

# AAA Newsletter

American Accordionists' Association  
January-February 2017

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## ***From the Editor***

Welcome to the January/February 2017 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

With the busy holiday season far behind us, we now turn towards an exciting array of accordion activities featuring a diverse array of artists performing in a variety of genres. We hope you will enjoy some of the many upcoming events and as always, we look forward to gathering everyone in person at the summer Festival, this year to be held in Princeton, New Jersey.

Once again my sincere thanks to former AAA President Linda Reed and Board of Director Rita Barnea (Davidson) for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. Items for the March/April 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 attachment. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file, and the larger the file size the better. We can always reduce/crop the picture if necessary, however we are unable to increase the quality from smaller pictures. The deadline for the March/April Newsletter will be the 1st of April, 2017.

Thank you in advance for taking time to share your news with our membership.

Sincerely, Kevin

Kevin Friedrich, AAA Newsletter Editor



## ***From the President***

I hope that you have had a great holiday season, and that Mother Nature has not been too tough on you. Here in the Northeast, winter started off quiet, but is now making up for lost time. Lots of snow, lots of cold temperatures! Well, it is time to plan ahead to warmer weather and spring festivities and events – and AAA is going to be busy. We begin with the search for representatives to the Coupe Mondiale in September at picturesque Osimo, Italy (near Castelfidardo, home of the accordion). On Friday evening, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, the AAA will sponsor a Coupe Mondiale Qualifying Event at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany, New Jersey. Today's young accordionists are some of the most talented I have heard in a long time! If you (or someone you know) want to participate as a contestant, the AAA will audition accordionists for all 7 categories. Check out the Coupe Mondiale website [www.coupemondiale.org](http://www.coupemondiale.org) for complete requirements for each division, and the AAA

website for the entry forms.

Website: [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com)

E-mail:

[ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com).

To continue the line-up, you don't want to miss the Carozza Memorial Scholarship Fund Raiser on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the lovely and elegant Villa Barone Hilltop Manor, 466 US Route 6, Mahopac, New York 10541 from noon to 5 p.m. Enjoy a fantastic menu of appetizers, salad, your choice of Chicken Sorrentino, Filet Francese (catch of the day), Center Cut Breaded Pork Chop or Breaded Eggplant Parmigiana for your main course, coffee and dessert, with wine on the table - \$75 per person, \$45 for children under 10. For reservations contact Dr. Joseph Ciccone, Chairman, 175 King Street, Chappaqua, NY 10514 – telephone: 914-238-0041, Fax 914-238-0494 – email [drjcciccone@aol.com](mailto:drjcciccone@aol.com)



***From the President, continued from page 1***

Enjoy music by strolling musicians Frank Busso, Sr. and Emilio Magnotta; Featured Young Artists: Cody McSherry, Gia Ciccone, Christopher Gorton and Cory Pesaturo; Special AAA Guest Performers: The Connecticut Accordion Orchestra conducted by Peter Peluso; and . . . dancing to entertainment by: Mario Tacca & Mary Mancini, Frank Toscano, Emilio Magnotta, Frank Carozza and family!

All profits will benefit the Carrozza Memorial Scholarship Fund. These funds are awarded to the winners of the Carrozza Memorial Competition, this year featuring \$8,000 in cash prizes! (See below for more details on the competition.) Thank you for your support, and we hope you will join us to hear these marvelous young performers in concert on April 30<sup>th</sup>, as well as in competition in July!

July 12-16, 2017, the Westin Hotel at Forrester Village in Princeton, NJ becomes the headquarters for the 2017 AAA Festival. Competition categories for everyone, workshops, concerts and entertainment to

please the diverse interests of our attendees, and performances by the Youth Involvement Program Jazz Ensemble and Junior Orchestra, both of which feature our up-and-coming young accordionists along with young instrumentalists from the Princeton area. One of this year's highlights will be a "Youth Track" being presented by the AAA's Youth Outreach Program with activities for all our young participants. Stay tuned to the AAA website for more details soon!

Join the AAA in celebrating the legacy of Carmen Carozza by participating in the competition sparked by the Maestro himself! The competition will feature \$8,000 in Prizes. Rules and Regulations are available online at [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) - go to the Events page, and select Carrozza Competition.

We hope to see YOU at the annual AAA Open Meeting on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3 p.m. at the conclusion of the MAMTG Festival at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany, New Jersey. Everyone is invited to attend. Your voice counts...we are making a difference! Help us plan the future of the accordion!

**Rose City Accordion Club Camp**

Accordionists are invited to join the annual gathering in Portland, Oregon as the Rose City Accordion Club convenes for its annual accordion camp. Held from June 4-9, 2017 at Silver Falls State Park Conference Center, this year's conductors are Murl Sanders and Bev Fess with Mary Tokarski as workshop instructor. Attendees are invited to enjoy music in ensembles, workshops and open mics in a beautiful setting.

The Rose City Accordion Club was formed in 1996 by a group of people who love to play the accordion. A non-profit organization created exclusively for educational purposes, their membership continues to grow. We currently have 95 members ranging from teenager through senior citizen, amateur players, professionals and folks who do not play the accordion but love to listen to the music it produces.

In addition to their annual camp, the Club publishes monthly newsletters (Accordion Talk) which is

provided free to all members. For more information about the summer camp and an application form, please contact Bobbie Ferrero at: [rferrero02@yahoo.com](mailto:rferrero02@yahoo.com).

**An Afternoon of Music, Food and Fun**

*To benefit the Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund for aspiring young accordionists.*

**Sunday, April 30, 2017 – 12 noon until 5:00 p.m.**

**Villa Barone – Hilltop Manor – 466 U.S. 6 – Mahopac, NY 10541**



## Vincent Demur Studying Accordion Performance in Florida

Vince began playing the accordion as a young child, after falling in love with a toy accordion which he kept by his side for weeks. Vince also studied cello, which he mastered well enough to be the first chair in the South Carolina All State Orchestra while still in 8th grade. He soon returned to accordion with renewed interest and performed in two German Oompah Bands for five years as well as playing numerous solo gigs. His current band is made up of retired musicians from Disney World, and he has also toured with the Alex Meixner Band and recently played in Oktoberfests in Miami, and Tampa, FL.

After graduating from High School, Vince wanted to pursue his musical education but could not find any College or University in the USA that currently has a course of instruction specific for the accordion. He auditioned with the accordion at about ten schools from PA, SC and FL looking for a sympathetic music department and budget that would offer him a course of study in the accordion, without luck. The music department chairs all enjoyed his music but were unable to offer any course of study with the accordion.

Finally a week after an audition at St. Petersburg College in Florida, they called and offered Vince a full tuition scholarship into their Music Industry program with a major in Accordion Performance.

The Music Department Chairman hired renowned accordionist Nina Slyusar-Wegmann to teach at the Music Department. Vince is currently practicing about 2-3 hours a day on classical free-bass repertoire, and reports that his fellow students have reacted very positively to his accordion skills and he enjoys both recording and live performances with his fellow musicians.

For more information please visit [www.accordionvince.com](http://www.accordionvince.com).



## Coupe Mondiale Qualifying Auditions

The American Accordionists' Association invites those who wish to compete at the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes Coupe Mondiale to audition for the honor to represent the United States and the AAA. Auditions will be held in conjunction



with the MAMTG Competition at the Marriott Hotel in Whippany, New Jersey on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM.

This year's Coupe Mondiale will be from September 5-11, 2017 in Osimo, Italy - a wonderful city near Ancona and just next door to Castelfidardo. Categories included in the Coupe Mondiale festival include: 70<sup>th</sup> Coupe Mondiale, Masters Coupe Mondiale, Junior Coupe Mondiale, Virtuoso Entertainment, Junior Virtuoso Entertainment, International Chamber Music – Classical, and International Chamber Music – World Music. Coupe requirements and repertoire information can be found at [www.coupemondiale.org](http://www.coupemondiale.org)

Please contact Mary Tokarski, President, AAA at [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com) for entry forms and more details. Information will also be posted on the AAA website at [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) soon! We hope to see YOU in Italy in September!

## New England Accordion Museum

Paul Ramunni, Founder of the New England Accordion Museum has announced that the New England Accordion Museum located in Canaan, Connecticut, is expanding its facility and operations. In addition to the accordion museum, new and used accordions are now offered for sale as well as servicing and repairs. Accordion Connection of New Hampshire closed its doors last August 2016. After discussion with owners Arthur and Sue Welch, it was decided to continue their legacy in Connecticut. Consequently, the museum name will change to The New England Accordion Connection and Museum Co. Between the museum and the sales company, over 600 accordions are on display. Of that number 100 plus new and used accordions are available for sale in the newly renovated studio and showroom. The accordions are of various makes and designs; there is something for everyone to sample and try. Also offered are: Lessons for beginners; Saturday gatherings for group and individual play; a travelling museum which visits senior centers, nursing homes and other locations to play, display



and present older accordions and their stories; a repair loft with repair supplies, accessories and repair services; speaker seminars and workshops (on and off the premises); multimedia presentations of performing artists found online at various websites; accordions are accepted as donations for the museum or purchased outright; customer owned accordions accepted for sale on a consignment basis; accordion appraisal services; over 10,000 pieces of sheet music, instruction books and song books offered for sale at reasonable prices and the reminiscent sounds of a newly renovated Wurlitzer Jukebox in our showroom. The New England Accordion Connection and Museum Co. is available by appointment only. To arrange your visit, please contact: [ramunni@comcast.net](mailto:ramunni@comcast.net)

## The Red Lantern Accordionists

The AAA announces their 23rd year of Master Classes and Seminars moderated by Dr. William Schimmel. Accordion Culture is based on Contests, Championship Contests, much like sports. Who comes in First of course is the Champion, whether its the World Champion, The U.S. Champion or the Whatever Champion. Sometimes the term “Champeen” is used. There those who come in Second and Third – they got trophies – but they are not Champions or or *Champeens*.

What about last place?

Ever watch a marathon? and the final runner still running while practically every one has gone home or partying? He or She just wants to make it to the end - to run the course - personal best and proud to be a part of it - as St. Paul says - “I fought the good fight. I have kept the Faith”.

That’s the Red Lantern Winner - last place - a last place winner!

We have RED LANTERN ACCORDIONISTS - The backbone of the industry - in it for the long haul - signed up for the whole ride - putting other’s interests first - working for the betterment of the culture. We dedicate this weekend to the Red Lantern accordionist - may his or her light shine bright!!

There is no logical reason to become a Red Lantern Accordionist. Red Lantern Accordionists are called. By who? don’t quite know but they feel the call of a different winning of hard labor, of doing hard time.

The event will take place from July 28, 29, 30 at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City. Daily Masterclasses will be held from 3-5 PM and concerts from 7-9 PM. For reservations and information, please call (212) 876-0827 or e-mail: [accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:accordionbill@gmail.com).



## Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini with The Camerata

Accordionist Mario Tacca and acclaimed International vocalist Mary Mancini will perform on April 2, 2017 at the Westchester Community College in Classroom Building, Room 200 at 3:00 PM with the The Camerata, conducted by founder C. Victor Lioni.

The program will feature: *Overture No. 1 in G major* by Bart Alan Dunn (b. 1987); *Six Modal Miniatures* (1957) by Everett Stevens (1. An ancient roundelay, 2. Quilting party, 3. Highland hornpipe, 4. Forlana, 5. Lonesome trail and 6. Country fair); Dido's Lament from "*Dido and Aeneas*" by Henry Purcell (1659-1695), *L'Image for Strings* by Dalmazio Santini (1923-2001), "*Ave Maria*" for soprano and strings by Dalmazio Santini, "*Il Tramonto*" ("Sunset") for accordion and strings by Dalmazio Santini; "*Broken Doll*" Variations by Dalmazio Santini, *King Arthur Overture* by Henry Purcell; *Allegro* for string orchestra by Gioseffo Hectore Fiocco (1701-1743); *Chanson Triste* by Vasily Segeyevich Kalinnikov (1866-1901), *Bouree from Suite No. 3 in C major*, BWV 1009 by Johann S. Bach (1685-1750), *Waltz from the Serenade for Strings*, opus 48 by P. Tchaikowsky (1840-1893); "*Largo Al Factotum*" from "*The Barber of Seville*" by Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868) and *Two Salsas for strings* by Christoph Luscher (1. Salsa per Christina 2. Balance!).

Mario Tacca, a Board of Director for the AAA, was born in Italy. During his childhood, his family moved to the Alsace Lorraine region of France where he began his musical studies. While in France, he won Regional and National and International accordion competitions.



Internationally acclaimed vocal artist Mary Mancini performed in a variety of venues around the world. Able to sing in eight different languages, Mary is adept at pop, show tunes, operatic arias, and sacred music and has received worldwide acclaim. Mary has headlined numerous concert halls and festivals in North America, Europe, and China.

As a dynamic and popular performing duo, they have completed two concert tours of China. As guests of the China Ministry of Culture, they toured five cities in three weeks and performed with three symphony orchestras. Joining them on their tour was highly acclaimed Chinese tenor, Douglas Song. In addition to performing with the Symphony Orchestras, some of the most memorable moments included a performance held at the 1600 seat True Color Jazz Supper Club in the booming city of Shenzhen and in the 3500 seat Golden Opera House.

For further information on their upcoming performances and recordings, please visit: [www.gioiaproductions.com](http://www.gioiaproductions.com).

## Guy Klucevsek at Snug Harbor Cultural Center

Accordionist Guy Klucevsek will perform at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center on Staten Island in celebration of his 70th birthday. Joining Guy will be Todd Reynolds (violin) and Kamala Sankaram (vocals and accordion). Guy Klucevsek is one of the world's most versatile and highly-respected accordionists. He has performed and/or recorded with Laurie Anderson, Bang On a Can, Brave Combo, Anthony Braxton, Anthony Coleman, Dave Douglas, Bill Frisell, Rahim al Haj, Robin Holcomb, Kepa Junkera, the Kronos Quartet, Natalie Merchant, Present Music, Relâche, Zeitgeist, and John Zorn. He is the recipient of a 2010 United States Artists Collins Fellowship, an unrestricted \$50,000 award given annually to "America's finest artists." During his career, Guy has premiered over 50 solo accordion pieces, including his own, as well as those he has commissioned from Mary Ellen Childs, William Duckworth, Fred Frith, Aaron Jay Kernis, Jerome Kitzke, Stephen Montague, Somei Satoh, Lois V Vierk, and John Zorn. For more information please contact Guy at: [gklucevsek@mac.com](mailto:gklucevsek@mac.com)



## Alexander Sevastian Keeps Busy Concert Schedule

2017 will be a very busy year for Alexander Sevastian. The Voice Afire pocket Opera-Cabaret presents Tango Dreams/Serenity featuring Alexander Sevastian who will perform at Symphony Space on Friday, March 10, 2017 at 3:30 PM. Tickets are \$20. For Seniors, students, and children, the price is \$15. Day of show tickets are \$25

The concert includes World Champion accordionist Alex Sevastian and world-renowned clarinetist Julian Milkis, as well as the Voice Afire Strings. This multi-media concert moves from turbulence to serenity in music by composers Ray Luedeke and Giya Kancheli. Ray Luedeke's Tango Dreams for accordion, clarinet, and string trio will include sultry tango visuals. Miniatures for accordion and clarinet are derived from famed, Georgian composer Giya Kancheli's music for Theater and Cinema.

Alexander is a winner of the prestigious Coupe Mondiale International Accordion Competition in 2007 in Washington, DC. He is also a winner of three other competitions such as The Oslofjord (Norway 1998), Cup of the North (Russia 2000), Anthony Galla-Rini (USA 2001).

A native of Minsk, Belarus where he finished the Glinka College (class of Miron Boula) Alexander went to Moscow to study with famous Friedrich Lips. While he was a student, Alexander joined a Russian TV folk instrument orchestra and with a great support from the conductor Nikolai Nekrasov he became a featured soloist. After graduating from the Gnessin Academy of Music and getting a Master

Degree in performance, Alexander moved to Toronto, Canada. Soon after he got an Advanced Certificate in Performance from the University of Toronto (class of Joseph Macerollo) and joined famous ensemble Quartetto Gelato. With this group Alexander has toured every province in Canada and almost every state in the USA. After his triumphal victory at the Coupe Mondiale, his solo career began to thrive. He has had several solo tours of Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Prairies. He was invited to perform recitals at several prestigious festivals in Vancouver, Victoria, Mont-Treblant, Montmagny, Las-Vegas, Stresa (Italy), Kraguevac (Serbia), Castelo Branco (Portugal), Samara (Russia). Alexander was featured soloist with several leading North America symphony orchestras, including The Toronto Symphony with a very successful debut in 2008. For further information: [sevastian2004@gmail.com](mailto:sevastian2004@gmail.com)



## World Accordion Day

What are you doing for World Accordion Day to promote the accordion in your country? World Accordion day is on May 6th, the day the accordion was patented in 1829. World Accordion Day was started in 2009 by the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) and has been very successful, generating a lot of positive publicity for the accordion via the central hub online at [www.accordions.com/cia](http://www.accordions.com/cia) (select World Accordion Day). Every association, group, orchestra, performer and teacher, is asked to actively support this event by encouraging national and local accordion activities to happen in their country on this day or the weekend either side of Accordion Day if that should be more convenient. Everyone can register their World Accordion Day activity on the website and send a report of their event after, for that website. No event is too big or too small. ALL accordion events celebrating World Accordion Day are welcome!



## The Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

The Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration will be held from June 15-18, 2017 in Leavenworth, WA. The Northwest Accordion Society has been hosting accordion events in the Northwest for over 25 years. Included in it's accomplishments are monthly accordion socials, the annual "Day of the Accordion" at the Seattle Center, accordion scholarships, and it's elegant quarterly publication "The Northwest Accordion News".

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village" and a perfect setting for this celebration. Nestled in a narrow valley at elevation of 1100 feet surrounded by wilderness of rugged, majestic mountain ranges, over 2 million visitors per year from all over the world come to experience magical Leavenworth.

With the Northwest Accordion Society as your host and Leavenworth as the setting, why not plan to

join us and enjoy four wonderful days of everything accordion. Whether you are a competitor, participant or just love great accordion music, there is enjoyment and participation for everyone.

Here is a partial list of what is happening: Accordion Competitions; Workshops; Concerts with World Class Performers; Free Performances at the gazebo, grange, and restaurants; Free Accordion lessons; Accordion Parade on Saturday; Accordion Vendors; Opportunity for all accordion players to play; Jam sessions and much more!

This is a celebration of the accordion's versatility and its presence in many cultures. Accordion music is what this event is all about. For further information please contact the Northwest Accordion Society:

Phone: (206) 622-4786 or e-mail:

[bonniebirch@msn.com](mailto:bonniebirch@msn.com).



## Carmen Carrozza Competition

The AAA invites young accordionists to celebrate the legacy of Carmen Carrozza by participating in the competition sparked by the Maestro himself! \$8,000 in Prizes will be awarded to winners in the Junior and Open Divisions.

Junior Competitors must select one piece from the Original Composition list (Cascade, Parisian Musette and Spring Caprice), one from the Standard Repertoire list (Pioneer Concerto, Quick Silver and Mimicri), and perform contrasting selection(s) for the Own Choice Entertainment program. Time limit is 12 minutes, and not less than 9 minutes.

Open Competitors must select one piece from the AAA Commissioned Works list (Iridescent Rondo, Four Nocturnes, Prelude & Dance and Pavanna & Rondo), one from the Standard Repertoire list (Vivo, Prelude and Scherzo and Omaggio A Pietro), and perform contrasting selection(s) for the Own Choice Entertainment program. Time limit is 15 minutes, and not less than 12 minutes.

The Carrozza Competition on July 13, will be part of the 2017 AAA Festival, July 12-16, 2017 at Westin Forrestal Village, Princeton, NJ. For more information, please visit [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com).



## Nathan Chapeton to Perform with Two Symphonies this Spring!

Accordionist Nathan Chapeton should be very proud of his accomplishments. This year he auditioned for the honor to perform with the New Haven Symphony when his school, Middletown High School (Connecticut) Goes to the Symphony on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Hamden Symphony Orchestra (Connecticut) on April 30<sup>th</sup>. He was selected by BOTH to be a guest performer for their concerto concerts featuring soloists on violin, cello, piano and the accordion!

Performing in 2014 with the New Haven Symphony, Nathan played the Rondo Movement from Pietro Deiro's "Concerto in E" to a stunned audience at the Bushnell Auditorium in Hartford, Connecticut. This year his music choice for performance with both symphonies is the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of Franck Angelis' "Impasse", an artistic and energetic selection that leaves audiences breathless (the performer too!).

Nathan attends Middletown High School and studies with Mary Tokarski in Northford, Connecticut. In the last few years, he has also earned the privilege of representing the United States-AAA at the Coupe Mondiale (World Accordion Championships) twice so far (he plans to audition in March to qualify again for 2017). At



the Coupe Mondiale in Austria (2014) and Russia (2016) he was among the best accordionists and musicians from around the world. His plan now includes learning baroque and classical music and to compete in more rigorous categories at the competition.

AAA wishes Nathan Chapeton all the best for fantastic performances this spring. The picture is Nathan performing at the 2016 Coupe Mondiale (World Accordion Championship) in Rostov-On-Don, Russia.

## A World of Accordions Celebrates Fifth Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival

A World of Accordions Museum, located at 1401 Belknap Street, Superior, WI is presenting a series of concerts over the next few months.

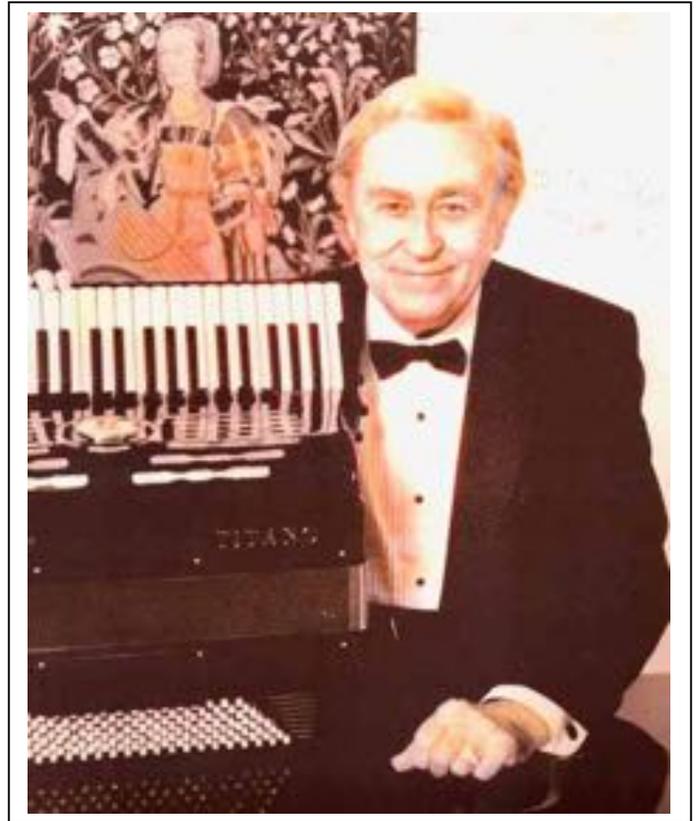
Performances include an appearance by renowned artist Stas Venglevski and Tatyana Krasnobaeva (Cembalom) on March 12, 2017. Tickets are \$20, and concert organizers are excited to be able to present these elegant virtuosi in duet and solo performance.

From April 29 - May 2, 2017 from 9 - 6, an Introduction to Accordion Repairs seminar will be held. Admission is \$350.00, with the workshops and seminars detailing an Introduction to Accordion-Family Instruments; Understanding the major members of the instrument family Basic repairs: bellows, air insufficiency, machine alignments, reed work, tuning, waxing, leathers and more.

In conjunction with World Accordion Day, A World of Accordions Museum will hold a weekend celebration which will coincide with the Fifth Anniversary of the Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival, a celebration of this great American educator and artist. The weekend festival will take place from May 6 - 7, 2017. The event will feature many activities including concerts, seminars, workshops and an orchestra performance conducted by Stas Venglevski. Guests include Michael Bridge (Concert, Workshop), Kevin Friedrich (CIA Ambassador), Dee Langley (Concert, Three Workshops), John Scaffeo, Carolyn Carver, and Tracey Gibbens.

As the summer progresses, A World of Accordions Travelling Museum will take part in the annual Chmielewski International PolkaFest held at the Grand Casino, Hinkley, MN, from May 19 - 21, 2017. The festival will showcase Joey Miskulin and many others favorites.

The Travelling Museum will present several events including: what construction features makes them easy and popular; accordion qualities and values; take



a first lesson on different types of accordions, concertinas; discussion topics about accordion repairs and maintenance and sales of instruments, music, novelty items, and misc.

To conclude the summer activities, the Accordion Concertina Music Band presents Pachelbel "Canon in D" and "The Lost Chord" as well as several workshops at the Accordionists and Teachers Guild Festival to be held in Lisle, IL from July 19-23, 2017.

For further information, please contact Helmi Harrington, Ph. D at: [accordion@sprynet.com](mailto:accordion@sprynet.com) or visit [www.worldofaccordions.org](http://www.worldofaccordions.org).

## Correction to November/December 2016 Newsletter Article

In the article reporting on the activities of Dr. Robert McMahan (accordionist, author and composer), it should be noted that three of his listed World Premieres, were compositions by Dr. McMahan himself. The paragraph should have read:

*On his busy performance schedule, Dr. McMahan has performed several World Premieres of his own compositions, including Romp 4, for viola, vibraphone, and accordion (Premiere: August 3, 2014, New York, NY, with Sarah Sutton, viola, William Wozniak, vibraphone); Miscellany, for theremin and accordion (Premiere: August 8, 2015, New York, NY with Elizabeth Brown, theremin); Three Whims, for bassoon and accordion (Premiere: July 29, 2016, New York, NY, with Devon Tipp, bassoon).*

## North American Accordion Collaborative (NAAC)

The North American Accordion Collaborative is a brand new accordion non profit with one aim: to serve any and all accordionists in North America!

The Board of Directors includes: Dallas Vietty, President and Director; Karen Lee, Director; Gabe Hall-Rodrigues, Secretary and Director; Charlie Schneller, Director and Frank Petrilli, Financial Officer and Director.

Dallas Vietty said: "I announce the fruit of almost a year of hard work. Together with a phenomenal team, we are launching the North American Accordion Collaborative (the NAAC for short). The NAAC is a brand new accordion non-profit, born in the age of the internet. Our concept is simple: we listen and learn what accordionists need, and then we partner with accordionists to build amazing opportunities that meet those needs. We are launching with four awesome programs: (education, recording opportunities, instrument drives, international initiative). We would love to have you join. Membership is totally, absolutely FREE."



The NAAC is announcing its first call for submissions to the NAAC YouTube Channel. This YouTube channel is a place to share your accordion playing and check out the diverse styles and personalities of other NAAC members.

Deadline: The deadline for submissions is Feb. 21.

Details: Length - No longer than 7 minutes, Ages - 3 to 99 with all skill levels are encouraged.

Requirements - Videos must feature at least one NAAC member. (Feel free to collaborate with other non-accordion musicians.) For more information, please e-mail: [contact@thenaac.org](mailto:contact@thenaac.org).

## AAA 2017 SqueezeFest to be held in Princeton!

Get ready, the best is yet to come! This year's AAA SqueezeFest is something you do NOT want to miss!

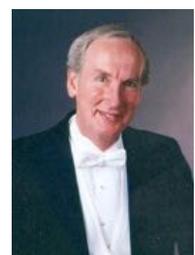
Festival Orchestra will be exciting for everyone - an experience for the novice AND the experienced performer, our Guest Conductor is Dr. William Morse from Boulder, Colorado who serves as the conductor of the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra and professor of Music at Metropolitan State University where he conducted the Metropolitan State Symphony Orchestra, taught advanced conducting, orchestration, jazz piano and theory. The repertoire he has selected for the orchestra will include selections by Dave Brubeck, Johann Sebastian Bach, Astor Piazzolla, and more. Parts will hopefully be ready for distribution starting in March, so be sure to get your registration in soon to start working on your parts!

Our Youth Outreach and Youth Involvement Programs are blooming with amazing brightness. Back by popular demand, program graduate Mitch Guido will again serve as conductor for the jazz ensemble at the Festival. AAA President Mary Tokarski will again conduct the Junior Festival Orchestra, and there will be a special "Youth Track" for our student participants, which will include workshops and jam sessions just for you!

Our special Guest Artists this year will be Jamie Maschler from Seattle, Washington and Will Holshauser from New York. Jamie is a master at Brazilian music, and has an up and coming music school with lots of young accordion students. Will is a favorite performer on the entertainment circuit in New York, the East Coast and around the United States. Hold on to your socks when you hear these two performers! Joining the cast for the Gala Concert will be Dr. Robert Young McMahan performing accordion original works with Cecylia and Emmanuel Barczyk (cello and violin respectively), along with Bruce Gassman's sounds of the 60s and 70s, Dallas Vietty & Ron Oswanski and Eddie Monteiro.

The Princeton, New Jersey area is a spectacular region to visit, with lots of family scenic areas, historic sites, and stunning topography.

You do NOT want to miss this one, check out the AAA website at [www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com) for registration forms, hotel information, competition rules and regulations, a tentative schedule, and so much more! See you in Princeton!



## La Villini Restaurant Adds Additional Accordion Nights!

La Villini Restaurant, in keeping up with its history of promoting successful accordion events in Long Island, hosting a gathering on the first Wednesday of each month, is now adding an additional evening of accordion music on the third Wednesday of the month.

On Wednesday, March 15, 2017 La Villini Restaurant began sponsoring "Trio Musette" featuring accordionists Manny Corallo, Dominic Karcic and Frank Toscano. Musical festivities start at 6 p.m. Reservations are highly recommended.

Please come and join us on the third Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, and hear "accordion music at its best." LaVillini Restaurant is located at 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731. For reservations, please call: (631) 261-6344.



Trio Musette  
Dominic Karcic, Frank Toscano and Manny Corallo

## Dr. William Schimmel featured in Wall Street Journal

On January 9, 2017 New York accordionist Dr. William Schimmel was featured in a full page article in the Wall Street Journal in an article titled "On Key: An Accordion Player Fills an Orchestral Gap" written by Charles Passy.

In the widely read article, reporter Charles Passy reported "that among its ranks, the New York Philharmonic counts 28 violinists, 11 cellists, four flutists, three trombonists and even one bass trombonist. But when the call came for an accordionist this past week, the orchestra had to go outside its circle."

The ensemble turned to Bill Schimmel, a New York based master of the instrument who has made something of a specialty performing with orchestras.

The interview with Dr. Schimmel stated that "A handful of classically trained composers have incorporated it into their works, including Kurt Weill, whose "Little Threepenny Music" was part of the recent Philharmonic program. Dr. Schimmel who has performed with symphonies from Chicago to

Grand Rapids, Mich stated that the NY Philharmonic "has an energy that no other orchestra has". In its 175-year history, the New York Philharmonic has hired numerous artists who specialize in a range of non-traditional orchestral instruments, from the harmonica to the hammered dulcimer, to the accordion.



## WMAS to feature Stas Venglevski

The Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society will present a concert featuring Stas Venglevski on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at Sleepy Hollow Methodist Church in Falls Church, VA. A graduate of the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow, Stas received his Masters Degree in Music under the tutelage of famed Russian bayanist, Fredrich Lips and in 1992, Stas immigrated to the United States. For additional information about Stas and his music, please visit his website at [www.stasv.com](http://www.stasv.com).

Donations for non-WMAS members is \$8, WMAS members are free. Refreshments will be served. For additional information and directions, to go <http://washingtonaccordions.org> or email [joangrauman@verizon.net](mailto:joangrauman@verizon.net) or call 301-806-5998.



## Coast to Coast

### East Northport, NY

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) sponsored by La Villini Restaurant held their gathering on February 1, 2017 - 6 PM . Featured artist was Paolo Belanich.

Celebrating their sixth year, everyone is invited to attend to celebrate the accordion on Long Island, NY.

The monthly gathering takes place at La Villini Restaurant in East Northport, NY. For more information, including upcoming gatherings please visit:

[www.facebook.com/LongIslandAccordionAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/LongIslandAccordionAlliance)

### Lisle, IL (Chicago)

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) will hold their 77th annual festival at in Lisle, IL (Chicago) from July 19-23, 2017. The festival will feature Quartetto Gelato with World Champion accordionist Alexander Sevastian, as well as competitions, workshops and other outstanding guest artists. For more information, please visit [www.accordions.com/atg](http://www.accordions.com/atg)

### Richardson, TX

The National Accordion Association (NAA) held its 30th Annual National Accordion Convention on March 8-11, 2017 in Richardson, Texas at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The convention theme was "Enjoy the Journey", which featured workshops encompassing the history of the accordion through 100 years, and included a tribute to Dr "Bill" Willard Palmer.

Features of the NAA 30th convention included: Band Camp and Youth Program, Digital Accordion Symposium, Evening Concerts with special performers, jam sessions, strolling accordionists, vendors and exhibits, 15 Minutes of Fame, Circle of Champions performance, and daily workshops featuring everything from traditional polka music to Celtic, Israeli and Balkan music and more. A partial list of presenters included: Michael Bridge, Gary Blair, Patrick Harrison, Steve Albini, Gordon Kohl, Dale Wise, Debra Peters, Hank Thunander, Dick Albrecki, Mary Tokarski, Palmer Hughes III, Rollie Revering, Nick Bratkovich, Nick Ballarini, Randy Mc Peck, Chuck Henry, Dr. Ian Fries, Charlie Crittendon, Max Fruenthal, Tom Visentin, Rita Barnea, Ed Caspar, Shelia Lee, Ray Harris, Sharon Seaton, Elena and Gregory Fainshtein and others. For more information: [natlaccordion@sbcglobal.net](mailto:natlaccordion@sbcglobal.net)

### Temple, TX

Mike Middleton, two time Texas State Accordion Champion was featured at the Family Pops Concert by the Temple Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Thomas Fairlie, on Saturday 4th March at the Mary Alice Marshall Performing Arts Center in Temple at 7:30 pm. The concert was repeated on Sunday 5th March at 4 pm Georgetown High School Klett Center for the Performing Arts.

### Newton, MA

Accordionist Brent Buswell from PA will be performing at the Massachusetts Accordion Association on April 23, 2017. The event will be held at the Ciociaro Club, 44 Bridge St. Newton, MA from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. All members from the association will be admitted free of charge and non members will be asked to pay a \$10.00 entry fee.

### Dobbs Ferry, NY

On Saturday, March 18, accordionist Hanzhi Wang performed in Dobbs Ferry. Admission was by donation, with the proceeds to be divided between the performer and the AAA Composers' Commissioning Committee.

Ms. Wang has been studying at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen. She is in New York for only a brief time, studying at Manhattan School of Music in their graduate-level Contemporary Performance program. Guests began to arrive after 3 PM. Light refreshments were available, and guests were invited to meet and talk with the performer. The music began at 4 PM; the program was about an hour in length. For additional information about Hanzhi Wang's performance, please contact: [sinolev@yahoo.com](mailto:sinolev@yahoo.com).



### Cheshire, CT

The Connecticut Accordion Association presented a video of their Orchestra's premier performance from 12 years ago, 2005, at their January 29, 2017 gathering. Aside from the CAA Orchestra concert, this spectacular featured an accordion duet by husband and wife, Bob and Anita Siarkowski, a performance by the "K Trio" (state, national, and world accordion champions Mary Tokarski, Julie Cardona, Walter Kasprzyk), plus Walter Lawrence and others.

Accordion teachers from Waterbury, Connecticut's past were honored in person including Bob Vitale, Vic Fuda, plus in memoriam, Bob Mobilio, Charlie Leogrande, Dom Mecca, Dom L. Mecca, Tony Mecca and Vinny Spiotti. This extravaganza, a huge success, was open to the public, drawing 113 people. Attendees included past and present CAA orchestra members, their families, friends, along with former accordion students and teachers from the Waterbury area. Three CAA orchestra members were honored in memoriam in what resulted in a very nostalgic reunion.

### Cortlandt Manor, NY

Accordionists gathered in NY as acclaimed accordionist Mario Tacca and vocalist Mary Mancini hosted a holiday get together of some of Mario's students and their spouses at their home on Sunday afternoon January 8, 2017. Students arrived, accordions in hand, and each played one of their favorite musical selections.

Mario and Mary turned her hands from the concert stage to the kitchen to prepare a variety of appetizers to start. Afterwards, dinner was served, which included Pasta with Mary's homemade Pesto sauce, and Mario's perfect pairing of delicious wines.

The musical segment ended with Mario playing favorite musical pieces and in celebration of the Epiphany, Mary sang "O Holy Night." Pumpkin Cheese Cake, Italian pastries, cookies and espresso highlighted the dessert table! Good friends, food, wine, and music – who could ask for more!

