

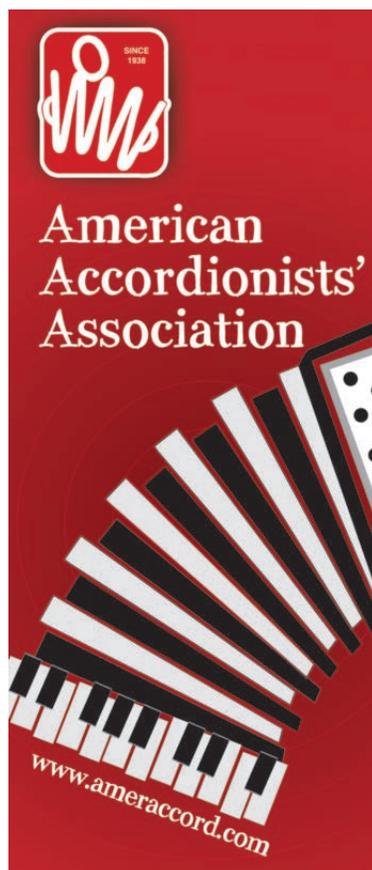


AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association

November-December 2017



AAA SqueezeFest

July 11-15, 2018

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

625 First Street

Alexandria, VA 22314



Sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association

From the Editor:

Welcome to the November/December 2017 edition of the AAA Newsletter.

As 2017 comes to a close, the excitement of the upcoming 80th Anniversary year is upon us. The highlight will be the Gala AAA 80th AAA Anniversary Festival to be held in Alexandria, VA (Washington, DC) from July 11-15, 2018. With the showcase of talent and activities planned to inspire us all, we encourage you to make plans to attend this important and exciting event. We invite you to keep up to date by visiting www.ameraccord.com which will have the latest information as it becomes available.

As always, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the AAA Second Vice President Linda Reed and Board of Director Rita Davidson for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. As we offer our thanks, we also request your kind help by inviting you to submit your news items for publication so that your fellow members can see the incredible array of accordion activities happening throughout the country. Items for the 2018 January/February Newsletter can be sent to me at goaccordion@yahoo.com or to the official AAA e-mail address at: ameraccord1938@gmail.com. Please include 'AAA Newsletter' in the subject box, so that we don't miss any items that come in. Text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word 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.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and meanwhile best wishes for a safe and happy Holiday Season and a 2018 full of music and friendship!

Sincerely,

Kevin Friedrich - AAA Newsletter Editor



From the President:



*Happy Holidays!
Merry Christmas,
Happy New Year,
Happy Chanukah!*



Time certainly does fly in the music world, doesn't it? Seems like yesterday we were in the middle of summer. Now we are facing Mother Nature's surprises for the winter. Let's all hope that it remains mild.

Be sure to check out the AAA Website at www.ameraccord.com. There's LOTS of new stuff there for you to check out, including information on the Festival. Special thanks to Kevin Friedrich for working hard to include all the new information.

There is lots in store for you at Festival coming up in Alexandria, Virginia this summer, so be sure to make your reservations now . . . the special AAA discounted rates will end mid-June.

Stay warm, stay safe, and have a great Holiday Season.



See you in 2018.

See next page for important information on making your hotel reservation for 2018 Festival

Stephen Dominko (1947-2017)

The AAA is saddened to announce the passing of former Champion and renowned musician Stephen Dominko (70 years).

Stephen (Steve) Dominko won the 1964 AAA National Championship and subsequently represented the AAA at the Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships held in Toronto, Canada, taking the coveted World Champion title at the age of 17 years.

Stephen P. Dominko's life of music was set in motion when he was just five years old. While listening to a recording of Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival" he ran from the room crying. When his parents asked him what was wrong, he told them, "The music is too beautiful to listen to."

At that time, the accordion was a popular instrument. He began taking lessons with Rudolf Molinaro. When Stephen was 10, he was a guest on the Sam Levenson Television Show. Immediately following that appearance, his concert career began. Remarkably by age 13, Stephen Dominko was the youngest US Open Champion in history.

Stephen played his first of two concerts at New York's Carnegie Hall at age 14, his second at age 18. Upon auditioning for the Mannes College of Music, Stephen placed as a sophomore. He studied with John Goldmark, majoring in music theory and analysis.



In 1966, Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic staged International auditions to find six of the world's most talented young musicians. After a series of auditions, Stephen and five others were chosen. They performed on The Bell Telephone Hour from the Lincoln Center. Stephen performed the "Chopin F Minor Concerto". Recordings, concerts, TV and radio performances followed. The young Dominko always delighted his audiences with his fiery and expressive style.

Since 1985 Stephen Dominko has been composing. He has also studied yoga and meditation. His experience as a VNA Hospice volunteer, combined with his spiritual practices, has largely inspired his compositions. He continued to compose from his home in Washington, New Hampshire where he taught piano, accordion and composition to a select number of advanced students. ■



Some important information regarding hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Alexandria, VA

The Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Alexandria, VA is the host for the 2018 SqueezeFest, 80th Anniversary Celebration of the AAA and the Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to Louis F. Coppola. The hotel rate of \$129 has been extended to three days prior to the beginning of our event and three days after so that guests will have an opportunity to visit Alexandria as well as our Nation's Capital. The Squeeze Fest begins on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 and culminates at the Farewell Breakfast on Sunday, July 15, 2018. (Discounted hotel rate applies from July 9 thru July 18, 2018).

For those individuals flying, there is airport shuttle information available from Washington National Airport (nominal fee) and for those driving, there is ample parking space available on the premises of the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites on 625 First Street in Alexandria, however there is a fee for parking. The regular rate is \$20 per day, however if you are an overnight guest at the hotel, the rate has been reduced to \$10 per day. For family and friends who may be visiting for only one day, we recommend on-the-street parking. Old Town Alexandria is a beautiful area and very safe.

For making hotel reservations online, you must use the live link that appears on the AAA website which is:

American Accordionists Association

For those who do not have access to a computer, please call the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites' 800 #
1-877-834-3613

Be sure you indicate that the reservations should be made through the American Accordionists' Association.

If you access the website for the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites without using the "live link" above, you will not receive the rate. This can be confusing because there is actually a rate you can select on the generic website which reads AAA/CAA. This is NOT the AAA site (it is the rate for Triple AAA Automobile Club members).

If you are an IHG rewards member, you may receive additional "perks" such as free breakfast, or a host of other benefits plus you are receiving bonus points for future use.

Please make your reservations early as the cut off date will be June 11, 2018 and there are no exceptions. You can, however, cancel your reservation without being charged. That cut-off time is 6:00 p.m., one day prior to your reservation.

Take advantage of the discounted rate. Bring the whole family to the AAA's 80th Anniversary Celebration and see our Nation's Capital, too. ■

Meet the Tamburitans

Tamburitans History

When Dr. A. Lester Pierce met tamburitza musicians Matt L. Gouze, Frank Gauze, and Anthony Antoncic at St. Thomas College in St. Paul, Minnesota in the early 1930s, his intrigue with the folk instrument sparked an idea which has endured as one of the world's finest, longest-running live stage shows of its kind. Dr. Pierce was able to secure a position for himself at the college, negotiated work scholarships for the three young musicians, and formed the "St. Thomas Tamburitza Trio."

In 1934, Dr. Pierce transferred to St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas and expanded the group to seven members to form the "St. Edward's University Players," later to be called "American Tamburitza String Orchestra." He continued to be the Managing Director, while Matt Gouze assumed the position of Musical Director.

In 1937, after a two and a half-year residency, the young troupe headed east with their musical variety show, stopping in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Impressed with the cultural diversity of the city, Dr. Pierce accepted a faculty appointment, made a permanent home for the ensemble, and secured a work scholarship agreement with Duquesne University. Shortly thereafter, this newly formed group, now called "Slavonic Tamburitza Orchestra," eventually would be known as the "Duquesne University Tamburitans." The word "Tamburitans" actually was coined by a Duquesne University reporter sometime during the late 1940s.

From these simple beginnings, the Tamburitans ensemble, named after the stringed folk instrument, the tambura or tamburitza, expanded its repertoire throughout the past eight decades to include a wide variety of folk dance and music representing international cultures. Eighty years, several international tours, hundreds of performers, and hundreds of thousands of audience members later, The Tamburitans' show is an annual tradition for some and a delightful new surprise for others.

Year after year, generation after generation, The Tamburitans dazzle audiences across the country with elaborate costumes and incredibly versatile musicians, singers, and dancers. The talented young performers are full-time students who have chosen to continue the Tamburitans' legacy by bringing international cultures to the modern stage.

Producing the longest-running live stage show in the country, The Tamburitans – now supported by PIFAI (Pittsburgh International Folk Arts Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation) – is a significant cultural and historical entity in Pittsburgh. Operations are housed in the Tamburitans Administration Building (TAB), 1801 Boulevard of the Allies in Pittsburgh's "Uptown" neighborhood. It is home to offices, rehearsal space, wardrobe department, special collections and displays. Hundreds of costumes and instruments, as well as a significant music and vintage film collection are housed in the main building, located just a few blocks from Duquesne University's main campus.

With the support of PIFAI, transitional support from Duquesne University, and unwavering support from our alumni, friends and fans, The Tamburitans plan to remain

both a tradition and a treasure not only in Pittsburgh but throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

Our Transition

The winds of change have moved through The Tamburitans . . .

The Tamburitans officially began at Duquesne University as a group of 14 young men who played the tamburica, a stringed instrument predominant in the music of Balkan cultures. Intrigued and encouraged by the popular appeal of this musical style, Dr. A. Lester Pierce brought his talented "Slavonic Tamburitza Orchestra" to the culturally rich city of Pittsburgh, PA in 1937 with hopes of garnering support for the ensemble from Duquesne University. The proposition was a success – and the rest is eight decades of glorious history.

On September 5, 2014, Duquesne University announced that The Tamburitans would become an independent, nonprofit organization over the next 2 to 3 years, and for the first time would audition and accept students from other Pittsburgh-based universities, as well as Duquesne.

The move was envisioned to help increase the ensemble's applicant pool, allow for a more robust performance schedule – and thus more operating revenue – and position the group to more broadly pursue charitable support from individuals, the foundations community, corporations and government agencies.

To help ensure the ensemble's success, Duquesne University announced that it would provide significant support, and subsequently bestowed more than \$2 million in buildings, land, costumes, instruments, vehicles and equipment to the troupe. In addition, the University committed to provide operating fund support throughout the transition as the new nonprofit expands the ensemble, increases its performance schedule and implements a fundraising operation.

Tamburitans leadership also has seen recent changes. All Duquesne University alumni, Executive Director Robert Vukic ('78), Artistic Director George "Butch" Kressovich ('80) and Tour Manager George Salopek ('76) joined The Tamburitans team in key leadership roles. Their charge is to lead the current organization and ensemble forward to achieve new financial and artistic goals. ■

Calling all **MUSICIANS**
 VOCALISTS
 DANCERS

Tamburitans
YOU - or someone you know -
may have the talent and passion
to be part of America's
treasured cultural tradition!

AUDITIONS
for the 2018-2019 performing season

We're looking for talented
students who want to
receive scholarship funding
to attend any Pittsburgh
area university or college
and perform with
a world-renowned
ensemble of young artists!

Auditions begin February 7, 2018

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Call now to schedule
your audition

If travel to Pittsburgh isn't possible,
you may submit a VIDEO audition.
See guidelines at www.thetamburitans.org

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2017
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The Tamburitans | 1801 Boulevard of the Allies | Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dwayne Dopsie nominated for the 60th Annual Grammy Awards

The AAA Search for the Hottest Accordionist winner Dwayne Dopsie is excited to be nominated for a Grammy Award for 2018, in the category of Best Regional Roots Music Album. The complete set of nominees include: Top Of The Mountain by Dwayne Dopsie And The Zydeco Hellraisers; Ho'okena 3.0 by Ho'okena; Kalenda by Lost Bayou Ramblers; Miyo Kekisepa, Make A Stand [Live] by Northern Cree and Pua Kiele by Josh Tatofi.



"America's Hottest Accordion" winner, Dwayne Dopsie plays a unique, high energy style of Zydeco. Dwayne hails from one of the most influential Zydeco families in the world. Although inspired by tradition, he has developed his own high energy style that defies existing stereotypes and blazes a refreshingly distinct path for 21st century Zydeco music. This singer/songwriter and accordionist has performed all over the world since debuting his band, Dwayne Dopsie and the Zydeco Hellraisers, at age 19.

Dwayne was born March 3, 1979 in Lafayette, Louisiana and was the last of eight children. Dwayne attributes his musical abilities to his father, Rockin' Dopsie, Sr., a pioneer of Zydeco music. As a small child, Dwayne was interested in the washboard, but quickly realized he had incredible love for and talent with the accordion.

He has played the accordion since age seven and states, "This is my calling - Zydeco music is in my blood and it is my heart and soul." As a tribute to his late father, the most influential per-

son in his life, Dwayne plans to record an album of his Dad's greatest Zydeco hits.

Dwayne Dopsie and his Hellraisers have performed in 20 different countries and in hundreds of cities. Because of the energy and power of the music they play, he has been nominated for a Grammy award in 2007, and also nominated for the last 7 years for best accordion and artist for the Off Beat Magazine Awards. In September 2016 he was on "Louisiana Rising" with Harry Connick Jr. and Randy Jackson, performing their song for the flood victims called "Rollercoaster" which is one of the songs on their new CD scheduled for release in 2017.

Dwayne Dopsie and the Zydeco Hellraisers future performances include:

- Friday, December 22 - 10:15 PM at D.B.A New Orleans, LA
- Sunday, January 28, 2018 - 3:00 PM at 16th Annual Gumbo Fest Shell Factory & Nature Park (outdoor stage), Fort Myers, FL
- Thursday, February 15, 2018 - 6:00 PM - Fire & Ice Corning Museum of Glass Auditorium, Corning, NY
- Friday, February 23, 2018 - Boquete Jazz and Blues Festival Boquete, Panama
- Saturday, February 24, 2018 - Boquete Jazz and Blues Festival Boquete, Panama
- Friday, May 25, 2018 - 9:00 PM at Mudbug Madness Festival Plaza, Shreveport, LA
- Friday, July 27, 2018 - Volunteer Fireman's Memorial Bandshell City Park, Reading, PA
- Saturday, July 28, 2018 - 9:00 PM at Big Bend Blues Festival Riverside Amphitheatre, Pomeroy, OH

The 60th Grammy Awards will take place at New York City's Madison Square Garden on Sunday, January 28, 2018. The telecast will be broadcast live on CBS at a new time: 7:30 - 11:00 PM ET. For further information on Dwayne and his activities, please see www.DwayneDopsie.com ■

NAMM Scholarship Announced

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MUSIC MERCHANTS (NAMM) ANNOUNCES WINNER, VINCENT DEMOR, FOR THE "PRESIDENT'S INNOVATION AWARD" FOR 2018.

The Board of Directors of the 2018 National Association of Music Merchants, (NAMM), has awarded Vincent Demor, a music student at St. Petersburg College, in St. Petersburg, Florida, the NAMM's "President's Innovation Award."

Demor was selected for this award from entries of college music students throughout the nation. The criteria for selection best exemplifies their commitment to the music industry and has displayed a strong aptitude for business leadership and innovation in the music products industry.

As a recipient of this prestigious award, Demor is invited to attend the NAMM show in Anaheim, CA., January 25-28, 2018. Demor will be representing St. Petersburg College while attending seminars, roundtable discussions and receptions by the NAMM Foundation and hosted by The College Music Society. Sessions will focus on personal professional development and afford valuable opportunities to explore careers in the music industry.

Demor is currently attending St. Petersburg College, in St. Petersburg, Florida and is studying the Music Industry / Record-

ing Arts (MIRA) curriculum with a major in Accordion Performance.

Background:

The NAMM event is the largest, premier music products trade show in the U.S. and has a global reach. It is an industry trend setter in unveiling cutting-edge technologies; creating household product names; showcasing emerging brands; and uniting every segment - large and small - in the music products industry. It will showcase over 1,800 exhibits. In addition, NAMM also strives to identify and recognize outstanding college music industry students like Demor, and help prepare them to be future leaders in the music industry. ■



Michael Bridge performed with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra

On November 26, 2017, Michael Bridge performed with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Dominick Argento's Valentino Dances. The Niagara Symphony Orchestra provides professional musical performances and educational opportunities which enrich and entertain communities throughout the Niagara Peninsula.

Accordionist Michael Bridge, one of CBC's "30 Hot Classical Musicians Under 30", is Internationally renowned for his commanding stage-presence and versatility. He made his solo orchestral debut with the Boston Pops and tours frequently in Europe and the Americas, giving over 100 concerts per year. He received the Lieutenant Governor's Emerging Artist medal (Alberta), and won the Canadian Digital Accordion Championships and the University of Toronto Concerto Competition, where he studies accordion performance. Michael continually performs new music and has premiered over 30 works. He has been profiled by CBC Radio, CTV and the Toronto Star, boldly redefining the sound and image of his traditional instrument.

Michael's upcoming performances include:

- **January 15, 2018 - Toronto ON**
Solo performance for the Royal Canadian College of Organists
- **January 24, 2018 - CMC Presents: New Works for Accordion**
Solo performance of eight new works written for the accordion, presented in collaboration with I.C.O.T. Canadian Music Centre, Toronto ON, 5:30 PM
- **February 3, 2018 - Queen's University, Double-Double Duo,**
Kingston ON, 7:30 PM
- **February 24, 2018 - Tofino B.C., Double-Double Duo,**
Clayquot Sound Theatre, 7:30 PM

For further information: michael@michaelbridgemusic.com ■



Cody McSherry in Musical Theater Production

Many people say that the accordion is an odd instrument or has no place in modern day theatre and music. This is being contested by the Servant Stage company of Lancaster, PA. The local traveling troupe of actors and musicians is using accordion in their newest production Old Time Gospel Hour Christmas.



I, Cody McSherry, am a feature soloist in this production. Last year, I was also in this show, but I was a member of a group called "The Goodwell Family." Clearly, the production crew and director liked having the accordion and have figured out how to use it. They contacted me to say that I was in the show and offered me the role of one of the feature soloists. The production team has been able to use me and my accordion very well. This show is always a joy to be in. I bring the accordion to new people every show. I can see in some of the children's eyes, their wonder at the instrument. The accordion is coming back to the world of theatre. ■



New feature coming in January:

Kidz Korner - articles for, by and about our Student Members

Travel Opportunity – *Destination: Castelfidardo, Italy*

Join our group of accordionists from UK, Scotland, Ireland and USA for a fantastic 5 days visiting the 'Home of the Accordion' in Castelfidardo, Italy.

Fly from London to Bologna and travel along the Adriatic by luxury coach to Castelfidardo / Lunch stop in a Vineyard / 4 star hotel accommodation in Castelfidardo / Visit the Accordion Museum / See the world's largest working accordion / Visits to factories and see accordions being made / Visit Reed & Bellows factories / Visits to nearby towns and seaside resorts for lunch or dinner / Accordions available to play / Evening entertainment / Gala dinner on final night with guest accordionist.

On the return journey to Bologna there is a stop for around 4 hours in the independent state of San Marino for sightseeing, lunch and shopping. Opportunity to visit the huge San Marino music shop. ■



USAF Strolling Strings to perform at AAA's 80th

The United States Air Force Strolling Strings will be performing at the AAA's 80th Anniversary Banquet and Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to former USAF accordionist, Louis F. Coppola. The group will entertain during dinner.

The Strings have entertained every president since Eisenhower and have also performed for high level diplomatic and military functions. They bring exceptional entertainment to any occasion.

Their versatile repertoire includes the best of Broadway, classical, country, international and society selections. These talented Air Force musicians create a unique, awe-inspiring experience.

Strolling throughout the room, they play directly for their listeners, the ultimate in living sound music.

Recently, the USAF Band presented their 2017 Flash Mob at Gaylord National Hotel. See their full holiday presentation at

<https://youtu.be/mLjLny-nXo8>

AAA Board Member, Frank Busso, Jr., is currently the accordionist with the USAF Strolling Strings. ■



A Candlelight Christmas Concert with Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini

The ever popular Holiday concert "A Candlelight Christmas Concert" was presented on Friday, December 15, 2017 at the Church of the Assumption in Peekskill, NY by Internationally recognized husband and wife duo Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini.

Mario and Mary performed an array of favorite Christmas songs and carols as well as the glorious works of Bach, Vivaldi, Handel and Mozart. Supporting Mario and Mary in concert were the Victor Lioni String Quartet and Lew Scott (Bass) and Phil Battiston (Drums).

This year Mary Mancini, vocal director, was proud to present the Assumption Youth Spirit Singers in their first public performance.

Mary is acclaimed for her vocal versatility and her command of many different styles of music. Her ability to sing in eight languages enhances her command of a large repertoire ranging from pops to opera. Meanwhile, Mario dazzles audiences with a technique that has won him awards such as the World Cup of Italy, the Grand Prix



of Paris, and the American Accordionists' Association's International Competition held at Carnegie Hall.

Together Mario and Mary maintain a busy concert schedule which sees them performing locally, nationally and overseas. For more information and upcoming performances, please visit www.gioiaproduct.com. ■

Winter Tales Accordion Concert in New York, NY

A concert "Winter Tales" will take listeners on a musical journey to the "Winter-Land" with the magic of a fairy tale. The fantastical "Nutcracker", "The Little Match Girl", the festive "Petrushka" and more stories will come to life on December 30, 2017 from 7-10:00 PM at the Marc A. Scorca Hall at The National Opera Center located at 330 7th Avenue, New York, NY.

The program will include well-known pieces by E. Grieg, P. Tchaikovsky, I. Stravinsky in addition to original accordion music.

The concert will be presented by Hanzhi Wang, an uprising bright star of classical music and Ivan Filipchuk, a New York-based musician and artist.

Ivan Filipchuk, 26 years old, was born in Belarus and began to study music and visual arts at the local school in his hometown. Thereafter he continued his music education in college, majoring as an accordionist. After his graduation from the Gnesin Academy of Music in Moscow, in 2015 he moved to New York. During the period of studying in Russia, Ivan became a laureate of several local and international music performance competitions. He performed (as a soloist and in ensemble) in Minsk, Moscow, Osaka, New York, Salzburg. Repertoire Ivan has varies from Baroque music to original pieces by contemporary composers. In addition to being a musician, he is also an accomplished artist.

Hanzhi Wang was born in 1990 and is an up and coming young star of the new generation of classical accordionists. Despite her young age, she achieved great success, performing as a soloist and as chamber musician. She has received numerous awards since the age of 18 at competitions such as the "Beijing International Accordion Competition" in China and the "Klingenthal International accordion competition" in Germany, the Arrasate International Competition in Spain in 2013 and at the International Accordion Prize of Castelfidardo in 2015.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at Eventbrite.com or for further information please contact: ivanfilipchuk91@gmail.com. ■



Pictured above is Hanzhi Wang and Ivan Filipchuk

80th ANNIVERSARY

It's a Celebration!
July 11-15, 2018 at the
Holiday Inn & Suites
625 First Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Single - Double - Triple - Quad
\$129.00
Deadline for reservations
at the discounted rate is
June 11, 2018

2018 AAA Master Class and Concert Series (The Seminars)

The 2018 AAA Master Class and Concert Series (The Seminars) will take place on July 27, 28 and 29, 2018 at the Tenri Cultural Institute, 43A West 13th Street, in New York City. Master classes will be daily at 3:00 PM and Concerts at 7:00 PM moderated by Dr. William Schimmel.

The 2018 Seminars will cover a wide range of topics and will focus greatly on new methods of teaching - Ear-teach, Eye-teach and Duplex learning, as well as the study of various method books that have disappeared

from the market. The aim is to re-discover some of the rich tradition and culture that may have been lost or discarded. There will also be an Accordion/Dalcrose segment using Movement and Eurythmics.

Also, A Seminar on What it takes to survive as a New York Accordionist - applicable to any career planning anywhere.

Dr. William Schimmel is a virtuoso accordionist, author, philosopher and composer. He is one of the principle architects in the tango revival in America, the resurgence of the accordion and the philosophy of Musical Reality (composition with pre-existing music).

For further information: accordionbill@gmail.com ■



Julien Labro in Concert

New York based Julien Labro is well known as an accomplished accordionist, musician, and composer having established himself as one of the foremost accordion and bandoneón players in both the classical and jazz genres.

Beginning the accordion at 9, French-born Labro was influenced early on by traditional folk music and the melodic, lyrical quality of the French chanson. Upon discovering the music of jazz legends, he quickly became inspired by the originality, freedom, creativity, and the endless possibilities in their musical language.

After graduating from the Marseille Conservatory of Music, Labro began winning International awards, taking First Prize in the International Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music at the Coupe Mondiale in 1996 and the Castelfidardo Competitions in 1997.

After sweeping first place in the Marcel Azzola, Jo Privat and Medard Ferrero competitions in 1995 and 1998, respectively, Labro moved to the United States, where he further pursued his musical dream.

In 2005 Julian won the Vivian Vivio Stolaruk Memorial International Entertainment Competition for Accordionists held by the American Accordionists' Association in Detroit, MI. This competition featured an unprecedented \$10,000 1st Place prize.

As a musician and artist, Labro is constantly evolving. Equipped with advanced degrees in classical music, jazz studies, and composition, Labro draws from his diverse academic background and eclectic musical influences as he searches for new themes and untried concepts, transforming and developing his creative ideas into new projects.

Piazzolla, a major influence and the reason Labro picked up the bandoneón, is also the title of his album with classical guitarist and Grammy Award winner Jason Vieaux and A Far Cry chamber orchestra. Other releases include Grammy Award winning vocalist Cassandra Wilson's *Another Country* and critically acclaimed *Hot Club of Detroit's Junction*.

Labro's musical journey has taken him all across North America, Europe, the Middle East and South America. He has performed and collaborated with groups and artists such as Hot Club of Detroit, Brazilian pianist João Donato, Argentinean Grammy winning composer and pianist Fernando Otero, big-band leader Maria Schneider, vocalist Cassandra Wilson and Kiran Ahluwalia, clarinetist Anat Cohen, Lebanese oud master Marcel Khalife, saxophonists Miguel



Celebrate Good Times....

at the AAA's
80th Anniversary Festival
July 11-15, 2018

Meet and Greet • Workshops
Concerts
After Hours Club
Exhibits of Instruments, Music,
Accessories, Unique Gifts and more.
80th Anniversary AAA Archive Exhibit

Zenón, James Carter, Chris Cheek, Jon Irabagon and Victor Goines, trumpeter Dominick Farinacci, composers Du Yun and Avner Dorman, harmonica extraordinaire Howard Levy, percussionist Jamey Haddad, bandoneónist Daniel Binelli, and guitarists Howard Alden, Larry Coryell, Frank Vignola, Tommy Emmanuel, and John and Bucky Pizzarelli.

His past performances include venues such as Dizzy's, Birdland, SF-JAZZ, Blue Note, Yoshi's, The Green Mill, and Sculler's, and festivals such as Newport Jazz Festival, Lincoln Center's Midsummer Festival, NYC Winter Jazz Festival, Vail Jazz Festival, Detroit Jazz Festival, Jazz Salt Lake City, Jazz Aspen Snowmass, Caramoor Music Festival, SF Performances, Phillips Collection, Fontana Chamber Arts Summer Festival, Soave Guitar Festival (IT), Quebec City Summer Festival (CA), Inchain International Cultural Festival in Constantine (AL), Byblos International Music Festival (LB), Beiteddine Art Festival (LB), Al-Qurain Culture Festival (Kuwait), Daejeon Chamber Music Festival (ROK) and many more.

Winter performances include:

- December 19, 2017 - Emilio Solla & La Inestable de Brooklyn, NY Minton's Playhouse
- January 14, 2018 - Julien Labro/Jason Vieaux Duo Washington, DC The Phillips Collection
- January 15, 2018 - Julien Labro/Jason Vieaux Duo White Marsh, VA Arts @ Abingdon

For further information: julien@julienlabro.com ■



Gene Pritsker Accordion Compositions

Gene Pritsker, Russian born New York based composer, will have several of his works that include accordion performed in December.

Gene Pritsker is a very prolific composer for various types of instrumental ensembles. He has composed many compositions for and including the accordion. Gene Pritsker (born 1971), is a Russian-born composer, guitarist, rapper and record producer living in New York City. He moved to the United States with his family in 1979 and lived in Sheepshead Bay Brooklyn.

He attended the Manhattan School of Music from 1990 to 1994 where he studied composition with Giampaolo Bracali. While attending Manhattan School of Music he co-founded the Absolute Ensemble with Kristjan Järvi and formed Sound Liberation, which has released CD's on Col-legno, Composers Concordance Records and Innova Recordings. Gene's music has been performed by the Adelaide Symphony, MDR Symphony Orchestra, Athens Camarata, Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Berlin Philharmonic. He worked closely with the Austrian-American jazz keyboardist and composer Joe Zawinul and has orchestrated Hollywood movies.

His compositions are published by Falls House Press, Gold Branch Music, Periferia Sheet Music and Calabrese Brothers Music, LLC. His compositions and performances can be heard on Col Legno, Enja Records, Eutrepe, Wergo, Innova Recordings, Composers' Concordance Records, and Capstone Records labels.

Gene has written over six hundred compositions, including chamber operas, orchestral and chamber works, electro-acoustic music and songs for hip-hop and rock ensembles. All of his compositions



employ an eclectic spectrum of styles and are influenced by his studies of various musical cultures. His music has been performed all over the world at various festivals and by many ensembles and performers, including the Adelaide Symphony, MDR Symphony, The Athens Camerata, China Philharmonic Orchestra, Brooklyn, Shanghai and Berlin Philharmonics, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, St. Lukes Chamber Orchestra, Sinfonietta Riga, Orchester des Pflanztheaters, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Anhaltische Philharmonie as well as such soloists as Anne Akiko Meyers, Lara St. John, Sarah Chang, Kathleen Supové, Martin Kuuskmann and Simone Dinnerstein. He worked closely with jazz fusion legend Joe Zawinul and has orchestrated major Hollywood movies, including 'Cloud Atlas', for which he wrote additional music and composed his 'Cloud Atlas Symphony'.

December 2017 performances included:

- **December 2 - Rocco Jerry performs 'Stressor' for solo accordion and 'Curves' for accordion and Sampletra, at the Troy Library, in Troy NY.**
- **December 8 - Rocco Jerry performs 'Stressor' for solo accordion and 'Curves' for accordion and Sampletra, at Time and Space limited, in Hudson, NY**
- **December 9 - Sophie Dunér Meets Mark Kostabi & Gene Pritsker at Kostabi World Uptown. The songs 'In Hours', 'Immortality', 'Renaissance' and 'Funeral Blues' for voice, guitar and Di.J. are performed. Also with: Sean Satin, Juecheng Chen.**
- **December 10 - 'Revealed Knowledge' for sop. sax, sitar, guitar and percussion premiered as part of Composers Concordance 'All About India' concert. With: Payton MacDonald, Lukas Ligeti, Edmundo Ramirez, Daniel Schnyder, Dan Cooper, Milica Paranosic.**
- **December 12 - Performing Clap and 'Cold Wisdom Waiting II' at Connecticut College with Peter Jarvis and John Clark as part of the New Music Chamber Ensemble concert at Evans Hall**
- **December 14 and 17 - Performing with Absolute Ensemble at the Russian Embassies in NYC and Washington.**
- **December 23 - The Other Elements Trio & Operatic Electric perform at The Delancey. Premiere of the trio 'Elements', as well as performances of 'SLI #6' and 'Dowland Meditations Electronic' With: Keith LeBlanc, Juecheng Chen, Mark Kostabi, Laurence Goldman**

For further information: genepritsker@gmail.com ■

Grayson Masefield Joins Star-Studded Cast of Performers at AAA's 80th

Grayson Masefield of New Zealand has won and been laureate at over a dozen international competitions around the world in classical, virtuoso and digital categories. His prizes include four world titles in both classical and virtuoso styles, and he was the first to win them in the same year:

Since 2008, he has performed multiple solo concert tours throughout Europe, North & South America, South Pacific and China performing a wide repertoire of original accordion works and transcriptions of both classical and lighter style music. He has released two albums of these contrasting styles.

Grayson plays in many ensembles, in classical and contemporary styles and has been a soloist with the Spokane Symphony Orchestra (2012), the Orquesta Sinfonica de Chile (Santiago & Frutillar 2016), and the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne (2017).

With considerable experience speaking publicly and broadcasting live, Grayson has performed and been interviewed on multiple radio and television shows around the world including USA, NZ, Canada, France, Finland, Lithuania, China & Switzerland. He has also appeared on the front covers of many accordion publications including Hanuri (Finland), Instrumenti Musica (Italy), Nygamalt (Norway) and AccordionLife (USA).

For more information on Grayson's activities, please see his online profile at www.accordions.com/gmasefield ■



Hanzhi Wang Awarded 2017 Young Concert Artist Award

On November 11, 2017 four 1st prizes were awarded at the 2017 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, in New York City including one to accordionist Hanzhi Wang.

The 2017 1st prize winners are:

- 18 year old American VC Young Artist, cellist Zlatoimir Fung
- 22 year old South Korean pianist Do-Hyun Kim
- 26 year old Chinese accordionist Hanzhi Wang, picture right
- Ensemble: Omer String Quartet

All four winners will be invited to join the Young Concert Artists' roster granting access to a minimum of three years management services, career engagements, publicity and career guidance as well as coveted recital debuts in New York City and at the Washington DC Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

This is the first time in the history of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions that an accordionist was chosen. This year's jury comprised: YCA Founder Susan Wadsworth (Chair), Lynn Chang and Benny Kim (violinists), Scott Nickrenz (violinist), Fred Sherry (cellist), Dr. William Schimmel (accordionist), Gerard Schwarz (trumpeter) and Anne-Marie McDermott and Jerome Lowenthal (pianists).

The Young Concert Artists International Auditions differ from a competition, as there are no rankings, and any number of winners can be selected with each candidate competing against a standard of excellence, not each other. Young Concert Artists alumni include: Pinchas Zukerman, Ida Kavafian, Emanuel Ax and Murray Perahia, Paul Huang, Bella Hristova, Benjamin Beilman, Ray Chen, Stephen Waarts and Soo-Been Lee.

Hanzhi said, "It is such a great honor being one of the winner in the 2017 Young Concert Artists in New York! Congrats to the Omer String Quartet, Zlatoimir Fung, Do-Hyun Kim! I'm very excited to be the first accordionist to join the Young Concert Artists big family! I am grateful to everybody in the way who supported and encouraged me! I am joining YCA artist management in New York and I will look so much forward to collaborate with my YCA families in future projects."

In addition to the several tours, she appeared also many times on TV programs. With her unique performances, Hanzhi Wang has become very popular among modern composers.

Noted for inspiring the young accordion generation, Hanzhi has presented lectures and excellent master classes in 7th International Summer Campus at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, Tianjin Music Conservatory of China, Music College of Capital Normal University of China. She was also invited as jury member at the 6th International Digital Accordion Competition of Rome and the International Accordion Festival in Alcobaca, Portugal and the 41st International Castelfidardo Accordion music festival in Italy. Hanzhi was invited to be a visiting scholar in the Manhattan School of Music in United States and has presented concerts for new music introduction and performance.

In 2017 she will release her solo CD, with works by Danish composers. The CD is called "In the path of H.C. Andersen", and takes the listener in to the heritage of Danish adventures.

Young Concert Artists is a non-profit organization founded by Susan Wadsworth in 1961, dedicated to discovering and launching the careers of exceptional, but unknown, young musicians from all over the world. The organization is dedicated to discovering and developing the careers of extraordinary classical musicians.

For more information on Hanzhi Wang: hanzhi@hanzhiwang.dk ■



AAA Commissioned Work Premiered in New York

The latest Commission of the AAA Composers Commissioning Committee 'become/desiccated' by George Katehis was recently Premiered in New York.

AAA President Mary Tokarski and Composers Commissioning Committee Chairperson Dr. Robert Young McMahan recently attended a recital on November 16 by Finnish accordionist Matti Pulki at the Benzaquen Hall of the very special Dimenna Center, on West 37th Street and 10th Avenue, New York City.

The 26-year-old Matti Pulki is a Helsinki based classical accordionist who performs both as a soloist and with different chamber groups. Recently he has been focusing on collaborating with composers on renewing the soundscape of the instrument through experimentation. Though he concentrates mainly on original music written for accordion, he also arranges, transcribes, and performs music from a wide range of styles and eras. Pulki recently completed his Master's degree at the Sibelius Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki as a student of Matti Rantanen. From 2014 to 2015, he studied at the University of Toronto with Joesph Macerollo.

His program at the Benzaquen Hall consisted of five original accordion solo works by four well established and noted living composers: Jeux d'anches (1991), by Magnus Lindberg (born 1958); Cadneias (2004/2013), by Jesús Torres (born 1965); BONE+ (1999), by Keiko Harada (born 1968); Power (2001), by Sampu Haapamäki (born 1979); and the world premiere of become/desiccated (2917), by the rising young composer George Katehis, who, like the performing artist, is 26. All were highly modern works reflecting the idioms of the atonal school, and were interesting, varied, and exhilarating, making great idiomatic use of all the accordion's special effects and high level of technique. It was the last work and composer, however, that was of special interest to the AAA. (cont'd. on next page)



George Katehis

AAA Commissioned Work Premiered, cont'd.

Mr. Katehis contacted the AAA in October 2016 describing his desire to compose a work for accordion which would be premiered by Pulkki the following year and seeking financial assistance in its performance and promotion. The result of this enquiry was a commission for the work by the AAA (which was well represented on the printed program at the premiere). This is one of the proudest accomplishments in recent years of the AAA Composers Commissioning Committee in that the composition fits very well into the musical languages of the general contemporary musical world of our times and combats the accordion's often encountered "loner" misconception in that setting. Furthermore, in addition to the New York premiere, the work will be performed in Toronto in November of 2017 and in Helsinki (Camerata Hall, Musiikkitalo) in January of 2018, thus spreading the reputation of the CCC, and hence the AAA, as a promoter of new music for the accordion beyond our own national borders.

George Katehis is a Greek-American composer who specializes in high-density and complex works for small chamber ensembles and solo instruments. His interests include early music and early/modern performance practice, polyphony, complexity, issues in music engraving, complex performance techniques and their praxis, and the preservation of rare and apocryphal contemporary scores. More recently, his research has expanded to the Byzantine music tradition.

Born in Manhattan in 1991, Katehis received his B.A. in composition from the Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University (SU) magna cum laude, where he studied with Nicolas Scherzinger; and his M.M. in composition from the Manhattan School of Music (MSM) with Reiko Fütting. A recipient of the 2013 Brian Israel Prize in composition (SU) and a Manhattan School of Music Composition Scholarship (MSM); among other academic achievements, Katehis remains interested in issues of composition, pedagogy, and performance of modern and historical plucked string instruments. Katehis has studied classical guitar with Kenneth Meyer, and early plucked strings (renaissance lute, baroque guitar, and theorbo) with Charles Weaver. As a composer, his work has been exhibited in master classes held by ensembles Loadbang, Dinosaur Annex, and 'cellist Friedrich Gauwerky; and he has participated in lectures with ethnomusicologist Bruno Nettl. As an engraver, he has worked for the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, among countless other projects. In 2014, he received the first student commission prize from the American Guild of Organists (AGO) for a solo organ piece, and *Tókso* was featured in the Society of Composers' 53rd annual journal of scores. In 2015, Katehis was invited to participate in Longleash trio's first annual Loretto Project at the Loretto Motherhouse outside of Louisville, KY. In 2016, Katehis' recent work for solo piano, *white as ash*, was premiered in Toronto, CA and subsequently performed at the Musiikin Aika "Time of Music" festival in Vitsaari, FN, and at the 2016 Darmstadt IMD Ferienkurse by pianist Jana Luksts. In 2017, he received a Fulbright Research Grant to provide some of the first modern English documentations of the morphology of mainland Greek traditional music, and to likewise investigate issues of taxonomy, orality, and the construction of national identity in contemporary Greek composition with ethnomusicologist Eleni Kallimopoulou.

Katehis has taken lessons with Brian Ferneyhough, Claus-Steffen Mahnkopf, and Mark Andre, among others. Other instructors have included Daniel Godfrey, Joseph Downing, and Andrew Waggoner in composition, Michael Calvert in early plucked strings, and Manos Georgandakis in Byzantine chant.

Katehis described his new work on the printed concert program as follows. As will be observed, it carries his own views and feelings regarding recent and past world and personal conflicts.

"become/desiccated was conceived during and in response to the tumultuous and largely tragic events of 2016-17. Paralyzed by events such as the increasingly international trend of xenophobia and neofascism, the failing ER-imposed austerity measures on the Greek state that have crippled all aspects of society (and now the manipulation of Syrian refugees in Greece as human cattle and political collateral against the Greek state), the increasing concern towards the negative effects and implications of ever-pervasive technological advancement, and my own deteriorating health as a Type 1 Diabetic—I found myself largely despondent in the midst of a toxic American socio-political climate and unable to compose, having not written a work of music for the previous two years. To be able to logistically achieve the composition of this piece, and to provide myself with a venue to respond to these issues, I abandoned previous political impartiality and chose to incorporate several texts into the structure of the work, namely: *Doctors Shouldn't Be Gods*, an interview with Siddhartha Mukherjee (Jo Ellison, via the *Financial Times*, 2017), *Ending Greece's Bleeding*, Paul Krugman (via the *New York Times*, 2016), and *The Sweet Relief of Splenda in My Purse*, Maris Kreizman (via the *New York Times*, 2016). These texts are fragmented, fractured, atomized, and sometimes presented in full comprehensibility by the same fractal relationships that govern the other musical aspects of the work. Furthermore, the latter portion of the work pays tribute to (primarily leftist) Greek partisans during the Civil War of 1946-49 that resisted American-supported Nazi sympathizers—these letters, sent to their families prior to their executions, are likewise cited in [composer] Luigi Nono's seminal *Il Canto Sospeso*. Rhapsodic in construction and performance, *become/desiccated* however utilizes the similar dense pitch and rhythmic vocabulary of my previous works but, being pessimist in nature, lacks the hopeful reference(s) to earlier musical materials (primarily Renaissance music) that so often pervade my earlier compositions."

This is only the second of the AAA commissioned works that carries with it an acknowledged social message and is all the more musi-



Long Island Accordion Alliance

The Long Island Accordion Alliance will hold their first event in 2018 sponsored by La Villini Restaurant of East Northport, NY on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 6:PM. The featured guest artists will be Manny Corallo and Frank Toscano (pictured at right).

Born and raised in New York, Frank Toscano came from an Italian family who valued the idea of music being played in the house constantly. Without a choice from his father, Frank took lessons on the accordion under the direction of Emilio Chiesa and never dreamed that it would become the passion of his life! "Emilio provided me with a solid classical foundation, for which I am forever grateful. I was very fortunate to have such a great teacher who was also a Virtuoso Accordionist."

As Frank continued through the years practicing, he mastered the instrument and it was only natural for him to become a professional musician. He wanted more though...more music... and so he learned, studied jazz and mastered the art of playing the piano (taught himself) and at the age of twenty-one opened the Frank Toscano Music School.

Now some 50 years later, the school continues to flourish with young and not-so-young talent. Still teaching everyday, his undying passion for music and performing never seems to subside. He has performed live with, and for, many artists including Michail Baryshnikov and Aidan Quinn and can also be heard on many recordings of other artists too numerous to mention.

Manny Corallo began his musical career early. At age 4 he began to play drums, and soon after that switched to accordion. "My father played accordion, and I started taking lessons from my father's music teacher, Frank Toscano. It was a bonding thing for my father and I to play the same instrument. Sundays at my grandparents consisted of my father and I on accordion and my grandfather on mandolin and guitar. I remember how much fun that was when I was a kid."

By age 13, Manny began piano lessons and continued to study with Frank.

Frank provided Manny with proper classical training, but he had a strong love for jazz and Manny developed the same love for it. "Frank is an incredible jazz accordionist and pianist, and a great friend too," he said. "He provided me with the solid musical foundation that I rely on today, and I always thank Frank for giving me that."

An avid arranger as well, Manny attended CW Post College to get his Bachelors degree in Music Education while working on his arranging projects including arranging a Gospel album for Wayne E.N. Ireland-Cleghorne entitled "God's Love" recorded at Sonic Sound. Around this time, Manny worked on many different projects playing accordion on various ethnic albums. But the desire to score was still strong. Manny had the opportunity to score "Mr. Men & Little Miss" a children's cartoon, and the producer was so happy with the job that Manny did, that the next project that came along was to be given to Manny was "Pokemon" leading to Pokemon's motion pictures and many more projects including the animated television series "Tama & Friends", "Kirby Right back at ya", "Fighting Foodons", "Shaman King", "Sonic X" and others.

Be sure to attend this evening featuring these talented musicians. The venue, La Villini Restaurant, is located at 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731. For more information and reservations please call: (631) 261-6344 or e-mail: lavillini@yahoo.com. ■



AWW to Video & Document AAA's 80th

Harley Jones of AWW will attend the exciting 80th AAA Anniversary Celebration and will make a full report of pictures and video of the entire event, along the lines of what you have seen for other major international festivals.

This report would be a professional permanent website record of the celebration speeches, performances and competitions in a mixture of digital pictures and videos, promoting worldwide the important 80th AAA Celebration.

This work would strongly promote the AAA successes through the years including 2018, to the world via the enormous internet traffic of the accordions.com and accordionUSA.com websites.

"I have had the great pleasure of attending AAA Festivals and Coupe Mondiale organized by AAA on many previous occasions from the 1970's on and therefore, I look forward to helping promote this milestone event for the American Accordionists' Association (AAA)" Harley stated regarding the event and we are looking forward to his participation at the AAA's 80th Anniversary. ■



Gala 80th Anniversary Banquet

Saturday, July 14, 2018

Grand Ballroom

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

625 First Street • Alexandria, VA

6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour (and entertainment)

Ballroom Foyer

7:00 p.m. Dinner Service Begins

Main Ballroom

AAA 80th Anniversary Festival Orchestra

conducted by Joan Sommers

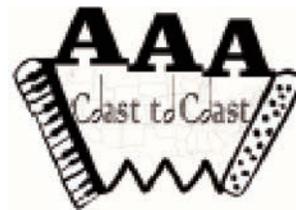
PLUS Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation to

Louis F. Coppola

Entertainment throughout the evening

Coast to Coast

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



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

On November 3, 2017, Dr. Schimmel premiered his "Green Jackets for Accordion and Baroque Flute" at Congregation Kol Ami. Denise Koncelik performed on Baroque Flute. On November 5, his "Bactoblues" was performed by Bactopus - at St Peter's Church. On November 14, he was soloist with the New York University Orchestra in a performance of "The Forest" by David Byrne (of The Talking Heads fame). On November 22, he gave a full length concert at the historic Century Club, an exclusive club that dates back to the early to mid 19th century, that has formed a community of artists, writers and amateurs for the purpose of stimulating robust discussion. Dr. Schimmel performed selections from his CD, "The Theater of the Accordion" and other selections as well as talks between the selections.

HIGHLAND MILLS, NY

Accordionists Anita and Bob Siarkowski performed for the Oktoberfest celebrations in both Highland Mills and New Britain. For the East Side restaurant in New Britain they were joined by fellow accordionist Walter Lawrence and by Lenny Feldman at the Black Forest Mill Restaurant in Highland Mills, New York.

BROOKLYN, NY

The Brooklyn Accordion Club presented their Holiday Concert Program on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 61 Local in Brooklyn. The program was hosted by Blythe Bonaffons and included scheduled performances by Tony Simulinas, John DiPinto, Barry Polinsky (Harmonica), Robert Duncan and Mayumi Miyaoka (Tentacles of Bactopus Accordion Ensemble), "Papa" Joe De Clemente and Orquesta de Cabeceo Tango Ensemble. For information on upcoming activities, please contact: brooklynaccordionclub@gmail.com

WATERBURY, CT

The Connecticut Accordion Association presented their Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 3, 2017 in Waterbury, CT. Featuring the Connecticut Accordion Orchestra under the direction of Peter Peluso, the program also included several guest artists. The Concert featured a variety of holiday favorites! For information on upcoming concerts, please visit www.CTAccordion.com.

FALLS CHURCH, VA

Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS) The 15th annual WMAS Holiday Concert and Potluck Dinner, which took place on Sunday, December 10, was another resounding success!! The hall was filled to capacity and Music Director/Conductor Joan Grauman reported that "the orchestra has never sounded better!! Their hard work really paid off!!" For more information on WMAS activities, please contact: Joangrauman@verizon.net.



SUPERIOR, WI

A World of Accordions Museum presenting an evening of Nordic Music on November 12 featuring The Duluth Kantele Players, directed by Harold Haapoja. The Accordion Concertina Band performed popular Nordic pieces with duets being offered by Marian Syrjamaki-Kuchta and Royal Miller, as well as by Tracey Gibbens and Dr. Paul Anderson. Helmi Harrington performed the popular Sakkijarven Polka. (cont'd. below).

LANCASTER, PA

Cody McSherry who plays baritone sax in Lancaster Catholic High School's jazz band, was able to convince his band leader that an accordion could work in the band. The band leader was skeptical at first, but after a short demonstration by Cody, he was sold! See photo below with Cody playing baritone sax and his accordion by his side!



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Dean Ratzin

On December 3rd, Carolyn Carver (violin), Mary Wight (cello), and Helmi Harrington (accordion) performed a variety program at the Duluth, MN, Karpeles Museum. For future activities and information A World of Accordions Museum, please visit www.worldofaccordions.org

Wishing one and all the most joyous of holidays.

Sincerely,

The AA Newsletter Elves

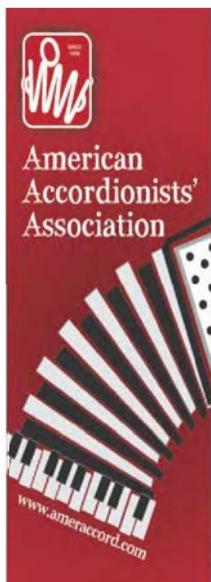
Kevin

Linda

Julie

and all of our contributors!





It's a Celebration!

July 11-15, 2018

**Come join us at the
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
625 First Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

as we celebrate the

**80th Anniversary
of the**

**American Accordionists'
Association**

**Exciting Competitions, Workshops
Outstanding Guest Artists**

**Stas Venglevski & Tatyana Krasnobaeva
Grayson Masefield, Mary Tokarski, Joe Natoli
The Trifilio Tango Trio
Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Cecylia Barczyk
Emmanuel Borowsky**

**Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble
Junior Festival Orchestra**

**80th Anniversary AAA Festival Orchestra
under the direction of**

**Joan Cochran
Sommers**

Plus

**AAA Lifetime Achievement
Award honoring**

Louis F. Coppola



**Stas
Venglevski**



**Tatyana
Krasnobaeva**



**Grayson
Masefield**



Mary Tokarski



Joe Natoli



The Trifilio Tango Trio



**Dr. Robert
McMahan**

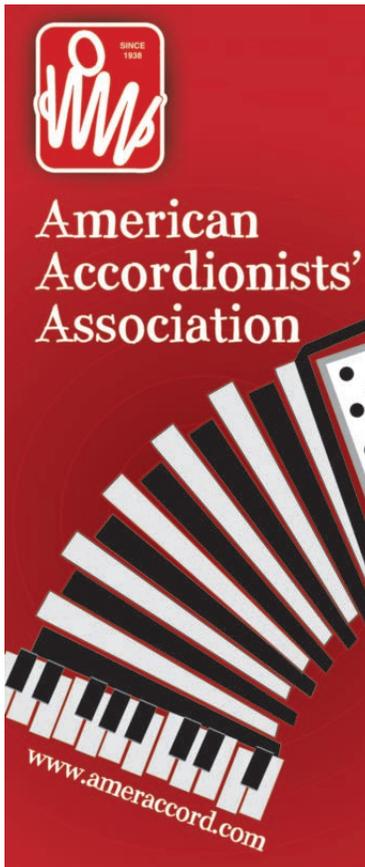


**Cecylia
Barczyk**



**Emmanuel
Borowsky**





We look forward to hearing from ALL of our members in 2018 as we celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the American Accordionists' Association.

Our website is getting an upgrade to make your online experience easier and more "user friendly". Upgrade will be occurring during the month of January so we are looking forward to being fully operational in early February.

In the meantime you may still use our existing site and always feel free to email us at:
ameraccord1938@gmail.com



American Accordionists' Association
c/o Mary J. Tokarski
15 Maplewood Lane
Northford, CT 06472