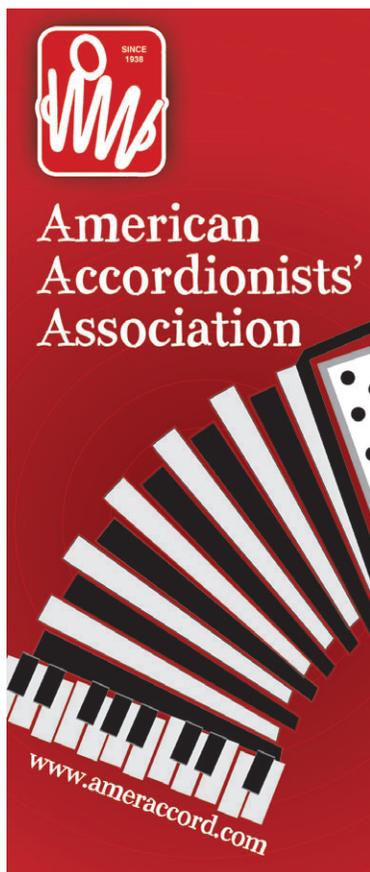




Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

JANUARY 2014



From the Editor

Welcome to the January 2014 edition of the AAA Newsletter and Happy New Year!

As we reflect on the tremendous success of 2013 and the incredible array of accordion activities, I'm sure you all enjoyed the most recent edition of the AAA Newsletter profiling the AAA's 75th Anniversary Celebration in New York City.

Thanks to President Linda Reed for her incredible work in filtering through the thousands of pictures submitted after the festival to provide a detailed and exciting review of the historical milestone event. The bi-monthly sequence of Newsletter publications was thrown off a little as the work to sort through all the pictures took place, but I'm sure you will all agree, that it was worth the wait.

Thanks to all those that have submitted material, and of course to my fellow AAA Board of Director, Rita Barnea, for her kind assistance in sharing news items for publication. I look forward to hearing from you as the year goes on, so that we can keep everyone posted on member and general accordion activities throughout the year.

Items for the March Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the official AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com Please include "AAA Newsletter" in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word .doc (not docx) attachment. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file, and the larger the file size the better. We can always reduce/crop the picture if necessary. However, we are unable to increase the quality from smaller pictures. The deadline for the March Newsletter will be the 15th of February 2014.

All the best for a very happy and safe 2014!

Sincerely, Kevin
Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



Accordionist Michael Ward-Bergeman Performs with NY Philharmonic

Accordionist Michael Ward-Bergeman performed with famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Jamey Haddad, Cyro Baptista and the NY Philharmonic for their 2013 Opening Gala on September 25, 2013. The performance was

An excerpt from the NY Times review of this NY Philharmonic Concert conducted by Alan Gilbert compliments the musicality of Mr. Ward-Bergeman: "In a nod to the idiom of the Baroque concerto grosso, there is a small

broadcast live on WQXR radio was televised on "Live from Lincoln Center" on PBS stations nationwide on December 31st, 2013 at 8:PM EST. The opening-night gala of the New York Philharmonic featured Ravel's "Alborada del gracioso" and "Boléro," and, with cellist, Yo-Yo Ma, Osvaldo Golijov's "Azul" and Astor Piazzolla's "La serie del Ángel."



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APRIL 6, 2014
Carrozza Scholarship Dinner
Magnanini Winery
Wallkill, New York 12589
12 noon to 5:00 pm

JULY 9-13, 2014
AAA Festival
Double Tree Hotel
455 South Broadway
Tarrytown, New York
Reservation code: AAF

AUGUST 1-3, 2014
Master Class & Concert Series
The Everyday Accordion
Ordinary x Proper = Radiant
Tenri Cultural Center
43A W13th Street
between 5th & 6th Ave.
New York, NY

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014
Celebrating the Music of the Valtaro
Riccardo's by the Bridge
2101 245th Avenue
Astoria (Queens), NY
12 noon to 5:00 pm
Dinner and Dancing

Ward-Bergeman and Yo-Yo Ma with NY Philharmonic, cont'd. from page 1

ensemble of solo instruments that joins with the cello, including two percussionists (here Jamey Haddad and Cyro Baptista) playing an array of folkloric instruments. Most important, there is a hyper-accordion, an enhanced version of this traditional instrument, played here by Michael Ward-Bergeman. It was captivating to hear the doleful cello lines in duet with the reedy tones of the accordion."

Later in the article, NY Times reviewer, Anthony Tommasini continues: "In a way it made sense to follow "Azul" with Astor Piazzolla's Suite from "La Serie del Ángel" ("Angel Suite"), arrangements of three moody, mercurial tangos, featuring Mr. Ma revealing his inner South American in the elaborate cello solos, along with crucial solo parts for accordion (Mr. Ward-Bergeman), piano (Eric Huebner) and violin (the Philharmonic's concertmaster, Glenn Dicterow)."

Ward-Bergeman is a passionate performer, songwriter and composer. His sensitive and creative approach to music making has led to performances and collaborations with world-class musicians and composers from across a wide range of genres.

In 2011 he launched his GIG 365 project, which saw him performing at least one gig for every day of 2011. Performances

took place at an incredibly diverse range of venues in over thirty-five states and nine countries. Highlights included performances at Gainesville Correctional Facility, Harvard Business School with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, and on the streets of New Orleans.

Ward-Bergeman has enjoyed a close friendship and working relationship with composer Osvaldo Golijov for over a decade. His work with the hyper-accordion (an acoustic accordion with extended range and expressive capabilities of his own design) has been featured in many of Golijov's compositions. Michael Ward-Bergeman's electro-acoustic compositions have won international awards and he has premiered new works written for vocalists Dawn Upshaw and Christina Courtin at Carnegie Hall. In 2011, he was commissioned to compose for Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project. He began his work with the group as a guest artist during workshops and performances at Harvard University.

Ward-Bergeman is a founding member of the North American Roots music trio Groanbox. They have released five recordings and toured extensively throughout the U.K., to much critical acclaim. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music. Michel is pictured (see page 1) performing Osvaldo Golijov's "Azul" with Yo-yo Ma and the New York Philharmonic. For further information: wardbergeman@gmail.com. ■

International Music Council Elects Paul Dujardin as New President

AAA Board of Directors' member and Ambassador to the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA), Kevin Friedrich, recently traveled to Brisbane, Australia to represent the CIA at the General Assembly of Delegates and World Forum on Music.

Mr. Paul Dujardin (Belgium) was elected President of the International Music Council for a renewable mandate of two years. Mr. Dujardin replaces Mr. Frans de Ruiter from The Netherlands (pictured with CIA Ambassador Kevin Friedrich), who had served as president of the organization since October 2009.

Mr. Dujardin is CEO and artistic director of the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR) in Brussels, a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary Arts Center dedicated to music, visual art, photography, film, theatre, dance, literature and architecture. He has helped to found and run a number of arts organizations, including the Euphonia Foundation for Music (which supports young creative talent), the Jubilate festival, the Culture et Democratie non-profit association, the Ictus Ensemble, the Jeune Philharmonie/Jonge Filharmonie youth orchestra, the Trento Foundation, the Mont des Arts/Kunstberg non-profit association, and the Queen Elizabeth Foundation.

Moreover, Dujardin is, or has been, an advisor to, or board member of, Musiques Présentes, the Flemish Music Council, the Friends of the Royal Brussels Conservatory (Dutch-language section), the Brussels Youth Orchestra, the Belgian Wagner Association, the European Yehudi Menuhin Foundation, the Queen Elizabeth Music Chapel, the Queen Elizabeth International Music Competition of Belgium, and Venezia Viva. He also represents the Centre for Fine Arts Brussels in various platforms, such as the European Festivals Association (EFA), the European Concert Hall Organization (ECHO), the International Society of Performing Arts (ISPA), the Réseau Européen de Musique Ancienne (R.E.M.A.) and ASEMUS – Asia-Europe Museum Network and from 1992 to 2002 he was the CEO of the Société Philharmonique de Bruxelles, prior to which he was, among others, in charge of the annual festival "Ars Musica" dedicated to contemporary music.

As President of the International Music Council, Mr. Dujardin will lead a 12-member Executive Board made up of representatives from Africa, the Americas, the Arab World, Asia and Europe.

Paul Dujardin with Kevin Friedrich



The IMC Board comprises Jeremy Cox (UK) as executive Vice President, Hisham Sharaf (Iraq/Jordan) and Maria del Carmen Gil (Puerto Rico) as Vice Presidents; as well as Emily Akuno (Kenya) as Treasurer. The Board is completed by Alfons Karabuda (Sweden), Hugues Gervais Ondaye (Congo), Valdemar Rodriguez (Venezuela), Ahti Vanttinen (Finland), Daphne Wassink (Netherlands) and Yu Long (China).

The International Music Council is the world's leading membership-based professional organization dedicated to the promotion of the value of music in the lives of all peoples. The mission of IMC is to develop sustainable music sectors worldwide, to create awareness about the value of music, to be the voice for music, to make music matter throughout the fabric of society and to uphold basic music rights in all countries. The IMC brings together local, national, regional and international music organizations (such as the CIA) and networks in 150 countries across the world. It is recognized by UNESCO as an NGO official partner.

During the 35th General Assembly of the International Music Council held in Brisbane, the IMC adopted a series of key decisions that will pave the way to building greater capacity of the organization and its members to work towards its vision to be the world's leading professional organization dedicated to promotion

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International Music Council, cont'd. from page 1

of the value of music in the lives of all people.

During the next two years, the International Music Council will - in cooperation with, or through its members - focus its efforts on three external strategic objectives:

- affirming culture as the 4th pillar of sustainable development
- promoting and protecting creativity and creators' rights
- placing early childhood music education at the forefront of the music education agenda

Each objective will be achieved through policy-making and advocacy, collaboration and information exchange, projects and research, as well as targeted membership services.

In addition, the IMC will pursue its institutional development with the aim of positioning itself as a strong and dynamic global network of organizations involved or interested in music and in the livelihood of professionals in the field of music.

Building on the strategy decided upon at its previous General Assembly in 2011, the IMC adopted a fully revised version of its Statutes and the Rules of Procedure that will help to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization's work and *modus operandi*.

The General Assembly paid tribute to the outstanding work and dedication of outgoing president Frans de Ruiter (Netherlands) and elected him, along with former IMC Treasurer Lars Grunth (Denmark), with a standing ovation to join the circle of Honorary Members of IMC, chosen among the world's outstanding professionals, educators, performers and composers.

During the General Assembly, elections also took place for the IMC Youth Committee. The new Committee is composed of young representatives of seven IMC member organizations, coming from the Americas, the Arab World, Asia-Oceania and Europe.

The Assembly was held in conjunction with the 5th IMC World

Forum on Music, hosted by the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University in cooperation with the Music Council of Australia, with the support of a number of partners and sponsors. The World Music Forum presented a number of performances by Katie Noonan, Topology, Ferreres & Nicoletti, Joseph Tawadros, Philadelphus Ensemble, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and Deep Blue in addition to interesting and informative workshops, lectures and panel discussions including presentations on the future of the Symphony Orchestra, a discussion on the brutality and beauty of amplification and digital manipulations of music, connecting Choral communities, Community Music, Engaging with Indigenous Musicians, Music Education, World Music, the future of Higher Musical Education, Studio Teaching, Creators' rights, Mobiles, Musicians and Machines, Live Coding, Technology and Sound Production, Musician and Artist Injuries and many more.

When the CIA was accepted into the IMC in 1975, there was some skepticism about the accordion being accepted into the International Music Council from one of the member nations (ironically it was the accordion popular in Germany), however the President of the IMC at the time put everything into perspective by asking the General Assembly if they agreed that the accordion was a musical instrument, and that the instrument was capable of making music, and if the IMC should be an umbrella over all musicians. When this was agreed on, the President then gained tremendous support for the CIA to become an IMC member, and it was overwhelmingly accepted as a new member. That IMC president was famous violinist - the late Yehudi Menuhin!

Today the CIA has tremendous respect from the IMC, with many of the members engaging accordionists or utilizing the accordion or accordion music in their various activities and projects. ■

CIA Coupe Mondiale 2014 - Servus and Welcome to Salzburg, Austria

The Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA), a member of the International Music Council (IMC), an NGO official partner of UNESCO, will hold their 67th CIA Coupe Mondiale and 132nd General Assembly of Delegates in Salzburg, Austria from 27th October – 2nd November 2014. The event will be hosted by the CIA member in Austria – the Austrian Accordion Association - Harmonikaverband Österreichs (HVÖ).

In terms of tourism, Salzburg is a brand of worldwide repute. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the Salzburg Festival, the baroque old town, the spirit of the Sound of Music and numerous famous visitors and residents, have all contributed to Salzburg's profile on the world stage. The city is, and always has been, a magical place for music lovers, romantics and connoisseurs. Nor has the city lost any of its congeniality over the years. On the contrary, tradition is accompanied by modern points of contrast, creating a fascinating combination in both the city's architecture and cultural offerings.

Since it was opened in 2001, the Salzburg Congress Center, the Coupe Mondiale venue, has established itself as a popular and internationally recognized venue for seminars, congresses, trade fairs and events of every kind. The Congress Center features the "Europe Hall" seating 900 - 1,300 seats, which will be used for competitions, the Opening, Evening and Awards Concerts as well as World Accordion Orchestra VIII (WAO) and the smaller "Karanjan Hall" with 300 seats which will be used for competitions and the General Assembly meetings. The facility also will be used for Exhibitors (in the Foyer), practice rooms for the competitors and an office for the CIA Executive Committee. Located in the center of Salzburg, the Congress Center is a six minute walk from the main railway station in Salzburg.

It is anticipated that many attendees from the USA will travel to

Austria to enjoy this annual International accordion extravaganza in their role as officers of the CIA (Joan C. Sommers - Vice President, Kevin Friedrich - Ambassador) as well as Delegates such as Mary Tokarski, Stas Venglevski, members of the International Jury, as well as numerous Americans scheduled to take part as performers in the World Accordion Orchestra, as well as contestants in the various categories of competitions.

Joan Cochran Sommers will conduct the World Accordion Orchestra VIII. In its eighth year, the World Accordion Orchestra will perform at the Gala Prize Giving Concert.

The Austrian Accordion Association is honored to host the Coupe Mondiale for a fourth time after Vienna (1960), Salzburg (1970) and Linz (1983) under the auspices of the CIA (an official NGO partner of UNESCO). The event will coincide with the 60th



Coupe Mondiale 2014, cont'd. from page 3

Harmonikaverband Österreichs (HVÖ) Anniversary Celebration!

The event will be organized under the direction of Werner Weibert CIA Honorary Vice President 2014 with the event featuring seven categories of competition:

- Coupe Mondiale,
- Junior Coupe Mondiale,
- Masters Coupe Mondiale,
- Virtuoso Entertainment
- Junior Virtuoso Entertainment
- International Competition for Digital Accordion
- International Competition for Ensemble Music

The event will also feature concerts, social events, meetings of the CIA Executive Committee, CIA Music Committee and the General Assembly of Delegates, where members will decide the business and future plans of the CIA including the election of officers (2014-2018).

For full details including, category requirements, hotel information, a tentative schedule which highlights the exciting array of guest artists who will be featured in concert, various attractions visitors can enjoy while in Salzburg and all other information, please visit www.coupemondiale.org ■

U.S. Represented at Roland in Rome

Sergei Teleshev who was selected as the 2013 US Roland V Champion received the grand prize of a new Roland FR-8XB button accordion and a paid trip to Rome, Italy representing the USA in the world competition in mid October. Sergei is the accordionist with the internationally known Trio Voronezh, a group known for performing modern compositions and also using traditional Russian instruments. They are based in Eugene, OR.

The World title went to a German accordionist, Matthias Matzke, but Teleshev received a prize for most online votes on the festival's web cast. The instrument lets Teleshev play his usual style, but it also allows him to explore his classical repertoire with over a thousand digital sounds.

U.S. contestants entered the contest one of two ways: YouTube video submission or participation within the 66th Coupe Mondiale. Both amateurs and professionals were eligible and encouraged to participate. Audition videos were accepted online this summer for the U.S. "pre-selection round," and entrants performed on either an acoustic or digital accordion during this round. U.S. contestants chosen from the top U.S. video submissions and the top-placing U.S. contestants at the Coupe Mondiale then advanced into the "final selection round." \$300 individual scholarships were also awarded to the top U.S. contestants at the Coupe Mondiale.

Roland V-Accordions combine the familiar nuances of a traditional accordion with the versatility of a modern digital musical instrument and faster response, higher sensitivity and precision. With the growing number of accordion enthusiasts in the U.S. and around the world, competing in this one-of-a-kind annual event sponsored by Roland, it gives musicians a unique chance to share their music across borders. ■



Accordion Center Stage at Boston's World Series Win

The USA Today newspaper wrote "Dropkick Murphys sang the most Boston national anthem ever. Their rendition had an accordion, a banjo, and four members of the band screaming. It was so Boston it hurt." Many millions watch the World series on TV plus a large crowd at the stadium.



The Boston based band have brought good luck to their home team The Boston Red Sox before, and Game 6 of the World Series, was no exception as the Boston Red Sox won the world series title in front of their home town crowd at Fenway Park. A pre-game interview with the band shared their excitement about having this magnificent opportunity to perform the national Anthem in front of their home town crowd. The performance was seen by a capacity crowd of almost 40,000 at the game as well as millions in the TV audience.

The Dropkick Murphys consisted of an accordion, a banjo and four members of the band singing. Dropkick Murphys also performed at Fenway earlier in the series, performing at this year's clinching ALCS game on October 19.

The band's association with the Boston Red Sox is long and proud: Their revamp of the turn-of-the-century Red Sox rally song "Tessie" became the theme song for the team's 2004 World Series win. And, in an impressive statistic: Dropkick Murphys have played at Red Sox games multiple times in 2004, 2007 - and at the 2013 American League Championship Series clincher - with a perfect winning record at all those games.

Since their beginnings in 1996, Dropkick Murphys have risen from basic Irish-punk roots to become a self-described "rocking & rolling, raging, green-clover machine." Starting out as a hardcore four-piece punk band, they gradually added Celtic influences and traditional folk instruments to create a unique hybrid sound that's built them a large international fan base. The hardworking group tours nearly non-stop, and they're particularly famous for their raucous annual St. Patrick's Day shows in their native New England, which attract followers from all over the world.

Multi-instrumentalist Tim Brennan joined the Dropkicks in 2003, first playing acoustic accordion and mandolin, and later guitar as well. Combining hard-to-amplify acoustic instruments like the accordion with loud guitar amps and pounding drums is a real live-sound nightmare, and Tim struggled for years just to hear his instrument well on stage.

That all changed overnight when he discovered the FR-3 V-Accordion. Thanks to the instrument's digital sound source, he gets the perfect accordion sound night after night, and at volumes that can compete with his raging rock band mates. As Tim puts it simply, "The V-Accordion is amazing. The members are: Al Barr, Tim

continued on page 5

DropKickMurphys

Brennan, Ken Casey, Jeff DaRosa, Matt Kelly, James Lynch, Scruffy Wallace.

The bands' main goal is to play music that creates an all for one, one for all environment where everyone is encouraged to participate, sing along, and hopefully have a good time. In the true spirit of punk rock they view the band and the audience as one in the same; in other words "our stage and our microphone are yours".

The DropKick Murphys released a limited edition vinyl box set on November 5, 2013. The box includes every studio album including for the first time ever on Vinyl - the full Singles Collections Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 (both on Double LP). Every album, from Do Or Die to Signed And Sealed And Blood, will be collected in a custom-designed keepsake box (complete with room to add future DKM albums!) and bundled with a 3 x 5 DKM PIRATE FLAG that we hope you'll fly proudly. It's a true limited edition: 2,000 copies.

For further information: management@dropkickmurphys.com

Ludovic Beier at New York's "The Django Reinhardt" Festival

Air France presented the Django Reinhardt New York Festival at Birdland, New York City, November 5-10th featuring Gypsy guitar Legend Dorado Schmitt and sons Amati and Bronson with French accordionist Ludovic Beier (accordion & accordina); Pierre Blanchard (violin), Francko Mehrstein (guitar); Brian Torff (bass), Jarryd Torff (saxophone) and special guest Cyrille Aimee (vocals). Ludovic Beier performed throughout the festival.

The group is so popular that most shows were sold out. Ludovic Beier enhanced all of the selections with his great jazz improvisational abilities. He obviously displayed his love for the accordion and jazz with his smile and animated expressive playing which enthralled the audience.

Attendee Rita Barnea (AAA Board of Director's member) described Ludovic as "amazing," with all eyes on him during his brilliant solos. The combination of accordion, guitar, bass, and violin mesmerized the audience who enthusiastically applauded as each one took their turn displaying their virtuoso abilities in improvisation. This was the 14th year of the Django Reinhardt NY Festival and a "Django Festival Allstars" CD has been produced which is receiving excellent reviews.

After the show, Rita interviewed several members of the audience/program. Pat Philips, co-producer of the Django Reinhardt Festival said, "I feel that Ludovic is one of the great musicians of the world today on both instruments, accordion and accordina. He always rises to the top!"

Rita, who really enjoyed the evening at Birdland Jazz Club, highly recommends readers catch Ludovic's performances the next time he visits the USA. He is truly inspirational! ■



Ludovic Beier

A World of Accordions Museum "Celebrity Personality Displays"

A World of Accordions Museum "Celebrity Personality Displays" Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D.

Many significant figures in the accordion world have entrusted their musical estates - or a major portion - to A World of Accordions Museum. Every three months, one of these personalities is selected to be highlighted in our "Celebrity Personality Display." Housed in the Hanni Strahl Concert Hall, it serves as a "teaser" to other floors of the museum for everyone attending concerts and special events.

Arthur Metzler (1915-2006)

For the third quarter of 2013, Arthur Metzler's accomplishments as accordionist, teacher, arranger, composer, cartoonist, and writer were featured. The timing was particularly fortuitous since his son Robert Metzler and wife, through whom the estate was given, decided to visit.



Arthur Metzler

Included in the display were Art's publicity photo distributed by the Titano Accordion Company, accordion cartoons for which Art was particularly well known in later years, his 1989 and 1991 cartoon calendars, an autobiographical story of WWII memories, and two spiral notebooks containing hundreds of titles listed as his accordion compositions and arrange-

ments. His beautiful handwritten manuscripts were represented by "Concerto for Two Accordions," "Georgy" (polka), and "Symphony in A Major."

Among his published books we showed: Metzler, "Preparatory Text for the Accordion." (Patek Music Co., Chicago); Metzler-Jacobson, "Collection of Classics by the Great Masters



Above: Polytone Accordion belonging to life-long friend, Andy Rizzo. At right, display featuring both Art Metzler and Andy Rizzo.



for the Free Bass Converter Accordion;" Edwin Davison, editor, "Arthur Metzler - His Life and Love for the Accordion," reprinted from *The Golden Age of the Accordion*, 1984 edition.

Art came to prominence in the studio of Andy Rizzo, his teacher and later business partner. In another display of the museum we tie together these famous friends through the recent acquisition of Andy Rizzo's accordion, a Polytone, made by Joe Romagnoli at the Italo-American Accordion Company, Chicago.

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Upcoming events...

- Feb. 13-16 Mesa Accordion Event - Mesa, AZ
- March 6-8 National Accordion Association - Plano, TX
- March 28-30 Mid-Atlantic Music Teachers Guild - Whippany, NJ
- March 28-30 AAMS - Whippany, NJ
- April 4-6 ATAM - Newton, MA
- April 6 AAA Carrozza Scholarship Dinner - Wallkill, NY

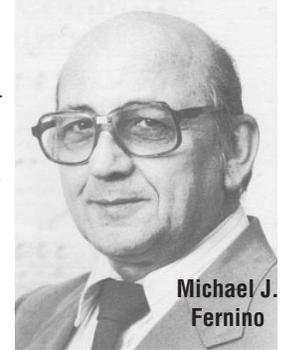
Celebrity Personality Displays, cont'd from page 5

Michael James Fernino (1930-1989)

Michael Fernino's celebrity in accordion circles vested in many directions, two of which are pedagogy and physiology. As a teacher of national prominence, he may be best recognized as mentor to his sister's children - the Kasprzyks. Famous since childhood, "The K Trio" consists of Mary Kasprzyk Tokarski, Julie Kasprzyk Cardona and Walter Kasprzyk. Julie and Mary won the A.A.A. National Championships of 1967, 1968 and 1971 and represented the A.A.A. at the Coupe Mondiale.

A long-standing member of, and event organizer for, the Accordion Teachers' Association of Connecticut, Fernino came into contact with leading personalities and companies in the industry. He used this experience to persuade prominent musicians to lecture at the A.A.A.'s Symposium and Exhibition (Atlantic City, 1984 and following). This brainchild of Faithe Deffner brought together artists like Dr. Willard Palmer, Dr. Carmelo Pino, Robert Davine, and many others, who for three days shared their insights with experts and novices alike. Fernino's own topics were entitled "Muscular Control and Development" (as related to finger dexterity), a relatively neglected study in accordion circles. In my development, the Symposia became of utmost importance.

A consummate and dedicated pedagogue, he wrote several instructional volumes for Tweedy's Music Readiness series (#1610 and #1620), which he used extensively in mid-1960s lectures. In 1969 he published "Entering the World of Music (accordion course for class or individual instruction) (publisher unknown). In the early 1970s, he wrote manuals for the beginning accordionist entitled "Developing Note Reading" (Michael Music). Used in his teaching methods and for workshop seminars, he typed lengthy but unpublished volumes entitled Theory and Its Application (for students of all ages), "Basic Music Theory" (and its application), "Fun with Music for Kindergarten and Beginning Grades." These books contain instructions for teachers and students, and hundreds of fill-in worksheet and study examples.



Michael J. Fernino



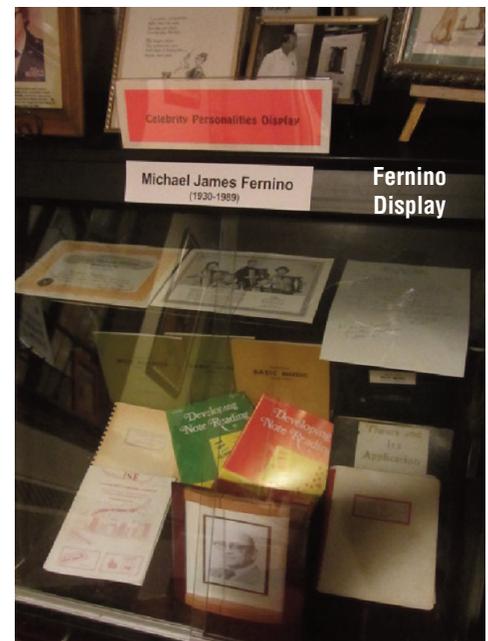
One of Fernino's early accordions - Paolo Soprani

Perhaps of similar importance were the four accordion workshops Fernino attended "which embody the Charles Magnante principles of playing and teaching accordion." He received a certificate signed by Magnante in 1959.

Fernino, though not publicly recognized as an historian, kept flawlessly organized records of national accordion events through newspaper clippings and anecdotes. Social researchers are encouraged to investigate this unexplored fountain of information.

An avid supporter of the A.A.A., Fernino regularly adjudicated annual competitions, which is how I first met him. At the time, I never dreamed that Mary Tokarsky would in 2002 consolidate his work and donate it along with his 1930s Paolo Soprani to the accordion museum.

Fernino's Celebrity Display was first shown in 2006 and is currently in preparation for its next presentation in early 2014. ■



Sam Falcetti and Family Support the Arts at the University of Massachusetts

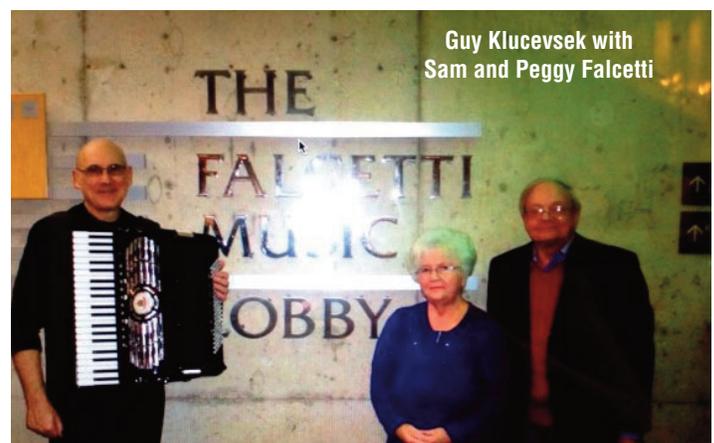
Sam Falcetti with his wife, Peggy, have been involved with the New England Music Festival for over fifty years. Sam's passion for the accordion is very evident in his work as a music teacher, performer, owner of the Falcetti Music Business and an outspoken advocate for accordion students and the instrument, including both the acoustic and digital accordion. He recently organized the first Roland Accordion Orchestra in the USA.

Sam's deep commitment to the accordion is not recent. Both Sam and Peggy have devoted their lives to the instrument, and to all musical arts and music education, in general.

In 2003 the Falcetti family was involved in the renovation of Bezanson Recital Hall at the University of Massachusetts where a recent concert was given by well known accordionist and musician Guy Klucsevsek. Because of the generosity of the Falcetti family, all music students and concert artists such as Guy, who perform at the concert hall, have a beautiful and acoustically superior venue in which to showcase their talents. The Falcetti's have helped to provide a quality and highly enjoyable environment for both concert goers and performers.

Due to the Falcetti's desire to leave a legacy to the music students of the future, the University of Massachusetts has named the lobby: Falcetti Music Lobby. Sam and Peggy Falcetti are pictured with Guy Klucsevsek at his recent performance.

For further information on the many and varied activities of the Falcetti family, please contact: peggyf1944@gmail.com ■



Guy Klucsevsek with Sam and Peggy Falcetti

Frank Busso, Jr. and Air Force Strings

The Air Force Strings is one of the most diverse and flexible units of The United States Air Force Band. The accordionist is well known Frank Busso, Jr.

Master Sgt. Frank J. Busso, Jr. is the accordionist with the Air Force Strings, The United States Air Force Band, Washington, D.C. In addition to his musical duties, Sergeant Busso is guest artist manager and flight announcer. Originally from Staten Island, N.Y., his Air Force career began in 2005.

Sergeant Busso attended Boston University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 2001. He studied accordion with Frank Busso, Sr. at the Staten Island Music School in New York. Prior to joining the Air Force, Sergeant Busso was an instructor and arranger with the Boston University Athletic Bands. He was also an instructor at the Staten Island Music School, where his students earned many regional and national titles in competition.

As a competitive accordionist, Sergeant Busso received numerous regional titles from the Accordion Teachers Association of New Jersey, including the organization's virtuoso championship in 1995. He also earned multiple national titles from the American Accordionists' Association in classical, popular, and ethnic competitions.

Since 2001, Sergeant Busso has performed in concert as a member of The Busso Trio at numerous summer festivals hosted by the AAA and the Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International (ATG).

The Air Force Strings recently performed at three events for Vice President Joe Biden at his residence upon the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory. The events included receptions for the Department of Labor, the Jewish Community for Sukhot, and a celebration of the anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act. Performing for Senators, Congressmen, and other distinguished guests, Technical Sgt. Luke Wedge led the Strings in programs of 1.5 hours of memorized music.

In a departure from normal procedures, the Strings sent smaller strolling groups to each event to allow for greater flexibility and maneuverability, both outside and inside the residence.

For all three events, it was decided to leave out the celli for enhanced mobility, because they typically remain stationary. In addition to violins and violas, Master Sgt. Frank Busso (accordionist), Technical Sgt. Luke Wedge (strolling leader) and Technical Sgt. Daniel Benoit (bassist) performed at all three events.

Neatly aligned along the path leading to the front entrance, the Strings performed background music for the arrival of the distinguished guests for 30 minutes. Once the speeches were completed, the Strings performed inside the residence during receptions for approximately an hour. The social staff and guests were very impressed with the Strings' vast repertoire of memorized music for the evenings, consisting of more than 40 strolling tunes. In addition, the staff appreciated that the set-up and space requirements were very minimal.

For the Band's Airmen musicians, it is always very special to have the opportunity to share their craft with an appreciative audience. However, it is even more of a treat to perform for one of the Band's highest priority customers, the vice president of the United States and his guests. Performing for our nation's highest military and civilian dignitaries is one of the duties performed day in and day out by the Band's Airmen musicians, and they are honored to do so. ■



Lou Coppola, 60 Years of Music Making

by Joan Grauman, AAA Archivist

I would like to begin by saying how very fitting and extraordinary it was to have Lou Coppola and his delightful Stereo Strings serenading us this Saturday night at the banquet celebrating the 75th anniversary of the AAA. Lou was the first person to win the AAA's US Virtuoso Competition four times, taking his first trophy when he was 15 years old. His last first place status, at the age of 18, was his ticket for entrance into the Coupe Mondiale. Lou was the first AAA US Virtuoso Champion to be sent to this renowned international classical accordion solo competition (the ATG sent Joan C. Sommers the same year, another first). The year was 1955 and the event was being held in Brighton, England. This was an exciting moment for the AAA! Lou did not take home the first place trophy, but his skills were highly praised by the judges and the audiences in Eng-

land. Lou came home from this exhilarating experience determined that he would spend his life as an accordionist, and he has certainly done just that. His incredible skills, warmth and musical interpretations have pleased audiences through the decades, all over the world, whether playing as a soloist, with the US Air Force Strolling Strings, or with his Stereo Strings. Since his teen years,



Lou Coppola

Lou Coppola, cont'd. from page 7

Lou has been an active supporter of the AAA and we were so pleased to have him as a featured performer at our 75th anniversary celebration!

Growing Up in Bridgeport, Connecticut

A bet with his mother changed Lou's life forever. A member of a music-loving Italian family, Lou had taken a couple of lessons from his mother on the piano and a few from his father on banjo and mandolin. But this 11 year old boy much preferred playing baseball outside every day instead of being inside practicing music. One day, recognizing unique skills in her son, Lou's mother approached him. "I want you to take accordion lessons for one month. If you don't enjoy it, you can quit, and you will never have to study music again." Lou agreed to this bet to please his mother. He was brought to the studio of the highly regarded accordion instructor, Rudy Molinaro. With Rudy's skillful coaching and talent for bonding with young people, the month turned into years, and playing the accordion became his lifelong vocation and avocation. Lou reverently credits Rudy for his outstanding training that has served him so well during his extraordinary career.

Rudy Molinaro's studio was a home away from home for the kids in the Bridgeport area in those days. AAA President, Linda Soley Reed, also studied with Rudy and shared her memories of young Lou:

"Each year, Rudy would leave during the summer months and go back to Italy to visit family and do some touring. He left all of us in the hands of the slightly older, more seasoned students - in particular, Lou Coppola. My mother used to complain, 'I hate paying some kid to give you lessons.' But I could hardly wait for Rudy to leave so I could con Lou into giving me all of the advanced pieces that Rudy felt I wasn't quite ready for - but at the age of 11, I thought I could do it all. And Lou was so adorable in those days... not that he isn't still adorable!

"When Lou received the position with the US Air Force Band, we were all so proud. To Rudy, that was the epitome of his own career - a student leading the US Air Force Strolling Strings. Rudy carried that famous "Camelot" photo of the Stereo Strings at the White House performing for President and Jackie Kennedy with him always. In case anybody missed the article, Rudy always had a copy of it tucked away in his pocket."

The US Air Force Strolling Strings

After Lou returned from England, he settled into teaching at Rudy's studio, performing locally and preparing for college. Lou



Lou Coppola at age 18, 1955

was the first accordionist to be accepted by the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. However, he never ended up going to the college. There was an opening for an accordionist with the US Air Force Band in Washington, DC and Rudy urged Lou to audition. "You'll travel the world," Rudy told his protégé.

On October 23, 1956, Lou was accepted into this most exclusive group of instrumentalists in the US Air Force Band: the accordionists. Rudy's prediction came true. Lou traveled the world during his 28 year tenure with the Air Force Strolling Strings. Lou, who earned the distinction of being the first non-string player to become non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the US Air Force Strings, took this elite group of musicians all over Europe and Asia frequently. The Strings performed for military audiences, for kings, queens, sultans and heads of state, but his most memorable experience was having the opportunity to perform for nine US Presidents at the White House. The Strings performed for State Dinners and official parties many times a year. "I will always treasure the unique memories of those evenings. One of my prized possessions is the photo taken by Jackie Kennedy in the White House private quarters. It was very late after a formal dinner when I found myself in the middle of an impromptu performance of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto 3rd movement with Isaac Stern and Leonard Bernstein, when Mrs. Kennedy took the picture. It is hanging in my office and always will!"

And in his "spare" time...

Lou's Air Force trips were frequent, rehearsals were daily, and yet Lou and his then wife, award-winning accordionist Rose-Marie Bruno Coppola, somehow found the time to open an accordion school in their home. Both were conscientious teachers and many of their students won major competitions, including their two sons, Kevin and John. AAA Governing Board member, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, was not only one of Lou's best students, he was also his first student in the Washington, DC area.

In 1960, Lou, Rose-Marie and Carmelo Pino founded the Accordion Association of Metropolitan Washington. The group, whose members were mostly Washington and Baltimore area accordion teachers, held monthly meetings and hosted a large annual competition. They brought in accordion celebrities to perform and judge - including AAA founders, Charles Magnante and Joe Biviano, as well as Madalena Belfiore, Julie Kasprzyk Cardona, Addie Cere and others.

Lou and Rose-Marie also founded Strolling Strings Associates, Washington, DC's premier string booking agency. They employed hundreds of musicians for many years, performing a wide variety of engagements for top corporations.

Lou went on to found "Stereo Strings", which he continues to operate today. Their past engagements list is one that any performer would envy. From playing for four Rockefeller family weddings, for the grand opening of the Pittsburgh and Reagan National Airports, to working for the city of Atlanta in their successful quest to win the Olympic games in 1996, this group has truly been privileged. They were the only musical group to take part in Atlanta's efforts performing for them in Barcelona, Seoul and Tokyo. The Stereo Strings performed weekly at the Fort Myer Officers' Club in Virginia for 44 years, as well as the Bolling Officers' Club in Washington, DC for 28 years.



Lou & Rose-Marie Coppola with sons, John (l) and Kevin (r)



Here's where the music began . . .

Lou Coppola, cont'd from page 8

What is Lou doing these days?

In the spring of 2012, much to Lou's surprise, he was invited by George Mason University's music department chairman to teach a course in strolling string music at the university. Lou happily accepted the challenge. By the fall semester, he had structured and was teaching, in a formal course setting, a college course for strolling strings. It was a new world for these young music majors. They had to learn chart memorization, choreography strategy, execute ensemble elements and the importance of a wide smile! The university was thrilled with their inaugural performance at the "Opera Night" dinner.

Lou accepted another challenge this past spring. At the urging of his friend Joan Grauman, he played his first solo concert in 56 years for the very fortunate members of the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS). The excitement in the room was like nothing we had ever seen. Lou's entire concert was pure magic! You can hear his solos and his lovely medleys with the Stereo Strings from this event by going to YouTube and typing "Lou Coppola" in the Search box.

If you are visiting the Washington, DC area, you should definitely plan a Sunday brunch at the beautiful Gaylord Conference Center at National Harbor near Alexandria, Virginia, where Lou performs and strolls weekly with a violinist and a bass player.

Lou and the AAA

The AAA has been a part of Lou's life since he first picked up the accordion. He participated in their annual competitions and, as previously mentioned, was the first accordionist to win four national championships. Lou has been an adjudicator and he has been the unofficial "AAA staff photographer" for decades. Through his special association with the AAA, he has also made many lifelong friendships. In Lou's own words:

"I credit the AAA for enabling me to reach and surpass many of my goals. The solid support and continual interest in my progress as a youth has contributed substantially to who I am today. I look back and realize that, through the years, the resources of this great organization have been a tremendous asset to my development as a music professional. The administrators, adjudicators, colleagues and friends of this group were, and are, very important to me! I would not be the same player or person without all of you. You have a special place in my heart. Thank you, AAA!"

A special thank you to Lou from the author, Joan Grauman:

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Lou for the hours and hours he put in helping me gather photographs and historical information on the AAA when I took the job as the Archivist. I cannot imagine how I would have dealt with this enormous undertaking if I didn't have him helping me every step of the way. Aside from my husband, no one supports me and my musical efforts for the AAA and WMAS more than Lou. I appreciate his support, encouragement and friendship more than he will ever know.

For further information:
Joangrauman@
verizon.net ■



Mary Tokarski, Lou and Joan Grauman at Gaylord Conference Center, 2011

Leonard "Skeets" Langley Brings Oktoberfest Joy

Former World Accordion Champion Leonard "Skeets" Langley shared his music for all to enjoy at the Oktoberfest Celebrations, sponsored by the Friends of the Rogers Library which was held at the Rogers Library, 21300 John Millless Drive, Rogers, MN 55374 on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 1 PM.

Leonard "Skeets" Langley started taking accordion lessons when he was 6 years old. His parents, who never played any musical instruments, guessed right that Skeets "had rhythm." Family vacations centered on accordion contests that took him all over the country. Langley excelled, as did his two siblings. It wasn't long before the accordion turned into an "avocation as opposed to a vocation," he said. As a nod to that, Langley, 70, who lives in Champlin with his wife, Rosemary, was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, based in New Ulm, in 2012 for his positive influence on the Minnesota Music Industry. Other 2012 inductees included Koerner, Ray & Glover, a blues band; Leroy Glazier, the late country guitarist; Jerry Minar, a concertina maker and a musician; the Chord-Ayres, a male chorus; and Canoise, a rock band.

Dodie Wendinger, who heads the New Ulm-based Hall of Fame that originated in 1989, said musicians are chosen for the honor based on "their effect on the Minnesota music industry."

In 1963, at the age of 21, he earned the gold medal at the CIA Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships held in Baden-Baden, Germany. The year before he had placed second in the competition in Prague, in the Czech Republic, losing by only one point. He still has the telegram his parents sent to his grandmother which simply states, "Skeets won." It was a life-changing event. Since then, Langley has performed all over the world, from local Oktoberfest celebrations to the well-known Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California.

In the mid-1980s, he played with Luciano Pavarotti in St. Paul. One of his favorite stories is about how Pavarotti reprimanded the conductor for trying to change Langley's expressive approach. "He said, 'Leo, let the man play!'" he said. Langley also collaborated with Norway's Princess Martha Louise on the musical accompaniment for her children's book, "Why Kings and Queens Don't Wear Crowns." ■



Leonard "Skeets" Langley

Actress Mary Steenburgen Finds a New Passion...for the Accordion!

Mary Steenburgen, Oscar winning actress, had minor surgery on her arm. After waking up one day later, she discovered she suddenly had a musical ability for writing songs. She has now written or co-written over 40 songs and was signed as a composer by Universal Music!

Her favorite instrument is the accordion! Mary said, "I'm obsessed by it. I love it beyond belief. There's something about it that just appeals to me. I don't know why." Her husband, former Cheers' star Ted Danson, bought Mary her first accordion on Valentine's Day.

Mary was born February 8, 1953, in Newport, Arkansas, USA. Her mother, Nellie May (Wall) Steenburgen, was a school-board secretary, and her father, Maurice H. Steenburgen, was a freight-train conductor. Her surname comes from distant Dutch ancestry, and has roots that also include English, Scottish, and Welsh.

Young Steenburgen was fond of arts and literature. She grew up tap-dancing her way through talent shows and school functions. She was active in her school drama class. After appearing in a number of high school plays, she enrolled at Hendricks College, a highly progressive Southern School located in Conway, Arkansas.

Upon the recommendation of her drama professor, she left college in 1972 and moved to New York to study acting professionally. In the past several years, Mary Steenburgen has emerged as one of the most accomplished and sought-after screen actresses. Ever since Jack Nicholson 'discovered' her and cast her as a sassy adventuress in his rollicking western, "Goin' South" (1978), her career has skyrocketed and she has won acclaim for exceptional performances in each of her diverse film roles.

In Nicholas Meyer's "Time After Time" (1979),

Steenburgen was afforded critical praise for her portrayal of a somewhat dippy but liberated young bank clerk in San Francisco who crosses paths, via time machine, with English author H.G. Wells (played by Malcolm McDowell), who later became her first husband.

In 1980 she shot to fame with her role as Lynda Dummar in "Melvin and Howard" for which she won Oscar for Best Actress in a Supporting Role. More recently, Steenburgen again impressed audiences and critics alike with her stunning performance as the strong-willed turn-of-the-century mother in "Ragtime" (1981).

Steenburgen is a notable patron of arts. She is also an active supporter of humanitarian causes. She has two children from her previous marriage to actor Malcolm McDowell. Since 1995 she has been married to actor Ted Danson, and the couple are living in the Los Angeles area. ■



Julian Sutton (Melodeon) Featured on Sting's, "The Last Ship"

A new musical, "The Last Ship," will soon sail onto a Broadway stage after a stop in Chicago. Producers announced that the show, inspired by Sting's memories of growing up in a shipbuilding community in northeast England, will appear on Broadway in the fall of 2014 after it makes its world premiere next summer at Chicago's Bank of America Theatre.

The musical has a story by "Red" playwright, John Logan, and "Next to Normal" writer, Brian Yorkey. It will be directed by Joe Mantello, who directed Wicked and have choreography by Steven Hoggett, who did the same for "Once."

The move comes amid a surge in singer-songwriters from the worlds of pop and rock aiming for theatre stages. Sting is joining a list that includes Cyndi Lauper, Sheryl Crow, John Mellencamp, Sarah McLachlan, Tori Amos, Edie Brickell, David Byrne, Fatboy Slim, Burt Bacharach and Elvis Costello.

The Last Ship will come on the heels of Sting's wife, Trudie Styler's off-Broadway debut as an actress and producer. She will star as the fading actress Irina Arkadina in an adaptation of Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull" at the Culture Project.

Sting, a 16-time Grammy Award winner and former lead singer of The Police who was born in Newcastle, has just released his latest album called The Last Ship, inspired by the forthcoming musical. The Last Ship is the eleventh studio album by English musician Sting, released on 24 September 2013. It is his first release of original material since his 2003 album Sacred Love.

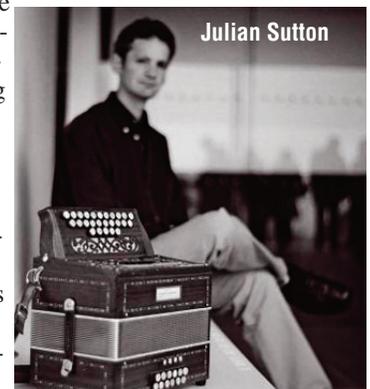
It's a collection of songs for the original play about the destruction of the shipping industry in Newcastle, as well as a meditation on

mortality, community and fatherhood. It will explore the themes of homecoming and self-discovery, drawing upon Sting's memories of growing up, and reminiscing universal truths – the complexity of relationships, the passage of time and the importance of family and community.

The album features guest artists with roots in the northeast of England, including Brian Johnson from AC/DC, Jimmy Nail, The Unthanks, The Wilson Family and Kathryn Tickell and melodeon artist Julian Sutton, who is featured throughout the album.

Brought up in the well-known musical hotbed of Newcastle upon Tyne, Julian has been playing melodeon for longer than he cares to remember. He is probably best known for playing in a band with the renowned Northumbrian piper and composer Kathryn Tickell, with whom he has been working since 1998. He also has a growing reputation as a fairly decent accompanist of traditional song, having recorded and performed with amongst others Scottish singer and songwriter Karine Polwart, The Unthanks, Nuala Kennedy, and multi-award winning Barnsley songstress Kate Rusby.

From time to time, Julian steps out of his comfort zone in order to work with musicians from beyond the folk sphere. Recent



Julian Sutton, Melodeon, cont'd from page 10

projects have involved performing alongside classical percussionist Evelyn Glennie, jazz saxophonist Andy Sheppard, Norwegian brass legends the Brazz Brothers and Anglo-Indian tabla master Juljit Bhamra. His most exciting music adventure to date has been recording with fellow Geordie and celebrated musician Sting for the project, "If On a Winter's Night" and now "The Last Ship."

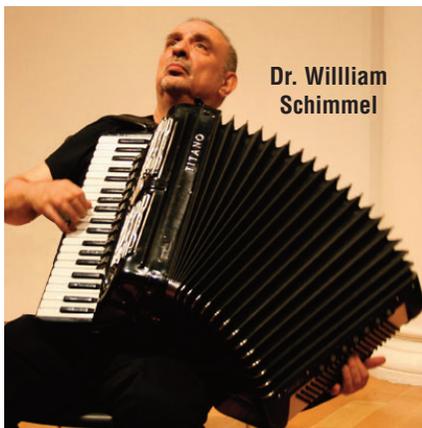
Other on-going musical adventures include The Auvo Quartet (an Anglo-Finnish group rooted in traditional music with a wide range of other influences), the Wendigo (with Stephen Tyler and Anne-Marie Summers of medieval music duo Misericordia) and most recently a duo with French bagpiper Fabrice Besson, playing new compositions influenced by English and French traditional music. He currently teaches at The Sage Gateshead Music Education Center in Gateshead, UK ■

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Dr. William Schimmel's New Chamber Opera

AAA Board Member, Dr. William Schimmel's new chamber opera "SEANTIC: JOSEPHINE" received its premiere on January 29, 2014 at the Gershwin Hotel in New York.

It was commissioned, and will be performed by, The Colonials, a new group that specializes in music that crosses centuries. The scoring is for Accordion (William Schimmel), Baroque Violin (Kristina Giles), Baroque Cello (Paul Dwyer), Baroque Bass (Doug Balliett), Piano (Alexandria Le) and Leading Vocalist. Sharon Harms will be the Leading Lady.



The Colonials are classically-trained musicians who want to make art accessible to everyone. Their programs are designed to show the dialogues and similarities between "old" music (Baroque period to 20th century) and newly written works. The members have diverse training on modern and period instruments, as well as different modern genres such as bluegrass and jazz. Some are composers, too. In their shows, you will be treated to a wide range of music and sounds from an array of instruments, as well as interactive dialogue with the performers, who welcome questions and discussion about the pieces, instruments used, and interpretation.

The Colonials play in non-traditional venues such as cafes/bars, mixed use performance spaces, and living rooms. Shows are informal because they love to have fun and you, the audience, should have fun, too.

Dr. Schimmel supplies the following program notes: There is no plot or linear story. It's a surreal portrait of a woman who assumes the essence of Josephine: 1. Josephine Baker - diva, ex-patriot, worked with French resistance, tried to have a comeback in America, 2. Josephine - wife of Napoleon - complexity and contradiction and 3. La Femme Nikita - anti-terrorist whose secret code name was Josephine. They form a kind of Trinity - 3 in one person.

Instrumentalists serve as commentators, as well as devotees (minions), the singer sings abstract extractions from two Josephine Baker songs - "Blue Skies" and "J'ai Deux Amours." Instrumentalists comment with Alley Oop Josephine - which I took from an actual 1930's radio broadcast in Berlin - the radio announcer

introduced her with: Alley Oop Josephine! The singer performs in one place for entire piece - during instrumental sections, she tries on various types of sunglasses. Instrumentalists form a circle around her - possibly a table with everybody around it and her standing at center - to give a kind of liturgical elegance, a negotiation, the last supper, a corporate board meeting, a surreal Mass, an anti-terrorist assignment or all of the above.

At each accordion chord at the end, the players keel over one by one as if being shot. Josephine picks up a cell phone and holds that pose. The instrumentalist get up (from the dead) for bows indicating the end of the opera - turning a tragedy into a dark comedy. All of the real action is internalized. Who is she? What really happened?

Dr. Schimmel said, "Some of the films that inspired me to do this opera are: "Persona" - Ingmar Bergman - two women merge as one; "That obscure object of Desire" - Luis Bunuel - one part played by two women; "La Femme Nikita" - TV series in the late 90's; "Diva," a French New Wave film of the 1980s about an Opera singer who refuses to record; "The Tenth Victim," a cult film of the 1960's starring Ursula Andress that inspired the "Hunger Games".

If a singer is not available, the vocal part can be done by the accordionists assuming the role as a surreal "storyteller" telling the story (or non story) from the accordion but, of course, the ideal solution is a female singer of any nationality or age.

For further information: Billschimmel@billschimmel.com ■

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Peter Soave Performs with Symphony Orchestra

World Champion accordionist Peter Soave performed several concerts in the USA and Canada last Fall.

He opened his October schedule performing with the Midland Symphony Orchestra, in Midland, MI on October 5th as part of the orchestra's opening night. The Midland Symphony Orchestra is comprised of professional musicians from throughout the state providing Mid-Michigan with excellence in symphonic music since 1936. Peter performed Astor Piazzolla's Aconcagua, Concerto for Bandoneón.



Moving to Canada, he then performed with the Palm Court Symphony Orchestra and the DieMahler Chamber Ensemble. In addition to his Canadian performances, he also presented a Master Class and Private Lesson opportunities while in residence in Victoria, BC.

The concerts with the Palm Court Orchestra, titled "Flying Down to Rio" with Peter as soloist, took listeners on a journey to Latin America. The concert program included: "The Golden Tango" (Silvester); "Estrellita" (Ponce); "Peanut Vendor" (Simons); "Milonga, Song of Elizabeth and Angela" (Romero); "El Choclo" (Villolda); "Cinema Paradiso" (Morricone); "Jealousy" (Gade); "El Relicario" (Padilla); "The Girl from Ipanema" and "Desafinado" (Jobim); "Brazil" (Barroso); Selections: "West Side Story" (Bernstein); "Ave Maria," "Oblivion," and "Libertango" (Piazzolla).

Recognized worldwide as one of the foremost masters of the concert accordion and bandoneon, Peter has established himself as one of the leading soloists of his generation. The hallmark of his performances is his unique combination of commanding stage presence and the excitement of his vibrant virtuosity. For all other information about Peter Soave, please visit www.petersoave.com ■

CBS Story on Accordion Resurgence

Joe Recchia, President of the Michigan Accordion Society, reported that the Michigan Accordion Society was contacted by CBS News, to do a three-part story on the resurgence of the Accordion.

Marie Osborne of WWJ Radio Detroit contacted the Michigan Accordion Society regarding a story about the Michigan Accordion Society and the accordion after attending their November (2013) Music Event where she interviewed several of their members.

The story "Step Aside Electronic Music, There's A New Accordion," appeared on CBS. Readers can see some of the archived material from the story by visiting

www.michiganaccordion.org/inthenews.html ■

Popular Mesa Accordion Event to End in 2014

2006 was the year that Joan and Dan Grauman received a phone call from Frank Marocco asking if they would run an accordion orchestra camp for him. "Why us?" we asked. "We have never done anything like this!" We loved and tremendously respected Frank, so his faith in us had us saying OK before the phone call had ended.

The Graumans reported that "the first camp was so exciting." Several friends that we had met at other accordion events signed up immediately and

helped to create the magical atmosphere that has been a constant since that first beautiful and successful camp in January 2007. Working with the sweet, gentle Frank Marocco was delightful for all who attended. We had 38 accordionists in that first orchestra. By the second year, our "Frank Marocco Accordion Event" orchestra had 56 members with a waiting list of 40. Along with spouses, siblings and friends, we have averaged around 80 attendees (we will have 80 this coming February), and our concerts regularly draw an audience of around 350 people.

Each year has been a new adventure, always filled with much laughter, great music and cherished friendships. From the start, the camp has been a place where everyone, from novice to renowned professional, could enjoy time together in a non-competitive, relaxed environment. The lovely blue skies, palm trees, fountains and warmth of Mesa, Arizona helped greatly to attract accordionists from all over the world. For the past several years, we have had campers from as many as eighteen states, three Canadian provinces, and Castelfidardo, Italy.

Many lifelong friendships have been made at this event. Each year's event is a sweet reunion for the returnees and is always a welcoming and warm experience for the new campers. Our terrific "staff" help to make things run smoothly from start to finish. Bruce Lawrie, our amazing photographer and sound technician, has been with us since the first event. He provides us with hundreds of beautiful, professional-quality photos annually, sets up the sound equipment for all activities and also plays in the orchestra! Our videographer, Mike Roche, has created beautiful videos of all of our evening events and concerts since 2008. We could not run this event without the constant, generous assistance of these two men!

We have had world-renowned guest artists through the years such as Stas Venglevski's wife, cellist Roza Borisova, domra and mandolin great Misha Litvin, and accordionists Eddie Monteiro, Mary Tokarski, Joe Natoli and Stas Venglevski. In 2009, Frank asked Stas to be our Assistant Music Director. Stas has delighted us for years with his sense of humor, sensational performances, compositions and arrangements, and skills as a conductor. With Frank's sad, untimely passing in 2012, Stas has become the Music Director of our camp, now called the "Mesa Accordion Event".

Two of our campers, Frank Petrilli and Gail Campanella, who came to the camp as recreational accordionists, have now become celebrated and sought-after performers. Young camper, Gabe Hall-Rodrigues, started playing accordion after attending our 2009 concert in Mesa. At our following event in January 2010, Gabe had progressed so much, under the tutelage of Ilmar Kuljus, that we all encouraged him to compete in the AAA Festival that would take place in July. He did, and the 2010 AAA US Virtuoso Champion was our Gabe! Bass player, Sean Brogan, and percussionist, Was Ander-



Dan & Joan Grauman

continued on page 13

Mesa Accordion Event, cont'd. from page 12

son, have been with us annually - to the delight of all - and are now performing professionally all over the country with Gabe and also with Frank Petrilli.

We are very excited about our upcoming event in February, as we will be celebrating the 80th birthday of world renowned educator, arranger and conductor, Joan Cochran Sommers. Stas will once again be our conductor and Music Director. Joan Sommers will be our Concertmistress and will also conduct the orchestra in two pieces.

Saying goodbye to this event has been very, very hard for us, but also quite necessary. Since the first camp eight years ago, two of our children have married and our youngest is now engaged. We are the very happy and proud grandparents of three young children who live in Texas (we live in Maryland). We simply need to spend more time with our family. However, we will never forget the wonderful times spent in Mesa with our cherished accordion family!

The final Mesa Accordion Event concert will take place at the Arizona Golf Resort in Mesa on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 7 pm.

For more information about the concert, please email Joan and Dan at mesa.accordion@verizon.net. ■



Stas Venglevski and Joan Sommers



Participants in a recent Mesa Accordion Event

Busy Year for Jane Christison

Kansas City-based accordionist Jane Christison has received much acclaim in 2013 for her CD "Come Sing Along with Janie Next Door" Her list of awards includes:

1. Creative Child Awards – 2013 CD of the Year – Kids Sing and Dance Category
2. Recipient of the prestigious Mom's Choice Award
3. Winner of a Tillywig Toy & Media – Sterling Fun Award
4. Approved by Parents' Choice
5. Family Approved by the Dove Foundation

Jane's next marketing project involves contacting as many libraries as possible for presenting programs. This idea came as a result of the CD being favorably reviewed in the School Library Journal in March, 2013. Additionally there have been two articles about her CD in "Pan Pipes," the Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity's quarterly magazine.

Jane is always moving forward and onto the next project. Her plans include a second CD for which she has already written six songs. In addition to children's programs, Jane entertains at nursing homes, retirement communities and memory care facilities. She has performed at over 1,000 since November of 2000.

Jane Christison is an accomplished accordionist and entertainer, playing and singing many styles of music. She performs upbeat and engaging 45-minute programs for seniors, retirement communities and nursing homes. Her personality and enthusiasm for playing the accordion are in demand as well for conventions, theme parties and other celebrations. And Jane is introducing a whole new generation to the joy of music by writing songs for children and performing as "Janie Next Door."

Jane studied serious accordion literature with Joan Cochran Sommers at the University of Missouri- Kansas City Conservatory of Music and graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in accordion performance. She has been featured as a guest artist at accordion festivals throughout the US, performing and presenting workshops.

Video versions of two of her workshops, "Playing the Accordion for Fun and Fame!" and "Squeezing Money Out of Your Accordion" are available through her company, Music With A Smile Productions, L.L.C., as is her children's CD "Come Sing Along with Janie Next Door."

She feels fortunate to have been able to combine two of her favorite things, music and travel. As a member of USO Shows, she toured the Far East, playing at military bases in Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan, the Philippines and Guam. A second USO tour took her to the Azores and Germany. As a member of the UMKC Accordion Orchestra, Jane has performed in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, England, Scotland, Sweden, Russia, Estonia, Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Italy.

Her CD is a great gift idea, providing hours of musical fun. For further information: janec@musicwithasmile.com ■

Jane Christison



Janie Next Door

Summer Sunshine Featuring Joan Sommers and Stas Venglevski

In honor of Joan Cochran Sommers' 80th Birthday, well known accordionist Stas Venglevski has released a new CD of works for Accordion Duo – "Summer Sunshine" recorded with Joan as duet partner.

The CD features 14 original works including (1) The Carnival, (2) Invention, (3) Sommers Fantasy, (4) Three Waltzes - Bravo, (5) Three Waltzes - For Two, (6) Three Waltzes - Musika, (7) Agony Tango, (8) Rainy Day, (9) Polka Accelerando, (10) In The Forest (11) Drunken Tune, (12) In the Mood, (13) Promised Tune and (14) Summer Sunshine. Several of the tracks also feature Michael Britz (bass) and Andy Lo Duco (drums).

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 the accordion orchestra over many years, often for the UMKC Accordion Orchestra which, under her direction, competed in and won more First Prizes in Virtuoso Accordion Orchestra Competitions than any other similar American group.

In both 1955 and 1956 she earned the right to represent the USA in the Coupe Mondiale and, although she didn't win, it was those experiences which opened her eyes to the tremendous opportunities available to accordionists; perhaps it also fixed her life-long interest in worldwide accordion activities. Most recently, she celebrated the 50th Anniversary of her UMKC Accordion Orchestra when they presented their 50th Gala Concert at the University.

As the arranger, Joan has had many years of experience as a teacher, a conductor, and an arranger for accordion orchestras at all levels. Many of these arrangements were used by her own orchestras in competitions held throughout the USA and on the many tours made by her groups overseas as well. The large symphonic accordion orchestras under her direction, and several times with the youngest average age for members, earned more First Place Virtuoso Accordion Orchestra Awards than any other American accordion orchestras. This is a record still unbroken today.

Joan C. Sommers has held positions in several music organizations, including the Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG) and the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA – IMA-UNESCO). Professor Sommers continues to adjudicate, coach soloists, prepare accordion orchestra arrangements, and conduct accordion orchestras regularly, and now proudly serves as a CIA Vice President. At the CIA, she founded the spectacular World Accordion Orchestra which has presented concerts all over the world from Scotland to China to New Zealand, and this year will present its eighth edition in Salzburg, Austria in early November.

Artistry, dazzling technical command, and sensitivity have brought Stanislav, "Stas," Venglevski, a native of the Republic of Moldova, part of the former Soviet Union, increasing acclaim as a virtuoso of the Bayan. A two-time first prize winner of Bayan competition in the Republic of Moldova, Stas is a graduate of the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow where he received his Masters Degree in Music under the tutelage of the famed Russian Bayanist, Friedrich Lips. In 1992 he immigrated to the United States.

Stas is an Accordionist, a Musician, an Arranger, an Entertainer and a Teacher. Stas' repertoire includes his original compositions, a broad range of classical, contemporary and ethnic music. He has toured extensively as a soloist throughout the former Soviet Union, Canada, Europe, and the United States, including numerous performances with Doc Severinsen, Steve Allen and with Garrison Keillor on the "Prairie Home Companion" show. Additionally, he has performed with symphony orchestras throughout the United States. He performed the world premiere of Concerto No. 2 by Anthony Galla-Rini and also the world premiere of Bayan and Beyond, composed for Stas by Dan Lawitts. He is a regular participant at the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Arts in Community Education Program (ACE); has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra; has done television commercials and performed in theater productions as well as produce numerous recordings.

Together, these two diverse accordionists have combined their passion and expertise in the field of the accordion to bring a fresh and artistic take to Stas's original works which span a variety of styles from the humorous to melancholy to musette and more. For more information, please visit www.stasv.com. ■



Coupe Mondiale Qualifying Categories will be held at the
AAA Festival July 9-13, 2014.

Coupe Mondiale rules will be strictly adhered to.

Candidates selected will represent USA-AAA at the 2014 Coupe Mondiale in
Salzburg, Austria – October 27-November 2, 2014

Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society News

WMAS has had a very busy and enjoyable fall/winter season. September's meeting featured our annual Oktoberfest. Bavarian music was performed, the dance group "Bayrisch and Steirisch", led by Herb Frederickson, performed and taught dances, and we had a jam session with a new Oktoberfest music book prepared for the club. Joe Natoli came in October as our fall guest artist and delighted everyone with his amazing skills and compositions. For the past ten years, November brings us an always enjoyable concert with Jim Vandelly on bayan and piano accordion, followed by our annual open rehearsal of the holiday orchestra. The 11th annual WMAS Holiday Concert/Dinner in December was another huge success. 24 accordionists participated in the orchestra, directed by Joan Grauman, and soloists and small ensembles played throughout the evening. A flea market held at this event took in \$560 which was donated to the college fund for the children of accordionist Amy Hatfield, who passed away in September.

2014 started off with a well-received large jam session at the January meeting. WMAS will celebrate its 11th birthday in February with a festive dance evening. In March, an international festival is being planned featuring Chinese, Bulgarian and Jewish folk music with costume displays and ethnic foods. April will feature Pat Racioppa. He will perform for us and give a workshop on repairing accordions.

Please join us if you are in the Washington, DC area! Visit our website for more information: www.washingtonaccordions.org ■



Remembering Jean Carrozza

We were sad to learn that Jean Carrozza passed away on January 4, 2014, after a long illness. She died peacefully at her home, surrounded by her family. She was married to the late, great classical accordionist, Carmen Carrozza, who passed away less than 7 months ago.

Jean was a truly loving mother and grandmother; a caring sister, aunt and friend. She was always at Carmen's side, a supportive and devoted wife, and the best partner anyone could ask for. They were a great team.

Jean was born in Solano, Italy where she earned her teaching degree. She immigrated to the United States in 1947, and married Carmen in 1952. Jean worked as a teacher's aide in the Chappaqua Schools for 15 years, a job she deeply enjoyed. She was a fantastic cook and an impeccable hostess.

Jean was known for her grace, warmth and dignity, which triumphed over her illness. She accompanied Carmen to every concert, event and tribute, and will always be remembered for her kind manner and welcoming smile.

Jean is survived by her daughter Marianne Carrozza-Smith (Larry Smith), son Carmen Carrozza (Adriana Shepherd-Carrozza), her four grandchildren: Joseph, Sofia, Derek and Lucas, her brother Pasquale Carrozza and 24 nieces and nephews; who will hold her in their hearts forever.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Carrozza's memory to the Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund, 175 King St. Chappaqua, NY 10514. Attention Joseph Ciccone. ■



Pictured above are Jean and Carmen Carrozza at an AAA Carrozza Scholarship Fund Dinner at Magnanini Winery.

2013, A Very Busy Year Mary Tokarski, Accordionist

This has been one incredible year for me . . . trips to China, Italy and Canada . . . 2 World Premieres . . . and lots of other exciting happenings! The year started out with a trip to China with the Mantovani Orchestra for a Christmas tour . . . yes, a Christmas tour in China!

I never thought there was such a thing as "Christmas" in China – but boy was I wrong. From the moment we arrived in China (December 22nd to be exact) to the time we left (January 7th), signs of Holiday spirit exploded everywhere. As a nation, I don't think they quite understand what Christmas means, but it sure was entertaining to see the differences of expression everywhere. Decorations ranged from those that looked as if a 3 year old created them, and those that were absolutely phenomenal! I think the best was the tall, skinny Christmas tree, with meager decorations, and the Chinese Santa Claus standing next to it – tall, thin, short white beard, and dressed in a gold lame outfit (kind of reminded me of Elvis).

Aside from the constantly amusing decorations, the trip and the performances were outstanding . . . as is always the case on a Mantovani Tour. This one was grueling though . . . we did 13 concerts in 14 days . . . flights almost every day, and almost always a "middle of the night" departure time. We all grumbled,

but all the musicians are true professionals, so everything went magnificently. These musicians are just plain amazing people.

The next major event I had to prepare for was an Irish CD kick-off event . . . yep IRISH music! Last year, I had the privilege of performing with a wonderful group of musicians collaborating on an Irish CD with Michael Jovovich, an amazing tenor vocalist. The musicians were great fun to work with - very spontaneous, and creative. The CD turned out great, and this was the announcement concert. I haven't had this much fun in a long time . . . thanks guys (I was the only female too)!

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A Very Busy Year, cont'd. from page 15

The Schubert Club of Fairfield County, The Fairfield Jewish Home for the Aged, and an appearance at the American Accordion Musical Society's tribute to Beverly Roberts in March made the winter fly by quickly.

As a yearly adjudicator for the Accordion Teachers' Association of Massachusetts annual Festival and Competition, I've watched many youngsters grow into fine musicians. Now called the New England Music Festival, this event is always a great place to hear and see the music and enthusiasm of multitudes of young musicians and their families.

In honor of the great Carmen Carrozza, every year the AAA sponsors a Carrozza Scholarship event, this year at the Villa Barone in Mahopac, NY. With Valtaro greats like Mario Tacca, Mary Mancini, Domenic Karcic, Ray Oreggia, Frankie Carozza and Emilio Magnotta, the air was full of great music, dancing and accordion camaraderie . . . "fun" for short. I did a quick dance set with drummer Ricky Sorentino – which seemed to come as quite a shock to the audience (most of whom know me only as a classical artist, not as a dance gig musician). It was great fun for me. Beverly Roberts Curnow and I did a tribute to Carmen Carrozza (who was not able to attend due to his ailing condition) and played Carmen's original composition "Cascade" as a duet – to the delight of the audience.

I have had a lifetime filled with great experiences – but seeing my students achieve successes has been a bigger thrill than you can imagine! Two of my students were presented as Guest Artists at the Connecticut Accordion Association's meeting in April. Tor Stumo and Nathan Chapeton surpassed my highest expectations and presented a 45 minute concert for the CAA – and of course, it wouldn't be complete if I didn't play something with them . . . "The Fox And The Hound" by Frank Mucedola ended the program with a bang. Keep up the good work, guys!

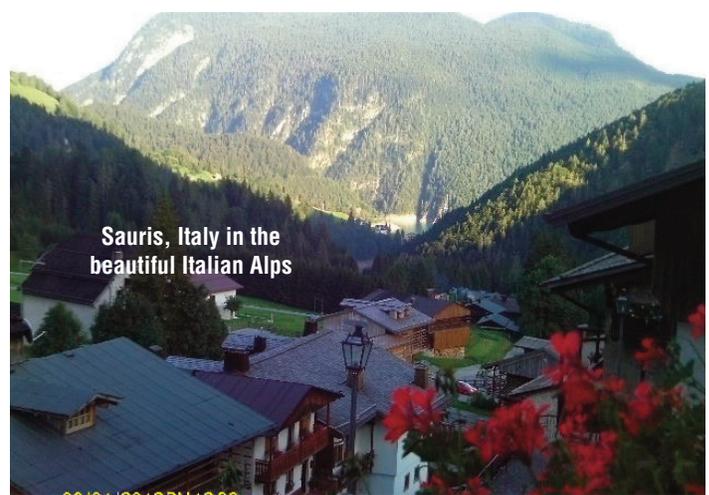
Wow, we're only up to April!! (What a year.) May was spent mostly learning and preparing new music for the coming events of the summer, but I took time to appear as a guest on the Italian House Party Radio Show hosted by Tony Magno on Hartford's radio station WWUH (University of Hartford).

June is always a busy month, and this year was no different – student recital, a few local performances, an appearance at the Long Island Accordion Alliance, and a "World Premiere" of Karen Fremar's new work *Sapphire* - written especially for me! The world premiere was in Kansas City on June 15th at the All Souls Unitarian Church with Karen playing an accompaniment part, and Janne Silberberg on Hand Drums (pictured below). The

trip to Kansas City was not complete until we went into the UMKC recording studio and laid down tracks for *Sapphire* . . . soon to be released on one of Karen's CDs and mine as well. Keep your eyes peeled

Recording sessions are always fun (a bit nerve wrecking, but overall fun), and this year's sessions were plentiful for me. I had the privilege to go into the studio once again with Peggy Friedland (flute from Boston area), Gretchen Frazier and Patti Smith (viola and cello from New Haven area) to record "Tango Blues". I did the world premiere of this tango-jazz fusion piece by Roger Davidson back in 2011 in Charleston, SC. The tracks are laid down, and it will be part of the AAA's Commissioned Works CD being released soon!

Summer means R&R right? Not here . . . off to Italy for the Peter Soave Music Academy at Sauris, Italy, way up high in the Italian Alps. 2 weeks of great musicians, great fun, lots of learning experiences, teaching, concerts . . . did I leave anything out?



Sauris, Italy in the beautiful Italian Alps

Yes, great experiences with "friends" – old and new!

I needed a vacation when I came home from this one . . . but that's when the preparations for the AAA's 75th Anniversary Festival really kicked into high gear. No rest here!

August 14-18, 2013 was "Accordion Heaven" for the AAA in New York City. An International Concert filled with stars from other countries celebrating the AAA's 75th birthday (Musikforum Orching from Bavaria, Mirco Patarini from Italy, Cathie Travers from Australia, Lionel Reekie from New Zealand, Maricarmen Vazquez and Gerardo Aguillon from Cuba/Florida, and The Old Aker Band from Norway); a romp in Bryant Park, complete with accordion entertainment in EVERY corner of the park throughout the day; a Gala Concert without comparison (Dr. Robert Young McMahan and William Trigg, percussion, Dr. William Schimmel, Joseph Natoli, The "K" Duo [Mary Tokarski and Julie Cardona], a world premiere of Joseph Natoli's "Tarantella Fuoco" by the composer and Mary Tokarski, Alex Poueleuv (featuring some of his own works and joined by his wife Liza); and an Anniversary Banquet with Filet Mignon and Salmon right along with the Festival Orchestra performance. This year's repertoire included "Les Miserables" featuring New Zealand's Lionel Reekie on Vocal (scored and conducted by Joan Sommers), Pietro's Return conducted by President Linda Soley Reed, and Paul Creston's "Fantasy for Accordion and Orchestra" with soloist Mary Tokarski, and the one and only Joan Cochran Sommers as Conductor -- and arranger of the score for accordion orchestra. To top off the evening, AAA's first US Champion, Lou Coppola, with the Stereo Strings entertained throughout dinner.

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Mary Tokarski performing with Karen Fremar for the world premiere of Karen's new work, *Sapphire*.



THE AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

Proudly Presents the 12th Annual

Afternoon of Music, Food and Fun

Sunday, April 6, 2014 • 12 noon until 5:00 p.m.

Magnanini Farm Winery

172 Strawridge Road • Wallkill, NY 12589

to benefit

THE CARMEN CARROZZA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For the advancement of promising young accordionists!



FEATURING: Dr. Joseph Ciccone, Chairman, Lenny Feldmann, Master of Ceremonies, Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo, Mary Tokarski and Julie Cardona (The "K" Duo). Frank Carozza, Ray Oreggia & Dominic Karcic, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Emilio Magnotta, Anita & Bob Siarkowski Plus the CT Accordion Orchestra, Linda Soley Reed, Conductor - *Special Guest Young Artists - Albert Manginelli, Cody McSherry and Rachel Quirbach*

RESERVE NOW! Donation of \$65.00 per person includes wine tasting at 12 noon, complete dinner including Antipasto, Homemade Soup, Homemade Tagliatelle with tomato/basil cream sauce, Mixed Garden Fresh Salad with homemade balsamic vinaigrette, Roast Veal and Chicken (or Pork Roast and Chicken), Vegetable, Potato, Dessert and Coffee. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ (at \$65.00 per person made payable to the AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION for _____ attendees or charge my credit card below.

I / We cannot attend, however, enclosed is a tax deductible donation to the Carrozza Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
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Charge my MasterCard/Visa/Discover Acct. No.

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

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AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

Attention: Dr. Joseph A. Ciccone • 175 King Street • Chappaqua, NY 10514
(914) 238-0041 • FAX: (914) 238-0393 • drjccicone@aol.com

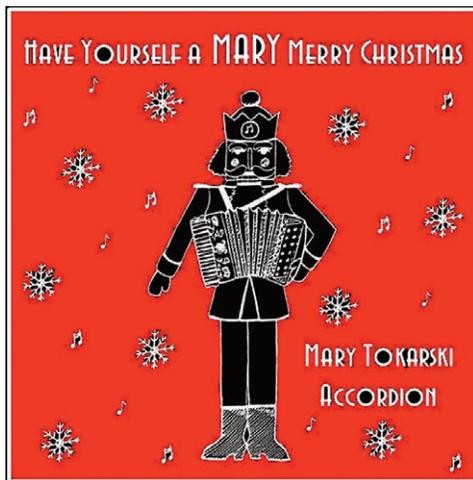
Please RSVP
on or before
March 20, 2014

All in all – a magnificent event . . . oh, forgot one of the most important parts . . . all those wonderful presenters who gave us insight into the Founding Members through their workshops. Thanks to every one of you.

Well, not quite done yet – off to Victoria, Canada for the 66th Annual CIA Coupe Mondiale, serving as a delegate for the AAA and an adjudicator for the event. The U.S. had 5 representatives in the event, each of whom represented us with pride and distinction – Sam Thomas and Jamie Maschler both from Spokane, Washington in the Virtuoso Entertainment Division, Tor Stumo (Connecticut/Massachusetts) and Rachel Quirbach (New Hampshire) in the Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Division and En Canto (Jamie Maschler's group) in the Ensemble Division. We hope that they will use the experience to return to the Coupe again and make their mark (and one for the U.S. as well).

September finally rolled around with a bit of free time for me – well, no traveling at least. That left me time to get into the recording studio to do my Christmas CD. My time at Horizon Music Group in West Haven, CT with Vic Steffens as Recording Engineer is always fun and rewarding, and this one (my 7th album) turned out to be one of the most enjoyable experiences of all. I'm not a big fan of Christmas music and I had procrastinated about it for a long time.

My new CD "Have Yourself a



Mary Merry Christmas" (thanks to Joan Grauman for designing the cover and Dan Grauman for the creative title) was released on October 27th at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas. Paul Pasquali gathers the world's best musicians in one place for this magnificent event, providing concerts every lunch and dinner; workshops all day long; orchestra rehearsals with Maestra Joan Cochran Sommers; along with great camaraderie and friendships to last a lifetime. If you've never attended this event, you're missing out on a great accordion event. Maybe I'll see you there this year!

"Four Saints in Three Acts" is an opera based on the poetry of Gertrude Stein, with music by Virgil Thomson. I had the opportunity to perform with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project at Jordan Hall on the New England Conservatory of Music Campus in Boston for the presentation of the opera. Rehearsals for the 90 minute opera were only 2 ½ hours long for 3 days, with a dress rehearsal and a Saturday evening performance on November 16, 2013.

The Opera was well-received by the Boston musical audience. Here's a quote from the review by Joseph E. Morgan in the Boston Musical Intelligencer (a virtual journal and blog of the classical music scene in Boston): "BMOP rendered the opera in an excellent fashion. Maestro Rose conducted a precise yet warm interpretation and balanced the minimal wind section against a stage-full of strings. Special mention goes to Mary Tokarski on accordion for an authenticity that avoided her instrument's tendency for cliché."

As the saying goes: No rest for the weary. December proved to be busy too! There were performances with the Schubert Club of Fairfield County, the Branford Musical Arts Society, The Accordion Pops Orchestra, the Connecticut Accordion Orchestra and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Concert in addition to preparing for the Christmas and New Year's Celebration.

2014 is looking equally busy for me, and I have all of YOU to thank for that – you've made 2013 my best year ever! ■

AAA Festival 2014

GUEST ARTISTS

**Vladimir Mollov
Dallas Vietty
Frank Carozza
and more**

**Competitions
Workshops
Exhibits**

***Back by popular demand -
The Founder's competition
categories and workshops!***



Dallas Vietty

**July 9-13, 2014
Double Tree
Tarrytown, NY**

Coast to Coast

...a sampling of accordion events across the USA!

The following are the events that "were" scheduled for September. Contact the individual organizations for updates.



Minot, ND

The Norsk Høstfest Accordion Club gathered more than 200 hundred accordionists on October 03, 2013 as part of the annual Norsk Høstfest which takes place from Septmeber 30-October 4, 2014.

The accordionists representing some 20 states and Canadian provinces assemble once a year at Høstfest to perform. Norsk Høstfest has become known for many traditions, one of which is the Accordion Club gathering. Norsk Høstfest is a non profit Scandinavian Festival held annually in the fall in the All Seasons Arena on the North Dakota State Fairgrounds in Minot, N.D., USA.

The festival was founded in 1978 by the late Chester Reiten and a group of friends who shared his interest in celebrating their Nordic heritage. The festival, now entering into its 36th year, has grown into North America's largest Scandinavian festival with tens of thousands of people attending from all over the world.

The festival features world-class entertainment, lots of accordion music, authentic Scandinavian cuisine, Scandinavian culture on display, hand-crafted Norsk merchandise, plus a fine dining establishment lead by guest chefs. Norsk Høstfest celebrates Scandinavian culture from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. For more information, please visit: www.hostfest.com.

Branford, CT

The Connecticut Accordion Orchestra (CAA) Orchestra performed in concert on Saturday, December 14 at the Blackstone Memorial Library in Branford, CT. This is an annual free concert. The orchestra consists of 21 accordionists, plus a percussionist, and is conducted by AAA President Linda Soley Reed. The program included: "Cantique Noel", A Medley of Christmas songs entitled "On Christmas Eve," "Sleigh Ride", "Jingle Bell

Rock/Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" (arranged by CAA member and AAA Board Member Don Gerundo), "Moon River" (arranged by Frank Marocco), and "Tarrantella Amore". In addition to the orchestra, AAA Board member Mary Tokarski performed solo pieces and duets with her sister, Julie Cardona.

Orchestra members include: Mary Tokarski, Julie Cardona, Don Gerundo, Ginger Grider, Marilyn O'Neil, Kathleen Di Cocco, Sandy Zera, Bob Vitale, Gerry Hertel, Jeanine Cariri, Bob Czarniecki, Art Daigle, Pam D'Angelo, Dorothy Gondek, Mary Mascolo, Steve Balog, Michael Dran, Art Piel, Ken Reed, Rev. Mark Schaarschmidt, Fred Schwinger, Walter Ziemba, Mike Rasimas, Percussion and Ralph Corbo, guitar.

For further information about the orchestra, please contact: Marilyn@CTAccordion.com.

East Northport, NY

La Villini Restaurant is sponsored the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) and Accordion Open Mic Night on Wednesday, January 8th where everyone was invited to bring instruments and play a couple of pieces.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 and will feature the noted Croatian accordionist Paolo Belanich. La Villini Restaurant is located at 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731. Dinner reservations are required and may be made by calling: **631-261-6344**.

Kansas City, MO

Well known London-based Lithuanian accordionist, Martynas Levickis performed with David Garrett (renowned violinist) in St. Louis at the Fox Theater on January 10th and in Kansas City, at the Midland Theater on January 12.

Martynas Levickis is a Bachelor graduate of the London Royal Acad-

emy of Music (in the class of Prof. Owen Murray). During his studies in London the performer has also participated in various music projects, such as collaborating with the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Birmingham City Symphony Orchestra, and he has worked with composers Ch. Hazelwood and V. Giergiev. He has given solo recitals in the H. Purcell, Queen Elizabeth, Kings Place and Tate Gallery Concert Halls. A regular visitor to the USA, Martynas has featured at top competitions at the American Accordionists Association (AAA) and Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG). His latest CD 'Martynas' reached the top of the Classical Music Charts in the United Kingdom, a first for any accordionist!

Hampton, NJ

The Accordion Pops Orchestra conducted by Al Terzo will present a memorial tribute to the great Carmen Carrozza on Sunday, April 27th, 2014 at 2.00 PM at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, New Jersey.

Lenny Feldmann will be the commentator and Master of Ceremonies. Havard Svensrud, virtuoso accordionist from Norway will be the featured artist. All proceeds will be donated to the Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund. Dinner and Concert tickets are \$50.00. For tickets and information: Rosemarie Cavanaugh **732-257-8198**

Northford, CT

Wellknown accordion soloist Mary Tokarski released her Christmas Album, "Have Yourself a Mary Merry Christmas". Mary reports that it was great fun choosing music that represents Christmas to her, some old favorites, along with some classics and hopefully some accordion originals that will become listeners new favorites!

Have Yourself a Mary Merry Christmas! CD Includes: March of the Toys, Moon River, On Thin Ice, Shopping Center Suite (Let's Go Shopping,

In the Bookstore, Super Market, Coffee Shop and Arcade), March from "The Nutcracker", Polonaise in A Major, Ave Maria, Parade of the Wooden Soldiers, O Holy Night, Slippery Slope and Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

You can get your copy by ordering from www.accordions.com/mary

Atlanta, GA

The Atlanta Accordion Club will begin its 10th year in January 2014. The group meets monthly at the 5 Seasons Restaurant, at the Prado, and is fortunate to have several professional accordionists and accordion teachers that actively support the club. Players at all skill levels are encouraged to participate. Visit the club's website for meeting dates, times, and directions.

<https://sites.google.com/site/atlantaaccordionclub/home>

Peekskill, NY

Renowned accordionist and AAA Second Vice President Mario Tacca, in conjunction with his wife Mary Mancini, acclaimed Soprano presented a spectacular finale to their 2013 concert season when they performed their annual 'A Candlelight Christmas' Concert in Peekskill, NY.

Performing works by Bach, Handel, Mozart and Vivaldi as well a special Poetry presentation, Mario and Mary were assisted by the Victor Lionti String Quartet and Randy Smith, Percussion.

To begin their 2014 season, Mario and Mary will be performing February 1, 2014 Carnevale at Magnanini Winery, Wallkill, NY and on February 22 at the Carnevale - Italian American Club in Marco Island, FL from 6:00 pm-10:30 pm. On March 4 they will perform with the Hollandale Pops Florida and on March 23 with the Coral Springs Pops. For more information and upcoming concerts, please visit www.gioiaproduct.com.

American Accordionists' Association
c/o M. Kendrick
120 Valley View Road
Stratford, CT 06614

