



# AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

September-October 2017



**AAA SqueezeFest**

**July 11-15, 2018**

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites**

**625 First Street**

**Alexandria, VA 22314**



Sponsored by the  
American Accordionists' Association

## From the Editor:

Plans are now well underway for the Gala AAA 80th AAA Anniversary Festival to be held in Alexandria, VA (Washington, DC) from July 11-15, 2018. Everyone is invited to attend what promises to be an exciting and important musical event.

We are requesting that if you or a fellow AAA member you know of, has moved, changed telephone number or e-mail address, that you please let us know. We ask that you kindly jot a quick note and send it via snail mail to our AAA Administrative Assistant at: AAA, c/o Julie Cardona, 67 Sackett Point Road, #215, North Haven, CT 06473, or send us an e-mail to: Ameraccord1938@gmail.com mentioning Address Change in the subject box. We want to keep you up-to-date on coming events but have found recently that some mail gets returned.

Once again my sincere thanks to the AAA 2nd Vice President Linda Reed and Board of Director Rita Davidson for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. We invite you to submit your news items for publication so that your fellow members can see the incredible array of accordion activities happening throughout the country. Items for the November/December 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 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.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

Kevin Friedrich - AAA Newsletter Editor



## From the President:

As always, time goes by too quickly . . . here we are into October already, and the leaves rapidly are changing color for a spectacular Fall Season here in the northeast. Soon Thanksgiving and Christmas will be upon us, and then it will be 2018!

Fall is a busy time in the music world . . . presenting concerts and shows by the dozen before the winter sets in. We hope that you have shared the information for the events being sponsored in your area. That is what a newsletter is all about – sharing information so we can all enjoy everyone's accordion events, no matter where they are, or who sponsors them.

The Confederation Internationale des Accordeonists Coupe Mondiale is in the past now, and the AAA is very proud of our Representative in the Masters Division, Nathan Chapeton. He represented us very well, and did an incredible performance of the music required for the division. (If you want to hear Nathan's performance from the event, go to the CIA website at [www.coupemondiale.org](http://www.coupemondiale.org) . . . click "enter" on the Coupe Mondiale

home page, and then on the 2017 Italy icon and look for the videos from the Masters Division! You will be entertained and amazed.)

Inside this newsletter you will find Kevin Friedrich's incredible report on "all things Coupe" – the event, the people, the winners and the place - Osimo, Italy. Next year's Coupe Mondiale is in Kaunas, Lithuania from September 25-29, 2018. Wouldn't it be terrific to have a "group" of AAA members attend the festivities? Let me know if you are interested! It is always a fun (and educational) event.

Member input is an important part of being a member of any organization. Help guide us in presenting events that YOU might have in mind by sending your ideas to us. Feel free to send suggestions and comments to the AAA email address:

**ameraccord1938@gmail.com**. Be sure to include your thoughts and information on "who, what, when, where, and how" to accomplish the task as well.



*continued on page 2*

**See next page for important information on making your hotel reservation for 2018 Festival**

From the President, cont'd from page 1

In closing, I hope to see all AAA members at our 80th Anniversary Celebration and Festival, July 11-15, 2018 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Alexandria, Virginia. Among our featured Guest Artists are Joseph Natoli, Stas Venglevski with Tatyana Krasnobaeva, Trujilio Tango Trio (an entertaining tango group from the D.C. area), and yours truly – Mary Tokarski. Joan Cochran Sommers will lead the 80th Anniversary Festival Orchestra; and a Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Louis F. Coppola during the festivities. Many of the workshop presenters you know and love will be in attendance so be sure to make your plans early. Remember, the hotel will cut off our special rate one month prior to the start of the Festival, so make your reservations early. Stay posted to the AAA website for more up-to-date information as it becomes available. Join us for the fun.

See you there!

## AAA Composers Commissioning Committee News

The Composers Commissioning Committee is happy to announce that it recently financially assisted New York composer and engraver George Katehis in his creation of a new accordion work, *BECOME/DESICCATED*, that will be performed by classical virtuoso accordionist Matti Pulkki in recitals he will give in three prestigious venues, starting with the premiere at Benzaquen Hall, Dimenna Center, New York City, on November 16, 2017, 7:30 PM. The remaining two locations are Gallery 435, in Toronto, November 21, 2017, 8:00 PM, and Camerata Hall, Musikkitalo, Helsinki, January 11, 2018, 7:30 PM. All concerts are free and open to the public.

The latest AAA commissioned composer is Joseph Natoli (1972 AAA National Competition winner), who is as brilliant a composer as he is accordion virtuoso. He has been contracted to write two works, a solo and a chamber work for accordion and other instruments to be determined by the composer. The composer will premiere the solo piece during the 2018 AAA Festival, in Alexandria, Virginia. ■



BECOME/DESICCATED

**MATTI PULKKI, ACCORDION**

new works for solo accordion

Premiered by accordionist, Matti Pulkki in New York City  
Thursday, November 16th, 7:30 PM Benzaquen Hall in the Dimenna Center  
450 W 37th St., New York, NY 10018

## Some important information regarding hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Alexandria, VA

The Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Alexandria, VA is the host for the 2018 SqueezeFest, 80th Anniversary Celebration of the AAA and the Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to Louis F. Coppola. The hotel rate of \$129 has been extended to three days prior to the beginning of our event and three days after so that guests will have an opportunity to visit Alexandria as well as our Nation's Capital. The Squeeze Fest begins on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 and culminates at the Farewell Breakfast on Sunday, July 15, 2018. (Discounted hotel rate applies from July 9 thru July 18, 2018).

For those individuals flying, there is airport shuttle information available from Washington National Airport (nominal fee) and for those driving, there is ample parking space available on the premises of the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites on 625 First Street in Alexandria, however there is a fee for parking. The regular rate is \$20 per day, however if you are an overnight guest at the hotel, the rate has been reduced to \$10 per day. For family and friends who may be visiting for only one day, we recommend on-the-street parking. Old Town Alexandria is a beautiful area and very safe.

For making hotel reservations online, you must use the live link that appears on the AAA website which is:

### American Accordionists Association

For those who do not have access to a computer, please call the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites' 800 #  
**1-877-834-3613**

Be sure you indicate that the reservation is thru the American Accordionists' Association.

If you access the website for the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites without using the "live link" above, you will not receive the rate. This can be confusing because there is actually a rate you can select on the generic website which reads AAA/CAA. This is NOT the AAA site (it is the rate for Triple A Automobile members).

If you are an IHG rewards member, you may receive additional "perks" such as free breakfast, or a host of other benefits plus you are receiving bonus points for future use.

Please make your reservations early as the cut off date will be June 11, 2018 and there are no exceptions. You can, however, cancel your reservation without being charged. That cut-off time is 6:00 p.m., one day prior to your reservation.

Take advantage of the discounted rate. Bring the whole family to the AAA's 80th Anniversary Celebration and see our Nation's Capital, too. ■

## Remembering Bob Vitale

*On Sunday, September 24, at the Waverly Tavern in Cheshire, CT, the Connecticut Accordion Association dedicated its gathering to Bob Vitale, who passed away last July 15. The crowd of some 75 CAA members viewed a slide show dedicated to Bob and heard tributes from his 2 sons, Michael and Mark Vitale.*

*They were entertained by Eddie Monteiro, joined by Mitchell Guido on Sax and Jack Varanelli on drums. All 3 of these musicians had the pleasure of knowing Bob personally as well as professionally and shared a mutual respect for each other as musicians. Eddie paid a visit to Bob during his last days, coming to Bob's house and delivering a private concert to Bob just days before he passed. Mitchell Guido, Conductor of the AAA's Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble in 2016 and 2017, played under Bob as a participant of that program. Jack Varanelli is a well known and respected jazz percussionist who played alongside Bob in their younger days as well as with the CAA orchestra.*

*The program closed with a video of Bob leading the AAA's Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble, which he directed in Alexandria, VA in 2015. Finally, AAA Vice President Joe Ciccone presented a declaration from the AAA officially naming the Youth Involvement Program after Bob.*

The following eulogy was written and distributed to the attendees:

We've all already noticed that this group is not the same without Bob.

Last Saturday, orchestra members arrived to the first rehearsal of the season to find the doors of the church where we practice locked shut. I saw the crowd standing there with their equipment, uncertain as to what would happen next. This was our stark jolt into the reality of our life in the CAA without Bob Vitale.

A common site for orchestra members was the sight of Bob's Honda parked on the side of the church, doors to the church wide open and Bob lugging in the tub of music, setting up the bass accordion and amplifier, working furiously to set chairs up, putting out doughnuts he bought, greeting people with a smile as they arrived.

If we viewed the CAA as a large table, Bob Vitale was one of the legs. He was instrumental in every aspect of keeping this organization functioning. And so was his FAMILY. His contributions included finding the CAA orchestra a place to have its rehearsals, playing for the church functions to insure that we kept the space, making sure we contribute to church food drives for the needy, running off fliers for CAA meetings and getting the mailings out, managing the CAA library of music, tutoring us in our parts, putting fingering on music, setting up, breaking down rehearsals and performances, attending numerous accordion functions and working at them without being asked.

Then, there were what I call the humanitarian efforts: visiting sick CAA members at the hospital, playing regularly at a local nursing home where one of his former students was a resident, bringing broken accordions to Emilio to be fixed.....

That's the short list. I invite you to ponder your own, because I know he's helped many of us in this room in too many ways to count.

It's times like these, when life "chops off one of your legs," that we are reminded of 2 of the most important lessons that our parents teach us as children: How to say "please" and how to say "thank you." How many of us asked Bob for assistance, drawing upon his vast fund of knowledge not only about music, but about real estate, business and, well, life in general? And how often were we all the recipients of not only his musical talent, but his innate kindness and sense of commitment?

So today is about saying THANK YOU to the man who is likely very exasperated at me right now from his place in what he called "the big orchestra" in heaven. Exasperated because he

never expected recognition of ANY kind, despite his immense musical talent recognized by some of the best jazz musicians in the industry. He excelled at EVERYTHING he did. Bob and Barbara Vitale passed their legacy of success and compassion down to his boys and his grandchildren. To his sons and grandchildren: he gushed with pride when he spoke of you...

You will hear the ensemble known as Vitality play in Bob's honor shortly. Bob, along with several members of "Vitality" had the honor of playing at the Frank Marocco Accordion Event, held in Mesa, Arizona and in Castelfidardo, Italy. That orchestra was conducted by the late, great Frank Marocco, who had tremendous respect for Bob's musical talent, and who considered Bob a cherished friend.

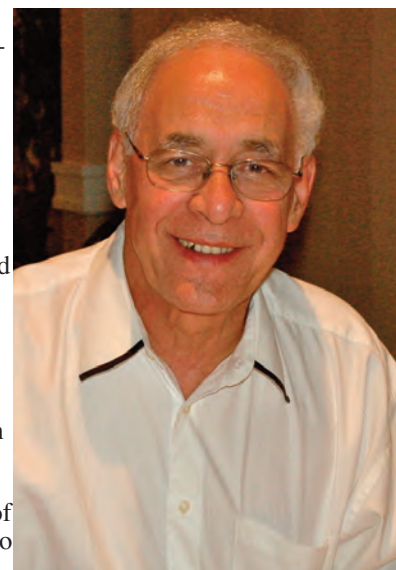
*Following are excerpts from a biographical article I wrote about Bob a few years after he returned to the accordion world:*

Despite the 40 -year time span that has passed since he owned Bob Vitale Music School in Waterbury, CT, Bob is still "the teacher" to 5 of his former students. They play as an ensemble, rehearsing every Monday night at his real estate office in Waterbury. Kathleen (La Porta) Di Cocco, Judy (Pellitier) Sehna, Mary (Salvio) Mascolo, Art Daigle and yours truly, Marilyn Grosso O'Neil all took lessons from Bob in the "heyday of the accordion." A member of this ensemble, the infamous Karen Buccitti, (a former student of Vincent Spiotti), has been "adopted" by the group. We consider ourselves lucky on many accounts, but especially because we took lessons with the youngest veteran of the accordion era in Waterbury. The other accordion teachers have either passed on or abandoned the accordion for other instruments. NOT OUR BOB! I will say, he had to be coaxed, since it had been years since he'd last played. But when he saw how the CAA orchestra was blossoming, all he needed was someone to gently place an accordion on his lap. The rest, as they say, is history in the making.

He joined the Connecticut Accordion Association, and became an active participant in the orchestra. He eventually came to serve on its advisory board. Along with former accordion teachers in Waterbury, Bob was honored at the CAA's official debut performance at Seven Angels Theatre. He performs regularly as bass accordionist with the CAA orchestra at both local and out of state events and was part of an ensemble specifically chosen to play at the 2006 opening season of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. Bob discovered how much he enjoyed being a member of an accordion orchestra, and this discovery prompted him to join the Accordion Pops Orchestra, a group of accordionists who reside in the Northeastern US and play under the direction of Daniel Desiderio of New Jersey. In 2007, Bob was chosen to play in the premiere World Accordion Orchestra as part of the Coupe Mondiale International Accordion Festival held in conjunction with the AAA Festival in Alexandria, VA.

What about Bob's history??

Bob is a native of Waterbury, the eldest of 4 sons born to Rose and Michael Vitale. Michael sang Barbershop. A younger brother, Anthony, played saxophone and clarinet. Bob's eldest son, Michael, is a drummer. And Mark Vitale, Bob's second son,



## Remembering Bob Vitale, cont'd from page 3

played accordion as a child and won a championship title at competition.

Bob showed promise as a musician early in life. He studied accordion from the age of 7 through 18 with Charles Deloio and Bob Mobilio. Coaxed by his father, he was strolling the streets of Waterbury at 13, entertaining people in their homes. This was the start of his professional career, as he began performing at hotels, restaurants and weddings with several bands, most notably the Stardusters and the G.A.B. He started teaching at Leogrande Music School at age 17, meanwhile studying theory and harmony with Charles ("Chic") Chichetti (conductor and arranger for Sergio Franchi), as well as with a professor of Jazz Music at Yale University.

At the tender age of 21, Bob opened Vitale Music School, where some 300-400 youngsters studied piano, clarinet, saxophone, guitar, drums and, of course, the accordion. Bob's accordion students regularly earned trophies for individual, duet, ensemble and orchestra performances in statewide competition. At that time, Bob was the youngest of the founding fathers of the Accordion Teachers Association of Connecticut.



Bob's life took a different turn once he left the music studio in 1970. He began what would be a 7-year proprietorship of a restaurant in Waterbury called The Melody Room, where jazz was regularly heard by its patrons. (Bob on accordion, of course!). Bob eventually left the restaurant business and opened Vitale Realty, where he still works today with his wife, Barbara, and his sons, Michael and Mark.

While I will always remember the man who came to our door selling accordion lessons, who demanded perfection and earned respect from his students, the teacher who taught us about music and lots of other things (how to study, work at and achieve a goal)... the man clothed in childhood memories, I echo the sentiments of Linda Soley Reed, CAA orchestra conductor and President of the American Accordionists' Association. Linda describes Bob as "a man who gets lost in his music, is generous to a fault, always there to lend a hand. He is friendly, outgoing and affectionate, referring to the women in the CAA orchestra as "beautiful," which no woman is too old to hear."

I would also add that unlike many folks in the music world, he is so obviously not "full of himself," a quality that can often spoil even the best musician's performance. Nonetheless, Bob lights up a room when he enters it, always a smile on his face, his booming voice full of warmth. His music isn't only technically masterful; it is heartfelt and flows freely and frequently at CAA gatherings. For those reasons alone, audiences clamor to hear him, loving the familiar jazz standards and the creative style that Bob brings to his listener's ears.

He still makes me so proud to call him "Teacher."

Play with the angels, Bob.

Eulogy by Marilyn O'Neil

## 70th Coupe Mondiale in Osimo, Italy

The 70th Coupe Mondiale and 138th General Assembly of Delegates was held from September 5th - 10th, 2017 in Osimo, Italy, a charming historical hilltop city some 10 kms from the renowned accordion manufacturing city of Castelfidardo.

The American Accordionists' Association (AAA) was represented by Mary Tokarski and the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) was represented by Joan Cochran Sommers and Liz Finch. In addition several other North American accordionists were in attendance including Kevin Friedrich (CIA Ambassador), AAA Board of Director Sam Falcetti and ATG members Michelle Boddicker-Scheffler and Beverley Fess. Joan, Liz and Mary all served as members of the International Jury panels for various categories of the competitions.

This year's festival had one American contestant competing, Nathan Chapeton (AAA) who presented a magnificent classical program in the Masters Coupe Mondiale. A student of Mary Tokarski, this was Nathan's third Coupe Mondiale, having competed in 2014 in Salzburg, Austria and again last year in Rostov-on-Don, Russia.

One of the important tasks of the Congress meeting was the CIA Presidential Election where Mirco Patarini (Italy) has become the 12th President of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA), the first Italian President in the organization's 82 year history. Mr. Patarini assumes the role from immediate past President Raymond Bodell (United Kingdom) who completed his two terms of office, leading the CIA.

With brothers Leonardo and Luciano Menghini, he is the owner and President of Scandalli Accordions S.r.l. Today, working alongside his fellow manufacturers in the small but renowned city of Castelfidardo, he works to promote excellence in accordion manufacturing.

As an accordion concert artist, Mirco performs worldwide as both a soloist, with Symphony Orchestras and with International-

ally recognized musicians, having performed in Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Holland, Great Britain, Egypt, Brasil, U.S.A, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Luxembourg, Japan, China, Sweden, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ukraine and more.

Having served as a Delegate and Jury member for Italy, Chairperson of the CIA Music Committee and twice as organizer of the Coupe Mondiale in recent years, as President, Mr. Patarini brings to the CIA a diverse wealth of expertise from many aspects of the accordion world. From manufacturing and production through to the concert stage, from his national CIA Premiere Voting member the Italian Accordion Culture to organizing both national and International festivals, to the print and online publications of Strumenti & Musica, to his work collaborating with musicians of all ages and genres of music, he looks forward to working on behalf of the 43 CIA members in their future endeavors as well as promoting the important collaboration with the UNESCO based International Music Council.



Pictured (above) on the CIA Executive are Harlely Jones (Public Relations Manager - New Zealand), Kimmo Mattila (General Secretary - Finland), Herbert Scheibenreif (Vice President - Austria), Raymond Bodell (Immediate Past President - United Kingdom), Mirco Patarini (CIA President - Italy), Li Cong (Vice President - China), Viatcheslav Semionov (Vice President - Russia) and Kevin Friedrich (Ambassador - USA).

*continued on next page*

## 70th Coupe Mondiale, cont'd. from p.4

The festival featured seven categories of International Competition with the results which can be found on page 11.

Nathan Chapeton, the only American contestant and representing the AAA, is a young musician who became interested in playing the accordion at the age of eight when he heard his teacher, Mary Tokarski perform in concert. He has attended multiple music festivals sponsored by the American Accordionists' Association and the Mid-Atlantic Music Teachers Guild where he captured the Virtuoso Category prize twice so far!

Mr. Chapeton has appeared as a guest artist in many local musical organizations including the Long Island Accordion Alliance, the Brooklyn Accordion Club, and as a frequent performer at Connecticut Accordion Association events. Nathan has earned the privilege of representing the United States-AAA at the Coupe Mondiale (World Accordion Championships) three times so far.

At the Coupe Mondiale in Austria (2014) and Russia (2016) he was among the best accordionists and musicians from around the world. His plan now includes learning baroque and classical music and to compete in more rigorous categories at the competition.

Nathan also plays with the Jazz Ensemble at Middletown High playing his accordion, piano, and other miscellaneous keyboard instruments. His interest in jazz was sparked when he was part of the Youth Involvement Program jazz ensemble at an American Accordionists' Association festival, with other young accordionists and instrumentalists.



This year Nathan auditioned for the honor to perform with the New Haven Symphony when his school, Middletown High School (Connecticut) Goes to the Symphony on May 22, 2017 and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra (Connecticut) on April 30, 2017. He was selected by BOTH to be a guest performer for their concerto concerts featuring soloists on violin, cello, piano . . . and the accordion!

The Osimo festival included a series of Gala concerts showcasing both Italian performers of various genres and new works for accordion by Italian composers. All the concerts were held in the stunning Fenice Theatre, a six story Opera style theatre complete with raked (sloped) stage.

Guests took advantage of the proximity to neighboring Castelfidardo to visit the International Museum of the Accordion, showcasing some 300 instruments and accordion related materials. Sitting proudly on display is the original score of AAA and ATG Founder Anthony Galla-Rini's Concerto No. 1 in g minor (1941). This and a baton used by Galla-Rini were presented to the Museum by Joan Cochran Sommers on behalf of the ATG and his son Ronald in 2008, after Galla-Rini's passing on July 30, 2006 at 102 years of age.

The festival concluded with the magnificent performance of World Accordion Orchestra IX. Following the very successful inaugural Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes World Accordion Orchestra debut performance at the Coupe Mondiale 2007 (USA) under the Musical Direction of Joan C. Sommers, the CIA has continued this tradition of uniting accordionists with the magic of music, as performers from around the globe join together to form a unique and magnificent International 'World Accordion Orchestra.'

Osimo was delighted to host World Accordion Orchestra IX as the Grand Finale of the 70th Coupe Mondiale Festival. The orchestra, after two rehearsals, received a standing ovation for their performance of the three works including: 'Omaggio a Pietro Overture' by Pietro Frosini, arr. Anthony Galla-Rini; 'Medley from La La Land' by Justin Hurwitz, arr. Liz Finch (Another Day of Sun, Audition-The Fools Who Dream, A Lovely Night, City of Stars, Mía and Sebastian's Theme and Someone



At left, Joan Sommers is pictured at the International Museum of the Accordion in Castelfidardo, Italy. Below, the Museum display included the original score of Galla-Rini's Concerto no. 1 in g minor as well as a baton used by Galla-Rini. These were presented to the museum on behalf of ATG by Joan Cochran Sommers and Galla-Rini's son, Ronald, after Galla-Rini's passing in 2006



Above, Joan Sommers conducted the World Accordion Orchestra IX as a Finale of the 70th Coupe Mondiale Festival in Osimo, Italy.

In The Crowd) and 'Medley from Beauty and the Beast' by Alan Menken, (Belle, Beauty and The Beast and Be Our Guest) arr. Joan Cochran Sommers.

For a full report including videos and pictures of contestants, activities, concerts (including Nathan's competition performance and the World Accordion Orchestra IX concert), full marks and results from all competitions and more, please visit [www.coupemondiale.org](http://www.coupemondiale.org). After selecting the Italy Coupe Mondiale, the next page will include links to the Daily Reports and the Video Center. ■



Above, outgoing CIA President, Raymond Bodeli (Great Britain), congratulates newly elected CIA President, Mirco Patarini (Italy)

## Joseph Soprani with Two Trios in Concert

Accordionist Joseph Soprani was featured in two concerts on October 7 and 8, 2017. He performed in a program presented by the Mandolin Society of Philadelphia with the Connecticut-based Hampton Trio and the Philadelphia-based Sycamore Muse Trio.



The Hampton Trio includes Mark Davis (mandolin), Robert Margo (mandola) and Beverly Davis. The Hampton Trio performs original music and arrangements for ensemble of mandolin, mandola, and classical guitar. Inspired by the groundbreaking work of groups such as Trio Nuovo (Japan) and Trio Chamorro (Spain), the Hampton Trios' goal is to popularize and add to the existing repertoire for this instrumentation. In addition to their trio repertoire, the groups' programs often include classical guitar duos by Mark and Beverly Davis, and mandolin solos by Robert A. Margo. Mark Davis conducts the acclaimed New American Mandolin Ensemble (NAME) and the Providence Mandolin Orchestra (PMO). Beverly Davis and Robert Margo are members of NAME and PMO.

Formed in 2011, the mandolin and guitar duo, Sycamore Muse, performs regularly at Chef Joey Baldino's acclaimed eateries: Zepoli, in Collingswood, NJ, and the Palizzi Social Club, in South Philadelphia. Joe Todaro and Mark Linkins who share mandolin and guitar duties also perform for weddings, receptions, art openings, and winery events throughout the Delaware Valley.

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

## Long Island Accordion Alliance

The "Musette Duo" comprising Manny Corallo and Dominic Karcic performed at La Villini Restaurant of East Northport, NY during one of their twice monthly evenings of accordion music held at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY.

Manny Corallo started playing the drums at four years old, then soon switched to the accordion. Manny took lessons from his father's accordion teacher Frank Toscano. As Manny says, it was at first a father-son bonding thing to both play the accordion. But soon Manny had a lifelong love affair with music. At age 13 he also began piano lessons with Frank and has gone on to compose and arrange music, first for commercials, and then he began arranging for various artists. Manny then had a chance to score a children's cartoon, which led him to scoring music for the movie Pokemon. Manny has gone on to score and arrange music for many projects including recordings and live productions

Manny attributes his success to a great music education from Frank Toscano and is very proud of his musical relationship with Frank and Angelo Di Pippo as the Accordion Kings.

Accordionist and founder of the Long Island Accordion Alliance Dominic Karcic, attended New York College of Music where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree and continued his education at the City University of New York (CCNY) where he received his Masters Degree in Music.

Dominic was a public school music teacher for thirty-two years focusing on vocal and instrumental instruction in the Long Island towns of Valley Stream, Freeport, and Baldwin. He has always played professionally in the New York metropolitan area and continues to do so today. His love for the Valtaro Musette music was instilled in him through his years of study with noted accordionist Peter Spagnoli.

only accordionist in the history of the Philadelphia Orchestra to appear as a featured soloist under Eugene Ormandy.

While accordion soloist with the USAF Band in Washington, DC under Col. George S. Howard, he won the "The Air Force Roger", the most prestigious entertainment award in the US Air Force. He also was the first accordion soloist with the PA Army National Guard Band "The Adjutant General's Own" for over eight years.

On five occasions, Soprani appeared with opera singer Luciano Pavarotti at the Spectrum in Philadelphia and has performed for President Eisenhower at the White House. To add to his impressive list of credentials, Soprani was invited to arrange the opening selection for Rock star Jon Bon Jovi's 1996 world tour and has also written the official song for the International Rotary Club.

In addition to performing in Broadway shows such as "Fiddler on the Roof", "Zorba", "Cabaret" and "Erma la Duce", he has performed in world premieres of "Frida", a musical that called for a virtuoso accordionist and "Another Kind of Hero", a musical which featured Soprani on stage for an entire scene.

Soprani, who appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show and won the Arthur Godfrey Show, appeared with TV Star Nell Carter in a "Colors of Freedom" Production at the Convention Center in Philadelphia in 1995. He also appeared with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops playing a special arrangement by Nero with Soprano Evelyn de LaRosa.

Joe with Klaus Arp in November of 1997, Soprani became the first accordionist to perform in "La Traviata" by Verdi presented by the Opera Company of Philadelphia, at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. Klaus Arp, the opera conductor from Germany, decided to use the accordion in the small ensemble on stage during "La Banda" sections.

Soprani has also performed with renowned vocalist Russell Watson on Good Morning America, and today continues to promote the accordion as a serious instrument at various clubs and organizations. His workshops at schools and colleges where he demonstrates his skills as performer and arranger to young composers and arrangers have been well received. For more information, please visit [www.accordions.com/soprani](http://www.accordions.com/soprani). ■

In recent years he has been involved in the preservation and documentation of this musical style. He collaborated in writing a biographical article on the life and career of accordionist John "Scudlein" Brugnoli (founder of the Valtaro Musette Orchestra) which was published in the Gazzetta di Parma (Parma, Italy) on September 10, 2002. He has continued writing articles about Valtaro Musette music and several have been published in the Borgo Val di Taro web-site.

For more information on upcoming LIAA activities, please visit [www.facebook.com/Long-IslandAccordionAlliance/](http://www.facebook.com/Long-IslandAccordionAlliance/). ■



The "Musette Duo"  
Dominic Karcic  
&  
Manny Corallo





### It's a Celebration!

July 11-15, 2018 at the  
Holiday Inn & Suites  
625 First Street • Alexandria, VA 22314  
Single - Double - Triple - Quad – \$129.00  
Deadline for reservations at the discounted  
rate is  
**June 11, 2018**

## Acme Accordion School featured in the News

The Acme Accordion School was recently featured in the News in an article titled "69 years and counting: Acme Accordion School squeezes into the Future." Reporter Bill Duhart asked the general question "Who says the accordion went out of style?"

The article went on to profess that 'certainly not Joanna Darrow.' He reported that Joanna and her husband Stan Darrow have operated the Acme Accordion School for nearly 70 years in the Westmont section of Haddon Township in New Jersey.

The article went on to describe the long journey of the Acme Accordion School, navigating the ups and downs of the popularity of the instrument and how today, they are enjoying ongoing success.

Joanna Darrow who joined the school in 1964 showcased the years of memorabilia on the walls of the one-story building with an attached home in which they live. Just about every inch is filled with newspaper clippings, posters and accordions, documenting their nearly 70 years as accordion ambassadors. Still actively teaching, Joanna teaches full time and her students range in age from 8 to 75!

The article talked of the accordion's heyday in American popular culture as being the 1950s and early 1960s at the dawn of television. Variety shows featured Welk and his fellow accordion soloist Myron Floren, also known for his Disco Polka album in 1977, and the challenges that the accordion teachers faced as the popularity of electric guitars and keyboards rose.

Bill Duhart in talking to members of the Acme Accordion School found out that large populations of European immigrants had settled in the NJ area over the past century and kept the music and the instrument alive.

"I play because my father said I would play it," said Carol Comegno, a veteran Newspaper Reporter and long time member of the orchestra. "He always wanted to play an instrument and never had the opportunity as an immigrant and he wanted me to have that opportunity. He said I had to start with the accordion, and if I wanted to go on to something else, that was up to me." She never did. Sarah Kaufman found the accordion a different way. In fact, it appears to have found her. "If it wasn't for the fact that the diner I love is right across the street, I may have never found this," said Kaufman, an attorney and child advocate. "I saw 'Acme Accordion School.' How can you not just go in and find out what was going on?"

Joanna, an AAA Board Member reported that business is as good as it has been in years and that she frequently gets calls from Philadelphia string bands made famous by the city's Mummer's New Year's Day parade, who are always on the look out for accordion players.

For more information on Joanna and Stan Darrow, please visit [www.accordions.com/joanna](http://www.accordions.com/joanna). ■



Top photo: Memorabilia at Acme on display throughout studio and home.  
Below: Joanna rehearses the Acme Accordion Orchestra

## Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini Maintain Busy Fall Schedule!

AAA Board member and acclaimed accordionist Mario Tacca and his renowned wife, vocalist Mary Mancini have been keeping a busy schedule performing throughout September.

They appeared at the Magnanini Winery on several occasions before appearing in concert, their third such appearance, at The Lake of the Woods Church in Locust Grove, VA. To cap off the month, they were joined by fellow musicians Phil Battiston on drums and Mike Caruso on guitar/mandolin/banjo at the "Uptown Room" at the Ossining Elks Lodge in Ossining, NY.

Born in Italy, during his childhood, Mario's family moved to the Alsace Lorraine region of France where he began his musical studies. While in France, he won Regional and National and International accordion competitions.

Internationally acclaimed vocal artist Mary Mancini performed in a variety of venues around the world. Able to sing in eight different languages, Mary is adept at pop, show tunes, operatic arias, and sacred music and has received worldwide acclaim. Mary has headlined numerous concert halls and festivals in North America, Europe, and China.

As a dynamic and sought after duo, Mario and Mary in addition to performing throughout the USA, have completed two concert tours of China. As guests of the China Ministry of Culture, they toured five cities in three weeks and performed with three symphony orchestras. Joining them on their tour was highly acclaimed Chinese tenor, Douglas Song. In addition to performing with the Symphony Orchestras, some of the most memorable moments included a performance held at the 1600 seat True Color Jazz Super Club in the booming city of Shenzhen and in the 3500 seat Golden Opera House.

Upcoming performances include:

November 1 - Mario and Mary are performing for the Long Island Accordion Alliance at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY.

Sunday Nov 12 and Sunday December 3 at Magnanini Winery Restaurant in Walkill NY.

Friday December 15 at 7:00 pm their Christmas Concert at Assumption Church in Peekskill, NY - joining them is The Victor Lioni String Quartet, Phil Battiston on Drums and Lew Scott on Bass, plus The Assumption Youth Spirit Singers.

For further information on their upcoming performances and recordings, please visit: [www.gioiaproductions.com](http://www.gioiaproductions.com). ■



## From Dvořák to Piazzolla: Petr Nouzovský and Ladislav Horák

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic in New York Concert presented exceptional Czech cellist Petr Nouzovský and acclaimed Czech accordionist Ladislav Horák in a concert of works for cello and accordion by Czech contemporary composers, Dvořák and Piazzolla. The program which took place October 16, 2017 at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City was as follows:

Karel Pexidr: Quodlibet for Accordion  
 Jiří Teml: Small Gallery for Violoncello and Accordion  
 Václav Trojan: Sleepy Princess for Violoncello and Accordion  
 Roman Haas: Scottish Fantasy for Violoncello (World Premiere)  
 Adam Skoumal: Shalik for Violoncello and Accordion  
 Antonín Dvořák: Cypresses for Violoncello and Accordion  
 Astor Piazzolla: Vivat Tango for Violoncello and Accordion  
 Astor Piazzolla: Ave Maria for Violoncello and Accordion  
 Astor Piazzolla: Libertango for Violoncello and Accordion

Ladislav Horák is a graduate of the Prague Conservatory and the West Bohemia University in Plzeň (Prof. Jaroslav Vlach). While still a student, he won the national competition in Hořovice (1990) and garnered successes at international competitions in Andorra, Italy and Spain (1987–1990). He performs as a soloist, chamber player and accompanied by orchestras (the Prague Symphony Orchestra, Moravian Philharmonic Olomouc, North Bohemia Philharmonic Teplice, Prague Philharmonia, Suk Chamber Orchestra, Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra, Fisorchestra Marchigiana) and has regularly appeared at prestigious festivals in North America, Asia and throughout Europe. He is a champion of and has given premieres of pieces by contemporary Czech and foreign composers, which he has recorded for Czech and international radio stations (Czech Radio, Klassikradio, Classical WQED). His label Edition Rondo Prague has released a dozen CDs. One of the most renowned promoters of Italy's Borsini.

He represents the Czech accordion school in international organizations and as a chairman of juries of international competitions



(Castelfidardo, Innsbruck, Pula). He is the only accordionist from Central Europe invited to sit on the juries of the prestigious German competitions Deutscher-Akkordeon-Musikpreis and Deutsche-Orchesterwettbewerb. In Prague he is artistic director of the European Accordion Orchestras Festival and Accordion Days. Since the 1990s, he has taught at the Prague Conservatory, since 2005 he has been its director. For more than 15 years, he headed the accordion department at the largest South Bavaria private school, in Regen. He has been invited to lead accordion master classes in Andorra, Castelfidardo (Italy), at the Conservatorio Funchal (Madeira), the Music Academies in Lodz (Poland) and Budapest, the Royal Academies in Aarhus (Denmark) and Stockholm, and the Steinhardt University in New York. ■

## Performances by Robert Young McMahan

Dr. Robert Young McMahan premiered his latest composition, *Romp 5*, for violin, cello, and accordion, at the 2017 AAA Master Class and Concert Series, at the Tenri Institute, in New York, July 28, with Emmanuel Borowsky, violin, Cecylia Barczyk, cello, and McMahan, accordion. The work will be performed again by the same artists in a concert entitled "Music Off the Beaten Path," at Towson University (near Baltimore), in the Music Department Recital Hall, on Sunday, October 22, at 3:00 PM; and a joint concert entitled "Bellows and Bows," featuring contemporary works for violin and cello, and violin, cello, and accordion at The College of New Jersey, Ewing NJ (near Trenton), on February 3, 2018, at 8:00 PM. In addition to McMahan's work on the latter program, the trio will also perform the AAA commission *Triologue*, for violin, cello, and accordion, by Lukas Foss (which the ensemble also performed at the Friday evening concert of the AAA Festival in Princeton, NJ, on July 14), and *Introduction and Allegro*, for cello and accordion, by Mátýás Seiber.



In addition to his own *Romp 5*, Dr. McMahan also participated as

a performer in the premieres of three other new works at the above mentioned concert at the Tenri Institute: *Entropic Orbit*, for bassoon and accordion (2017), by Devon Tipp: with Tipp on bassoon; *Ozymandias*, for sho and accordion (2017), by Devon Tipp: with Zachary Hap Seligman Karen on sho; *De Witt Etudes*, nos. 1, 8 (2017), by Dave Soldier (one of the AAA commissioned composers of the past): with William Schimmel, accordion; Devon Tipp, bassoon; Denise Lutter, flute; Dan Cooper, 7-string electric bass.

Dr. McMahan also played *Curriculum Vitae*, by Lukas Foss, at Tenri on Sunday of that annual, three-day event. This solo piece was the first of the two Foss works commissioned by the AAA (the above mentioned *Triologue*, being the second).

The performances of all of the above works were video taped and may be heard and seen on Youtube, with the exceptions of the Seiber and Soldier selections. ■

*Celebrate Good Times....*

at the AAA's  
 80th Anniversary Festival  
 July 11-15, 2018

Meet and Greet. • Workshops. • Concerts  
 After Hours Club  
 Exhibits of Instruments, Music,  
 Accessories, Unique Gifts and more.  
 80th Anniversary AAA Archive Exhibit



## Guy Klucevsek and the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra

Guy Klucevsek performed with the University of Pittsburgh on October 11, 2017. This homecoming week concert featured Pitt alumnus Guy Klucevsek (MA '71 in Composition and Theory), world famous accordionist/composer, who performed his *Ratatatouille* for accordion and orchestra. Klucevsek also performed his compositions *Wave Hill* (1995) with string orchestra, *Flying Vegetables of the Apocalypse* (1988) with string quartet, *Dvorak Largo: Variations and Theme* (accordion solo), and *Stolen Memories* (1993). The program also includes Igor Stravinsky's *Concerto in D* for string orchestra and Johannes Brahms's *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*, op. 56a.

Guy Klucevsek is one of the world's most versatile and highly-respected accordionists. He has performed and/or recorded with Laurie Anderson, Bang On a Can, Brave Combo, Anthony Braxton, Anthony Coleman, Dave Douglas, Bill Frisell, Rahim al Haj, Robin Holcomb, Kepa Junkera, the Kronos Quartet, Natalie Merchant, Present Music, *Relâche*, *Zeitgeist*, and John Zorn.

He is the recipient of a 2010 United States Artists Collins Fellowship, an unrestricted \$50,000 award given annually to "America's finest artists." He has premiered over 50 solo accordion pieces, including his own, as well as those he has commissioned from Mary Ellen Childs, William Duckworth, Fred Frith, Aaron Jay Kernis, Jerome Kitzke, Stephen Montague, Somei Satoh, Lois Vierk, and John Zorn.

Performances include the Ten Days on the Island Festival (Tasmania), the Adelaide Festival (Australia), the Berlin Jazz Festival, Lincoln Center, Spoleto Festival/USA, BAM Next Wave Festival, Cotati Accordion Festival, San Antonio International Accordion Festival, Vienna International Accordion Festival, and the children's television show "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood."

For further information: [gklucevsek@mac.com](mailto:gklucevsek@mac.com) ■



## Meeting of the Generations

Music recently brought together two musicians, linking generations of performance and love for the accordion. University Accordion Performance major Vince Demor performed an Oktoberfest function at a Clubhouse in Port Richey, FL where accordionist Don Cialkoszewski, (known as the Polish Kid) and his wife Lorraine have now retired.

Don Cialkoszewski is a former Ohio State and AAA Champion from his competition days in the early 1960s. He has two recordings in the Smithsonian and was inducted into the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame in 2005. He has numerous original button box and accordion hits played daily on radio, internet and Sirius Satellite. His musical career began at the age of seven when he began taking accordion lessons. At the age of eight he performed his first paid engagement. In the 1950's Cialkoszewski was a featured solo accordionist on the "Kiddy Carnival Show" on WSPD radio in Toledo. In 1957 he was asked to perform on Lawrence Welk's Top Tunes and New Talent Show. He has been classically trained and has taught guitar, accordion, clarinet, trumpet and drums. His music ranges from classical to pop, from swing to polka tunes. For the past 30 years, his music has been played across the United States. In addition to performing and teaching he has written/composed hundreds of tunes.

Meanwhile, the new generation features Vince Demor. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA in 1997 and at an early age, it was recognized that he had an innate musical affinity. He started music theory classes and lessons on the cello and the piano at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, at the age of five. When he was seven years old he started instruction on the accordion, with Jim Fazio, (accordion performer and composer). Vince's first performance on the accordion was at the Bulgarian Social Hall in Homestead, PA.

In 2009, at the age of twelve, he moved from Pittsburgh, PA to Spartanburg, SC. He resumed cello studies at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC. For the next three years, he played the cello in both the Dorman High School Orchestra and the Carolina Youth Symphony Orchestra at Furman University. In 2010, through a rigorous series of statewide auditions, he achieved a first chair position in the South Carolina All-State Orchestra, for the cello. He was the first and only student in his school, to achieve this acclaim.

Upon entering high school in 2010, he decided to focus his musical studies on the accordion. His formal accordion instruction started again with Richard Cocovich - an accordion polka master, and continued with Lorraine Jennings - a multi-award winning accordionist and under the tutelage of the champion accordionist, the late Bill Cosby.

In 2012 he joined The Foothills Oompah Band. For the past three years he has performed with them at numerous major festivals and fairs in the Carolinas. He has appeared as a solo performer at Oktoberfests at: Greer, Simpsonville, Rock Hill, Pendleton, Hyatt Hotel in Greenville, Tryon and Hickory, NC, and Helen, GA. Also he has performed at the Spartanburg's International Festival and the Chapman Cultural Center "Unplugged" series. He is a featured musician at numerous upstate restaurants. WYCW-TV featured him on several programs. For the community, he has volunteered to perform at libraries, hospitals and nursing facilities. He played the accordion for the Disney musical stage production of *My Son Pinocchio*, at The Center for the Performing Arts in Fountain Inn, SC. During the summer of 2014 he toured with the Alex Meixner Band in Pennsylvania.

Vince is currently attending St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, FL majoring in Music (Accordion Performance) studying with accordionist Nina Slyusar-Wegmann. For more information please visit [www.accordionvince.com](http://www.accordionvince.com). ■



## Accordion Pops Orchestra

The New Jersey based Accordion Pops Orchestra maintains a busy concert schedule. Their upcoming concert (see flyer on page 12) includes Pop Goes the Accordion (Hollywood Medley), Beatles Remembered, The Big Apple (NY) medley, Ashokan Farewell (Andrea Maurer, Soloist, Blue Tango, Caramba, A Little Bit of Italy, Dance of the Comedians, Cody McSherry, Soloist), Sleigh Ride, A Christmas Fantasy, O Holy Night, Andrea Maurer, Soloist, Ave Maria, Andrea Maurer, Soloist and of course, Sounds of Christmas.

The Pops Orchestra performed recently for the American Accordionists' Association annual "SqueezeFest" in Princeton, New Jersey. The orchestra was featured at their "Pasta Night" which boasted a sell-out crowd. Many thanks to all Accordion Pops members and soloists who performed at the event.

In a previous article in the July-August AAA Newsletter, it was stated that the orchestra took a leave of absence from 1980 until 1984 which was technically incorrect since the orchestra continued to perform at all ATANJ Festivals during that time period under the direction of the late, Eugene Ettore. For more information on the life of Gene Ettore, plan on attending the 2018 AAA SqueezeFest and 80th Anniversary celebration of the AAA where Gene's former student, Rita (Weinbuch) Barnea, will present a workshop on the life and music of Eugene Ettore. ■

### Accordion Pops Orchestra, 2018 Performances

May - East Brunswick Cultural Arts Center, N.J.

June - Temple University - Philadelphia, Pa.

September - Shannondell at Valley Forge, Pa.

October - Seabrook Village - Tinton Falls, N.J.

November - Conlon Hall Auditorium - Bergenfield, N.J.

## Brooklyn Accordion Holiday Concert

Hi everyone!

We are planning a concert in December to raise funds for BAC as we are ending this year with a very tight budget and we could all use some extra holiday cheer! In addition to soloists or small ensembles, we'd love to



assemble a larger ensemble to perform holiday tunes/Christmas carols. The large ensemble would be open to ALL levels, and possibly other instruments as well. Details for the event are listed below:

### BROOKLYN ACCORDION CLUB HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sunday, December 3

Local 61 – 61 Bergen st, Brooklyn

3:00 pm

If you're interested in participating, please let us know by putting your name and additional info on this google doc. (by 10/31). Your prompt response is appreciated to help us arrange music and plan additional aspects of the event. First rehearsal will take place at our November BAC meeting on 11/19 (3-5pm) and our final run through will take place at 3pm on 12/3 with our arranger and conductor, Denise.

Hope you all can participate in what will likely be a very unique and jolly event! ■

## CAA Holiday Concert

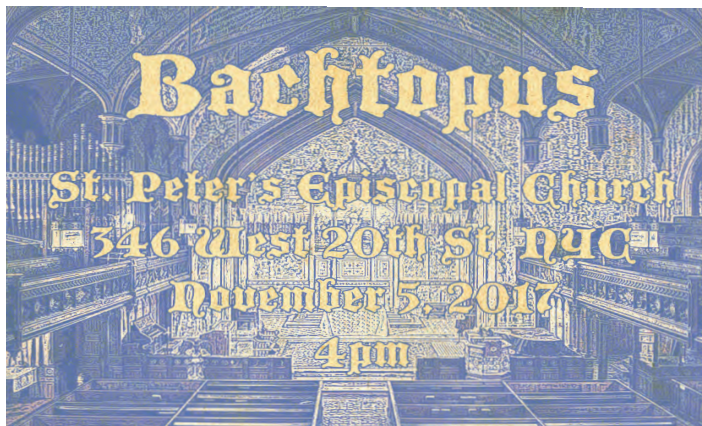
The ever-popular Connecticut Accordion Orchestra under the direction of Peter Peluso, invites all to attend their holiday concert on Sunday afternoon, December 3rd at St. John's Church on the Green in Waterbury. The concert will feature traditional holiday favorites as well as many other popular selections. The concert will begin at 3:00 p.m. and is located "On the Green" in downtown Waterbury, CT ■

## Bachtopus Performance

Bachtopus accordion ensemble will perform at NYC St. Peter's Chelsea (346 West 20th Street) on November, 5, 2017, at 4:00 pm. Members are Robert Duncan, Peter Flint, Denise Koncelik, Mayumi Miyaoka, and Jeanne Velonis.

The quintet will play pieces written by accordionists Sy Kushner, William Schimmel, Guy Klucsevsek, Peter Flint, and Stas Venglevski. Also slated are "Life and the Maiden" by Ryan O'Donnell, and works by J. S. Bach.

A suggested donation of \$10 benefits the food bank at St. Peter's Chelsea. [www.Bachtopus.com](http://www.Bachtopus.com) ■



## Welcome New Members:

Linda Conner  
Eric Matusewitch

*We look forward to meeting you!*

## Joe Natoli Composes Solo Work for AAA's 80th

The AAA has commissioned Joseph Natoli to compose a solo work for accordion which he will premier at the 2018 80th Anniversary of the AAA in Alexandria, VA from July 11-15, 2018. Further, Mr. Natoli has been commissioned to compose a chamber work for accordion and other instruments which will be premiered at the 2019 AAA Festival (date to be announced).

Joseph Natoli, born 1953, makes his home in Northeast Ohio with his wife, JoAnn, and has been a performer and advocate of the accordion since the age of seven.

Musically, Joe started his studies with prominent Ohio accordion teacher, the late Mickey Bisilia of Youngstown, Ohio, and won the 1972 AAA US Virtuoso Accordion Championship under Mr. Bisilia's tutelage, while placing first runner-up several months later in the Coupe Mondiale world accordion competition in Caracas, Venezuela. More recently, Joe also won the grand prize for the first Roland US V-Accordion competition held in Los Angeles, California, in 2008.

Joe's education includes Bachelor and Master of Music degrees (1976, 1977) in music theory and composition from the University of Toronto Faculty Of Music in Toronto, Canada, where he was the first student accepted there to use the free bass accordion as an applied major instrument, studying with world-renowned Canadian accordionist, Joseph Macerollo. Joe Natoli also studied with some of Canada's most important composers like John Weinzwieg (dean of Canadian composers), Gustav Ciamaga, Lothar Klein, and Edward Laufer.

Joe has created dozens of arrangements, especially those in his favorite genre of jazz ballads. But original composition is how Joe spends most of his writing efforts, having written many original pieces in all musical styles and genres for standard and free bass accordion, some of which are performed regularly throughout Europe, Canada, and the US. Some of Joe's more important compositions for accordion include:



Title	Year Composed	Instrumentation
Smooth	2017	Accordion quintet & percussion
Children's Suite	2017	Acoustic or digital accordion
Nostalgique	2016	Accordion quintet
Kinetic Tango	2016	Free bass accordion
Epic Cinematic Soundtrack	2016	Digital accordion
Shimmer	2015	Accordion orchestra
Tarantella Fuoco	2013	Accordion solo or duet
Toccata #2	2007	Free bass accordion
Prism/Rebirth	1978	Accordion, chamber ensemble & perc
Nascence	1976	Free bass accordion
Toccata #1	1973	Free bass accordion

Some of Joe's most recent recordings include an all-acoustic accordion CD entitled "Omaggio," which is dedicated to the many musical influences in his life from various composers, musical friends and family members. Joe has also released an all-digital Roland V-Accordion CD entitled, "Waltz for Ron," which contains a bevy of original compositions and arrangements of classical, light classical, ethnic and jazz pieces fully exploiting the orchestral possibilities of the Roland virtual accordion. "Waltz For Ron" is not only the title of the CD, but the title track of one of the CD's compositions dedicated to the memory of the late Ron Lankford, who is very much responsible for the success of the V-Accordion in the US. A new CD will be completed in 2018 called "Chameleon."

In addition to his music degrees, Joe also attended Youngstown State for a Computer Science degree and has an MBA from Franklin University. Joe has been working in the Information Technology industry since 1984, working for General Motors, Delphi Automotive, EDS, JP Morgan Chase, Nationwide Insurance, and PNC Bank. Joe and his wife JoAnn have three adult daughters and two granddaughters. ■

## Jeffrey Grosser in Concert

Dr. Jeffrey Grosser does not limit his musical explorations to any single genre or instrument and will be the featured artist for the Augusta Symphony Orchestra in Maine Nov. 12, 2017 at Snow Pond in Sidney Maine at 3PM. Although best known as President of the Fretted Instrument Guild of America, Jeff started his musical career in NYC playing accordion, and has performed at Carnegie Hall on 3 occasions playing accordion, banjo, or piano!

Famous for his jazz performances on the plectrum banjo, he was an active member of the NYC jazz music scene before moving to Maine 33 years ago. Jeff has been a guest artist at the famous Chicago Accordion Club, while also being featured on numerous radio and television shows throughout the U.S. He has a stable of Excelsior accordions (including one owned by Charles Magnante and another by Art Van Damme) but for the Vivaldi Concerto for Guitar in D Major performance he will use a Roland FR7 digital instrument as soloist for the guitar score.

Jeff does not shy away from exploring digital and electronic modalities -- and has worked with professional brass quartets, orchestras, and small ensembles over the years to produce unique musical textures with both his acoustic and digital accordions. He will also be playing in the violin section of the Augusta Symphony Orchestra for the Mozart and Beethoven pieces that will be performed in the concert as well. ■



*Saint John's Church*

*Bergenfield, N.J.*

*Presents*

**The**  
**Accordion Pops Orchestra**

*Conlon Hall Auditorium*

19 North William Street

Bergenfield, N.J.

Sunday - November 19th

3:00 p.m.

Donation - \$10.00

## Tony Lovello - Accordion Music Master

September 3rd, 2017 will be remembered as the day we lost our dear friend and brother.



There are no words that can begin to describe the man we know as "The Living Legend of the Accordion" Tony Lovello. His presence was simply too unique, too palpable and too genuine to attempt an explanation. Many know Tony as the 'Liberace of the Accordion' and the 'King and Master of the Bellow Shake'. Of course, these are all well deserved nicknames. But to those of us that knew Tony, he was much more than just a legendary musician known for his 'razzle-dazzle', 'rapid runs', 'famous glissandos' and most notably his 'trademark bellow shakes'.

Tony had a way of making people feel as though they were the most important in the world with just a few words. He gave new meaning to 'southern hospitality' through genuine curiosity and care for others. Tony loved working with students of all levels from all walks of life – a reflection of the humble man he truly was. As long as he was sharing the gift of accordion music with someone, he didn't care how or where it happened. This is why in his latter years Tony felt the urge to expand his reach by providing students with on-line lessons. He genuinely wanted to help as many people in this short life as he could, and that is exactly what he did. Many souls have been touched both personally and musically thanks to Mr. Lovello. And like many before him, this world will never replace such a sweet, funny, loving and caring human which Tony was and always will be in our memory. RIP Tony. *With love,*

*The Petosa Family*

After being in the hotel business for 31 years, this dynamic accordionist has returned to performing his magical arrangements better than ever before. From Buffalo, NY, Tony first took interest in the accordion at the early age of 5. Under the direction and guidance of his father, who also played the accordion, Tony quickly excelled and soon was playing a 48 bass accordion and was performing in and around the Buffalo, NY area.

After the family moved to Los Angeles, it didn't take long before Tony was discovered by Eddie Cantor and it was then Tony had his last name changed from Lovullo to Lovello. He then embarked on a very interesting and exciting career, touring with such greats as Eddie Cantor, George Jessel, Kate Smith, Jimmy Durante, Debbie Reynolds and Frank Sinatra to name a few. Tony made two tours to

Korea and Alaska with Johnny Grant and also performed for two years on the TV show Dixie Showboat with Dick Lane and Scatman Crothers. After his tour of duty in the army, Tony came out to pick up where he left off. He toured and performed on the Arthur Godfrey TV Show and it was then that he was asked to become a member of The Three Suns. An illness left him deaf in the left ear and Tony then had a brief stint with his own review and toured Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe. He decided to retire from active show business and went in the hotel business. There he married his secretary, Jo Ellen, and settled down in the city of Lexington, Kentucky.

It didn't take long for Tony to get back in the circle of music performing the exciting arrangement of The National Anthem at Rupp Arena, which inspired George Steinbrenner to invite Tony to perform the same in Yankee Stadium. His brother Sam, producer of the TV show, Hee Haw: then asked him to make several appearances with Roy Clark and the Hee Haw gang.

After creating a web page on the internet, Tony started to write his arrangements with video instructions for many accordionists all over the world. Joe Petosa, of Petosa Accordions had asked Tony to perform for the Northwest Accordion Society in Seattle, WA. After receiving several standing ovations, he then felt he should continue to perform. Encouraged by his family, Joe and Sam Lovullo, Tony came out of retirement from the hotel and returned to show business with a bang. In less than seven years he has recorded 11 CDs, performed over 140 concerts and has been coined King and Master of the Bellows Shake by Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini and has received 5 Lifetime Achievement Awards. Often called The Liberace of the Accordion, because of his exciting showmanship and humor, he puts out a fun-fest, well paced accordion spectacular with unforgettable stamina. He possessed a star quality of a Master Accordionist. During his concerts, he communicated and connected with the audience demonstrating his famous glissandos, rapid runs and trademark bellow shakes with accuracy and precision. He walked, talked and delivered with utmost authority and has complete command of his instrument. He could razzle-dazzle you with his outstanding arrangements and his interpretation of his signature song Malaguena that could electrify you. ■

### *Gala 80th Anniversary Banquet*

**Saturday, July 14, 2018**

**Grand Ballroom**

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites**

**625 First Street • Alexandria, VA**

**6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour (and entertainment)**

**Ballroom Foyer**

**7:00 p.m. Dinner Service Begins**

**Main Ballroom**

**AAA 80th Anniversary Festival Orchestra**

**conducted by Joan Sommers**

**PLUS Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation to**

**Louis F. Coppola**

**Entertainment throughout the evening**

## Coast to Coast

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



## WMAS Oktoberfest

The Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS) will hold its annual Oktoberfest and Music Flea Market on Sunday, October 22 at 4 pm. For this event, we will be at a new temporary location: Calvary United Methodist Church, 2315 S. Grant St. Arlington, VA. If you're in the area, please join us for an afternoon of dancing, Bavarian music, great German food and a German/Austrian music play-along! All proceeds from the annual flea market will go to fund lunches for the AAA Youth Jazz and Youth Orchestra participants at our annual AAA festivals. This year's sale will include new and used accordion music books, sheet music and CDs,

plus an amp, microphone and accordion figurine music boxes.

WMAS will hold its very popular Holiday Concert and Potluck Dinner on Sunday, December 10 at 4 pm at our regular meeting place:

Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church, 3435 Sleepy Hollow Rd, Falls Church, VA. This always delightful and festive event, in its 14th year, will feature our Holiday Orchestra, under the direction of WMAS Music Director Joan Grauman, plus soloists and small groups, followed by a potluck feast and – more accordion playing!! Hope to see you there!



HOUSTON, TX  
Accordionist Stas Venglevski will perform on October 22, 2017 6:30 PM at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5315 Main St., Houston, Texas.

A two-time first prize winner of Bayan competition in the Republic of Moldova, Stas is a graduate of the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow where he received his Masters Degree in Music under the tutelage of the famed Russian Bayanist, Friedrich Lips. In 1992 he immigrated to the United States. Stas has many wonderful CD's and musical compositions including solos, duets, and ensembles available for purchase. Contact him at his email address. For further information on the Houston concert: meghada33@gmail.com. N.B. Stas will be a guest artist at the AAA 80th Anniversary Celebration July 11-15, 2018 in Alexandria, VA



Arco Belo. Drawing from Balkan, Romanian and Armenian repertoires, as well as original work, the troupe skips effortlessly from odd and infectious meters to funk grooves, neo-baroque compositions and post-romantic cadenzas. For more information on upcoming performances please visit [www.simonebaron.com](http://www.simonebaron.com).

LANCASTER, PA  
On Saturday, October 14, 2017 Lancaster, Pennsylvania was again dancing to the music of Cody McSherry and his band "Polterabend." This was the third annual Oktoberfest concert and dance which was held to benefit the Fine and Performing Arts Department of Lancaster Catholic High School.



NEW YORK, NY  
Astrobiologist and author Caleb Scharf welcomed guest to join him in examining some of the evidence so far, from cosmic webs and dark matter, to trillions of planets, Earth's apparent unusualness, and new ways of thinking about the phenomenon we call life.

Joining in his exploration of life in the universe was the exciting new musical group The Yorkvillians. From the term for residents of the Yorkville neighborhood on the UES of Manhattan - this instrumental combo was led by composer-bassist Dan Cooper and composer-accordionist William Schimmel as they made their Cornelia St. Café debut. They were joined by Michiyo Suzuki (clarinet) and Max Maples (drums). The ensemble performed original compositions, including Cooper's 'El Planeta Rojo' and 'Moon Almost Alive,' reflect upon the evening's theme. For further information on other performances, please contact: [billschimmel@billschimmel.com](mailto:billschimmel@billschimmel.com).

NEW YORK, NY  
Django Reinhardt Festival at Birdland featuring Ludovic Beier - November 5-12  
315 44th Street NYC 10036. For tickets and more information visit:  
<http://www.djangobirdland.com>



## WASHINGTON, DC

The Arco Belo Ensemble performed on October 9, 2017 at Alices's Jazz and Cultural Society, in Washington, DC. Accordionist Simone Baron reimagines and expands the accordion's possibilities with her hybrid chamber jazz ensemble,

# Come Celebrate the Joy of the Accordion on Accordion Day Sunday, November 5 from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Acme Accordion School  
322 Haddon Ave., Westmont, NJ 08108

Festivities begin at 10:30 a.m. A concert will culminate the activities featuring  
Stanislav Culcicovschi from Moldova.  
Dr. Lou Persic from State College, PA  
Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra  
Westmont Accordion Club and the Adult Stophomore Ensemble.

For more information, contact Joanna Darra at 856-854-6628.  
**November is National Accordion Month!**



## BECOME AN AAA MEMBER – *Join Today!*

The American Accordionists' Association is a non-profit organization  
founded in 1938 for the following purposes and objectives:

- To provide the media and public with information to stimulate an increasing awareness of, knowledge about, and appreciation for the accordion.
- To promote unity within the accordion community by encouraging cooperation among members and with their organizations which work on behalf of the instrument.
- To set and maintain high standards for those interested in the accordion, thereby working to facilitate and coordinate the various segments of the accordion world.
- To honor achievement throughout the accordion community.
- To organize, sponsor and support competition for accordionists at all levels and dispense scholarships and/or honors to those who distinguish themselves through outstanding performance.
- To organize, sponsor and support workshops, advancing educational standards and artistic levels of accordion enthusiasts.
- To promote communication among segments of the accordion world.
- To assist all accordion-related organizations with a forum for discussion of matters affecting the accordion in particular, and music in general, both nationally and internationally.

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# *It's a Celebration!*

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*as we celebrate the*

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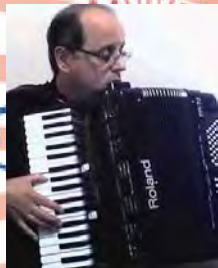
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