



# Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

JANUARY 2013

## Here's What's Happening at AAA in 2013

### MARCH 16, 2013

Coupe Mondiale qualifying categories.  
*See article on this page*

### MARCH 17, 2013

2:00 pm  
Open Meeting  
Hanover Marriott  
1401 Route 10 East  
Whippany, NJ  
*See page 6*

### APRIL 21, 2013

Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund – Dinner & Dancing  
Villa Barone Hilltop Manor  
Mahopac, NY  
*See enclosed flyer.*

### JULY 26-28, 2013

Master Class and Concert Series - The Seminars  
*The Accordion is 3D*  
Terri Cultural Institute  
43A W13th Street, NYC  
Moderator/Curator  
William Schimmel  
*See page 7*

### AUGUST 14-18, 2013

AAA 75th Anniversary  
The New Yorker Hotel  
8th Ave. at 34th Street  
New York, NY



## From the Editor

Welcome to the January 2013 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

As we begin the New Year, it is already shaping up to be an exciting 12 months, full of spectacular accordion events anchored by our own organization's 75th Anniversary to be celebrated in New York City in August.

My sincere thanks go to our AAA President Linda Reed for her kind assistance in the production of this bi-monthly Newsletter which is now celebrating its first anniversary! I would also like to extend a special thank you to my fellow Board of Director Rita Davidson for helping gather and research the News articles, and to all the members who have been able to submit items for publication.

Items for the March Newsletter can be sent to me at [goaccordion@yahoo.com](mailto:goaccordion@yahoo.com). Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that none of the items are missed when they 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 or similar image 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 2013 edition will be the 15th of February.

I wish you all the very best that 2013 has to offer, a year full of wonderful music and friendship, and look forward to reporting on all of your events in our upcoming publications.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



## AAA Coupe Mondiale Qualifying Competitions to be Held in March

To accommodate the time frame of the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Anniversary Festival being held back to back with the 66th Coupe Mondiale, the AAA will hold their qualifying competitions for the seven categories of CIA Competitions on March 16, 2013 at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany, NJ during the MAMTG Festival, allowing candidates sufficient time to prepare for the Coupe Mondiale in August.

Meanwhile plans are moving forward for the AAA's 75th Anniversary in New York City, to be held from August 14-18, 2013 at The New Yorker Hotel. For reservations, call: 1-800-764-4680 between 8-5 EST for best results. To assist

with proper festival identification, please mention the American Accordionists' Association as opposed to AAA. Reduced room rates are available for \$179 per night.

For additional information about entering the various Coupe Mondiale qualifying categories, please contact the AAA office at: [amerac-cord1938@gmail.com](mailto:amerac-cord1938@gmail.com) or you may contact Mary Tokarski for individual category entry forms by e-mailing: [mary.tokarski@com-cast.net](mailto:mary.tokarski@com-cast.net) or by calling 203-484-5095. ■



## 12 year-old Accordionist, Ian Mitchell, Makes Symphony Debut

The Brockton Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Emilian Badea, presented their Holiday Pops Concert in December at the West Middle School, Brockton, MA. The concert featured 12 year-old accordion soloist, Ian Mitchell and soprano, Kimberly Moller. Ian performed the "Hungarian Dance No. 5" by Brahms and was enthusiastically received by the audience.

Ian began studying the accordion with Dr. Emilian Badea at age 9. He has competed at the New England Music Festival in Newton, MA, and at several AAA Festivals. At the 2012 AAA Festival in Baltimore, Ian placed first in his age



Ian Mitchell pictured with conductor and teacher, Emilian Badea

*continued on page 2*

## 12 Year old makes Symphony Debut, cont'd. from page 1

group in the categories of Jazz, Folk, Classical and Pop. Ian's hobbies include math and trains. His future goals are to enter the Roland competition and eventually compete in the Coupe Mondiale. Ian said, "I really like playing the accordion. I enjoy my lessons with Dr. Badea and his talks to me about music, in general. I felt relaxed about my performance with the orchestra because I was well prepared." Ian currently lives in Brookline, MA where he is in seventh grade at the Pierce School.

On March 24, 2013, Ian will play this selection again with the Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra in a Family concert conducted by Emilian Badea, who will perform a duet of Monti's "Czardas" with the concert master.

Bassoonist, accordionist, musicologist, and educator, Emilian Badea graduated from one of Romania's most prestigious Music Academies. He earned a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree, both as a Dean's scholar, from Boston University. Emilian Badea has performed most of the symphonic repertoire with the Romanian Radio Symphony Orchestra and as a freelance musician in the Boston area. He has performed with the Boston Ballet, the Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Classical Players, the Boston Academy of Music, the New Hampshire Symphony, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the Brockton Symphony, and many other New England ensembles.

Emilian is a member of The National Music Honor Society Pi Kappa Lambda of the American Federation of Musicians, The International Double Reed Society, the American Accordionists' Association, and the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts. Dr. Badea is currently on the music faculty of the University of Massachusetts Boston, the Brookline Music School, and the New School of Music in Cambridge. He also maintains his Music Studio in Natick, MA with many successful students at local and national levels.

For further information about the upcoming performance, please e-mail: [emilian@emilian.org](mailto:emilian@emilian.org) ■

## The Willard Palmer Legacy Display

A World of Accordions Museum in association with Harrington ARTS Center, 1401 Belknap St., Superior, WI, is just weeks away from the grand opening of the Willard Palmer (DH, DMA, Ph.D.) Legacy Display. The two-day celebration on February 2-3, 2013, is open to the public and will feature a slate of renowned artists and speakers. Admissions will be charged for this museum fundraiser concert series.



In the world of musicians, Willard Palmer's importance cannot be overstated. His prominence as educator, scholar, composer, arranger and editor is respected by music teachers worldwide. Translated into 17 languages, the Palmer-Hughes Piano, Organ, Guitar, and Accordion method books tutor aspirants at all levels. As editor for the Alfred Masterwork series, his Bach works are used in university music departments and by concert artists. Millions owe a debt of gratitude to Palmer's genius, embodied in the collected works now perpetually preserved in our institution.

Further, we believe that the move from private holdings to availability through our library resources and accordions collection adds celebrity to America's Midwest.

Please watch for future announcements on our website [www.accordionworld.org](http://www.accordionworld.org).

For further information, please contact Helmi Strahl Harrington, Curator, A World of Accordions Museum, phone: (715) 395-2787.

## Perfect Pitch

*Note: Just in time for Valentine's Day, in this article "Perfect Pitch", popular East Coast entertainer Anita Siarkowski presents her charming love story of two accordionists, destined to be with each other!*

Accordionists, Anita and Bob Siarkowski, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 15, 2012 – complete with accordion favors, an accordion cake made to scale by fellow CAA member Judy Sehna, and the band, "Squeezebox" – along with a live performance by the couple. They have 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

In the Siarkowskis' (accordion) case, the couple that plays together stays together! Their melody



Anita and Bob Siarkowski

### 50th Anniversary Cake pictured at left



of love truly had an instrumental intro. Accordion was key, prefaced with a perfect pitch. When they met, Anita was a high school senior rehearsing with Dom Mecca's accordion orchestra in Waterbury, Connecticut. A few weeks before the recital, a

newcomer sat front row center. What nerve! Who did he think he was anyway?

Anita's curiosity, the prelude to her "overture", she thought outside the (squeeze) box, launching the perfect pitch. ... "Hi, I'm Anita. You're new here, aren't you?" "Yeah. I'm Bob." Who knew that the catcher had "perfect pitch?" The couple's communication was curtly concluded as Dom barged in brandishing his baton. Mecca took note of the discussing duo, read between the lines, and never missed a beat!

After rehearsal, Dom, aware that Anita had to lug her accordion from his 2nd floor studio, haul it 3 city blocks (in frigid winter weather) to her 3rd floor apartment, assured her... "Bob'll take you home." - taking both of them by surprise! Anita informed Dom "pronto"; "I don't know him! I was just trying to be sociable!" Mecca assured Anita, "Bob's OK.. He's a nice guy." Anita threatened her accordion teacher that, if anything happened, she would hold him responsible! Dom replied, "Yeah, and I want to be the Compare!" (Godfather!) Mecca was at their wedding 4 years later!

The Siarkowski's became each other's "main squeeze", their wedding the setting for the newlywed's premier accordion duet performance. They've been "pulling together" ever since, with an encore performance by the "golden" couple at their 50th wedding anniversary celebration! Anita and Bob entertain on a regular basis for private parties, church functions, organizations, assisted living facilities, retirement complexes, festivals, CAA, AAA, Magnanini Winery in Wallkill, NY, "Accordion Connection" in Gilmanton, NH, and the International Accordion Festival in Montmagny, Quebec, Canada.

Anita was inspired to play the accordion by her parents, Addie (Clavette) and Ernie LeBlanc. She achieved her initial goal of playing "Tico Tico" after hearing Dick Contino play it on the Horace Heidt talent show in the early 50s. Anita and Bob have been in Contino's company several times - most recently in September 2012 at the International Accordion Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada. They broke bread (and the ice!) with the 82 year old accordionist of "Lady of Spain" fame.... Dick couldn't be-

*continued on page 3*

**Perfect Pitch, cont'd from page 2**

lieve that the Siarkowskis were married 50 years! "You don't look old enough! First marriage?", he asked Anita! "Yes!" "For you too, Bob?" "Yeah!" "God bless!"

Anita, the youngest of 5 children, took accordion lessons from the age of 9 through 17 with Charles Leogrande and Domenic Mecca of Waterbury, CT. Her parents could barely afford it between the \$2.00 weekly lesson fees, the accordion, and the music – with the operative word being "charged"! The account kept building up. In gratitude for her parents' sacrifice, Anita saved up her allowance, occasionally paid pittance on the bill, and presented them with the "Paid in Full" receipt upon high school graduation!

In elementary school, Anita taught private accordion lessons, continuing to do so through high school graduation, when she was offered a teaching position by Domenic Mecca. Although very tempting, Anita forfeited the opportunity, opting to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a nurse. Anita figured she could (and does!) have it both ways, bringing her accordion along to St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing to tickle the ivories and ebonies in her spare time to maintain her accordion background.

Not to worry....Anita's parents kept her in practice from day one....Performing for friends and relatives, in the window of McCoy's Music Shop on Grand Street in Waterbury at 14, on the Waterbury Green at 17 with Mecca's accordion orchestra for the dedication of the War Veterans' monument, at private parties, picnics, for relatives in and out of state. Anita's wedding reception was no exception! Bob's band played. Anita's Mom figured Bob could borrow his substitute's accordion, and sent Anita's sister, Loretta, home for hers! Anita warned her mom that she'd rip her gown. Not an issue, as "The pictures are already taken!" Voila! A live performance by the new Mr. and Mrs.!

Accordion always was, and continues to be a huge part of Anita's life. Her claim to fame? Her sense of humor, jokes, comical stories, spontaneity, theme-oriented repertoires and



*continued on page 4*

**Skeets Langley Inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame**

Accordionist Leonard "Skeets" Langley was one of six honorees inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame (MMHOF) last year at the 24th Annual Induction Ceremony and Banquet at Turner Hall.

Other inductees included the Folk and Blues trio Koerner, Ray, and Glover; the late country western guitarist LeRoy Glazier; concertina and accordion virtuoso Jerry Minar, the country rock band Canoise and the Milan, MN based Chord-Ayers.

Leonard Langley, a retired music educator of 34 years in the Robbinsdale School District, is a graduate of Augsburg College, Minneapolis and later received a Master's Degree in music education from MacPhail College of Music.

He started playing the accordion at the age of six, studying with Larry Malmberg and entered his first accordion contest three years later. Langley won the American Accordionists Association National Championship in 1962, earning the chance to represent the AAA and the United States in CIA Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships in Prague, Czech Republic, where he placed



second. Successfully defending his National Champion title in 1963, "Skeets" earned the right to once again compete in the Coupe Mondiale, this time in Baden-Baden, Germany where he won the coveted first place trophy against competitors from more than twenty countries.

The Minnesota Music Hall of Fame is located at First North Street and Broadway in New Ulm, Minnesota. Featuring memorabilia of individual musicians and musical groups as well as photographs of all who have been inducted, the museum is open during the summer months and by special request during the winter.

Exhibits honor Minnesota music legends like Bob Dylan, Judy Garland, Prince, Eddie Cochran, Bobby Vee, Ervin Wolfe, Whoopee John Wilfahrt, Harold Loeffelmacher, Earl Schmidt and The Andrews Sisters. It also documents local ethnic music like the popularity of polka music in rural Minnesota. New inductees are welcomed or celebrated at a special gala dinner ceremony held each October. For more information, please visit: [mnmusichallof-fame.org](http://mnmusichallof-fame.org)



**Popular Band Mumford & Sons to Tour US East Coast**

The 2013 multiple Grammy Awards nominee and UK super band "Mumford & Sons" will tour the East Coast of the US in February, affording tens of thousands of fans the opportunity to see and hear the accordion at the height of pop culture.

Nominated for Album of the Year - "Babel", Best Rock Performance - "I Will Wait", Best Rock Song - "I Will Wait", Best Americana Album - "Babel", Best Song Written For Visual Media - "Learn Me Right (From Brave)" and Best Long Form Music Video - "Big Easy Express", the popular English rock band features Marcus Mumford (vocals, guitar, drums, mandolin), "Country" Winston Marshall (vocals, banjo, dobro, guitar), Ted Dwane (vocals, string bass, drums, guitar) and Ben Lovett, who is often featured on accordion, as well as vocals, keyboards and drums. The 55th Annual Grammy Awards will take place February 10, 2013 at Los Angeles' Staples Center.

Mumford & Sons formed in December 2007, emerging out of what some in the media labelled the "West London folk scene" with other artists such as Laura Marling, Johnny Flynn and Noah and the Whale.



*continued on page 4*

### Perfect Pitch, cont'd. from page 3

costumes. aka "The Accordion Chameleon", Anita's audiences never know how, when, or where she's going to show up (with or without) – or what she's going to "pull off" literally!

All year long, she's Cupid, a leprechaun, Spring chicken, train engineer, "Thera Peutic" (voluptuous nurse), in an old fashioned bathing suit, Mrs. Pilgrim, Mrs. Santa, an angel, elf, Betsy Ross, a Polish Cracovienka, German Fraulein, Hawaiian Wahini, Italian Signorina, Mexican Signorita, or French Maid (a sight for sore eyes)! She keeps her audience entertained! In the meantime, Anita remains very active in her nursing profession with her own business as nurse case manager, and is writing a book based on her experiences as a nurse, an accordionist and life in general.

Bob, the only child of Peter and Rose (Martinell) Siarkowski, was born and raised in the coal mining region of northeastern Pennsylvania. From age 9 through 16, to help finance his accordion lessons, Bob "picked coal," retrieving chunks of coal that had fallen from freight cars along the railroad tracks. Two burlap sacks of coal a day provided cooking and heating fuel 5 days a week (when the mines ran) - making music lessons affordable.

In those days, family entertainment was homebased in that area. Bob's Uncle Louis, his inspiration, provided live accordion music for family gatherings. Siarkowski took accordion lessons from Joe Gurka of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania for 9 years, specializing in classical and jazz accordion. His professional career began at age 15 as accordionist for "The Wanderers," turning over his earnings to his parents. At 15, Bob played the 26-page "Concerto in A" by memory on W.B.R.E radio in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania! By age 16, Bob was giving accordion lessons during the

week, and playing with local bands on weekends.

Eventually, Bob formed his own band, entertaining at night clubs, dances, private parties, and weddings – including his own! At 18, Bob opened Bob's Accordion Studio in Plantsville, Connecticut. By age 21, Bob was manager of Esnar Music Co. in Sacramento, California – where he taught the most advanced of their 750 pupils, while supervising their 9 music instructors.

Bob expanded his accordion background with the "masters" Joe Biviano in New York City for Classical; Tony Mecca in New Rochelle, New York for Jazz and Classical in Oakland, California with John Molinari - one of the greatest masters of the accordion, renowned for his marvellous technique and interpretation, placing him among the leading accordion artists.

Siarkowski managed the Richard Moore Music Center in Collinsville, NJ, eventually coming full circle, opening Bob's Music Center at 360 Summer Street, Plantsville, CT – still in operation today - where he offers private instruction on all keyboard instruments. His entire career has been devoted to music, while making a full time living from teaching and performing, ongoing until today. Several of Bob's students have won accordion contests, while others have gone on to pursue musical careers, performing, teaching, and composing.

*A love note....Anita and Bob Siarkowski, members of AAA, ATG, and CAA Charter members on the advisory board - hope to continue living, working, and playing in harmony - sharing their God given gifts of life, health, happiness, and accordion music - while bringing joy and mirth to their audiences for a grand finale to a "perfect pitch"! ■*

### Mumford & Sons, cont'd from page 3

Accordionist Ben Lovett met Marcus Mumford sometime around third grade at the King's College School, a private school in Wimbledon attended by John Barrymore and Charles Dickens Jr. Mumford played rugby and soccer and acted in school musicals (he played the Artful Dodger in Oliver!), Ben Lovett was a classically trained pianist who also played in several bands. Together they started a six-man free-jazz group called Détente – but when a friend of Mumford's older brother made him a bluegrass mix tape near the end of high school, Mumford became obsessed and started writing those kinds of songs instead.

In February 2011, they received a European Border Breakers Award for their international success. They received a Brit Award for British Album of the Year with *Sigh No More* and performed "Timshel" at the ceremony. UK sales of the album subsequently increased by 266 percent. While touring the United States in early 2011, the band began writing songs for the follow-up album. Accordionist and keyboardist Ben Lovett credited the creative atmosphere of Nashville, Tennessee with easing the song writing process.

Mumford & Sons have recorded two songs for Andrea Arnold's adaptation of *Wuthering Heights*, and in June 2012, Mumford & Sons contributed a song "Learn Me Right" with Birdy to the Pixar film "Brave," which came to be called "Not with Haste".

On September 22, 2012, the band performed two songs from



the new album, "I Will Wait" and "Below My Feet," on Saturday Night Live. Mumford & Sons' second album *Babel* debuted at number one on the charts and became the fastest selling album of 2012 in the UK, selling over 158,000 copies in its first week, and was the biggest selling debut of any album in 2012 in the US, selling 600,000 in its first week and over a million worldwide.

#### **Mumford & Sons USA East Coast concerts include:**

Tuesday, February 5th - TD Garden, Boston MA  
 Wednesday, February 6th - Barclays Center, New York NY  
 Wednesday, February 13th - Patriot Center, Fairfax VA  
 Saturday, February 16th - Susquehanna Bank Ctr. Camden NJ  
 Tickets are available from Ticketmaster. ■

### New England Roland Digital Accordion Orchestra

Roland USA is excited to announce the forming of the 1st United States Digital Accordion Orchestra.

Sam Falcetti from Springfield, MA in collaboration with Roland USA, is inaugurating a New England Roland V Accordion Orchestra comprising more than 25 players including champions, semi-pro's, students and accordion hobbyists. Complemented by percussionists, rhythm guitar and vocalists, players will include four Roland US Champions: Daniel Pavlotzky and Ollie Luey (Junior Division Winners), and Christopher Gorton and Danielle Renzi (Senior Division Winners).

During his career, conductor and teacher Sam Falcetti has directed the Springfield Accordion Orchestra on tour in Japan, Italy, New Zealand, and throughout the United States. He also directed this Orchestra on National TV on the David Frost Show with Roberta Flack. In the 1980s his Westfield State College Accordion Ensemble had the honor of performing twice at Carnegie Hall. To celebrate both Falcetti Music and the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts (ATAM's) 50th Anniversary, Sam and his son Michael brought together and conducted a 50-piece reunion accordion orchestra. *continued on page 5*

## N.E. Roland Digital Accordion Orchestra, cont'd from page 4

After adjudicating at Roland's 5th International V Accordion Festival in Rome, Italy in October of 2011, Sam was inspired to create a Digital accordion orchestra, imagining the Digital accordions producing strings, woodwinds, brass and reed sections, all enhanced by the wonderful sound of the accordion!

The orchestra will begin rehearsals in February 2013 and plans to have their premier performance in the Festival Band category at the New England Music Festival's 51st Competition and Festival, to be held at the Newton Marriott in Newton, MA on the weekend of April 5, 2013.

For more information, please e-mail: [peggyf1944@gmail.com](mailto:peggyf1944@gmail.com)



## Three Accordion Events at "Weekend in Whippany"

Accordionists from around the East Coast will convene in Whippany, NJ over the weekend of March 15-17, 2013.

Combining several events, the weekend will feature The American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS) gathering, the Mid Atlantic Music Teachers Guild Festival and the American Accordionists' Association Coupe Mondiale qualifying competitions and AAA Open Meeting. All events will take place at the Hanover Marriott, 1401 Route 10 East in Whippany, NJ.

The Spectacular Gala Banquet and Concert will honor former World Champion and AAA Board of Director, Beverly Roberts Curnow, while workshops will include:

- Suzy and Sam Andrews: *The Colors of Music*
- Bernie Gardzalla: *Bass Bonanza, Extended Chord Combination for the Left Hand*
- Jim Vandelly: *Try the Bayan & Learn the Triple & Ricochet Bellow Shakes*
- Dr. Marion Jacobson: *Author of "Squeeze This!"*
- Stanley & Joanna Darrow: *Practice Techniques*
- Dean Ratzin and Bob Lijana: *Life and Times of "Pietro Deiro - Daddy of the Accordion"*
- Mary Tokarski: *Growing Up with the GREATS, Part 2*
- Joan Grauman (SqueezinArt): *Playing Ethnic Music Authentically, Part 2*
- Lenn Feldmann: *How to Make a V Accordion SING*
- Dallas Vietty: *Swing Musette & Gypsy Jazz*
- Silvia Eberly: *Learn to Play the Styrische & Handharmonika, Learn to Read the Notation*
- Frank Hodnicki and Dr. Lou Persic: *Stylistic Differences in Polkas & Polka Performers, Part 2*
- Rocco Jerry: *New Accordion and Cello Music by Max Simoncic*
- Alex Chudolij (Music Magic Accordions USA): *Expansion Through MIDI*



continued on page 6

## The Amazing Accordion Kings at the LIAA

The Long Island Accordion Alliance's (LIAA) very first meeting of the New Year took place on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY. If the success of this event is an omen for things to come then it looks like 2013 will be a very successful one for the accordion on Long Island. The event was sold out several days prior (SRO) and not only was the main dining area "jammed like sardines" but also the two adjacent dining areas were occupied by our "overflow patrons." This was a first time in two-and-one-half years that that has ever occurred.

In attendance with the many accordion music lovers and aficionados were many prominent names from our accordion community. These included Mario Tacca, Mary Mancini, Don Gerundo, Victor Prieto, John Perno and Joe DeClemente. The evening's interest and excitement was due to the fact that the Amazing Accordion Kings were on the docket to perform.

The Amazing Accordion Kings - Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo and the legendary Angelo DiPippo - did not disappoint. Since combining their talents several years ago, these three master virtuoso accordionists have elevated ensemble accordion playing to the highest plateau. Through their very fine musicianship, virtuoso technique, flawless execution, very stylish playing and unique three part arrangements they have created a signature "Amazing Accordion Kings Sound." Some of their selections included "Hungarian Dance #5," "Twilight Time," "St. Louis Blues," and "Tico Tico." For a taste of their musical offerings please visit their web site for various samples at: <http://amazingaccordionkings.com/samples.html>

The membership of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) want to thank all the people that attended that evening and want to especially express their sincerest thanks to Angelo DiPippo, Frank Toscano and Manny Corallo for what their presence represented and what a tremendous contribution they made to what our organization (LIAA) is trying to foster and achieve.

For those of you that didn't attend, you'll have your chance to experience the "Amazing Accordion Kings" at the Dix Hills Performing Arts Center (631.424.7000), 305 North Service Road, Dix Hills, NY 11746 on Sunday, February 17th, 2013 at 2 p.m.

The Long Island Accordion Alliance's (LIAA) next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 6th at La Villini Restaurant (631.261.6344) 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731 and our featured guest artist will be Croatian accordionist Paul (Paolo) Belanich. Reservations are highly recommended.

Please come out and support the accordion, accordion music and accordion artists. ■



### 3 Accordion Events at 'Whippany Weekend', cont'd from pg. 5

- Guenadiy Lazarov (Accordion Gallery): *Tender Loving Care for the Love of Your Life, Part 2*
- Bruce Gassmann: *Classical Music & Classic Rock - Perfect Together!*

Featured entertainment will include the Accordion Pops Orchestra conducted by Al Terzo, the Potomac Accordion Ensemble conducted by Joan Graumann, AAMS Honoree Beverly Roberts Curnow, Albert Manginelli 2012 United States Champion, Cody McSherry, Mary Tokarski, Dr. Lou Persic, Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra conducted by Stan Darrow and the Westmont Accordion Club conducted by Joanna Darrow.

For information on the workshops to be presented, call: Joanna Arnold Darrow at 856-854-6628. For Marriott Hotel Reservations, call: 973-538-8811. ■

## Dr. William Schimmel Concludes Busy 2012 Concert Season

AAA 'Artist in Residence' Dr. William Schimmel rounded out a very busy 2012 concert season with a diverse variety of performances.

Appearing with Corn Mo performing Schubert's "An Die Musik", Dr. Schimmel performed at a special benefit concert for the victims of Hurricane Sandy at Le Poisson Rouge in NYC. He also appeared with Soprano Christine Fontanelli in her annual Christmas show at Symphony Space in New York where Dr. Schimmel also performed his own rendition of "La Danza" by Rossini.

On December 6, Dr. Schimmel hosted a radio show on WWFM, New Jersey in a broadcast of his appearance at the Cape May Music Festival last summer. The performers were Ariadne Greif (Soprano) and members of the New York Chamber Ensemble under the direction of Alan Kay.

In December, he also appeared at the Phillips Collection Gallery in Washington, DC in a special concert of music by Matthais Pintscher sponsored by the International Contemporary Ensemble.

In the recording studio, Dr. Schimmel recorded the accordion solos for a new film version of "La Boheme" ("THE BOHEMIANS") which will be released in 2013. Filmed in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, NY, the music was adapted by Edy Lan. On December 17, Dr. Schimmel performed "Pinsk and Blue" for accordion and piano by Russian composer Alla Borzova in a concert of women composers at Leiderkranz Hall in NY with the composer as pianist.

To conclude the busy 2012 season, Dr. Schimmel's final appearance was with Corn Mo at the Williamsburg Music Hall in Brooklyn performing Schubert's "An Die Musik" as part of Corn Mo's opening set for the famed rock group "They Might Be Giants."

Dr. William Schimmel is pictured here with Corn Mo. For information on upcoming concerts in 2013, e-mail:

[billschimmel@billschimmel.com](mailto:billschimmel@billschimmel.com) ■

## Nine Decades of the Accordion in the Media

On Sunday, March 17th, during the AAA Open Meeting, AAA Historian, Joan Grauman, will present a lively demonstration of "Nine Decades of the Accordion in the Media." It will take place at the Hanover Marriott, 1401 Route 10 East, Whippany, New Jersey immediately following the AAMS Awards Ceremony. Joan will present little known facts about the early founders of the AAA, their important contributions and unique input into the develop-



## Cory Pesaturo to Appear at NAMM Show

Accordionist Cory Pesaturo will be maintaining a busy schedule in 2013, as he embarks on several new musical projects. Cory will perform at the NAMM 2013 Show from January 23rd to January 28 in Los Angeles, California, the hemisphere's biggest music convention. For the 5th straight year, Cory will be performing as soloist and with violinist Yasmine Azaiez.

Cory capped off his busy 2012 season with performances at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Providence, RI where he performed with violinist Yasmine Azaiez and Anton Fig (Drummer for David Letterman), and Joe Silva at the "All For One Concert" benefiting Hasbro Children's Hospital; Chan's Jazz in Woonsocket, RI and the Tony Dannon Memorial Concert in Detroit where Cory also performed with Tony's Jazz Duo partner, fellow Rhode Islander and Jazz Accordionist Joe Cerrito.

A versatile musician, Cory began playing at the age of nine and went on to win some of the most prestigious international accordion competitions including 2011 Primus Ikaalinen International Accordion Competition which was live broadcast worldwide. Additionally in 2009, he won the International Competition for Digital Accordion at the Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships held in Auckland, New Zealand, and became the first American to win a World title at this event since Peter Soave 25 years ago. In June 2009, he won the Leavenworth International Championship, and International Jazz Championship.

He was accepted for studies on the accordion at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA where he studied Contemporary Improvisation and a variety of music styles, including Italian and French folk music, Bulgarian and Jewish music, Classical music and Jazz. He became the second person to major in and graduate as an accordionist at the New England Conservatory.

His past performances have included filling in for an ill Myron Floren, the accordionist on The Lawrence Welk Show at the age of 12, performing on four occasions at the White House, and playing at six other public events and private functions for President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton. In 1999, he performed at a State Dinner held for the President of Hungary.

More recently Cory combined his interest in statistics and sports with his appearance on the "100 Year Anniversary of Fenway Park" album in 2012, with current and past Boston Red Sox players, and journalists.

For further information, e-mail: [cory.pesaturo@gmail.com](mailto:cory.pesaturo@gmail.com) ■



ment of the piano accordion as we know it today.

At this time, information will be given about the 75th AAA Festival to be held at the New Yorker Hotel, August 14-18th in New York City. Make sure to include this important and exciting event in your summer plans.

For further information e-mail: [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com)

## 19th Annual AAA Master Class and Seminars in New York City

The American Accordionists' Association Master Class and Concert Series celebrate its 19th season on July 26, 27 and 28 at Tenri Cultural Institute, 43A West 13th Street, in New York. Daily master classes begin at 3:00 PM and concerts at 7:00 PM. The title of the Seminars is "The Accordion is 3D-No Glasses Required". The moderator/curator, Dr. William Schimmel (AAA Artist in Residence) projects that it will be the best one yet: intriguing workshops, stellar performances and, most of all, a collegial attitude in its presentation.

Many of the participants and presenters come from the greatest universities and conservatories in the world including Julliard, Peabody, Mannes, Oberlin, New England Conservatory, Columbia, NYU, Harvard and Yale.

Participants come from the local New York area, across the United States, as well as China, Japan, Argentina, Croatia and Norway and include Micki Goodman, Paul Stein, Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan, Dr. Mark Birnbaum, Will Holsouser, Art Bailey, Doug Makofka, Ingrid Kvale, Brian Dewan, Yoichi Fukui, Martina



Li, Marina Jerry, Melissa Elledge, Mark Nathanson, Benjamin Ickies, Godfrey Nelson, Lorraine Nelson Wolf, Dragica Banic-Curcic, Peter Flint, Erica Mancini, Dr. Ronald Sarno, Dave Soldier, Mayumi Miyaoka, Tomoko Sugawara, Hu Jianbing, Rachel Swaner, Genevieve Leloup, Joy Bechtler, Charlie Tokarz, Robert Haulfrecht, Dan Simon, Dr. Rocco Jerry, David Stoler, David First, Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Lee Mc Clure, Ken Laufer, John Foti, Kathleen Tipton, Marni Rice, Bob Goldberg, Corn Mo, Dr. William Schimmel and many others.

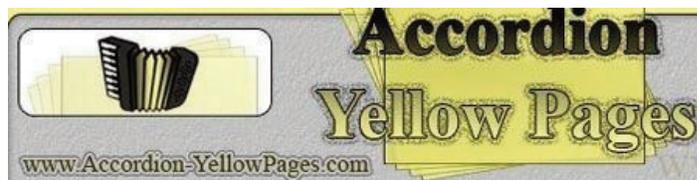
For reservations and information, please visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) or call Dr. William Schimmel at 212-876-0827 - of-fice or 917-498-6823 - cell. ■

## List Your Events in the Accordion Yellow Pages for Free!

All concert, competition and festival organizers are invited and reminded to list their Future Events for 2013 in the Accordion-YellowPages.com website. It is free to list and you can do it yourself including adding and updating information as final information becomes available.

The Accordion-YellowPages.com Future Events calendar displays at the top right hand side of this Weekly News of [www.accordions.com](http://www.accordions.com) in all seven languages and also on the USA News, Diatonic News and Russia News.

A tremendous number of readers, more than 50,000 per week, view the Future Events calendar display, so all accordion event organizers are reminded to take full advantage of this free service to keep potential visitors and attendees aware of their offerings. ■



## CIA Winter Congress in Vienna, Austria

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA), a member of the International Music Council - (IMC-UNESCO) will hold their 2013 CIA Winter Congress and 129th General Assembly of Delegates in Vienna, Austria from February 1-3, 2013 hosted by the CIA member from Austria, the Harmonikaverband Österreichs (HVÖ).

The annual Winter Congress and General Assembly meeting is attended by CIA member Delegates to conduct the business of the CIA as members discuss and work on details such as World Accordion Day, the CIA Archive Center, the annual Coupe Mondiale competition featuring eight categories of International competition, the World Accordion Orchestra, the collaboration with both the European Music Council (EMC) and the International Music Council (IMC) and more.

A report will be available online at the CIA website after the event, found at [www.accordions.com/cia](http://www.accordions.com/cia) then select Winter Congress. ■



## Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fundraising Event

The American Accordionists' Association proudly presents the 11th Annual Afternoon of Music, Food and Fun on Sunday, April 21, 2013 from 12 Noon until 5:00 PM at the Villa Barone Hilltop Manor, 466 US 6, Mahopac, NY to benefit The Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund for the advancement of promising young accordionists.

Chairman of the popular annual fundraiser Dr. Joseph Ciccone, announces the 2013 event will feature Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, Frank Toscano, Manny Corallo, Mary Tokarski, Frank Carozza, Ray Oreggia & Dominic Karcic, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Emilio Magnotta, Anita & Bob Siarkowski, the Connecticut Accordion Orchestra, Linda Soley Reed, Conductor and many others.

Please visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) for information, or contact Dr. Joseph Ciccone - 914-238-0041 or e-mail: [drjcciccone@aol.com](mailto:drjcciccone@aol.com)

See enclosed flyer for complete details. ■



## 66th CIA Coupe Mondiale in Victoria, BC

Immediately following the AAA 75th Anniversary Festival in New York City, delegates and guests will head west to the stunning locale of Victoria, BC in Canada to celebrate the 66th Coupe Mondiale and the 130th CIA International General Assembly of Delegates.

Located just 45 minutes from Seattle on the US side, or 30 minutes from Vancouver in Canada, the festival will be held from August 17- 25, 2013 hosted by CIA member in Canada, the BC Accordion Society.

The BC Accordion Society welcomes guests to enjoy activities such as:

- 66th Coupe Mondiale
- Junior Coupe Mondiale
- Masters Coupe Mondiale
- International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music
- Junior Int'l. Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music
- International Competition for Ensemble Music
- International Competition for Digital Accordion

**66th CIA Coupe Mondiale, cont'd. from page 7**

- Award for Best New Original Composition (Classical)
- World Accordion Orchestra VII
- International Accordion Orchestra Competition
- CIA General Assembly Meetings
- Nightly Concerts
- Trade Fair
- An Accordion Parade and more!

Named after Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom, Victoria is one of the oldest cities in the Pacific Northwest, with the second oldest Chinatown in North America after San Francisco's. Vancouver Island's aboriginal heritage and culture thrives in Victoria with First Nations towering totem poles, standing as a reminder of the region's founding civilization, which took hold on the rugged island a millennium before the time of Columbus and Cabot.

When the gold rush began (mid-19th Century) Victoria grew into a wild frontier city almost overnight. The population increased ten-fold in one year as businesses sprang up to serve the needs of thousands of miners of European and Asian descent, who arrived in the city, joining the British, French-Canadians, Metis and Hawaiians who were already here. The evidence of these cultural influences is everywhere in Victoria. Some of the city's most impressive structures, such as the Parliament Buildings and the Fairmont Empress Hotel, were built around the Inner Harbour.

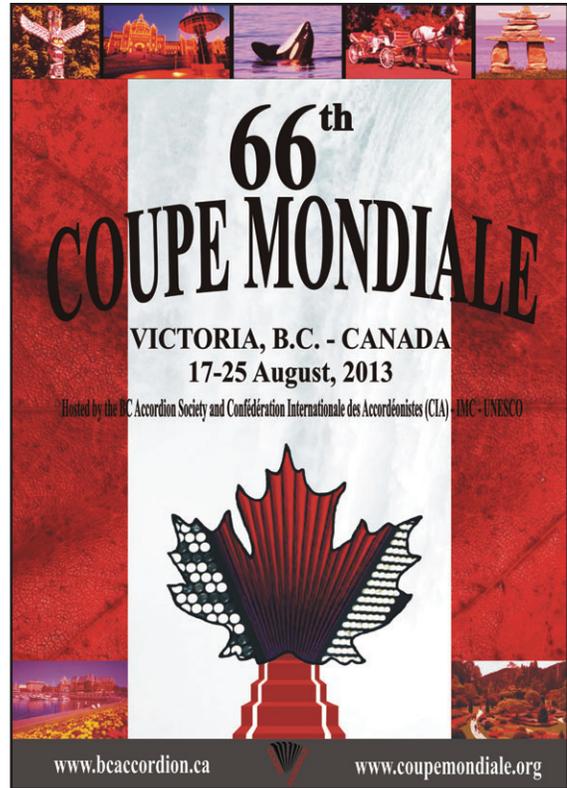
All competitions and concerts will be held in the Victoria Conservatory of Music's premiere concert venue, the spectacular Alix



Goolden Performance Hall, named in honor of a woman who contributed a tremendous amount to the dream of a music conservatory in Victoria. The 814 seat hall features vaulted ceiling, filigree iron railings, carved wooden pews, and intricate stained glass

windows. It has earned a high reputation among music lovers for its perfect acoustics and simple elegance.

For more information including details on the competitions, World Accordion Orchestra VII, an updated Schedule of Events and more, please visit [www.coupemondiale.org](http://www.coupemondiale.org) ■



**Reflections: 75 Years of Accordion History**

On March 9, 1938, twelve distinguished accordionists and colleagues convened to determine whether or not an association for accordionists should be formed. The meeting was presided over by Sam Roland and included Charles Magnante, Abe Goldman, Joe Biviano, Pietro Deiro, Pietro Frosini, Gene Von Hallberg, Anthony Galla-Rini, Charles Nunzio, Sydney B. Dawson, Sam Roland and Byron Strep (absent from meeting was John Gart). Upon motion made and seconded, the above-named, including John Gart, formed the charter membership and decided that the name of this association was to be The American Accordionists' Association.

So much accordion history has been made since that meeting in 1938! Competitions were organized. Carnegie Hall Concerts featured top accordionists of the day. Composers were commissioned to expand the accordionists' library. Colleges and Universities opened their doors to accordionists as music majors.

How many of you remember those competitions at Peter Stuyvesant High School and Charles Evans Hughes High School both in New York City? Or how about those concerts at Carnegie Hall with capacity crowds? Or looking at some of the early commissioned works and being excited over trying them for the first time? Or having the thrill of being accepted into a college music program and auditioning on your accordion?

We invite you to share your memories of AAA events through the years to be included in the AAA's 75th Anniversary publication: *Reflections: 75 Years of Accordion History*. Please e-mail copy as a word document or within an e-mail as well as jpeg photos to **amer-**

**accord1938@gmail.com** or via US mail to: M. Kendrick, 120 Valley View Road, Stratford, CT 06615. If you wish to have photographs returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photographs will be scanned and returned promptly.



Left to right, front row: Pietro Frosini, Abe Goldman, Sidney Dawson  
 Center row: Anthony Galla-Rini, Charles Magnante, Pietro Deiro, Sr., Charles Nunzio  
 Back row: Gene von Hallberg, Joseph Biviano.  
 Not shown in photo: John Gart, Sam Roland, Byron Strep

## Bellowing 2

*Note: In this article, 'Bellowing 2', J. B. Levine has continued her popular compilation of Accordion Events to show that by looking, you can discover a variety of events, in this case, in New York City and surrounding areas.*

As an accordion case is opened, what will emerge is a magical passport, one that will take both players and listeners to places all over the world. No complicated travel plans are necessary, for those of us in the Metropolitan New York area, it usually means a hop on the subway or a bus to a club, coffee house or bar, stage optional, to hear Irish, Experimental, or perhaps Brazilian music.

For those dreaming of exotic melodies but tethered to post-holiday work obligations, January 2013 was a particularly welcome month; on January 13, Manhattan's Webster Hall hosted globalFest ([www.globalfest-ny.com/gf2013](http://www.globalfest-ny.com/gf2013)) which included Los Angeles' dance-inducing La Santa Cecilia and Chicago's marching-band-with-a-twist (and two accordions), Mucca Pazza.

Just a few days later, Zlatne Uste Golden Festival ([goldenfest.org](http://goldenfest.org)) followed, on January 18 and 19 at Brooklyn's Grand Prospect Hall. Even if you haven't yet introduced yourself to exuberant Balkan Music, you may see familiar faces in some of the forty groups scheduled; if the accordionist in Raya Brass Band, Matthew Fass, doesn't stop to chat before or after his set, it's because his skills at another keyboard – the computer – keep this multi-stage extravaganza running smoothly.

No matter how busy the New Year finds you, make sure to find

a Friday evening, Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon when you can hear Raul Jaurena, bandoneonist extraordinaire and Latin Grammy winner, at the Thalia Spanish Theater ([www.thaliatheatre.org](http://www.thaliatheatre.org)) in Queens, January 25-March 17. This phenomenal free-reedist accompanies the song and choreography in AfroTango, a production exploring the evolution of Argentina's signature dance.

Anyone who is homesick, only has to two-step up to Connolly's in midtown Manhattan ([letszydeco.com](http://letszydeco.com)) on February 17th for a cure, which is the infectious music of C.J. Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band. It's far from buttoned-up! The piano accordion is Clayton Joseph's choice for creating the zesty sounds that have us forgetting that this Mardi Gras party is on a Sunday.



C. J. Chenier

Those of us who are passionate about the accordion don't have to wait until Valentine's Day to express our feelings, so let's share the love! ■

## Showstoppers Stopping Show After 42 Years of Music and Dance

*Note: Reprinted with the kind permission of the author Dean Shalhoup, featured columnist with the Nashua Telegraph (NH). To see the article online, please visit: [www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/967946-196/showstoppers-stopping-show-after-42-years-of.html](http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/967946-196/showstoppers-stopping-show-after-42-years-of.html)*

In early 2010, when word began getting around that Roger and Rosita Lee Latulippe were considering dimming the lights on their 40-year-old Showstoppers song and dance troupe, a bunch of accordion-teacher friends from Massachusetts called and said "no way" – not with the New England Music Festival's 50th anniversary celebration just two years away.

The 50th would go on anyway, festival organizers said. But it wouldn't be the same without the Showstoppers.

The Latulippes, a kinetic, ageless couple who have moulded generations of fledgling musicians into top-notch performers at their

Hudson-based Rosita Lee Music & Dance Centers, told the festival people what they wanted to hear, then graciously refuelled for another two years.

It made sense, after all – the Latulippe family made up half the 50th anniversary committee and a quarter of the board of directors of the festival sponsor, the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts. And Roger Latulippe has chaired the contest committee almost since the beginning. And Rosita Lee is an ATAM charter member.

Thanks to the association's successful 2010 appeal, scores of teenagers and young adults in the giant Showstoppers family and their legions of appreciative fans had two bonus years to look forward to.

Now, with April's 50th anniversary festival in the books and the farewell cake cut and eaten, the time has come for the grand and

*continued on next page*



## Showstoppers Stopping Show, cont'd. from page 9

final finale, which will take the stage at 7 p.m. Sunday at the new and improved Hampton Beach Seashell Complex.

"It's going to be a bittersweet night," Rosita "Deedee" Latulippe said this week, giving a slight hint that the evening's emotions may just render speechless the gregarious woman who's rarely at a loss for words.

This summer marks another significant milestone for the Rosita Lee Music & Dance Centers. Daughter Shelly Latulippe-Klimas has just sold the dance-instruction part of the business, which she founded as a college kid some 23 years ago. The studio, on Central Street in Hudson, will carry on, however; one of Latulippe-Klimas' longtime instructors bought it.

The Showstoppers and Hampton Beach, meanwhile, go back a long way together. The Latulippes began annual pilgrimages to the old bandshell 35 years ago, and it wasn't long before vacationers started asking, "You're coming back next year, right?"

What's more appropriate, they figured, than to coincide their farewell with the brand new gray and white musical pavilion in the heart of Ocean Boulevard?

Neither Deedee nor Roger are eager, to say the least, to ease into life after the Showstoppers. But it's time, they agree. Naturally, people have asked if the next generation had considered taking over the Showstoppers, but things just don't work that way for an entity – a community, actually – as unique as the Showstoppers.

"You just can't," Lee said, shaking her head.

Indeed, while perpetuating the generational family diner or keeping the construction business in the family forever is a common, usually successful business model, the Showstoppers are a one-of-a-kind original that can only be imitated, never duplicated.

The premise was simple: The Latulippes, who met as music majors in college and in 1960 took over Deedee Lee's parents' Lowell, Mass.-based music school, were turning out scads of well-polished musicians; what was lacking, though, was the next step.

"We started (the Showstoppers) to give them the opportunity to perform, to travel and experience the world of music," Lee said.

From a rented basement on Marshall Street to another rented space on Allds Street in Nashua and finally to a much smaller version of their current 136 Lowell Road campus, the couple nurtured the Showstoppers from their 12-member infancy to the maturity as a world-class music and dance troupe.

When Rosita Lee Music & Dance came to Hudson around 1980, there was no Fox Hollow, no T-Bones, no Valentino's and no convenience stores or gas stations. What there was plenty of, though, was farmland, the Jettes and Kashulineses among them, the couple remembers.



They also recall, rather sheepishly but laughingly, the very first time the Showstoppers performed outside their two-car garage band room. It was the summer of 1970. The kids were invited to play at the annual Nashua Artists Association's Greeley Park Art Show.

"I think we had 12 kids there – one was sick and couldn't make it – no uniforms, no stage, no sound system," Lee said.

The kids played their hearts out, and Lee heard something in the music and saw something in the kids that assured her that with ample parts guidance, instruction and the proverbial practice, practice, practice, this fledgling little band would one day be something to behold.

When they founded the Showstoppers with "travel" in mind, the Latulippes weren't thinking small. Sure, touring dozens of U.S. venues big and small was great, especially when the itinerary included Kennedy Center, Disney World, the storied accordion hotbed Bavarian Inn in Michigan, Nashville, Philly and the former "Good Day" TV show – on which they performed with Lawrence Welk Orchestra legend Myron Floren.

They're also popular in Quebec and the Sainte-Foy annual festival. But how's this for travel with a capital T: Just two years after their Greeley Park debut, the Showstoppers jettied off on a 12-day tour of Italy, central to which was staying and performing in the little Mediterranean coastal town of Castelfidardo – known as the Accordion Capital of the World. They also performed in Rome, Florence and San Marino.

Then there's Ireland, a 1999 trip of nine days. And cruise-ship gigs on the way to Bermuda and back.

Showstoppers alumni still routinely visit. They're doctors, lawyers, a molecular physicist, professional musicians, moms, dads, grandparents and – best of all, the Latulippes say – lifelong friends who fluently speak "the universal language."

"They're so happy to be here," Deedee Lee said. "And we're so happy to have them here." ■

## Sam Falcetti Presents 12th Roland Event in Springfield, MA

The 12th Semi-Annual Roland V Accordion Event took place in the Performance Hall at Falcetti Music in Springfield, MA where over 60 Roland accordion owners were in attendance from all over New England.

Falcetti Music was extremely happy to present the 1st place winner of the 2012 US V Roland Junior Division, Ollie Luey, as one of the performers. Ollie is from Dover, MA and is a student of Dr. Emilian Badea, a member of the Accordion Teachers Association of MA.

Stanley Midura from Gilbertsville, MA presented his part of the program with selections on his new Roland FR1X. He was followed by Jim Avedisian from Millbury, MA. Jim is Vice President of the MA Accordion Association and demonstrated some of the new Accordion Orchestra expansion sets on his FR7X.

The workshop portion of the event was presented by Sam Falcetti, founder of Falcetti Music and the workshop topic was 'What to Use For The Best Orchestral Sounds and Creative Left

Hand Ideas for Christmas Carols and Holiday Pop Songs.' He also included a demonstration on playing along with a Christmas Audio Track on the Roland V Accordions.

David Sullivan from Norwood, MA showed the versatility of the Roland FR7X with the use of drum and percussion effects on Christmas Pop Music. Ending the program was Guyde Lombardi from Providence, RI who presented several rhythm styles to use with Christmas music on his FR7 with the BK7M module.

What an incredible and enjoyable afternoon listening to wonderful holiday music on these beautiful Roland orchestral digital accordions! ■



## New Book 'The Accordion in the Americas'

Following the success of Marion Jacobson's "Squeeze This! A Cultural History of the Accordion in America," the University of Illinois Press has now published Helena Simonett's edited volume, "The Accordion in the Americas: Klezmer, Polka, Tango, Zydeco, and More!"

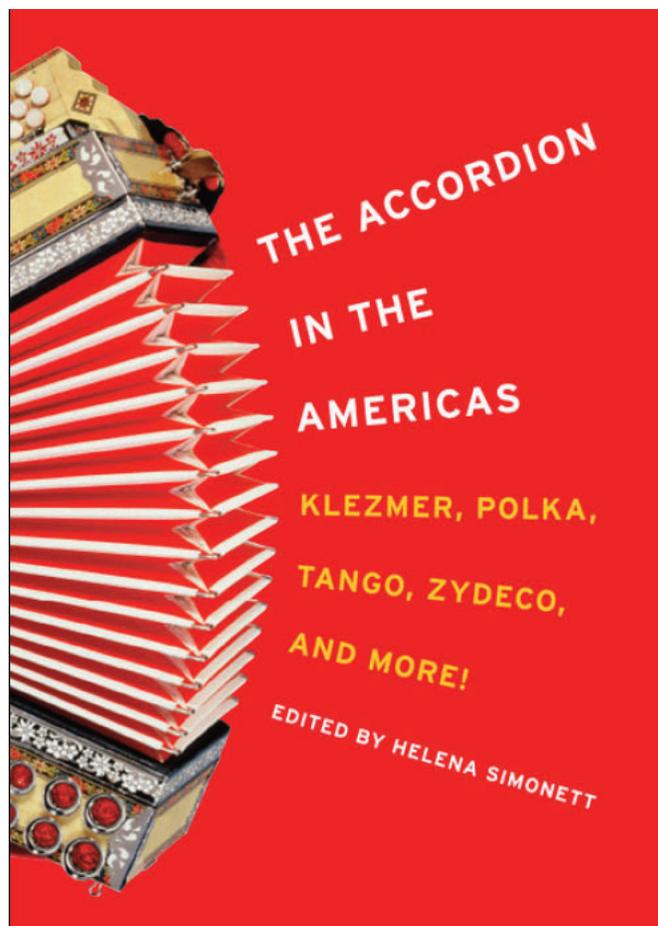
The 344-page book includes chapters on accordion culture in South Texas, Columbia, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and other locations in North and South America. This rich collection considers the accordion and its myriad forms, from the concertina, button accordion, and piano accordion familiar in European and North American music to the exotic-sounding South American bandoneon and the sanfoninha. Capturing the instrument's spread and adaptation to many different cultures in North and South America, contributors illuminate how the accordion factored into power struggles over aesthetic values between elites and working-class people who often were members of immigrant and/or marginalized ethnic communities.

Contributors are María Susana Azzi, Egberto Bermúdez, Mark DeWitt, Joshua Horowitz, Sydney Hutchinson, Marion Jacobson, James P. Leary, Megwen Loveless, Richard March, Cathy Ragland, Helena Simonett, Jared Snyder, Janet L. Sturman, and Christine F. Zinni. Helena Simonett is an assistant professor of Latin American studies, associate director of the Center for Latin American Studies, and adjunct assistant professor in the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Library Journal published a review calling "The Accordion in the Americas," "...an excellent collection of ethnomusicology scholarship that will be of interest to those who like world music, ethnography, or unusual instruments."

AAA Board of Director Dr. William Schimmel is the subject of an entire chapter in a new book written by Dr. Marion Jacobson. The title is "The Accordion in New Scores - Paradigms of Authorship and Identity in William Schimmel's Musical Realities."

For further information e-mail: [orders@press.uchicago.edu](mailto:orders@press.uchicago.edu) ■



## Air Force Strolling Strings and Hurricane Sandy

Master Sargent Frank J. Busso, Jr. is the accordionist for the U.S. Air Force Strolling Strings. The month of December saw that the demand for performances would force the group to turn down some shows as they only have 1 accordionist. Frank Jr. asked his father, Frank J. Busso, Sr. if he could help out. On December 7th and December 8th, the Strings split into two separate groups and the Strolling Strings were able to appear in two different venues simultaneously. Thanks to the Busso's the Strings were able to fulfill their commitments.

Hurricane Sandy has caused much destruction on Staten Island. The Air Force Strings, aware that Staten Island is home

to the Busso family, decided to spend two days performing for victims of the storm. Nine performances were held. The Strings performed at three of the shelters that had been set up for displaced persons. They also performed at four local public elementary & intermediate schools whose students had been impacted by Sandy. As an alumnus of Tottenville High School, Frank Jr. was especially pleased to be a part of bringing cheer to all at a special evening concert.

Frank Jr. and Frank Sr. also performed together as a duet at the Staten Island Hilton Hotel to introduce The Strolling Strings. The Strings had been asked to perform at a special holiday event for the 65



Frank Sr. and Frank Jr. perform together before the Strolling Strings Concert

families who had been living at the hotel since being displaced by Hurricane Sandy.

Staten Islanders have been most appreciative of the wonderful performances by The US Air Force Strings. They are part of the total outpouring of kindness from people who are from all over the country. The victims have been aided through the provision of food and volunteers who are helping with clean ups, house repairs, serving food, donating clothing, supplies and many other services. The US Air Force Strolling Strings brought some holiday cheer to all those who had the good fortune to enjoy their wonderful musical performances. ■

The United States Air Force Strolling Strings performing at Staten Island Hilton Hotel



## Coast to Coast

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

### ARIZONA

#### Phoenix

The Arizona Accordion Club is an organization wishing to stimulate a positive attitude towards the performance of music on the accordion by strengthening relationships with fellow musicians, expanding knowledge of the accordion and accordion playing, and by developing a publicity program to acquaint the general public with the education and entertainment values of the accordion.

Meetings are held every 3rd Monday of the month at the beautiful meeting hall of St. Stephen Byzantine church located at 8141 N. 16th Street in Phoenix, AZ. Attendees are invited to arrive early for dinner and pre-meeting music starting at 5:30 PM

Upcoming guests include: 1/21 Dance Night featuring Bob Dozak; 2/18 Roland Night featuring Joe Natoli; 2/24 Arizona Accordion Club Picnic at Papago Park

For more information, please visit [www.azaccordionclub.com](http://www.azaccordionclub.com) or contact Club, President Phil Fox e-mail: [pwfox@prodigy.net](mailto:pwfox@prodigy.net) or phone: (480) 427-2394.

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

Accordionist Nick Ariondo can be heard in the latest film released called "Life of Pi" by the Academy Award winning director, Ang Lee, with music composed by Mychael Dana. Based upon the best-selling novel by Yann Martel, "Life Of Pi" tells the story of a young man's incredible survival at sea against impossible odds. The recording session took place at 20th Century Fox Studios, Century City, California. The movie was released on November 23, 2012.

This is not the first film soundtrack by Nick Ariondo who was also featured in the blockbuster movies "Bridesmaid" (on screen appearance), "Five Year Engagement," "Knight and Day," "Happy Feet 2" and "Ice Age 4."



#### San Francisco

The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble conducted by Joseph Smiell, Jr. will present a concert on Sunday, January 13th at the Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. in San Francisco, California. The group is dedicated to promoting the use of the accordion within an orchestra. "ACE," the Accordion Chamber Ensemble of San Francisco, consists of eight accordionists - Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, Grigoriy Krumik, Nora Mazzara, Anne Metais, Taylor Pedersen and David Perry.

Since 1995, with over 300 arrangements for accordion orchestra, ACE has been privileged to perform for the Embassy's fund raising walk for the Symphony, the Oakland Museum, the Alliance Francaise, and numerous other venues. When possible, they offer free performances for schools and present at least two concerts a year for the general public, as well as playing for Accordion Clubs. For further information e-mail:

[ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

#### San Francisco

San Francisco Accordion Club President Lynn Ewing invites all to the January 20th, 2013 meeting of the SFAC where a variety of the "Babes" featured in the 2013 Accordion Babes Pin-Up Calendar will perform. The calendar is available for purchase from the Club!

Appearing will be Renée de la Prade with Whiskey and Women, Jet Black Pearl (aka Jetty Swart), Maggie Martin of the Mad Maggies, Diana Strong and Skyler Fell of the Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop and The Hobogoblins! The SFAC has an exciting 2013 planned. Future concerts include: February 17th: Mike Zampiceni; March 17th: Iosiph Purits; April 21st: Bonnie Birch; May 19th: The Frank Petrilli Trio.

The concert takes place at 2:00 PM at the The Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco. For further information e-mail: [info@sfaccordionclub.com](mailto:info@sfaccordionclub.com)

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

The Third Annual Accordion Cocktail Concert was held at the Renais-

sance Ballroom, 5910 SW 8th Street, Miami, Florida. The concert was presented by Maricarmen Vazquez, the Florida Accordion Association, and the Miami Dade Ambassador.

This concert featured an exciting variety of styles featuring performed by Alex Meixner of Palm City, Florida; Michael Bridge of Toronto, Canada; Maricarmen Vazquez of Miami; Mario Pedone of Houston, Texas; Jose Victor and his Vallenato Show of Colombia, and Luis Espindola of Puerto Rico.

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

Newly elected ATG President Betty Jo Simon welcomes guests to the 73rd Annual Competition and Festival of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG), to be held from July 17-21, 2013 at the Hyatt Lisle (Chicago).

The festival will feature competitions and concerts showcasing the renowned accordion soloist Martynas Levickis (Lithuania) and the exciting Réunion Island Accordion Orchestra under the direction of Pierre Varo. From the tiny island of La Réunion in the Indian Ocean, this 40 member group is representative of the great variety of cultures in the French overseas territories and in addition to accordionists, is accompanied by violins, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, keyboard and vocals. For more details, please visit [www.accordions.com/atg](http://www.accordions.com/atg)



### NEW YORK

#### East Northport

The February meeting of the Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) will feature Croatian accordionist, Paolo Bellaich. The event will take place on February 6th at 6:30 PM at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, New York.

Paul performs with his brother as a 2 piece band in the Tri State area. He entertains in Slovenian and Austrian polka styles with a blend of Valtaro Musette flavor which he



grew up with. Paul always says, "What fires me up the most and gives my heart the happiest feeling, is the polka music itself." Playing accordion since the early 60's, my love for the accordion is the same today as it was back then.

The next meeting of the LIAA will take place on March 5, 2013 and will feature Emilio Magnotta.



### TEXAS

#### Dallas

The National Accordion Association (NAA) 26th Annual Festival will be an informative and fun event for all accordion enthusiasts taking place from March 6-10, 2013 at the Westin Park Central in Dallas, Texas. The convention will feature exciting and educational events including concerts, workshops, trade shows, band camp, jamming all day and night, "Circle of Champions," and much more. All types of accordions are welcome.

Included in the workshop presenters/performers are Debra Peters, Kim Clowe, Nick Bratkovitch, Gordon Kohl, Mario Pedone, Dr. Ian Blair Fries, Jessica Faltot, Nick Balarini, Daniel Kott, Shelia Lee, The Sound Connection and more. Please visit: [www.nationalaccordion.org](http://www.nationalaccordion.org)

#### Houston

The Houston Accordion Association (HAA) meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Pizza Inn, 1801 Mangum @ W. 18th St, in Houston, TX 77092.

The Houston Accordion Association welcomes accordionists of all abilities and styles and accordion enthusiasts equally! No dues! No Admission charge and No Membership fees!

For more information, please contact HAA President, **Arlyn Visentin at: (832) 723 6810.**