



Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

SEPTEMBER 2012

Here's What's Happening at AAA in 2013

MARCH 17, 2013

2:00 pm

Open Meeting
Hanover Marriott
1401 Route 10 East
Whippany, NJ

APRIL 21, 2013

Carmen Carrozza
Scholarship Fund
Dinner & Dancing
Villa Barone Hilltop Manor
466 U.S. 6
Mahopac, NY

JULY 26-28, 2013

Master Class and Concert
Series - The Seminars
The Accordion in 3D
Tenri Cultural Institute
43A W13th Street, NYC
Moderator/Curator
William Schimmel,

AUGUST 14-18 2013

AAA 75th Anniversary
The New Yorker Hotel
8th Ave. at 34th Street
New York, NY
See reervation
information on page 4

Thank you to all who submitted
online Evaluataion Forms from
the Baltimore Festival.

For those who were unable to
access the form online, a hard
copy is enclosed with this
newsletter. All comments are
confidential.

From the Editor

Welcome to the September 2012 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

This year has seen an eclectic array of accordion activities showcasing a tremendous variety of musical genres. Recently we have seen the accordion featured in such diverse settings as Accordion Wrestling at the Lincoln Center in New York City, to appearing as part of a new Apple Ipad application. We can truly say, there is something for everyone!

My sincere thanks to you all for your kind support with the AAA Newsletter, and a special thanks to both Rita Davidson for her assistance in providing News items, and Linda Reed, our AAA President for the final production of the Newsletter itself.

In our last edition, we launched a new section called "Coast to Coast" profiling some of the diverse accordion activities being held across the country. In this edition, we are pleased to continue sharing some of these exciting events with you.

As we rapidly approach the busy holiday season, I hope you have time to share your accordion events with your fellow readers for the upcoming November edition. Items for the November 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 Microsoft 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 November news will be the 15th of October. Thanks again, and I look forward to hearing from you all.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



65th Coupe Mondiale in Spoleto, Italy

AAA Governing Board members Mary Tokarski and Kevin Friedrich and AAA member Joan Cochran Sommers were an integral part of the 65th Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships held in Spoleto, Italy from Aug. 21-25, 2012.

The beautiful medieval town of Spoleto, located midway between Rome and Ancona, complete with castles, extremely narrow and steep tiny winding cobblestone streets, pathways linking the various squares and alleyways, the stunning venue of the Teatro Nuovo "Giancarlo Menotti" and the 17 September Hall at the Spoleto Opera

House complete a sloping raked stage, made for an absolutely stunning setting for the 2012 Coupe Mondiale.

The 2012 Coupe Mondiale was won by Chinese contestant Xiaonan Xu, with two Russian contestants and a Serbian narrowly taking 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. Amazingly, after three rounds of demanding international competition spread over a week, judged by a panel of nine international adjudicators, the final results saw less than one mark between the top four winners, ranging from 23.06 for 4th Place to 23.45 for 1st place! The results from all categories are:

continued on page 2



World Accordion Orchestra
Spoleto, Italy
Joan Sommers, Conductor

Coupe Mondiale, continued from page 1

- 65th Coupe Mondiale
 1st. Xiaonan Xu - China
 2nd. Vitaly Kondratenko - Russia
 3rd. Alexander Veretennikov - Russia
- Junior Coupe Mondiale
 1st. Djordje Davidovic - Serbia
 2nd. Tian Jianan - China
 3rd. Vladimir Stupnikov - Russia
- Virtuoso Entertainment Music
 1st. Zhao Liu - China
 2nd. Raffaele Crusco - Italy
 3rd. Sergey Lobkov - Russia
- Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Music
 1st. Matteo Petronio - Italy
 2nd. José Dias - Portugal
 3rd. Jean-Baptiste Baudin - France
- Masters Coupe Mondiale
 1st. Dmitrii Kiselev - Russia
 2nd. Dino Suljkovic - Serbia
 3rd. Klavdiya Tarabrina - Russia

- Ensemble Music Competition
 1st. Esse-Quintet - Russia
 K. Evseev & K. Evseeva (Accordion), M. Krylov & D. Chernykh (Balalayka), D. Gogolev (Domra)
 2nd. Perfect Storm - China
 Xiaonan Xu (Accordion) and Zujian Shang (Erhu)
 3rd. Concertino - Moldova
 E. Negruta, M. Grosu, C. Hioara & V. Leca (Accordion/percussion) & A. Hohotov (Bass)
- Digital Accordion Competition
 1st. Petar Maric - Serbia
 2nd. Stanislav Malyshev - Russia
 3rd. Guillaume Clerget - France

Mary Tokarski served as the USA-AAA Delegate at the 128th General Assembly of Delegates at the CIA Congress, as well as a member of the International Jury panel for the new Masters Coupe Mondiale category, the most heavily contested event at the Coupe Mondiale festival. Mary was also on the jury for the International Competition for Ensemble Music and the International Competition for Digital Accordion. Kevin Friedrich served as the CIA Ambassador as well as webmaster for all the Coupe Mondiale related websites including the reports that have been published online highlighting the weeklong activities. AAA member Joan Cochran Sommers, a Vice President of the CIA, was also the delegate for the ATG at the Congress meetings and she coordinated and directed the 70 member World Accordion Orchestra VI which performed at the prestigious Spoleto Opera House. Joan founded the World Accordion Orchestra at the jointly hosted AAA/ATG Coupe Mondiale in Alexandria, VA in 2007, and it has served as an important part of the Coupe Mondiale

festival ever since. Joan also served as a jury member for the Junior Coupe Mondiale. Both Mary Tokarski and Kevin Friedrich performed in the World Accordion Orchestra VI in the highly acclaimed performances of the Paragon March by Anthony Galla-Rini (directed by Torsten Petzold from Germany) and Joan's blockbuster arrangement of E.T. by John Williams, which she conducted.

For a full report on the festival including all contestants pictures and programs, a complete set of results in .pdf including all adjudicators marks, free video downloads of the top three winners in each category and pictures from throughout the festival, such as those of the magnificent World Accordion Orchestra, please visit www.coupemondiale.org and follow the links through to the Italy Coupe Mondiale.

Next year's event will be held immediately following the AAA 75th Anniversary Celebrations in New York City when the Coupe Mondiale is staged in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. ■

AAA Archival Collection by Helmi Harrington

Joan Grauman, governing board member and historian for the American Accordionists' Association, and Helmi Harrington, curator of A World of Accordions Museum, are actively compiling information about the history of the association and its events. Established as the public face for the organization, AWAM is proud to offer this update about our evolving displays where visitors are welcome and promotion of the organization is continuous. The goals are to permanently house records documenting activities, to focus public awareness on noteworthy members, and to make visible AAA's societal significance. In fact, it is primarily because of the planning for this room that emphasis has been placed on compiling AAA history now. This has proven to be a more difficult project than expected. History evaporates in a generation or two, and reliance on printed documents becomes critical. Therefore, materials that may seem insignificant in members' memorabilia boxes may be of first-line importance to us. We ask all readers of this newsletter to look for and to donate photos, newspaper clippings, concert programs, newsletters, trophies, and other pieces related to AAA history.

Although the area's official opening celebrations still lie ahead, this room already has been viewed by many museum visitors. To reflect the international importance of the substantial array of AAA Archive material currently housed at, and promised to the museum, plans to upgrade the AAA display facilities with professional furnishing and attractive display cases remains a top priority. As always, readers are invited to support this endeavor.

Contents of the AAA Archival Collection include items already housed in the museum as well as those sent to us through Joan. Our copious historic documents come from many sources including

Elsie Bennett directly as well as through her estate-supervisor son, Ken Bennett. Our Charles Magnante estate collection is housed here, as received from his son, Dr. Peter Magnante, as is the complete collection of Pagani Publications and the works of Frank Gaviani, received from his son, Frank Gaviani, Jr. Through previously published lists of AAA membership, we conclude that people of accomplishment as well as massive numbers of aficionados choose this organization and are supported by it.



In photos A and B you will see: posters from AAA board member Mary Tokarski; a

framed and matted collection of photos with Al Monte, long-time AAA member; AAA Competition and Festival journals from 1950 to the present; and two filers housing documents that need more sorting and evaluating.



Shown in Photos C and D: from Aldo DeRossi and his cousin, Donna Maria

Regis we have a four-fold upright photographs display



and CDs of his complete musical output; from the estate of Elsie Bennett we have bound volumes of AAA, ATG and assorted other publications, vinyl recordings, composers' fliers,

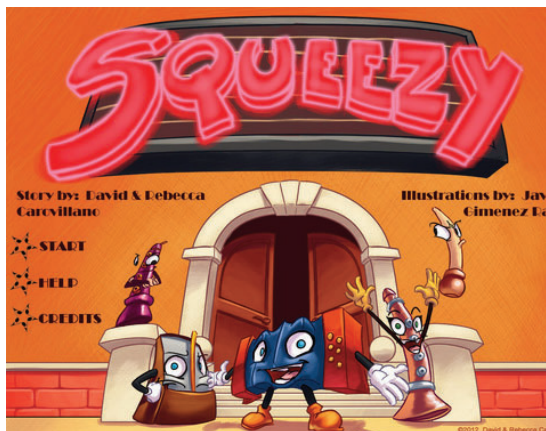
Accordion is the Star of New Interactive Ipad Children's Book App

Acclarion, the husband and wife duo of David Carovillano (accordion) and Rebecca Sajo-Carovillano (clarinet) have created an interactive children's book app for the iPad called Squeezy, a story about musical instruments. Squeezy launched in Apple's App Store in August, 2012. "We wanted to create a story to excite kids about musical instruments," says David. As seasoned performers and music educators, David and Rebecca are committed to promoting the value of the performing arts to the next generation.

Set in a world of musical instruments, Squeezy tells the story of an accordion who desperately wants to play with the orchestra and join his only friend Clara, a beautiful clarinet and the orchestra's newest recruit. But an embarrassing audition leaves Squeezy ousted from the concert hall. His chance encounter with a sage but scatterbrained metronome, Tick Tock, gives Squeezy hope that he'll be able to learn to read notes and win favour with the orchestra's leader, Barry Baton. Squeezy soon discovers that the Maestro's orchestra is not all it's cracked up to be: the maniacal conductor has enslaved the instruments to do his bidding. Squeezy must find the voice within to stand up to Barry and free the orchestra from his tyrannical rule before Clara and the orchestra fall victim to the Maestro's Symphony of Sorrows.

"The story was first inspired by our experiences at the Carrefour Mondiale de L'Accordeon in Montmagny, Quebec where we saw a mix of generations and people from all over the world gathered for the love of the accordion," Rebecca explains. "It was especially exciting to see so many kids playing the accordion." Squeezy is an endearing story which hopes to do for musical instruments what Disney classics like Ratatouille did for chefs. The IPAD app will delight children and adults alike with:

- 38 pages chock full of vivid, colorful illustrations
- 9 fully orchestrated songs with follow-along lyrics displayed on screen
- Professional narration, with every character in his/her own distinctive voice
- Entire story written in rhyme with interactive supplemental dialogue
- Fully orchestrated musical score
- Hundreds of interactive elements: tap, swipe, drag and pinch on every page
- Tons of animations: dancing instruments, lightning, zapping with magic, smoke to swipe away and more!



Visit Squeezy on the web at: www.squeezybook.com
Like Squeezy on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SqueezyBook
Follow Squeezy on Twitter: www.twitter.com/SqueezyBook
Squeezy is available at Apple's App Store for \$3.99. ■

AAA Archival Collection, continued from page 2

some AAA commissioned music, and many file drawers of miscellaneous documents and correspondences. The large grey felt board will soon show a linear history.

Shown in Photo E: founding member of the AAA, Charles Magnante's estate includes a four-drawer filer of music, manuscripts, recordings, personal memorabilia, candid and formal photos, and research materials listed in my book *The Charles Magnante Story: Autobiography of America's Great Accordionist*. Items that call attention to our Magnante estate are also displayed in the Special Exhibits Area of the



Concert Hall. They include Magnante's awards and recognition plaques, big-game shooting trophies, and other pieces of visual interest.

Shown in Photo F: from Dr. Carmelo Pino, former president of AAA and longtime supporter of the museum, we display original manuscripts, photographs, trophies, and published music. Adjoining the AAA Archival Collection (through a curved passageway seen behind the large Magnante cut-out) is a room dedicated to The Deffner Legacy: Ernest and Faithe Deffner. A report on the evolution of this area will be presented at a later date. ■



World Premieres by Alexander Sevastian

On August 2, several important new accordion works were premiered by Alexander Sevastian and the Glenn Gould string quartet at the Music Niagara International Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.

The concert was dedicated to the anniversary of the War of 1812 (Quinston Height Battle) and the performers were dressed in the costumes from

- that era. The program included:
1. "Angel of Love" and "Sorrow Angel" by Mikhail Bronner (for accordion & violin) - World Premiere
 2. "Capriccio 1812" by Mikhail Bronner (for accordion & String Quartet) - World Premiere
 3. "Quinston Heights Rhapsody" by D. Varelas (accordion),
- continued on next page*



Pictured above are Alexander Sevastian, Mikhail Bronner and Atis Bankas, the leader of the Glenn Gould String Quartet.

Sevastian World Premieres, cont'd. from page 3

String Quartet, flute, flute-piccorno & drums) - World Premiere

4. "Still Life in Beige" by Dmitriy Varelas (for String Quartet)
"Capriccio 1812" was commissioned by Alexander Sevastian.

The performance was very well attended and well received by the audience. The piece has already been recorded and will be released soon on Alexander Sevastian's 4th CD. A future performance of this piece is scheduled on November 15 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. For more information about Mr. Bronner please visit www.bronner.ru

"Quinston Heights Rhapsody" was commissioned to the young Canadian composer Dmitriy Varelas by Music Niagara.

For more information about Dmitriy Varelas please visit www.varelas.net. ■

Guy Klucevsek Teetering on the Verge of Normalcy

On October 25th, 2012 at 8:00 pm, highly acclaimed accordionist Guy Klucevsek will perform solo pieces in a program titled *'Teetering on the Edge of Normalcy'*. Included will be selections from the vast catalog of over 100 pieces he has composed for accordion since 1982, including tributes to composers György Ligeti, Erik Satie, and Astor Piazzolla, and to fellow accordionists Lars Hollmer (Sweden), Kepa Junkera (Basque) and Ivan Milev (Bulgaria).

For part two of the program, Guy will be joined by "New York's reigning classical/jazz violinist" - the New Yorker, Todd Reynolds, to preview Guy's score for Lionel Popkin's new dance/theater piece, *"Ruth Doesn't Live Here Anymore,"* inspired by the work of modern dance pioneer, Ruth St. Denis.

Guy Klucevsek is one of the world's most versatile and highly respected accordionists. He is the recipient of a 2010 United States Artists Collins Fellowship, an unrestricted \$50,000 award given annually to *"America's finest artists."* In 1996, he founded Accordion Tribe, an international ensemble where he is joined by composer/accordionists Otto Lechner (Austria), Maria Kalanemi (Finland), Lars Hollmer (Sweden), Bratko Bibic (Slovenia). They toured internationally from 1996-2009, and are the subjects of Stefan Schwietert's award-winning documentary film, *Accordion Tribe: Music Travels*.

Guy has released over 20 recordings as soloist/leader on Tzadik, Winter & Winter, Innova, Starkland, Review, Intuition, CRI, and XI. Stereo Review cited his Starkland recording, *Transylvanian Software*, as a recording of special merit" (1995). He can also be heard on John Williams's orchestral scores for the Steven Spielberg films, *"The Terminal," "Munich," "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull,"* and *"The Adventures of Tin-Tin,"* and on A. R. Rahman's score for *"People Like Us."*

The concert will take place at Roulette, 509 Atlantic Ave. Brooklyn, tickets are \$15/10 members/students/seniors or visit www.roulette.org or e-mail: gklucevsek@si.rr.com ■



Renowned New York 'Bargemusic' Series features Accordionist

The popular New York concert series Bargemusic *'Here and Now Series'* featured an eclectic array of contemporary music ranging from modern ragtime to experimental music featuring the debut of a new instrument called the Haken Continuum. Performing a three hour program of contemporary composers, highlighting a diverse array of instrumentation including piano, cello, clarinet, bass clarinet, voice, bassoon, french horn, oboe, flute, recorder, guitar and accordion, the popular concert series attracted a full house.

Dubbed New York City's floating Concert Hall, moored in Brooklyn just under the Brooklyn Bridge, Bargemusic presents great music up to five days a week, every week of the year. The audience enters by walking across the gangplank of a renovated barge into a "wonderfully

intimate wood-paneled room with thrilling views of lower Manhattan and excellent acoustics." Critics call Bargemusic "the perfect chamber-music hall" while artists say it is "unlike any other place in the world to perform."

The concert concluded with Trillo, comprising Merima Kljucic (accordion), Moran Katz (clarinet) and Remy Yulzari (double bass). Merima is a renowned accordionist who performs as a recitalist and has been guest soloist with orchestras including the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Holland Symphonia and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra. As a soloist, she has participated in a number of festivals including the Gubaidulina Festival with world famous Russian composer, Sofia Gubaidulina. ■



Left to right: Moran Katz, Merima Kljucic and Remy Yulzari.

Dominic Karcic and the Continental Sound Orchestra in New York

Accordionist Dominic Karcic and his "Continental Sound Orchestra", featuring vocalist Bruce Reed, will be part of the musical festivities at the Italian Charities Dinner Dance on Sunday, October 14, 2012. The event will begin at 1 PM at Roma View Caterers located at 160-05 Crossbay Blvd., Howard Beach, NY. For information, please contact Ms. Rose Sproviero at (718) 699-9299.

The group will also perform at the Fubinese Society Dinner Dance on Sunday, November 11, 2012 at 1 PM at Riccardo's Caterers 21-01 24 Ave. Astoria, NY. For this function, please contact: Mr. Adrian Longo at (718) 429-5186 for further information. ■



The New Yorker Hotel is one of the most famous New York City hotels. Come revel in the newly re-imagined grandeur of this historic hotel. The guest rooms and suites deliver contemporary comforts that leave nothing to be desired for today's business travelers and guests.

For reservations: **1-800-764-4680. Call between 8-5 EST for best results.** Please mention American Accordionists' Association and NOT AAA. Reduced room rates are \$179 per night.

2nd Anniversary of LIAA

August saw the "Long Island Accordion Alliance" (LIAA), celebrating their second anniversary at their regular venue of La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, Long Island, NY.

Their anniversary program featured accordionist Dominic Karcic who performed with award-winning New York vocalist Connie Shakalis, presenting works by Victor Herbert, Giacomo Puccini, Richard Rodgers, George M. Cohan, and Lerner and Loewe.

Originally from Astoria, NY, Dominic Karcic 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 (CCNY) where he received his Master's Degree in Music.

Dominic was a public school music teacher for thirty-two years focusing on vocal and instrumental instruction in the Long Island towns of Valley Stream, Freeport, and Baldwin. He has always played professionally in the New York metropolitan 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.

A governing board member of the AAA, Dominic Karcic, is also working on a project hoping to make a documentary film on the history and origin of Valtaro Musette music in New York City.

The September meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) on September 4th, 2012 at 7:00 PM at La Villini Restaurant featured noted German-American accordionists Gus Sengenberger, John Stampf and John Weber.

For further information, please e-mail Dominic at: dkarcic10@verizon.net ■

Premiere of "Accordion Wrestling" at Lincoln Center in New York

Finnish accordionist Kimmo Pohjonen gave the USA Premiere of "Accordion Wrestling" in his first New York appearance with Helsinki Nelson. Presenting two shows on August 3rd and 4th, more than 1,000 people packed each show at the Lincoln Center Damrosch Park Stage, ranging from the Finnish Consulate General to curious attendees who were lured by press reports and the intrigue of what the combination of wrestling and the accordion might provide.



"Accordion Wrestling" was originally created for the Turku Cultural Capital of Europe Program in 2011. The event is sponsored by SofTrek Corporation and made possible in part by the Consulate General of Finland, The Foundation for the Promotion of Finnish Music (LUSES), The Finnish Performing Music Promotion Centre ESEK, Finn Spark, Inc. and Finlandia Foundation National.

Kimmo Pohjonen, a Finnish accordionist, is a highly respected "accordion adventurer" who is

renowned for composing and performing accordion music in revolutionary new ways. He has recorded and performed with many projects and groups worldwide. He has also composed music for films, dance and theatre.

Pohjonen has released eight albums, the latest of which is Uniko with Samuli Kosminen and Kronos Quartet, released in February, 2011. The previous album was 2008's Quiver by the trio KTU, featuring Pat Mastelotto and Trey Gunn (King Crimson). His Earth Machine Music project, featuring live collaboration with farmers and their machines, toured UK and Australia.

Pohjonen also performs in the trio K Cube with Finnish drummer Sami Kuoppamäki and guitarist Timo Kämäräinen. Pohjonen and French drummer Eric Echampard perform as a 100% improvisational duo. Pohjonen also performs with Kluster featuring sampling maestros Juuso Hanukainen or Samuli Kosminen.

His most recent project, "Accordion Wrestling" takes place with ten Finnish wrestlers and the Iron Lung project with visual artist / conceptualist Ville Walo. Kimmo describes "Accordion Wrestling" as music, sport, dance, theatre and performance art revival of wrestling and accordion tradition from the 1920s-1960s. "Accordion Wrestling" toured Finland in 2010, Hamburg in 2011 and to UK, Amsterdam and NYC in 2012. The choreographer is Ari Numminen. Kimmo Pohjonen's solo show continues to tour regularly. In 2012 Pohjonen took the show to New Zealand, Australia, and Singapore. ■



Lynda Griffith Releases New Book, 'Playing Well'

Lynda Griffith, Doctor of Physical Therapy, is a specialist in the biomechanics of orthopedic injury to musicians, dancers and athletes, player of accordion, concertina and bandoneon and certified instrument repair technician.

She has written and illustrated a new book, "PLAYING WELL" which is a detailed reference for: musicians, players, parents and teachers of accordion, concertina and bandoneon with regard to injury, injury prevention and performance. It is also for physicians, physical therapists, occupa-

tional therapists, massage therapists, chiropractors and other practitioners who treat injured musicians and would have academic or professional interest in knowing about players of accordion, concertina and bandoneon.

"PLAYING WELL" will give the player, teacher, parent and practitioner common ground to facilitate communication and understanding. Lynda said, "Members of a symphony orchestra, who are also physicians, mathematicians, physicists or engineers, sometimes blend their science and music interests. A similar coupling occurs in this unique book because I combine my knowledge of and expertise in playing, constructing and repairing instruments in the accordion family with my professional training and practice in orthopedic phys-



continued on next page

"Playing Well," cont'd. from page 5

ical and manual therapy, clinical kinesiology and biomechanics, athletic training and exercise sciences."

Lynda Griffith has 30 years experience in private practice as a physical therapist specializing in manual treatment and biomechanic analysis of orthopedic injuries to musicians, dancers and athletes. She currently has a private practice in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Lynda began her career as an Athletic Trainer, certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association and was certified as a strength and conditioning coach by the National Association of Speed and Explosion.

She has a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Simmons

College in Boston, did post-graduate training in physical therapy at Childrens' Hospital of Los Angeles and has a Bachelor/s degree in Kinesiology from the University of Washington. In addition she studied music with accordion as her primary instrument at University of Wisconsin-Superior. She is also a graduate of Accordion-Concertina Repair Technicians' School in Superior WI.

Lynda launched the book at the ATG Festival this summer and is now available for \$60.00. The book has been well received and is now available online from the author by contacting Lynda at: Lgac-cord@hughes.net ■

The New England Accordion Museum

Paul Ramunni, founder and director of the New England Accordion Museum, brought a fascinating collection of photographs, music, and vintage accordions to the AAA Festival in Baltimore July 11-15th. All were mesmerized by the personal and unique stories surrounding each accordion.

Paul not only collects and preserves accordions, but he also collects the stories which surround each one. He began this venture about three years ago. After forty two years of not playing his accordion, he woke up one morning with the desire to play the accordion again. He happened to be in Vermont at the time, was referred to someone who had accordions and bought one. On this day, his life took an amazing turn inspiring the passion to acquire accordions! He visited tag sales, pawn shops, garage sales. Paul and his wife decided to set up a museum in their garage.

One very fortunate development occurred when Paul met Jack and Kathy White, the own-



ers of the now closed Cleveland Accordion Museum. Since they were in the process of closing their museum, Paul was able to move many of them to the New England Accordion Museum.

Paul said, "I have learned that what is most interesting about this project does not involve the accordions themselves. Rather, it is about the people and the stories I have been gathering from the folks I meet."

In October 2011, the Ramunni opened the New England Accordion Museum in Canaan, Connecticut. Paul presently owns over 200 accordions and memorabilia. The museum is open by appointment only. If you would like to see the accordions and hear the amazing stories that go with them, call (860) 833-1374 or e-mail: ramunni@comcast.net for a tour. Paul is always looking to acquire interesting accordions either by donation or purchase. While in Baltimore, he actually bought three accordions from people who brought them to his workshop! ■

**Julien Labro Performs with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra**

Brazilian jazz was the feature on July 13th when the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Carolyn Kuan, presented their third annual weekend of outdoor concerts at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. The orchestra serenaded audiences as the sun set over Lake Saint Clair.

The program included Julien Labro, a graduate of Wayne State University and co-leader of the Django Reinhardt-inspired Hot Club of Detroit. Also performing were Brazilian-born singer-guitarist Paulinho Garcia and Polish jazz vocalist Grazyna Auguscik in a program of songs by the celebrated Antonio Carlos Jobim. Julien and Garcia are longtime collaborators on the music of Brazil.

Julien said, "On the page, it can look very easy, but it's actually difficult to play, to get the style right. The simple things are sometimes the hardest to accomplish." The Bossa Nova themed evening of Brazilian music featured many favorites including "The Girl From Ipanema" and Piazzolla's "Adios Nonino".

Mary Tokarski Teaches at the Peter Soave Music Academy in Italy

AAA Governing Board member Mary Tokarski has recently returned from the Peter Soave Music Academy (PSMA), International Summer School for musicians and music lovers where she served as an instructor. The annual 10-day camp offered a rich musical experience that plunged each participant into the depths of musical artistry. The sessions included workshops, intensive coaching, master classes, chamber music, and rehearsals culminating in concerts where participants and professionals played side by side.

The picturesque setting for the camp is Sauris, a tiny alpine village nestled in the Dolomite mountains of Italy, bordering Austria, 2 hours north of Venice, where participants make musical discoveries that last a lifetime. Peter said, "Personally, PSMA is a vehicle for me to share my life experiences



Many AAA members will remember when Julien won the coveted \$10,000 First Prize at the AAA Vivian Vivio Stolaruk International Entertainment Competition for Accordionists that took place at the annual AAA Competition and Festival in July of 2005 in Dearborn, Michigan.

His performance with the "Hot Club of Detroit" garnered numerous critical acclaims and prizes like "Best Jazz Traditional Group" at the Detroit Music Awards 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2011. He is featured on Grammy-award winning vocalist Cassandra Wilson's "Another Country".

For more information please e-mail Julien at: julien@julienlabro.com ■

in music with others. I have found through teaching we all can learn from one another! My wife, Madeleine, and I have worked passionately to realize this project and create a multifaceted program and environment to equip instrumentalists from around the world with the knowledge and skills they need to perform music."

Mary's workshop, simultaneously translated in English, French, German & Italian was presented on Performance Confidence. For further information on the two 10-day events in 2013 beginning on July 25, 2013 and August 4, 2013, please contact Peter and Mady Soave at: madysoave@hotmail.com. ■



Mary Tokarski

Roland Corporation U.S. Announces their 2012 Winners!

Roland US has changed their format for this year's festival, originally scheduled as a live production on September 29 in Los Angeles. Instead, they decided to adjudicate the contestants via the videos that were submitted by the contestants when registering for the event.

The jury announced the winners for the Roland U.S. portion of the V-Accordion Festival as follows:

Senior Division: age 18 and older:

1st Place: Svetlana Ivanchenko

2nd Place: Gregory Fainshtein

Junior Division age 17 and younger:

1st Place: Olivia Luey

2nd Place: Peter Chudolij

The first place winner of the senior division will represent the USA at the international Roland V-Accordion Festival in Rome this November. The first place winner of each division will also receive a Roland V-Accordion.

This year's winner Svetlana Ivanchenko, originally from Russia, now lives in Dallas, Texas where she gives private piano and accordion lessons, performs regularly in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and is the pianist/organist for the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Dallas.

In addition to the Roland accordion, Svetlana also plays the Roland RD700GX digital stage piano. In Russia, she was the director of the Bayan and Accordion Department for the Mari El State Music College while serving as head of the Commission of Folk Instrument Art Department for the Mari Republic College of Culture and Arts where she was also the orchestra conductor and choral director. Svetlana holds a Master's Degree in Music Education, has been involved in teaching and performance for over 22 years, and has performed as the accordionist with the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra.

For more information, please contact Roland at: V-AccordionFestival@RolandUS.com ■



Svetlana Ivanchenko

AAA's Hottest Accordionist Dwayne Dopsie in Concert

The 17th Annual Sebastopol Cajun-Zydeco Festival was held September 8th, 2012 featuring Cajun food and Zydeco music from 11:30 AM to 7:00 PM at Ives Park in Sebastopol, California. Gates open at 11:00 AM.

Featured performers included Dwayne Dopsie & the Zydeco Hellraisers, Andre Thierry & Zydeco Magic, Mark St. Mary Delta Blues & Zydeco Band and Lynn August & the Red Hot Special Guests. There was a huge shaded wooden dance floor under the redwoods in Ives Park.

Dwayne Dopsie won the AAA sponsored Search for the Hottest Accordionist held at the Welk Resort in Branson, Missouri in March 1999.

Dwayne Dopsie started playing the accordion alongside his father at age 7. When he was just 9 years old, Dwayne was a featured guest on the Dolly Parton Show and performed during a Super Bowl half-time show when he was 10. Through the years, Dwayne has starred in commercials and today heats up the New Orleans music scene with his band "Dwayne Dopsie and the Zydeco Hellraisers".

The Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise sponsored this event. The Cajun Zydeco Festival at-



tracts over 2000 people each year. For further information: info@rotarycajun.com or call 707-823-3631.

From September 14-16, Dwayne appeared at Cuso's Club and Cantina in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida before heading to Africa to appear at the Tangier Jazz Festival in Morocco. He then returns to the USA to appear at the Highway 61 Blues Festival in Leland, Mississippi. On October 12, he will head north to perform at the Starry Night - An Evening for Arts & Healing at the Aria at the Juene Lune in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information on the AAA's Hottest Accordionist, please visit www.dwaynedopsie.com. ■

Frank Busso Jr. in Concert in Kansas City

The Fremar Foundation for Accordion Arts "Music & Merlot" event on June 23, 2012 presented AAA governing board member Frank Busso and his group, the Frank Busso Jr. Trio from Washington D.C., and Vivant! from Kansas City in a shared concert that has become a yearly event in Kansas City.

The Busso Jr. Trio (all servicemen in the U.S. Air Force Strings) enchanted the audience with their elegant and tasteful musicianship, charming banter and stunningly precise ensemble playing. Their program comprised the first half of the concert and included a variety of works, including accordion standards such as "Two Guitars," "Czardas" and the famous tango, "Jalousie;" while pairing them alongside Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 5" and Duke Ellington's "Take the A Train." These works and more were all splendidly arranged by the trio members, Henry Tyszler, Frank Busso Jr. and William Hones, for violin, accordion and string bass. Opening their program with an exciting and captivating arrangement of "Granada" and concluding with their own energetic, toe-tapping version of the "Orange Blossom Special", the trio captured the hearts of the Kansas Citians who filled the hall and stood in appreciation to demand an encore.

Vivant!, whose conservatory-trained members include Julie Silverberg (accordion/keyboards), Karen Fremar (accordion/vocals/keyboards), Dee Sligar (bass keytar), Janne Silverberg (trombone/Latin percussion) and David Sager (drums) took the



Frank Busso Jr. Trio performing at the Fremar Foundation's "Music & Merlot"

stage after intermission to perform a varied program that included music to honor veterans of different wars, including an updated version with electronic effects of the World War II tune, "Bei Mir Bist Du Schone," the '50s West Coast Swing tune, "Night Train," for Korean War veterans, the updated R&B piece, "Grapevine," for Vietnam War veterans, and "Music for Patriots," an arrangement of traditional patriotic works.

Vivant! premiered two new compositions by Karen Fremar: "Grasping for the Wind," to honor Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans, and "Vexation." The group was joined by Melody Stroth and

continued on next page

Frank Busso Jr. Trio in Kansas City

Ronda Adams for the premieres that included video presentations to illustrate the music prepared by local music educator, Debbie Gray. The Busso Jr. Trio then joined Vivant! as all the guest artists performed together on the final number, "God Bless the USA/Up Where We Belong," a work arranged especially for the ten musicians on stage by Karen Fremar.

After a standing ovation, the group launched into a rollicking version of "Kansas City," with various group members soloing and Busso and Fremar punch-

ing out a final 12-bar duo riff as the group jammed together.

The Fremar Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization that presents outstanding accordion artists in concert from around the nation and the world. The free public event was sponsored in part by Husch Blackwell, LLP; the Courtney S. Turner Trust--Daniel C. Weary and Bank of America, Trustees; and the H. R. Block Foundation, Inc. For more information visit www.Fremar-Foundation.com. ■

2012 AAA Festival in Baltimore

The 2012 AAA Festival, held at the Sheraton City Center, Baltimore, Maryland, from July 11-15, was a hugely successful event, enjoyed by many accordionists and accordion enthusiasts from all over the world. The AAA Festival enjoyed extensive TV, radio, and newspaper coverage before and during the weekend.

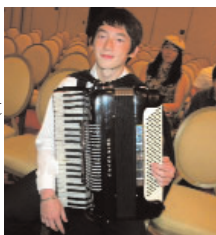
Congratulations to the Winners of the following categories:

Albert Manginelli
1st place US Virtuoso Solo
Quinn Collins
2nd place US Virtuoso Solo

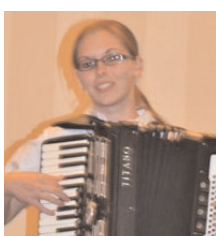


Chris Gorton
2nd place US Piano Accordion Competition

Quinn Collins
3rd place US Piano Accordion Competition



Rachel Quirbach
1st place Maddalena Belfiore Entertainment Category for Female Accordionists



Christopher Gorton
1st place Digital Accordion Competition



Unique to accordion festivals, the second Youth Involvement Program was held, conducted by Don Gerundo. It featured young accordionists between the ages of 13 and 25, paired with young Baltimore musicians who played saxophone, trombone and bass. The jazz ensemble performed at the Saturday Awards Concert (picture left).

The AAA Festival featured many accordionists performing solos, in combos, with other instruments, and with singers. The event was a true display of the great versatility of the accordion.

The festival coordinators were Linda Soley Reed, AAA President; Frank Busso Sr., AAA 1st Vice President and Public Relations/Festival Coordinator; Mary Tokarski, 2012 AAA Contest Chariman and Junior Festival Orchestra conductor; and Marilyn O'Neil, Youth Involvement Program Coordinator. Their excellent organizational efforts resulted in an event enjoyed

From top:
Albert Manginelli,
Quinn Collins,
Rachel Quirbach
Chris Gorton

18th AAA Master Class and Concert Series in New York

The American Accordionists' Association Master Class and Concert Series celebrated its 18th season on July 27, 28 and 29 at Tenri Cultural Institute in New York. The moderator/curator, Dr. William Schimmel, stated that it was one of the best ones yet - intriguing workshops, stellar performances and, most of all, a collegial attitude in its presentation.



Deiro delights – Ettore elaborates – Frosini fascillitates – Ellegaard is elegant – Magnante magnifies – Palmer is pedagogy – John Gart grabs you **WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DO? FIND OUT – AT THE SEMINARS!**

Participants came from the local New York area, across the United States as well as China, Japan, Argentina, Croatia and Norway.

Featured participants and performers included: Micki Goodman, Paul Stein, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Dr. Mark Birnbaum, Will Holshouser, Art Bailey, Doug Makofka, Ingrid Kvale, Brian Dewan, Martina Li, Yoichi Fukui, Martina Li, Marina Jerry, Melissa Elledge, Mark Nathanson, Benjamin Ickies, Godfrey Nelson, Lorraine Nelson Wolf, Dragica Banic-Curcic, Peter Flint, Erica Mancini, Dr. Ronald Sarno, Dave Soldier, Mayumi Miyaoaka, Tomoko Sugawara, Hu Jianbing, Rachel Swaner, Genevieve Leloup, Joy Betchler, Charlie Tokarz, Robert Haulfrecht, Dan Simon, Dr. Rocco Jerry, David Stoler, David First, Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Lee Mc Clure, Ken Laufer, John Foti, Kathleen Tipton, Marni Rice, Bob Goldberg, Corn Mo, Dr. William Schimmel and many others.

The AAA website will publish details on the 2013 event soon, or for further information please e-mail Dr. Schimmel at: billschimmel@billschimmel.com ■

Guido Deiro and Mae West

Tucked away on the corner of Mulberry and Grand Streets in NYC's "Little Italy" is the Italian-American Museum in what used to be the Stabile Bank Building. On Thursday evenings during the summer, the Museum opens up in the evening and presents various lectures and performances. On August 16th, guests enjoyed a presentation by LindaAnn Loschiavo on Guido Deiro and Mae West. Ms. Loschiavo answered numerous questions from the audience about the "vaudeville headliner" Mae met in August 1913 in Detroit and wed in secret.



The drawing card was a poster in the window that announced: "Meet Mae West's Secret Italian Husband," a multi-media presentation by LindaAnn Loschiavo. Frank Busso, Board Member of the American Accordionists' Association, enchanted the audience by playing the music of Guido Deiro. Many thanks to their amiable and beautiful president, Linda Reed, for coordinating the participation of Mr. Busso, who is a past president of AAA and now serves the organization as their 1st Vice President.



Dr. Joseph Scelsa, founder and president of the Italian American Museum, was delighted with the turn-out, which set a new attendance record here. The evening concluded with a Reception. Frank Busso entertained the assembly with his accordion and there was even some dancing. One attendee showed off her vintage snapshots of the late Pietro Deiro and his son. A few nice folks made suggestions about getting the play *Courting Mae West* produced. Many people lingered, conversing with new friends. ■



Above, LindaAnn Loschiavo, Dr. Scelsa and LindaAnn, Frank Busso performed one of Guido's compositions and entertained at the reception.

Baltimore Festival 2012, continued

by all, that sets the stage for the 2013 AAA Festival, a celebration of the organization's 75th anniversary, to be held in New York City, August 14-18, 2013.

Performers during the AAA Festival included: Cody McSherry, Michael and Amanda Parziale, Robert and Rocío Ford, The Connecticut Accordion Orchestra conducted by Linda Soley Reed, Joy Bechter, Joe McKesson, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Joe Zale, Vladimir Mollov, Annie Mollova, Dallas Vietty, Ben West, William Trigg, Tatiana Semichastnaya, Steve Albini, Stas Venglevski, Dick Morarity, Mary Tokarski, Manny Bobenrieth, John Simkus, and Emily Geller.

Performing ensembles included: The Potomac Ensemble, Busso Festival Orchestra, The Connecticut Accordion Orchestra conducted by Linda Soley Reed, Alamo Angels Festival Orchestra, Junior Festival Orchestra, and the AAA 2012 Festival Orchestra conducted by Stas Venglevski.

Attendees at the Saturday Night Gala Banquet enjoyed performances by the Festival Orchestra and the United States Army Strolling Strings under the direction of Sergeant Major Manny Bobenreith (accordion) featuring vocalists from The United States Army Band. Workshop Presenters included: Mary Tokarski, Linda Warren, Don Gerundo, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Mary Kathryn Archuleta, Paul Ramunni, Dr. Marion Jacobsen, Dallas Vietty and Gabe Hall-Rodrigues.

The large exhibition room gave festival attendees the opportunity to hear and see a variety of accordions, music and gift items including: Accordions USA (Alex and Lillianna Chudolij), Alessandrini, Deffner Music Publications (Frank Busso Jr), Music Magic USA (Alex and Lillianna Chudolij), Ottavianelli Accordions Factory, Pancordion (Frank Busso Jr), Pigini (Frank Busso Jr), Roland (Music Magic USA, Steve Albini, Tatiana Semichastnaya), Scandalli (Music Magic USA), Titano (Frank Busso Jr), Victoria Accordions (Elke Ahrenholz), SqueezinArt (Joan and Dan Grauman), The New England Accordion Museum (Paul Ramunni), Petosa Accordions (Tony Lovello), Giulietti, Brandoni and Paolo Soprani (Music Magic USA).

Judges of the competitions included: Beverly Roberts Curnow, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Al Terzo, Manny Bobenreith, Don Gerundo, Frank Busso, Jr., Frank Busso, Sam Falcetti, and Rita Davidson.

It was wonderful to see the camaraderie among accordionists of all ages, especially the connections made by the young accordionists with the young Baltimore musicians. Many of them said that, as a result of being involved in the AAA festivals, they intend to learn the accordion!

For further details on the 2012 AAA Festival and the 2013 AAA Festival in NYC, August 14-18th, 2013, contact us by email: aaa1938@aol.com

Competition Results

U.S. VIRTUOSO SOLO

- 1st - Albert Manginelli
- 2nd - Quinn Collins

U.S. PIANO ACCORDION COMPETITION

- 2nd - Chris Gorton
- 3rd - Quinn Collins

MADDALENA BELFIORE ENTERTAINMENT COMPETITION FOR FEMALE ACCORDIONISTS

- 1st - Rachel Quirbach

U.S. DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT COMPETITION

- 1st - Chris Gorton

ELSIE M. BENNETT COMPOSITION COMPETITION

- 1st - Junior- Tor Stumo
- 2nd - Kathryn Archuleta
- 3rd - Joe Ciccone

OPEN SOLOS

- Juniorette 1st - Cody McSherry
- Junior 1st - Ian Mitchell
- Intermediate 1st - Liam Collins
- 2nd - Tor Stumo
- Senior 1st - Rachel Quirbach
- 2nd - Ollie Luey

OPEN CLASSICAL SOLO

- Juniorette 1st - Cody McSherry
- Junior 1st - Ian Mitchell
- Senior 1st - Rachel Quirbach
- 2nd - Albert Manginelli
- 2nd - Quinn Collins
- 3rd - Cole Canfield
- 3rd - Michael Parziale

OPEN ORIGINAL SOLO

- Intermediate 1st - Liam Collins
- 2nd - Tor Stumo
- Senior 1st - Quinn Collins
- 2nd - Michael Parziale
- 3rd - Rachel Quirbach

OPEN ETHNIC SOLO

- Juniorette 1st - Cody McSherry
- Junior 1st - Ian Mitchell
- Intermediate 1st - Liam Collins
- 2nd - Ryan Victoria Segall
- 3rd - Tor Stumo
- Senior 1st - Quinn Collins
- 2nd - Ollie Luey
- 3rd - Cynthia Davey

OPEN POP SOLO

- Juniorette 1st - Cody McSherry
- Senior 1st - Cynthia Davey

OPEN JAZZ SOLO

- Junior 1st - Ian Mitchell
- 2nd - Cody McSherry
- Senior 1st - Ollie Luey
- 2nd - Tor Stumo

STANDARD SOLO

- Prep 1st - Samuel Pestello
- 2nd - Randy Harris
- Elementary 1st - Darien Williams
- 2nd - Jennifer Maun
- 3rd - Gracie Bernardi
- 3rd - Felipe Gonzales
- Intermediate 1st - Ryan Victoria Segall
- 2nd - Amanda Parziale
- 3rd - Kelee Lawn
- Senior 1st - Justin Cassamassino

ADULT OPEN SOLO

- 1st - Abby Cross
- 2nd - Yimeng Huang
- 3rd - Barbara Beier
- 3rd - Peter DiGiovanni

ADULT ETHNIC SOLO

- 1st - Yimeng Huang
- 2nd - Mark Nejako

ADULT POP SOLO

- 1st - Mark Nejako
- 2nd - Meryl Benenati
- 3rd - Barbara Beier

ADULT DUET

- 1st - Peter DiGiovanni & Lee Paulson

OPEN DUET DIVISIONS

- 1st - Quinn & Liam Collins

OPEN MIXED DUET

- 1st - Mark Nejako & Nick Sungenis

STANDARD DUET ELEMENTARY

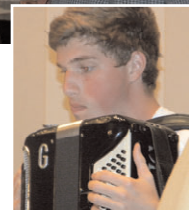
- 1st - Kelee Lawn & Darien Williams
- 2nd - Jennifer Maun & Gracie Bernardi
- 3rd - Samuel Pestello & Felipe Gonzales
- 3rd - Randy & Ruby Harris

OPEN SENIOR BAND

- 1st - Busso Music School Accordion Orchestra

FESTIVAL BAND

- Alamo Angels Accordion Orchestra
- Busso Festival Orchestra



Some of our young "stars" included: Cody McSherry, Liam Collins, Ryan Victoria Segall, Tor Stumo (interviewed at Press & Squeeze) and Cole Canfield.

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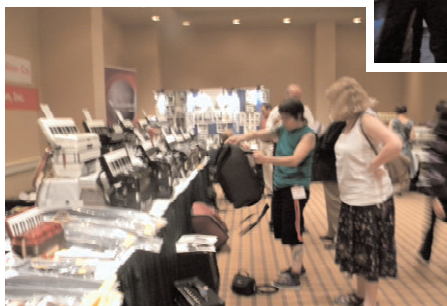
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Registration – Always busy!



Exhibit Room Always attracting a crowd!



- EXHIBITORS INCLUDED:**
- AAA Through the Years
 - Ernest Deffner Publications
 - Music Magic Accordions USA
 - Alessandrini • Brandoni • Ottavianelli
 - Pietro • Roland • Scandalli
 - New England Accordion Museum
 - PANcordion, Inc.
 - Petosa Accordions
 - Pigini Cordion Co.
 - Roland Corporation U.S.
 - SqueezinArt
 - Titano Accordion Co.
 - Victoria Accordions



Above: The United States Army Strolling Strings. Manny Bobenrieth Accordionist, The 2012 Youth Jazz Ensemble, Don Gerundo, conductor, Busso Music Festival Orchestra, Frank Busso, Jr., conductor, The 2012 Junior Festival Orchestra, Mary Tokarski, conductor and the Alamo Angels Festival Orchestra, Mary Archuleta, conductor

Coast to Coast

...a sampling of accordion events across the USA!

WALLKILL, NY

The AAA presented a musical celebration to honor the Magnanini Family for their continued support of "live" accordion music. The event was held on September 8, 2012 from 12 noon until 5:00 PM at the Magnanini Farm Winery, 172 Strawridge Road, Wallkill, New York.

The afternoon featured traditional "Valtaro Musette Music" with guest artists Mario Tacca, Mary Mancini, Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo, Frank Carozza, Emilio Magnotta, Dominic Karcic, Ray Oreggia, Anita and Bob Siarkowski, and the Connecticut Accordion Orchestra.



UTICA, NY

Hadley Restaurant in Utica, NY on October 19 & 20. Stepping into the Balkan is like breezing into an old world café.

First you'll notice the authentic German beer stein collection and playful gnomes. Then relax like European aristocracy as you savor a delicious meal surrounded by lively German folk art. The Balkan-Hadley is located at 2006 Genesee St., Utica, NY. For reservations, contact Boyd Bissell at 315-507-4264.

OTSEGO LAKE, NY

torski performed in the orchestra for nine performances of Kurt Weill's opera 'Lost in the Stars' at the Glimmerglass Music Festi-



val, at the Alice Busch Opera Theater, Otesgo Lake, New York State in July and August.

Presented by Cape Town Opera, "Lost in the Stars" is the story of a South African priest's spiritual crisis, based on 'Cry, the Beloved Country', the classic novel by Alan Paton, and starring 2012 Glimmerglass Artist in Residence, Eric Owens.

LONG ISLAND, NY

Alliance (LIAA) presented their October guest artist Charlie Fontana during an evening of accordion music on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at 7 PM at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY, 11731.

Charlie Fontana was born and raised in the Kings Park and Commack area of Smithtown, New York. Charlie began taking weekly accordion lessons at the age of nine (1951) from Elver Olson, a teacher in the local Commack Elementary School, when accordion lessons were \$2.00. His later accordion teacher was Larry Cennamo of Commack, New York who immersed Charlie in studies of classical music, harmony and theory.

The November 6th event will feature guest artist John Custie. For further information please e-mail Dominic at: dkar-cic10@verizon.net



NASHUA, NH

its fifth anniversary Music Festival from August 17-18, 2012. Co-sponsored by New Hampshire Accordion Association and Accordion Connection LLC, the event is held in Nashua, New Hampshire. Featuring a variety of concerts and

workshops, the festival also introduced the first-ever ACCORDIONS NOW!

Just-for-Fun Play-Along Ensemble. A highlight of the event was a tribute to Tony Lovello in celebration of his 80th Birthday.

For more information on upcoming activities, please contact: (603) 216-9582 or e-mail: AccordionsNow@yahoo.com



MAGGIE VALLEY, NC

The Carolina Accordion Association presented the Smoky Mountain Accordion Fest featuring Tony Lovello and Walter Kasprzyk. The second annual Smoky Mountain Accordion Fest was held Saturday, September 15, 2012 at the Maggie Valley Club, 1819 Country Club Drive, Maggie Valley, NC., featuring well known accordionists Tony Lovello, and Walter Kasprzyk of the "K Trio" fame.

Maggie Valley is cradled between the majestic Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountain ranges at 3,020 feet above sea level. Surrounded by thousands of acres of old-growth forests, this unique corner of North Carolina is an outdoor enthusiast's wonderland.

For more information on upcoming events, contact Joe Zalewski at (828) 734-2975 or e-mail accordion-music@bell-south.net.



ORLANDO, FL

will celebrate its 12th Annual Florida SMASH from November 9-11th in Orlando, Florida.



Held at the Holiday Inn, Orlando Airport, the special event will be honoring the 80th birthday of Tony Lovello. Also featured will be well known



accordionists Joe Cerrito, Vladimir Mollov, John Lobosco, Donna Regis and Michael Jude Ward-Bergeman.

There will be dealer displays, Friday night Cafe Ac-



cordeon, 2012 Accordion Orchestra and much more. Paul Betken, of Tempe, AZ, will present a tribute to Leon Sash.

Founded in September 2000, the Florida Accordion Association is dedicated to the promotion of the accordion through all music genres and all variations of accordion instruments. The FAA also encompasses all types of musical genres such as ethnic, jazz and classical to name a few, on all playing levels. Please visit www.accordions.com/florida for more information, or phone Karen Adam at: (850) 936-8722.

ROCHESTER HILLS, MI

The Michigan Accordion Society proudly announces the Tony Dannon Tribute and Scholarship Festival recognizing Tony Dannon's important contributions to the music world. His compositions, and arrangements to be performed by his



great friends in the music business. Event proceeds will benefit the Tony Dannon Scholarship Fund.

The event takes place on Sunday, November 4th, 2012, at the Forestre Banquet Center, 1919 Starr Batt Drive, Rochester Hills, Michigan. Doors open at 3:30 PM. Tribute starts at 4:30 PM. Dinner at 5:30 PM featuring the music of Joe Cerrito, Aaron Caruso, Eva Evola, Ralphe Armstrong, Michele Ramo, Billy Cairo, Made in Italy, Gene Van Accordion Orchestra, Joe Natoli, Johnny Trudell and many other accomplished artists. For information, please contact Joe Recchia: (248) 824-3856 or by e-mail: jrecchia@comcast.net

LAS VEGAS, NV

The 13th Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention was held from September 24-27, 2012 at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Many prominent accordionists were featured during the event including: Dick Contino, Jeff Lisenby, Stas Venglevski, Mary Tokarski, The Accordion Kings, Amy Jo Sawyer, Peter and Mady Soave, Mario Pedone, Gordon Kohl, Gina Brannelli, Liz Finch, Pete Barbutti as well as the Fifth Annual Las Vegas International

Accordion Orchestra directed by Joan Cochran Sommers.

WALLACE, ID

Canadian accordionist Michael Bridge was featured in concert at the 2nd Annual Historic Wallace Accordion Festival held in the this old North Idaho mining town. The concert also featured Patricia Bartell's Tango Volcado, an ensemble of accordion, bass, piano and violin. Opening the program was the Portatos, a youth accordion band from Spokane.

Michael Bridge, a versatile performer, manages to expertly



blend the works of great composers like Bach and Haydn with old time polkas and waltzes, French musette, jazz standards, and pop hits from the Beatles to present day. Although only 18 years old, he has performed throughout the world. As the 2011 National Roland Digital Accordion Champion, he traveled to Italy last October to represent

Canada on the International stage where he placed fourth in a field of 14 national champions. He also competed last fall in Shanghai, China in the CIA Junior World Championships, where he came in fourth out of champions from 21 countries.

For more information please e-mail: director@wallaceidahochamber.com

COTATI, CA

The 22nd Annual Cotati Accordion Festival featured the legendary Dick Contino. "The Accordion Man" performed on the main stage both Saturday and Sunday, August 18th and 19th, 2012 in La Plaza Park in Cotati, California.

Established in 1991 to promote the love of the accordion and to support local youth service organizations, this year's festival featured: The Golden State Accordion Club Band, Steve Albini (Sponsored by Roland), THAT Damned Band, The Sansa and Shiri Show, Big Lou's Dance Party, The Great Morgani, Chervona, Alicia Baker (Sponsored by Roland), Dick Contino, Copper Box, Amber Lee Baker, Black-Eyed Dempseys, Polkacide, Jim Gilman, Chuck Berger, Steve Balich Sr. Polka Band, The Wild Catahoulas, Future Accordion Stars, KAZAMOZe, Peter Robuffo,

The Accordion Babes Showcase, The Mad Maggies, Tatiana Semichastnaya (Roland), Santiago Jimenez & Chris Rybak (Roland), Circus Finelli, The Sansa and Shiri Show, Gator Beat, MotorDude Zydeco, Chuck Berger, Steve Balich Sr. Polka Band and The Wild Catahoulas.

COSTA MESA, CA

This year's Big Squeeze: also known as the Orange County Accordion Festival scheduled for Sunday, October 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Orange County Market Place in Costa Mesa will pair up its various accordion-based bands with dance experts, teachers and champions.

The Big Squeeze is held in conjunction with the weekend swap meet, the Orange County Market Place, and is included in admission which is \$2 or FREE with a canned food item donation for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. Children 12 and under are always free. The Market Place is held at the O.C. Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa, 88 Fair Drive.

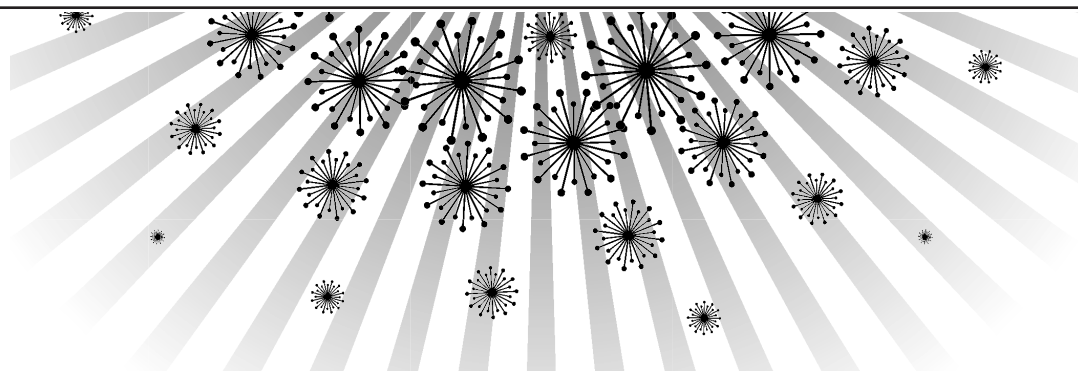
For more information on the Orange County Accordion Festival: call (949) 723-6660 or e-mail: jillannlloyd@yahoo.com

We sincerely apologize for the delay in completing the September Newsletter.

Unfortunately the photoshop program crashed and all the scanned photos prepared for the newsletter from the Baltimore Festival as well as the September 8th Valtaro Celebration were lost.

The originals, happily, are still in tact and they will be re-worked for a complete photo presentation as a separate publication.

Thanks especially to the camera specialists who generously provided so many pictures to choose from including: Lou Coppola (DC), Peter Sbuttoni (NY) and Sandy Zera (CT).



The New Yorker Hotel

481 Eighth Avenue at 34th Street

New York, NY 10001

August 14-18, 2013

www.ameraccord.com