



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

May-June 2018



AAA 80th Anniversary
Celebration
July 11-15, 2018
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
625 First Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Solo, Duet, Ensemble
and Band Competitions
Youth Jazz Program
Exciting Workshops
Exhibits
Concerts Featuring
Outstanding Artists
Lifetime Achievement
Presentation
Sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association

From the Editor:

The AAA is now officially in its 80th year. We are excited to welcome you to our milestone anniversary celebrations taking place at the upcoming festival in Alexandria, VA (Washington, DC) from July 11-15, 2018. With the showcase of talent ranging from soloists to groups, and an array of activities planned to inspire us all, we encourage you to make plans to attend this important and exciting event. We invite you to keep up to date by visiting www.ameraccord.com which will have the latest information as it becomes available.

As always, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the AAA 2nd Vice President Linda Reed and Board of Director Rita Barnea 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 2018 July/August 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:

Welcome to Spring!

With Spring finally taking hold, and flowers beginning to bloom everywhere, we are quickly approaching our 80th Anniversary Festival in July – what an exciting time for us. Help AAA promote this special anniversary by supporting the accordion and the organization . . . be a part of this fantastic event. There will be something for everyone . . . workshops, concerts, great guest artists, the ever-popular “After Hours Club” where YOU are the star, competitions for the young and the mature, performances by the Festival Orchestra conducted by Professor Joan Cochran Sommers, the Bob Vitale Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble conducted by Mitch Guido and the Junior Festival Orchestra conducted by Mary Tokarski . . . and wait – there's more!

AAA will honor Louis F. Coppola with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 80th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday evening, and as a “special” treat, a contingent from the United States Air Force Strolling Strings will be performing. If you have not had the pleasure of hearing this magnificent group, you don't want to miss this. Make your reservations today.

Guest artists by the dozen...Stas Venglevski with Tatyana Krasnobaeva, Grayson Masefield, Joe Natoli, Dr. Robert McMahan with Cecylia Barczyk and Emmanuel Borowsky, Mary Tokarski, Rita Barnea, Joe Cerrito, Lionel Reekie, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Don Gerundo, Ray Oreggia, Rachel Quirbach, Pat & Connie Racioppa, Russkie Musikanti, The Trifilio Tango Trio, and The UMKC Community Accordion Ensemble!

The AAA's young accordionists (Will Comer, Rachel Quirbach, Cody McSherry, Nathan Chapeton, Gia Ciccone . . . and so many more) are doing incredible things with their instruments these days, bringing the best of today's young musicians to highly impressed audiences everywhere. Be sure to hear some of our featured up and coming young artists at the Awards Concert on Saturday afternoon. Check the tentative schedule on our website – www.ameraccord.com . I hope you have made your reservations for the 80th Anniversary Festival at the



cont'd. on next page

From the AAA President, *cont'd. from page 1*

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Alexandria, Virginia. AAA's special rates are only available until June 15th.

In addition to our young people promoting the accordion, we have members around the U.S. who are bringing accordion education to the youth as well. The Connecticut Accordion Association's Marilyn O'Neil is actively applying for more grants from Arts Associations in the state to support bringing the accordion into the school systems...in Texas, Brian Berlin maintains a healthy group of elementary students playing our favorite instrument ...on the West Coast Jamie Maschler (guest artist 2017) continues to increase her program of accordion students....and there are programs and young students popping up all over our wonderful country....if you know someone who is helping to promote this project, let us know....it would be great to feature these people in our newsletters, and encourage others to take up the mission to promote the accordion in our schools. ■

See you in Alexandria!

Grayson Masefield USA Concert Tour

World Champion New Zealand born accordionist Grayson Masefield, recently completed his March tour of the United States performing in Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Eugene, Ashland and Spokane.

The highly accomplished musician Grayson Masefield, is one the world's most successful competition players in recent times, winning the CIA Coupe Mondiale classical & entertainment divisions, the Primus Ikaalinen International Competition (Finland), the Roland International Digital V-Accordion Competition (Rome, Italy), and the CMA Trophee Mondial classical & entertainment divisions.

After leaving New Zealand, Grayson went to France for several years of intensive study, seminars and tuition with Frédéric Deschamps and then later moved to Switzerland to attend the HEMU (University of Music Lausanne), studying with Stéphane Chapuis, where he achieved both his Bachelor's and Masters degree.

During his concert tour, his outstanding performances received standing ovations at each concert where he performed transcriptions, original accordion pieces and virtuoso entertainment pieces.

During his tour, he presented Master Classes demonstrating accordion techniques and giving lessons to volunteers as well as teaching private lessons and a lecture on dealing with stage anxiety and pre-performance nerves.

A concert artist in high demand, he has performed in many countries, including France, Spain, Germany, UK, Portugal, Slovakia, Italy, USA, Canada, Russia, Lithuania, Portugal, China, Switzerland, Austria, New Zealand, Australia, and Finland. Grayson is currently in the process of releasing several CD recordings including one comprising the works of Viatcheslav Semionov, the focus of his graduate thesis.

Grayson will be one of the guest artists performing at the AAA 80th Celebration in Alexandria as well as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

For concert, master class or teaching (Skype) inquiries please contact Grayson at: gmasefield@gmail.com. ■



Long Island Accordion Alliance

On Tuesday evening April 3, 2018 accordionist Don Gerundo (New Rochelle, NY) paid his third visit as guest artist to a Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) monthly event at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY. On this occasion he teamed up with his good friend and woodwind specialist Spencer Bruno (Yonkers, NY). Mr. Bruno who is executive director of the noted Lester Lanin Orchestra, performed on flute, clarinet and soprano saxophone. Mr. Gerundo, who is on the governing board of the American Accordionists' Association (AAA), performed on his new Beltuna (triple tone chamber) accordion and impressed the audience with the beautiful sound quality of this great instrument. Mention should also be made that Mr. Gerundo strictly uses the free bass system on the left hand of the instrument.

The duo collaborated in playing a nice variety of noted melodies that included Chattanooga Choo Choo, Emily, Polka Dots and Moonbeams, Under Paris Skies, Chiquilin De Bachin, Somewhere Over The Rainbow and Indifference. Note worthy of their performance is that they: maintained a beautiful balance between the accordion and the reed instruments used by Mr. Bruno, utilized a volume level that was never overpowering, used tasty, creative improvisations and very sensitive, dramatic dynamics changes. This judicious use of expression is especially note worthy. They really "set a mood" with each rendition performed.

In all selections Mr. Gerundo showed his mastery and knowledge of modern harmony by interjecting so many beautiful chord changes and passing harmonies. Their whole session was so professionally presented and orchestrated. Mention should be made that they had the full and total attention of the entire audience throughout who responded with many compliments at the close of the evening. It was a great evening for the accordion and good live music on Long Island.

Congratulations to Don Gerundo and Spencer Bruno on a job so well done. Bravo! Bravo!

The next Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) event sponsored by La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY was held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 and featured accordionist Dominic Karcic and vocalist Cheryl Spielman. ■



Pictured above, Spencer Bruno and Don Gerundo

Military Accordionists Perform at White House State Dinner

The United States military's two accordionists were featured performers during the April 24 State Dinner honoring French President Emmanuel Macron at The White House in Washington, DC.

At the start of the evening, Sergeant Major Manny Bobenrieth and the U.S. Army Strings greeted guests in the East Portico, while Master Sergeant Frank Busso Jr. and the Air Force Strings entertained arriving guests at the Entrance to the East Wing.

After enjoying French-inspired cuisine in the State Dining Room, guests moved to the East Room for a concert. The show began with performances by acclaimed Washington National Opera vocalists and the U.S. Army Chorus. The finale of the concert was a special arrangement of Edith Piaf's "La Vie en Rose" by Sergeant Major Bobenrieth. This piece opened up with a warm introduction for solo accordion played by Sergeant Major Bobenrieth, added U.S. Army Chorus vocalists and instrumen-



Sergeant Major Bobenrieth and Master Sergeant Busso, pictured in the Entrance Hall of The White House.

talists from both the Army & Air Force Strings, and concluded with a passage for solo voice and solo accordion played by Master Sergeant Busso.

Immediately following the concert, Sergeant Major Bobenrieth and Master

Sergeant Busso led their respective ensembles once again as they bid final farewells to guests at the East Wing.

Manny Bobenrieth, a native of Concepcion, Chile, joined the U.S. Army Strings in 1986 and became its group leader in 2004. Outside of the military, he performs as a freelance musician in the greater Washington, DC area and offers private instruction in his Potomac, MD studio. Manny also serves on the board of directors of the American Accordionists' Association.

Frank Busso Jr., from Staten Island, NY, became The U.S. Air Force Band's accordionist in 2005 and is also Section Chief of Live Production for the organization. While off duty, he runs the Busso Music School in Alexandria, VA and serves as director of the Ernest Deffner Affiliates. Frank has served on the American Accordionists' Association board of directors since 2007. ■



Master Sergeant Busso and Sergeant Major Bobenrieth, shown in rehearsal the day before the State Dinner.

Ludovic Beier and the Allstars in Carnegie Hall

On May 1, 2018, accordionist Ludovic Beier performed in Carnegie Hall in New York City as part of the Django Festival Allstars. The group celebrates the guitar legend with performances of his most popular works as well as original music by the band, inspired by Ellington, Armstrong, and partner Stephane Grappelli. The evening also celebrates a symbolic 'passing of the family torch' from Dorado to sons Samson and Amati, known as the gypsy family Dorado Schmitt & Sons. The musicians will be joined by special guest, internationally-known vocalist Melody Gardot.

The concert "Forever Django: Passing the Family Torch," in support of their upcoming album, *Attitude Manouche* was presented by Pat Philips-Stratta, the actor Leonardo DiCaprio and his father, the writer and performance artist George DiCaprio.

Led by the father-sons guitar team of Dorado, Samson and Amati Schmitt, and specializing in the Gypsy-jazz style popularized in the 1930s by Django Reinhardt, the Allstars welcomed two special guests for this performance: clarinetist Ken Peplowski and singer Melody Gardot. The program featured both original compositions and material closely associated with Reinhardt. For 19 consecutive years, the Django Festival has been a regular event at Midtown Manhattan's Birdland club.

Last year, its Allstars went on a 16-date North American tour that preceded the festival. The Allstars have previously featured artists such as vocalist Jazzmeia Horn, clarinetist Anat Cohen and Django's guitar-playing grandson David. The line-up for the Carnegie show included accordionist Ludovic Beier, violinist Pierre Blanchard, rhythm guitarists DouDou Cuillerier and Francko.

Ludovic Beier was born in 1978 and studied the accordion from his father and benefited from being part of a musical family. He was brought up in the French tradition of the instrument and developed his jazz accordion skills. He has a spirited, adventurous

style which strays into all kinds of byways. He performs on the French and European scene with some of the top players of the Django/Swing Jazz style including Angelo Debarre, Dorado Schmitt, Florin Niculescu.

In addition to performing in Europe at top festivals and clubs, he has appeared in the USA on regular occasion with the Django Reinhardt Project, performing at Birdland (NYC) with guests such as Paquito D'Rivera, at Lincoln Center with Joe Lovano, at Yoshis (CA) with David Sanchez, and last summer at the Montreal International Jazz Festival with Angelo Debarre and James Carter where he brought the house down. He also had the honor to perform at Carnegie Hall with Toots Thielemans among a prestigious line up including Herbie Hancock, Ivan Lins and Eliane Elias. ■



Ludovic Beier

WORKSHOPS • EXHIBITS • CONCERTS and more! It's all at AAA 2018 Festival - July 11-15, 2018



BELTUNA

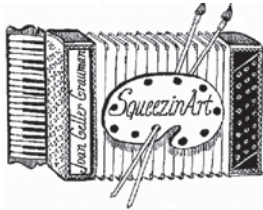
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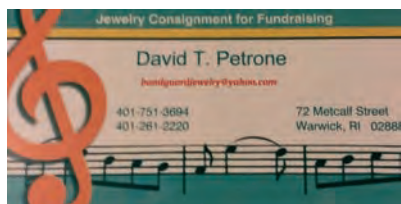


TITANO



Visit the Archives and Exhibits located in Pendleton and Marshall on Ballroom Level

WORKSHOPS • EXHIBITS • CONCERTS and more! It's all at AAA 2018 Festival - July 11-15, 2018



AAA FESTIVAL 2018 WORKSHOPS

Thursday, July 12th

9:00 a.m. - Inexpensive Studio Quality Home Recording (Part I Beginner)

Joseph A. Natoli, **Presenter**

This very popular workshop has often drawn standing room only crowds. Why? Because anyone who plays an instrument will most likely want to record themselves for one of multiple reasons (to make their own CDs, produce a demo recording, have a memento for themselves or family members, post music online, or to improve their practice experience), all of which are valid motivation for wanting to record at home.

10:00 a.m. - Wellness for Accordionists

Rachel Quirbach, **Presenter**

Being an accordionist can take a significant physical and mental toll on your body and brain if not approached with wellness in mind. Musicians around the world are starting to learn about different practices. Come ready to release some tension and have a great time!

1:30 p.m. - Tango Rhythms

Emmanuel Trifilio, **Presenter**

Tango, born in Buenos Aires in the early 1900s, is becoming more and more popular among musicians and accordion players internationally. Trifilio demonstrates and explains the foundations of the four main rhythms used in traditional Argentinian tango: milonga campera, milonga ciudadana, vals criollo, and tango.

Friday, July 13th

9:00 a.m. - Kurt Weill and the Accordion: A Discussion of Its Use in Five Operas

Dr. Robert Young McMahan, **Presenter**

Kurt Weill's crusty operas concerning common people and their earthy struggles span a politically schizophrenic and challenging period of the twentieth century for this short-lived German Jewish composer who flourished during the Weimar Republic.

10:00 a.m. - The Life and Music of Eugene Ettore

Rita Barnea, **Presenter**

Rita will talk about the life of Eugene Ettore performing many of his virtuoso compositions (also on YouTube). Her "Music of Eugene Ettore" album is now a free download to widely promote the music of Eugene Ettore.

1:30 p.m. - Movements with the Accordion

Grayson Masefield, **Presenter**

This workshop will show how to create, control and change your sound and articulation with the accordion by using your body.

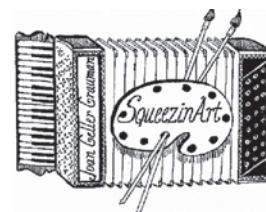
2:30 p.m. - Easy Accordion Repairs

Joe Cerrito, **Presenter**

Joe will demonstrate repairs that anyone can learn to do, and point out those repairs that need to be left to the professionals. He will also suggest essential tools to keep on hand at all times.



BELTUNA



Saturday, July 14th

10:00 a.m. - Making History with the Accordion at the White House

Lou Coppola, **Presenter**

This seminar is designed to share fascinating insights about what it took to join the AF Band, how the group was conceptualized, how music selections were chosen and how the performances were choreographed.

Visit the Archives and Exhibits located in Pendleton and Marshall on Ballroom Level

New England Roland Digital Accordion Orchestra

The New England Roland Digital Accordion Orchestra presented a unique concert showcasing the Digital Accordion, the only such all digital orchestra in the United States. On April 8, 2018 the orchestra, under the direction of Sam Falcetti performed as part of the 56th New England Music Festival in Newton, MA.

The orchestra opened their program with a Scottish & Irish Medley transforming the orchestra into a Scottish Pipe Band which captivated the audience as they transitioned between an actual Piper and Scottish Drummer, to the digital orchestra. The program continued with medleys of Beatles and James Bond selections and closed the afternoon concert with a rousing arrangement of 'God Bless America.'

Many types of orchestras and bands have their own identity from the symphony, woodwind and string orchestras, to the swing, marching & ethnic bands from different countries. In this unique accordion orchestra, listeners can hear many of these same sounds as the digitally produced horn & wind sections, strings, guitars, and of course the accordion are showcased in the beautifully orchestrated arrangements. The Orchestra's unique sound is history in the making being the first and only Digital Accordion Orchestra in the United States.

For more information regarding the orchestra and upcoming performances, please call Sam Falcetti at (413) 204-5522 or e-mail: samfalcetti@gmail.com ■



Ivan Filipchuk in Brooklyn, NY

Accordionist Ivan Filipchuk presented music by J. S. Bach in addition to his own original compositions on April 15, 2018 at the Great Room in Brooklyn, NY.

Ivan Filipchuk (born 1991), is a New York-based artist and musician. He graduated from Russian Gnessin Academy of music in Moscow with a Master's degree in music. He acquired his music foundation in Belarus and Russia, countries with rich musical history, traditions and well-established education in music and arts. As a musician (accordion, piano) he takes part in various competitions and gives recitals performing (as a soloist and participant of an ensemble) on stages of some European countries, Russia, Japan, USA and Canada.

For further information on upcoming activities please contact Ivan Filipchuk at 917-443-2190 or e-mail ivanfilipchuk91@gmail.com ■

MOSTLY BACH...

Ivan Filipchuk
 accordion / piano
 music by
 J. S. Bach, J. Pachelbel,
 I. Filipchuk

Sunday, April 15, 8 PM

South Oxford Space,
 The Great Room
 138 S Oxford St,
 11217 Brooklyn

Free entry

ACCORDIONISTS
 AMERICAN
 80th ANNIVERSAR

It's a Celebration!
 July 11-15, 2018 at the
 Holiday Inn & Suites • 625 First Street
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 Single - Double - Triple - Quad • \$129.00
 Deadline for reservations at the discounted rate is
 June 11, 2018

Joey Miskulin Honored at Ford Theatre by "Nashville Cats"

Joey Miskulin, member of the band "Riders in the Sky and a prolific session musician, was honored on April 14th by the "Nashville Cats" in the Ford Theatre of the Country Music Hall of Fame which took place in Nashville. The Nashville Cats is a collective group of session musicians and Joey was interviewed about his career before performing.

Since the 1970s, Joey Miskulin has recorded with the likes of Paul McCartney, U2, John Denver, Ricky Skaggs, Andy Williams, Ricky Van Shelton, Emmylou Harris, Frankie Yankovic, Garth Brooks, to name but some.

Also a singer, arranger, and producer, Joey Miskulin is well known for performing country music as 'Joey the Cowpolka King' with the band Riders in the Sky and polkas with Frankie Yankovic, but his versatility extends into jazz, evidenced by his album, 'The Other Side of the Fence'.

Also in 1990 for his ground breaking 'Accordion Styles and Techniques' video/DVD, which was the first video of its kind. Miskulin's production credits include 'Toy Story' for Disney/Pixar, and recently in Shanghai, China, where he spent two weeks working with the Walt Disney Company. Joey performed recently at A World of Accordions Museum for their "Accordion Day" Celebration. ■



A World of Accordions Museum

The Standing Accordionist: Anelli Piano Accordion



One of the most unusual piano accordions in AWAM's collection is this Anelli, manufactured during the latter years of the company's operation, 1938-1952. It is said to have been founded by Gualtiero Anelli in Cremona, Italy. Our Anelli was acquired through Lorren Lindevig, Cloquet, MN.

The most conspicuous feature of the instrument is its curved keyboard that curls backward to provide the standing player's fingers a convenient approach and a "wrap around" sensation to his body. Unusual for its time, the Anelli is light in weight at only 17 lbs., influenced by its open-cut aluminum grill and end sections.

Another eye-catching aspect of the Anelli, when compared to standard accordions on our display shelf, is the instrument's shallow height, only ca. 12" when placed on its feet. This feature allows for enhanced control of bellows. Its squat design is attributable to bass section reed banks that lay parallel to the pan, rather than at right angles. This space-saving idea was later incorporated in at least one Hohner diatonic model.

A remnant of vaudeville and theater circuits was the convention of presenting accordionists in standing posture. Using common straight-back accordions caused a near 90° wrist angle that is not ergonomically ideal. In searching for solutions, several accordion designers chose alternatives that included slant-back keyboards and



more rarely, repositioned the keyboard away from the edge and toward the bellows.

Introduced in 1962 in an effort to encourage accordionists to participate in Rock-n-Roll combos, the Titano Tiger and PANcordion Lion adopted similar designs that reduced key lengths and treble section depth by "pushing" the keyboard inward. For visual novelty, the black/white key colors were reversed and body-frame colors were chosen from those popular in Mazda car production. They were further enhanced by "tone bending" shifts[1] and acoustically strengthened by shifts that engage piercing quint reed banks[2]. Presuming



competition with drums and amplified guitars, internal pickups allowed for loudness controls. Ease of handling was improved by use of aluminum sections while variant models offered reduced numbers of basses resulting in 16-lb. and 17-lb. weights.



[1] Tone-bending was made easy through shift-controlled pan slides that reduce accessible airflow to the reed chambers.

[2] "Quint reed banks" refers to carefully tuned added tones a fifth or an octave-and-a-fifth above depressed keys. The concept was employed in organs centuries earlier, and in other accordion manufacture decades later. The resulting timbre is marvelous for interpreting Baroque and some orchestral music, inspiring another Titano-PAN model called "Combo" for use in accordion orchestras. Its body was restructured to suit a seated accordionist, and produced only in black body color. ■

When You Know You Made a Difference

By Patrick McSherry

It is a wonderful gift to be a musician performing for groups who cannot go out to attend concerts and shows, such as those in eldercare facilities. However, over time, as faces come and go, you may wonder if your efforts actually made a difference to anyone. Cody McSherry, a fourteen year-old accordionist, recently had an experience showing that he, and others who perform similar volunteer services, truly do make a difference.

Cody has been performing once a month as a volunteer entertainer at the Mennonite Home, a Lancaster, Pennsylvania eldercare facility. For the last six years, once a month Cody has gone into the Mennonite Home's rehabilitation unit to perform. His concerts have grown from a few songs to hour-long events packed with repertoire from many genres and time periods. In his performances at the Mennonite Home and similar facilities where he has performed, he has seen music work its miracles, with unresponsive patients coming to life, at least for a brief period, and even saw the music cause one man suffering from advanced dementia to ask for his wife who he long since stopped remembering. Amazing as these experiences were, they were fleeting. Did his efforts have any long-term impact?

One of those who came to listen to him at the Mennonite Home was Kathy. She was one of the "regulars" who Cody could count on seeing each month. Kathy was there the first time Cody performed. Cody knew that when he showed up early to get set up, Kathy would already be there, in the same spot, and would always ask him what was going on in Conestoga, the small town where he lived and where Kathy had once lived.

During the last few months, Kathy was not always there, and then disappeared entirely. Cody attempted to check up on her but was unable to find out much. He knew something serious must be wrong when she did not show for two months in a row. On a recent morning at the Mennonite Home, one of the nurses asked if they could speak to Cody's mom, Dianna. They brought the news that Kathy was asking for Cody and that, sadly, Kathy was

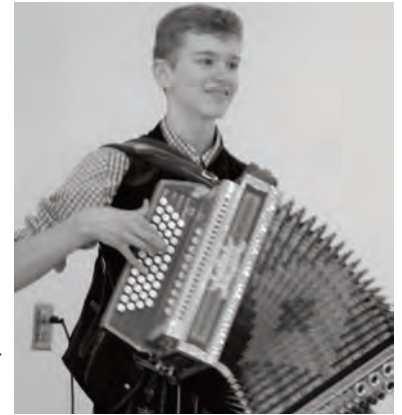
dying. Of course, Cody agreed to visit her and was escorted to her room by the nursing staff. Cody spoke to her and played some music for her. Her family was happy to meet Cody, about whom Kathy apparently often spoke.

A few weeks later, Kathy passed away, and Cody and his family attended her memorial service. During the service, the minister spoke of Kathy, someone he knew well. He told the crowd about Kathy's life. He explained that of all of the activities and events at Mennonite Home, what she looked forward to most was when a young man named Cody would come in and perform each month. The minister looked out and spotted a young man who the family must have pointed out to him, and asked "Are you Cody?" Yes, he was, and he was very surprised that his name would come up at the memorial service.

After the service, various family members came to Cody and told him that Kathy would start talking about Cody's next visit to the Mennonite Home several weeks in advance, and would often talk about the concerts.

If Cody ever wondered if his giving of an hour of his time each month to play accordion, button box and sing for a small group of fifteen to twenty elderly people in wheelchairs and walkers, he got his answer. Unknown to him, he had become a very important part in at least one audience member's life, so much so, that as she approached the very end of her life, it was Cody that she asked to see. Learning this was a totally unexpected gift.

If, as a musician, you have an hour to spare once a month, choose a local eldercare facility and perform there. You will have an impact. More than you will probably ever know. ■



24th Annual Master Class & Concert Series

The 24th Annual AAA Seminars, a three day event comprising daily Master Class sessions and Concerts will take place in New York City from July 27-29, 2018 at the Tenri Cultural Institute on 13th Street between 5th and 6th Ave. Moderated by Dr. William Schimmel the title of this year's event is "Thinking inside the Box our 24th Smash Year"

Participants will include: Micki Goodman, Paul Stein, Dr. Robert



Young McMahan, Will Holshouser, Doug Makofka, Brian Dewan, Yoichi Fukui, Gene Pritsker, Melissa Elledge, Mark Nathanson, Benjamin Ickies, Godfrey Nelson, Lorraine Nelson Wolf, Dragica Banic Curcic, Peter Flint, Erica Marie Mancini, Dave Soldier, Mayumimi Yaoka, Dan Cooper, The Yorkvillians, Rachel Swaner, The Main Squeeze Orchestra, Bachtopus, Milica Paranosic, Machael Dames, Peter Jarvis, David Stoler, David First, Mary Spencer Knapp, Dr. Hugo Goldernzweig, Lee McClure, Ken Laufer, John Foti, Kathleen Tipton, Marni Rice, Bob Goldberg, Corn Mo, Rachid Eladouni, Carl Reihl, Rita Barnea, Dr. Denise Koncelick, Alicia Svigals, Elizabeth Brown, Ted Nash, Jeanne Velonis, Cecylia Barczk, Devon Tipp, Sydknee, Michiyo Suzuki, Robert Duncan, Miwa Gemini, Jenny Cho, Elliott Sharp, Jennie Muoio, Elanie Yau, Charita Patamikakam and many others including a few surprise guests and host Dr. William Schimmel.

For information, please see www.ameraccord.com/annual-masterclass.php or call (212) 876-0827. ■

Visit the **NEW** AAA website - www.ameraccord.com

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Progression Ensemble present new Compositions

Accordionist Rocco Anthony Jerry and the Progression Ensemble including Guitarist Eric Despard and Cellist Michael Gilbert Ronstadt specialize in contemporary classical music and is focused on presenting to the public the newest music by leading composers. In their 2018 tour, The Progression Ensemble will premiere six new works written for them by composers Gene Pritsker, Dan Cooper, Christopher Cook, Eric Despard, Michael Dilthey and Bjorn Bolstad Skjelbred. Norwegian Composer Bjorn Bolstad Skjelbred will be flying in from Oslo to attend and speak at the first five performances.

Experiential Media Artist and EMPAC faculty member, Shawn Lawson, will live code real time computer graphics for all the works at Spectrum and Time and Space Limited. This multimedia event takes advantage of all the video possibilities that these venues offer.

Works to be premiered include the following:

- Gene Pritsker - "If Her Waters Flow Not in Perpetual Progression" (2017)
- Dan Cooper - work not yet titled (2018)
- Christopher Cook - "Spectrum" (2018)
- Eric Despard - "Space Moving In - Space Moving Out" (2018)
- Michael Dilthey - "Trio" (2017)
- Bjorn Bolstad Skjelbred - "The Thin Line" (2017)

Upcoming performances on their 2018 Tour Schedule include on Sunday, June 10, Shapeshifter Lab, 18 Whitwell Place, Brooklyn and Sunday, October 13, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, 1701 Main Street, Peekskill. Travel funding has been provided by Music Norway, Norwegian Society of Composers and Southern Vermont College. ■

Julien Labro in Concert

Accordionist Julien Labro continues a busy schedule, presenting many concerts this Spring and Summer. Julien Labro has established himself as one of the top accordion, accordina, and bandoneón players in the classical and jazz worlds.

The UBS Atrium Series in Weekawken continues its 15th season of free mid-day music and on April 4 featured an afternoon of well-known French music where Julien and his band of world-class musicians performed fresh jazz-inspired takes on French songs by Michelle Legrand, Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, Charles Aznavour, and Gabriel Fauré, plus a few of his own original compositions. On April 12 he performed "A Night of Gypsy Jazz" with The Hot Club of Reading at the WCR Center for the Arts in Reading, PA, performing music pioneered by the legendary original Hot Club of France Quintet, which was led by guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli.

The Julien Labro Quartet also performed at the prestigious Gilmore International Keyboard Festivals, one of the biggest keyboard festival in the country, on April 27 at the Dalton Center Recital Hall, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan. It was the first time that they have featured an accordionist. The program included the first half with chamber music and the second half jazz, with Julien and his quartet.

The mission of the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival is to promote and develop world-class keyboard musical experiences that inspire present and future artists and audiences which is accomplished by identifying exceptional keyboard artists through a non-competitive process and then providing significant support to enhance their careers; presenting world-class music festivals featuring the finest international keyboard artists; providing an outstanding keyboard educational program and Supporting the creation of keyboard music.

After graduating from the Marseille Conservatory of Music, Labro began winning international competitions and then moved to the USA for further studies. He has shared the stage and/or recorded with many distinguished artists, including João Donato, Cassandra Wilson, Miguel Zenón, James Carter, and Tommy Emmanuel.

Julien has played for audiences throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. He has also been enlisted as an arranger and/or soloist by the Spektral Quartet, Curtis On Tour, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and many more. His artistry, virtuosity, and creativity as a musician, composer, and arranger have earned him international acclaim and continue to impress audiences worldwide.

Equipped with advanced degrees in classical music, jazz studies, and composition, Julien draws from his diverse academic background and eclectic musical influences as he searches for new themes and untried concepts, transforming and developing his creative ideas into new projects.



In 2005 Julien won the Vivian Vivio Stolaruk Memorial International Entertainment Competition for Accordionists held by the American Accordionists' Association in Detroit, MI. This competition featured an unprecedented \$10,000 1st Place prize.

On June 8th Julien will perform with Jason Vieaux in Cleveland, OH at the Cleveland International Classical Guitar Festival. For further information on upcoming performances please contact: julien@julienlabro.com ■

Thank You! to the following for their generous donations to our Youth Programs

Connecticut Accordion Association
Kathy DiCocco • Joan Grauman
Megumi Hada • Linda McBurney
Peter Peluso

And to Joan & Dan Grauman for sponsoring
the Festival After-Hours Club on 7/11



Welcome New Members

Connecticut Accordion Association
Affiliated Organization Member
Pat Racioppa - Associate Member
Jim Geller - Associate Member

Remembering Stanley Darrow

Stanley A. Darrow of Westmont, NJ passed away on March 12, 2018 at the age of 87. Stan was the beloved husband of Joanna (Nee Arnold) and the late Sherrie R. (Nee Reisser). Loving father of Anthony Darrow (Marion) of Mullica Hill, David Darrow (Kathy) of Oaklyn, NJ and Elissa Darrow of Pitman, NJ. Dear brother of the late Elaine Pierznik. Proud grandfather of Courtney, Brit, Blaise, Gwen, Daniel, Noah, Grace, Jesse, Lindsay, Katelyn and Brenna. Also survived by many brothers & sisters-in-laws, nieces, nephews and cousins.



Stanley Darrow was born in Camden, New Jersey the 16th of March, 1930. He attended St. Joseph's Polish Catholic School, going on to graduate from Camden High School. Stan attended New York City College, then joined the National Guard in 1948. In 1953 he served in the US Army (101st Airborne Division) in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where it was his desire to become a test pilot. Following his honorable discharge in 1955, he became part of the US Army Reserve until 1961.

Stan's grandfather played the accordion - fascinated with the instrument Stan began studying seriously with local professionals. When he was sixteen he attended the Accordionists and Teachers Guild annual convention where both he and a young Myron Floren became members; he also joined the American Accordionists Association. At the age of eighteen he began teaching for the Acme Accordion Company and working for Accordion World magazine in New York. In 1948 Stan founded Acme Accordion School in Camden, New Jersey. He met Sherrie Reisser, they were married in 1953 and moved Acme Accordion School to Westmont, New Jersey. Sherrie and Stanley had three children together, Anthony (1958), David

(1963), and Elissa (1969). He enjoyed taking his family on annual trips to Harpers Ferry, Lurray and Williamsburg, Virginia.

Stan's first European Concert Tour in 1963 brought many opportunities. Stan studied with Frau Braun, Rudolf Wurthner, and Karl Parenthaler at the Hohner Konservatorium, Trossingen, Germany. These new associations helped Stan to impact American accordion education and music, while heralding original accordion literature and the German style of bellows control. 1971 to 2016 Stanley performed as a musical duo with Joanna Darrow (nee Arnold). The duo became husband and wife in 2002.

Stan always championed the education of the public in regards to the concert abilities of the accordion by performing internationally annually throughout Europe. He adjudicated at the Klingenthal and Castelfidardo World Cup Competitions, recorded for Radio Paris, Reykjavik, Stuttgart and many others. He performed at the Summit for the Russian and French presidents in Paris, and also lays claim to the Kaibala LP Series and 8 LPs recorded in Holland and the USA. He gave lectures worldwide. Stan Darrow was founder of Tri State Accordion Association, the Arcari Foundation, New Jersey Accordion Teachers Association, American Accordion Musicological Society, and NuArts Press. He served on the Board of Directors for AAA (was AAA Man of the Year 1971), ATG (2008 President's Award) also Historian until his death, Tri-State Accordion Association, and American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS).

Stanley Darrow had a flair for beloved things. Beside the accordion he enjoyed working on his vintage cars, collecting Lincoln Continentals and, of course, VW Vans; Stan had a passion for Volkswagens. He also had an avid love for the American Civil War and World War II history.

Contributions in Stan's memory may be made to American Accordion Musicological Society, 322 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108, or to The Angels Community Outreach, 334 S. Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071 or at www.theangelscommunityoutreach.org ■

Annual Cotati Accordion Festival

The 28th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival will take place from August 18-19, 2018 in Cotati, CA. A non-profit organization established in 1991, the festival promotes the love of the accordion and supports local youth service organizations. To date, they have contributed in excess of \$320,000 to the youth of their community.

Featured guest artists include the Honorary Director Paul Rogers, Netta Skog (Finland), Gabe Hall-Rodriguez, Stas Venglevski, Joan Cochran Sommers performing in duo with Stas Venglevski, Debra Peters, Zydeco Flames, Sourdough Slim, Culann's Hounds with Renée de la Prade, Those Darn Accordions (TDA), Cory Pesaturo, the Mad Maggies, Accordion Apocalypse Stage, Hernandez Hideaway, Michael Zampiceni, Matthias Matzke (Germany), The Great Morgani, Future Accordion Stars, Golden State Accordion Band, Steve Balich Jr. Polka Band, Jim Gilman, MotorDude Zydeco, Mark St. Mary T-Luke and the Tight Suits, Simone Baron, Oddjob Ensemble, The Traveling Spectacular, Thee Hobo Gobbelins, Karla Mi Lugo, Below Shakes, Kalei Yamanoha, Passersby, Nathan & Jesse, JD Limelight, Creosote with Jamie Maschler, The Wild Catahoulas and Duckmandu. ■



Netta Skog





The American Accordionists' Association

presents

MASTER CLASS & CONCERT SERIES

Dr. William Schimmel
Moderator and Curator

Thinking Inside the Box

Our 24th Smash Year

July 27, 28 and 29, 2018

Tenri Cultural Institute
43-A West
13th Street
(between 5th and 6th Avenue)
New York, NY

Master Classes at 3:00 p.m. - Ending at 5:00 p.m.
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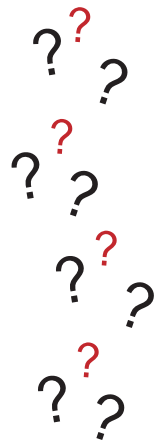
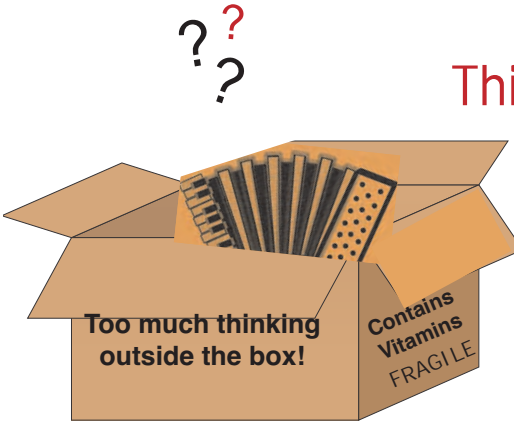
\$25 per Master Class – \$30 per Concert
\$50 per day (includes Master Class and Concert)
\$135 per entire weekend

For Reservations and Information - 212-876-0827
Accordionbill@gmail.com

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AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

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 - Paul Stein
 - Dr. Robert Young McMahan
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 - Doug Makofka
 - Brian Dewan
 - Yoichi Fukui
 - Gene Pritsker
 - Melissa Elledge
 - Mark Nathanson
 - Benjamin Ickies
 - Godfrey Nelson
 - Lorraine Nelson Wolf
 - Dragica Banic Curcic
 - Peter Flint
 - Erica Marie Mancini
 - Dave Soldier
 - Mayumi Miyaoka
 - Dan Cooper
 - The Yorkvillians
 - Rachel Swaner
 - The Main Squeeze Orchestra
 - Bachtopus
 - Milica Paranosic
 - Michael Dames
 - Peter Jarvis
 - David Stoler
 - David First
 - Mary Spencer Knapp
 - Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig
 - Lee Mc Clure
 - Ken Laufer
 - John Foti
 - Kathleen Tipton
 - Marni Rice
 - Bob Goldberg
 - The Famous
 - Accordion Orchestra
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 - Carl Reihl
 - Rita Barnea
 - Dr. Denise Koncelik
 - Alicia Svigals
 - Elizabeth Brown
 - Ted Nash
 - Jeanne Velonis
 - Cecylia Barczk
 - Devon Tipp
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 - Rocco Anthony Jerry
 - Linda Soley Reed
 - Lauren Flanigan
 - Siobahn Sung
 - Evan Perry-Giblin
 - Shelley Casalina
 - Mimi Hsu
 - and many others and a few surprise guests and Dr. Schimmel



___ Three-Day Session - all Master Classes, Workshops and Concerts - \$135 for three-day session (Fri., Sat. & Sun.) \$ _____

___ Daily Full Session - Master Classes, Workshops and Concerts

 Check dates Friday, July 27 Saturday, July 28 Sunday, July 29 @ \$50 Daily \$ _____

___ Master Classes and Workshops

 Check dates Friday, July 27 Saturday, July 28 Sunday, July 29 @ \$25 Daily \$ _____

___ Concerts only

 Check dates Friday, July 27 Saturday, July 28 Sunday, July 29 @ \$30 Daily \$ _____

Charge my Visa. MasterCard. DiscoverCard. American Express No.

Expiration Date _____ Name on Card _____ Security Code _____

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 Mail check or credit card information to: Julie Cardona • 67 Sackett Point Road, Apt. 215 • North Haven, CT 06473

Kimmo Pohjonen in Breath

Finnish accordionist Kimmo Pohjonen performed at Danse Danse Montreal as part of Tero Saarinen's innovative work 'Breath.'

A dancer with the Finnish National Ballet and choreographer of some 40 works, Saarinen has taught at and worked with some of the world's leading dance companies, from Batsheva Dance Company to the Lyon Opera Ballet. The artist who captivated audiences with HUNT, his solo on Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, has now created a duo, *Breath*, with accordionist Kimmo Pohjonen, a dialogue between dance and music in a magnificent visual setting designed by Mikki Kuntu.

"Dance is my attempt to understand human nature and its multiple manifestations", says Saarinen. "I believe in dance that touches, in dance that speaks for itself." *Breath* has something of the absurdist humour of Samuel Beckett, who wrote, "Dance first and think afterwards? It's the natural order." Saarinen appropriates Beckett's words and expresses them through his characteristically generous physical vocabulary. An inspiring and invigorating *Breath* from a northern land.

Kimmo Pohjonen is known as a revolutionist of accordion music. With his custom made electrified and MIDI-fied instrument, as well as different voices, lights, sounds and other effects, he creates captivating performance experiences. During his career, Pohjonen has toured the world performing at over 600 international festivals and venues such as BAM Next Wave, Sydney Festival, the WOMAD, Queen Elizabeth Hall and The Proms at Royal Albert Hall London, to name a few.

The Finnish musician and composer studied at the Sibelius Academy Folk Music Department. Pohjonen has worked with musicians such as drummer Pat Mastelotto and Warr guitarist Trey Gunn of King Crimson, jazz drummer Eric Echampard and Kronos Quartet. Pohjonen has also collaborated with choreographer and prima ballerina Minna Tervamäki and composed music for feature films. Pohjonen has received two consecutive five-year grants from the State of

Finland for his artistic work, and in 2000 the jazz magazine *Jazz Rytmit* named him as Artist of the Year. In 2012, Pohjonen was awarded a Pro Finlandia medal from the President of Finland. ■



Hanzhi Wang at the Kennedy Center

Opening Night: Hayes Series I

HANZHI WANG, accordion

with special guest Zora Quartet

THURSDAY, OCT 11, 7:30pm

KENNEDY CENTER TERRACE THEATER

Prepare to have your expectations defied and your ears delighted by the sound, technique, texture, and repertoire of the accordion. Close your eyes while listening to Hanzhi Wang's Bach, and you will mistake her accordion for a harpsichord. Or an organ. Or four musicians at once. Wang's formidable mastery of her instrument and captivating stage presence are complemented by her creative programming, spanning transcriptions of Baroque music, delightful tangos, and contemporary works written for the instrument and for Wang herself. Her embrace of transcriptions of the keyboard repertoire—including works on this program by Bach, Mozart, and Moszkowski—make her an unconventional yet captivating choice to join the emerging pianists in this season's Hayes Series.

Program includes solo works by BACH, GUBAIDULINA, MOZART, LOHSE, MOSZKOWSKI, and PIAZZOLLA tangos with the Zora Quartet. Co-presented with Young Concert Artists.

The Zora String Quartet won First Prize in the 2015 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. They also won the Sander Buchman Award, which sponsors their New York debut, and four concert prizes: the Friends of Music Concerts Prize (Connecticut), the Hayden's Ferry Chamber Music Series Prize (AZ), the Paramount Theatre Prize (VT), and the Vancouver Recital Society Prize. The Quartet was named the Grand Prize and Gold Medal Winner of the 42nd Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the Cole-

man-Barstow Prize winner at the Coleman National Chamber Music Competition in 2015. As a result of winning the Fischhoff Competition, they toured the Midwest and appeared at the 2016 Emilia Romagna Festival in Italy. The Zora String Quartet has performed in U.S., Canada, and Europe, at venues including the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Duke's Hall at Royal Academy of Music in England.

Zora String Quartet is currently the Graduate Quartet in Residence at the Curtis Institute of Music, where they work closely with Shmuel Ashkenasi, Arnold Steinhardt, Pamela Frank, Steven Tenenbom, Peter Wiley and Mia Chung. ■



Kidz Korner

For, by and about our student participants

From Cody McSherry

On April 14th Cody performed at The Symphony Space on Broadway at 95th Street in NYC with the Kolo Club Marian of Steelton, PA. Cody has been a member of Kolo Club Marian since last September and is the Croatian dance group's accordionist (and a dancer). Kolo Club Marian was invited to perform at The Symphony Space as part of the Croatian Folklore Festival sponsored by Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church of NY.

Cody is a freshman at Lancaster Catholic High School and has been in rehearsals for several months for this year's school musical, *Crazy for You*. Cody is covering numerous instrumental parts in the pit orchestra on his accordion. The show opens April 26th and runs through April 29th.

On May 6th Cody will perform with the Accordion Pops Orchestra at their concert at the East Brunswick Community Arts Center in East Brunswick, NJ. As part of the concert, Cody will perform the world premiere of "Carousel of Dreams" by renowned accordionist and composer Guy Klucevsek.

Cody is also in rehearsals for Servant Stage's upcoming production of *I'll Fly Away*, a bluegrass, gospel and folk music show that opens in May and runs through mid-August in and around Lancaster County, PA. Cody is a featured accordionist in the show.

This summer, immediately after the AAA Festival, Cody will fly to Atlanta, GA to attend the American Theatre Organ Society's Summer Youth Adventure ("SYA"). The SYA is a week-long theatre organ camp taught by some of the best theatre organ teachers in the United States. Included among the teachers is Jelani Eddington, Donna Parker, Chris Elliott, and Martin Ellis. Cody is a member of the Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society, which has provided a full scholarship for Cody to attend the SYA.

From Gia Ciccone

Saturday mornings are always a fun time for Gia when she travels to her Music Lesson with her teacher, Meastro Mario Tacca. Gia is pictured below with teacher Mario preparing for The Feast of St. Joseph the Worker on Tuesday, May 1st at the Church of the Assumption in Peekskill, New York. Gia's performance (bottom photo) at the Feast included a special "Happy Birthday" greeting to her papa (Dr. Joe Ciccone) who celebrated his 50th!!



Rose City Accordion Club
Accordion Scholarship Application

For anyone 17 years old and younger
Deadline is August 20, 2018 for the \$400 award

Applicant Name _____
Application Date _____
Date of Birth _____
Street Address _____
City State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ email _____
Name of parent or guardian (if under age 18) _____
Name of Teacher _____
Address of Teacher _____

Teacher Phone _____
Teacher email _____
Note to Sponsor: On a separate piece of paper, please tell us why you endorse this applicant.
Note to Teacher: Please submit a written recommendation on this applicant (required for application consideration).

Mail completed application to: Rose City Accordion Club
Bev Spurgeon
2127 SE Silver Springs Rd
Milwaukie, OR 97222

How long have you been playing the accordion? _____
What type of accordion do you play (piano, button)? _____
How and when did you become interested in the accordion?

How much formal musical/accordion training do you have? _____
What type of music do you enjoy playing on the accordion? _____
What do you like best about playing the accordion? _____
Do you play the accordion in public? If so, explain. _____

Do you ever perform with other musicians? Describe. _____
Do you play any other instruments? Describe. _____
Do you have any other interests or hobbies? _____
If a student, please tell us the name of your school, what grade you are in, favorite subjects, and any extracurricular activities. _____

If awarded this scholarship, how would you apply it to further your accordion playing? _____

Use the other side (or separate sheet) to provide any additional information and to expand your answers to any question.

Submit a live audio and/or video in order for us to get to know you better.
Applicant's signature and date _____

If you wish to receive the full 8 1/2 x 11 application,
contact the AAA Office at ameraccord1938@gmail.com

IDEAS (International Digital Electronic Accordion Society)

JOE NATOLI (right) and MICHAEL SOLOWAY (left) are very excited to announce the creation of a new accordion organization called IDEAS, which stands for International Digital Electronic Accordion Society, the product of a year's work and planning together.



IDEAS was formed for people who own, play and love their digital/electronic accordion(s) and who have not only a deep curiosity, but a passion to explore everything associated with their digital instrument(s). It is also open to those who may have considered the "idea" (pun intended) of a digital instrument and want to explore and participate first before committing. For these onlookers, it just may evolve into something so exciting that it would be too much fun to pass up!

Digital players are aware that there is technology and method required beyond just playing technique on these instruments to be able to fully realize one's music/art and the real potential of such an amazing tool. However, until now, there have been few places to go where digital enthusiasts can feel at home to explore, grow, or share musical goals.

Enter IDEAS, whose mission it is to provide a global forum for DIGITAL ACCORDION in all its forms, makes, and models, including the wealth of peripheral equipment and devices used by digital accordionists.

We have already created a Facebook group (just search for "IDEAS") which not only enables all discussions and activities related to digital accordion, but also encourages discussions and engagement on what will be our annual Symposium – a super gathering of the best digital accordion enthusiasts, performers, and teachers in the world; applying all their collective knowledge to be shared in an organized and highly effective way. The Symposium will also go under the acronym of IDEAS (International Digital Electronic Accordion Symposium). We have already developed much of the faculty – those who love to teach, along with some of the world's finest players of these instruments, recording and sound engineers/producers, even medical/chiropractic therapists to help us all enjoy our instruments properly and safely for many years to come. The faculty will be a synergistic group, meeting and planning the very best and effective ways to maximize the educational potential and ex-

perience of the entire group as well as the Symposium.

Our first Symposium is planned for Oct 23 – 27, 2018, and will be an incredible educational and knowledge sharing musical retreat for 5 full days where nearly every waking hour will be focused on the requirements of the digital accordionist. Our first event will be held at the spectacular Avalon Inn in Warren, Ohio (<http://www.avaloninnandresort.com>), situated on a beautiful golf course campus with nothing but wonderful scenery around you. There are patio bars, exceptional jazz piano entertainment nightly, 5-star dining, golfing (in season), indoor tennis, racquetball, recreation center, huge state-of-the-art exercise facility, health spas, Olympic size swimming pool, exceptional rooms and suites, spacious meeting rooms, and outstanding ballroom & concert facilities.

During this retreat, attendees will have the ability to choose to attend a variety of in-depth workshops from two to four hours – depending on your individually determined needs and expectations. There will be private lessons and groups available providing meaningful information on how to really get the most out of your digital instrument, no matter what variety you play. Topics will include programming, orchestration, recording techniques, developing digital orchestras, using digital accordions commercially with success, knowledgeably exploring digital effects, equalization techniques, creating music scores directly into notation software via MIDI, sessions with an accomplished organist, and many more topics as the new faculty is empowered to develop and dream with us. There will also be the daily concerts with some of the world's best digital performers and the Avalon Inn is very supportive of our playing and performing improvisationally within the facility.

If you do not want to come alone, the Avalon Inn & Resort is a wonderful facility for everyone, with all types of amenities. Significant others will have the ability to go to spa treatments, pedicures, manicures, and cruise the extended Avalon group of resorts with all of their included facilities and dining establishments within 20 miles on freely provided shuttles. Additionally, we are currently negotiating for one of our days to include a trip to the nearby Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland for anyone interested.

We hope all digital accordion players will feel like our IDEAS Society, the IDEAS Symposium, and the IDEAS Facebook Page are their musical home – whoever and wherever you are!

Join this group. Become a member of the new IDEAS society. Embrace your instrument and the wonderful world of people who can share that with you. Reserve October 23-27, 2018 in your schedule where we can all study, learn, play and celebrate together. ■

Lionel Reekie joins All-Star Cast of Performers at AAA's 80th

Auckland entertainer Lionel Reekie (Vocalist, Accordionist, Conductor), has performed in many of New Zealand's top venues, on TV and has appeared on stage as a soloist in many countries including USA, Canada, Europe, China, Fiji, Australia and New Zealand.

Lionel was the featured artist for a special New Year festival concert early January 2013 at the prestigious Novosibirsk Philharmonia, Russia. He sang all 13 songs on his album "From Russia with Love" and two encores in Russian, receiving a standing ovation.

Lionel has also performed many times in the USA including various AAA Festivals. He last attended the AAA Festival in New York (2013) where he performed as a guest artist, also performed at the

Bryant Park televised concert and sang solo with the AAA Festival Orchestra.

Lionel Reekie is a popular and exciting addition to the 2018 AAA 80th Anniversary Festival. ■



Coast to Coast

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

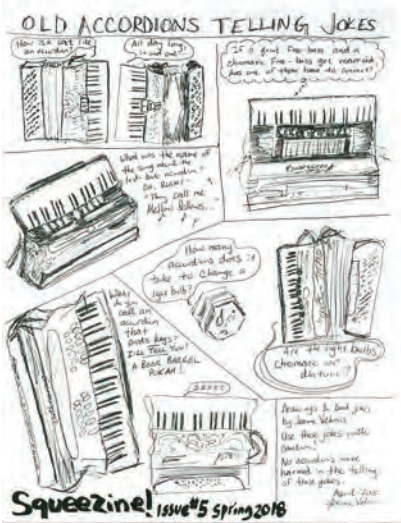


CONNECTICUT

The celebrated CT Accordion Orchestra will present their Spring Concert on Sunday, May 19th featuring Music of the Stage. Conducted by Peter Peluso, the concert will feature Mary Tokarski performing Manhattan Concerto with the Orchestra, Julie Cardona soloist on the Godfather Theme, pianist Maryjane Peluso performing Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21 as well as Vocalists Abby McGough, Jim Lawrence, Emily Gauthier and Vitality Ensemble performing a Henry Mancini Medley. The concert begins at 2:00 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 16 Church Street, Waterbury, CT 06702.

BROOKLYN, NY

The Spring 2018 edition of the Brooklyn Accordion Club's SqueezeZine! is out. Enjoy! A special thanks to all the contributors! Print copies will be available at BAC Meetings for \$2.00. Have a story to share? Please submit a page for the next issue. Save the Dates! BAC 2018 Upcoming Meetings At South Oxford Space, 2-4pm 6/17 - Maestro Maric Concert 7/1 - Giorgio Albanese 9/30 10/21 - Patty Furlong Concert "Traditional Irish Music on Button Accordion" 11/4



HOBOKEN, NJ

The Musical World of MICHAEL SOLOWAY

Featuring:
MICHAEL SOLOWAY - Accordion, Piano, Vocal

Very Special Guest appearances:
JOE NATOLI - Accordion
EDDIE MONTEIRO - Accordion
RICHARD BRODE - Pipe Organ

Saturday May 12th, 2018 - 7:30 PM
St. Matthew Trinity Church
Corner Eighth and Hudson Street - Hoboken NJ

NEW YORK, NY

Just a reminder...The Seminars fill-up quickly so don't be left out - make your reservations ASAP!! The 24th Annual Accordion Seminar directed by Dr. William Schimmel (moderator/curator) will be held during July 27-29, 2018 each day from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM in New York City. The theme for 2018 is "Thinking Inside the Box." The seminar will be conducted at the Tenri Cultural Institute, 43A W 13th St., New York, NY.

Did you know?....

The first official accordion club was founded in San Francisco 1916 by Guido Diero. At the time Guido had been working the Vaudeville circuit. During that summer the club organized their first annual picnic with Guido serving as the Master of Ceremonies. The picnics were very successful events held every summer. On August 21, 1927 the picnic was attended by 8000 people at Fairfax Park!

The afternoon master class sessions at 3.00 PM are open to anyone to attend the talks on various accordion related subjects. The 7:00 PM evening concerts cover a wide range of musical styles presented by invited performers. For more information, please contact Dr. Schimmel at e-mail: accordionbill@gmail.com

WMAS

Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society Update - April 22, 2018 - Happy Earth Day!

WMAS was lucky to have a visit from Peregrine Road at our April 15 meeting. The guest-artist duo - Rachel Bell on accordion and Karen Axelrod on accordion and piano - played dance tunes: a tango by Piazzolla, traditional bourees, waltzes, and contradances. Many pieces were composed by the prolific Rachel, who gives them names that often require some explaining. About 65 people enjoyed the music and the storytelling.

Thanks go to Silvia Eberly and her student, Yunguang Chen, for greeting, to Rachel and Karen for their magical performance, to JoAnn and John for managing the kitchen/refreshments, and to everyone else who helped set up and clean up, managed the name tags, brought snacks to share, and just plain showed up. At the suggestion of Joe Kulick, our May meeting, on the 20th, will focus on show tunes. Please practice one to play for the group, or bring sheet music for your favorite piece to share in a play-along. Joan and Dan Grauman will be back from Florida, and they'll compile a few pieces for the play-along as well.

Check out the WMAS website, www.washingtonaccordions.org

UPCOMING

The Washington Balalaika Society will be presenting its spring concert twice during the first weekend of June at 3 pm on Sunday, June 3, 2018, at the Wakefield High School Theater, 1325 South Dinwiddie Street, Arlington VA, and at 8 pm on Saturday, June 2, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. The 55-plus-member WBS Orchestra is the largest orchestra of its kind in the U.S. According to Peter DiGiovanni, "We are well rehearsed and we sound great." You can find more info at <http://www.balalaika.org>. For \$18 group-rate tickets contact Peter at 703-919-5701 or peter@musiciansforever.com.

REMINDER TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2018, now's the time. Dues are (USD) \$65 for Professional, \$65 for Certified Teacher (exam required), \$35 for Associate membership, \$35 for Affiliated Organization membership or \$20 for Student membership. You may also renew your membership online by going to <http://ameraccord.com/form.php>. Remit to: American Accordionists' Association, c/o Julie Cardona, 67 Sackett Point Road, #215 North Haven, CT 06473

Important Information for Festival Travelers

Reagan National Airport (DCA) & Airport Metro Station Shuttle

- From the Holiday Inn to the Airport: Beginning at 5:05 AM - Every 30 minutes until 10:35 PM.
- From DCA to the Holiday Inn: Beginning at 5:15 AM - Every 30 minutes until 10:45 PM. The pickup is at the hotel shuttle stop at Terminal A and at door numbers 5 & 9 at Terminal B & C. Pickup is at the lower level baggage claim area.

King Street Shuttle

- From the Holiday Inn & Suites to King Street - Every hour starting at 2:15PM until 10:15PM.
- From King Street to Hotel: Every hour starting at 2:20PM until 10:20PM.
- Pick-Up and Drop-Off points: Corner of King Street and Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria.

It's a Celebration!

July 11-15, 2018

Come join us at the

**Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
625 First Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
1-703-548-6300**

as we celebrate the

80th Anniversary

of the

American Accordionists' Association

Exciting Competitions, Workshops, and Outstanding Guest Artists

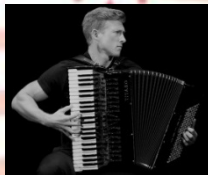
Gala Concert Artists



Stas Venglevski



Tatyana Krasnobaeva



Grayson Masefield



Mary Tokarski



Joe Natoli



Dr. Robert McMahan



Cecylia Barczyk



Emmanuel Borowsky

Also featuring

Rita Barnea, Joe Cerrito, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Don Gerundo, Cody McSherry, Ray Oreggia, Rachel Quirbach, Pat & Connie Racioppa, Lionel Reekie, Russkie Musikanti, The Trifillio Tango Trio, The UMKC Community Accordion Ensemble, The Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Mitch Guido, The Junior Festival Orchestra under the direction of Mary Tokarski

80th Anniversary AAA Festival Orchestra under the direction of

Joan Cochran Sommers

Plus

AAA Lifetime Achievement Award honoring

Louis F. Coppola

