



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association page 1

January-February 2019



Carrozza Scholarship Competition

July 17-21 2019

AAA Festival in
Valley Forge, PA

Categories and Cash Awards
will be announced shortly
on the AAA website
www.ameraccord.com

Carrozza Scholarship Fundraiser

September 8, 2019
Famee Furlane
College Point Queens

Sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association

From the Editor:

Welcome to the January 2019 edition of the AAA Newsletter and Happy New Year!

As 2019 arrives, so does an exciting assortment of events featuring the accordion, showcasing a variety of musical genres in a diverse array of settings. We hope you not only have a chance to enjoy them, but also that you let us know about them, so that our readers can put the various concerts and events on their calendars.

My sincere thanks to Past AAA President, Linda Reed for her ongoing work in making the final Newsletter Publication and Board of Director Rita Barnea for her work in helping source accordion events across the USA that we often include in our Newsletter publications.

Items for the March-April 2019 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. As always, text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word attachment if possible. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file, and the larger the file size the better. We can always reduce/crop the picture if necessary, however we are unable to increase the quality from smaller pictures. The deadline for the March Newsletter will be the 15th of February 2019.

We look forward to hearing from you soon,

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



From the President:

Welcome to the January 2019 issue of the AAA Newsletter, the first issue as your President. Our gifted and extremely talented Board Members work tirelessly ensuring the continuing success of this unique organization. The American Accordionists' Association will be celebrating its 81st Anniversary, this year; so, don't wait. Become a member now and be a part of our up and coming events. We hope that you will benefit as an active associate and support the oldest Accordion Association in the United States.

Please continue to contribute articles and photos for our bi-monthly newsletter. Send any items and photos to Newsletter Editor, Kevin Friedrich at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the official AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you to our Festival in Valley Forge, PA July 17-21, 2019. Information will be sent shortly regarding the numerous activities at Festival including guest artists and workshop presenters. Attend our open meeting on July 21st and let your voice be heard. Also save the date for the Carrozza Scholarship Dinner on September 8th where we will present the AAA's Lifetime Achievement Award to entertainer Joey Miskulin.

God has given us one of His most Precious Gifts... The Gift of Music. We are truly blessed that we can express this gift through this remarkable instrument that we all love; "The Accordion".

Dr. Joseph A. Ciccone, President



Welcome AAA officers for 2019 & 2020

President, Dr. Joseph A. Ciccone

1st Vice President, Mary J. Tokarski

2nd Vice President, Linda Soley Reed

Secretary, Rachel Quirbach

Treasurer, Raymond Oreggia

Visit us online at www.ameraccord.com

Julien Labro with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra

Accordionist Julien Labro will perform with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra on Friday, February 15, 2019 - Sunday, February 17, 2019 at the Belding Theater at The Bushnell on Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm and Sunday at 3:00 pm. Julien will perform on bandoneón under the direction of Adam Boyles, conductor.

French-born Julien Labro was 9 years old when he saw a televised accordion performance and knew he wanted to play. His parents rented him an accordion, and signed him up for lessons. He quickly mastered the instrument, earning him spots in competitions across Europe. In the years since, Julien has performed at festivals and venues in Europe, North America, the Middle East and South America.

He accompanied and collaborated with groups and artists such as Hot Club of Detroit, Brazilian pianist João Donato, Argentinean composer and pianist Fernando Otero and big band leader Maria Schneider. Julien performs on both accordion and bandoneon, the instrument considered essential in tango ensembles.

After graduating from the Marseille Conservatory of Music, Julien began winning International competitions and then moved to the U.S. 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. Labro 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.

The upcoming Hartford Symphony concert is a Latin-infused program showcasing Copland's dazzling *El Salón México*, which captures the spirit of a dance hall he visited during his first trip to Mexico while the music of Piazzolla demonstrates how he revolutionized Tango music, with his sizzling *Libertango* intertwining elements of jazz with classical. Piazzolla's fiery *Aconcagua* will feature the acclaimed Julien Labro on bandoneón and then the program will go on to feature contemporary composer Gabriela Lena Frank's vivid *Three Latin American Dances*, which have been said to bear a kinship to some of Bernstein's compositional style and the grand finale is Márquez's spirited *Danzón No. 2*, one of the most popular contemporary Mexican compositions today.

Julien's future 2019 USA performances also include:

- 02/15/19 Soloist w/ Hartford Symphony, Hartford, CT, Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 8:00 PM, Aconcagua and Libertango (Piazzolla)



- 02/16/19 Soloist with Hartford Symphony, Hartford, CT, Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 8:00 PM, Aconcagua and Libertango (Piazzolla)
- 02/17/19 Soloist w/ Hartford Symphony, Hartford, CT, Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 3:00 PM, Aconcagua | Libertango (Piazzolla)
- 03/15/19 Julien Labro & The Chanson Experiment, Scottville, MI, Center Stage Theater @ WSCC
- 03/21/19 Julien Labro & The Chanson Experiment, Elgin, IL, Second Space Theatre
- 03/22/19 Julien Labro & The Chanson Experiment, Chicago, IL, The Green Mill
- 03/23/19 Julien Labro & The Chanson Experiment, Chicago, IL, The Green Mill
- 03/25/19 Mihai Craioveanu invites Julien Labro, Holland, MI Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts

The mission of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra (HSO) is to enrich lives and community through great music. The HSO captivates and inspires audiences of all ages by presenting more than 100 concerts annually, including the Masterworks Series, POPS! Series, Sunday Serenades, Discovery Concerts, Symphony in Schools, Musical Dialogues, the Talcott Mountain Music Festival, and more.

For tickets to the Hartford Symphony event: Single & Flex Cards: 860.987.5900 and Subscriptions: 860.244.2999. For further information on Julien Labro: julien@julienlabro.com ■

AAMS Festival March 15 & 16

The 2019 AAMS Festival will be held at Westmont United Methodist Church Recreation Hall in Westmont-Haddon Township, NJ on March 15 from 6:00 pm-9:30 pm and March 16 from 10 am until 10 pm. Workshop presenters will include: Rachel Quirbach - Wellness for Accordionists, Dallas Vietty - Experiencing Rhythms, Charles Nunzio, Jr. will discuss the life of his father, the late Charles Nunzio, Sr. and Mike Dellapenna's workshop is entitled Italian folk Music.

Special Guest Artist, Dee Langley will discuss Releasing Performance Anxiety in her workshop and Rik Kaplan will conduct a workshop on Applying Button Techniques to Piano Accordion.

Concert performers include: Dee Langley, Dallas Vietty, Bob & Anita Siarkowski, Suzy Andrews, Bachtopus, North Branch Ensemble as well as Festival Orchestras 2 & 3. ■

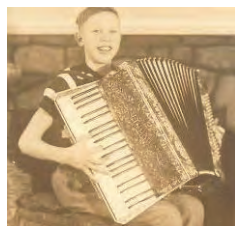


Pictured above left to right: Dee Langley, Rachel Quirbach, Dallas Vietty and Anita and Bob Siarkowski

Remembering Ralph Scheuermann

by Ann Scheuermann DiStefano

Ralph Scheuermann was born in 1936 in Brooklyn, NY to German immigrant parents, Otto and Helen. Music was an important part of the family's heritage, especially for Helen, who sang and played the organ. When Ralph was about age 10, he began accordion instructions under Wilma Von Zmeskal, and a lifelong love of the instrument began. He played at family parties and German festivals in the Long Island area.



Ralph at age 10 began studying the accordion and came from a music-loving family.

In the years when he was working and raising a family in Syracuse, NY, the accordion would come out on special occasions – birthdays, anniversaries, holidays. Singing Christmas carols in German and English, with Ralph on the accordion and one of his children or grandchildren accompanying on the piano, organ, flute, cello, etc., became a treasured tradition. Ralph appreciated how the Lawrence Welk show made his beloved instrument more familiar to the masses, and he was often invited to play at parties and in variety shows.

Ralph spent countless hours practicing his craft, transposing music, and curating arrangements from his heroes, AAA founders Pietro Deiro, Charles Magnante and Charles Nunzio. He was equally at home playing classical selections, European folk songs and American popular music. At six-foot-four-inches tall, Ralph's long fingers were nimble on the buttons, and he played a game with his grandchildren to guess how far his hand could stretch across the keys. An accordion connoisseur, Ralph's prized instrument was a Fisarmonica Tipo Imperator, made by Layolo, Torino, Italy.

In his retirement, Ralph had more time to devote to music, and he joined the Harbour Towne Fest Band in Wilmington, NC, where he earned the title, "A-cor-dean Meister." After moving to the Fredericksburg, VA area, he became the accordionist and German singer for the popular LOW-n-BROWS band. Ralph played the accordion daily into his early 80's, most often while his wife Betty cooked dinner. "I would joke with him, 'The faster you play, the faster we eat!,' said Betty. "But really, it was a world-class, private concert every afternoon." Ralph rarely turned down an invitation to provide entertainment at senior centers and



Ralph Scheuermann



Ralph pictured with granddaughter, Ceci

civic events. According to Betty, "Having Ralph play at the Lake of the Woods Art Show just elevated the atmosphere. The vendors as well as the guests truly appreciated the special touch, and told him so." The accordion was an icebreaker for this naturally gregarious performer, who gladly chatted up anyone who would approach him.

Ralph battled cancer for many years, and his music was part of his therapy. He was heartbroken when, just a few months before his passing, he realized he was no longer strong enough to 'squeeze the box.' Ralph spent his final days at home being cared for by his family, before a brief stay in assisted living. The move was poetic: "I know this place – I've entertained here!" Ralph passed away on November 17, 2018. His epitaph includes a lyric from an Abba song: "Thank you for the music."

In October, Ralph's daughter spoke with him about the legacy he might wish to leave, beyond the many traits he had already passed down to his children and grandchildren. When the AAA Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund was mentioned, Ralph's blue eyes lit up. "Yes!" he said. "I have spent a lifetime promoting and even defending my instrument. If I could help perpetuate the love of the accordion in the next generation, that would be wonderful." To date, \$1,570 has been donated in Ralph's name.

Ralph leaves to carry on his legacy his wife, Betty; children/in-laws George & Maureen, Ann & Leo, and Gloria & Brett; and grandchildren Caroline, Neal, William, John, Cecilia, Benjamin and Sarah. ■

Donations received for AAA Carrozza Scholarship Fund in Memory of Ralph Scheuermann

Helen Bechtold
Richard Bechtold
Nancy Bonneau
Helen C. Brewer
Anita M. Crosby
Leo DiStefano
Karen Edgar
Kimberly Fisher
Donald C. Gendron
Lynn M. Hogan
Karen S. Kovarik
Kathleen Kudak
Gloria Lammers & Family
Barbara LaVallee
Leigh McIntyre
George B. Reck, Sr.
Ronibeth Reingold
Mary Beth & David Rosato
Pamela L. Rose
Elizabeth Scheuermann (Erbaacher)
Christina Tyler
Katherine Verbaro
Heidi Voll
Colleen Waterbury

2019 AAA Festival July 17-21, 2019

Valley Forge Resort Hotel & Casino • Valley Forge (King of Prussia), PA 22314

Guest Artist - MICHAEL BRIDGE



Long Island Accordion Alliance

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) ushered in their 2019 New Year at La Villini Restaurant (East Northport, NY) on Wednesday, January 2nd with the fantastic accordion duo of Manny Corallo and Frank Toscano as guest artists. This was Manny's and Frank's seventh year of appearing as guest artists at a LIAA event. They definitely did not disappoint the full house of accordion music lovers.

Their virtuoso performance featured outstanding arrangements of Espana Cani, Beer Barrel Polka, a tango medley of Chittara Romana and Addios Muchachos, Tico Tico, and some "Val Taro Musette" favorites (Tutti Mi Chiamano Bionda, Allegro Waltz, Parisienne Polka). Dominic Karcic joined them at the close of the session in performances of two Tony Murena compositions (El Cascador and Indifference) and Mindie Cere's well known Mantillas Paso Doble.

The next Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) event will take place on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 featuring an evening of Klezmer Music with guest artists the "Zevy Zions and Ken Maltz Duo."

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) meets the first Wednesday of the month at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731 (631.261.6344) and is in its eighth year of bringing accordion music to the Long Island community. ■



Pictured above are Frank Toscano, Mary Tokarski, Dominic Karcic and Manny Corallo



Amy Jo Sawyer has original work featured in Lithuania

Original music by ATG former President and current executive board member, Amy Jo Sawyer, was performed at the Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships and Festival in Kaunas, Lithuania on September 29, 2018 by sixty accordionists and percussionists from around the world.



The CIA World Accordion Orchestra X was directed by Prof. Joan Sommers who had selected the Amy Jo composition "Recuerdos" (Memories) as one of three compositions by American composers for this International event. The other two compositions performed were "Serenata" by Leroy Anderson, and Medley from "West Side Story" by Leonard Bernstein in honor of the global celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of his birth. Several participants from North America were in the orchestra including Amy Jo Sawyer herself as well as CIA Ambassador and AAA and ATG Board member Kevin Friedrich, ATG Executive member Liz Finch, Beverley Fess (Canada) and Mary Tokarski as AAA President.

Amy Jo Sawyer began her study of the accordion at the age of ten under the tutelage of Henri Milano, in Mesa, Arizona. She came from musical parents, Marlin and Virginia McLaws, who played trumpet and piano respectively in their own Dance Orchestra for fifty years in the Phoenix area. Amy Jo started piano lessons at the age of five and during her grade and high school years played the baritone horn in the school bands. The accordion became her "first love" and at age fourteen she entered the National Accordion Competition, in Chicago, placing 2nd in her age category.

At age nineteen she won first place in the Western States Accordion Competition in Long Beach, California and also competed in the Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Competition in Biel, Switzerland. She continued her studies under the direction of Anthony Galla-Rini, in Los Angeles, and represented Arizona in the National Accordion Competition in New York City.

continued on next page

The CIA World Accordion Orchestra X directed by Prof. Joan Sommers



Sawyer work featured in Lithuania. cont'd. from p. 4

Amy Jo said, "One of the greatest compliments I have received was from Mr. Galla-Rini, as he included my name with those he considered his most talented students in the book, 'Anthony Galla-Rini on His Life and the Accordion' written by Swedish author Ove Hahn." In 1964 she won a competition sponsored by the Sacramento Symphony Orchestra, the winner of which was to perform in solo with the symphony. The other contestants were violinists and pianists. The Symphony Conductor, Sandor Salgo, exclaimed, "she is a musical genius, and just happens to play the accordion!" She performed "Fantasia for Accordion & Orchestra", by Paul Creston.

Amy Jo has written music for, and performed with, the University of Missouri at Kansas City Accordion Orchestra, under the direction of Joan Cochran Sommers, on four of their International tours. Amy Jo received a BA degree in Composition in 1988 and a Master's Degree in Jazz Performance in 1989 from Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville. While there she composed several jazz originals that were performed by the SIU-E Concert Jazz Band, with her on keyboards. An original, "Just You," was also performed by the Brigham Young University "Synthesis" Jazz Band. Amy Jo has performed accordion parts with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra on numerous occasions, including accompanying world renowned Italian Tenor, Luciano Pavarotti. Amy Jo has served as President of the Accordionists & Teacher's Guild, International, Inc.

Amy Jo's other published works include: Diggin' Dorian, Elida, Juntos (Together), La Fiesta, Opus 5-6-4, Recuerdos (Memories) as well as two CDs 'According to Amy' and 'Classically Amy'.

For further information: AmyJo@apci.net ■

Joey Miskulin to Receive 2019 AAA Lifetime Achievement Award

Joey Miskulin has been selected to receive the AAA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019 for his many musical contributions. The date and location of the event will be announced in upcoming publications of this AAA Newsletter.

Joseph M. Miskulin is a hall of fame accordionist and producer of Grammy Award-winning music albums. In a music career spanning more than four decades, Joey Miskulin has collaborated with a range of artists including Paul McCartney, John Denver, Ricky Skaggs, Andy Williams, Ricky Van Shelton and more.

When accordionist Joey Miskulin did a tour of duty with "America's Polka King" Frank Yankovic, travelling the country at the age of 13, he began a professional career that now includes playing on several Gold and Platinum albums, as well as three Grammy award winning releases.

Miskulin, a native of Chicago, was a child prodigy, joining his first band at the age of 11. By 13 he was travelling with the above-mentioned Yankovic, who was a Columbia recording artist at the time, and had already appeared on a record. After playing on a syndicated TV polka show based in Cleveland, Miskulin eventually made the move to Nashville. There he befriended Jack Clement who helped him get session work. Over the years Joey has played with Townes Van Sandt, Garth Brooks, Ricky Skaggs and U2 among others.

Joey Miskulin has also begun producing and arranging, cutting records for Michael Martin Murphey, Riders in the Sky and his own band, Joey Miskulin & the International Festival Orchestra.

Joey Miskulin is one of Cleveland-Style Polkas' greatest pillars of musical talent. In his most memorable role, Joey, the child prodigy discovered by Chicago's Roman Possedi, became Frank Yankovic's featured accordionist at age thirteen, beginning an association that would last over thirty-five years. Frank's insistence that Joey be included in a Columbia recording session cemented Joey's decision to make music his career.

Broadening his experience, in the 1970's, Joey became a studio musician and producer, performing on bass, piano, banjo, guitar, organ, accordion, and as a vocalist. All the while, Joey maintained his love affair with Cleveland-Style Polkas, playing and recording with Yankovic and Cleveland-Style orchestras. In 1978, Joey opened Miskulin's Lounge, reviving a venue that housed some of Cleveland's most famous polka clubs. Teaming up with the legendary Lou Trebar, Joey formed the Mis-Tre Orchestra. Joey hosted various TV shows, including his very own Polka Time USA. In 1985 Miskulin produced the first Grammy-winning polka album, Frank Yankovic's 70 Years of Hits. Among Joey's many Compositions, 'I Wanna Call You Sweetheart' was designated a Great All-Time Polka Hit. Joey moved to Nashville in 1987 for his other love, Western music where he is billed as "Joey the Cow-polka King". ■

Save the date....

September 8, 2019 Carrozza Scholarship Dinner and Dance featuring Aspen Opus 2 and presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award to Joey Miskulin.



2019 Not Just OOM-PAH! Accordion Workshop and Concert

featuring

Jamie Maschler
Forró & Latin Styles



& Rachel Bell
French, Celtic & English Folk Dance Music



With Karen Axelrod



FREE Concert Friday April 5, 2019 6:30 - 9:00 pm



Central Market North
4001 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78756

Accordion Workshop

Saturday & Sunday, April 6 & 7 8:30 am - 5:30 pm each day
at Lamar Senior Activity Center, 2874 Shoal Crest Ave., Austin, TX. 78705

Nick Ballarini will be at the workshop for all your accordion and accordion accessories needs.

\$175 for Accordionists.

Includes all materials & Lunch each day.

\$60 for Non-Accordionists.

Includes Lunch each day.

Folk Dance Session

Sunday, April 7, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Free & Open to the Public. All Ages Welcome!

Lamar Senior Activity Center

Workshop Participants join Rachel Bell & Karen Axelrod in playing for Dance Session. Dances taught by Gaby Thompson.

ARE YOU 18 years old Or YOUNGER!

IF SO, we are offering

ONE LUCKY YOUNG ACCORDIONIST
a WORKSHOP SCHOLARSHIP!

Check out the Scholarship Application
to see if you qualify, and if so, apply today!



TEXAS FOLK LIFE

"This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department." Additional Support is from Texas FolkLife, Central Market in Austin, and the San Antonio Accordion Association.

For More Information and Details, CONTACT:

Shirley Johnson 512-680-0422 ShirleyJ@Viewera.com or accsaj@gmail.com

Laura J. Niland 210-651-4359 Liniland@texas.net

For Online Registration, visit: www.Viewera.com or www.NotJustOompah.org

NAMM Accordion Exhibition Opens in Carlsbad, CA



pushing it forward. The Museum invites you to discover where the accordion could be headed next and even play one for yourself – hoping that guests may well become part of the instrument’s future!

The opening day was filled to capacity: a special insiders-only, sneak peak lunch with a few tunes played by Cory Pesaturo; an evening reception for Museum members with music from I Delinquenti (Costa Mesa, CA); and the feature performance by Cory who received two standing ovations, prefaced by a presentation from Guido Deiro, Jr.

The physical exhibition itself features the “exploded” accordion display, with instrument components mounted to the wall so that visitors can see inside, while on opening day, the how-to video and interactive instruments had visitors waiting their turn to try an accordion for themselves.

Opening day guests included accordionists, accordion enthusiasts, and people who were just curious about the instrument and staff stated they were happy if some of that curiosity motivated someone to pick up a book about the accordion, a CD from one of the contributing musicians, or an instrument to learn how to play.

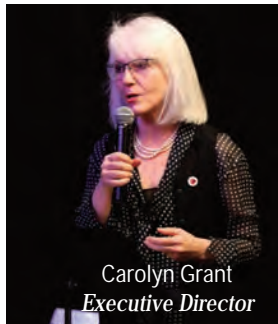
The Museum expresses their thanks to everyone who came on the first day, everyone who’s planning to come, and everyone who has lent their support over the last few months of development, stating that it wouldn’t have been possible without all of that support.

For further information please contact Jonathan Piper (picture left), Ph.D., Manager of Artefacts and Exhibitions at the Museum of Making Music, a division of the NAMM Foundation, 5790 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008, phone: 760-304-5824.

The exhibit 'Accordions: Expanding Voices in the USA' runs from December 13, 2018 - August 31, 2019. For information, please visit www.museumofmakingmusic.org. ■

According to the Museum's summary, just over 60 years ago, accordions were at the forefront of our musical landscape. With annual sales topping a quarter of a million instruments, they were seen and heard on stages, in stores, and in classrooms across the country. But musical tastes shifted dramatically by the end of the 1950s, and, within 10 years of this incredible high, accordion sales and interest plummeted almost to the point of disappearing. Today, accordions and accordionists are making their voices heard again!

The Museum of Making Music’s special exhibition, “Accordions: Expanding Voices in the USA,” takes a close look and listens at the current state of the accordion across the country, highlighting stories and recordings from some of the players



Carolyn Grant
Executive Director



Jonathan Piper
Curator



Cory Pesaturo



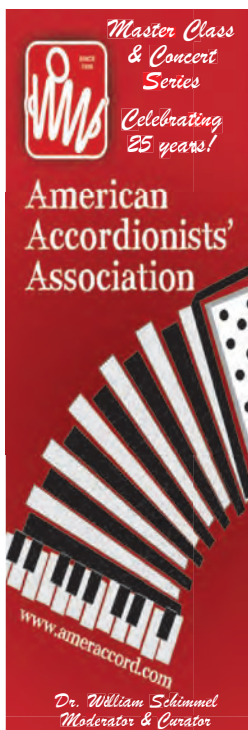
Guido Deiro, Jr.



That Means What!?

This year, The Seminars will celebrate their 25th Anniversary year. The title will be **“THAT MEANS WHAT?!”** and will be held from July 26, 27 and 28, 2019. Topics will include: The DIY Method (Do it yourself, for God’s Sake); That Means What!?! (Finally we will answer the Burning Question), The Orchestral Solo Accordion (Can you handle playing Handel in the Background); Enhancing the Orchestra, Selling Your Soul to Make History, and so much more. See the flyer in this issue of the Newsletter. PLUS you will now be able to make your reservations and payments online. Be sure to reserve early - seating is limited.

For more information, please visit www.ameraccord.com.



The American Accordionists' Association proudly presents
The 25th Anniversary of the Master Class & Concert Series

THAT MEANS WHAT!?

Dr. William Schimmel, Moderator and Curator

July 26, 27 and 28, 2019

TENRI CULTURAL INSTITUTE
43 A West 13th Street
Between 5th and 6th Avenues
New York, New York

Master Classes at 3 PM - Concerts at 7 PM

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE

THE DIY METHOD – Do it yourself, for God’s Sake!

THAT MEANS WHAT!?! – Finally we will answer the Burning Question!

THE ORCHESTRAL SOLO ACCORDION
Can you handle playing Handel in the Background?

BAROQUE ORGAN?
If that’s the classical accordion, I’d rather play organ!

ENHANCING THE ORCHESTRA – Show up and you will - but show up!

SELLING YOUR SOUL TO MAKE HISTORY?
Try making better art and see what happens!

THE LOADED STATEMENT - FORGOT WHAT THAT MEANS
I’ll Remember Later!

- PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE
- Micki Goodman
 - Paul Stein
 - Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan
 - Will Holshouser
 - Doug Makofka
 - Brian Dewan
 - Gene Pritsker
 - Melissa Elledge
 - Mark Nathanson
 - Benjamin Ickies
 - Godfrey Nelson
 - Lorraine Nelson Wolf
 - Dragica Banic Curcic
 - Erica Maire Mancini
 - Dave Soldier
 - Mayumi Miyaoka
 - Dan Cooper
 - The Yorkvillians
 - Max Maples
 - Michiyo Suzuki
 - Rachel Swaner
 - The Main Squeeze Orchestra
 - Milica Paranosic
 - Peter Jarvis
 - David Stoler
 - Lauren Flanigan
 - 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
 - Corn Mo
 - Rachid Eladlouni
 - Carl Riehl
 - Linda Reed
 - Rita Barnea
 - Dr. Denise Koncelik
 - Alicia Svigals
 - Jeanne Velonis
 - Devon Tipp
 - Sydnee
 - Michiyo Suzuki
 - Miwa Gemini
 - Jenny Cho
 - Elliott Sharp
 - Jennie Muilio
 - Elaine Yau
 - Carita Patamikakam
 - Kathryn Andrews
 - and many others
 - and a few surprise guests and
 - Dr. Schimmel

- Learning from LAWRENCE WELK
The Ultimate Business Model
- ETTORE
Dean of Accordion Composers
- CARROZZA - DESIDERIO - AMPCO
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- THIS MEANS THAT (BERIO) -
Looking back into the future.
- STROLLING REVISITED. -
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Use this form to mail in your reservation and payment!

___ Three-Day Session - all Master Classes, Workshops and Concerts - \$150 for three-day session (Fri., Sat. & Sun.) \$ _____

___ Daily Full Session - Master Classes, Workshops and Concerts

Check dates Friday, July 26 Saturday, July 27 Sunday, July 28 @ \$60 Daily \$ _____

___ Master Classes and Workshops

Check dates Friday, July 26 Saturday, July 27 Sunday, July 28 @ \$30 Daily \$ _____

___ Concerts only

Check dates Friday, July 26 Saturday, July 27 Sunday, July 28 @ \$35 Daily \$ _____

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Expiration Date _____ Name on Card _____ Security Code _____

My check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to American Accordionists' Association is enclosed.

Name _____

Address / City / State / Zip / Country _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

For information, please phone (212) 876-0827
Mail check or credit card information to: AAA Treasurer, Ray Oreggia, 36 Renee Road, Syosset, NY11791-2831

Bennett Exhibit at AWAM

Elsie Bennett's "Ace" accordion was recently received from her son Ken Bennett. Its arrival predicts forthcoming completion of her musical estate held at AWAM according to Elsie's wishes. Visitors are invited to investigate these items in our "American Accordionists Association Archival Room."

Influential in the advancement of the accordion through her large New York studio, her performances, repertory books, assorted writings, and multifaceted activities in various professional organizations, she influenced acceptance of the instrument in colleges and among academic musicians. In the process, she became a scholar in her own right.

Under her guidance, the American Accordionists' Association launched their Composers' Commissioning Committee, which led to the funding of more than 50 works from a prestigious array of composers whose names reads like a "Who's Who" of giants of our time. She realized that it is in the musicological value of "absolute" music originally written for the accordion that esteem is gained and performing artists acquire new breadth. A conjoined result is that artists have developed new technical and interpretive skills that further appreciation of the instrument among serious musicians.

As informal historian for the AAA, her documents codify 70+ years of America's accordion history and the social impact of this organization in our culture. Read more about her at: http://www.accordionists.com/memorials/mem/bennett_elsie/index.shtml ■



Elsie Bennett pictured above with sons Ronald and Kenneth

Thank you to the following for their generous donations:

**Jeanne Velonis
Peter Peluso
Composers Commissioning**

**Frederick Schwinger
Ron Mastrangelo
AAA General Fund**

**Ralph Crispino, Jr.
Master Class & Concert Series**

**George Curletto
Carrozza Scholarship**

2nd Annual San Diego Accordion Camp

The 2nd annual San Diego Accordion Camp (SDAC), under the musical direction of Gordon Kohl, will be held April 4-6, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Mangia Italiano Restaurant, 248 Third Ave., Chula Vista, CA.

The SDAC emphasizes building accordion musicianship skills, enjoyment and self confidence in playing an accordion solo. A goal of this camp is to enhance the music arrangements we learn and to make them enjoyable to play.

This year's camp will use "First 50 Songs You Should Play on the Accordion" arranged by Gary Meisner for the textbook. We will review and play several popular tunes including "Libertango," "Cherokee (Indian Love Song)," "The Phoenix Love Theme (Senza Fine)," etc. and Gordon will explain the application of chord cadences and progression, building introductions, harmony, rhythm, bellow technique, expression and theory. Each song has select measures where improvisation will be incorporated. The use of harmonic tones and design of short introductions and endings will be studied and played by participants.

Both acoustic and digital accordionists are welcome to attend the 3-day camp. Suggestions for possible acoustic reed switch settings and digital voice choices will be given.

The enrolment fee is \$189/person which covers: textbook ("First 50 Songs" arranged by Gary Meisner), parking, course materials, notebook and lunch. Sign-up by March 15, 2019. The textbook will be mailed in advance so that you can practice the selected tunes ahead of camp. Gordon will distribute extra class notes and exercises at camp in your notebook.

Gordon Kohl (SDAC camp director - pictured on right) is a professional accordionist and teacher. He has performed and presented invited workshops at numerous accordion conventions and camps across the U.S. He is on the Board of Directors of the Accordionists & Teachers Guild International. He continues to play solo and group engagements for conventions, clubs, dances, and special events.



He has combined the use of a reed accordion style with the electronic and digital world new age accordion technology. He uses skills from piano, keyboard, and accordion in his continually evolving professional style design. He always wants to mix the voicings of the reed instrument with the modern pop and orchestral sides of digital instrument capability in his music arrangements. This conceptual idea has helped him and his combo remain popular today.

For an enrollment form go to: <http://www.gordonkohlaccordions.com/> or contact Gordon Kohl. His mobile phone is (619) 395-0454 and his email address is GordonKohl@GordonKohlAccordions.com. ■

Welcome New AAA Members

**Professional Members
Suzanna Beites
Jack Kruper**

**Associate Member
Sean J. Valdepenas**

Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble

The Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble invites you to enjoy their upcoming performances to bring the New Year alive with music and friendship.

The team of Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini have launched The Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble in response to demands from many of Mario's students who range in age from 10 to 70, who wanted the chance to hone their skills playing gigs with a mix of professionals. "The seed was planted," Mario said.

In an interview in WAG Magazine conducted by Jena Butterfield, Mary and Mario provided insight into the background of the Hudson Valley Ensemble. "We're keeping true to our total commitment to live music," Mancini says. "And with accordion, there's just no end to what you can do. I hear different styles of music coming from every student. Mario emphasizes each student individually, exposing them to all styles." And the styles are vast. There is always something new to learn, even among professionals.

"The Hudson Valley Ensemble will get together once a month," Mancini says. Tacca envisions it as a combination workshop. "I always input some musical knowledge added to what they're playing," he adds. Plans now are for about a dozen players in the group. "Now we started out there were three or four," Mancini says. "Now there's a dozen and I know it's going to grow."

Performers consist of accordionists playing on both acoustic and digital instruments and range in level from intermediate to advance players with two to 10 years' experience, including someone who

"Hazel" Works Her Magic....with a little help from Charles Magnante!!!!

by Marilyn O'Neil

So strange things have happened to me all along in my life, but especially since I returned to the accordion world. I'm known all over my little town of Cheshire, CT as "the Accordion Lady." I carry that title with pride and with a bit of a challenge towards anyone who hints at ridiculing our instrument regardless of the title of the person issuing the challenge. The list of "anyone" has included teachers, therapists, and yes, even priests!!!



Meet Hazel

Always on the lookout for an opportunity to show off our instrument, I received permission from the proprietor of Main Street Cafe in Cheshire to set up a little "station" in this cafe. I am there on a daily basis to have lunch and enjoy the company of many wonderful patrons. I brought fliers announcing our upcoming CAA gathering. To add a special touch, I brought along the CAA's newest addition to its accordion collection. "Hazel," a 12 bass instrument that I'd purchased with the intention of using it for a school program, was placed on a high top table next to the fliers. A small group of cronies sat with me and we shared lunch.

The food at this little cafe is wonderful. I stuffed myself with salad, as is my usual wont, and actually wasn't paying much attention to the line of people forming at the counter to order their food from the barista.

Suddenly, a lovely young woman appeared in the line. She approached the table where Hazel was displayed, smiled, and said: "An accordion! My uncle was a well known accordionist."

Now, I don't mean to hurt anyone's feelings here, but I hear this a lot, so I didn't make much of it. But still, wanting to be friendly (especially with Hazel sitting there and all), I asked her who her uncle was. To which she replied: "Charles Magnante."

I choked on a piece of lettuce and nearly fell off the high top stool I was sitting on. "Who????"

She repeated: "Charles Magnante." I grabbed the table to keep Hazel from falling off.

Her name is Joanne Livolsi and she is the grand niece of our beloved Charles Magnante. Her father, Frank Magnante, is Charlie's nephew. Her grandfather was Charlie's brother. Joanne lives in



travels once a month to be part of the group.

The Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble will be performing at Taormina Restaurant, 59 Hudson Avenue, Peekskill, NY, on the second Thursday of every month, and Dinner reservations are required and can be made by calling: 914-739-4007, with the next performance scheduled on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 6:30 PM with special guest tenor Rinaldo Toglia.

The Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble is pictured above in a photo by Bob Rozycki: from left, Bruce Naylor, Suzana Beites, Monique Brooks and Mario Tacca; and back, from left, Bill Jordan, Dario Ebbri, Don Simons, Bob Duffy and Fred Schwinger. (Not pictured, Joseph Ciccone, Don Gerundo and Bruce Nielsen). For more information, please contact www.manciniandtacca.com ■

the Litchfield, CT area.

I identified myself as the President of the Connecticut Accordion Association, which suddenly felt very tiny in comparison to this woman's lineage in our world. I spoke of my connection to the AAA Board of Directors, well aware that I was speaking to the family member of one of our founding fathers.

It was a magical moment for me and Hazel as we shared our connection to the accordion with Charles Magnante's progeny. Joanne's dad, Frank Magnante, a retired Electronics Engineer, is still alive and working as a consultant in his field. Joanne graciously offered to tell her Dad about our magical meeting. We shared phone numbers. She assured me that Frank Magnante would call me.

And he did.

After we parted, a veritable flood of memories engulfed me. I held Hazel as my mind began to race back to the few Magnante pieces I had learned as well as listening to my sister perform Malaguena at one of our many concerts as students of Vitale Music School. I recalled Charlie judging us as kids in competition. It was at that point that I knew I had to do something to capture these special moments.

I decided to dedicate our April 28th gathering of the Connecticut Accordion Association to our beloved Charles Magnante and invite as many of his remaining family members as possible to the dedication.

Our most celebrated members of the accordion community, many of whom shared special times directly with Charles, will honor him by playing original compositions or his arrangements of famous pieces. Additionally, young, talented accordionists will grace the program in honor of Charlie, bringing back memories of the early days when we all sat down to tackle some of the more challenging musical pieces we would ever have to learn.

And all of this, my friends, came as a result of one little accordion named Hazel, who happened to be sitting there at the right place and at exactly the right time.

This concert will be held at the Waverly Tavern in Cheshire, CT on April 28. Details to follow. ■



Sergeant Major Manuel (Manny) Bobenrieth Retirement

AAA Governing Board member, Sergeant Major Manuel (Manny) Bobenrieth, accordionist for the U.S. Army Strings, retired on December 31 after a stellar 32-year career.

On December 7, in a ceremony recognizing Manny's many achievements throughout his career, he was presented with multiple awards and gifts from the Army, members of the Strings, and his two children who are both Captains in the U.S. Army.

As a child in his native Chile, Manny used to look on in wonder as his Chilean grandfather played his old green accordion. At age 5, Manny received his own. "My father's a doctor, but was probably a frustrated musician at heart," Manny told Washington Post reporter Eric Brace, "and one day he put an accordion in my hands. It wasn't a matter of 'Do you want to play?' but more like, 'You will play this.'"

The Bobenrieth family moved to Washington in 1968 when he was 10 and he never stopped playing, going on to get a Performance degree from Catholic University. He eventually auditioned for the Army Strings when long-time accordionist Alex Smith retired, and at age 27 went through Army basic training and got the job!

Since then, SGM Manuel Bobenrieth has performed in many different musical mediums and venues, including Broadway musicals, the Contemporary Music Forum, and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. He has also appeared with legendary jazz guitarist Charlie Byrd in a tribute to the music of jazz accordionist Art Van Damme. He can be heard on the soundtrack to the Discovery Channel television series "The Great Chefs" as a guest artist with The Charlie Byrd Trio. The Manny Bobenrieth Ensemble was featured



General Mark Milley and Sgt. Major Manny Bobenrieth



Lou Coppola and Manny



Capt. Emily Bobenrieth, Maureen Bobenrieth, Manny and Capt. Vincent Bobenrieth

at the world famous Blues Alley Jazz club. From 1984-1986, Bobenrieth toured Europe and the Caribbean aboard the SS Norway as accordionist for Norwegian Caribbean Cruise Line.

As accordionist with The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," Manny has performed for Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush, at numerous White House State Dinners in honor of foreign dignitaries such as Margaret Thatcher, Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin, and The Emperor of Japan. In addition, he has written numerous arrangements for The U.S. Army Strings, which have been featured at Avery Fisher Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the State Department, the Vice President's residence, and the White House. Since 2004, Bobenrieth has been the Group Leader for The U.S. Army Strings.

At his retirement ceremony, the large auditorium was filled to capacity with members of the military including some of the U.S. Army's highest ranking officers, alumni of the various Army bands, family and friends, including many friends from the accordion community. Manny is pictured receiving his retirement Award from General Mark Milley, chief of Staff of the Army who is slated as the next head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Manny is pictured with his family, Captain Emily Bobenrieth, Maureen Bobenrieth (Manny's wife), Sergeant Major Manuel (Manny) Bobenrieth, and Captain Vincent Bobenrieth in a picture provided by Lou Coppola. Manny is also pictured with fellow retiree, Chief Master Sergeant Louis Coppola who served his career with the United States Air Force Strolling Strings. ■

And All Because of a Bumper Sticker...

By Joan Grauman AAA Historian

"Who is this crazy person tailgating me?!", thought my good friend and fellow accordionist, JoAnn Pankow. She was driving to the Carver Center in Purcellville, Virginia to return containers that she uses to prepare and deliver meals through the center's home-delivered meals program. The woman behind the wheel, Karen Michaels, was not going to give up. She pulled into the left lane of the road (yes, where oncoming traffic could be an issue!) and asked JoAnn to please stop. She did, and what a sweet meeting that turned out to be!! Why did Karen tailgate and stop JoAnn? Karen had been desperate to find other accordionists to play with her father. Then she saw JoAnn's "I'd Rather Be Squeezin'" bumper sticker.

Karen's father, Art Piel, is an accomplished accordionist. Art now has Alzheimer's and has moved near his daughter to a dementia facility. Karen wanted to keep her father busy and fulfilled, so she signed him up as an official volunteer in Loudoun County, Virginia. Karen and Art were on their way to — you guessed it — the

Carver Center where Art would play accordion for an adult day-care group. JoAnn returned her containers, then walked over to where Art was playing the popular music of the 1940s. She sat at the piano and joined him. Art was so pleased!

"My father lives in the moment," Karen said. "If it's a joyful moment, he will remember being happy." She spoke of her father's love of the accordion and of music in general. Art taught himself to play the accordion at the age of 5, then took lessons on and off, but he mainly plays by ear. Art worked on his sight-reading skills when the Connecticut Accordion Orchestra was formed. He loved playing with this group, then under the direction of Linda



Art Piel & Joanne Pankow

cont'd. on next page

UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble to Perform at AWAM

The University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) Chamber Accordion Ensemble are excited to announce that they will appear at the upcoming World Accordion Day celebrations to be held at the World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI on the weekend of May 4-5, 2019.

All players are alumni of the University of Missouri - Kansas City, and former members of the renowned UMKC Accordion Orchestra. The players make their living in various careers, but each have remained devoted to promoting the accordion and its varied repertoire, which includes transcriptions, commissions and other original works.

They have recently performed in Chicago, San Francisco, Kansas City and at the recent 80th Anniversary of the AAA in Alexandria, VA. In addition, they have participated in the USA contributions to previous World Accordion Day events, when videos of their performances were broadcast during the live presentations.

The UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble performs under the direction of Joan C. Sommers who also plays as a member of the

ensemble. Joan C. Sommers was awarded the title of Professor Emerita upon her retirement from the University of Missouri – Kansas City Conservatory of Music (USA), where she established and taught the accordion degree program for forty years. She has arranged innumerable works for both Accordion Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble over many years, works that have been performed around the globe.

Joan C. Sommers has held numerous positions in several music organizations, including the Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG) and the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA – IMC-UNESCO) where she was recently awarded lifetime Honorary Membership.

Today she enjoys performing with fellow accordionists in duo, with other instrumentalists, with the UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble and as guest Conductor with various orchestras around the world including leading the magnificent World Accordion Orchestra XI in Shenzhen, China on August 18, 2019. For more information please contact: joansommers@kc.rr.com. ■



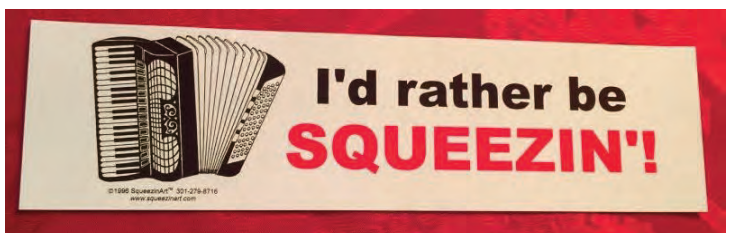
UMKC Community Accordion Ensemble, left to right top row: Mary Ann Covone, Kevin Friedrich, Cathy Sue Weiss, Ron Barrow and Ron Dake..
First row: Betty Jo Simon, Samantha Wagner, Joyce Davis and Joan C. Sommers, Director.

Bumper Sticker, cont'd. from page 10

Soley Reed. Linda described Art as “the sweetest person I have ever met. He always volunteered to help with everything and anything and was always the first to arrive at rehearsals and performances.” It was sad for all when it became apparent that Art was losing his memory.

“My father is still physically fine, but the dementia has become very advanced. This doesn’t take away his passion for music and he still plays with feeling,” Karen noted. She asked JoAnn if she would consider accompanying her father again. JoAnn drove to the facility where Art now lives. His roommate is an accomplished guitar player and they frequently play together. JoAnn joined the duo playing the hits of the 40s. This time she brought her accordion. Art was thrilled!

Karen reflected on that first amazing meeting with JoAnn, which she feels was “God’s intervention.” Karen was running late that day, and she is almost never late for anything. “That car with the bumper sticker was RIGHT in front of me! If I had been on time....” ■



Ensemble Opus 2 to Perform at Scholarship Dinner

The internationally renowned concert and recording artists, Ensemble Opus 2 (formerly known as Alphen Opus 2), focus primarily on the performance of contemporary music by Dutch and other international composers. An orchestra of ten accordions, supplemented by three percussionists, the ensemble is symphonic in the breadth of its sound yet sensitive in its phrasing and exceptional in its virtuosity. Opus 2 embraces the folk origins of the accordion and raises the instrument to the level of the concert hall without sacrificing any of its inherent features: the interplay of reeds in various combinations produced through varying degrees of pressure on a centrally-located set of bellows.

In fact, by means of subtle artistry and impeccable technique, the ensemble challenges the limits of the accordion and explores every nuance of tone, phrasing, and dynamics of which the instrument is capable.

Having elevated the accordion to the concert hall, AO2 is constantly in search of compositions that combine the accordion with other concert instruments, such as strings, woodwinds, and human voices, to demonstrate the adaptability of the instrument and the ease with which it blends.

Moreover, Opus 2 always seeks a theatrical method of presentation, accompanying its performances with projected images, pantomimes, puppetry, narration, and other striking and original stage pictures. What is, perhaps, most impressive about Accordion Ensemble Opus 2 is its versatility, its ability to artistically interpret the most atonal of contemporary compositions on the one hand, and dive wholeheartedly into a tango or bossa nova on the other. Every piece in their repertoire is performed as if it is their specialty and that is a quality that advances the members of Opus 2 to the first rank of accordion ensembles: they are not only extraordinary accordionists, they are extraordinary musicians.

A few members of the group will be touring the USA and will perform at our September 8th, 2019 Carozza Scholarship event at Famme Ferlane Club in College Point Queens. More information will be available soon. ■

About the Conductor



Hans Barten, conductor Ensemble Opus 2 Conductor, pianist, and visual artist Hans Barten, musical director of Accordion Ensemble Opus 2, studied piano and conducting at the Stedelijk Conservatorium and Dansacademie in Arnhem. Not only is he widely known and respected as a conductor of brass bands, symphony orchestras, and accordion ensembles, Barten is also a renowned piano accompanist and coach in high demand. In all of his musical endeavors, Barten's preparation is meticulously studied, his interpretations are always insightful and often exceptionally original, and his ability to draw the best from his musicians is almost magical.

A musician of high standards, Hans also served as the director of the Centers for Artistic Education, and as a reviewer, advisor, and jury member at national and international accordion music festivals. Wherever he went Hans was a dynamic presence, elevating the level of musicianship and artistic integrity.

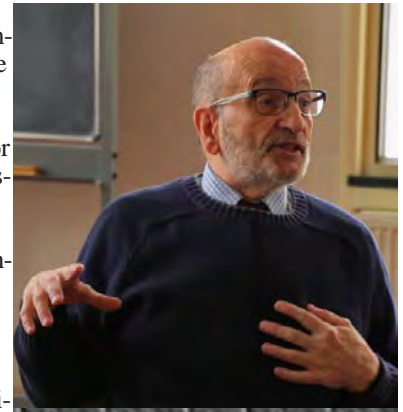
Hans Barten's artistic expression extends beyond music to the visual arts for which he enjoyed an exceptional talent from an early age. Barten relates that "In high school I participated in a clay competition, organized by the stone factories in my hometown of Lobith and won first prize with an abstract artwork. The jury judged the work as daring and idiosyncratic in character. This daring abstract quirkiness is now reflected in my paintings and expresses my deepest emotional feelings, the urge to create, and imagination."

As a visual artist, Hans exhibits work of his own creation, while as a musician he performs and interprets the work of others. Both endeavors ignite Barten's creative vision and allow him to explore the inner significance of each work not simply its outward manifestation.

Composers are fortunate to have Hans at the podium because he elicits from the notes on the page an ethereal beauty that only a creative artist of his stature can uncover. His work is sensitive, passionate, distinctive, and disciplined; he touches our hearts and challenges our minds with performances that enliven our spirits and bring us to tears. In the hands of Hans Barten, music and art are alive and well.

About the Composer

John Franceschina was commissioned by the AAA to write Concerto for Accordion and Orchestra in 1987 and in 2004 wrote a solo piece entitled "For Elsie". John was then commissioned in 1975 to write Scarrouche which was the Test Piece for the 1967 Coupe Mondiale. John is currently composer in residence for Alphen Opus 2 and is currently living in the Netherlands. John is a composer, arranger, musical director, has composed scores for the National Shakespeare Company, the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami, Baltimore's Center Stage, Washington's Ford's Theatre, the Arena Stage, the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, GeVa Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Papermill Playhouse, Music Theatre Works, and the Moscow Art Theatre, in addition to the Asolo State Theatre in Sarasota, Florida, where he acted as composer-in-residence from 1976 to 1993. His fifth symphony, Oroonoko, was premiered in the Netherlands in October 2008, and other symphonic works have been heard at Carnegie Hall and performed by major symphony orchestras around the world. As a pianist/arranger, he has accompanied Angela Lansbury, Elke Sommer, Nell Carter, Jan Peerce, Robert Merrill, Lotte Lenya, Paige O'Hara, Chita Rivera, and Gwen Verdon, and he has served as conductor and arranger for a number of off-Broadway shows, including Chase a Rainbow, The Boy Who Made Magic, The Rise of David Levinski, and Be Kind to People Week. In New York City, he most recently directed the 50th anniversary production of Michael McClure's ground-breaking play, The Beard. He is the author of Sisters of Gore, Gore on Stage, The Plays of the Marquis de Sade, Homosexualities in the English Drama from Lyly to Wilde, Duke Ellington's Music for the Theatre, David Braham: the American Offenbach, Harry B. Smith: Dean of American Librettists, They Started Talking, Socialists, Socialites, and Sociopaths: the Plays of Frank Tuttle, and Against the Grain: Theatre from Ritual to Realism. ■



PAUL "SQUEEZEBOX" GLUCK, MY Musical Journey Over 4 Decades! "A Great Ambassador for the Accordion"

It all started when I was about 4 years old listening to my grandfather playing songs on his violin. He immigrated to the United States as a child with a violin that his grandfather gave him. I loved listening to music. He would take me as a child to Mountain Park on Sunday afternoon and we would listen to the band playing in the pavilion. Almost every week there would be an accordion player in the band and I would always watch him play and loved the sound the accordion generated. My grandfather wanted to teach me the violin but I insisted I wanted to learn the accordion. Eventually I got an accordion on my birthday and when school ended for the summer I went to the Falcetti Accordion Studio in Indian Orchard and started lessons with Don McMahon. I practiced about 4 hours every day. Sometimes my grandmother got tired of my practicing scales and told me to practice out in the barn. The horses seemed to enjoy my playing for they would run into the barn and stay until I was done practicing. I enjoyed playing along with my grandfather on his violin whenever I could.

At age twelve I entered the ATAM accordion competition in Boston and took home a second place trophy. It was a fairly new event with hundreds of accordionists entered in various age groups. I also played in a band at such venues as the Northampton Three County Fair and many weddings during my High School days. I even played the accordion with Ludlow High School Stage Band for a couple of shows they did. During my college days, to help subsidize my tuition, I played almost every weekend with a band named Phoenix. I bought a Cordovox accordion and did solo work at many restaurants performing ethnic Italian, French, and German music. After college I joined the MELHA Shriners in Springfield, Massachusetts and played in their German Band and the MELHA ORIENTAL BAND. That is where I got the nickname SQUEEZEBOX, for I was always playing it on the bus to parades, ceremonies, or parties at the Shrine center. I would even put my head on a pillow on the floor and play the accordion upside down while I was doing a head stand to amuse the crowd. My tips were donated to a special fund for the "LADDER OF SMILES", a special fund for Shriner 's Hospitals for children.

Wherever I went with the Shriners the accordion traveled with me all over the USA, Canada, and Mexico. I still recall playing the accordion about 3 hours on a flight from Calgary to Dallas with the whole plane singing along. I wrote a song called "BODY OF THE SEA", which is what MELHA means in Arabic. Over 20 oriental bands played it in a competition in Las Vegas.

I played many years at a local German restaurant in Springfield called the Student Prince or The Fort as originally it was the site of a fort along the Connecticut River. One day I met the Aqua String Band, a Mummies Band from Philadelphia, and jammed with them while they were here in Massachusetts. They liked me so much that they invited me to play with them the following year in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. I would get done playing accordion with them and return to the start of the parade to play with MELHA. I traveled to Philly many times over the past 15 + years to play with AQUA at various places such as the Little League World Series, NASCAR races, Atlantic City SHOW OF SHOWS and their big Mummies New Year's Day Parade in Philadelphia.

When Sam Adams beer started I played for the events they had many times. Most recently at a hoisting of the Stein event they held in Boston and other parts of the country.

I have been invited to Germany to perform in the beer gardens and the famous Hofbrauhaus in Munich. I currently play in a couple of German bands, the BMW (Berkshire Mountain Wanderers) and the OPROB (Old Post Road Oktoberfest Band).

A few years ago Sam Falcetti started the NEW ENGLAND

DIGITAL ACCORDION ORCHESTRA in which he invited me to join. I gladly accepted and play in the group of all various Roland digital accordions. Sam is one of my accordion idols. At the age of 80 plus years he brings so much enthusiasm to the group. He truly is one that loves the accordion as much as I do. I still play at the Big E Beer Garden (Eastern States Exposition-7th largest fair in the US) and at some local restaurants and retirement homes. Recently I played for an event at the Student Prince Restaurant in Springfield, Mass. for Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito after winning their re-election. In the photo I am playing along with my friend Brian Elliott and tuba player, Tom Greene.

Musically yours,
 SQUEEZEBOX (Paul Gluck)



Mario Tacca & Mary Mancini

Upcoming performance dates:

1) On Sunday, February 3 at 3:00pm, we will be performing with The Camerata String Ensemble (founded by Victor Lionti). We are looking forward to performing with this wonderful group. Many of you have seen some of them perform with us, as The Victor Lionti String Quartet, at our annual Candlelight Christmas Concert. This performance will be held at Westchester Community College, 75 Grasslands Road, Room 200 Theatre, Classroom Building, Valhalla, NY. For ticket info, call 914-606-6600 and ask for the Office of Cultural Affairs. It will be an afternoon of great classics that you don't want to miss!

2) On Thursday, February 7 at 6:30pm, the Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble returns to Taormina in Peekskill! Come enjoy an evening of great accordion music and a delicious Italian style meal. To add to a great musical evening, tenor Rinaldo Togliola will join us! Seating is limited, so make your reservations early by calling Taormina Restaurant at 914-739-4007. Taormina is located at 59 Hudson Ave., Peekskill, NY.



Mario will be guest adjudicator for the upcoming Carrozza Competition July 17-21 in Valley Forge, PA. Mario will also entertain at the Thursday evening "Pasta Night" and will be joined by Mary Mancini for some favorite Italian melodies.

Coast to Coast

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



DENVER, CO

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG), fellow AAA member of the Confédération Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA) will hold their 79th Anniversary festival in Denver, CO from July 24-27, 2019. The festival will feature Concerts, Competitions and the popular Festival Orchestra. The ATG was established in 1940 by a group of 29 founding members (including ATG President Emeritus, the late Anthony Galla-Rini) with the purpose of furthering the progress of the accordion by improving teaching standards, music, and all phases of music education. Plans are underway for the ATG's 80th Anniversary celebration to be held in downtown Los Angeles from August 5-9, 2020. For information on both upcoming festivals as it becomes available, please visit www.atgaccordions.com.

NASHVILLE, TN

The Nashville Accordion Ensemble comprising Michael Zikovich, Jeff Lisenby and Jeff Taylor; brought everything from Christmas favorites to an extended Star Wars medley to Studio C on December 14, 2018 during their performance for Nashville Public Radio.

Their program included Christmas Bells Medley arr. Jeff Lisenby and Jeff Taylor Ain't That A Kick in the Head by Jimmy Heusen and Sammy Cahn, arr. Jeff Lisenby; Jolly Old Saint Nicholas by John McKaskey, arr. Michael Zikovich; Solina by Jeff Lisenby and Medley from 'Star Wars' by John Williams, arr. Jeff Taylor. Photo by Kara McLeland/Nashville Public Radio.



The San Francisco Accordion Club featured Reno Di Bono and his ensemble at their recent program. The SFAC presents Musical Programs on the third Sunday of every month at 2.00 PM at the Oyster Point Yacht Club Chetcuti Community Room at the Civic Center Plaza, 450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030.

The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization whose purpose is to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation for the accordion within the membership and throughout the general public. Donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted. For further information: info@sfac-accordionclub.com.

PORT ARTHUR, TX

The Cajun Youth Accordion Workshops and Concert will be held on Saturday February 16, 2019. from 1-5:00 PM. Workshop instruction and performances will

be presented by Big Squeeze winners and Cajun accordion masters! The event takes place at Museum of the Gulf Coast, 700 Procter St., Port Arthur, TX 77640. Workshops will be held from 1-4:00 PM and the Concert from 4-5:00 PM. Admission for youth under 21 is free, with Adults \$10 donation.

The program is a special initiative of Texas Folklife's Big Squeeze State-wide youth accordion contest. In February 2018, the Texas Folklife hosted a discussion at Larry's French Market & Cajun Restaurant about how the organization can support efforts of the community to encourage youth participation in Cajun traditional music. For Tickets and more information: Bigsqueeze@texasfolklife.org.

WMAS

Happy New Year! Another fun and successful Holiday Concert/Potluck, our 16th, is behind us, and 2018 is history as well. Looking forward to 2019, we will gather on January 13 for a play-along and election of officers. Karen Uribe's nominating committee has put forth a slate of officers – Peter DiGiovanni, president, Robert Ford, vice president, and Mara Cherkasky, secretary/treasurer – all incumbents who have all agreed to continue their service – but if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for one of these offices, please let us know as soon as possible. Meanwhile, HUGE THANKS to everyone who participated in the December 16 Concert/ Potluck: in the orchestra (we sounded great!), in setup and cleanup, in entertaining before and after the concert – and by bringing food, family, and friends, and being part of the audience. Special thanks to Joan Grauman for herding cats, i.e. rehearsing and conducting the orchestra; and to Ken Kunec for emceeing/filling in gaps/keeping people laughing/playing "Marvelous Little Toy." Our meeting schedule for the first half of the year is posted to www.washingtonaccordions.org, so please check it out. Be sure to check our site for weather related cancellations and rescheduling. Keep squeezing!

SW FLORIDA ACCORDIONS

The Sarasota Accordion Club meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Elks Club on Clark Road in Sarasota. Dinner and entertainment throughout.

The Tampa Bay Accordion Association meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the American Legion 125 on 6400 5th Avenue South in St. Petersburg (5 to 9).

And if you visit the area, there is an absolute "must see" venue called Snook Haven where during the Fall and Winter months, the Gulf Coast Banjo Society performs every Thursday. There is a saxophone player that joins in some times, and bass guitar just to keep the beat and always an accordion to lend to the charm, and always a vocalist to sing all of the favorites. You just can't help but smile when you hear songs like Alabama Jubilee, Roll Out the Barrel, and the lazy strains of What a Wonderful World and so many more. Pictured above are AAA members Joanie



Thomas, Chris Brettschneider, yours truly, Linda Soley Reed, and photographer - Joan Grauman enjoying a beautiful warm, sunny day in Venice, Florida!!

NAVARRE, FL

IBQueen (aka my little sister Karen Adam) and her hubby, Walt Kasprzyk of the famed K-Trio, spent a few days with us in Port Charlotte and we got to ring in 2019 with them. Karen organized and produced the "Florida Smash" weekends in Orlando for many years. Now there are several local clubs that have organized and host their own events. Bravo, Karen - those were great times!



HAMDEN, CT

Please note Mary Tokarski's new contact information below. Additional contact information will be available for AAA Festival responses.

Mary J. Tokarski
835 Mix Avenue, Apartment T1
Hamden, CT 06514
203-691-5362



AAA Festival 2019 competition rules including the Carrozza Scholarship category will be available soon on our website at: www.ameraccord.com

EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ ACCORDION POPS

This year marks the 49th anniversary of the Accordion Pops Orchestra. Al Terzo became the orchestra's fourth conductor in 2011. Past conductors of the orch-

Coast to Coast

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



POPS ORCHESTRA, cont'd.
chestra have included:
Jake Neupauer - 1970 - 1980
Eugene Ettore - 1980 - 1985
Dan Desiderio - 1985 - 2011

The year 2020 marks the 50th Anniversary of the 37 member-orchestra and a major event is being planned. Be sure to check the AAA Newsletter for up to date details.

Current Soloists include:
Andrea Maurer - Flute Virtuoso
Cody McSherry - Accordion
Sasha Leon - Vocalist

Guest Soloists have included:
Myron Floren
Dick Contino
Carmen Carrozza
Charles Magnante
Art Van Dam
Mary Tokarski
Beverly Curnow
Peter Soave
Harvard Svensrud
Angelo DiPippo
Mario Tacca

If you are interested in joining the orchestra, please contact Al Terzo at alterzo@hotmail.com

BALTIMORE, MD – DJANGO JAZZ FEST
Incredible mandolinist Bryce Milano will be featured on Friday February 22nd along with accordion virtuoso Dallas Vietty in the band Passarinho! This group will keep you on the edge of your seat! Concerts and Workshops at Creative Alliance Gallery in Baltimore. Pictured below are members of Passarinho, Left: Gregg Mervine percussion; Center: Dallas Vietty accordion and Right: Bryce Milano mandolin.

