



Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

JANUARY 2012

Here's What's Happening at AAA in 2012

APRIL 22

Noon to 5:00 pm
Carrozza Scholarship
Dinner and Dancing
Villa Barone Hilltop Manor
Mahopac, New York
Chairman: Joe Ciccone

JULY 11-15

AAA Annual Festival
Sheraton City Center
Baltimore, Maryland
Workshops • Exhibits
Concerts • Competition
Guest Artist:
Stas Venglevski
Coordinators: Frank Busso
and Mary Tokarski

JULY 27-29

Master Class and Concert
Series – The Seminars
Under the Radar
Tenri Cultural Institute
43A W13th Street, NYC
Moderator/Curator:
Dr. William Schimmel

SEPTEMBER 8

Noon to 5:00 pm
Valtaro Celebration
Magnanini Farm Winery
172 Strawridge Rd.
Wallkill, NY
Chairman: Mario Tacca

Kevin Friedrich, Editor of the AAA Newsletter

Beginning with the March issue of the AAA Newsletter, Board Member, Kevin Friedrich has graciously accepted the position of Editor and will be collecting and writing articles for the AAA bi-monthly Newsletter. All material can be sent to Kevin directly at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to aaa1938@aol.com. Text should be sent within an e-mail or as a word document; photos should be high quality JPEG. Please submit material for the March newsletter on or before February 15th.

Thank you, Kevin. Your help and expertise is greatly appreciated.



Highlights of 2011

Carrozza Scholarship Dinner



Once again, a full house at Magnanini Winery for the 9th Annual Carrozza Scholarship Fund Dinner. Guests enjoyed the music of Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Frank Toscano, Frank Carozza, Emilio Magnotta, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Ray Oreggia, Fabio & Fabio, Anita & Bob Siarkowski and the CT Accordion Orchestra. We celebrated Carmen's 90th Birthday with a special "SANO" cake designed by CT Accordion Orchestra member, Judy Sehna. Carmen delighted all by conducting the musicians in the Grand Finale performance of "Jolly Caballero".

Good Times! Friends Old and New! Great Music! The Charleston Festival was all of that and more!

Wednesday night we kicked off the "Press and Squeeze," This Meet and Greet reception was overflowing with new faces and old friends enjoying each others company, playing a tune here and there, and feasting on soft drinks, cheese, fruit and of course for the over 21 crowd, a little vino. Not too much!! Busy week ahead. Exhibits



Amanda (vocals) & Michael Parziale (accordion) entertain while, Justin Casamassino looks on at Press & Squeeze

opened at 9 a.m. on Thursday. Many thanks to Squeezin' Art, JAN-Press/Roxy's Music, Busy Fingers, the AAA Archives and Titano/Pigini/Panordion/ Deffner Publications and Roland for participating.

Thursday's Luncheon Concert featured Donna Dee Ray, a former student of Joan Sommers, Walt Kasprzyk, Soprano Joy Bechtler, accompanied by Dr. Robert Young McMahan, and our guests from Arizona, Ocotrillo delighted the audience.



Emmanuel Gasser and Cody McSherry among the entertainers.





Walt Kasprzyk & Joe Natoli



Randy Martin conducts the Martin Orchestra.

California's Frank Petrilli



AAA Pres. Linda Reed (aka Chiquita) and Mary Tokarski.



LaRue Mangely and daughter in matching "accordion" outfits made by LaRue - Great to see you, LaRue.



Above, the "K" Trio, bottom left, Alicia Baker, right, Ocotrillo



The Youth Jazz Ensemble (left to right) Anna Kroninger, Xavier Wright, Kendrick Johnson, Richard Kroninger, Eddie Monteiro, Michael Parziale, Andre Fry and Emmanuel Gasser



AAA President Linda Reed with Joan Sommers and Mary Tokarski



The Busso's - Frank, Jr., Brother-in-law, Jerry Fellitti and Frank, Sr. accompany Steve Albini

"Come to the Cabaret," beckons Chiquita Banana or is that AAA President Linda Reed? Performers included the CT Orchestra conducted by Linda Soley Reed, Walt Kasprzyk and Joe Natoli were among the guest artists as well as the Martin Accordion Orchestra from Fullerton, CA and California's Frank Petrilli joined Ocotrillo for some amazing Jazz.

Friday - we're off to the downtown Historic District for a performance of the Charleston, conducted by Frank Busso, at the US Customs House followed by a walking tour of the area. Friday Night - The Gala Concert - and Gala it was! Opening the evening was the return of the "K" Trio - Mary Tokarski, Julie

Cardona and Walt Kasprzyk. Lovely Alicia Baker surprised us with her lovely soprano voice as she accompanied herself. Jeff Lisenby, accompanied by Wes and Sean from Ocotrillo, performed some fabulous original pieces. Finishing off the evening, Ocotrillo was joined by the inimitable Eddie Monteiro.

The Awards Concert on Saturday featured the Youth Involvement Program Jazz Ensemble. Charleston's young musicians, Anna and Richard Kroninger, Xavier Wright and Kendrick Johnson joined accordionists Andre Fry, Emmanuel Gasser, Michael Parziale, Gabe Hall-Rodrigues and Wes Anderson and Sean Brogan of Ocotrillo. Great job by conductor Eddie Mon-

teiro and organizer Marilyn O'Neil AND great performance of "A Train" and "Morning".

Andre Fry, winner of the U.S. Piano Accordion Competition performed one of the selections from his program. And budding concert performer and champion, 6 year old Cody McSherry, won everybody's heart. Trophies, cash awards, plaques, medals - lots of happy faces.

The Gala Banquet capped off the 2011 Festival honoring Joan Cochran Sommers with the AAA's Lifetime Achievement Award. The program started off with all joining in to perform the Charleston, conducted by Frank Busso. And then the pièce de la résistance, the 63-piece Festival Orchestra complete with full

percussion section, conducted by Joan Sommers performing selections from Phantom of the Opera, Welcome to Venice and an amazing finale of the music from The Sound of Music. Bravo, Joan - you are the best!

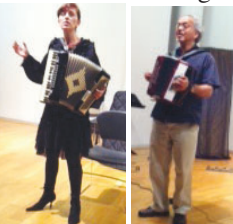
Following dinner, President Linda Soley Reed, presented Joan with the AAA's Lifetime Achievement Award. Several letters from friends from afar were read and others were included in the evening's program booklet. It was a wonderful evening which was topped off by an impromptu evening of entertainment in the hotel restaurant by many of the guest artists.

Breakfast on Sunday and sharing some great ideas with members and friends from near & far.

See you in Baltimore!

Master Class - "The Seminars"

The Master Class and Concert Series also known as "The Seminars" were once again, well organized, interesting and filled with wonderful talent. If you have never attended this event, make it a point to attend at least one of the 3-day series. Each year I see more and more participants in the Master Class portion. This is a wonderful opportunity to obtain some constructive suggestions on performance. The Saturday night concert included performances by Paul Stein, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Benjamin Ickies, Doug Makofka, Kathleen Tipton, Micki Goodman (video) and Dr. Schimmel, John Foti, Marni Rice, Michael Century, Carl Riehl and Mary Tokarski. Dr. Schimmel and Mary performed "Neo Rota", an original composition by Dr. Schimmel and Mary performed a compilation honoring Magnante, Belfiore and Frosini entitled "Royalty Suite". Wonderful performances by all!



Above: Marni Rice (L) & Paul Stein (R); Below: Mary Tokarski and Dr. Schimmel

Valtaro Celebration at Magnanini

A record number of attendees at the Valtaro Celebration honoring Pete Spagnoli. Dominic Karcic, Honorary Chairman, organized many Valtaro musicians who came out and paid homage to their friend and for some, their teacher Pete. Performers included Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Ray Oreggia and Dom Karcic, Fabio & Fabio (Lucarelli), Dan Bertoli, The Valtaro Singers including Bruce Reed and Vicki Atwater, Frank Carozza, The Valtaro Musette Orchestra which included many AAA Board members, Anita and Bob Siarkowski and The Connecticut Accordion Orchestra. Pete Spagnoli passed away on November 8, 2011, but was able to be with his friends and family at the September 10th Celebration.



Above: Dom Karcic pictured with his mentor, Pete Spagnoli. Below: The beautiful vineyards of Magnanini; guests enjoying the food and entertainment.