



Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

MAY 2013

Here's What's Happening at AAA in 2013

MAY 14, 2013

AAA Board Meeting
Villa Mosconi
69 MacDougal Street, NYC

JULY 26-28, 2013

Master Class and Concert Series - The Seminars
The Accordion is 3D
Tenri Cultural Institute
43A W.13th 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
Tentative Schedule of Events:
Wednesday, August 14
Registration - 3:00 pm
Exhibits 5-9
Press & Squeeze
Thursday, August 15
Exhibits • Competition • Workshops
Int'l Concert
Accordions at Bryant Park
Friday, August 16
Exhibits • Competition • Workshops
Luncheon Concert
75th Anniversary Gala Concert
Saturday, August 17
Exhibits • Competition • Workshops
Awards Concert
Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble
Junior Festival Orchestra
75th Anniversary Gala Banquet
Sunday, August 18
Breakfast and Open Meeting
Farewell



From the Editor

Welcome to the May 2013 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

The excitement builds as we rapidly approach the AAA's Gala 75th Anniversary, a milestone for any organization! You'll find plenty of information on the many guests and activities in this and the July edition of the AAA Newsletter, as well as online at www.ameraccord.com Our 75th Anniversary Competition and Festival to be held in the heart of New York City has already attracted participants from around the globe and will truly be one to remember!

Once again my sincere thanks to the AAA President Linda Reed and Board of Director Rita Davidson for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. Items for the July Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the official AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com. Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word .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 July Newsletter will be June 15, 2013.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of the many upcoming events, and in particular, at the AAA 75th Anniversary Celebration in New York City.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



Dr. Willard "Bill" Palmer Legacy Celebration Ribbon Cutting

Among the names of great influences in American culture of the mid-20th century, of Willard Palmer stands as leader among accordionists. In a landmark event of unprecedented success, Willard Palmer's achievements were celebrated at Harrington ARTS Center and A World of Accordions Museum during three-and-a-half days of musical and scholarly events.

The opening from January 31 - February 3, 2013 was heralded by a ribbon-cutting event attended by invited political dignitaries and community leaders. Representing Mayor Hagen (Superior, WI) was Commissioner Mick MacKenzie, who read the Mayoral proclamation from a plaque designating January 31, 2013 as Willard Palmer Day. Representing the Superior Chamber of Commerce, two dozen Ambassadors presented another plaque in honor of the events. Speeches summarized the importance of Palmer as scholar, educator, arranger, editor and performer, followed by two musical examples from Palmer publications, and concluded by a social hour of food and drinks.

During the next three days, hundreds of attendees honored the life-works of Bill Palmer (DH, DMA, Ph.D.). A continual slate of morning-to-night performances included lunch and supper foods generously donated by local businesses. Although two headliner artists were last-minute omissions, Willard Palmer III, in attendance from his home in Houston, Texas, and a consummate professional entertainer of multiple talents kept excitement at a high. In one concert, about 30 musicians demonstrated pieces from Palmer's method books. In another concert, pianist Samuel Black performed from Palmer-edited Alfred Masterwork series. The stage was filled by several famed bands and two orchestral arrangements by Harrington. Direct from Paris, Prof. Dr. Bernard Metais offered two PowerPoint programs, one on the evolution of French Musette, the other exploring psychological and brain interactions between composer and listener. Award-winning author Anthony Bukoski offered readings from his books, one on his first acquaintanceship with the accordion museum, the other on tango stories. The final performance was by Helmi Harrington, playing on Palmer's last Titano, a unique Super Emperor, explaining its extraordinary features, and exploring its



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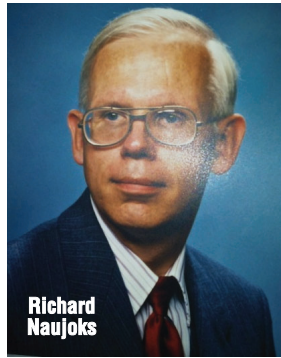
Bill Palmer Legacy, cont'd. from page 1

miraculous construction through disassembly. The final event was a champagne toast in honor of Palmer. *"We plan to make Willard Palmer Celebrations an annual event."*

Palmer's multiple gifts affect generations in world culture from the 1940s into the future. Translated into 17 languages for use by music teachers worldwide, Palmer-Hughes piano, organ, guitar, and accordion method books (numbering 790) tutor aspirants at all levels. His 145 Masterwork editions for Alfred Music are considered definitive for Baroque, Classic and Romantic epochs' performance practice. Inestimable millions owe a debt of gratitude to this genius whose extant works are now perpetually preserved in our institution. We believe it is no exaggeration to say the status of A World of Accordions Museum is raised, as is prestige for the Midwest region, through this donation from Texas family holdings. ■

Richard Naujoks Passes Away

Richard A. Naujoks died on Monday, February 25, 2013, at age 70. He is survived by his wife Anne Shifflett; his sister, Phyllis Enders (Don) of Wauwatosa, WI; his brother, Bob (Sharon Reilly); a host of cousins; and his close and compassionate friends, Paula Smith, Helen Wolf, Gracie Bernardi, and Mary Kathryn Archuleta. He was preceded in death by his parents, Waldemar and Genevieve (McCarthy) Naujoks, and his first wife, Sharon (Smith). His birthplace was Cleveland, Ohio.



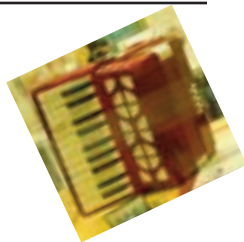
Richard Naujoks

Richard was well-known for his musical vocation, playing accordion and brass instruments. He had a 20-year career in various U.S. Army bands playing in many parts of the world. He was staff band arranger, and also played French horn and trumpet. His favorite assignments were two tours in Germany, the first with the 1st Armored Division in Ansbach, and the second with 298th Army Band, the "Berlin Brigade Band." He was also in Seoul, Korea, with the 8th Army Band. He was a member of the Jubilee Polka Band led by Urban Kneupper for 15 years. He was the assistant director of *Dreams Fulfilled Through Music*, and arranged for their musical group, the Alamo Angels Accordion Orchestra. As a solo accordionist, he entertained at many retirement and nursing homes throughout South Texas. Richard earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1965 and had a Master of Music Education degree from University of Texas, San Antonio, 1992.

The Memorial Service for Richard was held at the Windcrest United Methodist Church in San Antonio on Thursday, April 11, 2013. A video tribute in his honor is on the *Dreams Fulfilled Through Music* website at (www.dftm.org). Memorials may be made to Dreams Fulfilled Through Music, P.O. Box 40548, San Antonio, TX 78229; the San Antonio Accordion Association, Maggie Bowker, 4203 Big Meadows, San Antonio, TX 78230; or the Windcrest United Methodist Church, 8101 Midcrown Drive, San Antonio, TX 78239. ■



Exhibit of accordions at Shrub Oak Library (NY) from the collection of instruments owned by Herman & Mary Ivanow



Willard Palmer's Harpsichord donated to A World of Accordions Museum

The Harrington ARTS Center and A World of Accordions Museum is honored to announce the impending arrival of 'Big Red', the harpsichord specially built for Dr. Willard Palmer, whose donated lifeworks were recently celebrated at the institution. The two-manual, eleven-pedal, ten-foot harpsichord was built in 1976 by A. Cecil Taylor of Houston, TX. It is elaborately decorated in red and gold casework and French baroque soundboard figures.

Mr. Willard Palmer, III, son of Dr. Willard Palmer, notified the institution of his intention to donate and transport the instrument to Superior, WI, in May or June. Festive concerts will be scheduled after the installation.

This magnificent instrument will grace the Hanni Strahl Concert Hall, adding a significant resource to artist-performers of our concert events. Its very presence will also showcase the serious musical interests of this institution, the confidence imbued in its continuance, and its importance in musical instrument collection. ■



Putting a Face to a Name

"It is always nice to place a name with a face," and at the Carrozza Scholarship Dinner on April 21st, that is exactly what happened. AAA President Linda Soley Reed got to meet 2 members who were merely names. Herman and Mary Ivanow (pictured right) attended the event and as Herman states, *"It was just awesome to have attended the Carrozza fundraiser. It was also a good to time to place our names to our face, right? Now you know me and I know you! Excellent!"*



Herman shared the "story" of how both he and Mary got interested in the accordion.

"Mary and I loved the accordion since youth, but never took lessons. In the past years, we purchased several "boxes" (see photos left and above). We both learned by ear. We both started learning when we were over 65. We teach each other the tunes and lyrics (the blind leading the blind syndrome!). We both go to the park 'promoting' our instruments (by playing) to any passer-by, especially children, who are so intrigued. Then, our "Shrub Oak (NY) Library" (where Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini performed) let us display our "boxes" in their showcase. It was a success! We even got several feedbacks by people who used to play long ago and also others who inquired where to purchase accordions... coming to the Carrozza fundraiser, was the epic of our 'career'!" ■

Beverly Roberts Curnow is 2013 AAMS Honoree

Beverly Roberts Curnow was the 2013 Honoree of the AAMS (American Accordion Musicological Society) and featured guest artist at the Gala Banquet and Concert held on March 16, 2013 in East Hanover, New Jersey.

Beverly, a student of Carmen Carrozza and winner of the 1965 AAA National Competition and the Confederation of International Accordionists Competition in Valletta, Malta (the first female contestant to do so), holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Music Education from New York University and Columbia University. Following graduation, she taught choral, instrumental, and general music at all levels in the Wilson Area public school system of Easton, PA for thirty-five years.

Lenny Feldmann was the Commentator and Master of Ceremonies and entertainer. The concert included the Accordion Pops Orchestra conducted by Al Terzo and Eugene DeBellis as Assistant Conductor, 2012 AAA USA Champion Albert Manginelli, 9 year old Cody McSherry, the Potomac Accordion Ensemble conducted by Joan Grauman, Mary Tokarski, Silvia Eberly, the Westmont Accordion Club conducted by Joanna Darrow and the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra conducted by Stanley Darrow.

The program was a wonderful display of the versatility of the accordion and the warm camaraderie of the musicians and attendees. ■



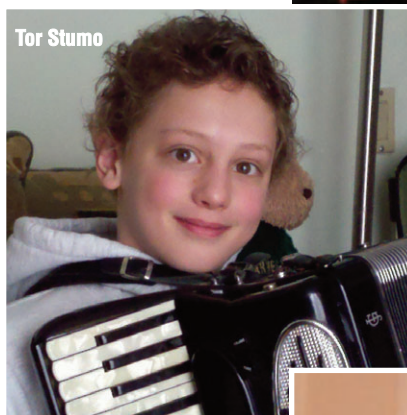
Beverly Roberts Curnow

AAA Selects Four Contestants for Coupe Mondiale Competitions

The AAA hosted their qualifying round for students interested in participating in the 2013 Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA) Coupe Mondiale competitions in Victoria, British Columbia. Four candidates in all were selected, three to represent



Naomi Harris



Tor Stumo

the AAA/USA in the Junior International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music and one in the Senior International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music.

Naomi Harris of Spokane, Washington,

was one of the three representatives for the Junior division. Naomi is a student of Patricia Bartell in Spokane. The other contestants include Rachel Quirbach of New Hampshire who studies with Donna Michael at Miguel School of Music in Lowell, MA and Tor Stumo of



Rachel Quirbach



Sam Thomas

Massachusetts who is a student of Mary Tokarski in Northford, CT.

Sam Thomas will represent the AAA/USA in the International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music. Also from Spokane, WA, Sam is a student of Ilmar Kuljis. Sam is no stranger to CIA Coupe Mondiale competitions. He represented the AAA/USA in both the Junior International Competition for

Virtuoso Entertainment Music (4th place) and the International Competition for Piano Accordion in Norway in 2006 and the Senior International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music (5th Place) and International Competition for Piano Accordion in Alexandria, VA in 2007.

Please note the following corrections/additions to the 2013 AAA Contest Rules:

Festival Band Category is now called Entertainment AAA.

Cash Awards will be presented in the 1st place winners in the Founder's categories:
Juniorette - \$25, Junior - \$50, Intermediate - \$75, Senior - \$100, Adult - \$100

Open Solo – Contestants may play anything they wish, except Ethnic, Pop or Jazz

Updated Rules are online at www.ameraccord.com

AAA Coupe Mondiale Contestants, cont'd. from page 3

Utilizing the technology of today, the two contestants from Spokane performed via Skype for the AAA Adjudicators, Linda Soley Reed, President and Frank Busso, 1st Vice President.

We wish our young artists the best of luck at the 66th Coupe Mondiale in Victoria, BC, and for those readers who are not able to attend the festival in Canada to cheer on our AAA contestants, you are invited to follow their performances via 'Live Streaming' during the competition time frame. Simply visit www.coupemondiale.org during the competition and follow the appropriate links. ■

The Accordion is 3D, No Glasses Required

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Master Class and Concert Series celebrates its 19th season on July 26, 27 and 28 at Tenri Cultural Institute, 43A West 13th Street, in New York. Master classes are at 3 pm. Concerts at 7 pm.

The title of the Seminars is "The Accordion is 3D-No Glasses Required." The

moderator/curator, Dr. William Schimmel, projects that it will be the best one yet: intriguing workshops, stellar performances and, most of all, a collegial attitude in its presentation.

Master Classes are at 3:00 p.m.. Concerts take place at 7 p.m. \$20/master class; \$25/concert; \$40/day includes master class and concert. Or \$110/weekend.



Participants come from the local New York area, across the United States, as well as China, Japan, Argentina, Croatia and Norway. Guest artists during the weekend include Dr. Schimmel, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Erica Mancini, Peter Flint, John Foti, Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Micki Goodman presenting a new video work, Doug Makofka, Ken Laufer, Paul Stein, Ingrid Kvale, Martina Li, Mayumi Mayaota, Corn Mo, Mary Tokarski, Will Holshouser, Bob Goldberg and The Famous Accordion Orchestra, David Stoler, Art Bailey, Brian Dewan and Melissa Elledge.

In addition to the distinguished line-up, the following has been added: A COMPCORD SUITE featuring Di J Noizepunk (Gene Pritsker) and Dr. Schimmel performing works by Dan Cooper, Patrick Grant, Jed Distler, Joe Pehrson, Milica Paronovic, Dr. Schimmel and Gene Pritsker, as well as a seven minute remix of Maria de Buenos Aires (Piazzolla) and Lights (Goulding).

For reservations and information, please visit www.ameracord.com or call 212-876-0827 (office) 917-498-6823 (cell). ■

New England Music Festival

The Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts recently celebrated their 51st Music Festival at the Boston Newton Marriott in Newton, MA.

In 2012, the ATAM celebrated their 50th anniversary with the Air Force Strolling Strings performing for over 500 people at Saturday night's milestone banquet which was attended by over 35 past champions, past members and current contestants and their families. Equally as well supported, Festival Chairman Peggy Falcetti, from Springfield, MA, reported that over 700 contestants took part in the 2013 event. Two new and exciting workshops were presented by Jay Latulippe and Sam Falcetti. The workshops entitled "How to Memorize a Song In 5 Minutes" and "Choosing a Career in Music" and were offered free to festival attendees.

The ATAM awarded a \$500.00 Music Scholarship to Tia Bowen of Falcetti Music who is planning on majoring in music in college this September and the New England Accordion Champion crown went to Rachel Quirbach from Miguel Music and the ATAM Accordion Entertainment championship was won by Ollie Luey from Badea Music.

The festival also showcased the premier performance of the "New England Roland V Accordion Orchestra". This orchestra is the first of its kind in the United States and was conducted by AAA Board of Director Sam Falcetti from Springfield, MA.

The New England Music Festival is an annual musical competition sponsored by the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts, Inc. (ATAM; established in 1962) which typically features more than 3000 entries and 800 contestants from all across New England.

For information on the 2014 Festival, please visit www.accordionists.com/atam ■

Bruce Gassman Releases New CD

Accordionist Bruce Gassman has just released his latest CD, "CLASSIC ROCK ACCORDION 2 BRUCE, Volume II" which was recorded live at Jankland Studios in Wall Township, NJ.

Bruce includes classic rock artists pieces such as Sly & the Family Stone; Steppenwolf; Otis Redding; The Drifters; Booker T & the MGs and James Brown, the Beatles, Bruce Springsteen, Sam Cooke and the Righteous Brothers. Included on the CD is a bonus track, a dedication to the Legendary Dick Contino.

For further information, please contact Bruce at: accordion2bruce@gmail.com ■



Festival Orchestra music available for distribution.

See back page for details.

Registration required.

Festival order form enclosed with this newsletter.

Special package plans available.

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

Accordion Spotlight

by Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D.

• Foot Pedal Accordion

More than one type of accordion is called a “foot-pedal” instrument. This is one in which air is supplied to the bellows of a B-system chromatic accordion by pumping of alternate pedals placed ahead of the seated player who has no physical control of the instrument other than through button selection. This is an early chromatic accordion made in Poland, ca. late 1800s. Its treble keyboard is a three-row lever type, and the bass section is a standard Stradella pitch organization. The exterior is heavily ornamented by inlay abalone.

The instrument was acquired by purchase through Stanley Darrow (New Jersey) in the mid-1990s. The set-up pictured shows the foot pedals in front of the stand for display purposes. For actual use, pedals would be reversed and behind the stand. The instrument cannot be played through bellows movements. ■



Foot Pedal Accordion

• Two-System Treble Accordion

This is one of the few dual-treble section instruments in A World of Accordions Museum. Unlike many chromatic accordions whose key shanks are topped to appear like piano keys, this accordion operates a true piano keyboard and an independent chromatic “Chiclet” keyboard. The player, then, can use either keyboard for ease of passage work or use both concurrently. The chromatic portion is organized as a “C” System, but black and white key tops are assigned for design rather than for pitch designation.

Built ca. 1930 during the vaudeville era, this instrument appealed to American audience preferences for an understandable mini-piano rather than unfathomable button assortments. Since many European immigrants seeking fame in the theater circuits played chromatic button keyboards, use of this instrument would seem to be a perfect compromise except for the unwieldy imbalance of the heavy treble section.

Presumably an Italian product, the exact manufacturer is not specified on the instrument. Ornamentation designs, often indicative of a maker, are not definitive.

This instrument was acquired by purchase of some 80 accordions from a Sheboygan collector. In fact, the decision to buy the group was largely in order to acquire this particular one. ■



Two-System Treble Accordion

• Borsini “Nostalgic” Accordion

Beginning during the 1980s, a wave of nostalgia has swept through the USA, spurred in part by the national success of Alex Haley’s book *Roots*. Many people of all colors looked into their heritages and ethnic backgrounds, impelling a lasting interest in playing ethnic music on original instruments. Many small bands and combos have found fame by specializing in Old Tyme music, or by creating new music in the style of European forebears. Today as in previous times Slovenian music is commonly played on Slovenian button diatonic accordions, Scandinavian music uses button chromatic accordions, Polish and German styles use Chemnitz concertinas and button diatonics, South American music uses Bandoneons, and so on. While industry sales remain biased toward piano accordions, a much wider array of accordion types are restored by technicians and are demanded by the public.

When in 1999 I visited the Borsini Accordion Company in Castelfidardo, Italy, GianCarlo Borsini acted as a most personable guide through the plant. He marvelled when I told him about my accordion museum and repair technicians’ school and took special effort in showing and telling about all aspects of his production. He concluded in the area where new instruments are viewable in multilayered racks. Among them were two that particularly interested me. He called them “Nostalgic” models because their body styles and ornamentation imitated 1930s types, but the insides were constructed of modern materials and comply with modern ease-of-playing expectations. One of these instruments, the “Lars Ek Model,” is displayed in A World of Accordions Museum. It is a “C-System” button chromatic, with 92 treble keys and 120 Stradella basses. One treble palm shift toggles between sounding two middle-range reed banks (tuned lightly tremolo) and a third reed bank adding a low octave. Similarly, a bass shift toggles between four and five reed banks.

Displayed next to the Borsini is a photo of Lars Ek (right) holding his original accordion. He is pictured with Minnesotan Orville Lindholm (left). Ek is one of Sweden’s leading accordionists, founder (1985) and chairman of the Frosini Society that seeks to protect historic music. ■



Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini Perform at the LIAA

The featured guest artists for the April meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) were champion accordionist, Mario Tacca and Internationally acclaimed soprano, Mary Mancini.

Mary Mancini has achieved national and international acclaim for her vocal versatility and command of all styles of music. Her repertoire includes eight languages.

Whether performing our National Anthem for the NY Yankees and the Milwaukee Brewers or captivating audiences in concert halls and theaters across the U.S., Canada, Europe and China, Mary Mancini consistently brings audiences to their feet with her musical interpretations of International favorites, Broadway tunes, opera, the classics, and pop. In addition, her inspiring renditions from the sacred music repertoire have touched the hearts of people around the world.

Her growing list of achievements, honors and awards include recognition from: The International Festival of the Arts (Canada), The Chinese Government, The American Song Festival, The American Cancer Society, Guardia Lombardi Society, Circolo da Vinci Society, Westchester Community College - Il Club Italiano, and the Lifetime Award for Achievement in the Arts presented by the Order of Sons of Italy in America, NYS Grand Lodge Foundation.

AAA 2nd Vice President, Mario Tacca was born in Italy. During his childhood, his family moved to the Alsace Lorraine region of France where he began his musical studies. This is where his love and intense desire to play the accordion began. He loved the sound! He would pick up the accordion and imitate some of the songs his mother used to sing. The desire and love never diminished, despite having to walk three miles weekly to his teacher with his instrument strapped to his back!

While in France, he was the winner of many regional and national accordion competitions. He went on to become a world champion, winning the World Cup of Italy, the Grand Prix of Paris,



Mary Mancini
and
Mario Tacca

the US National Competition and the International Accordion competition held at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Mario Tacca dazzles audiences across the U.S. and around the world with his virtuosity on the accordion and his exciting interpretations of international music, the classics and pop.

The monthly LIAA event takes place at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY. For further information please e-mail Dominic Karcic at: dkarcic10@verizon.net ■

Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, together with Beverly Roberts Curnow will be the featured artists at the AAA 75th Anniversary Luncheon and Concert honoring Carmen Carozza. The Luncheon & Concert will take place at the New Yorker Hotel, Friday, August 16, 2013 in the Grand Ballroom beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Luncheon Concert is sponsored in part by a generous donation from Alex Carozza of Alex Music NYC. Alex is pictured at right with AAA President, Linda Soley Reed.



John Franceschina Arrangements Featured in Roland Orchestra

John Franceschina studied accordion with Sam Falcetti from the age of five and he began composing and arranging a few months later. He has composed many wonderful works for the accordion, both solo and ensemble and orchestra, as well as in combination with other instruments.

His former teacher, Sam Falcetti said, "It seems like yesterday when John was studying the accordion with me. At the age of 7 he wrote his 1st four part arrangement of his own composition, 'Camel Walk,' and conducted the arrangement himself. At 11 he was given a full scholarship at Hartt College of Music at the University of Hartford in Connecticut.

At that time, he studied theory, harmony and composition. John won many trophies at the AAA Eastern Cup and the ATAM competitions including some top virtuoso and jazz categories. At 12, John played a whole program accompanied by a drummer and bass player.

At 19, one of his shows opened off Broadway. Thru his career, John

orchestrated over 100 arrangements for the internationally famous Springfield Accordion Orchestra. Two of these arrangements were recently re-orchestrated by John specially for the Roland Digital Accordion Orchestra including 'Tuxedo Junction' and the 'Godfather Medley.'

Among his many compositions for all mediums, his accordion works include a concerto for Accordion and Symphony Orchestra; Three Concertos for Accordion and Accordion Orchestra; and numerous concert works for accordion orchestra including Vathek, Kynaston, Oroonoko, Cad d'Zan, The Time Machine, Polk Street Fantasy, Iconosphere (written for the CIA World Accordion Orchestra in 2010 in Croatia), Journey to the Center of the Earth and Houthebeen. Solo works for accordion include Scaramouche, County Fair, Queen Mab and Conestoga.

His fifth symphony, Oroonoko, was premiered in the Netherlands in October 2008, and other symphonic works have been heard at

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Franceschina Arrangements Featured, cont'd from p. 6

Carnegie Hall and performed by major symphony orchestras around the world. As a pianist/arranger, he has accompanied Angela Lansbury, Elke Sommer, Nell Carter, Jan Peerce, Robert Merrill, Lotte Lenya, Paige O'Hara, Chita Rivera, and Gwen Verdon, and he has served as conductor and arranger for a number of off-Broadway shows, including *Chase a Rainbow*, *The Boy Who Made Magic*, *The Rise of David Levinski*, and *Be Kind to People Week*. In New York City, he most recently directed the 50th anniversary production of Michael McClure's ground-breaking play, "The Beard."



John Franceschina

A consultant to the British Library, the Smithsonian Institution, and Oxford University Press, John also serves as an educator with thirty years of college teaching experience and he has lectured at top musical institutions all around the world, and in addition to publishing many books. ■

World Music Festival in Innsbruck

The 11th World Music Festival, held under the auspices of the CIA member, the Deutscher Harmonika-Verband e.V. (DHV) will take place in Innsbruck, Austria from May 9-12th, 2013. Held every three years, the festival features more than 450 accordion orchestras and ensembles in some twenty categories of competition of Accordion Orchestra, Ensemble and Chamber Music attracting up to 10,000 attendees from around the world. To accommodate the tremendous number of people, the final Prize Giving concert and ceremony is held in the Innsbruck Winter Olympic Stadium with fans and attendees dressing up and cheering in a manner rivalling any major International sports event.

New to the 2013 Festival will be the formation of the European Accordion Orchestra under the direction of renowned musician, composer, arranger and conductor Hanz-Günther Kölz. AAA Board of Director Kevin Friedrich will perform in this orchestra representing the CIA.

In addition to the competitions, the festival will host a round table panel discussion between the European Accordion Federation (EAF), the host of the festival, the DHV and the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) on the situation of the accordion in Europe, as well as many concerts featuring the grand prize winners of the 2010 Festival, the Nürnberger Accordion Orchestra under the direction of Stefan Hippe, the German Accordion Orchestra directed by Fritz Dobler, the Hohner Accordion Orchestra directed by Johannes Baumann, the Concertino Ensemble from Moldavia, Rälläkkä from Finland, the famed Hohnerklang Orchestra from Trossingen directed by Hanz-Günther Kölz, Los Mighty Calacas from Mexico, Gitanes Blondes from Russia and many more. ■

Rare Kauri Accordion Arrives in New York

As part of an International venture between New Zealand and Finland and the U.S.A., a local craftsman in Finland has constructed the world's first accordions made from the prized native New Zealand 'Kauri' tree.

The dream of New York resident and AAA Board of Directors member Kevin Friedrich, born in Dargaville, New Zealand (near where the giant Kauri trees grow), and regular visits to CIA headquarters in Ikaalinen, Finland, the home to a rare accordion making school, where trainees are taught the art of constructing accordions in the traditional Finnish folk style, this project combines the rich and rare tradition of Finland's accordion-making culture with the stunning timber of the New Zealand Kauri tree.

Under the hands of master Finnish craftsman, Aaro Luukinen, the dream of a Kauri instrument has now become a reality. Three tiny but magnificent instruments K1, K2 and K3 have been crafted. The first of the instruments K1, will be housed at the Dargaville Museum, which already features extensive displays on the history of the Kauri trade in the Dargaville area. This instrument crafted from Kauri timber from Dargaville, will be used for performances in the region to showcase this unique and beautiful instrument, the world's first made from the Kauri timber.



Kevin Friedrich, Kimmo Matilla and Aaro Luukinen performing on the "Kauri."

K2 will be housed in Ikaalinen, Finland and will be the showcase instrument of the craftsman and accordion making facility, while K3 will become the personal instrument for Kevin to keep in New York City.

Each instrument, while similar in design, is slightly unique, and profiles the individual finishing touches of Aaro's design. In addition, each instrument has a unique grill pattern designed by Aaro's wife, Henriikka. The three patterns, all hand carved by Aaro are titled 'Birth', 'Growth' and 'Departure.'

The instruments were completed and officially unveiled on January 30, 2013 in Ikaalinen, Finland at an International Press Conference, (resulting in nationwide coverage of the project), with the debut performance being held at Kevin's annual New Zealand concert on March 24th, 2013 in Dargaville, New Zealand.

Craftsman Aaro Luukinen was born in Lapland in Northern Fin-

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Kauri Accordion Arrives, cont'd from page 7

land. His father Matti Luukinen had an accordion workshop and a small factory in the village of Salla. The workshop specialized in diatonic accordions and was the only accordion manufacturer in Finland since the Kouvola factory stopped in 1995. Matti Luukinen worked for more than 30 years building accordions. Aaro grew up in this atmosphere of accordion building and got a lot of knowledge from his father. Both parents were professional with Aaro's mother making more than 500 sets of accordion bellows by herself.

Aaro studied accordion building at the Ikaalinen Arts and Crafts School and graduated as an Artisan in 2003. He worked in his father's factory from 2006-2008 and since then, he has operated his own accordion workshop and now serves as a teacher of accordion making at the Ikaalinen College of Crafts and Design.

Diatonic instruments are quite popular among the Cajun musicians of the southern United States, however the Finnish diatonic system is unique in both design and notation.

The team in Finland assisting Kevin in the development of the instrument included Kimmo Mattila (Project Manager in Finland), Aaro Luukinen (Artisan and teacher at the Ikaalinen College of Crafts and Design - IKATA), the late Jarmo Salin (Teacher of the IKATA Department of Design), Joni Liukkonen (Director of IKATA) and Tapio Nysten (Head teacher of the IKATA accordion crafting department).

Kevin, Kimmo and Aaro are pictured (see page 7) performing at the Press Conference and Presentation Ceremony on January 30, 2013 in Ikaalinen, Finland, and the instrument pictured below is K1 'Birth.'

For more information and pictures of the crafting process, please visit: www.accordions.com/kevin/n_kauriaccordion.htm ■

We are hoping to have the Kauri at the AAA 75th Anniversary in New York City - a special presentation will be included in the exhibit area at the Festival



San Antonio Accordionist receives International Award for Students with Disabilities

Twenty-one year old accordionist Darien Williams is a gifted musician, overcoming all obstacles and showing his peers the meaning of dedication. Because of his achievements, Darien received the 2013 Yes I Can! Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) at the Yes I Can! Awards Ceremony on April 5th at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio as part of the CEC 2013 Convention & Expo.

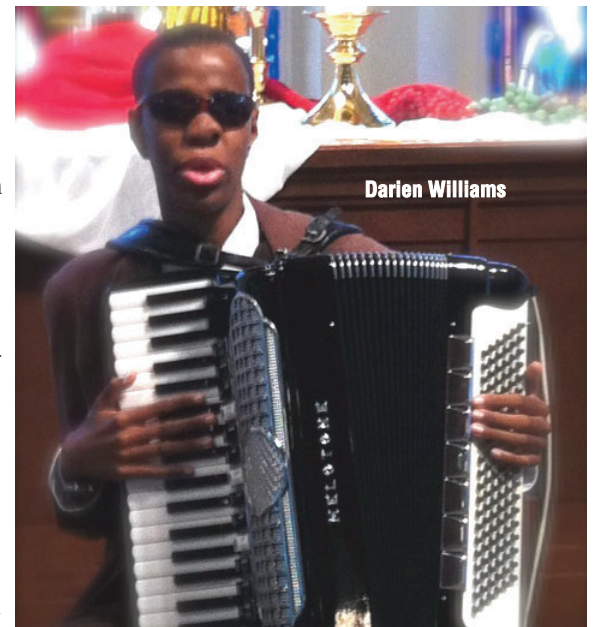
CEC is an international membership organization composed of special and gifted education professionals who work to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy.

Each year, the Yes I Can! program recognizes the accomplishments of 21 students. Awards are given in seven categories: academics, arts, athletics, school and community activities, self-advocacy, technology, and transition. CEC is proud to honor Darien with this award in the arts category.

"The Yes I Can! Awards were developed to recognize the accomplishments of students with disabilities who have achieved remarkable things," says CEC President Christy A. Chambers. "Darien is most deserving of this award for his hard work and perseverance."

As with many individuals with autism, Darien's focus and interest is in the one primary area, his being his love and gift for music. Darien, who was born blind, did not let this stop him from learning how to play multiple instruments, including the piano, organ and accordion, to name a few. Darien has the rare gift of "perfect pitch" without needing the benefit of any formal musical training.

Darien has performed in more than 20 public and community service recitals each year since moving to San Antonio in 2008. Darien won first place in each of the



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Accordionist Receives International Award, cont'd from page 8

five festivals he has entered with typically developing peers.

"*Darien is one of the strongest performers in the Alamo Angels Accordion Orchestra,*" said Mary Kathryn Archuleta, Darien's nominator and music teacher. "*He is able to carry the tenor part of the ensemble and follow the director with the greatest of accuracy, even though he cannot see the conductor! Darien is one of the most dedicated students in his practice, always striving to be*

the best he can be!"

For more information about CEC's annual convention, please visit www.cec.sped.org/convention. ■

Come and meet Darien at the AAA 75th Anniversary together with others from Dreams Fulfilled Through Music!

Peter Soave Performs with Chicago Opera Theater (COT)

Recognized worldwide as a master of bandoneon and concert accordion, Peter Soave has established himself as one of the leading soloists of his generation. The hallmark of his performances is a unique combination of his commanding stage presence and the excitement of his vibrant virtuosity.

These talents were called upon and recognized with critical acclaim during the recent production by the Chicago Opera Theater's (COT) production of "Maria de Buenos Aires" which concluded on April 27th.

The Chicago Tribune's journalist John von Rhein reported that 'just as the composer, Astor Piazzolla, breathed new life into the tango as a musical form, so has Andreas Mitisek, COT's brilliant general director, transformed a dramatically static piece into a chilling examination of one woman's fate during Argentina's 1976-83 "Dirty War" against dissidents.' An estimated 30,000 people were abducted, imprisoned, tortured, murdered or simply disappeared under the brutal rule of a military dictatorship.

Piazzolla's 1968 magnum opus, with a surreal libretto by Horacio Ferrer, is a kind of song-and-dance Passion play, in which Maria, a streetwalker "born on a day when God was drunk," represents both the Virgin Mary and Jesus. She is killed by pimps and thieves and, after her resurrection, gives birth to a beatified version of herself. The 75-minute piece, which its creators dubbed a "tango operita," unfolds more as a series of poetic tableaux than an opera — hence the challenge to all who would stage it.

Mitisek has done so brilliantly, using a narrator and two singers, plus eight dancers from Chicago's Luna Negra Dance Theater, to create a beautifully integrated swirl of song, speech, dance, mime, dramatic action and video imagery. It's as fluid and intoxicating as the tango rhythms that well up from the nine-member pit band under Mitisek's baton.

In the conductor-director-designer's gritty retelling, Maria represents all women who disappeared or died ignominiously in the "Dirty War." Her former lover, now an old man called El Duende, recalls in flashbacks their brief happiness before she is captured, raped and left to languish in a prison cell. Here the bandoneon sings a song of mourning far removed from the snappy, slinky music of seduction commonly associated with the tango.

That Mitisek makes the conceptual unity work without having to change a single word of Ferrer's richly metaphoric text, or a single note in Piazzolla's catchy score, is remarkable. As conductor, he is fully inside the musical idiom, as Piazzolla's tangos shift the mood from romantic to anxious to consoling. His ensemble of strings, flute, piano, percussion and, most crucially, bandoneon, is right there with him. Peter Soave deserves a special shout-out for the marvellous way in which he makes his expressive bandoneon virtually a full-fledged character in the drama.

Some of the many other reviews included:

• **Newcity Stage** review quote:

Kudos as well to the two narrators, Gregorio Luke and Gregorio Gonzalez, and to bandoneon player Peter Soave, who manages to constantly keep our interest, even when playing a single note quietly, but expressively. (Dennis Polkow)



Chicago Music review quote:

Ultimately, the music drove the show's energy with strong solo performances from violinist Florentina Ramniceanu, cellist Mark Lekas, and flutist Mary Stolper. Peter Soave's bandoneon let one imagine the composer himself in the pit. Never a company to shy away from risks, Chicago Opera Theater - with Mitisek firmly in command - put on a visually and aurally intoxicating production. (Margaret Sutherland)

• **Chicago Theater Beat** review quote:

Peter Soave on the bandoneón turns one note into many emotional evocations. (Clint May)

No stranger to the American accordion scene, Peter's earliest memories are of music played on an accordion. By age three, he was certain of his life's work. He began music studies at five, and quickly gravitated towards classical music. At sixteen, he entered international competitions and swept first place four times, confirming his reputation as a virtuoso of the highest order: Grand Prix in Neu Isenberg, West Germany; Klingenthal Wettbewerb in East Germany; Coupe Mondiale in Folkstone, England; and the Trophee Mondiale in Arzano, Italy.

In 1987, Peter Soave was the inaugural recipient of "Voce d'Oro," the international award honoring those who have given

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Peter Soave, cont'd. from page 9

prominence to the accordion in the world of modern music. Deeply inspired by the music of Argentinean composer, Astor Piazzolla, Peter's impassioned musicianship motivated him to include the characteristic bandoneon in his performances.

He has appeared as a soloist and with orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout North and South America, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Russia. He has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Zagreb Philharmonic, Windsor Symphony, Flint Symphony, San Salvador Philharmonic, Belgrade Philharmonic, Lubbock Symphony, Bellevue Philharmonic, Walla Walla Symphony, Orquesta Sinfónica de Puerto Rico, Williamsport Symphony, Orquesta Sinfónica Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho and The Zagreb Soloists. In addition, he has collaborated with conductors such as James Levine, Neeme Jarvi, Thomas Wilkins, Robert Spano, Leone Mageira, Hermann Michael, Duilio Dobrin, and Guillermo Figueroa. For the only North America appearance in 1999 of the "Three Tenors," Peter performed as the featured bandoneonist. He has also appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America."

In 2007, Soave premiered Astor Piazzolla's oratorio "El Pueblo Joven," written for symphony orchestra, voice recitative, soprano, bandoneon, choir, and percussion, with the Radio Romania Chamber Orchestra, Romania.

Peter has had numerous compositions written for him by the Venezuela's foremost composer, Aldemaro Romero: "Piazzollana-Homage à Piazzolla" for bandoneon and full orchestra; "Suite de Castelfidardo" for bandoneon and string orchestra; "Soavecito" for accordion and string orchestra; and "Tango Furioso" for bandoneon and string quartet. Romero's "Five Paleontological Mys-

teries," for accordion and string quartet, received its American premiere in Detroit in February 2008 and its European premiere in Italy in July 2008.

His discography includes a solo album "Pride and Passion," "Five Tango Sensations" with The Rucner String Quartet, a double CD "Undertango 2," and "Peter Soave & Symphony Orchestra," featuring the music of Astor Piazzolla and Carmine Coppola. His recording awards include the Detroit Music Award for Best Classical Recording in 2001 and Best Classical Instrumentalist in 2003.

Eager to harmonize nature and music, more recently, Peter founded the Peter Soave Music Academy in the Dolomite Mountains in Italy in 2010, welcoming music lovers to convene and share. For more information, please visit www.petersoave.com ■

The Accordion In the Heart of New York City!

In New York? Love the accordion? Like eating lunch? Why not put it all together and enjoy a variety of accordionists, every Monday, Tuesday and Friday lunchtime in Bryant Park in the heart of Manhattan. August 15th will be the Grand Finale and final day of the Bryant Park accordion program and the AAA will be supplying the entertainment from 5-7 pm and 7-9 pm as well as an open jam session from 9 to 10 pm including a mass band performance of New York, New York at 7:00 pm in front of the fountain at Bryant Park.

Bryant Park is situated behind the New York Public Library in midtown Manhattan, between 40th and 42nd Streets & Fifth and Sixth Avenues. Take the B, D, F, or M train to 42nd Street/Bryant Park or take the 7 to 5th Avenue.

For a schedule of artists this summer, please visit:

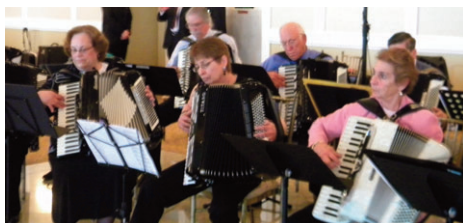
<http://bryantpark.org/plan-your-visit/accordion.html>



Once again, kudos to Dr. Joe Ciccone, Chairman of the Carrozza Scholarship Dinner on Sunday, April 21 at Villa Barone Hilltop Manor. Good food, fabulous music and an enthusiastic audience made for a wonderful day. Although the sun shone brightly, the chill in the air kept some of our guests away including honoree, Maestro Carmen Carrozza. Next year, Carmen, we'll order warmer weather!



Dr. Joe Ciccone, Chairman



CT Orchestra



Anita and Bob Siarkowski entertain during cocktail hour



Anna and the Carozza boys, Anthony and Frank



Beverly Roberts Curnow, percussionist Phil Battiston, Dom Karcic & Ray Oreggia



Above, Frank Carozza, Dom Karcic, Anna and Frank Toscano



AAA Board Members, Joan Grauman and Emilio Magnotta with original Mollarde oil painting won by Paul Ramunni of NE Accordion Museum in the silent auction



Mario Tacca



Manny Corallo, Frank Toscano and Frank Carozza, Ricci Saracino, percussion.



Linda and Marilyn clowning around while Lenny watches!



Pete Sbuttoni and Eddie Monteiro



Jeanine Cariri, Linda Reed, Marilyn O'Neil and CT Orchestra percussionist, Mike Rasimas.



Accordion Femme Fatales, Mary Tokarski and Beverly Roberts Curnow.



Ricci Saracino, Percussionist


Thanks to all the performers for a wonderful afternoon of music and dancing: Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Frank Toscano and Manny Corallo, Emilio Magnotta, Frank Carozza, Ray Oreggia & Dominic Karcic and the CT Accordion Orchestra, Linda Soley Reed, Conductor, Percussionists Ray Battiston and Ricci Saracino and Ray Oreggia, MC.



Mary and Mario take time out for a dance.



The CT Orchestra got everybody singing the Happy Wanderer.



THE AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

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For the advancement of promising young accordionists!

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Special thanks to our "photographers" - Eddie Monteiro, Pete Sbuttoni and Sandy Zera!

Coast to Coast

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

ARIZONA

Mesa

The 2014 Mesa Accordion Event (formerly Frank Marocco Accordion Event) honoring Joan Cochran Sommers on the occasion of her 80th birthday, will bring together 50-60 accordionists of all levels from the US, Canada, Italy and beyond for four days of making beautiful music. Activities at this gathering, which is housed at the beautiful Arizona Golf Resort, will include daily rehearsals of the orchestra, conducted by world renowned bayanist, composer and arranger, MAE Music Director, Stas Venglevski, culminating in a concert, which is open to the public. There will also be two 2-day workshop choices - Jazz, led by Frank Petrilli & Gabe Hall-Rodrigues and Non-jazz, led by Stas Venglevski & Guest of Honor, Joan Cochran Sommers. Additional evening activities will include individual and group playing, jamming and more. MAE activities are open only to registered participants, but the final concert is open to the public. Guest artist for the 2014 MAE will be renowned cellist, and wife of Stas Venglevski, Roza Borisova. Date: February 13 - 17, 2014 (Presidents' Day weekend). For information, please contact Dan & Joan Grauman at mesa.accordion@verizon.net or phone 301-662-0203.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

"The people of Kansas City had a treat rarely available in the U.S., Piazzolla's quintet music performed in an authentic manner." National Piazzolla Video Blog on 2011's A Night of Tango performance. Back by popular demand on April 27, 2013, A Night of Tango highlighted the rich music of Astor Piazzolla and his Piazzolla quintet. The concert featured world-renowned bandoneonist Héctor Del Curto, multiple Grammy Award-winning Jazz/Tango pianist Alon Yavnai, Kansas City's own magnificent bassist Jeff Harshbarger, and Bach Aria Soloists' highly acclaimed musicians Elizabeth Suh Lane and Beau Bledsoe.

NEW YORK

New York

The Victor Prieto (accordion) Trio continue their long running jazz residency on Thursday July 19th, performing at 9:45 pm at Terraza 7 Live

Music, 40-19 Gleane Street, Elmhurst, New York. Victor will appear with Peter Bernstein (guitar) and Eric Doob (drums). For further information on this and many other upcoming performances, please e-mail: victorprieto2001@yahoo.com

NEW YORK

New York

Accordionist Stas Venglevski will be part of a chamber orchestra performing in the opera, "The Firework Maker's Daughter", playing at the New Victory Theater on 42nd Street in New York City, May 3-12, 2013. Based on the enchanting novel by acclaimed author Philip Pullman (His Dark Materials trilogy), this captivating new opera tells the story of one girl's quest to become a firework maker. Determined to master Crackle Dragons, Leaping Monkeys and Golden Sneezes, Lila tests her talents and gambles her good fortune as she parlays with pirates, grapples with ghosts and faces off with a ferocious fire-fiend. Featuring an internationally-inspired score by David Bruce and a witty libretto by Glyn Maxwell, THE FIREWORK MAKER'S DAUGHTER ignites with performances by New York's Metropolitan Ensemble chamber orchestra, led by Grammy-nominated conductor Andrew Cyr, and a cast of five artists who enliven handcrafted puppets from Cambridge's Indefinite Articles. Set in a fantastical land where animals talk, goddesses reign and imps dwell, THE FIREWORK MAKER'S DAUGHTER is pure dynamite.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nashua

ACCORDIONS NOW! 2013, the 6th annual ACCORDIONS NOW! Music Festival is co-sponsored by New Hampshire Accordion Association and Accordion Connection, LLC, will be held August 9-11, 2013 at the beautiful Courtyard Marriott, Nashua, New Hampshire. You, your family, and friends are warmly invited to attend. Performers include Tony Lovello, Joe Cerrito, Gerry Grimo and the East Bay Jazz Ensemble, Brent Buswell, and coming all the way from Norway, Gamle Aker Spele-mannslag, and 15-year-old Norwegian competition winner Einar Thokle Hovden, Paul Bordeleau, Nancy Leonard, Dan Mackowiak, Paul Ramunni, Donna Maria Regis, Carmen Vitanza, and the ever-popu-

lar ACCORDIONS NOW! Festival Orchestra. For more information:

AccordionsNow@yahoo.com

Donna Maria Regis 603.216.9582

or Sue Welch 800.328.5227

WASHINGTON

District of Columbia

The mission of Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS) is to bring together accordionists and promote accordion music in the National Capital region. Meetings are held at 4 pm on one Sunday every month at the Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church in Falls Church, Virginia. Upcoming gatherings include: May 19 (featuring Lou Coppola), June 16 (Annual Spring Concert "Fathers and Founders") and July 14 (to be announced). For more information, please visit: www.washingtonaccordions.org

WASHINGTON

Leavenworth

The Northwest Accordion Society welcomes you to the 20th Annual Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration from June 20-23, 2013. Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village" and a perfect setting for this celebration. Nestled in a cozy narrow valley at elevation of 1100 feet surrounded by wilderness of rugged, majestic mountain ranges, over 2 million visitors per year from all over the world come to experience magical Leavenworth. With the Northwest Accordion Society as your host an Leavenworth as the setting, plan to join four fabulous days of everything accordion. Whether you are a competitor, participant or just love great accordion music, there is enjoyment and participation for everyone. Featured



performers include: Bruce Gassman, Sam Thomas,, Gary Blair, Tango Volcado, Trio Voroezh plus The Great Dance Palooza, accordion bands, button box accordionists, and much more. For further information please contact Bonnie Birch: bonniebirch@msn.com

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

On June 24th, 2013, The Milwaukee Accordion Club (MAC) will feature renowned accordionist Stas Venglevski in a program with Misha Litvin and the 21st Century Accordion Ensemble. Plan to be entertained by an eclectic 2-part program presented by two superior musicians Stas Venglevski, world class bayanist, and master mandolinist (domra) Misha Litvin, as they combine talents as a duo and with the 6 member Accordion XXI Century Ensemble orchestrated by Stas. The Ensemble has a varied repertoire and consists of three accordionists, a bayanist, a bass accordionist, and a percussionist and with Stas at the helm, come and expect to enjoy a healthy dose of fun mixed in! The Milwaukee Accordion Club meets on the 4th Monday of the Month. Doors open - 6:00 PM, Pre-meeting entertainment - 6:30 PM. Business meeting - 7:30 PM, Featured entertainment - 8:00 PM. The MAC meets at the Root River Center, 7220 W. Rawson Avenue in Franklin, WI 53132. For more information, please call (414) 425-7225 or visit www.accordions.com/mac

Festival Orchestra Music Available for Distribution

The music for the AAA 75th Anniversary Festival Orchestra is now available. Rehearsals are Thursday, Aug. 15, Friday, Aug. 16 and Saturday, Aug. 17 from 3 to 5 pm at the New Yorker Hotel. The selections include: Pietro's Return March, Paul Creston "Fantasy" for Accordion and Orchestra and Les Miserables. The "Fantasy" and "Les Miserables" were both arranged by conductor, Joan Sommers.

Please email ameraccord1938@gmail.com with ORCH in the subject line and include your full name, contact information, performance level and type of instrument (i.e., acoustic, midi, other electronic). If you have performed in previous Festival Orchestras, indicate the part(s) you played (i.e., 1st, 2nd, EZ, bass, midi).

For those who will also be performing in the World Orchestra at the Coupe Mondiale in Victoria, BC, please advise so that we can supply you with the same orchestra part.