



Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

MAY 2012

Here's What's Happening at AAA in 2012

JULY 11-15

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

JULY 27-29

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

SEPTEMBER 8

Noon to 5:00 pm
Valtaro Celebration
Wine tasting, dinner
and dancing
Magnanini Farm Winery
172 Strawridge Rd.
Walkkill, NY
Chairman: Mario Tacca
*Join us as we pay tribute to
the Magnanini Family for
their continued support of
live accordion music!*



From the Editor

My sincerest thanks to you all, for your positive support and feedback on the first issue of the AAA Newsletter that was published in March.

As we move through the year, I think we are all excited by the diverse and exciting array of accordion activities that are happening on a constant basis from Coast to Coast. Thank you for taking the time to share these events with our membership, by sending us your news stories and pictures.

I look forward to hearing from you over the coming weeks as you offer your news items for our upcoming publications.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



Frank Marocco Memorial Service Soundtrack Available Online

The memorial service for renowned Jazz Accordionist Frank Marocco, aged 81, who passed away on March 3, 2012 was held on Saturday, March 24, 2012 in Northridge, CA. To hear sound files of the speeches and musical offerings, please visit www.frankmarocco.net/memorial

Frank Marocco's wide-ranging career embraced every genre of music, but his passion was jazz.

Born in Illinois, Frank Marocco's musical career began in Chicago where, at the age of 17, he won a national music contest, performing his winning solo with the Chicago Pops Orchestra, playing before

several thousand people in Soldier's Field. He spent the next few years travelling all over the USA with various groups, playing accordion at hotels and clubs in Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe and Palm Springs. While touring in the Midwest, he met his future wife, Anne, in South Bend, Indiana, and they eventually moved to the West Coast, and settled in Los Angeles.

After a period as the pianist with the Les Brown swing band, Frank worked with Bob Hope, playing accordion, both on TV and on worldwide tours entertaining U.S. forces. He also worked with Frank Sinatra, Dinah Shore, Doris Day, Harry Connick, Jr., Liza



Minelli, Ray Conniff, Burt Bacharach, Dolly Parton, Marty Robbins, Johnny Cash, John Denver, Glenn Campbell, Dudley Moore, Sophia Loren, Bob Newhart, George Burns, and many more.

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Frank Busso, Jr. Trio to Perform in Kansas City

The Frank Busso, Jr. Trio from Washington, D.C. will appear with Kansas City based Vivant! on the Fremar Foundation for Accordion Arts "Music & Merlot" Concert on June 23, 2012.

The Busso Trio are all active duty servicemen in the U.S. Air Force and perform regularly in Washington, D.C. and throughout the United States as members of the U.S. Air Force Strings. They regularly perform at the White House, the Capitol, and at high protocol functions for visiting heads of state. AAA Board of Director, Technical Sergeant Frank

Busso, Jr. is the son of a well-known accordionist and teacher Frank Busso, Sr. from Staten Island, New York. Frank's trio members also include violinist, MSgt. Henry Tyszler, and bassist, MSgt.

William Hones. In their off-duty time, they perform together as the Frank Busso, Jr. Trio, playing a wide repertoire of music that includes classical, popular, continental,

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Frank Marocco, continued from page 1

Frank Marocco recorded over 500 soundtracks for films and television in Hollywood. His movie credits include "Grease," "Pirates of the Caribbean," "The Muppet Movie," "The Blues Brothers," "The Lion King," "Beauty & the Beast," "Doctor Zhivago," "Rocky 3," "Schindler's List" and "The Godfather," to name just a few. He also recorded with artists as diverse as Madonna, Pink Floyd, The Beach Boys, and Luciano Pavarotti.

Widely respected throughout the accordion world, Frank's great musicality and dazzling technique were much admired wherever he performed, and his warm personality endeared him to audiences, and all who met him.

The recipient of numerous awards, Frank received the AAA Lifetime Achievement



Award in 2006 and was nominated eight years in a row for the Recording Academy's Most Valuable Player Award, receiving the Award in 1985 and 1986. In 2000, he was inducted into the Accordion Hall of Fame in Vicenza, Italy.

Frank Marocco is survived by his wife of 60 years, Anne, his daughters, Cynthia, Venetia and Lisa, and eight grandchildren. ■

Busso Trio, continued from page 1

Broadway, bluegrass and patriotic works.

The concert will be in Kansas City on Saturday, June 23rd at 7 p.m., at All Souls Unitarian - Bragg Auditorium. Also appearing in the concert are the concert hosts Vivant!, as well as other guest artists including Melody Stroth, piano, and Ronda Adams,

electric violin/viola, who will perform new works that feature the accordion. Doors open at 6:30 pm for cocktails and viewing of antique accordions and other exhibits. Donations accepted at the door. For additional information, please visit www.FremarFoundation.com and click on Music & Merlot. ■

Dominic Karcic and Bruce Reed (Tenor) in Concert

The Avanti Society presented an outstanding afternoon of music featuring "Great Melodies from Sunny Italy" on March 25th at the Long Beach Public Library featuring accordionist and AAA Board Member Dominic Karcic and Tenor Bruce Reed.



Dominic attended New York College of Music where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree and continued his education at the City University of New York (CUNY) where he received his Master's Degree in Music. He has always played professionally in the New York area and continues to do so today.

His love for the Valtaro Musette music was instilled in him through his years of study with noted accordionist Peter Spagnoli. In recent years he has been involved in the preservation and documentation of this particular musical style. He collaborated in writing a biographical article on the life and career of accordionist John "Scudlein" Brugnoli (founder of the Valtaro Musette Orchestra) and has continued writing articles about Valtaro Musette music.

The Concert featured works by Bixio, Denza, Modugno, Puccini, Travajoli and Verdi. ■

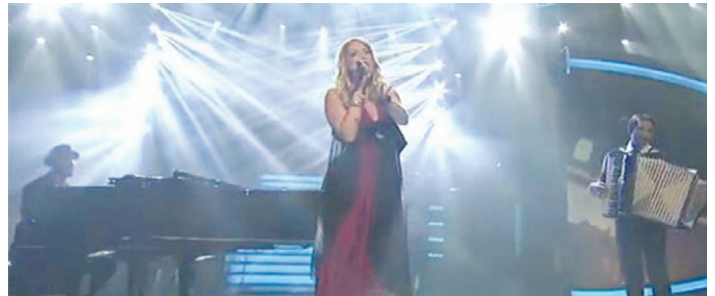
"American Idol" Contestant Features Accordionist

Season 11 "American Idol" contestant Elise Testone caught the eye of accordionists from across the USA and as far away as New Zealand, where the show is broadcast the following day, when she sang Billy Joel's "Vienna" with only a pianist and accordionist on stage with her.

Sean "P Diddy" Combs joined Jimmy Iovine to mentor contestants who were required to select songs from Billy Joel for their performance. Both were concerned that Testone's choice of "Vienna," a song that only hardcore Billy Joel fans

know, was a bad move. However, all were proven wrong, and in the words of a writer at the Hollywood Reporter, "she absolutely nailed it, complete with the sultry, bluesy, jazzy, late-night cigarettes and booze delivery that the song demands. I loved the accordion, loved the hair, the dress, the delivery - all of it!"

Elise earned a standing ovation from all three judges, and many subsequent reports on the show complimented her on her use of the accordion as musical backing in her performance. ■

**Harrington ARTS Center Activities**

This spring and summer will feature a diverse array of activities at the Harrington ARTS Center, reports events organizer Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D., who serves as Curator for the renowned A World of Accordions Museum and Lead Instructor at the Accordion-concertina Repair and Technicians' School, located at 1401 Belknap Street in Superior, WI.

Anthony Bukoski read short stories from his "local color" books: "Between Trains and North of the Port." Bukoski is a Pulitzer Prize winning author whose works are listed at www.wewantedtobewriters.com. A rave review can be found in the *Star Tribune*, January 29, 2012, Variety section, front page. Bukoski's writings are strongly influenced by Polish and popular tunes from his father's accordion repertory, simulated between the readings by Helmi Harrington. The accordion, now preserved in A World

of Accordions Museum, prompted his meeting Harrington and her husband and inspired segments of his short stories.

Renowned accordionist Mary Tokarski will be the featured artist on May 1 at 7 pm. Admission is \$15.00 per person. Mary was the USA's representative at the prestigious Coupe Mondiale, has performed with major orchestras of the world, and is on concert tour throughout the Midwest. In 2004, her 'K' Trio presented the first formal concert during Grand Reopening celebrations of A World of Accordions Museum, then newly relocated in Superior.

Ronny Setnicker of Biwabik will appear on June 16, at 3 pm. Admission \$15.00 per person. Setnicker is well known as Slovenian specialist on diatonic accordions. A featured performer of long-standing, Setnicker was pictured on Ironworld USA's billboard and has been recorded with his

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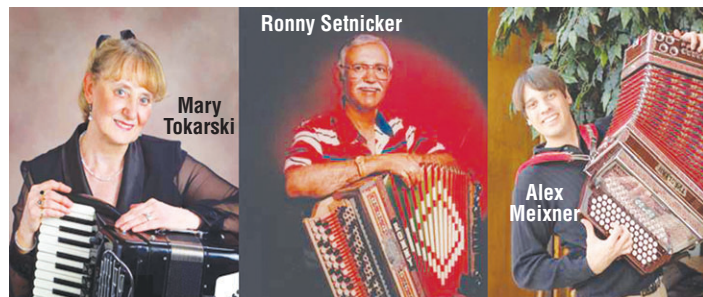
Harrington ARTS Center, continued from page 2

daughters Shelby and Susan (CD: "Tradition"). The Setnickers are popular entertainers who have made several appearances at this venue. Additional featured performers will be Rob Dingmann (Minneapolis), Paul Vargason, and Helmi Harrington.

Accordion Concertina Music Studios Band will perform on a float in Superior's Fourth of July Parade. This is the third year in which performers from Superior, Duluth, Foxboro, Two Harbors, La Pointe, Burnsville and Fergus Falls

(MN), and Austin (TX) join for the celebration. The Band will repeat its performance at Carlton County Historical Society.

Alex Meixner and his Band will be presented in concert on July 5 at 6 pm. Advance ticket purchase at \$20.00 per person is recommended. Meixner has reached star status among multi-generational audiences as a Grammy Award nominee and national entertainer on diatonic and piano accordions, brasses, and vocals. His repertory covers the gamut between ethnic and pop music. Mem-



bers of the band include Tom Jones on saxes, clarinet, flute, guitar and vocals, and Michael Morris on drums and vocals. Find more information about Meixner at www.AlexMeixner.com. Paul

Vargason of Superior, also playing multiple instruments, will offer the opening act.

For further information, please contact: Dr. Helmi Strahl Harrington at 715-395-2787. ■

Long Island Accordion Alliance Summer Activities

La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, Long Island, the sponsor of the monthly Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) gathering, featured guest soloist, Paolo Belanich (Lodi, NJ) who entertained the patrons with some of his very creative original compositions and also some traditional folk melodies - all played in a Slovenian accordion style.

Paolo's appearance at the event brought out many of his ardent Croatian fans, where about sixty percent of the patrons were accordion loving and many were "accordion playing" Croatians. Many 21st Century people travel with iPods, however it was evident that many Croatians from Istria travel with accordions in their car trunk, and were ready to

play at the event!

On hand to also entertain were many of the Alliance's regular members Joe Campo, Phil Franzese, Dominic Karcic, Bob La Bua, Ray Oreggia, Phil Prete and Franco Ruggiero.

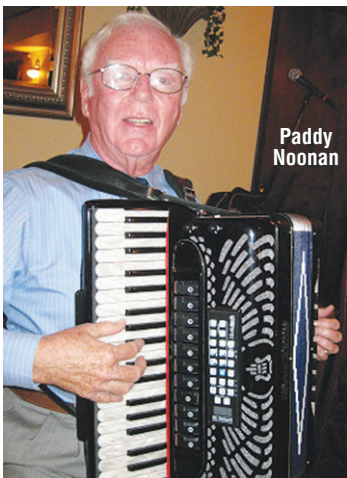
Tenor Zack Murdock dropped by and performed great renditions of "Danny Boy" and "Aldi La." Several of the patrons also "happened" to have their accordions with them and also performed. These included Gianni Cerri (Bellport, NY), Don Gerundo (New Rochelle, NY), Mario Honovic (New Hyde Park, NY), Bob Kenul, and Dino Mezic (Glen-dale, NY).

The April meeting was a tremendous success with standing room only for the internationally renowned artists AAA 2nd Vice President Mario Tacca and vocalist Mary Mancini.

On May 1st the LIAA presented internationally known Irish accordionist, Paddy Noonan, while the June 5th program will feature AAA Board of Director's member and acclaimed soloist, Mary Tokarski.

All meetings are held at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY.

For more information and reservations, please contact Dominic Karcic at (631) 261-6344. ■



AWAM Museum Corner – Accordions from Scandinavia

Accordion Spotlight #1: Finnish Osakeyhtio Harmonikka

By Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D.

I had long rested an envious eye on the Finnish accordion Osakeyhtio Harmonikka, model Kouvo Suomi, when Jim Eisenschenk (MN) made its acquisition possible. It now stands in our Finland display alongside artifacts, various music books, recordings of Viola Turpeinen, Karl Jularbo, Veikko Ahvenainen, and historic recordings remastered by Toivo Tamminen, an occasional visitor to the museum.

In the 1930s, six accordion makers were known to have been active in Finland. Among them during the years 1932-1995, Osakeyhtio Harmonikka was located near the city of Kouvola, Finland. It was organized by Aarne Koski (accordion builder since 1915), his brother Väinö Koski and wood craftsman Taavi Kaplas as a subsidiary of Harmonikka Oy (Accordion, Inc.). In 1986, both companies joined Lasse Pihlajamaa Oy, under management

of Erkki Järvenpää.

The factory's most popular model, Kouvola Casotto, renowned throughout Scandinavian countries, ironically led to



the company's closing in 1995. It is said that the Kouvola accordions were so well made that minimal demand for new instruments weakened the company's viability. In the last year of operation, the factory sold only 50 instruments for approximately 40,000 Finn-Marks each (then approximately \$7,000).

When it closed (under director Jouko Koski), its six skilled workers had been employed there for decades. It was the last of its kind in northern Scandinavian lands. Today there are no makers, but warehoused machinery at Seinäjoki awaits revival of demand for accordions made in Finland. ■

AWAM Museum Corner Accordions from Scandinavia, cont'd.

Accordion Spotlight #2:
Norwegian Henschien

By
Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D.

One of the exciting elements about running this museum is the opportunity to associate with people from various parts of the world. Sometimes associations evolve over the course of years and recur unexpectedly.

In 2006, three members of the Scandinavian Accordion Orchestra (Oslo, Norway) visited the museum after having won the "Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Contest." They saw our acoustically ideal concert hall and exciting museum as incentive for a USA tour by the whole orchestra. Their flattering photo-article appeared in *Nygammelt* (January, 2007). In 2008, director Tore Ødegard, head of the Norwegian Accordion Society, and the twelve-person Gamle Aker Spelemannslag Orchestra performed two fabulous concerts of diverse dance music that set many toes a-tinkling, brought tears of nostalgia, and presented new popular music. Their expert instrumentation for chromatic button and piano accordions demonstrated virtuoso skills in perfect ensemble without conductor.

Tore, in addition to being an excellent accordionist and arranger, is a patent collector and avid historian interested in manufacture and distribution of accordions in Scandinavian countries. As we walked among



the displays, he noticed the absence of a Norwegian accordion in our Scandinavian section. In consequence, Tore saw to our receipt of a 1952 model "C-system" button chromatic Henschien, Maestro IV from the *Trekkspillmuseum* Norway. It had been recently serviced by Jørgen Sundeqvist (Asker, Norway) so that it can be used in A World of Accordions Travelling Museum, which participates in AAA festivals.

The 3/5 reed-banks model Maestro IV with 5+2 shifts was developed as a smaller version of the Regal V used by Toralf Tollefsen (1914-1994) in his 1947 concert with the London International Orchestra at Royal Albert Hall, and in the following years' tours of America, Africa and Europe.

Founded in 1936 by Harald Henschien (1902-1968) in Hønefoss, Norway, the Henschien Accordion Factory employed over 50 workers during its most productive era (1940-50), and at closure (1958) had produced more than 10,000 instruments. ■



Dr. Helmi Strahl Harrington

Big Kids Accordion Band in Social Canvas Project

The Big Kids Accordion Band conducted by Mrs. LaRue Mangelly will play a tribute to Deiro, Frosini and Magnante and other accordion composers on May 6 at the Morris Museum of Art in Augusta, GA.

The program is part of the Social Canvas project whereby local artists, inspired by the performances of the guest bands,

create original work. Attendees are invited to join the art-making at creativity stations or just sit back and enjoy the sights and sounds. The event is offered as a free service at the Morris, One 10th Street, Augusta, GA. For more information, please call Mrs. LaRue Mangelly at (706) 798-1831. ■

Eddie Monteiro is Accordionist in Broadway's "Evita"

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award Winning musical "Evita" returns to Broadway and one of AAA's Board Members is the middle of it all!

Well-known Jazz artist and AAA Board of Director Eddie Monteiro joins an ensemble of some 20 musicians under the direction of Kristen Blodgette, as he performs on accordion and synthesizer for the welcomed return of "Evita" on Broadway. The show stars international pop icon Ricky Martin (Che), Elena Roger (Eva) and Michael Cerveris (Perón).

"Evita" tells how Eva Perón used her smarts and charisma to rise meteorically from the slums of Argentina to the presidential mansion as First Lady. Adored by her people as a champion for the poor, she became one of the most powerful women in the world - while her greed, out-sized ambition and fragile health made her one of the most tragic. "Evita" tells Eva's passionate and unforgettable true story, and features some of theater's most beautiful songs, including "Don't Cry for Me Argentina," "Another Suitcase in Another Hall" and "High Fly-



ing, Adored." Eddie Monteiro has over thirty years of musical performance in classical music, Jazz, dance, theater and cabaret. Monteiro also is the youngest honoree ever elected to the American Accordionists' Association Hall of Fame in 1994.

A graduate of NYU with a B.S. in Music Education, Eddie studied accordion with Charles Nunzio (one of the founding members of the American Accordionists' Association), piano with Madame Olga Van Till and advanced harmony studies with Marty Holmes.

Eddie Monteiro has performed at Jazz festivals throughout the world. National

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PLAYBILL

ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Kristen Blodgette
Associate Conductor: William Waldrop
Woodwinds: James Ercole, Kathleen Nester; Trumpets: James De La Garza, Alex Holton;
F trombone: Tim Albright; French Horn: Shelagh Abate; Guitar: Michael Aarons;
Bass: Jeff Cooper; Drums: Bill Lanham; Percussion: Dave Roth; Keyboards: Andy Einhorn,
William Waldrop; Keyboards/Accordion: Eddie Monteiro; Violins: Victor Costanzi,
Katherine Livolsi-Landau, Suzy Perelman; Viola: David Blinn; Cello: Mairi Dorman-Phaneuf
Music Coordinator: David Lai
Synthesizer Programmer: Stuart Andrews
Music Copyist: Rob Meffe

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

RICKY MARTIN (*Che*) has been heralded as "an international pop icon and Latin music's Global Ambassador" (*Billboard*). The Grammy-winning superstar has sold

Moll for Evita. For my family and beloved Mariano. Welcome to this world, Valentina.

MICHAEL CERVERIS (*Perón*). Broad-

Monteiro is Accordionist in "Evita", cont'd from page 4

performances include the JVC Jazz Festival and the Toyota Jazz Festival in New York City, Salishan Jazz Festival and the Centrum Jazz Festival both in Washington. Internationally, Eddie was a guest at the North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland, the Jakarta Jazz Festival in Indonesia, Sea Jazz Festival in Helsinki, the Norwegian National Accordion Competition, Sweden's Annual Accordion Festival in Ransatter and in January of 2000 Eddie closed the Jazz In El Tambo Festival in Punta del Esta, Uruguay performing with Paquito D'Rivera, Leny Andrade, John Patitucci and Benny Golson.

He presently is a music teacher and choral director at Ann Street School (New Jersey) and is also Musical Director at Matawan-Aberdeen High School Summer Theater and vocal director for Matawan Avenue Middle School's spring musicals - conducting, coaching and accompanying students on productions of numerous Broadway plays.

"Evita" is currently running at the Marquis Theatre in New York City until December 30, 2012. ■

Rita Davidson Debuts eTracks Album of the Music of Eugene Ettore

AAA Board Member Rita Davidson has released a new eTracks Album titled "The Music of Eugene Ettore." The release coincides with the 90th anniversary of the birth of Eugene Ettore (1921-1985). Rita Davidson writes: "For the first time, the music of Eugene Ettore is available worldwide to accordionists. As you listen to these virtuoso selections, you will realize the great value and musical contribution that he made to accordion repertoire."

Eugene Ettore, former president of the AAA, wrote over 300 compositions at all levels including works for solo, duet, ensembles, band, and orchestra. In addition to being an accor-

18 Accordionists Invited to Record Hollywood Film Score

World renowned Hollywood based Academy Award Nominated composer John Powell (83rd Academy Award Nomination for Best Score with "How to Train Your Dragon") sent a call out for 18 accordionists to perform on his new score for the latest movie in the "Ice Age" series: "Ice Age: Continental Drift."

The Fox Studios Scoring Stage was the set for the monumental accordion project, and featured some familiar names in the accordion world including Los Angeles based accordionist and Music Copyist, Liz Finch (Interim President of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild (ATG), Mike Boddicker (son of the late accordion identities, Gerry and Arlene Boddicker), John Torcello (USA 1972 CIA Coupe Mondiale Winner) and well-known artist,

Nick Ariondo.

John Powell, the composer for movies such as the previous Ice Age Movies, Happy Feet, Rio, Kung Fu Panda, The Bourne Ultimatum, The Bourne Supremacy, Robots and many others, called for 14 accordions and 4 bass accordions to perform his works in this current Ice Age movie. Randy Kerber, one of the top film session pianists that works for Powell played one of the bass accordion parts. The accordionists were conducted by Pete Anthony, who had spent all day conducting a Symphony Orchestra, and conducts almost 50% of all the scores recorded in Los Angeles.

The regular accordion parts were scored for both hands and utilized a variety of registers, giving a very orchestral blend.

John Powell (in the center of

the picture) had purchased an accordion to use as research for his score, and was thrilled with the outcome of the take. He even brought his accordion to the session, in case it was needed, and delighted in wearing it while taking a picture with the accordionists at the conclusion of the recording session.

The interesting spectacle at the Fox Studios of 18 accordionists conducted by one of Hollywood's most sought after musical directors, performing the music of one of film's superstar composers drew a couple of producers who attended out of curiosity, and were delighted with the outcome. The entire project served as a very positive showcase for the accordion. "Ice Age: Continental Drift" will be released July 13, 2012. ■



dionist, he was a professional French horn player, having played in many symphony orchestras.

His great involvement in symphonic music is reflected in his virtuoso compositions which not only showcase the capabilities of the accordion, but also have a distinctly orchestral flavor. His unique compositions challenge the musicianship and technique of the performer while they provide a musical treat for all to hear.

Rita Davidson is preparing further recordings which will include: "The Manhattan Concerto," "Springtime Caprice," "Prelude and Scherzo," "Accordion Miniatures," "Five O'Clock Rush" and "Spanish Holiday."

Rita Davidson is seeking additional information, photos, etc. for the Eugene Ettore historical website. If you can assist, please contact her at: Ritabell@aol.com

For more information, please visit: www.musicforaccordion.com/eTracks/inform/davidson/index.htm ■



Accordion Pops Orchestra in Concert

The Accordion Pops Orchestra under the direction of Al Terzo presented a concert to benefit the Bergenfield Ambulance Corps. on April 29, 2012 in Bergenfield, NJ. The Orchestra had also recently performed at the Mid Atlantic Music Teachers Guild/ American Accordion Musicological Society 2012 Competition and Festival featuring guest artists Beverly Curnow, Mary Tokarski, Lenny Feldmann, and Albert Manginelli.

The Orchestra's roots can be traced to 1970, when it was organized by the Accordion Teachers' Association of New Jersey. Over the next ten years it performed at various community functions throughout the state under the direction of its first conductor, Dr. Jacob Neupauer of Philadelphia.

In 1980, the Orchestra members took a leave of absence, but four years later the membership was reorganized under the direction of the late Eugene Ettore of Livingston, New Jersey. In 1985, Daniel Desiderio was invited to act as a guest conductor of the Orchestra and a few years later the A.T.A. of NJ appointed him as conductor in residence. The name of the Orchestra was formally changed to the Accordion Pops



Accordion Pops Orchestra

Orchestra and its membership was expanded beyond the original members from New Jersey to include performers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Maryland, and Rhode Island. Maestro Daniel Desiderio retired as conductor in May 2011 and turned over the baton to Al Terzo.

Al Terzo is a teacher, arranger, and conductor who has been with the Orchestra since its inception in 1970. He is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, New Jersey Music Teachers Association, and National Association

of Music Educators. Mr. Terzo serves on the governing board of the American Accordionists' Association and is a founding member of the Mid-Atlantic Music Teachers Guild. He is an accomplished accordionist who has performed at the Garden State Arts Center and Newark's Symphony Hall. Currently Mr.



Al Terzo

Terzo teaches accordion and piano in New Jersey.

The APO's next concert will be on Sunday, June 10, 2012 at 2 pm, when they perform a concert to thank their generous practice hall hosts at the Imperial Music Center, 48 Appleby Avenue, South River, NJ.

Please e-mail: webmaster@accordionpops.com if you are interested in engaging the Orchestra for a performance, would like more information on an upcoming concert, or might be interested in joining the Orchestra. ■

2012 AAA Youth Program

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) is pleased to invite you to register for participation in its Youth Jazz Ensemble, which will perform during the 2012 Annual Competition and Festival at the Sheraton City Center Hotel in Baltimore, MD, from July 11-15, 2012. The AAA has been in existence since 1938 and enjoys a long, rich history of promoting the accordion and assisting in the development of many fine accordion musicians.

This is the second year an invitation is extended to a select group of young musicians who play instruments other than accordion to participate in the annual festival. This unique musical jazz ensemble will consist of a combination of young, highly skilled accordionists,

along with other young, Jazz instrumentalists ages 13-25. Participants will be included based on the recommendation of their teacher, the particular instrument they play, the amount and types of musical experiences they've had to date, and their willingness and availability to participate fully in this ensemble.

This experience will involve a day and a half of rehearsals, which will culminate in a performance for an audience of several hundred festival participants, the general public and the media. During this time, participants will become part of a world largely unexplored by young non-accordionist musicians. You may have heard accordion music before. You may even recognize it, since it's be-

coming more popular with young people again. But this will be different, and you will be part of making that new and different sound!!

This will likely be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you! The conductor, Eddie Monteiro, is one of the finest Jazz accordionists in the world. He has performed with Bobby Rosengarden, Skitch Henderson, Peter Duchin, Ray Bloch, Michael Lavin and Marty Ames. Eddie has served as a Product Specialist for the Roland Corporation, promoting a line of the latest digital accordions. Eddie currently occupies the accordion



Eddie Monteiro

chair in the Broadway production of "Evita." Above all, Eddie is a fun guy, a brilliant musician and teacher who will bring your talents to new heights.

Don Gerundo has arranged the pieces for this year's ensemble. Don is an active accordionist and pianist performing in the New York metropolitan area. He has performed and accom-

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2012 AAA Youth Program, cont'd. from page 6

panied Lenny Welch (hit record "Since I Fell For You"), as well as Joe Piscopo, and has performed at Swing 46 in New York City, White Plains Theatre for the Arts, Coney Island Park and other large venues. Don is also an experienced user of Finale (music notation software) and has used it since 1992, almost from its inception. He uses it to create arrangements, generate materials for students, create transcriptions, as well as composition.

Also included in this year's program is a workshop on improvisation, delivered by Gabe Hall-Rodrigues, U.S. Accordion Virtuoso Champion and veteran of last year's Youth Jazz Ensemble. Since non-accordion participants in this ensemble are guest artists, there will be no charge for participation. Simply fill out the registration form and

return it to Marilyn O'Neil, and Marilyn will contact you by phone or e-mail. Once your registration process is complete, music will be sent to you so you can be ready to rehearse with the ensemble on Friday, July 13, and deliver a performance on Saturday, July 14.

Please note that if you are under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must provide permission for you to participate in this event, and you need to be available both days to participate. There is no cost for scheduled meals and any other festival related activity, such as workshops, during these 2 days. We do not provide overnight accommodations or transportation to and from the Festival site. For further information or to obtain the registration form: Marilyn@ctaccordion.com ■



2011 Youth Jazz Ensemble

Smithsonian Magazine Picture Features- 13-year old Tor Stumo

The May issue of the *Smithsonian Magazine* included an article on "The 10 Best Small Towns in America" and, on page 53, includes a wonderful picture of 13-year-old Tor Stumo playing his accordion in Great Barrington, MA, a town featured in the article as a top

Small Town.

Tor is a student of AAA Board Member Mary Tokarski, and one of the young accordionists to be featured in the Youth Jazz Ensemble in Baltimore at the AAA Summer Festival. ■



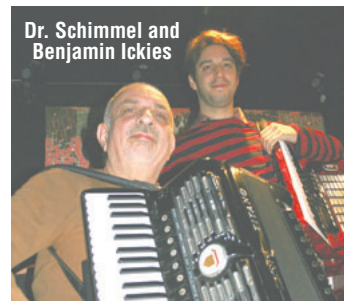
Accordion player Tor Stumo, 13, is in harmony with Great Barrington's acoustic music tradition.

Accordion Night School, Part 2

Accordionist Benjamin Ickies presented the second Accordion Night School on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 featuring Dr. William Schimmel and Corn Mo with special appearance by John Presnell.

As the accordion gallops back into the mainstream, more bands from all genres are using it to give their music that special "edge," thus the topic of the evening being "The One Man Band." Topics for discussion included self-accompaniment, backing up a singer or soloist, the different techniques involved and more, with performances and a Q&A session given by Dr. William Schimmel, Corn Mo and Benjamin Ickies.

Bay Area native Benjamin Ickies moved to New York to study accordion with William Schimmel in lieu of college. As a result of Dr. Schimmel's tutelage in



Dr. Schimmel and Benjamin Ickies

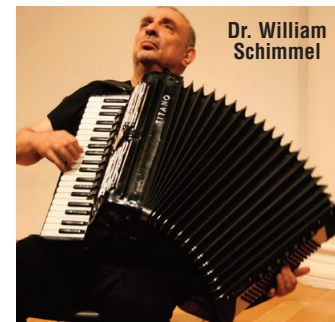
rock, tango and cabaret, Ickies now directs several music ensembles in NYC and performs in many more. As a bandleader, he conducts the Symphonic Rock and The Ambitious Orchestra, co-produces the quarterly glam rock series "Oh! You Pretty Things" and on Tuesdays can be seen at the Griffin running the band for the cabaret Cafe Panache.

For more information on upcoming events, please contact: Benjamin@Ickies.com ■

Dr. William Schimmel with the New York Philharmonic

On March 26, AAA Artist in Residence Dr. William Schimmel performed with the New York Philharmonic in an evening devoted to the music of Frank Loesser. Dr. Schimmel accompanied the famous bass-baritone Bryn Terfel. On March 28, he performed with The Orchestra of St. Luke's in a concert sponsored by Cartoon Network at Roseland in New York. The Orchestra performed live to a montage of famous cartoons shown on a giant screen.

Dr. Schimmel has released a new CD: "Tenrimix" – actually a 23 minute EP containing three pieces for 12 bass accordion, sho and violin – remixed with dance beats by dj bSchive (Dr. Schimmel). The pieces unite gagaku (Japanese ceremonial music) with classical, country, blues, bluegrass, dubstep, hip hop and more. The pieces were conceived by Dr. Schimmel, 12 bass accordion in collaboration with Yoichi Okui, sho and Mami Okada, violin. The ti-



Dr. William Schimmel

ties are: "ga ga tchaikovsky ku;" "ga ga mendelsohn/saintsaens ku" and "Tenri Blues." It is on the IPS/STUDIO MUSE label.

Dr. Schimmel is the moderator and curator of the American Accordionists' Association Master Class and Concert Series, the 18th year of Seminars, taking place July 27, 28, 29, 2012 – and it's at the Tenri Cultural Institute, 43A West 13th Street, New York, NY. Save the dates. For further information, please contact: billschimmel@billschimmel.com or visit www.billschimmel.com or www.ameraccord.com (select Events 2012 AAA Summer Festival Highlights). ■



Join for free at: www.iGive.com/AmerAccord

Watch Frédéric Deschamps Teach Live Online!

Renowned French accordionist and teacher, Frédéric Deschamps (teacher of multiple World Champions in both Classical and Entertainment Music, including Grayson Masefield who recently toured the USA), conducts many of his lessons online, live and for free to a worldwide internet audience! Simply logon to www.accordions.com/deschamps and watch.

Christopher Gorton has been viewed by many in the USA as he takes his lessons live from the East Coast of the USA via internet video connection to France. The current students taking lessons include those preparing for the Klingenthal International Competition in Germany in May. In addition to the students, it also includes guests preparing their concert programs such as: Radu Laxgang (Moldavia), Pietro Adragna (Italy), Dorin Grama (Moldavia), Guillaume Fric

(France), Elsa Gourdy (France), Grayson Masefield (New Zealand). If no activities are currently taking place, the home page will advise you of the next scheduled activity.

To view archived lessons, simply visit www.livestream.com/deschampschannel/folder where videos include performances by students and international guests such as Petr Vacek (Czech Republic), Delphine Lahaye (France), Leo Pernet (France), Alexander Kolomitsev (Russia), Alexander Veretennikov (Russia), Evin Kelly (Ireland), Petri Makkonen (Finland), Viatcheslav Semionov (Russia), Pavel Zyabko (Russia), Danilo di Paolonicola (Italy), Ivano de Simone (Italy), Alexander Vidakovic (Serbia), The Royal sQueue BOX (UK/Germany), Grayson Masefield (New Zealand), Patricia Bartell (USA) and Douglas Borsatti (Brazil). ■

CIA Presents World Accordion Day, May 6th, 2012



The Confédération Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA) is pleased to welcome you to World Accordion Day.

This year, the CIA will take embark on a new adventure to celebrate World Accordion Day on May 6th. World Accordion Day, this year, will be a 24-hour celebration of the accordion, similar to the coverage of New Year's Eve, whereby celebrations are viewed on an ongoing basis as the time zones elapse around the world.

This year, for World Accordion Day, each CIA member has been invited to submit either a 'live event' via technology such as streaming video and Skype, etc. at a pre-scheduled time, or, a pre-recorded contribution to be included by event coordinator Grayson Masefield, who will direct the day's activities.

A combination of live and pre-

recorded activities are anticipated, along with real-time interviews and chats from throughout the world. The production will be available for viewing live throughout the day, as well as at other times through 24 separate hours of archived video coverage.

Our first World Accordion Day, held on May 6, 2009, marked the 180th birthday of the accordion. Please join us for this annual celebration, as accordionists from around the world pay homage to our wonderful instrument. This global event will serve as an exciting means of bringing us together in our efforts to promote and elevate the awareness and status of the accordion.

The link to the live coverage will be available at www.accordions.com/cia/cia_worldaccordionday.htm ■

AAA's September Valtaro Celebration Honors the Magnanini Family

The AAA's Valtaro Celebration on September 8th, 2012 at the Magnanini Winery will honor the Magnanini family for their continued support of live accordion music at their establishment.

The property on which the vineyards and winery are located has been in the family since 1953, although it wasn't until 1970 that Galba and Richard began planting wine grapes. The harvest from the first planting was sold to home winemakers in the area. While the winemakers perfected their wines, Richard continued to do research on viticulture practices



Ricky and Rachel Magnanini

and winemaking techniques.

With the adoption of the Farm Winery Act in 1976, the Magnanini's were encouraged to continue their efforts in the vineyards and eventually bottled 1,000 gallons for commercial sale in July 1984. Production at the winery has reached 6,000 gallons. Richard and Rachel, with their two sons, Robert and David, continue to work to keep the family tradition alive. In the spring of 1985, the family-style European restaurant was opened.

The Magnanini Winery features a constant array of live accordion music with regular appearances by Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Dominic Karcic, Frank Carozza, Frank Toscano and more. Please visit <http://www.magwine.com/music> for a complete list of live accordion music scheduled for 2012.

The Magnanini Winery is located at 172 Strawridge Road in Wallkill, NY, tel: 845-



895-2767. For information on the upcoming AAA event in September, please check www.ameraccord.com. ■

AAA Newsletter

The current AAA Newsletter is mailed bi-monthly to all members. The previous Newsletter will be uploaded onto our website *after* the current issue has been mailed. If you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter but is not a member, please let me know.

Thanks - aaa1938@aol.com

2012 AAA Summer Festival Highlights

The American Accordionists' Association presents the 2012 AAA Festival from July 11-15th, 2012 at the Sheraton City Center Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. The AAA Festival will present another great event! New this year is the Junior Festival Orchestra under the direction of Mary Tokarski. This event is designed for those young people who are not quite ready to participate in the Festival Orchestra or who have never had the experience of performing with other accordionists. Mary has selected some fun pieces and rehearsals will be scheduled to avoid competition schedule conflicts. Interested participants should contact Mary at Mary.tokarski@comcast.net.

Another new addition is the "Finale" workshop which will be a hands-on workshop with the basics of learning this music writing program. AAA member, Don Gerundo, will conduct the workshop with support materials supplied by the people at Finale.

Back by popular demand will be the Youth Outreach Jazz Ensemble with select young musicians from the Baltimore school system partnered with ambitious young accordionists. Both the Junior Festival Orchestra and the Youth Outreach Jazz Ensemble will perform at the Awards Concert on Saturday afternoon, July 14th. If you want to participate in this great (and fun) program, contact Marilyn O'Neil (Marilyn@ctaccordion.com). All of

these events are included in the registration.

The Festival will also see the return of the Digital Entertainment category so be sure to visit www.ameraccord.com for updated events including .pdf files for downloading all Festival application forms.

Thursday night will feature an Italian Cabaret night. Enjoy a delicious Italian dinner while being entertained by wonderful accordion music by the Potomac Ensemble conducted by Joan Grauman.

Wood on guitar) will round off the Luncheon Concert Program.

Friday evening performers include Tatiana Semichastnaya and Vladimir Mollov, as well as Dr. Robert Young



humorous manner, educating and entertaining at the same time. Truly a unique experience you will want to see and hear. This year, the Festival Orchestra features Mary Tokarski as soloist. Vladimir Mollov and Mary Tokarski will also be featured as "two soloists."



McMahan who will be joined by prominent classical saxophonist Dr. Paul Cohen in a performance of McMahan's new composition, "Romp" for accordion and saxophone. Rita Davidson and Dr. Cohen will premier a work that Rita had commissioned by Gary Daverne in celebration of Dr. Cohen's birthday.



Enjoy singers, Soprano Joy Bechtler, Tenor Joe McKesson, and Dr. Robert Young McMahan, as well as accordionists playing and singing your favorite Italian songs!

The Friday Luncheon Concert will feature Vladimir Mollov, virtuoso accordionist, who will perform solos and also duets with his wife, renowned violinist, Annie Mollova. Joe Zale and Dallas Vietty (accompanied by Ben



Virtuoso accordionist, Stas Venglevski will be the Guest Artist and Guest Conductor of the Festival Orchestra. He delights all with his friendly and



Gabe Hall-Rodrigues and Frank Petrilli will perform solos and duets at concerts during the Festival.



Other performers and workshop presenters include: Cody



McSherry, Amanda and Michael Parziale, Linda Warren, Don Gerundo and



2012 AAA Summer Festival Highlights, cont'd.

Manny Bobenrieth with the United States Army Strings and more!

One-on-one Master Class sessions with Maestro Venglevski will be offered. Please call or e-mail the AAA office at 203-335-2045 or aaa1938@aol.com for details.

Plan this summer around the Festival's exciting days of Workshops, Exhibits, Cabaret, Luncheon Concert, Gala Concert, and Festival Orchestras. The event will be held at the Sheraton City Center in Baltimore. It is surrounded by shops, restaurants, and in walking distance of the famous Baltimore Inner Harbor, National Aquarium, Maryland Science Center and numerous other attractions.

Please refer to the AAA Website and the USA news for updates on the Festival. For further information e-mail: aaa1938@aol.com



Carrozza Scholarship Dinner – *A Wonderful Day of Music and Dancing*

The elegant Villa Barone Hilltop Manor in Mahopac, NY was the site of the 10th Annual Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Dinner and what a wonderful time we had! “Thank You” to all the performers and workers for their spectacular musical presentations and support throughout the day!

Save the date for next year’s event – April 21, 2013 at Villa Barone!

Thanks to the performers:
 Frank Busso
 Frank Carozza
 The CT Accordion Orchestra
 Beverly Roberts Curnow
 Len Feldmann
 Dominic Karcic
 Emilio Magnotta
 Mary Mancini
 Ray Oreggia
 Anita & Bob Siarkowski
 Mario Tacca
 Mary Tokarski
 Frank Toscano

Ricci Saracino, percussion
 Don Battiston, percussion and vocals
 Mike Rasimas, percussion

AAA Board Members:
 Joan Grauman and Marilyn O’Neil

*and especially all the wonderful
 family and friends who
 supported this event.*



Dr. Joe Ciccone, Chairman, Maestro Carmen Carrozza,
 AAA President Linda Soley Reed

Submitting Your News Item for Publication in the July Issue

You are invited to submit your news information as soon as possible to ensure we provide details and reviews of as many of your accordion related events as possible. Our AAA members are involved in a diverse array of activities, and I thank you in advance for taking the time to prepare the press information and pictures so that we can share your work and events with our readership.

All material for consideration for the July Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to aaa1938@aol.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 .doc 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. The deadline for the July news will be June 15th.

Thanks again for your help and support, and I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Kevin Friedrich, Editor
 AAA Newsletter

Carrozza Scholarship Dinner 2012



Left – Anita & Bob Siarkowski entertained during the cocktail hour, while Frank Busso, photo right, strolled to each table playing Italian favorites.



Above, Carmen welcomes everyone while MC Lenny Feldmann looks on. Middle, the Carrozza family, left to right, Carmen, Jr., brother Tony and wife, Mimma, Carmen, daughter Marianne and brother Pat. At left, the adorable grand-kids.



The Connecticut Accordion Orchestra opened the program with Welcome to Venice, a medley of Italian favorites arranged by the late Frank Marocco, and a Glenn Miller medley. Conducted by AAA President, Linda Soley Reed



Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini



Soloists, Beverly Roberts Curnow and Mary Tokarski



Ray Oreggia and Dom Karcic accompanied by Don Battiston on percussion & vocals.



AAA Board Member Frank Toscano and wife, Edie



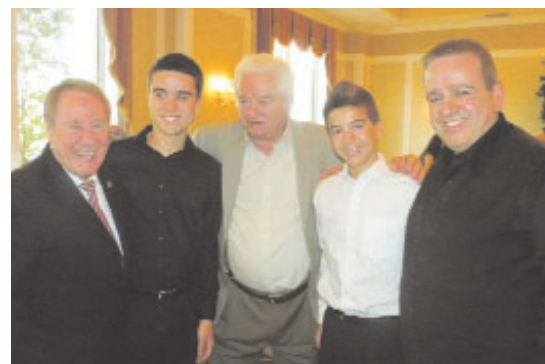
Raffle time - AAA Board members Joan Grauman, Frank Busso and Marilyn O'Neil



Jammin' together - left to right, Frank Carrozza, Frank Toscano and Emilio Magnotta.



The Dance Floor was always filled. In the foreground, Frank Carrozza, Jr. and Ana trip the light fandango.



The "other" Carrozza's (one "r") Alex, Frankie, Fernando, Anthony, and Frank



Above, Emilio Magnotta accompanied by Ricci Saracino on percussion.



At right, Frank Carrozza who not only brought most of his family, but provided the sound equipment for the event. Thank You!



Mary Tokarski & Linda Reed Farewell until next year! Save the date - April 21, 2013

2012 Festival – Workshop Schedule

Wednesday, July 11, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.

Workshop: PLAYING TOGETHER
Presenter: Mary Tokarski

A hands-on adventure into the world of working in (and with) an ensemble. Music is a language, and there is nothing more rewarding than sharing that language with music friends AND it's great fun! *This workshop is a prelude to the Junior Festival Orchestra rehearsal which will immediately follow. Other Festival Orchestra rehearsals will be scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday and Friday with a performance on Saturday at the Awards Concert.*



Thursday, July 12, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.

Workshop: MUSIC 2 MY EAR
Do U Hear What I Hear?
Presenter: Linda Warren

An entertaining informative workshop that touches on Listening Skills, Ear Training, Playing By Ear, Intervals, Note Recognition, Chord Recognition, Perfect Pitch, Relative Pitch, Sight Reading and Musical Activities. Come sit a spell and 'njoy! You can "Play It By Ear" or "Face The Music!"



Thursday, July 12, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

Workshop: FINALE –The Music Writing Program
Learn how to Notate your music at the 'Speed of Thought'
Presenter: Don Gerundo

This workshop will introduce you to the capabilities of the most popular notation software in the marketplace – namely Finale. Finale enables you to create scores of original music, notate exercises for your pupils, scan in and modify printed music, transpose music with the click of a mouse, play back notated arrangements and so much more. This workshop will give you an overview of the product and also give you a chance to have some hands-on practice with the software.



Thursday, July 12, 2012 – 1:00 p.m.

Workshop: ACCORDIONS IN THE MOVIES
Presenter: Dr. Robert Young McMahan

From its first silent appearance of only 17 frames in 1888 to the present, the accordion has appeared or been heard in hundreds of motion pictures, at the hands of such noted accordionists as Galla-Rini, Dom Frontiere, Carl Fortina, Frank Marocco, Angelo DiPippo, and present AAA Board member and Artist in Residence Bill Schimmel, to name but a few. This will be a brief survey of the many roles the accordion has played in Hollywood and elsewhere with numerous video excerpts. *Come, enjoy, and contribute all the film titles you know that use the accordion. Popcorn and root beer welcome!*



Thursday, July 12, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.

Workshop: OPENING DOORS TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE ACCORDION
Presenter: Mary Kathryn Archuleta

In the 21st Century we have the opportunity to open the doors of musical opportunity to children and youth whose only exposure to the accordion may be through stories heard from grandparents and great-grandparents who emigrated to America many years ago. Today, with the advent of new technology, the internet, YouTube, and podcasts, it is possible to reach out to various recreational, cultural and arts programs across many sectors of our population that include students of all ages -- from the very young to senior citizens and those with special learning needs.



Friday, July 13, 2012 – 1:00 p.m.

Workshop: SQUEEZE THIS! *Meet the Author*
Presenter: Marion Jacobson, Ph.D.

Ethnomusicologist Marion Jacobson, author of the first book-length study of the piano accordion, is ready to chat with friends and colleagues from the accordion world. Her candid account of five years of research offers an introspective and amusing look at the world of the accordion, from San Francisco's avant-garde scene to the Polka Belt to New York City. New to the accordion and fresh out of graduate school, Dr. Jacobson set out on a quest to both learn the instrument, as well as its "hidden history." With an eye on the accordion's glorious past, Jacobson unearths America's anxieties swirling around the instrument in the 1950s and 1960s, explaining how historical and social upheavals shape the way we see the accordion, and discusses the possibilities for the accordion's future. *Her book will be available for purchase thru the American Accordionists' Association at this event.*



Friday, July 13, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.

Workshop: SWING MUSETTE AND GYPSY JAZZ FOR THE AMERICAN PIANO ACCORDIONIST
Presenter: Dallas Vietty

A hands-on introduction to the style and musical language of Gus Viseur, Tony Murena, Jo Privat, Django Reinhardt, Richard Galliano and more. This workshop will focus on both solo and musette/gypsy Jazz style, as well as performing in an traditional French arrangement with a rhythm guitar player. Materials will be provided, *bring your accordion.*



Saturday, July 14, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.

Workshop: JAZZ LICKS AND II - V - I PRACTICE
Presenter: Gabe Hall-Rodriguez

The ii - V - I progression is everywhere in Jazz, and by developing a set of licks or common melodic material, we can learn to improvise and to play better in all 12 keys. *This is a hands-on workshop so people must bring their instrument.*



**ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD IN THE HOPKINS ROOM
LOCATED ON THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE
SHERATON CITY CENTER IN BALTIMORE**