



Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

July-August, 2016

American Accordionists' Association
www.ameraccord.com

Valtaro Celebration
Magnanini Farm Windery
Saturday, November 26, 2016
Noon until 5:00 p.m.
Featuring traditional
Valtaro and French Musette
Music by a star-studded
cast of performers.

AAA Festival 2017
The Westin Princeton at Forrestal
Village (New Jersey)

Save the dates:
Wednesday, July 12 through
Sunday, July 16, 2017

Room Rates: \$129
Plus Free Parking!

Sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association

From the Editor

Welcome to the July-August 2016 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

Congratulations to all those that made the 2016 Festival in Buffalo a tremendous success. The annual festival showcased a diverse and talented array of accordionists, performing a variety of genres of music.

You will have all received information that this Newsletter is now available in both a printed format and also as a .pdf file. While some prefer to have a printed copy to browse at leisure, there are also a number of people who enjoy having their news presented in an electronic format, and thus a digital version is another means for the AAA to take advantage of the technology available today. Be sure to let the AAA know of your preference, and they will be happy to arrange your Newsletter delivery accordingly.

Once again my sincere thanks to all those that have assisted in providing news items and pictures, including your very own AAA Board of Director Rita Barnea who is always an avid supporter of the AAA Newsletter sharing a variety of news items from around the country.

Items for the September 2016 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 attachment. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg or similar 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 September 2016 Newsletter will be the 15th of August 2016.

Sincerely,
Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



Message from AAA President - Mary Tokarski

AAA has been busy!

This year's AAA Competition heralded the "best of the best" from around the U.S., Canada and Slovakia! If you missed it, you missed a LOT! Plans have already begun for 2017, and we hope you will plan on being there July 12-16, 2017 at The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village, New Jersey. Details will be available soon on the AAA Website at www.ameraccord.com.



The Buffalo SqueezeFest at The Adam's Mark Hotel was brimming with great accordion sounds - from the competitions, workshops, concerts and the array of exhibits. Guest Artists for "An Evening With The Stars" concert at The

Tralf included incredible performances from Grayson Masefield (New Zealand), Cory Pesaturo (Rhode Island), Ginny Mac and Glenn McLaughlin (Texas), Guy Klucsevsek (New York), Dr. Robert Young McMahan and Nora Sirbaugh (New Jersey), and Alexander Sevastian with Quartetto Gelato (Toronto, Canada). The full house audience was spellbound with the variety and virtuosity of these incredible artists. Check out the highlighted performances on the AAA YouTube Channel.

The week's activities started with a "Meet and Greet" party, where accordionists entertained attendees and guests from the local press with music of all genres. Representatives from the local NPR, The Buffalo News, TV cameras from national and local stations (WGRZ – NBC, Channel 7 – ABC Eyewitness News), radio interviews, and calendar listings in Artvoice added to the excitement, and brought in the participation of many "locals" to see and hear our amazing instrument!

Next up, is our Valtaro Celebration on November 25, 2016 at the Magnanini Winery, 172

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Did not attend the Festival? You can still order your copy of the AAA 2016 Journal with articles on Composers Commissions, Spotlight on Joe Cerrito, and remembrances of Huguette Meunier and LaRue Mangelly. See order form inside.

From the President, cont'd from page 1

Strawridge Road, Wallkill, New York 12589. The event will feature traditional Valtaro and French Musette Music with a special Guest Artist from Italy - Giangiaco Bucella, along with a "star-studded" lineup including Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Dominic Karcic and Ray Oreggia, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Mary Tokarski, Gia, Joe and Reagan Ciccone, Emilio Magnotta, Fred Schwinger, Bruce Nielsen and Frank Toscano. Be there. Reservations are \$69 per person (flyer included in this newsletter). New this year – You can make a donation of \$50 to sponsor a guest artist, and have your name included on the program!

We hope to see YOU soon!



Jammin' at the Meet & Greet - Buffalo SqueezeFest

Don Gerundo is joined by Will Comer and Emmanuel Gasser. Both Will and Emmanuel were top winners in the Elsie M. Bennet Composition Competition with Will winning 1st in the Junior Division and Emanuel 1st in the Senior Division. Check out Emanuel's "Spring Blizzard" and Will's "The Existential Dream" on the AAA YouTube Channel.



Many thanks to Pete Sbuttoni and Sandy Zera for all the wonderful photos of our 2016 Festival. See our Sept/Oct issue of the Newsletter for more photos.

**Order your copy of the 2016 AAA Journal
\$15 plus shipping and handling - total: \$20
Send check payable to AAA to:**

**Julie A. Cardona
67 Sackett Point Rd., Apt. 215
North Haven, CT 06473**

Jamie Maschler and the Seattle Symphony Orchestra

Jamie Maschler, a former student at the University of Denver played the accordion part in the "Lord of the Rings" score with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra on July 15-18, 2016 at the Benaroya Hall in Seattle, WA.

The epic Lord of the Rings score was composed and orchestrated by Academy Award winner Howard Shore. During the concert, the audience viewed the first film of The Lord of the Rings trilogy on a giant screen as the Seattle Symphony performed live under the direction of Ludvig Wicki.

Jaimie Maschler is a professional accordionist and popular session musician in the Seattle region having recorded with many top studios. On July 29, 2016 her popular band En Canto was featured at the Seattle Latin, Caribbean, and Brazilian Festival, a festival free to all ages held at The Royal Room Seattle. ■



Special Connections via new Instruments at the World of Accordions Museum

Not long ago the World of Accordions Museum was wanting in numbers of early button chromatic accordions. Then, quite unexpectedly, two remarkable instruments were brought in, both are Italo American accordions manufactured in closely related decades.

The accordion pictured below is a five-row "C" System with 98 treble keys and one slide shift behind the treble keys joining the bassoon reed-bank to the triple-middle banks. Its seven-row, 140 bass Stradella section includes an additional counterbass row of minor thirds above the fundamental row and four-tone dominant and diminished seventh chords. The name "Erickson" is prominently displayed in rhinestones at the treble section front. The accordion is a concert-level chromatic with extended pitch ranges rarely found in this construction era. Its beautifully preserved condition contributes

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World of Accordions Museum, cont'd from page 2

historically as well as to the visual attractions in the museum. In display, it is accompanied by a catalog of early 1930s Italia Accordions, made in Italy and distributed in Chicago, IL.

This instrument is an important addition to the museum for additional reasons. It was owned and played by bandleader Axel Erickson. Axel became the Father-in-Law of trumpeter Ed Victorsen, who was among the founders of the Minnesota based Shriners Zurah Temple band called "The Jolly Nobles." The dozens of unpaid members used music to embody an American lifestyle of social contribution by performing for senior center dances and religious venues, and they were among the first to originate Polka Masses that filled venue sites. Their hundreds of performances over the course of 60 years amassed thousands of dollars benefiting the Shriners Crippled Children's Hospital and Burn Center.

In the 1960s, my husband Duane Sellman taught students and operated the Wyoming, MN, studio of Gust Erickson, Axel's brother. Duane participated in "The Jolly Nobles" band until his death in 1995. Now, two decades later, 92-year-old Ed Victorsen phoned to reestablish contact and to remind me that I, too, had played with the band. Over the years, he had saved newspaper articles about me and the museum which now inspired his donation of the "Erickson" accordion. When I stopped by his apartment to receive it, he loaned me a compilation history about the band's events and accomplishments. My readings evoked sweet memories as once again I saw how music forges lasting friendships that spiral in connections and reflect American altruism.

The special display housing "Erickson" also houses "Innocenzo," another Italo American chromatic button accordion. Both accordions prominently display their owners' names in rhinestones at the front of the treble section.

"Innocenzo" comes to the museum through Yvonne Marts (Fergus Falls, MN), certified accordion repair specialist and graduate of ARTS, who received it from the estate of the sister of Bertil Malm, its original owner. The three-row, 61-key "B" System chromatic with 120 Stradella basses displays the manufacturer's logo as a key-shanks cover.

Bertil Malm and wife Myrtle, of Roshold, SD, were a musical team that won many plaques and awards, some of which are mentioned in the newspaper articles displayed alongside the accordion. Although Bertil is named as winner of the "National Accordion Championship" (1988), several Old-Time Fiddler's Contests in the 1990s, inductee into the South Dakota Fiddler's Hall of Fame (1980), and celebrated in Washington D.C. for the 1976 Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife, Myrtle remained his accompanist and companion participant. After their retirement from farming life in 1979, they devoted their talents to entertaining at nursing homes and similar institutions in their tri-state area.

Again, the instruments shown in A World of Accordions Museum were enjoyed by people with whom anyone can identify, who gave pleasure through music-making and whose lives had stories that relate to our times. Their personal histories are preserved at the museum along with the beauty and technological standards of the instruments. ■

Sauris – A Little Bit of Heaven

High atop a winding road that seems to go on forever, there exists a place in Italy that I can only describe as "a bit of heaven on earth"! It is Sauris di Sotto, where time seems to stand still. Things are done as they always have been, everyone knows everyone, and the town of 400 people seem to all be related! The Wolf Factory in Sauris produces the most decorated prosciutto in Italy – and believe me, the prosciutto alone is worth the trip! As for the menu, the food at the Morgenleite Albergo is "to die for" – all prepared especially for you by the husband and wife team who operate the "just like at home" hotel. And let's not leave out the incomparable desserts . . . tiramisù, delicious cakes (some even shaped like accordions and music), homemade ice cream, puddings . . . ah, my

Stas Venglevski at World of Accordions Museum

Milwaukee based accordionist Stas Venglevski presented a Master Class and Concert on April 3, 2016, hosted by the Harrington ARTS Center and A World of Accordions Museum, an event gratefully underwritten by Robert Dingmann.

Organizer Helmi Harrington reports that in his popular Master Class, Stas was fully engaged every moment, assessing each player's technical level while offering comments that were factually precise without ever diminishing the competence of the player and were often accompanied by demonstrations on both piano and button accordions. With each student's presentation he offered a few pertinent points affecting interpretation or control of the instrument that were also meaningful to listeners in the audience. The Master Class was an excellent educational opportunity and considered one of the most important offered through the HARTS Center.

In Concert, Stas performed a delightful sampling of music from various eras ranging from Bach to late-Romantic to Contemporary. Every offering showcased different aspects of his skills and all brought compliments. In addition to his virtuosity, Stas's intelligent analyses of dynamics within the composition's entirety enables his expressive musicianship, and beyond that, the objective evaluation of interpretation that distinguishes him apart from others. Judging by applause, favorite pieces were his own compositions, introduced as picturesque moments and highlighted with descriptive gestures and sound effects. Stas was allowed to conclude the program only after many standing ovations and several encores.

The audience comprised accordion students, aficionados, a few professional performers; some who had driven many hours to attend and one person who had flown in from Germany specifically for this event.

Musicians understand that keyboard fluency requires physical and mental practice which in turn enlarges neural capacities that develop global brain function. Psychologists and educators have studied this functional enhancement and have coupled it with raised Intelligence Quotient known to influence general acuity. It takes concentrated long-term effort to enhance brain capacity. While the results are not uniform among people, Stas' years of 6-8-hour practice sessions offer proof of success in both his technical skills as in his insightful communications.

Stas generously donated a large collection of his music and CDs as fund-raisers for the museum. Those that were not purchased on the spot are available through the World of Accordions Museum gift shop. ■



mouth is watering!!

Now, put a gathering of accordions in the mix, and you truly have "heaven". Artists were headed by the leaders of the event – Peter and Mady Soave (France/USA). Now add Vitscheslav Semionov (Russia), Alexander Skliarov (Russia), Stas Venglevski (Moldova/USA), Mary Tokarski (USA), Eddie Monteiro (USA) and Duilio Dobrin (Argentina/USA) – a gathering of artists



Peter Soave and Mary Tokarski

Sauris – cont'd. from page 3

not to be outdone!

Concerts abounded – starting with a 7:00 a.m. “Daylight Concert” at the Chiesa di San Osvaldo (Church of San Osvaldo) in the Sauris di Sotto community featuring the trio of Mary Tokarski, Peter Soave and Mady Soave performing Schubert’s Trio in B Flat.

Solos by all the artists were included at the Sala Kursaal (Concert Hall of Sauris), the Chiesa di San Lorenzo in Sauris di sopra, the Chiesa della Beata Vergine della Consolazione in Enemonzo – a short but winding distance from Sauris, and ending in a concert extraordinaire featuring the Peter Soave Music Academy Grand Orchestra with Duilio Dobrin conducting. The program included the Il Postino Theme, A Medley of Gershwin Tunes, the Mission Impossible Theme, and more.

One of the highlights of the event for me was a duet performance of Shalayev’s Russian Snowstorm with Professor Viatcheslav Semionov and I did as an encore at our concert on August 5th in Enemonzo.

In addition to all the concerts, the artists were kept busy with a hefty schedule of lessons, workshops, ensemble and orchestra rehearsals. Weeks of music fun with outstanding musicians from around the world. What fun! I hope we get to see you there next time! ■



AAA President, Mary Tokarski, performed duet with Prof. Viatcheslav Semionov

4th Annual Palmer Festival in Superior, WI

The World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI recently celebrated their 4th annual Palmer Festival. The variety of events were presented in great style, as was expected from the prestigious presenters. On May 4, Alex Meixner offered a seminar entitled “*Presenting Your Music*” that was filled with personal experiences and insights learned through hundreds of his performances. Such detailed information and suggestions are rarely shared. They drew praises from attendees and were demonstrated in his subsequent concert. Ahead of his concert, Alex wandered through the museum choosing about a dozen instruments on which to play. Among them he discovered a small Scandalli model like the first one he owned and he showed it off with obvious nostalgia.

Lined up onstage, he picked up one after another, his fingers adapting to different key and button placements, their spatial relationships and key sizes while his mental acuity allowed adaptation after adaptation to various pitch-ordering-systems in diatonic accordions. No previous artist has chosen to undertake such a challenge!

It goes without saying that his performance was phenomenal. Alex knows thousands of pieces and can play them in any key, overlay themes, modulate from any key to any other, ornament and enhance at will, and generally awe the musically educated as well as novices. He repeatedly asked the audience for requested titles. Even though the oddest combinations of music were called out, he satisfied each.



Alex Meixner

Many were from rock band origins, and most were never previously played on an accordion. Alex has the confidence to subject himself to this intimidating ordeal and the skill to excel. He played dozens of titles, styles, rhythms, each with clever commentary or amusing anecdotes that fit perfectly into the principal themes of his “Presentation” seminar.

After the two-hour concert, Alex took a few minutes to jam with Paul Vargason under the admiring eyes of a few musicians. The Meixner events were underwritten by Charles Harrington, who travelled from Texas to attend.

On May 5, in a presentation entitled “A Study in Accordion Pedagogy,” Helmi Harrington spoke about and demonstrated the acquisition of accordionistic skills through critical pieces in the first five levels of Palmer-Hughes Accordion Method including Recital Book parallels. In a future seminar, the journey will continue through level ten, and include repertory selections from Palmer’s additional books.

Paul Vargason presented various virtuoso and entertainment pieces on four types of accordions: piano accordion (Stradella-only and quint-free-bass converter), chromatic button accordion, and Slovenian button diatonic accordion. He explained the instruments and their contributions to his original compositions as well as his complex arrangements. He is currently exploring the chromatic-free-bass system on a newly acquired accordion. Paul is a perfect example of Palmer-Hughes pedagogical success: it helped him to acquire skills that he has absorbed as his own and now uses independently, creatively, and as a focus of his professional life.

The creativity of John Scaffeo was again evidenced in an evening of his great arrangements paralleled with the guitar artistry of Wayne Falconer. Scaffeo’s theme is to present the accordion in many different styles that emphasize the adaptability and potential of the instrument. His exceptional inventiveness allows melodies to flow in elaborate torrents of decorative enhancements and tone-colored descriptiveness. While John remained stationary, Wayne danced around providing eye-appeal to the stage. Their remarkably exacting duets were models for any aspiring ensemble, and presented unequalled ideals in musical excellence. Their rapid note-for-note passages were especially impressive. It is no wonder that these gifted performers have won national awards!

Details on the 5th Annual Palmer Festival in 2017 will be revealed in the near future. ■

Josh Groban to debut on Broadway, complete with Accordion!

Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet of 1812 (simply called 'The Great Comet') stars multi-platinum recording artist Josh Groban in his Broadway debut. Inspired by a 70-page slice of War and Peace, this "vibrant, thrillingly imagined new musical" (NY Times) is "stunning and blazingly original" (Entertainment Weekly) and brings us just inches from Tolstoy's brash young lovers as they light up Moscow in a "heaven-sent fireball" (NY Times) of romance and passion.

Natasha is a beautiful ingénue visiting Moscow while she waits for her beloved fiancé Andrey to return from the war. In a moment of indiscretion, she is seduced by the dashing (but already married) Anatole and her position in society is ruined. Her only hope lies with Pierre (Josh Groban), the lonely outsider whose love and compassion for Natasha may be the key to her redemption and to the renewal of his own soul.

The Great Comet features a groundbreaking score that mixes rock, pop, soul, folk and electronic dance music with classic Broadway. The Great Comet's creative team has re-imagined the Imperial Theatre in New York City as an opulent Russian salon, where every seat provides a unique perspective and an unforgettable experience.

Josh Groban, who has sold more than 30 million records and maintains a busy touring schedule, is a big fan of the Theater. He acted at a performing arts High School, he sees plays in Los Angeles and New York, and his latest album is a set of show tune covers and now, already enjoying a highly successful career, October 18th will mark his Broadway debut.

In a recent interview, Mr. Groban said that in recent years he had had "some wonderful offers" to appear on Broadway, but that he chose "The Great Comet" because of a passion for the material and a desire to stretch. "For a first time doing it, I wanted it to be something that was a little less expected, and I wanted it to be a show and a character that forced me to get a little bit out of my comfort zone and do something that people haven't seen before," he said. "To have the opportunity and freedom to take off the hat of 'me,' and to dive into a character, is something I think will be very freeing, and very fun."

Mr. Groban first encountered "The Great Comet" in 2013, when he attended an Off Broadway performance, posed for a photo with the cast, and raved on Twitter, "One of my most favorite theatrical experiences ever. LOVED." A commercial producer attached to the project, Howard Kagan, reached out to Mr. Groban this year to ask if he would consider playing Pierre in a Broadway production. Mr. Groban not only said yes, but went out and bought his first accordion, as in the show, Pierre plays the accordion, as well as the piano and he began reading "War and Peace".

The creative team, in turn, has been ex-



panding the role of Pierre, who during the time frame of the musical, is a wealthy and unhappy Muscovite in his mid-30s, characterized, according to the play's director, Rachel Chavkin, by "degeneracy, rottedness and decrepitude."

The show's creator, Dave Malloy, who came up with the idea for the musical when reading "War and Peace" while working as a pianist on a cruise ship, originated the role of Pierre, and has long thought the character was underdeveloped. Mr. Malloy, who wrote the book, music and lyrics for the show, has already given Pierre a new aria ("Dust and Ashes"), and he has been listening to Mr. Groban's albums while contemplating other changes to take full advantage of what he calls Mr. Groban's "beautiful, angelic instrument." ■



Accordions in the Heart of New York City

The annual Accordions Around the World in Bryant Park is underway, celebrating the diversity of the instrument in the spectacular outdoor setting in the heart of New York City. The weekly series that regularly features six accordionists as well as performers on bandoneon, bayan, concertina and harmonium, all showcasing different musical genres performing in various locations around Bryant Park.

August performances throughout the Park were held from 6.00 - 8.00 PM and included:

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Albert Behar – Gypsy Jazz, Waltz Musette

Ariel Iud – Argentine Tango
 Rob Curto – Brazilian Bluegrass
 Lacey Anderson – Indie
 Phil Racz – Classical, Brazilian
 Shoko Nagai – Japanese, Jewish

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Maestro Tito Castro – Argentine Tango
 Melissa Elledge – Pop, Rock
 Jenny Luna – Balkan, Turkish
 Jaroslaw Palylyk, Walt Syzonenko – Ukrainian Folk

Vitor Gonçalves – Brazilian Choro, Forro
 Sady's Rodrigo Espitia – Columbian Cumbia, Vallenato
 Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Yumbell Donato – Colombian Cumbia, Vallenato
 Suzanne Davenport – French Musette

Tony Kovatch – French Musette, Gypsy Jazz

Mary Spencer Knapp – Cabaret, Soul, Pop

Uri Sharlin – Brazilian, Balkan
 Niall O'Leary – Irish Traditional

Wednesday, August 24, 2016

Christina Crowder – Klezmer
 Gregory Grene – Irish Rock
 Alma Mia – Colombian Vallenato
 Mario Tacca – French Musette, Waltz
 Yuri Lemeshev – World, Classical, Jazz
 Brooke Watkins – French Musette, Standards

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 - Finale

5:00 PM – 10:00 PM at the Fountain Terrace

Six exemplary NYC bands playing music from a range of cultures, each featuring an



accordion, perform to thousands on the lawn. Bands include: Silver City Bound (American Roots), Barynya Balalaika Trio (Russian), Pistolera (Latin Alt Party), Golem (Klezmer Punk), Fidelina Pascual (Dominican Perico Ripiao), Brooklyn Qawwali Party (Pakistani inspired Party Funk), Soloists: Ismail Butera with Natalia Perlaza, Epyllion, Gregory Grene, Albert Behar, Eva Salina & Peter Stan and Gregorio Uribe.

Bryant Park is located behind the New York Public Library in midtown Manhattan, between 40th and 42nd Streets and Fifth and Sixth Avenues, and all events are free to the public. ■

Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) Celebrates 6th Anniversary

Wednesday, August 3, 2016 marked the "Sixth Anniversary" of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) celebrating the accordion on Long Island.

Once again the event was a sellout. The evening featured the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) orchestra, the Scandinavian group "Smorgasbandet" which includes accordionists Wayne Soderlund and Jeanne Widman Andersen (the daughter of noted Scandinavian accordionist Walter Eriksson) and drummer John Soderlund. Also on hand to add to the festivities were Bob Lekich, John Perno and Frank Scardino.

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) meets the first Wednesday of each month at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY. The next event will take place on Wednesday, September 7th and feature accordionist, Emilio Magnotta. ■



LIAA members and the Sixth Anniversary cake

(left to right) Phil Prete, Dominic Karcic, Santo Endrizzi, Ray Oreggia, Bob LaBua, Joe Campo

LIAA members and all the participants in the evening accordion celebration



(back row left to right) Joe Campo, Bob Lekich (partially hidden), Dominic Karcic, Santo Endrizzi, John Soderlund, Bob LaBua, Phil Prete, Frank Scardino, John Perno
 (front row left to right) Ray Oreggia, Jeanne Wiidman Andersen, Wayne Soderlund

NYC Classical Radio Station adds Accordions

AAA Board of Director Don Gerundo and Dallas Vietty volunteered their time and travelled to New York on July 1, 2016 to help WQXR personnel inventory the instruments. Dallas said, "The WQXR staff are amazing. We met the two people in charge, Kathleen and Crystal and in ten days, about 100 accordions were donated"

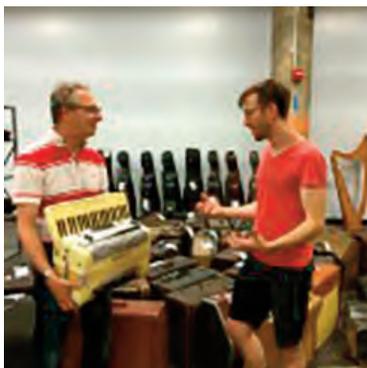
"The instruments are all earmarked to go to NYC based learning programs. And I've been hoping to get ahold of some of them for the AAA Youth Outreach Program. Which will mean we will have to create or partner with someone to build a new program," said Don Gerundo who is Chairman of the AAA Youth Promotion Committee and is assisted by Dallas Vietty and Marilyn O'Neil. The goal of the Youth Promotion Committee is to increase the number of youth that are playing and learning the accordion. To date the committee ran a successful pilot program in May at a Bethlehem, PA Public School and is working on bringing more outreach programs to the NY, CT, NJ, PA areas.

"Checking out all these instruments was definitely a dirty job, but we made it through all of them, almost 100! Check out the photos below to get a sense of this amazing volume of instruments and see some of the unique and rare accordions that were donated."



For listeners who might have missed the window to drop off instruments as part of the WQXR drive, it is still possible to pledge an instrument online at www.wqxr.org/kids and drop it off at any Sam Ash Music Store in New York and New Jersey whenever convenient.

Dallas Vietty is a Philadelphia based jazz accordionist and accordion educator. As a musician he performs around the United States. His past projects have allowed him to perform at some of the top music venues: Jazz at Lincoln Center NYC, Iridium NYC, Kimmel Center Philadelphia, Catalina's Los Angeles to name a few. As an educator Dallas is a pioneer in on-line accordion education through his learning website rebelreed.com. He is also one of the most in demand workshop and music camp instructors for accordion. ■



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FIND OUT HOW AT WQXR.ORG/KIDS

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wqxr.org



2016 SqueezeFest Prizes Awarded

For the competition, students from the U.S., Slovakia and Canada were adjudicated on the quality of their performance, age, and years of study. With this in mind, the judges awarded Bronze and Silver medals, with Trophies for the Superior performances. Here are the results:

Open Solos –

Silver Medals were awarded to Daniel Benedetti and Liam McCool

Superior Trophies were awarded to Reagan Ciccone, Max Hoffman, Gia Ciccone, Alexander Lammers, Joseph Klettner, Nathan Chapeton, Cody McSherry, Denis Marko Dubjel and Will Comer

Founder's Solos –

Silver Medal – Anton Klettner

Superior Trophies – Nathan Chapeton, Daniel Benedetti, Liam McCool and Will Comer

Ethnic Solos –

Bronze Medal – Gia Ciccone

Silver Medals – Joseph Klettner, Anton Klettner and Will Comer

Superior Trophies – Nathan Chapeton, Cody McSherry, and Denis Marko Dubjel

Pop Solos –

Silver Medals – Gia Ciccone and Max Hoffman

Superior Trophy – Denis Marko Dubjel

Jazz Solos – Silver Medals – Daniel Benedetti and Will Comer

Standard Solo – Superior Trophy – Damaley Richards

Adult Solo – Silver Medal – Monique Bellemare - Superior Trophy – Reine St-Louis

Open Duets – Silver Medals – Max Hoffman & Alexander Lammers, Joseph & Anton Klettner, and Gia Ciccone & Cody McSherry

Open Mixed Duet - Superior Trophies – Joseph and Anton Klettner

Senior Ensemble – 1st place – Busso Senior Ensemble

Entertainment AAA – Participation – Busso Festival Orchestra

Join the AAA for the 2017 Festival at
The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village in New Jersey
July 12-16, 2017

See you there!

Uncle Sam Wants You!to play the Accordion

Sgt. Major Manny Bobenrieth will soon be retiring as the Accordionist with the United States Army Strings leaving an opening for a fortunate young man or woman as the new Accordionist with "Pershing's Own."



The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," the U.S. Army's premier musical organization, announces a vacancy for ACCORDION with The U.S. Army Strings.

The U.S. Army Strings, a premier ensemble of the U.S. Armed Forces, provide a musical backdrop for many of the country's most notable events. Their mission is to serve as musical ambassadors for high-level military and government events at home and abroad, as well as in concert for public audiences. The elite musicians that comprise this ensemble have been trained at the most prestigious music conservatories and universities in the country. This versatile ensemble performs as The U.S. Army Strolling Strings, mixed chamber ensembles, and The U.S. Army Orchestra.

The U.S. Army Strolling Strings are one of the most requested musical ensembles by our nation's military leadership. Since its inception during the Eisenhower administration, the group has provided musical entertainment at the White House for every president. Missions include performing for the Department of Defense, the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court, kings, queens, and heads of state from countries worldwide. The Strolling Strings offer audiences the unique perspective of being amongst the musicians who elegantly move about the venue playing their instruments. A distinctly unique member of its instrumentation, the ensemble boasts an accordion, which adds rich color and texture to the group's sound. The Strolling Strings offer a wide array of memorized repertoire, including patriotic, classical, international, jazz, Broadway, bluegrass, and exclusive music arrangements for special guests and events. ■

Chamber music is a core element of The U.S. Army Strings' mission. String quartets provide a backdrop for significant official functions as well as public performances. Duos, trios, quartets, and mixed chamber ensembles perform in venues throughout the National Capital region.

Military benefits include medical and dental care; 30-days paid vacation each year; permanent assignment to Fort Myer, and educational benefits such as military Tuition Assistance and the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill.

Due to security clearance requirements all applicants must have U.S. citizenship. All invited applicants will be given instructions to coordinate pre-screening with their regional Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) to ensure they meet entrance requirements for enlistment in the U.S. Army prior to attending the live audition. Individuals who are offered the position following the live audition must enlist and begin Basic Combat Training prior to their 35th birthday.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The position of accordionist for the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" is unique. This person must demonstrate mastery on the instrument, the flexibility to perform with all Elements of The US Army Band, extensive knowledge of commercial harmony and facility reading lead sheet notation. Qualified candidates should have significant experience performing with other musicians, working under a conductor and playing diverse styles, to include pop/commercial, Broadway, jazz, and classical. Qualified candidates must be able to demonstrate the ability to memorize quickly, produce professional quality arrangements for The Army Strings, work within specific stylistic and musical guidelines and operate under tight deadlines.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 3, 2016

AUDITION DATE: December 2016

For a full description and information on benefits, please see: <http://www.usarmyband.com/vacancies/vacancy---accordion---the-us-army-strings.html> ■

Master Class & Concert Series – The Seminars (2016) “No Place Like Home”

The Tenri Cultural Arts Center on 13th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues was once again the site of the AAA Master Class & Concert Series hosted by moderator, Dr. William Schimmel. There were three days of discussions and concerts as well as performances by the maestro himself, Dr. Schimmel.

Here's what the critics heralded about this event:

Music Maestro Magazine

"The 2016 Seminars moderated and curated by Dr. William Schimmel were unsurpassably amazing: High level, high octane performances, stimulating talks and great vibes, perhaps the foundation of an Accordion artistic community, I could live off of it for a year".

The New York Times

"William Schimmel who holds a Doctorate in Composition from The Juilliard School is a tireless champion of the Accordion who runs a yearly Seminar in New York that draws fellow players from around the world and introduces new works. He honors the populist heritage of his instrument by giving master classes on subjects like working as a strolling accordionist at restaurants. Yet for Dr. Schimmel, as he explained in a 2004 interview in The New York Times, "there's no music that can't be played on the accordion - from Bizet to Blondie."

Anthony Tommasini

Time Out New York

"Under the ever watchful eye of mad-genius accordionist Dr. William Schimmel, squeeze boxers from around the globe gather for the AAA's annual series of master classes and freewheeling concerts, which includes unorthodox spins on classic standards, new

pieces and all manner of unpredictable fusions."

The participants included: Micki Goodman, who presented her own new video work, Classical Bluegrass with a score by Dr. Schimmel; Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Pianist, performing in Transendencia - based on the music of Albeniz with additional music for Bass Accordion by Dr. Schimmel. Erica Marie Mancini presented her Distancia, for Accordion and Laptop. Paul Stein gave us a Melodica Medley from Michel Legrand to Perfidia. Mary Spencer Knapp gave us two new songs complete with choreography. Lee Mc Clure told us the history of Eclecticism as well as a film noir tribute for Flute and Accordion. Ken Laufer's Symphony in the Old Style mirrored the Blues. Will Holshouser's new work mixed classic modernism with jazz with a new approach to bellows



Seminar Participants

The Seminars, cont'd. from page 8

shaking. Godfrey Nelson and Lorraine Nelson Wolf performed a work entitled Heart for Accordion, Guitar, Piano and Electronics. Dr. Schimmel did a Reality on West Side Story (West Side Reality), David First played Harmonica in Home Sweet Home while Dr. S. David Stoler presented Cinematic Suite for Accordion and Guitar (Sal Azzarelli). Carl Riehl premiered Messian in Black for Accordion and Electronics.



Corn Mo & Dr. Schimmel

The Master Classes included acclaimed Klezmer Violinist, Alicia Svigals, demonstrating various Klezmer varieties. City Opera Diva, Lauren Flanigan focused in on newly discovered Kurt Weill songs not yet performed publicly - with special permission from the Kurt Weill Society. Paul Stein gave a workshop on performing in small spaces, including house concerts. Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan told us about his own personal Accordion Odyssey starting from childhood to Academic life. Jeanne Velonis gave us a 16th Century Scarf Dance and a work by John Tavener. Dr. Denise Koncelik was awarded the Order of the Shield Diploma for her outstanding work as an Accordionist (Dance of the Comedians/Bachtopus, flutist (Burlesca (WS)/Sontag in Sarajevo (Dave Soldier) along with Dr. Mc Mahan and Devon Tipp and arranger (Carousel Breakdown WS - Main Squeeze Orchestra). The Order of the Shield is a private studies program and the graduate and post graduate level with a



lineup of graduates and honorary members including Charles Magante, Carmen Carozza, Joseph Soprani, Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan, Micki Goodman, Will Holshouser, Paul Stein and many more. Special thanks was given to Micki Goodman (Dr. Schimmel's wife) for contributions spanning 22 years. Also special thanks was given to Paul Stein for his constant support. Will Holshouser received a special merit award for his distinguished service of 20 years.

More highlights included performances by The Main Squeeze Orchestra performing Dr. Schimmel's Carousel Breakdown - written for them - with movement and costumes and Bachtopus, an Accor-

dion Quartet specializing in Bachian Pieces, Here they performed Dr. Schimmel's (Anonymous Bach) Concerto in A Minor from the Accordion player's perspective, preceded by Cantus in honor of Benjamin Britten by Avro Part (arr. Robert Duncan). Will Comer played at a Master Class and received positive comments.

Dr. Schimmel gave a lecture that took us back to 1954 when there were four hits on Hit Parade used Accordion extensively:



That's Amore, Chimney Smoke, Crazy Mixed Up Song and Whale of a tale. He explained the fact that various Accordion Associations, the Ethnic Community and young people approaching teen years had their own agendas and none of the groups connected - leading to the Accordion's demise. He gave suggestions on how to connect today using Social Network as new groups form. He called this factor Permanent Transition - demonstrating with a piece - Tango of the Blue Danube which had one foot in Vienna and one in Argentina. He also played a new rendition of Pietro Deiro's Concerto in D, one of his last compositions, paired down to five minutes with a steady beat throughout - danceable in a club - He called it the "House Version".

Doug Makofka supplied "Frippertonics" to Cantata for Regular People as well as Persichetti and his own Willys Song. Bob Goldberg explored the Tenri space with Over the Rainbow. Brian Dewan closed the weekend with Horse with no name, Do not mortgage the farm and the Crayon song. John Foti gave us an Asbury Park New Jersey Americana. Melissa Elledge gave us Accoradio - Gangsta rap and a new original. Mayumi Miyaoka gave us a tribute to Charles Magante and a Japanese folk Melody. Peter Flint premiered a new work for Bachtopus. Uri Sharlin and Sanda Weigel presented us with selections from Hans Eisler's Hollywood Songbook. Indie Rocker Corn Mo performed The Lost Chord by Sir Arthur Sullivan, Robert Schumann and one of his own songs. Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan premiered his Whims for Accordion and Bassoon (Devon Tipp), joined Cellist Cecila Barczyk in Introduction and Allegro by Matyas Seiber. Marni Rice performed a selection from her Cabaret of the Absurd.

We look forward to #23 next year-The Red Lantern Accordionist ■

Valtaro at Magnanini - Nov. 26, 2016

The AAA Valtaro Celebration returns to Magnanini Farm Winery on Saturday, November 26, 2016 at 12 noon (wine tasting; dinner at 1:00 p.m.) and will feature a star-studded cast of performers (see enclosed flyer). Hosts, Rachel and Robert Magnanini will make sure you don't leave hungry! This year's menu will include Prime Rib AND Chicken - yes, you receive BOTH. And a children's menu of the all-time favorite, chicken fingers with fries.



- Antipasto Casalinga
- Stracciatelle Soup
- Homemade Tagliatelle with tomato/basil cream sauce
- Garden salad with homemade balsamic vinaigrette
- Roast Black Angus prime rib with a Rosso da Tavola reduction
- Marinated broiled chicken in natural gravy
- Peas with onions and pancetta
- Rosemary baked potato
- NY Style cheese cake with fresh whipped cream
- Coffee of your pleasure

Coast to Coast

*...a sampling of accordion events across the USA!
Contact the individual organizations for updates.*



Waterbury, CT

Anita LeBlanc Siarkowski provided live accordion entertainment on August 4, 2016 in conjunction with Waterbury, Connecticut's summer music series. The downtown venue was déjà vu for Anita, being right around the corner from where this Brass City native lived as a teenager and entertained in the window of McCoy's Music Shop at "13"! Everything was walking distance....high school, nurse's training, accordion lessons (where she met Bob Siarkowski, also an accordionist), church, movies, etc.



These individual locales were specified in sentiment and song, as Anita would segue from... School Days, The Bells Of St. Mary's, Melody of Love, Get Me To The Church On Time (She married Bob at the church on the Waterbury Green), etc. In keeping with her motif of yesteryear, Anita wore a voile, floral print dress, with a big white straw hat to top it all off, playing "Name That Tune" as she escorted her audience on "A Stroll Down Memory Lane"!

Superior, WI

Accordionist Dr. Mike Middleton who specializes in MIDI-enhanced music from all genres performed on July 3 at the World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI. Mike was a teenager in the 1970s when he studied accordion in Austin, Texas, initially with Tony Rozance and then with Hanni Strahl and Helmi Harrington. Dr. Harrington reports that Mike was a wonderful student, an ambitious competitor in AAA contests, the "Strahl Music Ensemble," and he won the "Texas Accordion Championship." It was a certainty even then, that he would do great things with his life: he became a doctor, then head of nuclear medicine, and now a board member at Scott and White Medical Center in Temple, Texas. For more information, please visit www.accordions.com/mikemiddleton

Lyons, NJ

The Accordion Pops Orchestra presents "An Afternoon of Music" on October 23, 2016 at 2.00 PM at the Veterans Hospital, 151 Knollcroft Road, Lyons, NJ.

APO conductor, Al Terzo is a teacher, arranger, and conductor who has been with the orchestra since its inception in 1970. He is a member

of the Music Teachers National Association, New Jersey Music Teachers Association, and National Association of Music Educators. Mr. Terzo serves on the governing board of the American Accordionists' Association and is a founding member of the Mid Atlantic Music Teachers Guild. He has an accomplished accordionist who has performed at the Garden State Arts Center and Newark's Symphony Hall. Currently Mr. Terzo teaches accordion and piano in New Jersey. For further informa

Las Vegas, NV

The 17th Annual 2016 Las Vegas International Accordion Convention was held August 8-11, 2016 at the Gold Coast Hotel located at 4000 West Flamingo Blvd., in Las Vegas, Nevada. This year we celebrate the classic Las Vegas theme bringing you four nights and three full days of the finest accordion entertainment Las Vegas Style! For more information, please visit www.accordionstars.com

September-October issue will be mailed out first week in October. Send your articles ASAP to Kevin Friedrich, editor, at

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or

ameraccord1938@gmail.com

AAA Festival 2017

The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village (New Jersey)



**Save the dates:
Wednesday, July 12 through
Sunday, July 16, 2017**

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\$8,000 in cash prizes
and much more!**

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