

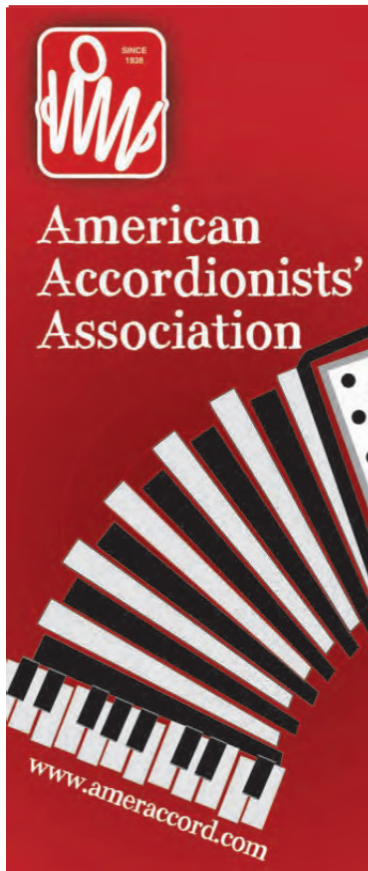


AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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

May-June



What's inside...

AAA Commissioned Chamber work "Child's Play" by

Joseph A. Natoli

*featuring Joseph A. Natoli and
Dr. Robert Young McMahan,
accordion;*

*Cecylia Barczyk, Cello and
William Trigg, percussion
details on page 11*

Workshop Schedule

see page 12

**Carrozza Scholarship
Fundraiser
September 8, 2019
Famee Furlane
College Point Queens**

Sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association

From the Editor:

Welcome to the May-June 2019 edition of the AAA Newsletter. We hope you are making your plans to attend the upcoming AAA Festival from July 17-21, 2019 to be held at the Valley Forge Casino Resort (Radisson Hotel) in King of Prussia, PA. Please visit the AAA website at www.ameraccord.com or review the information enclosed in this Newsletter for all the latest information including our exciting array of inspiring guest artists, competition information and registration details.

We invite you to submit news items about your upcoming performances and accordion activities so that we can share it with our readers.

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 July-August 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 July-August Newsletter will be the 15th of June 2019.

Thank you in advance for your continued support with the Newsletter and we look forward to hearing about your many diverse activities.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



From the President:

Spring has finally arrived here in the Northeast and all the beautiful gardens are in full bloom.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our colleagues in our "Heartland" where they are plagued with devastating tornadoes.

On a positive note, May 6th "World Accordion Day" made May an exciting and memorable month for the Accordion with all the events that took place around the world... Congratulations to the Connecticut Accordion Association for presenting a beautiful program entitled "Remembering a Legend Charles Magnante" and to Marilyn O'Neil for reaching out to Charlie's nephew and family who were in attendance.

Also congratulations to the Accordion Pops Orchestra for a wonderful Spring Concert program. It was great to see Al Terzo take center stage with Carnival of Venice and Flight of the Angels. The concert was presented in Eugene DeBellis' memory. Mr. DeBellis, assistant conductor of the Pops Orchestra, passed away recently. His widow, Lorraine, also attended as well as daughter Cindy and her family who presented Soloist Gia Ciccone, with "The DeBellis School of Performing Arts Music Scholarship" and a check for \$100 after her outstanding performance of Hungarian Dance #4 and Two Guitars.

As you look through our newsletter you will read about all the great events that celebrated the Accordion in the month of May. Congratulations to all!

We Welcome our new members and thank those who have made significant donations.

To Our Board Members...Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! For giving 100% of your time and effort. Without your support and dedication to the AAA, none of this could be possible. Let's keep up the great work as we continue to promote this incredible instrument "The Accordion."

July is just around the corner and our 2019 festival in Valley Forge is fast approaching, so be sure you have sent in your registration and advertising for our annual Journal... Don't miss it!

See you in Valley Forge,

Dr Joseph Ciccone



Visit us online at ameraccord.com

World Accordion Day at World of Accordions Museum

A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI hosted a spectacular two day festival celebrating the 10th Anniversary of World Accordion Day and the musical genius of Dr. Willard Palmer.

Attended by enthusiasts from Coast to Coast, the Museum hosted event featured Concerts and Presentations by Mary Tokarski, Murl Allen Sanders, Betty Jo Simon, Joan C. Sommers and Stas Venglevski, Henry Doktorski, The UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble, Dance Attic - Suzi Ludwig and Jimi Cooper, Dr. Michael Middleton, Stas Venglevski, Helmi Harrington, Ph. D., Jane Christison, Willard A. Palmer, III, Dee Langley and the Accordion Concertina Music Band with friends.

Superior, WI Mayor Jim Paine visited the event to declare both Willard A. Palmer day and World Accordion Day in two separate proclamations while the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA) Ambassador Kevin Friedrich welcomed everyone to the event, the third, to be held in Superior.

On the 6th of May 1829, just over 190 years ago, a patent was filed for the 'accordion'. Cyrill Demian (born in 1772 and passed away in 1849), an organ and piano maker of Armenian origin, accompanied by his two sons Karl and Guido, filed the patent in Vienna, Austria.

Consign: No. 1433 listed a new type of instrument consisting of a small box with "leaf spring metal plates and bellows fixed to it" making it easy to carry and play. The new instrument was seven to nine inches long, three-and-a-half inches wide, and two inches high. The bellows were fixed above the box with five claves fixed below.

The makers claimed it was possible to perform Marches, Arias, Melodies, even by an amateur of music, with little practice, and to play the loveliest and most pleasant chords of three, four and five voices with little practice. The patent was approved a short time later on May 23, 1829.

What followed was a path of innovation, development, experimentation and expansion, each, a piece in the jigsaw puzzle of the accordion's history. Throughout the instrument's evolution, one has seen uncountable variations in shape, size and keyboard configuration of the accordion. Examples of each of these variations are found at the World of Accordions Museum.

World Accordion Day is an initiative of the CIA, the first celebration being held in 2009 as we marked the 180th birthday of the accordion.



Pictured above, guest artist and AAA Past President, Mary Tokarski, presents Museum Curator, Helmi Harrington with a plaque depicting the founders of the American Accordionists' Association.



Left: Joan C. Sommers and Stas Venglevski, performed at the gala concert.

Below, Helmi Harrington and violinist, Carolyn Carter were also featured artists.



Since then, World Accordion Day has been very successful, generating a lot of positive publicity for the accordion. The event has been run in several ways, from coordinating a series of accordion events throughout the World, to hosting 24 hour live-streamed broadcasts, jumping from time zone to time zone. This year, over the course of the timeframe surrounding World Accordion Day, accordionists held celebrations all over the world. ■

Carrozza Scholarship Dinner

**Sunday, September 8, 2019 Famee Furlane of NA Club
2010 127th Street • College Point, NY 11356
Cocktail Hour - 12 noon-1:00 p.m. with music provided by Don Gerundo
Dinner and Dancing – 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Mario Tacca with Mary Mancini and Phil Battiston, Drummer**

**Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation
Joey Miskulin**



Elena and Gregory Fainshtein in Concert

Concert accordion duo Elena and Gregory Fainshtein from Texas were the guests of honor at the Sunday, May 19, 2019 House Concert in West Orange, NJ.

Elena and her husband, Gregory, perform a variety of music in a dynamic and engaging way. With a repertoire ranging from classical, to jazz, to traditional, the Fainshteins offer a wide genre of music in their concert performances.

Elena and Gregory Fainshtein, a husband and wife accordion duo, have travelled the world both professionally and personally and now reside in the Dallas, Texas area. Both Elena and Gregory graduated from the Belarusian State Academy of Music in the former USSR and are classically trained. Their life journey has taken them from the former USSR to the State of Israel before settling here in the USA.

Throughout their lives, they've learned different languages and met a variety of people, but the one constant that remains, according to the happy couple, is the music they have developed with each other. Both Elena and Gregory like to explore new genres and expand their musical vocabulary from year to year. Elena and Gregory have been active performing in various accordion gatherings and conventions over many years. They are well known in the Dallas/Fort Worth area where Elena has her own music studio and teaches accordion and leads up the "Happy Fingers Accordion Band." ■



*Come hear the
music play
old chum,
Yes, come to the
AAA*

AAA Festival July 17-21, 2019

Valley Forge Casino Resort

Valley Forge (King of Prussia), PA 22314

Thursday

Luncheon Concert

Pasta Night

continuous entertainment

Friday Concert

Saturday Banquet

with Entertainment

Mary Tokarski and Nathan Chapeton at LIAA

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) gathering on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM will feature guest artists Mary Tokarski and Nathan Chapeton.

Nathan Chapeton is a young musician who became interested in playing the accordion at the age of eight when he heard his teacher, Mary Tokarski perform in concert. Mr. Chapeton has appeared as a guest artist in many local musical organizations including the Long Island Accordion Alliance, the Brooklyn Accordion Club, and as a frequent performer at Connecticut Accordion Association events. Nathan has earned the privilege of representing the United States-AAA at the Coupe Mondiale (World Accordion Championships) several times and is planning on competing at the upcoming Coupe Mondiale in Shenzhen, China.

Nathan was among participants from around the globe (all over the United States and internationally from Russia, Ukraine, China and Canada) to perform at the 2018 First Honors Recital at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City where he performed Alexander Tcherepnin's "Partita". Nathan has also appeared as guest soloist with both the New Haven Symphony and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra in Connecticut.

Concert Accordionist, Mary Tokarski performs both nationally and internationally as a soloist, with Symphony Orchestra and previously as a member of The 'K' Trio. For 20 years Mary served as

Director of Music Education at Tokarski Music Center in North Haven, Connecticut, where she taught piano and accordion, as well as conducted the choral and ensemble programs, and supervised the pre-school programs.

Mary currently teaches accordion in Connecticut and via Skype, is part of the adjunct faculty at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut and served as a Music Educator in the North Haven Department of Education's Early Childhood Development Program at Green Acres Elementary School for many years before retiring to focus on entirely on accordion education and performance. Immediate Past President of the American Accordionists' Association, Mary continues to serve on the Executive Committee.

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) concert will be held at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731. For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/LongIslandAccordionAlliance or phone: (631) 261-6344. ■



Remembering a Legend - Charles Magnante

Great turnout at the CAA-AAA co-sponsored event in Cheshire, CT that featured performances of Magnante selections by Joe Ciccone, Will Comer, Peter Peluso, Nathan Chapeton and Mary Tokarski with a slide show presentation by Ray Oreggia and Don Gerundo. Special thanks to all the AAA members who supported this event and to Marilyn O'Neil whose chance meeting with a relative of Charles Magnante brought about this wonderful tribute. Thanks also to Peter Sbuttoni for so many wonderful and memorable pictures of the event. Pictured at right is Frank Magnante, Charlie's nephew, center, Roberta Magnante and her daughters JoAnn and Dawn, top row: Eddie Monteiro, Joe Campo, Dr. Joe Ciccone and Marilyn O'Neil.

See more about this event and future CAA-AAA Programs in the 2019 edition of the AAA Journal available at Festival in Valley Forge and by email request. ■



Remembering Bob Siarkowski

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Siarkowski. Robert "Bob" Siarkowski, 82, of the Plantsville section of Southington, passed away on Sunday May 12, 2019 at the Hospital of Central CT New Britain Campus. He was the husband of Anita (LeBlanc) Siarkowski.

Bob was born on July 18, 1936 in Wanamie, PA, the son of the late Peter and Rose (Martinell) Siarkowski. He was the owner operator of Bob's Music Center for 65 years.



In addition to his wife Anita of over 50 years, he is survived by his two sons, Scot Siarkowski and wife Patricia of Plantsville and Bret Siarkowski of MA, four grandchildren Sara Ciantar, Peter, Jonathan and Nicholas Siarkowski, two great-grandchildren Jessica and Brianna Siarkowski and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

The Funeral was held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 9:15 am from the DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St., Southington to the Immaculate Conception Church, 130 Summer St., Plantsville. Burial was in The Immaculate Conception Cemetery. For online condolences please visit www.dellavecchiafh.com

"Bob and Anita Siarkowski frequently entertained at numerous AAA events, especially the Val-Taro Reunions at Magnanini Winery in Wallkill, New York. Their festive, matching attire always added a "sparkle" to their performances. Most recently, the duo performed at the AMAS event in New Jersey. Bob was an outstanding musician and a fantastic dancer. He and his lovely wife, Anita, could be seen at almost any function that featured dancing, "skipping the light fandango" and completely enamored with each other." Linda Soley Reed, AAA Past Pres. American Accordionists Association.

BOB SIARKOWSKI

Some say that "The family that plays together stays together." It worked for Bob and me. We met through the accordion, eventually playing as a duet at our own wedding and 50th anniversary. I'd like to share some sentiments about my husband of nearly 57 years, the LATE Bob Siarkowski. Did I say LATE? I should have said "the EARLY Bob Siarkowski"! One of Bob's pet peeves was being late for anything. He was always an hour ahead of time. True to form, Bob left us EARLY Sunday morning May 12th. He's probably playing accordion in heaven right now with the angel band, to the tune of, "In Heaven There Ain't No Beer". Bob died on Mother's Day, apropos ... Because of Bob, I'm the mother of our two wonderful sons, Scot and Bret. Bret stayed by his

Dad's side day and night, from the time of his hospital admission thru Bob's final hour. Scot will be providing the music for Bob's funeral mass, along with his wife Patty, plus the rest of the folk group which Scot originated at age 16 and directed for 40 years.

Bob had the gift of music. He was blessed with perfect pitch, able to identify the key a song was written in after hearing the first few notes. His passion for the accordion began at age 7, inspired by his Uncle Louis who played at family gatherings. Times were tough back in the 1940s and 1950s in the coal mining region of eastern Pennsylvania. Bob's Dad worked in the mines, barely making a living wage. His Mom contributed by taking in laundry from Galli's Restaurant. At one point, Bob's family was evicted from their apartment, unable to pay the rent. Their furniture was confiscated by the landlord, so they moved in with Bob's grandparents. No way could Bob's parents afford accordion lessons for him.

But Bob was determined to make it work, reflective of his favorite song, "I Did It My Way" - which pretty much defines his life. From the age of 7, Bob walked two miles round-trip from home to the railroad tracks and 'picked coal', salvaging chunks that had fallen from freight trains. If they were too heavy to lift, he'd hammer them into smaller pieces, filling 2 huge burlap bags. This supplied sufficient fuel to cook and heat the house for one day. He did this 5 days a week while the coal mines were operating. The significant savings enabled Bob's parents to pay for his accordion lessons.

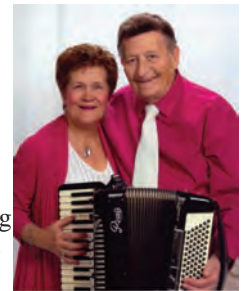
Music was Bob's lifelong livelihood. Bob's professional career began at age 15 as accordionist for "The Wanderers" dance band. Bob would turn the proceeds over to his parents. At 16, Bob began giving accordion lessons and playing with several local bands, eventually forming his own - The Bobby-Lou Orchestra.

Bob graduated from Southington High at age 17 and opened his own full-time music teaching business 3 months later at age 18 - Bob's Accordion Studio in Plantsville center. From 1966 to the present, he taught at Bob's Music Center at 360 Summer Street, Plantsville.

He loved to dance, tell jokes, funny stories, pull pranks, and surprise me in various ways. You could always depend on him to come up with beautiful greeting cards, which I will never part with. Bob enjoyed being his own boss so he could come and go at will. We shared so many memorable events, trips, polka weekends, etc. We always enjoyed performing as an accordion duet in various venues in several states and 2 Canadian provinces.

Once asked when he would retire from teaching, Bob said "I have no intention of ever stopping. I plan on playing and teaching until the day I stop breathing!" And the beat went on as he kept his word doing just that.

May you rest in peace. Your Loving Wife,
Anita ■



Alabama Accordion Association presents Grayson Masfield in Concert

Grayson Masfield was featured in concert during the recent Concert Series held at the Brookwood Baptist Church in Mountain Brook, AL. Grayson presented two Free Concerts and a Seminar sponsored by the Alabama Accordion Association.

Grayson is a New Zealand born accordionist and is the first person to win World Championships in Classical, Virtuoso and Digital accordion categories.

Born in Auckland, New Zealand, he spent the last decade studying in France with Frederic Deschamps and completing his University education in Lausanne, Switzerland with Stephane Chapuis. Now a teacher in his own right, Grayson heads the accordion division at Auckland University in New Zealand.

Over the years, Grayson has been invited to perform in many countries including France, Spain, Germany, UK, Portugal, Slova-

kia, Italy, USA, Canada, Russia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Portugal, China, Switzerland, Austria, New Zealand, Australia and Finland.

An advocate for new works, he has worked with several of the world's leading composers such as Frank Angelis (France), Gorka Hermosa (Spain), Petri Makkonen (Finland) and Gary Daverne (New Zealand) to perform and record new original works for the accordion. For more information on Grayson, his upcoming concerts and numerous recordings, please visit www.accordions.com/gmasfield. ■



Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble Concert

The Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble recently performed on May 16th at the Taormina Restaurant in Peekskill. Their next performance will be held at the same location on June 13, 2019.

The Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble aims to have fun and gather with friends, to make great music together, to bring the melodic and unique sounds of the accordion to people of all ages and to bring joy to others!

The Ensemble comprises immediate to advanced players ranging from two to 10 years experience. Performing a variety of music, Director Mario Tacca writes all the arrangements for the group and this enables him to tailor the parts according to the needs of the members of the group who perform on both digital and acoustic instruments.

Artistic Director, acclaimed International Vocalist Mary Mancini will also perform vocals with the group. Singing in eight languages, this adds tremendous scope to the available repertoire.

Taormina Restaurant is located at 59 Hudson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566-2025. For reservations, please call (914) 739-4007. ■



Bachtopus Concert Series in New York

This NYC Bachtopus Accordion Ensemble presents a series of concerts in New York where they will perform works ranging from music by contemporary composers to J. S. Bach. Their contemporary works include original compositions and commissioned works which are grounded in traditional folk music.



The ensemble has performed for diverse audiences and previous performance highlights include: Make Music New York, Bach in the Subways, The New Museum, Accordions Around the World, the United Nations and the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) The Seminars.

The summer schedule includes Sunday May 5th at St. Peter's Episcopal Church where they opened their show with the work by Dr. William Schimmel, 'St. Anthony's Canon', written in memory of Stanley Darrow; May 7th at The Little Church Around the Corner and June 1st, 2019 at 1:00 PM at the Dobbs Ferry Lutheran Church, 43 Ashford Avenue, Dobbs Ferry.

The eight arms of Bachtopus for these concerts, belong to Robert Duncan, Peter Flint, Mayumi Miyaoka, and Jeanne Velonis. For more information, please visit www.bachtopus.com. ■

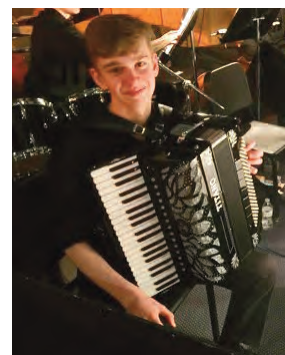


Cody McSherry in Fiddler on the Roof

Accordionist Cody McSherry, himself already a veteran of the professional musical Theater stage, took to the Theatre from another angle, the orchestra pit, in a recent production of Fiddler on the Roof.

Cody was contacted by Neil Lutz, the Band and Orchestra Director at Conrad Weiser High School in Robesonia, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Lutz invited Cody to join the musicians for their upcoming Fiddler on the Roof production, explaining that the accompanying orchestra would comprise both musicians from the school's student body as well as invited professionals. This combination of professional musicians and students meant the number of rehearsals would be greatly reduced, allowing Cody to accept the commitment and attend rehearsals from neighboring Lancaster County. The pit orchestra eventually consisted of eight students from Conrad Weiser High School and seventeen professionals.

Cody enjoyed introducing his fellow musicians to the accordion, many having questions on how the instrument functioned. The show was a rousing success, receiving a standing ovation at the conclusion of each show. ■



Pictured above: Cody with Neil Lutz and below as a member of the pit orchestra.

Accordion player is a hit with Arts on Elm crowd

James Bass, Contributing Columnist
The Robesonian, Lumberton, NC

Betty Fisher looked out at the handful of early morning folks gathered to hear her play at "Arts on Elm" on April 27, and as she prepared her next song, she offered to the listeners, "They aren't writing much new stuff for accordion these days."

Betty's performance — part of a great day of local art and music — was highlighted with fun songs that infected her listeners with smiles. As she played one of the Italian pieces, I could hear in my mind the words of Chicago's "Saturday In The Park" "...and singing Italian songs ..." I whipped out my camera phone and shot a little video, which I posted to my Facebook page, and within minutes there were comments of surprise about Betty's unique and amazing talent. The video got almost 500 views..

I, of course, am no stranger to Betty's wonderful gift of music. We attend church together and she's led the music ministry more than a handful of times at St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church. The Robeson County Arts Council's annual event highlights the artistic presence of our county — but on April 27 it treated a small crowd of people to a unique musical experience that many around here get to see.

"Actually, the American Accordionists' Association commissions original pieces for the accordion," said Betty. "But my experience is that they are very difficult. There is not much of an accordion tradition around here, so most people are fascinated by it — many never have heard a heard it played live before."

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the accordion came into existence around 1822 in Germany. European immigrants brought



Betty Fisher performing at Arts on Elm in Lumberton, NC

continued on next page

Arts on Elm, cont'd. from p. 5

the instrument to the United States, and just 20 years after its birth, the accordion was becoming a popular favorite. The American Accordionists' Association was formed in 1938, and the first accordion concert performance at Carnegie Hall was a year later.

From the 1930s to the 1980s, the popularity of accordion music wavered. There were surges in the 1940s, sales peaked around 1955, the instrument began to find its way into mainstream music by the 1960s and by the 1980s a gradual decline was on the horizon.

"The accordion in general has become less popular for several years," said Betty. "Kids want to play the guitar."

Frank Busso is on the governing board of the American Accordionists' Association. He's been with the organization for 50 years, and he's seen the popularity rise and fall.

"When the AAA was formed — and there were three different organizations at one time — the planning got better, the organization was better and more people were learning about the accordion," he said. "It reached its peak in the 1950s and 1960s ... but I think at some time people didn't want to work as hard to learn the instrument."

Busso insists, however, that the popularity of the accordion is nothing to take too lightly.

"They use it in commercials. You hear the accordion but you don't always see it. That accordion sound — they can recreate it with a keyboard. People have to realize what the accordion can do. We're not just polka players."

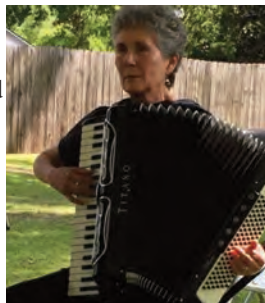
The influx of rock and roll in the 1960s accelerated the U.S. decline. She will also tell you that the best players these days are found in Russia, China and Moldova — not America — and while we may be short on accordion players in the South, they are plentiful in New York and Pennsylvania, where large Italian, Polish and Eastern European communities exist. Just one U.S. company continues to manufacture accordions in the U.S. today — The Petosa Accordion Company in Washington State. But even in its heyday in the 1950s, most accordions — more than 90 percent — came to the U.S. from Italy.

But wait — the accordion isn't dying — it's just going through changes. Coincidentally, its popularity seems to be growing again thanks to the very genre that shares the blame for its gradual decline. Former Nirvana bassist and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Krist Novoselic picked up the instrument and plays it regularly. A whole host of contemporary bands are using the instrument, including Mumford & Sons, Arcade Fire, The Lumineers, Flogging Molly, The Kongs and They Might Be Giants. Betty may not have known this — and it's worth younger generations hearing this too — but both Elvis and John Lennon played the accordion before they picked up the guitar.

What might be perceived as a decline in popularity may be just a misunderstanding. There is a universal familiarity with the guitar, but the accordion, during its formative years, was the instrument of choice in folk music. Our society doesn't reflect as heavily on folk culture; our generation has distanced itself from the adversities our ancestors knew and transcended the experiences they expressed in music.

It's not often in Robeson County that you get to see an accordion performance, and it's even rarer that you'll see one as good as what Betty Fisher delivered at Arts on Elm. It's stuff like this that makes communities unique and interesting. Support it and embrace it. You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. ■

James Bass, contributing columnist is the executive director of the Givens Performing Arts Center at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He can be reached at james.bass@uncp.edu.



Joe Soprani in La Giara

Accordionist Joe Soprani recently appeared in the Italian Musical 'La Giara' in Philadelphia, PA. Written by Patrica King Haddad, a local artist from Lansdowne, PA, La Giara is a true Philadelphia story of the composer's family's emigration from Sicily.

La Giara is about the longing for our past and for the cultures from which one originates from with the both dramatic and comedic songs expressing themes relevant to gender oppression and cultural losses that immigrant families transcended while adapting to a new world.

Composer, pianist, vocalist, recording artist and author Patricia King Haddad, from the Brazilian ensemble Minas, draws from her musical worlds where Jazz, Brazilian, and Italian styles merge with compositions that evoke melodies of Puccini, lyrics of Gilbert and Sullivan, the drive of Brazilian rhythms, swing of ragtime and memorable songs of Musical Theater, creating a compelling and unique musical narrative.

In the musical, the character Nunzio thinks he wears the 'pantaloni' in his family until he instigates an incident that prompts his wife and two daughters to disappear suddenly. Leaving behind their family bridal business in Philadelphia, they use aliases and take a cross-country train out west.

La Giara originates in Sicily in 1909 with young Nunzio Minissale's imperious cutting in line at the town water fountain. When Nunzio breaks his Aunt's heirloom Giara, it unleashes a life-time curse that crosses the Atlantic to the New World. La Giara becomes a symbol of the family's rupture and its eventual reunion, challenging three generations of Minissale women.

In this moving story, long-shattered relations are eventually healed by Nunzio's grandchildren, who discover that La Giara, their symbolic container of traditions - some broken, some lost, some retained - has endured the cracks and damage caused by the patriarch of their troubled Sicilian family.

In the show, accordionist Joe Soprani was joined by fellow musicians Patricia Haddad on piano, Orlando Haddad on guitar and percussion, Jim Stager (upright bass), Mark Linkins (mandolin) with Video projections, designed by Brendan McGeehan and shadow puppets, by Roni DeFalco bringing a unique visual component to the production. ■



Senior Master Sgt. Frank Busso Jr.

Frank Busso, Jr. was recently promoted to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force. Frank, from Staten Island, NY, became the U.S. Air Force Band's accordionist in 2005 and is also the 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, whose accordion brands include Titano, PANcordion, Pigni, Roland, and Hohner. Frank has served on the American Accordionists' Association board of directors since 2007. ■



Hector Del Curto at Blue Note in New York

Bandoneon artist Hector Del Curto performed at the Blue Note on April 17, 2019. Joining Hector Del Curto were 14 Grammy winner Paquito D'Rivera and 11 year old Clarinet whiz Santiago Del Curto.

The Hector Del Curto Tango Quintet comprises Hector Del Curto (Bandoneon), Sami Merdianin (Violin), Jisoo Ok (Cello), Pedro Giraud (Double Bass) and Gustavo Casenave (Piano).

Praised as "superb in their powerful and dynamic rendition" for their outstanding performance, the Hector Del Curto Tango Quintet has been reviving and extending the rich tradition of Argentinean Tango.

Formed in 2003 by master bandoneon player Héctor Del Curto, the ensemble has been bringing riveting performances to



numerous festivals, concert halls and shows including Lincoln Center, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College, Eastman School of Music, Bay Chambers Concerts, National Folk Festival, Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts, Fiesta Iberoamericano de las Artes in Puerto Rico, Festival Internacional da Safona and Copa Fest in Brazil among many others.

Born into a family of bandoneon players, Mr. Del Curto was introduced to the world of Tango and bandoneon by his grandfather, Héctor Cristobal. By the age of 17, he had won the title "Best Bandoneon Player Under 25" in Argentina, and was invited to join the orchestra of the legendary Osvaldo Pugliese, the "Last Giant of Tango." In 1999, Mr. Del Curto received the Golden Note Award from the Italian-American Network in recognition of his artistic achievements. As a music director, he directed the spectacular show *Forever Tango* on Broadway and founded the Eternal Tango Orchestra, a ten piece ensemble. Since the Lincoln Center debut in 2003, the Eternal Tango Orchestra (now the Hector Del Curto Tango Orchestra) returned to Lincoln Center for three more engagements and performed at other various venues including the Skirball Center for Performing Arts.

A musician who is dedicated to the education, outreach and preservation of tango music, Mr. Del Curto founded the Stowe Tango Music Festival, the premier tango music festival in the United States, noted both for its unique series of performances and its high level of musical training. As the festival's Artistic Director, he directs the Stowe Tango Music Festival Orchestra, a 20 plus piece tango orchestra comprised of an extraordinary group of selected students from all over the globe and world-class artists including guest tango legends from Argentina.

Mr. Del Curto recently produced and released his second album *Eternal Piazzolla* featuring his quintet with a sold out CD release concert at Le Poisson Rouge in New York City. He was

featured along with his first CD *Eternal Tango* on BBC News which was broadcasted nationally and internationally and on Public Radio International's *The World*.

He appears in numerous recordings with artists such as Osvaldo Pugliese and Astor Piazzolla on *Finally Together* (Lucho), Pablo Ziegler on the albums *Asphalto*, *Quintet for the New Tango* (BMG), and *Tango & All That Jazz*, Paquito D'Rivera on *Funk Tango*, *Jazz Clazz* and *Panamericana Suite* Tito Puentes and Eddie Palmieri on *Masterpiece*, Plácido Domingo's *Encanto del Mar* (Sony Classical), Erwin Schrott on *Rojotango* (Sony Classical), Denyce Graves' *The Lost Days* (BMG), *Absolute Ensemble* on *Bach Reinvented* (Sony Classical), Fernando Otero on *Plan, Vital and Pagina de Buenos Aires*, Ricardo Arjona's *Quién Dijo Ayer* and *Santo Pecado* (Sony International), and Shakira's *Laundry Service*.

The Blue Note show consisted of works by Hector Del Curto, Astor Piazzolla and Paquito D'Rivera. For information please



**The Connecticut Accordion Association
and the
American Accordionists' Association**

Proudly Present

*Home... Celebrating American Composers
featuring*

The Connecticut Accordion Association Orchestra

in concert with

The Plainville Choral Society

Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 3:00 pm

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Bob Siarkowski

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
355 Camp Street
Bristol, CT 06410**

**Suggested Donation:
\$10.00 per person
under 16 free**

**For more information,
visit www.CTAccordion.com
or call 203-272-1202.**



The CAA is an affiliate of the
American Accordionists' Association
A 501c3 corporation founded in 1938
www.ameraccord.com

Accordions Around the World in New York City

Accordions Around the World is a four-week summer Concert Series that brings dozens of accordionists, as well as bandoneón, bayan, concertina and harmonium-players of different musical genres, to perform at Bryant Park in the heart of New York City. Audiences have a chance to experience the range of this diverse instrument in an intimate performance setting. Wander the park to explore different musical stylings or set up a picnic in one location and experience different artists as they rotate around the park.

Accordions Around the World performances take place on Wednesdays from July 24 – August 14, 2019 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. On Friday, August 16 at 5pm, the series culminates with the Accordion Festival, a five-hour celebration showcasing four accordion-led bands playing music from a range of different cultures. This year's festival includes the winner of Colombia's prestigious Festival de Vallenato, el Rey Vallenato Beto Jamaica, and more to be announced this summer.

Performances at Bryant Park will take place as follows: July 24th, July 31st, August 7th and 14th at 5:30 PM with the grand finale taking place on August 16th at 5:00 PM.

Bryant Park Corporation (BPC), a private not-for-profit company, was founded in 1980 to renovate, finance and operate Bryant Park in New York City. BPC is funded by income from events, concessions and corporate sponsors, as well as an assessment on neighboring properties, and does not accept government or philanthropic monies.

In addition to providing security, sanitation, and horticultural services, BPC offers restaurants, food kiosks, world-class restrooms, and a wide range of free events throughout the year. The Midtown Manhattan park is visited by more than 12 million people each year and is one of the busiest public spaces in the world. BPC's website, bryantpark.org, offers more detailed information and a schedule of upcoming events.

For further information: Twitter: @bryantparknyc, Instagram: @bryantparknyc or email: Arianaslist@gmail.com.

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



Above: Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini at the Bryant Park Accordions Around the World in NYC.

The duo will also be featured entertainers at the AAA Festival in Valley Forge on Thursday evening, July 18 at Pasta Night. In addition, Mario will present a workshop highlighting his amazing "Musical Life" on Friday, July 19th at 9:00 a.m. in the Conestoga Room.

Sam Falcetti Presents 25th Accordion Workshop

Sam Falcetti, founder of Falcetti Music, presented a 'Left Hand' Workshop at Falcetti Music on May 19, 2019.

Last November at the 1st International Digital Symposium he was invited to be part of the faculty and gave several workshops. After the overwhelming response from the attendees he has decided to share the left hand (20 new patterns) workshop with his customers.

Back in the early 1960's Sam taught these different patterns using his seven Music Ideas Books. Playing more than just alternating bass and chord in your left hand was the main focus of the workshop which included a handout with suggested songs to use when applying these patterns including walking bass.

Also included at the event were performances by some of the Roland Accordion contestants from the recent New England Music Festival.

Conductor Anselmo "Sam" Falcetti, started on the accordion at the age of 10, and began home teaching when he was 16. Before graduating from the University of Hartford with a degree in theory and composition, he opened up his first accordion studio in Westfield, MA.

During his career Mr. Falcetti has conducted the Springfield Accordion Orchestra on performance tours in Japan, Italy, New Zealand and the USA in the 70's and 80's. He also directed the Orchestra on National TV on the David Frost Show with Roberta Flack. In the 80's, by invitation, his Westfield State University Accordion Ensemble performed twice at Carnegie Hall in New York City. As founder of Falcetti Music he provides Roland Accordion sales, service and instruction and is the distributor for New England.

Sam resides with his wife Peggy in Wilbraham, MA. and is proud of his two sons and four grandchildren who are all involved with music. Foreinformation on upcoming activities, please contact: peggyf1944@gmail.com. ■

If you missed Sam's workshop at Falcetti Music in Springfield, MA, Sam will present his "Left Hand" workshop at the AAA Festival in Valley Forge, PA at the beautiful Radisson Casino and Resort on Saturday, July 20th at 10 a.m. in the Conestoga Room which is located in the lower level of the Radisson Tower.



Fabulous Workshops Abound at Festival 2019

In addition to the two workshops mentioned on this page of the Newsletter, there are many more for all to enjoy:

Music Notation in the 21st Century

You owe it to yourself to take advantage of this technology. As long as you own a computer, or even a tablet, Joe Natoli will provide a complete review of all the tools available to you in all different price ranges (including FREE!).

Survivor: The Accordion!

Dr. Robert Young McMahan will take you on the journey of the accordion - its past, present and projected future in light of other keyboard instruments which are extant and extinct.

9 Types of Bellows Shakes!

Shake it up baby! Michael Bridge will enlighten you to the various affects you can create - Standard Bellows Shakes and Advanced Bellows Shakes - these are not your plain vanilla shake!!

The Musical Life of Charles Magnante

Our financial duo, Don Gerundo and Ray Oreggia, share stories, recordings and the musical life of one of our founding fathers.

Piano, Diatonic, Chromatic, Oh My!

Cody McSherry shares the "ins and outs" (chuckle) of various accordions. Advantages or limitations?

American Folk Music

Sam Reider (Human Hands) discusses various approaches to playing American folk on the piano accordion.



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
 - Bob Goldberg
 - The Famous Accordion Orchestra
 - Corn Mo
 - Rachid Eladlouni
 - Carl Riehl
 - Linda Reed
 - Rita Barnea
 - Dr Denise Koncellik
 - Alicia Svigals
 - Jeanne Velonis
 - Sydknee
 - Bachtopus
 - Robert Duncan
 - Peter Flint
 - Rocco Anthony Jerry
 - Miwa Gemini
 - Jenny Cho
 - Elliott Sharp
 - Jennie Muilo
 - 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
Back to the Future

THIS MEANS THAT (BERIO) -
Looking back into the future.

STROLLING REVISITED. -
Our biggest Seminar hit!

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 \$ _____

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

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

Accordion Pops Orchestra Concert Honors Gene DeBellis

Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 3:00 pm
East Brunswick Community Arts Center
721 Cranbury Road
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

The recent Pops Orchestra Concert was dedicated to the memory of Eugene DeBellis. Featured soloist, Gia Ciccone performed Hungarian Dance #4 and Two Guitars.

Our spring concert also featured soloist Suzana Beites on accordion, John Andrews on harmonica, and Bianca Jeremiah on sax. Conductor Al Terzo surprised the audience (and the orchestra as well) with two virtuoso accordion solos. The audience was jumping in their seats when the orchestra played "Hits of the 50's," a medley arranged by Mr. Terzo.

We were pleased to present an award to the family of the late Eugene DeBellis, our former assistant conductor, in honor of his contributions to the accordion community.

The afternoon concluded with a standing ovation for the orchestra and soloists!

Upcoming Concert:
Sunday, September 22,
2019, Shannondell at Val-
ley Forge - Auditorium,
1000 Shannondell Drive,
Audubon, PA 19403 ■



Pictured left, Pops Orchestra conductor and Soloist, Al Terzo, took center stage and performed Carnival of Venice and Flight of the Angels



Cindy DeBellis (daughter of honoree Eugene DeBellis) with her family and two former students of Mr. DeBellis, Juliette Amerman and Erika Perez. Lorraine DeBellis, pictured below, presented Gia with The DeBellis School of Performing Arts Music Scholarship



Soloist, Gia Ciccone



At left: Gia's mom, Ethel is pictured with Gia, Josephine Sarica (bass accordionist for the Pops Orchestra) and Gia's sister, Reagan



Al Terzo, conductor, Rosemarie Cavanaugh, orchestra member and Dr. Joseph Ciccone, Gia's dad and President of the American Accordionists' Association



Accordiom Pops Orchestra - May 19, 2019

AAMS honors Joan Sommers

Joanna Darrow and the American Accordionists Musicological Society have announced that they will honor Joan Sommers at their event to be held on March 6 & 7, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The hotel is located at 2349 Route 70 West in Cherry Hill, NJ 8002. For reservations, call 856-665-6666. Hotel rate is \$110.00 per night plus taxes.



Dr. Schimmel's Accordion Mixology ... *A Tremendous Success*

From April 1 to the 6th, people from all walks of life, some young, some old, entered the Lincoln Center Library to take part in an immersion of accordion culture. Some of the older individuals expressed that they once played the accordion and would like to return to it. Some of the younger people found a new and exciting journey full of possibilities. Each day lasted 5 hours. Many stayed from beginning to end.



Bill Schimmel and wife
Micki Goodman

The opening concert on Monday Night April 1 at Bruno Walter Auditorium was sold out, as well as April 6, the closing day which ended with a hearty sing along.

Dr. William Schimmel conceived and curated the entire event, drawing upon participants who he felt could best represent the accordion in a dignified, outrageous and totally remarkable fashion. It is interesting to note that many of the attendees were there because the accordion gave them pleasure and joy as listeners. And many others felt it sometimes to be a bit confrontational in a good way, allowing them the permission to laugh, cry, or do both. And then there were the intellectuals who loved to hear sounds that they never heard before. Many questions that were obvious to us, but not always obvious to the attendees were addressed clearly and precisely such as: What's the difference between a wet tuned accordion and a dry tuned one. We have learned not to marginalize questions of that



Main Squeeze Orchestra

nature. They bring people together, every one learning. I think the final aspect of the success of the entire week is that it brought people together, building a new accordion community and reclaiming and restoring the community of the past as a new and exciting "present".

AAA Festival Concert Features Premier of AAA Commissioned Work

Child's Play by Joseph Natoli is a chamber ensemble composition written in three movements (entitled 1. Awakening, 2. Sadness, and 3. Happiness) for 2 accordions, cello, and percussion. Although the piece



is decidedly contemporary in flavor, its themes, harmonies and rhythms are very accessible and relatable to any listening audience. This work is dedicated to the memory of two of Joe's students (9-year-old Chloe and her stepfather Jim), who both tragically lost their lives in a traffic accident in February 2019. In that context, the profound sadness of the second movement is overcome by the joy and exuberance of the third movement which is representative of the consistent joy Chloe and all children of her age tend to relish in their young lives.

In addition, Mr. Natoli will perform *Friendship*, a piece written for and dedicated to Joe Natoli's lifelong friendship with composer and AAA member, Guy Klucevsek. Joe indicates that he was 19 when he first met Guy at an AAA Festival that summer, and was fascinated with his musical perspective and personality right from the start. Over the years, before the internet and cell phones were ever a reality, Guy and Joe would keep in touch continually via hand-written 5-10 page letters talking about their musical projects, their lives in the context of music, and what was next on the horizon for each of them musically. Joe says that "*Those letters between us kept me going and were really my only true contact with another like-minded musician during that period in my life. So with fond memories of what that friendship means to me, this piece was created as a thank you to Guy for his Friendship.*" ■



The Chamber ensemble consists of Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Cecylia Barczyk, and William Trigg

Concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

Child's Play

Friendship

Sam Reider (selections to be announced)

Michael Bridge (selections to be announced)

Reception immediately following concert.



AAA 2019 Festival July 17-21 - Valley Forge, PA

Workshops and Presenters

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 4:00 p.m. - CONESTOGA
Music Notation In the 21st Century

Joe Natoli, Presenter

How would you like to completely eliminate the need to use pencil and staff paper ever again when notating your own wonderful music creations? The technology to help you with that has been here since circa 1997 and keeps getting better all the time. As Joe Natoli indicates: "I personally have never put one note on paper since that time and as a result, this technology has been an absolute blessing to me personally. It was the stuff of science fiction that many of us dreamed about when we were children!" You owe it to yourself to take advantage of this technology. As long as you own a computer, or even a tablet, Joe will provide a complete review of all the tools available to you in all different price ranges (including FREE!). He will also show you how this software works, with live examples using Finale, while also providing you the latest developments in what has now become a niche industry. If you compose or arrange music, even if you already use notation software, you will not want to miss this workshop.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 5:00 p.m. - CONESTOGA
Survivor: The Accordion! A Discussion of Its Past, Present, and Projected Future In Light of Other Keyboard Instruments, Both Extant and Extinct

Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Presenter

A wide variety of keyboard instruments has come and in many cases gone over the centuries in the Western world—everything from those barely remembered today and at times bizarre, such as the archicembalo, bowed clavier, and clavictherium; the slightly more familiar portativ organ, virginal, clavichord, and fortepiano; the mallet percussion instruments xylophone, marimba, and vibraphone; and among the most familiar today, the pianoforte, celeste, harpsichord, pipe organ, harmonium, ondes Martinot, electronic keyboards, and, of course, accordion. All of these instruments were invented for specific purposes and varying roles in both solo and ensemble repertoire. However, many have become extinct or rarely used today, while others have survived the test of time, including the accordion. We will examine the accordion in light of its near 200-year history and ask why it has survived and what its future may be.



THURSDAY, JULY 18 - 9:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA
9 Types of Bellows Shakes

Michael Bridge, Presenter

Recently released book by Michael Bridge, the "Nine Varieties of Bellows Shakes" will enlighten you to the various affects you can create. In two parts:

Part 1: Standard Bellows Shakes

Part 2: Advanced Bellows Shakes



THURSDAY, JULY 18 - 10:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA

The Musical Life of Charles Magnante
Ray Oreggia and Don Gerundo, Presenters

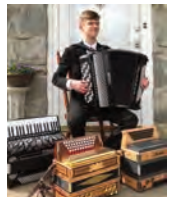
A slide show presentation of the musical life of the great Charles Magnante, including recordings and stories about one of the founding fathers of the American Accordionists' Association.



THURSDAY, JULY 18 - 1:30 p.m. - CONESTOGA
Piano, Diatonic, Chromatic, Oh My!

Cody McSherry, Presenter

This seminar will focus on the advantages, limitations, and ins and outs (pun intended) of various types of accordions. Bring your questions!



FRIDAY, JULY 19 - 9:30 a.m. - CONESTOGA

The Birth, Development, and Passion of My Musical Life

Mario Tacca, Presenter

Mario Tacca dazzles audiences across the US and around the world with his unmatched virtuosity on the accordion and his exciting interpretations of international music, the classics and pop. His workshop will highlight his amazing career as a student, competitor, and performer.

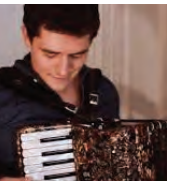


SATURDAY, JULY 20 - 9:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA

American folk music on the piano accordion

Sam Reider, Presenter

In this workshop, Reider will discuss approaches to playing American folk music on the piano accordion. From basic rhythmic accompaniment patterns, to bellows technique, to improvisation, Reider will demonstrate how the accordion can fit easily in a bluegrass or old-time jam. Students will learn a simple fiddle tune, begin improvising using the quintessential bluegrass "G-run" lick, and accompany themselves singing a classic American folk melody.



SATURDAY, JULY 20 - 10:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA

Innovative Bass Lines - Sam Falcetti, Presenter

Learn how to WALK the bases; how to learn more about styles and patterns in the left hand. This is the #1 question asked by those playing an accordion. They want to play more than just alternating bass and chords. This workshop has a handout with examples and suggested songs with 20 patterns and styles. Attendees will be able to learn how to walk the bases like a pro!" Guaranteed!



FRIDAY, JULY 19 - 8:30 a.m. and/or

SATURDAY, JULY 20 - 9:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA

Master Class with Michael Bridge

Two sessions offered. Three (3) performers will be selected for each session with diverse ability levels and requested to prepare a piece for evaluation. Michael will dissect the piece and recommend solutions and practice methods to make the most challenging passage become "a walk in the park" and thus producing a rewarding performance.

All Workshops will take place in the Conestoga Room located in the Radisson Tower Lower Level.
Any changes will be posted at the AAA Registration Desk.
All workshops are part of your registration!
Be sure you wear your name badge!

Accordion Mixology, cont'd. from p. 11

And finally, Dr. Schimmel stated: "As curator of the event, I feel that I have chosen a wonderful thing to do with my life, and I am enjoying a magic carpet ride that I never imagined.

And this is only the beginning".

From Denise Koncelik

A marathon 30+ hours of a vast variety of accordion music, stories, videos, and information were presented over six days at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

The event was, in part, to celebrate the acquisition of the Dr. William Schimmel Archive at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

The organizers were surprised and elated that reservations for the Monday evening concert in the 200+ seat Bruno Walter auditorium, not only sold out, but they had to accept additional reservations.

The attendees varied as much as the music over the six days. People of all ages came and went throughout each presentation. One of the largest audiences (they had to bring in extra seating) was for the Punkordion afternoon, with special guest artists Ted Nash (Jazz at Lincoln Center) and Elliott Sharp.

Dr. Schimmel was present and performed at each event. He is a consummate professional accordionist and accordion advocate. He shared the stage with colleagues, current and former students, and non-accordionists.

In addition to his dancer/film director wife, Micki Goodman-Schimmel, his invited performers included singers, instrumentalists, and a visual artist. Accordion group performers included the accordion quartet Bachtopus, avant-garde trio Ghost Pony, and the all-female Main Squeeze Orchestra.

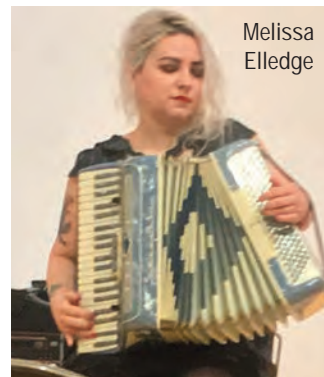
The week-long event wrapped up with a sing-a-long performance, complimented by a full and participating audience.

From Dr. Robert Young McMahan

Attendance for the Walter Auditorium on April 1 was great, including loyal Tenri audience members and others. Bill asked that I play works by African American composers for my part, so I did the Still works. Events continued across the day in the Astor Gallery, across the hall from the auditorium, for the rest of the week, with good in-and-out attendance. Jewish culture was the theme for Thursday, so I played the Kleinsinger and Siegmeister works for that afternoon. Also, Paul Stein gave a very good talk/performance of Klesmer music. ■



Main Squeeze Orchestra
Courtyard Installation at
Lincoln Center



Melissa
Elledge



Will Holshouser



Dr. Schimmel
at Bruno Walter
Auditorium

Welcome New AAA Members

Student Members

Antoine Francisco Brennan
Mayah Benta Brennan

Associate Members

Steve Caldwell
Joan Dominick
William Jordan
Janice Lavoie
Rich Martin
Joseph Milano
Ronan O'Sullivan
Ken Reed
Alan Schoen

Professional Members

Doran Zur

Thanks to the following for their generous donations

Fernando Costa, *General Fund*
Marianne Pyster, *General Fund*
Richard A. Soderquist, *General Fund*

Robert McMahan, *Youth Programs*
CAA, *Youth Programs*

Susan Olestad & Family,
Carrozza Scholarship

We appreciate your support!

Brooklyn Accordion Club

The spring meeting in the garden last Saturday was fun! Thank you to all the performers! Save the date for June meeting with two special guests:

**Stephanie Simon of Gadji Accordion from France,
and Cordeone Loic De Silva**

Monday, June 24 at 7-9pm

Jalopy Theatre and School of Music

Admission: \$5.00

Thank you Jalopy for hosting the meeting!

This event is open to public, but the space is limited. Please reply to this email to RSVP to secure your spot.

The meeting will open with a brief open mic. All levels/genres welcome.

Please RSVP your spot for open mic.

See you on June 24!

Brooklyn Accordion Club

SqueeZine!

(Fall 2014 / Spring 2015 / Fall 2015 / Winter 2016 / Spring 2018)

Junior Festival Orchestra & Fun Band

Junior Festival Orchestra prepares to perform at the King of Prussia Awards Concert

This year's Junior Orchestra is truly exciting . . . we have 4 new members joining us – Andrew Wu (Dublin, California), Alexander Lammers and Max Hoffman (Alexandria, Virginia area) and Matthew Chen (Troy, MI). It is great for the accordion to see up and coming young accordionists participate at this level, to show the audience their talents, and share this great music. Wait until you hear them!

Returning Members include Gabriel Abreu (Coventry, Rhode Island), Nathan Chapeton (Middletown, Connecticut), Gia Ciccone (Katonah, New York), Zoia Levit (Natick, Massachusetts), Cody McSherry (Lancaster, Pennsylvania), Eva and Daniel Tantsyura (Elmsford, New York).

This year, we will also feature one of our recent participants and now considered Alumni – Will Comer, who continues his studies at Rutgers University in the field of music and jazz. Welcome back!

The repertoire this year includes “Jessamee” by Dee Langley, “The 7:40 Train Song” a traditional European folk song, and “The Syncopated Clock” by Leroy Anderson (you will recognize this one as the theme from “The Late Show” from years back!).

Rehearsals are Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. – Remember to bring your music, your accordion and your music stand.

Join us at the Awards Concert on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in the Ballroom!

New at Festival this year is Fun Band - designed for those who have never participated with an orchestra - accordion or otherwise. The music includes a French Medley of Pigalle and I Wish You Love and Tango of the Roses. Fun Band will introduce terminology that is used when playing with a group of musicians particularly of varying degrees of ability. We just want to have fun!!

Conductor is Linda Soley Reed who was conductor of the award-winning Molinaro Accordion Orchestra for many years as well as one of the three conductors of the huge AAA Festival Orchestra in Bryant Park at the AAA's 75th anniversary (Frank Busso, Sr. and Mary Tokarski also conducted the crowd pleasing, New York, New York) as well as the AAA Festival Orchestra in 2014. Rehearsals will be on Thursday immediately following the Pub Club and Friday before the Festival Orchestra rehearsal. Performance TBD.

Come join the fun!

Gadji
ACCORDIONS

**EXPLANATIONS ON ACCORDION
TUNING AND OPERATION
BY STÉPHANIE SIMON - FRANCE**

AND A
CONCERT
06/24 - 7-9pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC : \$5
with

Cordeone
Loic Da Silva
(France - Portugal)

in collaboration with the
Brooklyn Accordion Club

Jalopy Theatre and
School of Music
315 Columbia St
Brooklyn NY 11231
o.718-395-3214
c.310-717-4880

www.gadji.fr
www.jalopytheatre.org

**American
Accordionists'
Association**

**CARMEN CARROZZA
Scholarship Fund**

For the advancement
of promising young accordionists

www.ameraccord.com

Carrozza Scholarship Dinner

Sunday, September 8, 2019

**Famee Furlane of NA Club
2010 127th Street
College Point, NY 11356**

**Cocktail Hour
12 noon-1:00 p.m.
Dinner and Dancing
1:00-3:00 p.m.**

\$67.00 per person:
Antipasto • Pasta • Salad
Filet Mignon & Shrimp
Potato & Vegetable
Dessert & Coffee

**AAA Lifetime Achievement
Award Presentation**

Joey Miskulin

For full details and reservations,
visit ameraccord.com

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



PUB CLUB

The AAA will host its first ever "Pub Club" at the Valley Forge Festival on July 18th. AAA Treasurer, Ray Oreggia, will host the event which takes place in the Fran Adams room of the Radisson Casino Resort at 1:30 p.m. Bring your accordion and squeeze along with the crowd. Members of New Jersey, Delaware, Long Island and Florida Clubs have already signed up to "be a part of the party."

This event immediately follows the Luncheon and Concert which features Nathan Chapeton, the USA/AAA candidate to the World Accordion event in China, Philadelphia's own Joe Soprani and the dazzling artistry of Petar Maric. Petar has performed around the world and was also our guest artist at the 2018 Carrozza Scholarship Fundraiser. He is equally proficient in Jazz, Balkan and Classical. His fiery Serbian background is apparent in each of his performances.

SEATTLE, WA

The Seattle Accordion Club hosted a concert and social night on May 13th at the Senior Centre of West Seattle. The event included a performance by the Northwest Accordionaires Orchestra, who perform a variety of music styles from show tune medleys to the classics. In addition an "Open Mic" session was held, enabling accordionists of any age to perform. For more information, please phone: (206) 947-8393

MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL, MN

Dan Newton's Cafe Accordion Orchestra entertained at a French Night on April 16th at Vieux Carre in St Paul, Minnesota. The event included lots of French singing as well as Musette, Gypsy Swing, Cajun, Creole, Quebecois and French Traditional tunes. For information on upcoming performances, please e-mail: daddysqueeze@daddysqueeze.com

SEQUIM, WA

The Sequim Accordion Social is proud and very fortunate to have Gary Blair, an exceptional accordionist performing for their community on June 11th from 6:30-8:30 on at the Sequim Prairie Grange. Gary is visiting from Glasgow Scotland. He has appeared on television and radio and frequents accordion gatherings and festivals around the world. Gary plays a wide variety of music from many different cultures and countries. His styles include dance, popular, classical, Celtic and traditional accordion tunes. The concert will be approximately 2 hours and the suggested donation is \$7.00 per person. Sequim Prairie Grange is located at 290 MacLeay Road in Sequim, Washington.

SPOKANE, WA

The Spokane Accordion Ensemble performed an accordion concert entitled "Music from the Movies" on April 26th at St Mark's Lutheran Church in Spokane. The popular event included a variety of movie themed pieces such as "Don't Cry For Me Argentina", "Lion King", "My Heart Will Go On" as well as songs from Abba and the Muppets. The Spokane Ensemble is a unique blend of players of all ages with a common love of music and the accordion. They enjoy entertaining for a wide variety of audiences, from small groups to national conventions, and have performed previously at the National Studebaker convention, Leavenworth Accordion Festival, The Kimberley B.C. Accordion Festival, First Night Spokane and Oktoberfests.

RUTHERFORD, CA

On April 5th, accordionist and singer Steve Albini performed at film director Francis Ford Coppola's 80th birthday celebration. Steve performed with respected San Francisco pianist and musical director Bill Keck. Mr. Coppola had requested that the music of his maternal grandfather, Francesco Pennino, and his father, Carmine Coppola, be performed, along with a variety of Italian music and jazz and Latin standards. The celebration took place in the Francesco Pennino room at Mr. Coppola's Inglenook Winery located in Rutherford, CA in the beautiful Napa Valley.

Steve has been performing for Francis Ford Coppola since 2013 and plays every Tuesday evening at the restaurant at Francis Ford Coppola Winery in Geyserville, CA. Steve also performs as part of the group II Sole with accordionist Tatiana Semichastnaya.

AUSTIN, TX

Texas Folklife hosted the Statewide Big Squeeze Youth Accordion Concert on May 11th at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, Texas. The event was a live concert featuring Texas' top young accordion talent with performances by Cedry Ballou & the Zydeco Trendsetters and Conjunto Cats.

The 13th annual Big Squeeze Youth Accordion Contest took place during the event and featured ten youth musicians in competition, battling it out in the traditional Texas accordion music genres: polka, Cajun & zydeco, and Conjunto. The Big Squeeze is a culmination of ten competitions held throughout Texas that began in February and stretched from Ennis to Edinburg. Communities across the state came together to celebrate one of Texas' most cherished musical traditions while young musicians showed off their accordion skills for a chance to play on the Austin stage.

Each of the Grand Prize Winners received a prize package including a Hohner accordion, cash prize, performance opportunities with Texas Folklife, publicity, professional development and other professional opportunities. Additionally, the Grand Prize Winners will perform onstage with legendary Texas musicians at Texas Folklife's Accordion Kings & Queens Concert, held at Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre on June 1st. For further details phone Sarah Rucker at (512) 773-1161.

INDY 500 FANS

You just might have seen a familiar face in the hordes of celebs in Dallara's pit at the Indy 500 - and that was Cory Pesaturo. An avid racing enthusiast, Cory had full pit and grid access with Dallara. Congrats to Simon Pegenaud winner of the 2019 Indy 500. As for Cory, you will see him at AAA 2020 in Alexandria, VA from July 8-12 - SAVE THE DATE!



SAN FRANCISCO, CA

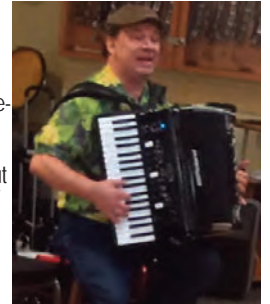
Accordionist Cory Pesaturo entertained at the San Francisco Accordion Club on May 19th, 2019. 2009 Coupe Mondiale Digital Accordion winner and with ac-

coustic accordion, winner of Primus Ikaalinen. Cory Pesaturo is a graduate of the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music and a popular entertainer. His extensive resumé includes appearances at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton on four different occasions, starting when he was only 12 years old. For further details on upcoming performances please e-mail: info@sfacordionclub.com.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CLUBS & CONCERTS

Sarasota Suncoast and Tampa Bay

All's quiet on the South Western Front - Snow Birds have left us and both Sarasota and Tampa Bay Clubs will resume in September. Sarasota's Sun Coast Club had a great turnout for their final meeting of the season in May. Many of the regulars came out for one last fling before returning in



September. Had the opportunity to meet a couple from Lancaster, PA who knew my friends from Lancaster - small world. All were waiting to see if Chuck Henry would perform and he did not disappoint. Audience favorite is Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White and Chuck does a fantastic job.

Banjos (and accordions) at Snook Haven in Venice until the end of May. Nice to see Chris Brettschneider and Ray Parker in the accordion department. Always a fun time at Snook Haven. And the food was great!!

Hope to see some new faces at AAA in Valley Forge, PA - July 17-21. Competitions, concerts, ensemble and orchestra possibilities for all ages - Fun Band, Youth Orchestra, Festival Orchestra (advanced). We have a spot for you so come on down (or is it up?) - Whatever - come join us. Remember: "Life is a Cabaret so come join the AAA in Valley Forge - July 17-21, 2019 Radisson Casino Resort.

Attention All Accordion Clubs!

The AAA Festival July 17-21 in Valley Forge, PA will feature a gathering of Club Members and Coordinators.

AAA Board Member, Ray Oreggia, will host the "Club Pub" on Thursday, July 18, 2019 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Valley Forge Hotel in the Radisson Tower Lower Conference area located on the lower level.

Want to participate?
Contact Ray at roreggia@aol.com

.ATTENTION VIRTUOSO and US CHAMPIONS AFTER 1984. If you were a first place winner of the AAA Virtuoso Solo or United States Virtuoso Solo category after 1984 but did not participate in the Coupe Mondiale, please send us an email and include your name, category you won, your instructor and selection(s) performed. This will help us update our website which only lists US Champions until 1984. Although you may not have attended the Coupe Mondiale, you are still considered an AAA US Champion.



AAA 2019 FESTIVAL

Visit our website for full details:
www.ameraccord.com
AAA Souvenir Journal

Camera-ready copy must accompany ad order.
Journal size is 8 1/2 x 11; Ad size cannot exceed 7 1/2 x 10

AAA ANNUAL SOUVENIR JOURNAL


Full Page	7 1/2" x 10"	\$200.00
Half Page	7 1/2" x 5"	\$120.00
Quarter Page	3 3/4" x 5"	\$65.00
Business Card	2" x 3 1/2"	\$40.00

Multiple page discounts available.
Provide clean black and white copy.
Any photograph to be used
must be a high resolution JPEG or PDF.

DEADLINE EXTENDED: JUNE 15, 2019

The Journal is very comprehensive containing
Festival Programming and Schedule, Artist Bios,
AAA Archival Information and more.

*For technical assistance or if you require
AAA to re-design your ad, please contact
Linda Reed (203) 556-0002 or Fax (941) 883-4588*



COMPETITION
WORKSHOPS
EXHIBITS
CONCERTS
YOUTH PROGRAM
FESTIVAL
ORCHESTRAS

AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

AAA Festival 2019

Valley Forge Casino Resort • 1160 First Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406
\$20.00



EXHIBIT SPACE AVAILABLE
INCLUDES 2 CLOTHED TABLES

Must be reserved on or before 6/1/19

Contact Exhibit Chair Frank Busso, Jr. for additional information:
frank@bussomusic.com



2' x 4' signage also available

JOURNAL ADS: Full Page 1/2 Page 1/4 Page Business Card

EXHIBIT SPACE: \$250 includes 2 6' clothed tables (additional 6' tables) - \$20 each

Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Visa MasterCard DiscoverCard Am. Express

Name on Card _____ Expiration Date _____

Security Code _____ Zip Code (associated w/card) _____

Name _____

Address / City / State / Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ Email: _____

Please return completed form with checks payable to **American Accordionists' Association (AAA)** and mail to:

AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION
Attention: Mary Tokarski, Festival Chairman • 835 Mix Ave., Apt. T1 • Hamden, CT 06514
Phone: (203) 691-5362 • FAX: 941-883-4588 • ameraccord1938@gmail.com