleasant chords of three, four and five voices with little practice. The May 6th patent application was subsequently approved a short time later on May 23, 1829.

Every association, group, orchestra, performer and teacher, is invited to actively support this event by encouraging national and local accordion activities to happen in their country on this day or the weekend either side of Accordion Day if that should be more convenient. Everyone can register their World Accordion Day activity on the CIA website and is also invited to send a review/report of their event to be included in the WAD archive.

No event is too big or too small. ALL accordion events celebrating World Accordion Day are welcome. This is a CIA promotion for the accordion in which every accordion enthusiast can participate and help bring our accordion world together as well as strongly promote the accordion.

A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI will host a live streamed World Accordion Day Festival on May 6, 2018. Included in the live stream will be the popular seminar on the History of the Accordion as narrated by Helmi Harrington, Ph. D.

You can find more information by visiting: http://accordions.com/cia/cia_wad_general.php ■



Dr. Willian Schimmel to perform in "Carousel" on Broadway in NYC

The great 1945 classic "Carousel" by Rodgers and Hammerstein will have its revival at the Imperial Theatre on Broadway. It will be an entirely new production and will include an all star cast including the great opera Diva, Rene Fleming. The new orchestrations are by Jonathan Tunick which will include the accordion, played by Dr. Schimmel. Previews began on February 28 and the official opening is April 9, 2018.

Dr. Schimmel was the featured accordionist with The New York City Ballet in a work by Bruno Moretti entitled “Oltremare” during their February appearance at the David Koch Theater at the Lincoln Center, NYC. “Oltremare” was the third ballet that Mauro Bigonzetti choreographed for NYCB,

all of which are set to scores by his frequent collaborator, Bruno Moretti. About the ballet, which premiered in 2008, Bigonzetti said, “Oltremare”, which translates to ‘beyond the sea,’ explores the feelings of people who have left their homeland on a quest for a better life in a far new land: the sadness of separation, and the excitement and joy of a new world. We see them at port, before they board the ship, saying goodbye to their home, and we see them sharing an emotional journey - crying, laughing, hugging - until finally everything fades away, like the colors of an old postcard.”

Dr. Schimmel was also a guest artist at Joe’s Pub, 425 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10003 on February 4, 2018 at 7:00 PM to celebrate the release of a new CD by the great Klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals. The album is “Beregovski Suite” with pianist Uli Geissendoerfer.

For further information on upcoming performances, please contact: billschimmel@billschimmel.com ■



Mary Tokarski to perform in “The Spitfire Grill”

AAA President Mary Tokarski will play the accordion in the production of “The Spitfire Grill” which is an American musical with music and book by James Valcq and lyrics and book by Fred Alley, based on the 1996 film of the same name by Lee David Zlotoff. It won the Richard Rodgers Production Award, administered by The American Academy of Arts and Letters, among many other accolades and outstanding reviews.

The musical depicts the journey of a young woman just released from prison who decides to start her life anew in a rural Wisconsin town. She participates in a journey within the town itself toward its own tenuous reawakening. The score is exciting and contemporary, with many surprises from the small, but effective, orchestra pit. Accordion - Mary Tokarski; Piano - David Harris; Guitar & Mandolin - Bruce Bednarsky; Violin - Lexie Pellegrino; Cello - Andrew Bell.

The production will be presented by the Fairfield University Theater drama students, and will be at the Lawrence A. Wien Experimental Black Box Theatre in the Quick Center for the Arts on the campus of Fairfield University.

Performances are Wednesday, April 11 through Sunday, April 15. Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 PM with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 PM. Tickets and information will be available at www.fairfield.edu/theatrefairfield as well as on the Quick Center’s website www.quickcenter.com, which gives directions, info on ticket sales, parking, etc. For further information: mary.tokarski@comcast.net ■



St. Patrick's Day "Seisun" sponsored by the CAA

March 25, 2018 at 1:00 PM at The Waverly Tavern, 286 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT 06410. The program will feature host/accordionist Michael Clarke along with vocalist, Kathy Mrazik.

In Irish circles, a "seisiún" is defined as a gathering of Irish traditional performers for the purpose of celebrating their common interest in the music. A participatory event set in a relaxed, informal setting, a seisiún is simply a collaborative, collective sharing of talent and song. The objective in a seisiún is not to provide music, song and stories for an audience of passive listeners.

It should be noted that although what are referred to as "punters" (non-playing attendees) often come for the express purpose of listening, the seisun is most of all for the musicians, singers and storytellers themselves. Simply put, a seisiún is an experience that is shared, not a performance that is bought and sold.

Michael Clarke started playing the piano accordion at the age of six, before he had any say in the matter. His late mother, Rosemary, who came from the County Donegal in Ireland, loved the "squeeze box". Rosemary herself played the piano accordion,

Mr. Clarke realized early on that he, too, loved the accordion, and has since performed regularly on three continents. Mr. Clarke is founding member of Celtic Cross, a celtic-rock band formed in the 1980s in the New York metropolitan area. Mr. Clarke ushered in the tri-state's homage to the "Celtic Tiger" movement by writing and performing on Celtic Cross' popular first album, entitled Part the First. Mr. Clarke has recorded with Tommy Mulvihill, John Nolan, Kitty Kelly, Susan McGrath and Eileen Crowley, and has performed with Paddy Noonan, Dermot O'Brien, the Saw Doctors, The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, Michael "Jesse" Owens, the Wolfe Tones, the Commitments, the Jamie Kelly Band and the Andy Cooney Band. Currently, Mr. Clarke regularly performs live an eclectic mix of Irish and 1980s music with the two piece band, McBueller.

For the meeting please bring an instrument of any kind! Bring your voice! Share an Irish tune, song or story! Admission is \$5.00 CAA members, \$10.00 all others, under 16 years, free!

Please RSVP by March 23 to Marilyn at 203-272-1202. For further information: caa@ctaccordion.com. ■



23rd Annual Master Class and Concert Series

Dr. William Schimmel will again be the moderator and curator for the 23rd annual American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Master Class and Concert Series (The Seminars) which take place, July 27 - 29, 2018 at the Tenri Cultural Institute, New York City. Master classes are daily, 3-5:00 PM, concerts daily, 7-9:00 PM.

The 2018 Seminars will cover a wide range of topics and will focus on new methods of teaching – 'Ear-teach', 'Eye-teach' and 'Duplex' learning, as well as the study of various method books that have disappeared from the market. The aim is to re-discover some of the rich tradition and culture that may have been lost or discarded. There will also be an 'Accordio/Dalcrose' segment using 'Movement' and 'Eurythmics'. Also, a seminar on 'What it takes to survive as a New York Accordionist' - applicable to any career planning anywhere.

Dr. Schimmel has performed with most of the major symphony orchestras in America, and many chamber music groups in New York. Pop star colleagues range from Sting to Tom Waits, who has commented, "Bill Schimmel doesn't play the accordion, he is the accordion". His many accomplishments include founding the 'Tango Project', teaching, leading master classes, composing, recording, and performing on movie soundtracks.

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) has awarded Dr. Schimmel the distinguished Merit Award for the AAA Master Class and Concert Series as well as his contribution to the international accordion scene. He received the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Distinguished Service Award for Fifty Years of Accordion activity and his work as Lecturer in Residence. He is listed in Who's Who in America and Great Minds of the 21st Century.

Dr. Schimmel, and his wife, choreographer, director, filmmaker Micki Goodman co-founded and co-direct the Institute for Private Studies, a pluralistic think-tank. They have a 29 year old son, Michael, an accordionist and visual artist - and a

Special Olympics gold medal winner.

Reservations and information: Phone: (212) 876 0827, Email: Accordionbill@gmail.com. \$25 per Master Class, \$30.00 per Concert or \$50.00 per day, includes Master Class and Concert, or attendees wishing to attend the entire event are offered a discounted price of \$135.00 for the entire weekend.

Checks can be made out to: The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) and mailed c/o Julie Cardona, 67 Sackett Point Road – Apt. 215, North Haven, CT 06473.

See event flyer included on page 11 of this newsletter.



Joey Miskulin to headline World Accordion Day at AWAM in Superior, WI

A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI is excited to announce that renowned accordionist Joseph (Joey) M. Miskulin from Nashville, TN, will headline the weekend's events for the annual Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival and World Accordion Day hosted at A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI on May 5 and 6, 2018.



To acknowledge the importance of the weekend's events, Superior's Mayor Paine is proclaiming May 5 as Dr. Willard A. Palmer Day, and also proclaiming May 6 as World Accordion Day.

Joey is the first accordionist to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. His April 14 induction into the "Nashville Cats" is the highest accolade given to a very select few recording session musicians. The award ceremony highlights the hundreds of albums he recorded with some of music's greatest names that to date result in over 100 million sold.

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.

Miskulin 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 musician-ship to every audience.

We proudly mention that his Shania Twain album, in which he played an Italo-Amican "Gloria" rescued from an alley-way trash heap and restored by Lynda Griffith (an ARTS Technician Specialist), has now reached sales in excess of 26 million. His Garth Brooks albums using his PANcordion have collectively reached over 50 million in sales.

Museum Curator Helmi Harrington, Ph. D. recounts in a personal note, "I've known Joey for over 25 years and consider him one of the most accomplished and kindest gentlemen in the accordion world. Despite being supremely lauded in multiple categories, Joey remains a modest celebrity who redirects praise to include larger matters." As he says: "Being the first accordion player ever chosen humbles me, but is certainly a validation of our instrument, and our



fellow players as musicians."

In addition to Joey, the Palmer and World Accordion Day event will showcase the talents of and include the support of Carolyn Carver, Kevin Friedrich, Tracey Gibbens, Dee Langley, Dr. Michael Middleton, Willard A. Palmer III, John Scaffeo and Stanislav (Stas) Venglevski.

As a benefit to AAA members, of which A World of Accordions Museum is an affiliate, Curator Helmi Harrington is offering complimentary e-Newsletter mailings. If you are interested in receiving the e-Newsletter which profiles the latest happenings and historical information on instruments, simply send your e-mail to Helmi Harrington at: accordion@sprynet.com and you will be added to the mailing list. ■

World Accordion Day
 in conjunction with the 6th Annual
 Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival

**A World of Accordions Museum
 at Harrington ARTS Center**

**May 5-6
 2018**

1401 Belknap Street
 Superior, WI 54880
 Phone: (218) 393-0245

*Admission: \$25 per event, \$75 per day or \$125 for both days
 refreshments and food available*

featuring:
 Carolyn Carver
 Kevin Friedrich
 Tracey Gibbens
 Dee Langley
 Dr. Michael Middleton
 Joey Miskulin
 Willard A. Palmer, III
 John Scaffeo
 Stanislav Venglevski

Visit the **NEW** AAA website - www.ameraccord.com

Vincent Demor wins NAMM President's Innovation Award

Vincent Demor's dedication and talent paid off when he recently won the 2018 National Association of Music Merchants President's Innovation Award (NAMM).

In the words of the award announcement, Demor "exemplifies a commitment to the music industry and shows a strong aptitude for business leadership and innovation in the music industry." Demor had the opportunity to represent his college at the NAMM show and attend the conference in Anaheim, California in January.

In a recent Interview with Catherine Groegoire, Vincent reflected on what he learned at NAMM, what he brought back and what it means for the future.

When asked about his love for all things accordion, Vincent said he had always been fascinated by his Italian heritage, so when he began learning the accordion, it seemed that he could connect through that.

Vincent stated that he had been involved with the business end of music since his first band at the age of 13. By doing solo gigs, he really learned a lot about the "behind the scenes" work involved with being a performer. There is everything from transportation and living expenses (for some jobs), to personal relations and playing things people request on the spot.

When asked about his experience at the NAMM show, Vincent

said one of the most significant pieces of advice he got at NAMM was to collaborate with others and try out new things.

He hopes to use the knowledge others have passed on, even though all are peers, he feels lucky to have had the NAMM experience to set him apart from others.

A well rounded musician, Vincent started music by learning the cello when he was three and has played in a number of symphonies throughout his adolescent years. He went to region and all-state orchestra every year from Middle School to High School. He continues to study the piano in College and is even trying his skills with the harmonica! ■



Six-Key Flutina, the newest and smallest member of the family

The rare and wonderful six-key Flutina shown on the next page in its A World of Accordions Museum cabinet is at the forefront of eight-key examples of the family, and is complemented by keyed harmonicas and ten-key examples. This smallest of the early accordion types in our collection is a great prize donated in 2017 by Kevin Friedrich, AWAM's Vice President. Despite its presumed age, 1829-30, it is in cosmetically perfect condition and is an appropriate introduction to our May 6, 2018 World Accordion Days Festival.

The name-designation Flutina, derived from the English, is today applied to instruments that have similar appearances and characteristics, though in their times, varying labels relied on the languages of several countries that rapidly took on its production. For example, in Austria, where Cyril Demian presented the first patent on May 6, 1829, they were called "accordion" (the actual patent designation) while in Germany, "harmonika," "handharmonica," or "akkordeon" was used. Depending on local usages and the manner of soundboard insertion, the melody side was played with either left or right hand, and the other hand was used to manipulate the bellows and a large air lever. Bass-chord buttons were not initially present, but were incorporated within the next decades.

Predecessor free-reed instruments, like the Friedrich Buschmann harmonica and the tuning device he is said to have developed into a "complete" instrument, are considered important influences to Demian's invention. Today, the Flutina family is recognized as the progenitor of button diatonic accordions and German concertinas. There is even common ground in development of the piano accordion.

Our remarkable Flutina family continues in three adjacent cabinets housing over two dozen examples: ten-key and twelve-key vari-

eties followed by two-row (two scale) instruments with up to 29 diatonic lever keys, some with tonic and dominant drones or bass/chord buttons, and some with the first "shift" applied to the genus - an additional tremolo reed bank! (The accordion's tremolo bank is said to "meld" the sounds of bored instruments with inexact tunings, making ensemble playing more pleasing.) Most two-row Flutinas present scales a fifth apart, but at least one of ours has scales a half-step apart, perhaps anticipating the "Irish" button diatonics.

Our six-key gem does not like to be analyzed, but with tender disassembly a number of fascinating items are discovered: 1) the handwritten "35D" is found in ink on the soundboard and repeated in less-legible pencil on the underside (could this be Cyril Demian's initial designating the 35th product?) 2) the soundboard (pan) is removable, encased in kidskin; 3) the reed tongues are brass slivers, the reed-plates are slide-inserted and housed much like those of Wheatstone concertinas; 4) rivets attach the tongues to individual brass plates; 5) drone tones, controlled by the player by means of separate levers at the side of the hand-hold, occur as two per plate, sounding two or four tongues on pull or push of the bellows; 6) the only broken tongue is the lowest pitch presumed to have been "F"; 7) the melody side appears to have been played with the left hand.

The instrument sounds an "F" scale in typically German diatonic sequence of opening and closing of bellows (According to Dr. Alfred

cont'd. on next page



2018 AAA Festival Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites - Alexandria, VA - July 11-15, 2018
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80th Anniversary AAA Archive Exhibit

Six-Key Flutina, cont'd. from p. 8

Mirek of The Russian Accordion Museum (Moscow), German music commonly begins on a tonic chord harmony, facilitated by initial opening of bellows. In contrast, Eastern music tends to begin with a dominant harmony, similarly facilitated by opening bellows. This explains a discrepancy in preferred pitch organizations among diatonics made in various countries.)

Configuration:

(open) X	A	C	F	A	C
(close) G	Bb	D	E	G	Bb

It has two drone tones: (open) F and A supporting a tonic harmony; (close) C and G supporting a dominant-seventh harmony. Each of the lowest pitches is the root of the chord. ■



Michael Bridge CD Release and Upcoming Concerts

Canadian accordionist Michael Bridge has just released a new album in conjunction with his trio, titled *Tales from the Dinarides*. Available for either purchase or download from iTunes. Michael performs on both accordion and piano and is joined by fellow musicians Guillaume Tardif (violin) and Kornel Wolak (clarinet).

The Album begins with two of Brahms' Hungarian Dances (Nos. 1 & 5), followed by the title track 'Tales from the Dinarides', written

for the Trio by Montreal-based composer Airat Ichmouratov, and generously commissioned with funds from the University of Alberta. The next tracks include Smetana's *Die Moldau* and Chopin's *Mazurka in Bb major*, where one might be surprised to hear Michael playing piano. The CD continues with Lutosławski's *Five Dance Preludes* and finishes with Brahms' *Rondo all Zingarese*. In addition to his Trio CD, Michael will also be releasing his new solo recording 'Overture' due to be released in April.

Michael is currently preparing for a tour with the Lodom Ensemble in March which will perform in Moncton, Halifax, Mahone Bay, Antigonish, Pictou and Labrador for a show in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The Lodom Ensemble combines piano, cello, accordion, and percussion in a unique blend of acoustic chamber and world music that is passionate, sophisticated, and wild. The group met and formed in 2007 while studying music at the University of Toronto. Individual members hail from Alberta (Michael Bridge - accordion), Toronto (Beth Silver - cello), Prince Edward Island (Adam Campbell - percussion), and Ontario by way of Tehran, Iran (Pouya Hamidi - piano). Pouya, the in-house composer, writes original music for the group inspired by Persian and classical fusion but the Canadian spread of the group also reaches across the world and genres as their all-original repertoire incorporates inspirations from Argentinean tango, Serbian folk and dance traditions, Persian classical repertoire, as well as music from the Classical (Bach, Prokofiev) and progressive rock worlds (Radiohead).

For details, please visit: www.LodomEnsemble.com



Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini perform with Hallandale Symphony

Hi Everyone!

We wanted to share the YouTube links with you for one of our concerts here in Florida! We performed with the Hallandale Pops orchestra, under the baton of conductor Peter Fuchs.

Just a note to also let you know that our website was hacked and we are working to get it back up. Our current schedule is listed on our Facebook page, so you can still access that info.

Thank you always for your loyal support! God Bless! *Mary & Mario*

https://youtu.be/nPnrAC_tgTg (Part 1)
<https://youtu.be/UtnWZdEbTx4> (Part 2)

Upcoming Performances:

Mon., Tues., Wed., March 19, 20, 21, 2018
 Feast of St. Joseph Italian Luncheon Show
 The Brownstone
 Patterson, NJ
 For reservations, call 1-800-831-9801
 Both Mary and Mario will perform.

Mary and Mario will also perform at the Ossining Elks Lodge. For information and reservations, call 917-488-7189



Pictured above, Mary and Mario are pictured above with Peter Fuchs, conductor of the Hallandale Symphony

Remembering Steve Stolaruk

Steve Stolaruk, 91 of Rochester Hills; passed away at home on February 12, 2018. Beloved husband of Darlena; dear father of Marc (Marie) Stolaruk and Ann Marie (James) Sullivan, grandfather of three, and great-grandfather of two, brother to Olga Schlum and Mary Warstler. Steve was preceded in death by his first wife Vivian, his brother, and four sisters. Steve was born to Steve and Mary (Zalama) Stolaruk in Royal Oak Michigan on August 1, 1926. Steve attended high school in Madison Heights. In 1944 Steve joined the United States Marine Corps, and served as a Private First Class in Japan during WWII. Steve was a true entrepreneur in every sense of the word. Steve's first company was Stolaruk Asphalt, and throughout the years he started Star-Batt Inc., the ConCorde Inn hotels, as well as commercial and residential land development. Steve's passion was for work, music, family, friends and philanthropy.

Steve had a great love for the accordion, and was one of the founding members of the Michigan Accordion Society. He was also very active in many different organizations and charities. Steve's



love for the accordion and the AAA, was enhanced when he and his wife, Vivian attended the AAA's 1995 Festival in Houston, where accordion legends Dr. Willard "Bill" Palmer and his colleague, Bill Hughes were honored, the Stolaruk's were impressed by the AAA's significant efforts to advance accordion education while maintaining the instrument's visibility and promoting its positive image to the public. In addition, his contributions to the AAA's Festivals, Steve also commissioned the piece Herrick's Road by Karen Fremar and dedicated the piece to Faithe Deffner at her Lifetime Achievement Award dinner held at Tavern on the Green in NYC. He also contributed significantly to the Coupe Mondiale prizes in divine remembrance of his wife, Vivian Vivio Stolaruk. He was a major contributor to the AAA's Search for the Hottest Accordionist which was won by Dwayne Doopsie at the Festival in New Orleans. At the 2004 AAA Festival in Quincy, MA, the Vivian Vivio Stolaruk International Entertainment Competition for Accordionists, was the first of many categories that Steve supported in divine remembrance of his wife, Vivian Vivio Stolaruk. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Steve's honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital online at www.stjude.org. Share memories online at www.pixleyfuneral.com ■

Tentative Schedule of Events - Festival 2018

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

- 12 noon-4:00 pm Exhibitor set-up
- 3:00 pm Registration begins
- 4:00 pm Premier performance of Sonata in F, commissioned work by Joseph A. Natoli (by invitation only)
- 5:00 pm Exhibits Open
- 7:00 pm Meet and Greet
- 8:00 pm Reception (ticket required)
- 9:00 pm After Hours Club (cash bar)
Hosted by Dan & Joan Grauman

Thursday, July 12, 2018

- 8:30 am Junior Orchestra Rehearsal*
- 9:00 am Exhibits Open
Competitions & Workshops
- 11:30 am Luncheon and Concert (ticket required)
- 1:00 pm Exhibits re-open, competitions & workshops continue
- 3:30 pm Festival Orchestra Rehearsal*
Exhibits close
- 6:00 pm Pasta Night with entertainment (ticket required)
Featuring, Joe Cerrito, Cody McSherry & Ray Oreggia
- 8:00 pm Thursday Night Concert
Featuring: UMKC Community Ensemble, Joe Natoli Quartet and more
- 9:00 pm After Hours Club (cash bar)
Hosted by Mitch Guido & Rachel Quirbach

Friday, July 13, 2018

- 8:30 am Junior Orchestra Rehearsal*
- 9:00 am Exhibits Open
Competitions & Workshops
- 10:00 am Youth Jazz Ensemble- Rehearsal
- 3:30 pm Festival Orchestra Rehearsal*
Exhibits close
- 6:30 pm Gala Concert (ticket required)
See flyer for guest artists
- 9:00 pm Artist Reception (ticket required)
Entertainment by Russki Musikanti

Saturday, July 14, 2018

- 8:30 am Junior Orchestra Rehearsal*
- 9:00 am Exhibits Open
Competitions & Workshops
- 11:00 am Youth Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal
- 1:00 pm Awards Concert
- 3:30 pm Festival Orchestra Rehearsal*
- 6:00 pm Gala Banquet - Cocktail Hour
- 7:00 pm Gala Banquet (ticket required)
Performance by AAA 80th Anniversary Festival Orchestra under the direction of Joan Cochran Sommers
Life Time Achievement Presentation to Louis F. Coppola
- 9:30 pm After Hours Club
Hosted by Grayson Masefield

Sunday, July 15, 2018

- 9:00 am Breakfast (ticket required)
Open Meeting

For Junior Orchestra and Festival Orchestra Rehearsals, please bring your music, music stand, pencil and of course, your instrument



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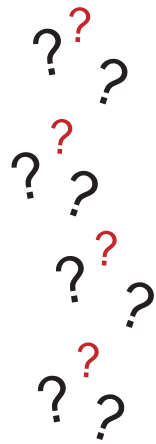
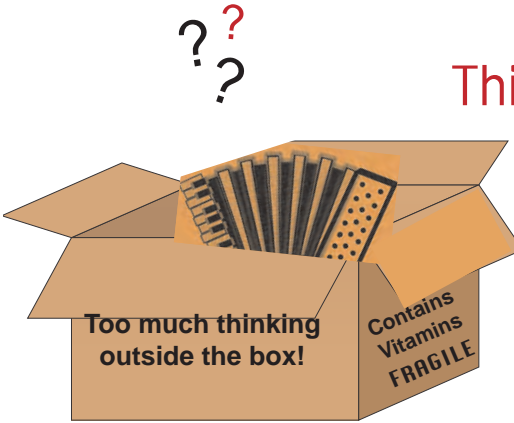
\$25 per Master Class – \$30 per Concert
\$50 per day (includes Master Class and Concert)
\$135 per entire weekend

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 - Brian Dewan
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 - Mark Nathanson
 - Benjamin Ickies
 - Godfrey Nelson
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 - Peter Flint
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 - Kathleen Tipton
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 - Bob Goldberg
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 - Rachid Eladlouni
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 Check dates Friday, July 27 Saturday, July 28 Sunday, July 29 @ \$50 Daily \$ _____

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___ Concerts only

 Check dates Friday, July 27 Saturday, July 28 Sunday, July 29 @ \$30 Daily \$ _____

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Weird Al Yankovic Concert Tour



Weird Al has one big performance schedule during the coming months. Weird Al is pictured above left with his mom and dad. For more information on upcoming tours, please visit www.vivid.seats.com.

The tour started in February and continues thru early June. A few of the Weird Al's upcoming performances include:

FRIDAY	MAR 16	9:00 PM	Caesars Atlantic City - Atlantic City, NJ
SATURDAY	MAR 17	8:00 PM	Paramount Huntington - Huntington, NY
SUNDAY	MAR 18	8:00 PM	American Music Theatre - Lancaster, PA
THURSDAY	MAR 22	8:00 PM	Apollo Theater New York - New York, NY
FRIDAY	MAR 23	8:00 PM	Apollo Theater New York - New York, NY
SATURDAY	MAR 24	8:00 PM	Palace Theatre Greensburg - Greensburg, PA
SUNDAY	MAR 25	7:30 PM	Ohio Theatre - Playhouse Square - Cleveland, OH
MONDAY	MAR 26	7:30 PM	Lexington Opera House - Lexington, KY
WED.	MAR 28	8:00 PM	Kentucky Center - Brown Theatre - Louisville, KY
THURSDAY	MAR 29	7:30 PM	Palladium Ctr For The Performing Arts - Carmel, IN
FRIDAY	MAR 30	8:00 PM	Virginia Theatre - Champaign, IL
SATURDAY	MAR 31	8:00 PM	Hoyt Sherman Auditorium - Des Moines, IA
MONDAY	APR 02	8:00 PM	Mayo Civic Ctr Presentation Hall - Rochester, MN
TUESDAY	APR 03	7:30 PM	Pantages Theatre - MN - Minneapolis, MN

Also Upcoming:



The Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society

presents a concert featuring

Peregrine Road

Rachel Bell, accordion

Karen Axelrod, piano & accordion






Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 4 PM

Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church

3435 Sleepy Hollow Road

Falls Church, Virginia 22044

Donation for non-members \$8 - WMAS members free

Refreshments will be served

Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society

WMAS will hold its next meeting at 3 pm on Sunday, March 18, at Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church, 3435 Sleepy Hollow Road in Falls Church. On the program: Robert Ford will lead a hands-on bellows workshop and, following that, a play-along featuring Irish music. A packet of songs is attached, so please print that out and bring it with you, along with your accordion and music stand.

Mary Kay Stine will be the March greeter, starting at 2:45 pm. Our April meeting, on the 15th, will be a guest-artist concert featuring Rachel Bell and Karen Axelrod, aka "Peregrine Road." A flyer is attached. Please send it to your family and friends – and, if you live in or near Falls Church, post it on community bulletin boards. We need a greeter for April, by the way.

ALSO UPCOMING ...

Weird Al Yankovic will be performing at the Strathmore in North Bethesda on March 20 at 8 pm. See concert schedule in the above article on Weierd Al. More information and tickets: <https://www.strathmore.org/events-and-tickets/weird-al>

Peregrine Road, offers a captivating array of musical styles, moods and traditions. **Rachel Bell** (accordion) has been gracing the stages of contra dance halls, concert venues and bal folk dances for many years. Pair Rachel up with pianist **Karen Axelrod**, widely known for her lyrical and powerful English Country Dance playing, and you get **Peregrine Road**.

These two seasoned musicians provide an exhilarating dance experience infused with energy and variety. Vivacious reels, quirky French-influenced groove tunes, dreamy jigs, and fiery improvisations will keep your contra dance feet going all night long. At an English country dance, you'll soak up sounds that are beautifully matched to the dances, with just the right balance between finesse and zing. In the concert setting, **Peregrine Road** ushers you into an ethereal musical space. Sit back and savor creative interpretations of passionate waltzes, mesmerizing French dances, lively American folk tunes, refined English Country dance tunes, and more. A touch of whimsical humor, and a sprinkling of vignettes will round out the experience.

Peregrine Road music samples: <https://youtu.be/GxdIUVCmaew> & <https://youtu.be/COjP65TEdRM>



For additional information and directions go to <http://washingtonaccordions.org/>
e-mail joangrauman@verizon.net or call 301-806-5998

Kidz Korner

For, by and about our student participants

From Emmanuel Gasser

Here is a piece that Emmanuel wrote for all you "kids" out there. We hope you enjoy playing this one.

By the way, did you all enjoy the "word search" in the January-February issue? If you have something to include in the Kidz Korner, please send to Linda Reed (lsoleyreed@gmail.com or goaccordion@yahoo.com. ■



Kidz Korner Rag

Emmanuel Gasser

♩ = 96 - 112

From Al Terzo - Accordion Pops Orchestra

Cody McSherry will premier Guy Klucevsek's new composition entitled Carousel of Dreams at the May 6th Pops Orchestra at the Cultural Arts Center at 721 Cranbury Road in East Brunswick, NJ. Concert begins at 3:00 p.m.

In addition, Kladji Cerriko, here recently from Albania will perform "Tango pour Claude", Andrea Maurer is performing Colors of the Wind from Pocahontas & The Lonely Shepherd. (Both with the orchestra).

Cody McSherry will also perform Dance of the Comedians (with the orchestra).

Other selections include:

Pop goes the Accordion (Hollywood Medley)

The Big Apple (New York Medley), Beatles Remembered, Phantom of the Opera, Blue Tango (Leroy Anderson) and Trolley Song (from "Meet me in Saint Louis").



As an experiment:

- ~ Play all slurred notes as staccato.
- ~ Only slur the notes on the beats to the next one, on the off-beat.
- ~ Only slur the notes on the off-beats to the next one, on the beat.
- ~ Ask a friend or parent to listen to the different versions without telling them what you will do different.
- ~ Ask them to describe the difference. Was it a different song? Is it the mood of the song?
- ~ If they can't explain the difference, tell them it was magic. :)

Did you know....?

Fun quips and stories about the accordion and music greats! This issue features Irving Berlin.

Contributed by Ray Oreggia, Master of Trivial!

As the Easter season approaches, it brings to mind Irving Berlin's famous melody, Easter Parade. The song first came to being in August 1917 under the title "Smile and Show Your Dimple. The song told the story of a World War I soldier and his sweetheart. It was introduced in a show, however the show had a short run. Irving was disappointed because he loved the melody, so he put the song in his trunk and waited for another opportunity to use the song. That opportunity came in 1933 when he was asked to write the music for a show called "As Thousands Cheered Berlin," rewrote the lyrics and introduced the song as Easter Parade. The song was also included in two other Berlin musicals, "Holiday Inn" and "Easter Parade."

(<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1bAIEIWYBYc0>)

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Sandra J. Zera

Thank you!

REMINDER TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2018, now's the time. Dues are (USD) \$65 for Professional, \$65 for Certified Teacher (exam required), \$35 for Associate membership, \$35 for Affiliated Organization membership or \$20 for Student membership. You may also renew your membership on-line by going to <http://ameraccord.com/form.php>.

Remit to:

American Accordionists' Association
c/o Julie Cardona
67 Sackett Point Road, #215
North Haven, CT 06473

If you've changed your address or telephone number, or changed your e-mail address, please drop me a note so I can keep our records up-to-date.

Thanks,

Julie Cardona, Administrative Assistant

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

December:

Dean A. Ratzin (A)

Santo Grasso (A)

Connecticut Accordion Association (Affiliated Assoc.)

January:

Joel Weber (A)

Maria Dessena (P)

February:

Edgar Saldana (A)

Richard Lanthier (P)

DECEASED MEMBERS:

Evelyn Hunter (12/17/17)

Mr. Mauro Greco (12/31/17)

Mr. Joseph C. Gulish (1/12/18)

Stanley Darrow (3/13/18)

New AAA Website

For the past two months, we have been working with Harley Jones and the Accordions Worldwide staff to update the AAA website. Also, Dan Grauman played an integral part in getting this new site "live". Much appreciation to all!

The updated site was launched on March 1st, so please visit us at www.ameraccord.com

The new site has been designed to conform to any device: cell phone, tablet or desktop computer. When you open the site, you will see a list of the categories included:

- **HOME** - includes a Welcome, plus the following subdivisions: About, Events, Publications, Membership, History and Search (this link will enable you to search the AAA website using keywords) as well as the letter from the President.
- **ABOUT** - includes our mission statement, message from the President, Board of Directors, Youth Programs, Affiliations and how to Contact the AAA.
- **EVENTS** - AAA Festival, AAA Master Class & Concert Series, Coupe Mondiale Qualifications, Elsie M. Bennett Competition, Carmen Carrozza Memorial Competition and AAA Open Meetings.
- **NEWS & MEDIA** - Breaking News, Newsletters, Youtube Videos and Facebook.
- **MEMBERSHIP** - Membership Information, Online Membership Application, Printable Membership Form (PDF) and how to contact the AAA.
- **HISTORY** - This section includes Past Presidents, US Champions, Music Commissions, Past Events, Memorials, Archival Information.
- **SEARCH** - select SEARCH and type in a key word. At the top of the list, you will find numerous selections not within the AAA site followed by those that can be found within the AAA site.

In addition, most payments for events can be done on-line using PayPal or by snail mail with a PDF you can easily download.

Please take a moment to view the site and send us your comments to: ameraccord1938@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you! ■

Brooklyn Accordion Club

The Kick-Off meeting w/ Sy Kushner was great! Thank you all for coming and participating!

Our March 4th meeting featured Robert Duncan and: *"A Beginner's Guide to Improvisation and Surviving Difficult Tunes on the Accordion"*

Most genres of music allow for some form of improvisation, but many beginners regard improvisation as an advanced skill. This workshop is designed to help you navigate chord changes you may have seen in fake books and improvise over basic tunes. Experienced improvisers may also struggle to transfer these skills to their new instrument. While some skills (e.g., stride piano) are much easier on the accordion, playing through chromatic or minor harmony in the left hand seems to demand large leaps or difficult stretches. This workshop will show beginners and experts how to use alternate fingerings and chord substitutions to play difficult passages. The workshop covered:

1. History of Jazz Accordion
2. Improvisation in other styles
3. Basic song forms
4. Jazz clichés
5. Left-hand voicings with bass
6. Left-hand voicings with no bass
7. Improvising over the blues
8. Improvising over "Rhythm Changes"
9. Improvising in traditional jazz
10. Comping in traditional jazz
11. Rootless voicings & comping in modern jazz and other styles

Robert Duncan is an Associate Professor of Cognitive Behavioral Neuroscience at the City University of New York, and he received a BA in Music Humanities at the University of California at San Diego. He is a recovering jazz pianist and swing dancer who spent eight years directing a traditional jazz band and Lindy Hop dance ensemble in California. He is the founder and director of Bachtopus, an accordion quartet that features the music of living composers and JS Bach. You can also find him playing with Karl Meyer as the Wisterians, a violin-accordion duo that plays salon music, bal musette, and gypsy jazz. Recently, he started playing with the Reservation Jazz Hall Band, a traditional jazz ensemble comprised of swing dancers. ■

Coast to Coast

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



PRINCETON, NJ

The Accordion Virtuosi of Russia performed at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, New Jersey on February 10. Accordion Virtuosi of Russia, a frequent visitor to the US, is a winner of numerous competitions in Russia such as "Musical Carousel" and "Peter-Pavel Assemblies".

Most recently, the Accordion Virtuosi of Russia has been included in the prestigious "Golden Book of St. Petersburg" for its achievements in arts and was also named "Best accordion orchestra of Europe of 2013" by orchestra society "EU Musica" in Frankfurt, Germany.

EWING TOWNSHIP, NJ

A special concert featuring violinist Emmanuel Borowsky, cellist Cecylia Barczyk, and accordionist Dr. Robert Young McMahan, took place at the Mildred and Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall, The College of New Jersey on February 3, 2018.

Dr. Robert Young McMahan is Professor of Music and Coordinator of Music Theory and Composition Studies, as well as of the Accordion major, at The College of New Jersey. A native of Washington DC, he studied accordion with the noted artist Louis Coppola and music composition with Robert Hall Lewis, Stefans Grové, and Jean Eichelberger Ivey at The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University.



BAYSIDE, NY

Public-school 203Q, in Bayside, Queens (New York) may be one of the only elementary schools in the five boroughs of New York City that has a student accordion band. It is made up of ten 4th and 5th graders and is conducted by the school's music teacher, Mrs. Linda Holcomb. The school started their accordion band fifteen years ago. They meet once a week, at the beginning of the school day to practice various songs that they will perform throughout the year.

The band also has the guidance of community member and professional accordionist, "Papa Joe" De Clemente. Papa Joe volunteers his time to join the students for rehearsals and he inspires them to be better accordionists. Among the many things he does for them, he also fixes their accordions! For information on upcoming

activities, please contact:
lindaholcomb203@gmail.com

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA

The Accordionaires' Pops Orchestra under the baton of Janet Hane performed an evening of music in North Hollywood, California, on February 20, 2018.

The concert featured soloists, including Gail Campenella on the accordion, vocalist Ara Kocharyantsa, and trombonist Bob Rokos. The hour and a half program showcased a wide variety of music, including such classical pieces as Dichter und Bauer [Poet and Peasant] Overture (von Suppe/Herold) and Farandole (Bizet); movie music Moulin Rouge Medley (arr. Desiderio); a Tango Por Una Cabeza (Gardel/Desiderio) and Just Another Polka (Loesser).

DeLugg/Desiderio). For further information – or to become member of this orchestra – contact Janet Hane at accordionconnect@sbcglobal.net.

NEW YORK, NY

The 24th Annual Accordion Seminar directed by Dr. William Schimmel (moderator/curator) will be held during July 27-29, 2018 each day from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM in New York City. The theme for 2018 is "Thinking Inside the Box." The seminar will be conducted at the Tenri Cultural Institute, 43A W 13th St., New York, NY. The afternoon master class sessions at 3.00 PM are open to anyone to attend the talks on various accordion related subjects. The 7.00 PM evening concerts cover a wide range of musical styles presented by invited performers. For more information, please contact Dr. Schimmel at e-mail: accordionbill@gmail.com

BELLEVUE, WA

A Day of the Accordion sponsored by the Northwest Accordion Society was held on February 24, 2018 at the Crossroads Bellevue Food Court in Bellevue, WA.

Performers on the Market Stage included Jazz Hands, Murl Sanders, the Northwest Accordionaires and more! In addition to the performances, the event also featured free accordion lessons, a Button Box Presentation and a Jam session.

AUSTIN, TX

Shirley Johnson and Laura Niland are proud to announce the Not Just Oom-PAH! Accordion Workshop and Concert to be presented June 16-17, 2018 in Austin, TX. Made possible by a Grant from the Cultural Arts Division of City of Austin Economic Development Department and co-supported by Texas Folklife Resources, presenters include: Ginny Mac (Gypsy Jazz), Jan Flemming (South American rhythms), Shirley Johnson (East European) and Mario Pedone (Eclectic World Music). The Concert will be on June 17, 2018 and performers include: Ginny Mac, Mario Pedrone and Jan Flemming with Grupo Massa.

Organizers are also offering One Scholarship to an applicant under age 18 to attend the workshop and concert. We have all the applications ready for participants and scholarship applicants. For more information, please contact Shirley Johnson 512-680- 0422 or email: ShirleyJ@Vjeverica.com or accsaj@gmail.com. To Register for Workshop & /or Get Concert Tickets please visit www.Vjeverica.com.

FAIRFIELD, CT

Spitfire Grill will be presented at the Quick Center for the Arts on the Fairfield (CT) University campus April 11 thru April 15, 2018.

Many of us were fortunate to see the Woodbury (CT) presentation of this fabulous show a few years ago with Mary Tokarski as Accordionist. Mary will again be the Accordionist for the Regina Quick Center performance at Fairfield University. For additional information, please visit: www.fairfield.edu/theatrefairfield OR www.quickcenter.com.

LISLE (CHICAGO), IL

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) will hold their annual festival from July 25 –28, 2018 at the Hyatt Hotel in Lisle, IL (near Chicago). Featured artists will include World Champions Matthias Matzke from Germany and Cory Pesaturo (USA) as well as Chicago Jazz Artist Mike Alongi. The event will also feature many other fine soloists, the ATG Festival Orchestra, President's Quartette and other talented groups. In addition, the festival will feature an original music for Accordion Concert, Vendors and a lot of FUN. For more information, please visit www.accordions.com/atg.

ALABAMA ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Free Concerts to promote the accordion. May 19, 2018 at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m., Cory Pesaturo will perform and on Saturday, May 18th, Grayson Masefield will be guest performer. Conxcerts are free. For additional information, contact Craig Funderburg, csfunder@gmail.com

WESTMONT, NJ

As we go to press we learned of the passing of Stanley Darrow (Acme Accordion Studio). Arrangements are as follows:

Visitation Friday, March 23rd from 7 to 9 PM at JACKSON FUNERAL HOME, 308 Haddon Ave., Haddon Township, NJ, and on Saturday from 10 to 11 AM, where his funeral service will follow at 11 AM. Interment Calvary Cemetery, Cherry Hill, NJ. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Stan's memory may be made to American Accordion Musicological Society, 322 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108 or The Angels Community Outreach, 334 S. Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071 or at www.theangelscommunityoutreach.org. For online condolences please visit www.jacksonfh.net

(See the AAA's May-June Newsletter for a bio on the life of Stanley Darrow.)



It's a Celebration!

July 11-15, 2018

Come join us at the

**Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
625 First Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
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Also featuring

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Ray Oreggia, Rachel Quirbach, Pat & Connie Racioppa, Russkie Musikanti,
The Trillio Tango Trio, The UMKC Community Accordion Ensemble,
The Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Mitch Guido,
The Junior Festival Orchestra under the direction of Mary Tokarski**

80th Anniversary AAA Festival Orchestra under the direction of

Joan Cochran Sommers

Plus

AAA Lifetime Achievement Award honoring

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