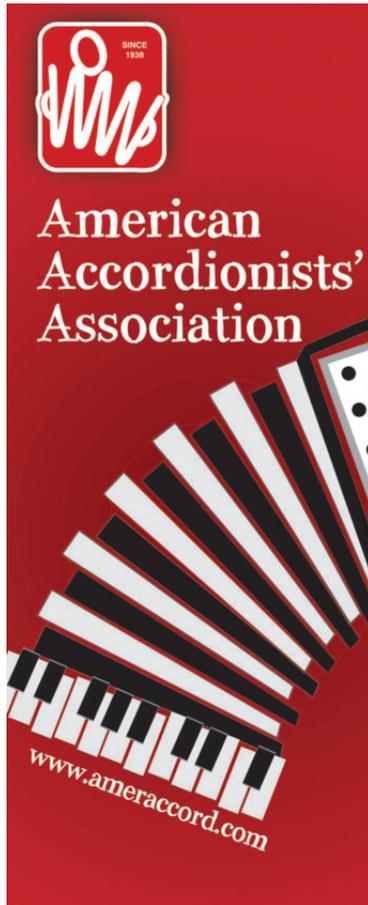




# AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

May-June 2015



## From the Editor

Welcome to the May 2015 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

As the final preparations are being made for our annual AAA Festival, we remind you to make plans to attend this exciting event to be held in Alexandria, VA. Complete details are available at [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com).

As always, my thanks to immediate Past President Linda Reed and Rita Davidson for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter.

We invite and encourage you to submit your news for publication in the future issues of this Newsletter. Our membership is involved in an impressive array of activities, and we know our readers would love to hear about these things.

Items for the July Newsletter can be sent to me at [goaccordion@yahoo.com](mailto:goaccordion@yahoo.com) or to the official AAA e-mail address at: [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto: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 file 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 July Newsletter will be the 15th of June 2015.

I look forward to seeing you all in Alexandria in July.

Sincerely,

Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



## Getting to Know the Accordion

On Monday, March 16th, 2015 accordionist Dominic Karcic made a "getting to know the accordion presentation" to the Italian language students at H. Frank Carey High School in Franklin Square, NY. The Italian language teacher, Ms. Joann Radoslovich Molino, was the event coordinator.

The program consisted of a one hour presentation by Dominic to about seventy-five students and included some history on the instrument, a discussion of it's various parts, a

look at and presentation of various sizes of accordions (12 bass accordion, a student model 120 bass instrument and a professional electronic accordion).

Dominic played four selections for the students that was aimed at giving the audience a good idea of the capacity of the instrument. Selections included a "Tarantella Medley," "Tra Veglia E Sonno Mazurca," "Accordion Boogie" (Charles Magnante arrangement) and "Dark Eyes" (Charles Magnante arrangement).

*continued on page 2*

**AAA Festival 2015**  
July 8-12, 2015  
**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites**  
625 First Street  
Alexandria, VA  
For reservations:  
**1-877-834-3613**  
Reservation Code: A34  
Faithe Deffner  
Accordion Competition  
\$25,000 in Cash Awards  
Donated anonymously in Faithe's  
memory by an AAA member.  
Festival Updates  
in Centerfold!



Dominic Karcic and one of the Italian classes that attended the presentation at H. Frank Carey High School in Franklin Square, NY.

## Getting to Know the Accordion, cont'd. from page 1

A real interesting and fun part of the event was having the students and teachers participating in the singing (accompanied by the accordion) of three well known Italian melodies that included "That's Amore," "Ah! Marie" and "Volare." ■



**Dominic Karcic, Italian teachers**

**Ms. Joann Radoslovich Molino and Ms. Sophia Suzzi-Valli**

## Anthony Mecca, Accordion Legend, Honored

*By Anita Siarkowski*

The Connecticut Accordion Association (C.A.A.) paid tribute to one of the greatest accordionists of all time, 94 year old Anthony Mecca, in his hometown of Waterbury, Connecticut. Vasi's Restaurant was the venue for the February 22, 2015 event. The celebrity's son, William Mecca of Watertown, Connecticut hosted the multi-media presentation. A former accordion student of the honoree, Don Gerundo of New Rochelle, New York, coordinated the audio visual program.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed learning of Tony's extraordinary accordion career, witnessing his work, and hearing his music. In attendance was Kay Mecca Rocco of Waterbury, Tony's 91 year old sister. Also present was another 91 year old Waterbury resident, Gerry Hertel – who shared his excitement as an avid accordion student from New Jersey, celebrating his 16th birthday by attending an accordion concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City featuring Charles Magnante, the most famous accordionist in the

world, and the Mecca brothers, Domenic and Anthony, from Waterbury.

A milestone for the instrument, this was the first accordion concert ever held at Carnegie Hall. The April 8, 1939 event was the thrill of his life for 18 year old Tony Mecca, performing as an accordion duet with his 24 year old brother, Dom. At this memorable, history making musical event, the two new personalities were introduced by NBC T.V. Commentator, Kevin Keech. Tony's sister, Kay, remembers all the ladies wearing long gowns, and the huge posters publicizing "Special Guest Accordionists, The Mecca Brothers".

According to Anthony Galla-Rini, renowned accordionist, composer, and conductor..... "When they (Dom and Tony Mecca) were invited to take part in this concert, they approached me to prepare a duet arrangement of Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' as their one selection. The Mecca brothers paid me \$60.00 for my arrangement."

Galla-Rini went on to say, "After they finished the last note and walked off the stage at the concert, the applause was so strong and prolonged, that these brilliant stars, the Mecca brothers, who already had a wide following, had to come back for an encore! In Vaudeville day parlance, that was described as stopping the show. The Meccas did just that at the Carnegie Hall concert, so the next act could not go on until the audience got their encore. They chose Pietro Frosini's "Jolly Caballero", and won enthusiastic appreciation.

In 1959 and 1962, Tony performed again at Carnegie Hall - the latter being a gala accordion concert featuring the Tony Mecca Trio, plus classical accordionists Carmen Carrozza, Charles Magnante, Andy Arcari, Betty Ann McCall – and Joe Biviano, who conducted the Accordion Symphony Society of New York .

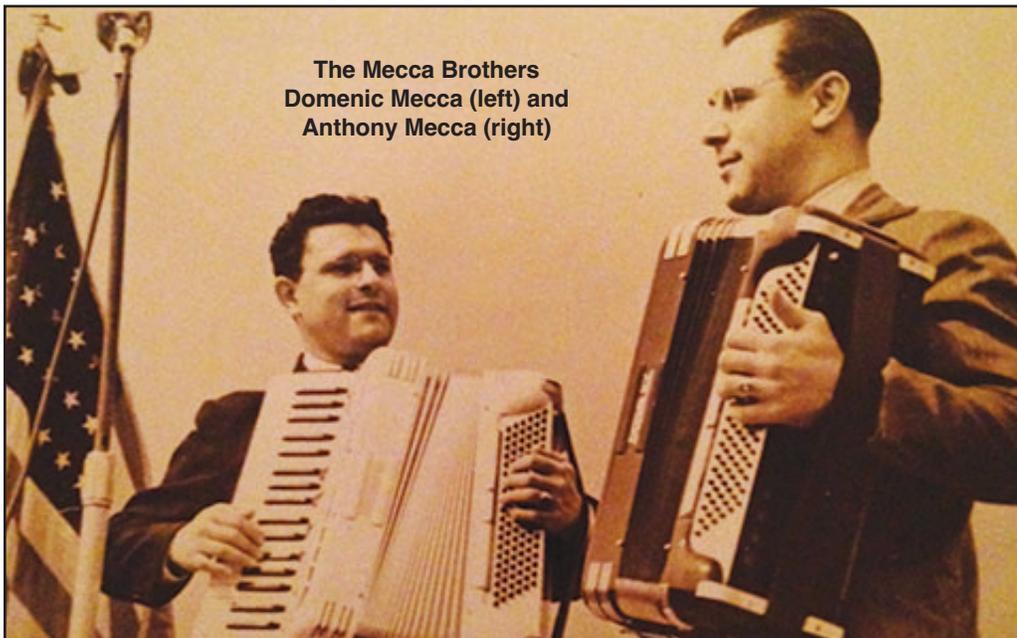
The 5th of seven children, Tony Mecca was born in Waterbury on January 9, 1921, to Marguerite (Santasiero) and William Mecca. Salutatorian of Woodrow Wilson Grammar School, Tony was Class Musician of his Crosby High School graduating class – as were his brothers, Domenic and Leonardo, who composed the music and lyrics of their respective class songs. Their father owned Mecca's Restaurant at 315 Bank Street in Waterbury, where Tony and Dom provided live accordion entertainment every night.

Tony Mecca's first accordion teacher at age 10 was Dom Mecca, his 6 year older brother. At 13, Tony continued his musical studies in New York City with performer, composer, and a founder of the American Accordionists' Association – Joe Biviano. Pietro Frosini, renowned performer and composer, taught Tony bellows shakes techniques.

From 1941 to 1945, Tony entertained the troops while serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps. In 1946, Mecca moved to New York City, where he joined the teaching staff of Joe Biviano School of Music, recorded extensively for radio and television, performed in concerts and club dates. In 1956, he opened his own music school in Westchester County, New York.

In the 1950s, '60s, and '70s ... Tony performed in all major A.A.A. annual events at Town Hall in New York City plus Chicago, Cleveland, and Washington D.C. Tony was the regular guest artist for their concerts

**The Mecca Brothers  
Domenic Mecca (left) and  
Anthony Mecca (right)**



*continued on page 3*

**Anthony Mecca Honored, cont'd from page 2**

and advertising campaigns for Fred Gretsch, world's largest instrument manufacturer, with headquarters spanning 10 stories of one city block in Brooklyn, New York City.

Tony performed for Montovani and with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as for Michael Tilson Thomas and Leonard Bernstein. He provided the background music for the Broadway musical, "Cinerama," plus the operas... "Four Saints in Three Acts" and "Wozzeck." He recorded with Andre Kostelanetz, Percy Faith, Mitch Miller, and performed in the orchestras of the Lucky Strike Hit Parade, Bobby Vinton and Ed Sullivan Shows, plus many others featuring accordion on NBC, CBS, and ABC T.V. networks - including the Perry Como and Vic Damone Shows. For 5 years, Tony was staff musician at New York City Radio Station WOV.

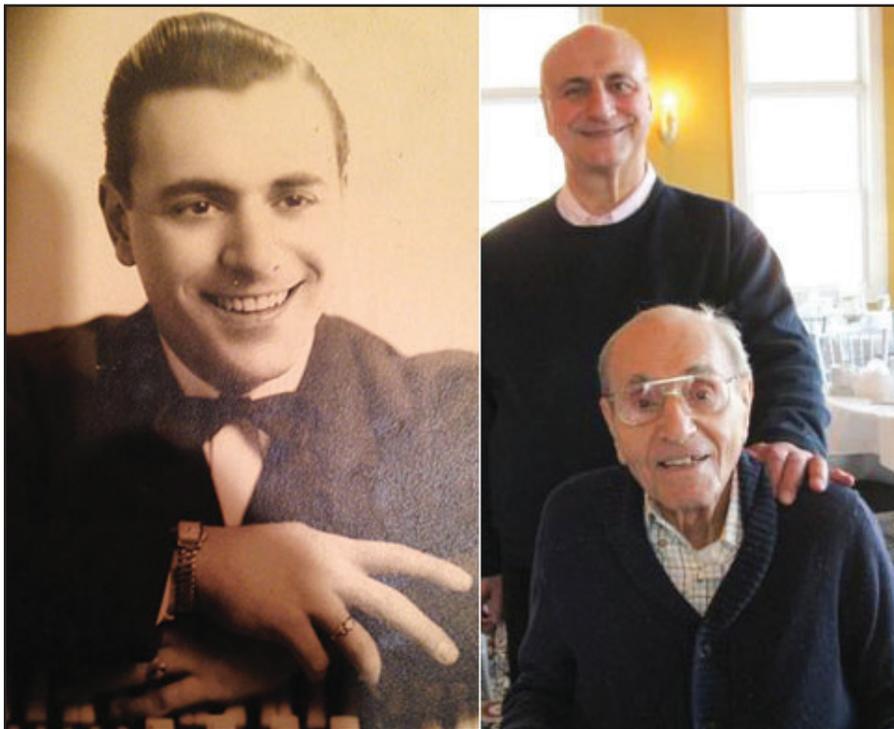
At RCA Victor, Columbia, and Decca... Mecca recorded several albums with accordion great, Joe Biviano. Tony accompanied Frankie Laine, singer and international star, for his recording of "Raw Hide", the theme song for the T.V. series which aired from 1959 through 1966.

While remaining active in the accordion field in the empire state, Tony relocated in 1983 to the Palm Beach, Florida area, where he was very involved entertaining at various celebrity shows, society galas, and private parties. The 50 piece Lauderdale Pops Orchestra frequently featured Tony Mecca as accordion soloist.

A high point of Tony's career was on December 3, 2000, when he performed with the Naples, Florida Symphony Orchestra, accompanying the world famous Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti, whose agent had called 8 different contractors in pursuit of an accordionist for this concert. Every one of them recommended one accordionist only, Anthony Mecca.

For approximately 35 years, from the 1950s through the '80s, Tony served on the Governing Board of the American Accordionists' Association, was their 2nd Vice President from 1960 through 1969 and in the early '80s.

The song, "Isolde Polka", was written by Tony for his wife, Jeannette Masoni Mecca. Once a widower, Mecca moved back to Connecticut in 2014, currently residing in Wolcott. Tony enjoys attending Connecticut Accordion Association's gatherings, where he is always acknowledged by those of us from the "Golden Age of the Accordion", plus others who have since learned of his



**Tony Mecca (left) and Tony Mecca with son, Bill Mecca standing (right)**

amazing accordion career via C.A.A.'s February 22, 2015 fantastic tribute to Anthony Mecca.

Anthony Mecca is a living legend. His legacy will go on through his music, family, friends, and accordion students - like Dom Frontiere, native of New Haven, CT (composer of theme/music from "The Outer Limits", arranger, and jazz accordionist), and Bob Siarkowski of Plantsville, Connecticut, who began teaching accordion at age 16, opened his own studio at 18 (still in operation), and had his own band for many years. Siarkowski commuted to New Rochelle, New York to study with Tony Mecca for 2 years, practiced the mandatory 3-5 hours a day.

Bob recalls when they first met..... "Tony asked me to play something. I played an advanced version of "Talk Of The Town". Then he said, "Hold up your right hand. The thumb is a finger. How many fingers do you have?" I said "Five. So he taught me five finger chords. I knew he was the right one for me. Tony Mecca was the best jazz accordionist and teacher, bar none. God bless him for all he did for me, and for the accordion world." ■

## **AAA Festival • July 8-12, 2015**

**Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites  
625 First Street • Alexandria, VA 22314  
In Alexandria's Historic District**

**\$119 Single or Double - Includes Parking**

**Faith Deffner Accordion Competition - Over \$25,000 in Cash Awards  
Also Coupe Mondiale qualifying categories for 2015 Coupe Mondiale in Finland**

**For details, contact: [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com)**

## Long Island Accordion Alliance Summer Meetings

The Long Island Accordion Association (LIAA) will continue its fourth year of celebrating the accordion with the popular group 'Smorgasbandet' on May 6th, and Mary Tokarski and Nathan Chapeton on June 3rd at 6.00 PM.

Nathan Chapeton is a student of AAA President Mary Tokarski and has studied the accordion for almost six years. This past October he represented the United States at the Coupe Mondiale (World Accordion Championships) in Salzburg, Austria. He competed in the Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Category. Nathan was also chosen from among 13 candidates at Middletown High School (CT) to perform as a soloist when they present "Middletown High Goes to the Symphony" with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, performing the Rondo from Pietro Deiro's Concerto in E.

Nathan's teacher, Mary Tokarski, served as Director of Music Education at Tokarski Music Center in North Haven, Connecticut, where she taught piano and accordion, conducted the choral and ensemble programs, supervised the pre-school programs, and served as a Music Educator in the North Haven Department of Education's Early Childhood Development Program. A renowned International soloist and chamber musician, Mary currently teaches accordion and piano at her home in Northford, Connecticut.

The LIAA meets at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road in East Northport, NY. For more information and bookings, please phone: (631) 261-6344 or visit [www.la-villini.com](http://www.la-villini.com) ■



Nathan Chapeton (left) pictured with his teacher, Mary Tokarski

## Accordion Pops Orchestra Summer Concerts

The Accordion Pops Orchestra under the direction of Al Terzo presents two summer time concerts. The orchestra will perform 'A Night at the Movies' at the Seabrook Village Concert Hall in Tinton Falls, NJ, on May 3, 2015 at 2:30 PM featuring guest vocalist Sasha Leon.

Their next concert will be held on June 7, 2015 at 3:00 PM at the Shannondell Performing Arts Theater at Valley Forge, 10000 Shannondell Way, Audubon, PA. This concert will feature Andrea Maurer (Flute), Sasha Leon (Vocalist) and Cody McSherry (accordion).

Most of the twenty-five plus members of the Accordion Pops Orchestra are professional musicians or teachers and many are soloists in their own right. The orchestra performs a repertoire of light classical, Broadway, big band and popular music. It has entertained audiences at concert halls, county fairs, festivals, schools, and playhouses at many locations, primarily in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Conductor Al Terzo is a teacher, arranger, and conductor who has been with the orchestra since its inception in 1970. He is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, New Jersey Music Teachers Association, and National Association of Music Educators.

Mr. Terzo serves on the governing board of the American Accordionists' Association and is a founding member of the Mid Atlantic Music Teachers Guild. He is an accomplished accordionist who has performed at the Garden State Arts Center and Newark's Symphony Hall. Currently Mr. Terzo teaches accordion and piano in New Jersey.

For further information on these performances or future activities, please contact Al Terzo at: [alterzo@hotmail.com](mailto:alterzo@hotmail.com) ■

# Accordion Pops Orchestra



**Al Terzo - Conductor**

*Shannondell Performing Arts Theater  
at Valley Forge*

10000 Shannondell Way - Audubon, Pennsylvania

<i>Andrea Maurer</i>	<i>Sasha Leon</i>	<i>Cody McSherry</i>
		

**Sunday June 7th, 2015 - 3:00 p.m.**

## A World of Accordions Museum Summer Activities

Plans for the 2015 Palmer Festival and Fundraiser (July 15-18, 2015) at the World of Accordions Museum in Superior, WI, are coming along well. Currently scheduled events include Alex Meixner's Workshop and Concert, "Music and Magic" by Bill Palmer, III, readings by famed folklorist Dr. Anthony Bukoski, special music by Paul Vargason, as well as other guest artists.

Museum curator Helmi Harrington, Ph. D., will offer selections on the infamous Palmer harpsichord and on historic accordions preceding a tour of the museum that includes details of the monumental growth of HARTS and AWAM during 2014. She'll also offer a workshop on interpretation entitled "It's Not Written in the Notes." The event will also include a jam session and open mike for all who bring their accordions or choose to use one from the museum collection.

Immediately following the Palmer Festival, a seminar will be offered on Advanced Piano Accordion Repair (July 18-21, 2015) focusing on tuning, machine alignments, bellows, cosmetics and much more.

Also included in the summer line-up is an appearance at the annual July 4th Parade where the Accordion Concertina Music Band is looking forward to performing traditional patriotic tunes on their parade float which has been lavishly redecorated. At the conclusion of the parade at 4:00 PM, they will present their annual concert at the Carlton County Historical Society in Cloquet, MN.

To conclude the busy July schedule, the Travelling Museum portion of AWAM will be taken to the 75th Anniversary of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International's Festival in Lisle (Chicago), IL, from July 22-25, 2015. Helmi will offer her performance demonstration on historic accordions – family instruments featuring early Flutinas, English- and Anglo Concertinas, Piano- and Chromatic Button accordions, along with hybrids, rare



Dr. Helmi Harrington with one of the many displays at A World of Accordions Museum

and unique examples. Helmi will fit their histories into the ongoing development of musical technologies graded from "student" to "world class." The Accordion Concertina Music (ACM) Band will perform and compete in the various ATG competitions and activities, and is comprised of students ranging in skills from PH book 2 to virtuoso, and in ages from mid-20s to mid-70s.

Visiting scholar and musicologist Dr. Herbert Scheibenreif of Austria will spend a few days at the museum after the ATG Festival in Lisle, IL. His first visit occurred nine years ago. Curator Helmi Harrington expects he will be greatly astonished by the growth of the Museum since his first visit. Dr. Scheibenreif is an expert in many areas associated with accordion history, and is especially well-known for his work with Russian artists, compositions, and discographies.

For further details on any of these events please contact: (715) 395-2787. ■

## Remembering Milton DeLugg (December 2, 1918-April 6, 2015)

Milton DeLugg (December 2, 1918 – April 6, 2015), a talented accordionist passed away recently in Los Angeles, CA.

He appeared in short Soundies musicals and occasional movies (like 1949's Jolson Sings Again). He quickly became a successful arranger and composer and worked as band leader at Slapsy Maxie's Wilshire location in Hollywood. His clients ranged from the American Junior Miss Pageant to Jackie Wilson, and he was a musician on such radio programs as The Abe Burrows Show. One of his best-known tunes is an arrangement of the song "The Happy Wanderer", and his brassy polka "Hoop Dee Doo" became a game show staple. He is also the composer of "Hooray for Santy Claus", the catchy theme song for the low-budget motion picture Santa Claus Conquers the Martians. He also composed "Roller Coaster" – recorded by the Henri Rene Orchestra on RCA Victor. It was used as the closing theme for the popular Goodson-Todman panel show What's My Line? from the early 1950s until its cancellation in 1967.

In 1950 and 1951, DeLugg was musical director, bandleader, and accordionist on Broadway Open House, an NBC late-night television program which has been considered a forerunner to The Tonight Show. He often played a song he co-wrote, titled, "Orange Colored Sky", which was best remembered as a hit for Nat King Cole. In 1950, DeLugg was also orchestra conductor for the short-lived Abe Burrows' Almanac.

In 1953, he played accordion, leading the Milton DeLugg Trio on the short-lived The Bill Cullen Show. Four years later, in 1957, DeLugg joined the cast of the Winchell and Mahoney Show. In 1958, Milton DeLugg produced Buddy Holly's single, "Rave On!". For decades, DeLugg has been associated with NBC as a musical director. In 1966, he was briefly musical director of The Tonight Show Band during the tenure of Johnny Carson.

DeLugg enjoyed a long association with Chuck Barris, beginning as arranger of the original theme to The Newlywed Game in 1966.

# 2015 AAA FESTIVAL UPDATES

## AAA 2015 Festival - July 8-12 - Alexandria, VA – Tentative Schedule of Events

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015

3:30 p.m.	Registration Desk Opens (until 6:00 p.m.) .....Ballroom Foyer <b>Registration Fee is \$35</b> <i>which allows admission to exhibits, workshops and all regular competition categories as well as participation in the Jr. Festival and Festival Orchestras.</i>
5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open.....Pendleton and Marshall Coupe Mondiale Qualifying Categories (TBD).....Martin
7:00 p.m.	Meet and Greet & Jam Session for all Registered Participants .....Ballroom Foyer

### THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015

8:00 a.m.	Deffner Competition - Percussion Rehearsals.....Ballroom A & B
9:00 a.m.	Registration Desk Opens (until 11:30 a.m.).....Ballroom Foyer Exhibits Open (until 11:30 a.m.).....Pendleton and Marshall Junior Festival Orchestra Rehearsal .....Martin
10:00 a.m.	Competitions (until 3:30 p.m.).....Martin WORKSHOP – “So You Want to Play with the School Orchestra” Mary Tokarski .....Martin
10:30 a.m.	WORKSHOP – “Playing Between the Cracks: the Rubbery Accordion” Dr. Robert Young McMahan with Melody Ben Flah.....Wythe
11:30 a.m.	LUNCHEON AND CONCERT* .....Ballroom C & D
1:00 p.m.	Registration Desk - Open until 3:00 p.m. ....Ballroom Foyer Deffner Competition.....Ballroom A & B Exhibits Open until 3:30 p.m. ....Pendleton and Marshall
2:00 p.m.	WORKSHOP – “What it Takes to Run the Mantovani Orchestra” Ken Moulton.....Wythe
3:30 p.m.	Festival Orchestra Rehearsal .....Ballroom C & D Bring your Accordion, a pencil, music stand and your orchestra music!

**Night on the Town – Join us on King Street in historic Alexandria  
Busso Festival Orchestra Concert at 7:00 p.m. at Market Square located at 301 King Street!**

### FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015

9:00 a.m.	Exhibits Open (until 3:30 p.m.).....Pendleton and Marshall Junior Festival Orchestra Rehearsal .....Martin Registration opens until noon (open for ticket sales at 6:00 p.m.) .....Ballroom Foyer Deffner Competition.....Ballroom A & B
10:00 a.m.	Youth Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal .....Martin
10:30 a.m.	WORKSHOP – “The Music of Eugene Ettore” Rita Barnea .....Wythe
1:00 p.m.	Competitions.....Martin
1:30 p.m.	WORKSHOP – “How to Prepare Properly for a Rehearsal” Prof. Joan Cochran Sommers .....Wythe
3:30 p.m.	Festival Orchestra Rehearsal .....Ballroom C & D
7:00 p.m.	GALA CONCERT* .....Ballroom C & D
9:00 p.m.	ARTIST RECEPTION* .....TBD

### SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015

9:00 a.m.	Junior Festival Orchestra Rehearsal.....Ballroom C & D Competitions.....Martin Exhibits Open (until 3:30 p.m.).....Pendleton and Marshall
9:30 a.m.	WORKSHOP “Playing for Uncle Sam” SGM Manny Bobenrieth .....Wythe
11:00 a.m.	WORKSHOP – “Klezmer and Balkan Ornamentation for Accordionists” Lauren Brody .....Wythe
11:00 a.m.	Youth Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal .....Ballroom A & B
12:00 p.m.	Entertainment AAA.....Ballroom C & D
1:00 p.m.	AWARDS CONCERT.....Ballroom C & D
3:30 p.m.	Festival Orchestra Rehearsal .....Ballroom C & D
6:00 p.m.	COCKTAIL RECEPTION.....Ballroom Foyer Music by Don Gerundo
7:00 p.m.	GALA BANQUET* AAA 2015 Festival Orchestra.....Ballroom C & D The United States Army Strings

### SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2015

9:00 a.m.	BREAKFAST and OPEN MEETING* .....Ballroom A & B
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\*Indicates separate fee

## Exciting Workshops Scheduled for 2015 AAA Festival in Virginia

By Joan Grauman, AAA Archivist and Workshop Chairperson

The AAA Festival is shaping up to be a very exciting event! Excellent, highly qualified workshop presenters will be bringing fresh and new topics for the workshops that will take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the 5-day “celebration of the accordion”. Beautiful historic Alexandria, Virginia will be the site of this year’s festival, which will be held July 8 to 12. For more information, visit the AAA website: [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com).

Here are the workshop presenters and the days they will be presenting.

### THURSDAY, JULY 9:

#### Mary Tokarski, AAA President and Youth Orchestra Conductor: “So You Want to Play with the School Orchestra?”

Would you like to include your accordion with your school’s Jazz Band, or perhaps Orchestra program? This workshop will focus on HOW you should present yourself to your Music Educators – what to show them about your playing, and the accordion’s capabilities – and an overall “lesson” in putting your talents in a good light (also known as “getting your foot in the door”). Parents are requested to attend with the student. We will also have young accordionists tell us about THEIR experiences with school events and programs. If YOU have a story, bring it along . . . we want to hear it!

#### Dr. Robert Young McMahan with Melody Ben Flah: “Playing Between the Cracks: the ‘Rubbery’ Accordion and its Place in Tuning Experiments in Modern Music, both Western and Middle Eastern”

In 1911, one of the world’s leading pianists and futuristic thinkers, Ferruccio Busoni, published his brief treatise *Sketch of a New Aesthetic of Music* in which he protested the limitations of the equal division of the octave into only twelve pitches in the instruments and music written for them during his day and before. He felt it was time to increase the number of pitches within that compass through new tunings (and new instruments if need be) so that music could progress into the new century unfettered by this technological shortcoming. Particularly implicated was the immovable intonation of keyboard instruments and their fixed, equal tempered set of twelve keys per octave. Since that time, a considerable number of composers have attempted to remedy the situation via newly created electronic and acoustic instruments, and the use of microtones on more tonally flexible conventional instruments, such as unfretted strings. The accordion, more than other standard acoustic keyboard instruments, has found some ways to fulfill this need, as will be demonstrated on both the standard-tuned and micro-tuned accordions.

#### Kenneth Moulton, Director of the Mantovani Orchestra: “What It Takes to Run the Mantovani Orchestra”

Ken will speak about what one needs to know about organizing and operating a musical tour outside of the United States. He will speak about the role of the accordion in the Mantovani Orchestra. Ken will also cover problems one might encounter on a tour and what can be done to solve these problems quickly and successfully.

### FRIDAY, JULY 10:

#### Rita Davidson Barnea: “The Music of Eugene Ettore”

Rita has been the national editor of Accordion USA ([www.accordionusa.com](http://www.accordionusa.com)) for eight years and has had a long and successful career in music. She attributes her success and love of the accordion to her teacher and mentor, Eugene Ettore. Ettore taught, composed, arranged, conducted, wrote instructional material for the accordion and the impressive list goes on. Rita describes Ettore as a “true Renaissance man”. She will speak about his fascinating life and play several of his beautiful compositions.

#### Prof. Joan Cochran Sommers: “How to Prepare Properly for a Rehearsal”

Joan Sommers has been preparing for rehearsals since the age of 9. Sometimes she was a member of a group, sometimes she was the leader of the group, but regardless of which side of the baton she was on, Joan found out there were certain requirements to be met. During this workshop, she will discuss some of the most important ones.

### SATURDAY, JULY 11:

#### SGM Manny Bobenrieth: “Playing For Uncle Sam”

SGM Manny Bobenrieth will speak about what it’s like being an accordionist with the United States Army Strings, and about his duties and responsibilities as the only accordionist in the US Army. Manny will elaborate on what it means to be a US Army military musician, no matter what instrument you play.

#### Lauren Brody: “Klezmer and Balkan Ornamentation for Accordionists”\*

Learn the ins and outs of the trills, turns, mordents, grace notes and fingering puzzles that make Klezmer and Balkan piano accordion music so technically challenging and so elusive, yet so pleasing to the ear. See how these styles use techniques that are unfamiliar to classically trained players. Discover how you can use your thumb on black keys with no fear and with lots of conviction. This workshop will be hands-on.

\*Note: Lauren Brody’s workshop is the only hands-on workshop this year. Bring your accordion for a delightful hour of learning how to create the hauntingly beautiful sounds of Eastern European Jewish music and the folk music of the Balkans.



## Luncheon Concert Features Local Musicians

The 2015 AAA Festival Luncheon Concert (Thursday) will feature the members of the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS). WMAS has met monthly in Northern Virginia since its founding in 2003. With the club’s constant encouragement, its terrific workshops, the guest artist concerts and performing opportunities, many of the members have blossomed into really fine musicians and performers.

Performing at the Luncheon Concert: the Potomac Accordion Ensemble under the direction of AAA Governing Board member Joan Grauman; accordionist Robert Ford accompanied by his daughter Rocio Ford on castanets; accordionist Mark Nejako with violinist Nick Sungenis; and accordionist/singer Ken Kunec.



The Potomac Ensemble

## Milton DeLugg, cont'd. from p. 5

From 1976 to 1980, he was musical director of The Gong Show (appearing with his "Band With a Thug"). DeLugg often appeared on the show as a comic foil, in the characters of bad joke teller Naso Literatus and philosopher Old Drool. DeLugg's venerable "Hoop Dee Doo" became a fixture on The Gong Show, and was used whenever the contest winner was chosen.

DeLugg also wrote the theme music for other Barris projects including The \$1.98 Beauty Show, Camouflage (where, in a throwback to an earlier era of game shows, the music was actually performed live by DeLugg and his band), Leave It to The Women, Three's a Crowd, and The New Treasure Hunt. He also recorded new versions of the theme songs to the 1970s versions of The Dating Game and The Newlywed Game, as well as providing the themes for their 1980s revivals. DeLugg and sidemen Mark Stevens, Billy Neale and Ray Neapolitan appeared in Chuck's The Gong Show Movie (1980) as The Hollywood Cowboys.

DeLugg remained active as musical director of the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade through 2013. Milton DeLugg passed away at home on April 6, 2015, at the age of 96. ■



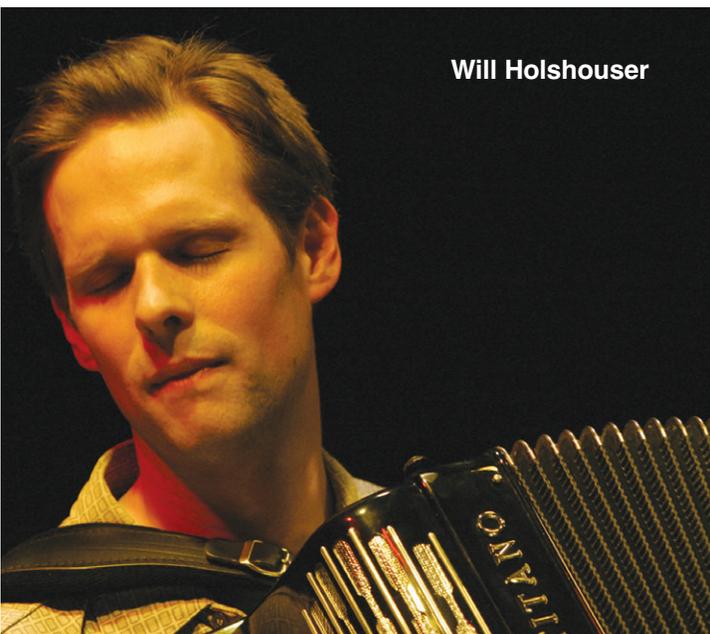
Pictured, left to right, front row: Wayne Howell, Jerry Lester, Milton DeLugg (accordion) and the actress Dagmar on "Broadway Open House" in the early 1950's.

## Will Holshouser Concerts

Accordianist Will Holshouser will perform with his group, Musette Explosion, in a series of upcoming concerts. Joining Will in the group are Matt Munisteri on guitar and banjo and Marcus Rojas on tuba.

These three in-demand New York based virtuoso musicians, each with a distinctive voice on his instrument, explore and expand on Parisian musette. They bring this multicultural dancehall music to new places through the highest improvisational communication, emotionally honest performances, and original compositions.

Marcus, Matt and Will keep busy backing up some of the world's foremost artists (Regina Carter, Paul Simon, Henry Threadgill, Catherine Russell, David Krakauer, Mark O'Connor and others). Over the last fifteen years, they've indulged in a labor of love: exploring the beautiful and challenging French musette repertoire.



Will Holshouser

Their new (and first) album, *Introducing Musette Explosion*, may be the only accordion/guitar/tuba record to spend a week at #6 on Billboard's "Jazz Album" charts, and was featured in an interview on NPR's *Fresh Air* in November 2014. Upcoming appearances later in 2015 include the Monterey Jazz Festival, Chautauqua Institute's chamber music series, and *Djangofest Northwest*.

Musette is a unique urban art form, its beauty and passion born of the cultural diversity and chaos of city life. Paris in the early 20th century was a cosmopolitan melting pot, like New Orleans or New York. A true "musette explosion," musical and cultural, was taking place.

According to musette historian Didier Roussin, Paris was "in the throes of explosive growth as poor migrants flocked in. Where people of all classes rubbed shoulders, places of amusement multiplied ... Cafés, clubs, brothels, and dance halls were the crucibles in which were forged new musical forms."

The original bagpipes ("musettes") of the French Auvergnats were replaced by the Italians' accordions, but gave their name to the new style of music; Roma guitarists and violinists brought in Eastern European and Spanish influences; American GIs introduced jazz, the banjo, and drums. German and Polish waltzes, polkas, and mazurkas were also in the air. This trio, with its unique instrumentation, continues the "explosion" through its new interpretations, sonic surprises, and original compositions.

"This group does not restructure the repertoire's foundation; they handle it all in their own way. *Musette Explosion* has respectfully reclaimed 1930s Paris for the 21st Century." – Aaron Cohen, *Downbeat*

The May performances featuring accordionist Will Holshouser include:

- May 5 – Cornelia St. Cafe, NY
- May 13-16 – Jazz at the Bistro, St. Louis, MO  
(performance without *Musette Explosion*)
- June 25 – Birdland, NYC
- August 10 – Chautauqua Institution, NY
- August 11 – The Bop Shop, Rochester, NY
- August 27 – The Towers, Narragansett, RI

## New York Accordionist Back in New Zealand

Heather Masfield, Secretary of the New Zealand Accordion Association reports that New York based accordionist and AAA Board of Director Kevin Friedrich returned to his home town of Dargaville, New Zealand to present his annual concert, "Afternoon of Music with Kevin Friedrich and Friends".

The 2015 annual fundraising concert for the Dargaville Museum included moving musical tributes in honor of local servicemen and women. New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom are in the midst of presenting magnificent tributes on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli (WWI) and the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII.

For Kevin's tribute, he worked with renowned New Zealand composer Gary Daverne to provide 16 minutes of original sound track for a multimedia presentation featuring local servicemen and women, to which Kevin played live. The work titled "This is Our Home" comprised three movements: I. The Journey, (with backing by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra), II. Gallipoli, III. This is Our Home which featured narration and vocals by Lionel Reekie.

The audience was deeply moved by the poignant music, continuing to draw in audible breaths and sighs as the history of the many local people who served in these wars was recognized. Many eyes had tears in them as the audience gained their feet for a standing ovation to applaud for a very long time, this stunning video/musical remembrance.

Another original composition commissioned for the concert was a haunting waltz by popular Scottish accordionist Gary Blair, who had composed the piece 'Waltzing Home' for Kevin to play on this program. The beautiful new work was extremely well received by the capacity audience. Kevin also performed with vocalists and a 12 piece choir as well as a solo program of classical and lighter music.

The 8th Annual Concert presented by Kevin at Lighthouse Function Center at the Dargaville Museum, was sold out weeks earlier, and featured an array of local and guest talent. The moving concert opened with the Last Post and Rouse along with the raising and lowering of the New Zealand flag in honor of the Service personnel, and one of two New Zealand National Anthems, God Save the Queen, performed by the Auckland Accordion Symphonietta (ASS) conducted by Lionel Reekie.

This 18 piece accordion orchestra then opened the musical part of the concert, with the afternoon going on to feature vocalists, instrumentalists and readings, including performances by Maurice Jones and his daughter Alanah (vocals). Maurice performed with Lionel Reekie as the Starlight Duo, and were joined by Kevin for one number as the Starlight Trio.

A humorous moment occurred when Lionel Reekie and Kevin performed the old time favorite 'I Brought My Harp to the Party, but Nobody asked me to Play'. With some localizing of the words, the adapted song 'I Brought my Accordion to the Concert, but Nobody asked me to Play' included local identities and humor. At the end of



Kevin Friedrich

the song when the words say 'so I threw the thing away' the audience was amused, and relieved to later find out through a quick switch and slight of hand, that the accordion that went hurtling out the door into the car park, was actually a dummy polystyrene accordion, with the real accordion hidden safely behind the piano.

The finale of the concert was the 'This Is Our Home' multimedia presentation, which elicited a standing ovation, with the concert closing with the second of New Zealand's National Anthem's, God Defend New Zealand, sung in Maori by Alanah Jones, Alexandra and Alina Reekie, followed by the audience in English, with the concert concluding with the traditional Jam Session attracting local accordionists and musicians.

Kevin worked with the local community for several years to raise the necessary funds to establish the Music Wing at the Dargaville Museum.

*continued on page 10*



## NY Accordionist, cont'd. from p. 9

gaville Museum, a building which houses his collection 'Accordion Gems, A Master Collection of Accordions Through Time'. The annual sold out concerts are used to raise funds to develop this and other exhibits within the Dargaville Museum, including the special exhibit profiling the History of the Accordion in New Zealand, on the occasion of the New Zealand Accordion Association's 40th Anniversary.

Kevin is pictured here with one of the 888,246 hand made ceramic poppies used in the impressive display at the Tower of

London 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' in the United Kingdom, an exhibit with each poppy commemorating a British Empire (including New Zealand) casualty of WWI. He is also pictured with the 12 piece choir, who sang rare examples of New Zealand compositions from war time years including 'The NZ Boys are Marching' and 'New Zealand Will Be There'.

For more information on the Accordion Museum, New Zealand Accordion Music and other activities, please visit [www.kevinfriedrich.com](http://www.kevinfriedrich.com) ■

## Accordion Orchestra Concerts

### Westminster Philharmonic

Fill your Spring & Summer with Accordion Music presented by the Westminster Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra. The WPAO will present 4 concerts over the Spring and Summer. Music for these programs will speak the Language of Accordion from Mozart, Bizet, Holst, Deiro and more including a medley from My Fair Lady to the music of the Balkans.

**June 8 Acme Accordion School Recital Hall**

7:00 PM 322 Haddon Ave.  
Westmont, NJ 08108  
856-854-6628

**June 13 William G. Rohrer Memorial Library**

3:00 PM Haddon Township Branch  
15 MacArthur Boulevard  
Phone: (856) 854-2752

**July 27 Bellmawr Branch of the Camden County Library System**

7:15 PM 203 Laurel Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043  
(856) 772-1636

**August 5 Cape May Gazebo**

8:00 PM Lafayette St . Cape May, NJ  
<http://www.capemay.com/eventcalendar/>

All performances are Free of Charge and Open to the Public.

For more information call: 856-854-6628  
[www.wpao.org](http://www.wpao.org)



### AAA Festival in Alexandria – An Exciting Event!

Alexandria is one of the most celebrated towns of the United States, noted for its breathtaking waterfront views and historic housing - George and Martha Washington's Mount Vernon home, Robert E. Lee's residence, Civil War Era homes, the Torpedo Factory, and so much more.

On Thursday July 9, 2015, the AAA Luncheon Concert will feature accordionists from the Virginia/D.C. area including The Potomac Ensemble directed by Joan Grauman, Robert & Rocio Ford, Ken Kunec and Mark Nejako with violinist Chris Sunge-nis. Thursday evening will feature "Accordionists on the Town".

### CAA Orchestra in Concert for UNICO

The Connecticut Accordion Orchestra, conducted by Linda Soley Reed, dazzled the 250+ guests at the UNICO fundraiser sponsored by the Pontelandolfo Club in Waterbury on April 26th with a full concert program of Italian favorites as well as light classics and dinner music. Soloists that were featured included Gia Ciccone, Will Comer, Nathan Chapeton and Fred Schwinger. The 22-piece CAA Orchestra included Ralph Corbo on guitar/bass; Jack Varenelli, percussion and Art Daigle, vocals and our Master of Ceremonies, Tom O'Neil. In addition Bob Vitale backed up the students from the Italian classes at the Ponte Club as they sang, *That's Amore* and *Santa Lucia*. The audience was thrilled as Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini stopped by to visit and do a few numbers.

The fundraiser was for the Italian language and culture program at the Ponte Club and welcomes all students - any age. The CAA Orchestra will also perform at the Carmen Carrozza Memorial Concert on Sunday, October 4th at the Double Tree in Tarrytown, NY - *Save the date!* ■



It is a special celebration weekend in Alexandria, and in its honor, The Busso Festival Orchestra will perform at Market Square, 301 King Street at 7:00 p.m. Shuttles are available from the hotel to the downtown area, so don't miss it!

In addition to the usual Festival competitions, this year will host the memorial Faith Deffner Accordion Competition with U.S. and international competitors. Participating on the adjudication panel is world renowned composer Viatcheslav Semionov, along with Professor Joan Cochran Sommers, Joe Natoli,



# Coast to Coast

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



## Brookhaven, PA

The 6th Annual Italian Music Festival on April 26th featured an evening of popular and standard Italian music with vocalist Vito Lombardo, the Coro Gabriele d'Annunzio under the direction of Maestro Federico Piantini and accordionist Joe Soprani.

## Kansas City, MO

The Bon Ton Soul Accordion Band (pictured below) will perform Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 8:00 PM at Crossroads KC at Grinder's, 417 E. 18th Street, Kansas City, MO. Ticket prices: GA \$11.50, Bleacher \$21.50, VIP \$31.50. Ticket sales: On Sale Friday, March 20, 2015 at 10:00 AM. Doors open at 6:00 PM, the show starts at 8:00 PM.

## Leavenworth, WA

The Northwest Accordion Society proudly announces their 21st annual Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration to be held in Leavenworth, WA from June 18-21, 2015.

Attendees are invited to celebrate accordion music from ethnic to jazz. Activities include performances in the Festschalle, Grange & Gazebo as well as competitions, workshops, jam sessions and free accordion lessons. For more information, please visit [www.accordioncelebration.org](http://www.accordioncelebration.org)

## Las Vegas, NV

The 16th Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention will take place in Las Vegas at the Gold Coast Hotel from June 22-25, 2015. Many well known and virtuoso

accordionists will perform including Riders in the Sky, Grayson Masefield (World Champion in Classical and Entertainment and Digital accordion), Joey Miskulin, Stas Venglevski, Mary Tokarski, Luciano Testani and the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra, which will once again be directed by Joan Cochran Sommers.

## Northport, NY

The regular production titled 'From Broadway to the Met.... plus' featuring vocalist Cheryl Spielman and accordionist Dominic Karcic (pictured below) will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

Attendees are invited to come along and enjoy the music from the American Song Book, Broadway, Tin Pan Alley, Opera, Operetta, plus much more. The event will be held at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road in East Northport, NY. For more information and bookings, please contact Frank at: (631) 261-6344.



## Lisle (Chicago), IL

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) will hold their 75th Anniversary Celebration in Lisle, IL (Chicago area) at the Hyatt Lisle from July 22-25, 2015. Featured international guest artist will be Yuri Shishkin (Russia). Other artists include Frank Petrilli, Stas Venglevski, Joe Natoli, Gary Blair (Scotland), Cory Pesaturo, Michael Bridge (Canada) with workshops by Helmi Harrington, Ph. D., Joan Grauman and many more. The festival will feature concerts, workshops, social activities as well as the annual Festival Orchestra conducted by Joan C. Sommers. For more information, please visit [www.accordion.com/atg](http://www.accordion.com/atg).

## Silver Falls, OR

The Rose City Accordion Camp will be held June 7-12, 2015 at the Silver Falls State Park Conference Center, Sublimity, Oregon. The Conductors will be Murl Allen Sanders and Stas Venglevski. Workshop instructors are Beverley Fess and Mary Tokarski.

## New York, NY

The AAA presents the annual Master Class and Concert Series 'The Seminars' from August 7-9, 2015 at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City. The event titled 'Chock Full O' Learnin' is three consecutive days of seminars, workshops, lectures, discussions and performances moderated by Dr. William Schimmel. For more information, please visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com).

## *Carrozza Scholarship Competition & Memorial Concert October 2-4, 2015 Double Tree Tarrytown, NY*

**October 2nd**

**AAA Open Meeting 7:30 p.m.**

**October 3rd**

**Carrozza Scholarship Competition - requirements to be announced shortly**

**October 4th**

**Memorial Concert and Dinner**

**1:00 p.m. - Entertainment  
Throughout**

