



Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

NOVEMBER 2012

Here's What's Happening at AAA in 2013

MARCH 16, 2013
Coupe Mondiale qualifying categories. See details at www.ameraccord.com

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 is 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



From the Editor

Welcome to the November 2012 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

As we bring 2012 to a close, we can truly celebrate the accordion and the incredible and diverse array of activities it features in.

Once again my sincere thanks to the AAA President Linda Reed and Board of Director member, Rita Davidson for their kind assistance throughout the year, and to all those who have been able to submit items for publication.

Items for the January Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the updated AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word .doc (not docx) 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 January 2013 news will be the 15th of December.

I wish you all a wonderful and happy Holiday Season, and look forward to sharing all your News of events with our readers when we publish our next edition in January 2013.

Sincerely, Kevin
Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini Perform in Italy

Renowned accordion virtuoso Mario Tacca and Internationally acclaimed vocalist Mary Mancini have just returned from a successful visit to Italy, where they performed in Mario's hometown of Assergi, located in the mountains of Abruzzi.

AAA Members may well recall that the American Accordionists' Association served as the umbrella organization for Mario and Mary as they presented a spectacular Abruzzi Earthquake Benefit Show at the Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill, NY in June 2009. Their fundraising efforts raised an impressive \$25,000 for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Mario's home region of Abruzzi in April 2009.

While in Italy this summer, Mario and Mary organized an evening of music together with AAA member, Frank Carrozza who was also there with his father and three brothers. The evening of friendship and music in Mario's hometown was held at Da Maria Ristorante, which is located next to the cable car that brings tourists and skiers up the mountain and was an extraordinary and memorable evening for all.



Enjoying the spectacular vistas and beautiful peace and serenity of the mountains in the area, Mario and Mary travelled high up the Gran Sasso Mountain, the highest peak (10,000 ft) of the Apennine Mountain range in Abruzzi.

Shortly after returning from Italy, the dynamic duo gave a concert at the Hauppauge Library in Hauppauge, LI. A lovely and intimate venue, it served as the perfect setting for their concert of Italian Love songs and Operatic arias. Mario and Mary also performed at the Magnanini Winery in Wallkill, NY on October 28th and November 4th and a Holiday Show at Villa Roma in Callicoon, NY on November 27th.

To bring 2012 to a close, Mario and Mary will be presenting their renowned Holiday show as follows:

December 14, 2012

Christmas Concert with the Victor Lioni String Quartet at Assumption Church
Peekskill, NY - 7:00 PM

For more information including the highlights of their many concerts and recordings, please visit www.gioiaproductions.com

Start spreading the news...

Joan Sommers with the Missouri Brass Quintet

The Missouri Brass Quintet is a professional group based at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) and presents concerts regularly throughout the Midwest.

This year's concert season opened on October 10 with a concert in White Recital Hall on the UMKC Campus.

The concert featured works written for brass quintet (two trumpets, horn, trombone, and tuba) by composers McKee, Buyanovsky, Turner, Kamen, Bernstein, and closed with two arrangements of pieces by Astor Piazzolla including Oblivion and Libertango featuring guest accordionist, Joan Cochran Sommers.

Each of the performers gave short introductory talks before the pieces were performed and Joan spoke about Piazzolla and his life, his compositions, and his instrument, the bandoneón.

Joan's performance was greeted with great acclaim and approval by the audience and fellow performers alike, and Joan reports that it was exhilarating to perform with such fine musicians on this exciting project.

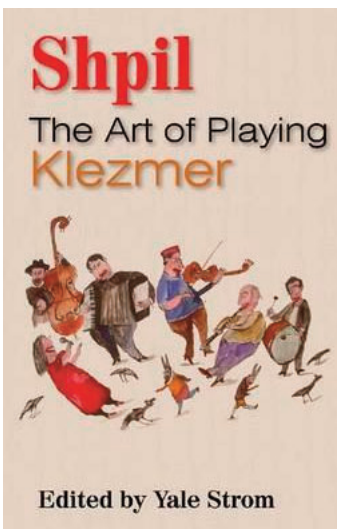
Joan has been asked to perform with the Missouri Brass Quintet on its 2013 Spring Concert Tour in the St. Louis, Missouri area. ■

"SHPIL! The Art of Playing Klezmer" by Yale Strom

Internationally acclaimed Klezmer ensemble, Hot Pstromi, is a history, instructional and music book for both the professional and amateur musician. Since the revival of Klezmer music in the United States in the mid-1970s, Klezmer and Yiddish song have become the soundtrack for the revival of European Jewish culture all over the world. Today you can hear Klezmer in likely locales like New York, Chicago and San Francisco, and unlikely locales like St. Petersburg, Russia; Satu Mare, Romania; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Tokyo, Japan and many other places throughout the world. It is no secret why this has happened: Klezmer's high energy and emotional folk music and evocative Yiddish lyrics speak to everyone, musician and listener alike. This book is not only the first to include chapters on the most common instruments that make up a typical Klezmer ensemble, but each chapter is written by a virtuoso of that instrument.

The book contains a historical chapter on Klezmer which gives an overview of the genre from medieval times through the present day and a chapter on each instrument (violin, clarinet, accordion, bass, percussion and voice) written by a musician who has

recorded, performed and studied Klezmer for many years. At the end of each chapter will be three specific melodies (songs), chosen by each artist, to illustrate and exemplify the techniques and instruction they have shared. The authors also include a discography to provide the reader with a list of classic and new Klezmer and Yiddish recordings designed to guide the reader on his/her way to playing Klezmer and singing in Yiddish. Lastly, there will be a glossary of Yiddish terms that are specific to Klezmer.



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Alex Chudolij at the Massachusetts Accordion Association (MAAA)

Alex Chudolij, a prize winning accordionist, band leader and accordion designer, was the invited guest of the Massachusetts Accordion Association (MAAA) at its free October 28 meeting in Newton, MA.

By the age of 16, had won several competitions including the American Accordionists' Association Championships. He performed at a gala reception for Olympic Figure Skating Gold Medal Winners Oksana Baiul and Viktor Petrenko, and has played all over the Eastern United States.

Mr. Chudolij's program highlights three categories of accordions commonly available today including the traditional acoustic instrument, acoustic with MIDI, and the all electronic (conventional reedless models and Roland V-Accordions) while discussing the features, playability, advantages and limitations of each.

The Massachusetts Accordion Association, a not-for-profit organization, encourages the enjoyment of the accordion by its members and the larger state-wide community both by sponsoring three free guest artist appearances per year at its Newton location and by offering several free community outreach concerts throughout the year.

Attendees were invited to join in the group Play-Along preceding Mr. Chudolij's concert. For more information on future activities please visit the MAAA's website: www.maaccordion.org. ■



Alex Chudolij

Advanced Accordion Music Available for Free Download

Renowned Spanish composer Gorka Hermosa is offering all his advanced compositions as free downloads to the US accordion community.

His advanced compositions have been performed in the winning programs of world competition winners such as Grayson Masefield, Dorin Grama, Alexander Vertennikov, Iñigo Aizpiorea, Martinas Levickis, Julien Gonzales as well as by renowned artists Alexander Selivanov, Yulia Amerikova, Helmut C. Jacobs and Renzo Ruggieri. His works have also been played in the graduation exams of the most important accordion conservatories in the world including Moscow, London, Peking, Shanghai and Trossingen.

Pablo Zinger (pianist for famed artist Astor Piazzolla) said "*Gorka Hermosa's music impressed me for his originality, his atmosphere and his virtuosity, making the word 'crossover' an intense reality. He is a very talented musician, and one to watch very closely.*"

Born in 1976 in Urretxu (Basque Country), Hermosa is a very multifaceted musician: an accordionist, composer, teacher, writer and publisher.

Gorka Hermosa was the first Spanish accordionist to play as soloist with a symphonic orchestra (the Spanish National Radio and TV orchestra, and after more than 12 times with other different orchestras), he often appears on Spanish TV and radio shows and gives concerts all around Europe (Finland, Norway, Estonia, Germany, Slovenia, Switzerland, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain). He has played first time more than 20 works for accordion of Spanish composers. He has also played varied musical styles including flamenco, fado, folk, pop-rock, jazz, techno, fusion... playing with musicians such as Paquito D'Rivera (Grammy Award winner), Javier Peixoto (Madredeus), Pablo Zinger, Ara Malikian, La Mari (Chambao), Luis Auserón (Radio Futura), Carmen París, José Luis Montón, Germán Díaz, Baldo Martínez, Carlos Soto (Celtas Cortos), Nacho Mastretta, India Martínez and others.

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Hermosa Compositions Available for Download, cont'd from page 2

He has written 4 books about the accordion and has given conferences about the history of the accordion in Macedonia, Italy and Spain. At present he is the accordion teacher at the "Jesús de Monasterio" Musical Conservatory of Santander.



Accordion Sheet

Music in .pdf format available for free download includes:

Solo Accordion:

Gernika, 26/4/1937 (1994), Fragilissimo (2000), Goya: Capricho 43 (2012), Ekigrama (2012), Ka Mate, Ka Ora (2012), Gironde-ando (2012), Tangosophy - album of pieces for standard bass accordion (2003 – 2012) and Anantango for standard bass accordion solo (2003).

Chamber Music:

Gernika, 26/4/1937-1994 (for accordion and violín, cello, flute or clarinet), Gernika, 26/4/1937-1994 (accordion orchestra), Gernika, 26/4/1937-1994 (accordion, violin and bass clarinet), Gernika, 26/4/1937-2004 (accordion and string quartet), Anantango-2003 (accordion and violin, cello, flute or clarinet), Anantango-2003 (accordion duo), Galliano en Santiago-2005 (duo for accordion and violin, cello, flute or clarinet), Ekía-2003 (accordion and violin, cello, flute or clarinet), Milonga del vent-2004 (accordion and violin, cello, flute or clarinet), Brehme-2012 (duo for accordion and violin), Picasso's Guernica-1994-2003 (accordion and string orchestra).

Pedagogical Works:

12 idazketatxo (1994-1995), Cuaderno de Técnica para acordeón (2008), Suite para niños nº 2 (2008).

To enjoy these free downloads in .pdf format, please visit: www.gorkahermosa.com then click on Accordion Free Download. ■

SHPIL! cont'd. from page 2

The readership for "SHPIL! The Art of Playing Klezmer" is every and any professional, amateur or beginner enthusiast who wants to really learn about the history of Klezmer, the specific styles and ornamentation of the genre, and experience the joy of playing this 1,000 year-old folk genre. This book will give the musician the opportunity to take virtual private lessons from some of the best and most well known practitioners of Klezmer and Yiddish songs in the world. No other single source provides rich history, personal insights from some of the best practitioners in the world and practical instruction. For more information on the musicians, please visit www.hotpstromi.com and the book is available from Amazon. ■

Hurricane Sandy

Our apologies for the delay in the November AAA Newsletter. Kevin had the Newsletter ready to be typeset for printing and it was finished on October 29th. But, alas, the Hurricane hit our area that evening and we lost electricity until the following Friday. The printing office we use was severely damaged but is happily up and running once again. We apologize to those who submitted articles for events in early November. If you have updated information, please forward them to ameraccord1938@gmail.com and we will include them in the online version of the Newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jeff Lisenby Nominated for Best Music Direction at Ovation Awards

Jeff Lisenby is among the nominees for the 2012 Los Angeles STAGE Alliance Ovation Awards, where he is up for Best Music Direction for "Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash." In addition to Jeff's nomination for Musical Direction, the entire cast received a nomination for "Best Ensemble Performance" as well.



Founded in 1989, the LA STAGE Alliance Ovation Awards are the only peer-judged Theater awards in Los Angeles. For the 2011-2012 voting season, there are a grand total of 191 nominations for 77 productions, presented by 50 companies chosen from 400 total productions registered from 173 companies. LA STAGE Alliance is dedicated to building awareness, appreciation and support for the performing arts in Greater Los Angeles.

Jeff has appeared as guest artist at the AAA festival on several occasions, and is sought after as one of the first-call accordionists for recording sessions in Nashville. Projects he has worked on include the Grammy-winning album: "Songs from the Neighborhood; the Music of Mister Rogers", and jingles for Budweiser and Sutherland's Lumber (which he also wrote and produced). Throughout his career, Jeff has used his genius on the accordion and keyboards to carve a niche market for himself, and gained performances with the Nashville, Kansas City, and Los Angeles Symphonies, the Palm Beach Pops Orchestra, and a gig accompanying Luciano Pavarotti during part of his US tour.

Jeff has toured extensively with The Mills Brothers, Boots Randolph, and Brenda Lee, and has accompanied Lee Greenwood, Donna Summer, Trisha Yearwood, Three Dog Night, The Coasters, David Cassidy, Marty Stuart, Jo Dee Messina, Pam Tillis, Loretta Lynn, Roy Clark, and Dolly Parton, to name a few. When he's not on the road performing around the country, Lisenby teaches for Belmont University's School of Music.

The 2012 Ovation Awards ceremony will take place on Monday, November 12 at 7:30 PM at the historic Los Angeles Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.LASTAGEOvations.com ■

Jane Christison to be considered for 55th Grammy Awards

Accordionist Jane Christison's children's CD "Come Sing Along with Janie Next Door" has been submitted to the Recording Academy for consideration in the children's category of the 55th Grammy's, which will be voted upon soon.

Every kid would love to have a neighbour like Janie living next door - cool, bubbly and lots of fun. However, the next best thing is Janie's debut album "Come Sing Along with Janie Next Door."

Featuring eighteen original, bouncy songs, this CD goes anywhere and everywhere children are having a great time, with some learning thrown in for



good measure, all while being introduced to the accordion. Janie (musician, singer, songwriter Jane Christison) soars while showcasing the versatility of the accordion, and the CD even features a song called "I Love Playing Accordion," expressing her passion for the instrument.

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Jane Christison, cont'd. from page 3

Using a MIDI instrument, Jane blends the sounds of other instruments with that of the acoustic accordion, adding interest and even some sound effects to the music, and at live concerts, children are fascinated!

When asked about the inspiration for the songs, Jane says, "I've played over 1,000 'Music With A Smile' performances for seniors groups and retirement communities. During the programs I reminisce about things like 'Do you remember chasing fireflies on hot summer nights?' or 'Do you remember going back to school in the fall?' I started waking up with children's songs in my head, and I'd try them out on my seniors. When they enjoyed my 'Childrens' songs, I realized that they have multi-generational appeal, from the kiddos just having fun with the joy of music, to the parents and grandparents being reminded of fond childhood memories!"

Jane studied accordion with Joan Cochran Sommers at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in accordion performance.

An accomplished accordionist and entertainer, playing and singing many styles of music, her personality and enthusiasm for playing the accordion are in demand for conventions, theme parties and other celebrations where she has been featured as a guest artist throughout the USA. Video versions of two of her workshops, "Playing the Accordion for Fun and Fame!" and "Squeezing Money Out of Your Accordion" are available through her company, Music With A Smile Productions, L.L.C., as is her children's CD "Come Sing Along with Janie Next Door."

For further information please contact Jane at janec@musicwithasmile.com or visit her website to get your copy of this wonderful CD today at: www.janienextdoor.com ■



Jane Christison

Festival features the Vast Versatility of the Accordion

On Sunday November 4th, 2012, a festival featuring the versatility of the accordion was held at the Acme Accordion School in Westmont NJ. From Classical to Baroque, Jazz, Show music, Ethnic, Pop, Contemporary, Romantic and more, the day began at 10:00 PM with

specializes in ethnic German and Austrian music on his piano accordion as well as on his Bavarian Button Box. He has often been a guest at the American Accordion Musicological Society Festivals and he performs regularly with various groups in the Delaware Valley area. Also



the various soloists performing music from the many different genres.

Tom Groeber performed at 11:30 AM and at Noon, accordionists assembled for the National Accordion Month Photo, hoping to attract 100 accordionist. At 1:00 PM, the program began with ensembles from the Acme Accordion School and conclude with the renowned Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra.

Soloists included: Mr. Tom Groeber who has been an active participant of this special festival for many years. Tom spe-

featured were Dr. Lou Persic, Bernie Gardzalla.

Throughout the day from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, there were performances as well as an accordion Market where anyone who has an instrument they would like to display may do so. All proceeds from the Accordion Mart as well as from donations, were placed in the Acme Scholarship Program. This event is open to the public and free of charge. For information on future events, please call Joanna Darrow at 856-854-6628. ■

The Willard Palmer Legacy Grand Opening

A World of Accordions Museum, an affiliate of the AAA, announces with pride and great pleasure the January 31, 2013, opening of our new display: "The Willard Palmer Legacy." Located in the Duane Sellman Special Exhibits Area of the Hanni Strahl Concert Hall, this exhibit spotlights a man whose accomplishments are unequalled in the accordion world, and whose influence touches virtually every American accordionist.

Each of the five major displays already present in this area represent compilations located throughout the museum: Charles Mag-nante's Musical Estate, the Hugo Herrmann Collection, the Pietro Frosini Collection, the Deiro Brothers Performance Accordions, and Great Russian Bayanists.

The son of Willard Aldrich Palmer, Sr. and Alma Ophelia Crawford Palmer, Willard Palmer Jr. was born in McComb, Mississippi, on January 31, 1917. He became a world renowned musician, scholar and music educator. His revolutionary teaching principles were reflected in 789 of his published works, which included an accordion method, several piano methods, a method for Hammond Chord Organ, a guitar method, hundreds of solo pieces and many choral works.

Palmer was a child prodigy. At 13, he played the piano on the radio. He studied both piano and accordion which were to form the basis of his musical endeavors. He attended Whitworth College in Brookhaven, Mississippi and Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, where he continued to play the accordion and piano on radio shows and in ensembles on and off campus.

During World War II, he joined the Army Air Corps and was stationed in San Antonio. Here, he taught Navigation, Physics, Mathematics and German, in addition to performing on accordion as the soloist with a number of prominent local ensembles.



Bill Palmer

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The Willard Palmer Legacy Grand Opening, cont'd from page 4

Palmer's subsequent accordion career may be divided into three segments - performer, composer and educator. In each area, he distinguished himself sufficiently so that others might have called it a full, successful career in itself. But Palmer always went on to do more.

During his period as a professional accordionist, Palmer sought to perfect his yet-evolving instrument and contributed significantly to the development of the stradella-free bass "Convertor" accordion. He designed the "Palmer Emperor Convertor," and collaborated with a major accordion manufacturer to achieve the realization of his creative ideas. As noted educators, he and Hughes also designed over a dozen student instruments which conformed to the educational requirements of their courses.

In 18 years as a faculty member of the University of Houston, Palmer taught music history, music literature and theory, in addition to all phases of accordion study. He earned Ph.D. degrees in music education and musicology. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by Whitworth College in 1971 and the degree of Doctor of Music by Millsaps College in 1983.

Dr. Willard Palmer eventually became one of the most important editors of keyboard music in the United States. His editions of works of the masters are highly acclaimed and respected in the most elite music circles. Palmer is noted especially for his painstaking detail and care in the scholarly researching of original editions.

He became Alfred Publishing Company's Senior Editor in 1964, researching the original manuscripts of the great masters of keyboard literature, with special emphasis on the study of performance practices in the Baroque, Classic and Romantic eras. He achieved recognition as the leading authority on Baroque ornamentation and lectured on the subject at various colleges, universities and music festivals throughout the country.

Palmer will long be remembered as the source of much of today's accordion development and artistry. He has touched the lives of many generations of accordionists and his influence will continue as a significant force long into the future of the accordion, which he guided toward growing public esteem.

Focal center of the Palmer (1917-1996) display is his last accordion the Titano Emperor V, on which he performed solo and in duo with the late Anthony Galla Rini. This piano accordion is a double converter with sustaining pedal basses, of which only a few were constructed.

Instrumental in the acquisition is Willard Palmer, III, who plans to attend this 96th anniversary of his father's birthday. For more information, please contact Museum Curator, Dr. Helmi Harrington at: accordion@sprynet.com ■



Bill Palmer

Joe Soprani at Citizens Bank Park

Accordionist Joe Soprani, of Broomall, PA, appeared with the Phillie Phanatic during the Brewers and Phillies game at Citizens Bank Park in celebration of Italian Heritage Night, and recently received the Distinguished Achievement Award presented by the District Five Grand Lodge of PA, Order Sons of Italy in America in October.

Joe Soprani is a noted accordionist, educator, arranger-composer whose reputation among professionals places him in the first ranks of contemporary accordionists. He has dominated the accordion scene in Philadelphia for over forty years playing in major concert halls, theaters, TV Shows and Hotels.

He holds the distinction of being the only accordionist in the history of the Philadelphia Orchestra to appear as a featured soloist under Eugene Ormandy. While accordion soloist with the USAF Band in Washington, DC under Col. George S. Howard, he won the "The Air Force Roger", the most prestigious entertainment award in the US Air Force. He also was the first accordion soloist with the PA Army National Guard Band "The Adjutant General's Own" for over eight years. On five occasions, Soprani appeared with opera singer Luciano Pavarotti at the Spectrum in Philadelphia and has performed for President Eisenhower at the White House.

To add to his impressive list of credentials, Joe was invited to arrange the opening selection for rock star Jon Bon Jovi's 1996 World Tour and has also written the official song for the Interna-



Joe Soprani

tional Rotary Club. In addition to performing in Broadway shows such as "Fiddler on the Roof", "Zorba", "Cabaret" and "Erma la Duce", he has performed in world premieres of "Frida", a musical that called for a virtuoso accordionist and "Another Kind of Hero",

continued on next page

Soprani at Citizens Park, cont'd from page 5

a musical which featured Soprani on stage for an entire scene. Soprani, who appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show and won the Arthur Godfrey Show, appeared with TV star, Nell Carter, in a "Colors of Freedom" Production at the Convention Center in Philadelphia in 1995. He also appeared with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops playing a special arrangement by Nero with soprano, Evelyn de LaRosa.

Joe Soprani, who is the in-house accordionist on The Don Giovanni Show, can be heard regularly on the Big Talkers. He performed with Russell Watson on Good Morning America and continues to promote the accordion as a serious instrument at various clubs and organizations. His workshops at schools and colleges where he demonstrates his skills as performer and arranger to young composers and arrangers have been well received. Programs are being planned by his newly formed Concert Trio (Accordion, Piano and String Bass) and Italian Folk Trio (Accordion, Mandolin and Guitar.) For further information please visit:

www.joesoprani.com ■

Carmen Carrozza Continues His Legacy through Great Niece

Carmen Carrozza, a highly respected accordionist, is now involved, at the age of 91, in a most important mission, transferring his legacy to his 5 year old great niece, Gia Ciccone! Gia's father, Dr. Joseph Ciccone, a chiropractor in New York, accomplished accordionist and Governing Board Member of the AAA, is thrilled that his daughter is embarking on a journey to carry on the family tradition of playing the accordion. When Alex Carozza from Alex Music found out that Gia liked the accordion, he sent her an accordion as a gift.

Carmen Carrozza was born in the small town of Solano in Calabria, Italy on July 20, 1921. Carrozza emigrated to the USA with his family when he was nine years old. In 1937, he graduated from the Pietro Deiro Accordion Conservatory in Greenwich Village, NYC where he was awarded the highest honors and a gold medal for his performance. He furthered his studies at the New York Academy of Music specializing in theory, harmony, counterpoint and composition.

As his career developed, he went on to become the first accordionist invited to perform as featured



soloist with major symphony orchestras: The Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler premiering Paul Creston's "Concerto for Accordion and Orchestra;" National Symphony and New York Philharmonic under the direction of Andre Kostelznetz, premiering Alan Hovhanhess' *Rubaiyat*; Cincinnati Orchestra, under the direction of Thomas Schippers; The Buffalo Symphony Orchestra, The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Pops Orchestra, The United States Navy Band and more.

He collaborated with outstanding American composers such as Robert Russell Bennett, Henry Cowell, Paul Creston, Alan Hovhanhess, George Kleinsinger, Otto Leuning, Paul Pisk, Wallingord Riegger, Elie Siegmeister, William Grant Still, Carlos Surinach, Virgil Thomson, & Russian composer, Alexander Tcherepnin. Carmen considers solo concerts in Town Hall, New York City, as one of the high

Dr. Robert Young McMahan in Concert

Dr. Robert Young McMahan performed Astor Piazzolla's "Le Grand Tango" with cellist Cecylia Barczyk at The College of New Jersey's annual Music Faculty Gala



Dr. Robert Young McMahan and Cellist, Cecylia Barczyk

Concert, at the Mildred and Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall, Music Building, The College of New Jersey on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 8 PM.

The Department of Music at The College of New Jersey promotes music study in a program where performance, music education, technology, creativity and scholarship are closely integrated. Soloists and ensembles exemplify the high performance and creativity standards achieved by the Department. Once a year, members of the music faculty come together to perform in this Gala event.

Dr. McMahan also performed at the Harold J. Kaplan Concert Hall, Center for the Arts, Towson University, Towson, MD (near Baltimore), on October 28, as part of the annual International Cello Festival held there and produced by Barczyk, who is on the Towson University music faculty.

"Le Grand Tango" was composed in 1982 for Mstislav Ros-

tropovich and is originally for cello and piano. The piano part has been transcribed for bandoneon, as well as chromatic accordion. Dr. McMahan transcribed the piano part to piano accordion for these concerts.

Secretary/Treasurer for the AAA, Dr. McMahan is Professor of Music at The College of New Jersey where he is also Area Coordinator of Music Theory, Composition, Ear Training, and Classical Accordion. His degrees are: D.M.A., Music Composition, Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University; M.A., Liberal Arts, Great Books Program, St. John's College; M.M., Music Composition, Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University; B.M., Music Theory, Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University.

He has been commissioned to write works for the accordion by various individuals and or-

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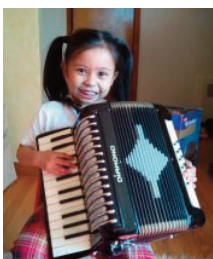
points in his career. At these concerts, he performed and premiered all original accordion works by the fore mentioned composers. It was a milestone in the history of the accordion.

His performances of the works of these composers opened a new field for the generations of accordionists to follow and gives to composers a new instrument to use as a vehicle of musical expression. Concert accordionists of the future owe a debt of gratitude to Maestro Carrozza for paving the way for them to the concert platform.

On March 17, 2002 Maestro Carrozza was honored by the AAA and was the first recipient presented with the prestigious

"Lifetime Achievement Award." Shortly after this gala event, the Carmen Carrozza AAA Scholarship Fund, (a fund for the advancement of promising young accordionists and the commissioning of new works for the accordion) began in the spring of 2002. He is a past president and an active governing board member of the AAA and continues to promote the accordion through educational workshops at schools, universities and private music studios.

We look forward to hearing about the musical progress of Gia Ciccone and the special rewarding accordion years ahead for her. ■



McMahan in Concert, cont'd. from page 6

ganizations, including the AAA and the New York State Council on the Arts. He has recorded on the CRS and Orion labels and is published by Ernest Deffner Music. During his years in the Baltimore area, Dr. McMahan was accordionist for the Baltimore Symphony, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Washington Ballet and American Ballet orchestras (at the Kennedy Center), and for other cultural and performing organizations. He has performed under such notable conductors as Julius Rudel, Rob Fisher, Sarah Caldwell, Sergiu Comissiona, Gunther Schuller, Frederik Prausnitz, Murry Sidlin, bandleader Les Elgart, Leon Botstein, Leon Fleisher, and Peter Schickele, and with Sting, Georgia Brown, Maureen McGovern, Alvin Epstein, Boyd Gaines, and Theodore Bikel. For further information: mcmahan@tcnj.edu ■

Cory Pesaturo at famed Tanglewood Festival

Cory Pesaturo recently performed with Wynton Marsalis, at Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Marsalis is a renowned trumpeter, composer, teacher, music educator, and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Marsalis has promoted the appreciation of classical and jazz music often to young audiences. Marsalis has been awarded nine Grammys in both genres, and a jazz recording of his was the first of its kind to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music.

Cory also performed for the French American Cultural Society in San Francisco on September 8th. As he did last year, Cory performed on live TV, during the Columbus Day Parade which started at Gracie Mansion on Tuesday October 2nd, hosted by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Cory performed with American Idol finalist, Elise Testone. On this year's American Idol, Elise sang "Vienna" by Billy Joel accompanied by an accordionist. Cory accompanied Elise on this song on live TV.



Cory has won the 2009 International Competition for Digital Accordion at the Coupe Mondiale festival in New Zealand representing the AAA, and also won the live broadcast TV Show, the Primus Ikaalinen 2011 International Accordion Competition in Finland.

Cory's extensive resumé includes appearances at the White House for former president, Bill Clinton and first lady, Hillary on 4 different occasions. On one of those occasions, he became the youngest person ever to perform at a State Dinner. He has since performed at 6 events for the Clintons and continues to keep in touch as proved by his 12 letters from the first family.

For further information:
CoryPesaturo@
corypesaturo.com

Long Island Accordion Alliance featured John Custie

The November 6th meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road in East Northport, NY at 7:00 PM featured accordionist John Custie.

John Custie has been an active professional in the music industry for more than thirty years. He has recorded or performed with local and international celebrities such as Joe Dixon, Felix Sanganito and Dick Benedis (Jazz artists), Italian singing sensation Dino Rossi, and Charlie Small to name a few. He is also a music educator, and has given lectures and open discussions at junior and high schools, on the subject of "The Music Business" and what it takes to survive. He offers students insight and encouragement and has also received local awards from his community.

John Custie besides performing, is an active arranger and composer, teaches accordion and piano privately, and is a member of

Workshops With Joan Grauman in Williamsburg, VA

Virginia hosted an afternoon with AAA Board of Director member and Historian, Joan Grauman. There was an opening reception with refreshments and a display of Joan's collection of "The Accordion in Media", an extensive collection of advertisements and greeting cards spanning nine decades.

Her workshops included:

1. "The Early Years of the Accordion in the US: A Look at Pietro Frosini & Anthony Galla-Rini"

Joan, spoke about the amazing contributions of Pietro Frosini and Anthony Galla-Rini, two pioneers of the accordion. Both men started their careers as stars of Vaudeville. Both men wrote music, created teaching techniques, performed, promoted, and brought recognition to the country's wonderful new instrument: the piano accordion. Joan brought a collection of their books, articles, photos and sheet music.

2. "Playing Ethnic Music Authentically"

Attendees were able to print out sheet music prior to the workshop and familiarize themselves with pieces of music from Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Austria and Rumania (a Jewish Klezmer tune). During the workshop, Joan demonstrated ornaments, accents, and the other subtle nuances that "authenticate" the folk music of these regions. She prepared a hand-out that provided information on the folk music from each region represented.

The Accordion Revolution Club welcomes all and there is no charge for the afternoon of workshops. For location and more information on their events, please contact Jim Rice at: (757) 880-3308.

Joan Grauman was the co-director of the Columbia (Maryland) International Folk Dancers and also directed their performing ensemble in the late 1970s and early 80s. Her experience as a dancer came in handy when she joined the celebrated Balkan band, BAMCO, as their accordionist and played for dancers with this band for the next 18 years (1987-2001). Joan was also the accompanist for two acclaimed Klezmer clarinetists, Daniel Rozas and Fred Jacobowitz. She was the accordionist for the Baltimore German/Austrian dance group, GTV Immergrün, from 1979 to 1982 and played in Dale Wise's "Accordion Plus Players" band in Virginia from 1987 to 1999.

In 2004, Joan started the Potomac Accordion Ensemble, which she still directs. This group of nine accordionists performs at national accordion conventions and local venues. Joan teaches accordion, and is the Vice President and orchestra conductor of the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society. She is on the govern-

continued on next page



Joan Grauman



the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) and the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), and is a member of The Northbrookhaven Chamber of Commerce. You may visit his website at www.custie.com.

For more information on the Long Island Accordion Alliance, please contact: 631 261 6344 or visit www.la-villini.com ■

Workshops in Williamsburg, cont'd. from page 7

ing board of the American Accordionists' Association and is the organization's historian.

Also an artist, Joan had her first art exhibit at the age of 16 and has worked as a free-lance illustrator ever since. Her artwork can be found on menus, logos, calendars, children's books, jewelry and t-shirts all over the world. Joan and her husband, Dan, own and operate the mail-order business, SqueezinArt, which features

her artwork on gifts for accordionists. They are also the directors of an annual accordion orchestra camp (formerly the Frank Marocco Accordion Event, now the Mesa Accordion Event) in Mesa, Arizona. Joan and Dan currently reside in Frederick, Maryland in a home lovingly filled with "all things accordion." For information, please contact Joan at: joangrauman@verizon.net ■

Artificial Tremolo and Bellows-Shake Accordions

Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D. – A World of Accordions Museum, Superior, WI

As the popularity of accordions raced forward in the 1940s-60s, so did the race among accordionists to achieve repertoires like that of celebrity performers. Manufacturers and patent designers contributed to the furor, in part to sell better quality instruments as they became available, and in part to cater to a public eager to be pleased. Virtuoso effects like bellows shakes were made easy for average accordionists by simply pressing a treble shift. The player of such an accordion need not acquire muscular discipline for concert compositions, and can employ an effortless additional variations-technique in his/her own arrangements. To some extent, this "brilliant but not difficult" mind-set has remained part of the American scene.

In some accordion models, a rubberized louver extends like a secondary pan between treble and bass sections. When the controlling shift is engaged, the louver approaches closure. Bellows air flutters through the flexible opening and quivers air flow to the reeds.

In both the Excelsior and the Wurlitzer piano accordions pictured below, gentle bellows pressures produce a tremolo effect while vigorous pressures produce bellows-shake effects by means of a solid secondary pan.



"Symphony Grand" Excelsior Model B2, donated in 2001 by Tony Fini (New York)



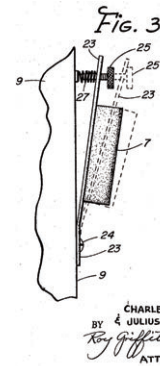
Wurlitzer "Approved and Endorsed by Phil Baker," donated in 2008 by Mardy Eisloeffel (Belleville, IL)

The internal construction is easily understood by examining a rare model by I. Busilacchio called "Accordinette." It features single-tongue reeds stimulated by unidirectional air from the divided bellows.



"Accordinette Brevetto Grosio" (Italy) 1950s

Inside view: single-tongue reed bank (L), secondary pan with weighted pallet (R)



Patent no. 3,267,790, Charles R. DeJohn, 1966

This kind of device was already used in button diatonic accordions and in Chemnitz concertinas by the late-1920s and early-1930s.

"Horenstein Superior Tremolo," Bellini Company (Italy) 1930s



Concertina" (Germany) 1930s



These instruments are maintained in A World of Accordions Museum in the section called "Sound Effects Instruments," which also includes soprano-, tenor-, cello- and bass-accordions, tremolo button diatonics and concertinas. ■

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Bellowing

Note: In her article 'Bellowing' J. B. Levine has compiled a variety of Accordion Events to show that by looking, you can discover a variety of events, in this case, in New York City and surrounding areas.

There are sometimes wistful conversations about the golden age of the accordion, but just as that precious ore has to be mined and refined, free reeds and their virtuoso players are all around us, you just have to know where to look.

On November 6th, many of us elected to have a memorable evening with the Long Island Accordion Alliance meeting at La Villini restaurant in East Northport—this was really the winning party! (For additional information, please see the item included in this newsletter). Enjoy the holidays and keep spirits high with the next meeting on Wednesday, January 2nd.

If you not only want to hear but hang out--literally--with Victor Prieto (victorprieto.net) on the third Thursday of almost every month, find your way to Terraza 7 (terrazacafe.com) in Elmhurst, Queens. The stage is suspended so that two floors of listeners can savor sounds and reasonably-priced drinks in a lively, diverse neighborhood.

On December 14, internationally acclaimed bandoneonist and composer JP Jofre will bring his trio to Manhattan's venerable Salmagundi Club for the monthly Tango Night (salmagundi.org); dance or listen in the art-filled gallery of this majestic Fifth Avenue townhouse.

Not only is Brooklyn a mecca for innovative art and fashion, but music venues like Barbes (barbesbrooklyn.com) host weekly events such as Tuesday night's Slavic Soul Party with stellar accordionist Peter Stan.

Among the many local and out-of-town visiting artists appearing at this cozy club are San Francisco's Gaucho (gauchojazz.com) who recently treated us to their vintage swing and original tunes, with Rob Reich warmly welcomed by legions of East Coast fans (robreich.com). Rob Reich with Gaucho.

Multi-instrumentalist George Saenz lends his talents to the earthy Latin sounds of NYC-based Cumbiagra and Jarana Beat; additionally, this Berklee grad is a button accordion hero, teaching children and adults through Calpulli Dance Company's Queens-based music instruction program that is held Saturdays throughout the year (calpullidance.org).

Could anything take the chill out of winter more efficiently than "chilling out" at Magnanini Winery in Walkill, NY with their Valtaro virtuosi. (For additional information, please see the item included in this Newsletter)

There used to be an advertisement for rye bread with the catchphrase "you don't have to be Jewish" and Patrick Farrell, Rob Curto and Josh Camp have all played klezmer to universal enjoyment. The Museum of Jewish Heritage (mjhny.org) is hosting two upcoming accordion-centric events: on December 2 world-music dynamo Uri Sharlin plays for lucky little ones and later in the month the Klezmatics enchant us with their lively blend of melodies and rhythms.

The best gift we give to our accordionist friends, their band mates, and ourselves is making the time in our schedules to hear them, give encouragement and perhaps gain some inspiration. Happy listening! ■



Rob Reich

USA Represented in Roland V-Accordion Festival, Rome

Svetlana Ivanchenko represented the USA in the 6th International Roland V-Accordion Festival in Rome.

Roland has released the names of fellow contestants who have qualified as finalists for the 6th Roland International V-Accordion Festival in Rome, which was held 2nd & 3rd November. The first round of the competition was held at the Cicerone Hotel, Rome with the second/final round, being held at the prestigious Auditorium Parco della Musica, Rome.

Contestants in country alphabetical order included: Rafael Petry (Brazil), John Lettieri (Canada), Qian He (China), Netta Skog (Finland), Guillaume Clerget (France), Michael Rettig (Germany), Paolo Forte (Italy), Tsuyuko Mirin (Japan), Pawel Janas (Poland), Klavdia Tarabrina (Russia), Javier Arocena (Spain), Larysa Bodell (UK), Svetlana Ivanchenko (USA).

Jury in country alphabetical order were: Wang Han Zhi (China), Toni Perttulla (Finland), Uwe Steger (Germany), Pietro Adragna (Italy), Grayson Masfield (New Zealand), Viatcheslav Semionov (Russia), Vojin Vasovic (Serbia).

Detailed information on the contestants, jury and venue are online now, with updated Daily Reports and live video being available during the festival at www.accordionists.com/roland/2012festival The winners of the 2012 event are: Klavdia Tarabrina - Russia - 1st place; Michael Rettig, German - 2nd place and Pawel Janas, Poland, 3rd place. Congratulations! ■



The Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra in Concert

The Westmont Philharmonia Orchestra (WPAO) will perform a free concert at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 1, 2012. This concert is sponsored by, and will be held in, the William G. Rohrer Library on MacArthur Blvd., Haddon Township, NJ 08108. Saturday, December 1, 2012. This concert is sponsored by and will be held in the William G. Rohrer Library on MacArthur Blvd, Haddon Township, NJ 08108.

The program will present the accordion through many of its popular genre, but most especially in the area of symphonic literature written exclusively for accordion orchestra. Included in the program will be the Symphonic Tone Poem by Gerhard Mohr, entitled *Nordische Sonate*, a three-movement tone poem describing the beautiful landscape of Germany. Concerto Soloist, Robert Lijana, will be featured in one of the very first concertos written exclusively for Accordion and Accordion Orchestra.

Also included in the program will be *In a Persian Market* by W. Ketelbey, *Aria* by J. S. Bach, and *Force of Destiny Overture* by the famous opera composer Verdi. In a different style, the orchestra will perform a *Medley from Grease*. This is only a sampling of what the orchestra is capable of sharing.

During the intermission, there will be a special "see and touch" presentation for children. Small child-size instruments will be available for them to experience. A display of current and historical instruments will be available for all to see. This display will

continued on next page

Westmont Philharmonia in Concert, cont'd from page 9

include instruments that date back to an 1833 accordion from Paris and will have instruments from the various developmental periods of the accordion.

The WPAO is an accordion ensemble that is devoted to performing music of great masters as well as ethnic, original, and popular compositions. The ensemble achieves a symphonic sound by the use of multiple reed registers and accordionists performing individual parts, much like a symphony orchestra. In 1976 and 1992, the orchestra was recognized as a Community Orchestra of Haddon Township. This ensemble has added significantly to the cultural aspects of Haddon Township, NJ.

For additional details about this concert please call 856-854-2752 (Haddon Township Library) or 856-854-6628. For more information about the orchestra: www.wpao.org ■



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Coast to Coast

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

Houston, TX

The Houston Accordion Association (HAA) meets the "third Tuesday" of every month...at 6:30 pm at the Pizza Inn, 1801 Mangum @ W. 18th St, in Houston, TX, 77092.

The Houston Accordion Association welcomes accordionists of all abilities and styles and accordion enthusiasts equally! No dues! No admission charge and No membership fees!

For more information, please contact HAA President Arlyn Visentin at: (832) 723 6810.

Reno, NV

"The Great American Polkafest" was held at Circus Circus, Reno, Nevada, on October 29th and 30th featured dancing to Polka Power California (Gary Seibert, Donna Seibert-Clay, Mark Seibert, Danny Fitterer, Fred Pfeffer, Stefan Kochishan), The Gruber Family Band (Martin Kramar, Michael Kramar, Peter Gruber, Toni Gruber), and The Steve Balich Polka Band, a good time was had by all. For information on future activities, e-mail: info@cbproductions.net

Spokane, WA

On October 23rd, 2012, Grayson Masfield presented the world premiere of Pi-



casso's Guernica for accordion and orchestra by Gorka Hermosa performing with the Spokane Symphony Orchestra.

The Confédération Mondiale de l'accordéon (CMA) held its 62nd Trophée Mondial at the Bing Crosby Theater in Spokane, Washington from October 23-27, 2012. For information, winners and reviews of the event, including video footage, please visit www.accordionists.com/cma

Orlando, FL

The Florida Accordion Association will celebrated its 12th An-

nual Florida SMASH: from November 9-11th in Orlando, Florida. Held at the Holiday Inn, Orlando Airport, the special event was a celebration of the 80th birthday of Tony Lovello. Also featured were well known accordionists, Joe Cerrito, Vladimir Mollov, John Lobosco,



Donna Regis and Michael Jude Ward-Bergeman. There were



dealer displays, Friday night Cafe Accordeon, 2012



Accordion Orchestra and much more. Paul Betken, of Tempe, AZ,

presented a tribute to Leon Sash. For more information on future events, please visit www.accordionists.com/florida or phone Karen Adam at: (850) 936-8722.

Branford, CT

The Connecticut Accordion Association's annual Christmas Concert will be held at the historic Blackstone Library on the Green in Branford on Saturday, December 15th at 2:00 p.m. The concert will feature the CT Accordion Orchestra, CT Ensemble and guest artist, Mary Tokarski. The event is open to the public without charge.

New York, NY

On November 4 and 11, Dr. Schimmel performed with Cabaret singer Mark Nadler in a show titled: "I'm a Stranger Here Myself" – a collection of songs written by composers during the Weimar Republic. The performances were held at

54 Below – a new performance space part of the famous Studio 54. On November 8, Dr. Schimmel performed with The New York City Opera in readings of New Works (Vox Series). On November 10, He also performed Luciano Berio's "Sequenza 13" at Cafe Vivaldi in New York (Greenwich Village).

Dr. Schimmel and his wife, director/choreographer, Micki Goodman have produced a new video: "Redemption" – which includes music and performance by Dr. Schimmel, videography and performance by Micki and editing by Deborah Magocsi. The video can be seen on YouTube. For further information please e-mail: billschimmel@billschimmel.com



Washington, DC

On December 13, Dr. William Schimmel will appear at the Phillips Collection in Washington DC, in a concert sponsored by The International Contemporary Ensemble. For further information please e-mail: billschimmel@billschimmel.com

Phoenix, AZ

The Annual Arizona Accordion Festival was held on September 29th in conjunction with the St Stephens Byzantine Cathedral's 2012 Oktoberfest. The Arizona Accordion Club had a booth selling CDs, shirts, gift items, and accordion music. A portion of the sales will be offered as a donation to St. Stephens' for the opportunity to promote the club to the public.



The Arizona Accordion Club meets every month on the third Monday and Club President Jack Dermody invites everyone to attend if you are in Phoenix, to enjoy a festive accordion evening. For more information please contact: Leigh Dechaine at: laneind@aol.com

Oberlin and Boston Heights, OH

The Pine Leaf Boys performed on November 16 at the 'Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse' and November 17 at the Boston Hts, Happy Days Visitor Center.

The Pine Leaf Boys is a Cajun and Creole band from South Louisiana. Members include: Wilson Savoy, Cajun accordion and vocals; Courtney Granger, fiddle and vocals; Jon Bertrand, guitars; Drew Simon, drums and vocals; Thomas David, bass. The band is known for playing traditional Cajun and Creole music from Southwest Louisiana, inspired by bands dating from the 1920s such as Amédé Ardoin to modern bands such as the Mamou Playboys, Jason Frey, Paul Daigle and Cajun Gold, all the way up to Wayne Toups. The Pine Leaf Boys are an "international Cajun band," performing many shows each year in Europe.

For further information on bookings in Louisiana: wilson-savoy@gmail.com

For all bookings outside of Louisiana: mattg@folklore-productions.com





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