

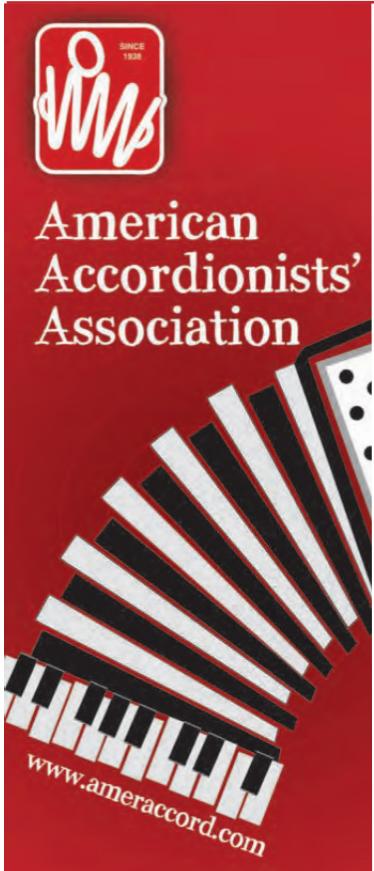


AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the American Accordionists' Association page 1

November-December 2018



Welcome new slate of officers for 2019 & 2020

President
Dr. Joseph A. Ciccone

1st Vice President
Mary J. Tokarski

2nd Vice President
Linda Soley Reed

Secretary
Rachel Quirbach

Treasurer
Raymond Oreggia

From the Editor:

Welcome to the final issue in our milestone anniversary celebration, the AAA's 80th Anniversary, that took place in the Nation's Capital where accordionists from around the world convened in Alexandria, VA (Washington, DC) from July 11-15, 2018. With the showcase of talent ranging from soloists to groups performing a variety of genres, the festival hosted four days of activities planned to inspire us all! For those of you that were not able to attend in person, we invite you to visit the extensive online coverage at our user friendly website www.ameraccord.com.



We thank Past President, Linda Reed and Board of Director member, Rita Davidson Barnea for their kind assistance with the AAA Newsletter. We invite 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 2019 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!

Sincerely, Kevin

From the President:

A big "Thank You" to everyone for making my 4 years as President of AAA rewarding and full of accomplishments for AAA and the accordion! YOU are the reason for the AAA, and the advancement of the accordion is in your hands. Our future is bright. We have seen so many young musicians popping up onto the scene, with incredible performances and spotlights into what we have in store for the future. The youth of today are talented and ready to take the accordion into tomorrow.



AAA members around the country are working on bringing the accordion into the schools and to educate our young people about our wonderful instrument. Activities including accordionists have multiplied, lots of new shows are including the accordion in their pit orchestras, many symphony orchestras are now featuring accordion soloists, and so many new and inventive things are happening. As an AAA member you need to remember that accordionists are special and without your support these events and major steps forward could never happen! Keep your eyes open for any possibility for getting the accordion into the public eye . . . we need you!

The Carrozza Memorial Fundraising Event on September 9, 2018 was a huge success. Our guests enjoyed entertainment by Don Gerundo, music to dance by from Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini, and a spectacular concert by our guest artist Petar Maric – (with a guest appearance by Nathan Chapeton, the AAA's representative to the Junior Coupe Mondiale in Kaunas, Lithuania). Plans are in the making for a repeat event next September, so be sure to look for details soon in the Newsletter.

Kudos to Kevin Friedrich and Linda Reed for keeping the Newsletters new and exciting. There are many listed events around the U.S. (and the world), and their efforts keep us informed on where to go, who to hear, and how to enjoy the accordion even more!

Festival 2019 is also well on its way, and we hope to see you at the Valley Forge Casino Resort in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania from July 17-21, 2019.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Museum of Making Music - Carlsbad, CA Accordions: *Expanding Voices in the USA*

The 20th Century was witness to the accordion's meteoric rise followed by its quick and marked decline. Today, accordions and accordionists are making these voices heard again. "Accordions: Expanding Voices in the USA" takes a close look and listen at the current state of the accordion across the country. It includes many of the genres that feature the instrument, as well as stories and recordings from some of the players who are pushing it forward. Visitors will learn about where the accordion might be headed next and get the chance to play an accordion for themselves.

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Museum of Making Music exhibit will open on December 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. with a members-only re-



Guido
Deiro, Jr.

ception including refreshments featuring entertainment by local folk group, Nathan & Jessie, followed by a concert at 7:00 p.m. featuring Cory Pesaturo and an appearance by Guido Deiro, Jr. The concert will be open to the public. The exhibit entitled, Accordions: Expanding Voices, will run thru August 31, 2019. Material for the exhibit has been donated by the following:

Jamie Maschler

(instrument previously owned by Hermeto Pascoal)

CJ Chenier

Renée de la Prade

(a Hohner diatonic that she modified to play power chords)

Matt Hensley

Flaco Jiménez (a signed Corona II)

Los Tigres del Norte

(a signed Corona II "Los Tigres" model)

Art Van Damme

(a custom Excelsior on loan from his children)

Petosa (a 5-row button AND a Bugari Evo)

Maestro Accordions

Cory Pesaturo

Michael Bridge

Guy Klucevsek

Frank Petrilli

Skyler Fell

Renée de la Prade

Peter Soave

Alex Meixner

Milen Slavov

Sam Reider

Sunny Saucedo

Josh Baca

"I've tried to cover a wide range of genres with representative players and personalities – I know there are many more, but I just can't include everyone!" *Museum Curator, Jonathon Piper*

See also <https://www.museumofmakingmusic.org/>. If you would like to visit the area or receive information regarding Carlsbad, CA, please visit: <https://visitcarlsbad.com/> ■



Nathan & Jessie will perform at the opening reception of the museum's exhibit entitled, "Accordions: Expanding Voices in the USA"

Northeast Accordion Festival

November is National Accordion Month. The NE Accordion Festival (named after the festival's home in Northeast Minneapolis) hold celebrations in conjunction with other accordion parties, concert and festivals all across the United States celebrating instruments of the free-reed family (accordion family). NEAF focuses on the enjoyment and recognition of the free-reed instrument family that includes both chromatic and piano accordion, concertina, button box, harmonium, and diatonic accordion. Annual events include sponsoring "National Make Music Day" in June and "Accordion Playdate" in November which features interactive activities and education involving the accordion as well as "Squeeler's Accordion Band".

The festival had its beginning in 1997 when Joanna Arnold Darrow (NJ) was coming for a visit to the Twin Cities. Her friend, Dee Langley, wanted people to be able to hear her perform so she had an open party at Kramarczuk's East European Deli, a local restaurant, featuring local musical talent with Ms. Darrow. The very first festival produced not only fine solo performance but also spawned the "Squeez-in" Accordion Orchestra (now "Squeeler's Accordion Band") so everyone could participate.

In the year 2000 the festival coordinators added the Lifetime Achievement Award to their list of activities. The Lifetime Achievement Award is given in recognition of outstanding support for the accordion family instruments through performance and/or teaching. This year's recipient is Joanna Darrow. (pictured at right with the late Stanley Darrow).



The NE Accordion Festival has been so successful that it has outgrown not only our first location but also a larger space provided by a local art gallery (Aldo Moroni, California Building). After busting the seams of the gallery, the festival explored both the Cedar Cultural Center, the Local Elks Club, the beautiful banquet facilities at Elsie's Bowling Center and Waite Park Recreational Center (Minneapolis Park Board). This year we are celebrating once again at the Pillsbury A-Mill (a National Historic Landmark) on Main Street which has been renovated as Artists Lofts. Please join us for "Accordion Playdate 2018"! Additional information can be found at: <https://airaccordion.com/neaf/>

71st Coupe Mondiale - Kaunas, Lithuania

September 25-29, 2018

By Mary Tokarski, USA Delegate

Kaunas, Lithuania became the accordion capital of the world in September! Accordionists from approximately 20 countries participated in the 7 categories of the competition – Coupe Mondiale, Junior Coupe Mondiale, Masters Coupe Mondiale, Virtuoso Entertainment Music, Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Music, International Ensemble – Classical Music, and International Ensemble-World Music.

The performances were spectacular to say the least, and the quality of performers was incredible . . . including the USA's representative to the Junior Coupe Mondiale – Nathan Chapeton. His performance was met with thunderous applause for each round, with the audience bulging at the seams when he played. Hooray, USA!

Winners were as follows:

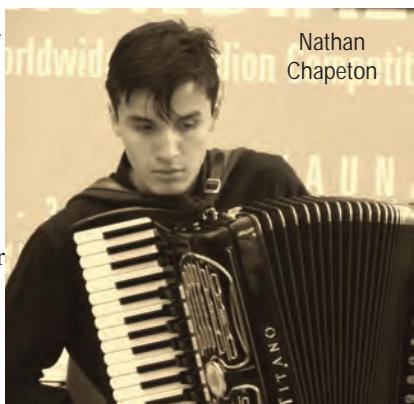
- Coupe Mondiale – Radu Ratoi (Moldova)
- Junior Coupe Mondiale – Dmitry Borovikov (Russia)
- Masters Coupe Mondiale – Nikolay Teleshenko (Russia)
- Virtuoso Entertainment Music – Radu Ratoi (Moldova)
- Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Music – João Palma (Portugal)
- International Ensemble – Classical Music – Tutto A Dio (Lithuania)
- Augustinas Rakauskas (Accordion) and Greta Staponkute-Rakauskiene (Viola)
- International Ensemble – World Music – The Pillers (Serbia)
- Daniel Piller (Accordion) and Darko Piller (Violin)

A full list of winners, their programs and full videos of the performances can be viewed on the Coupe Mondiale website (www.coupemondiale.org).

Two new voting members were admitted to the CIA including the Asociación De Acordeonistas De Perú (Peru - José Alfonso Maslucán Culqui, President) and the Montenegrin Association of Accordionists (Montenegro - Predrag Jankovic, President) and one Corresponding Membership, the Association "Music Art" (Montenegro - Nemanja Potarić, President).

This year's General Assembly of Delegates Congress included a vote for the CIA Vice Presidents and Executive Committee members, along with the Music Committee members.

cont'd. on page 10



Nathan
Chapeton



Accordionist and Composer, Guy Klugevsek, has “an experience of a lifetime”

By Joan Grauman, AAA Historian

A touching, extraordinary memorial service for the late, great Senator John McCain took place at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC on Saturday, September 1, 2018. It was a moving service from beginning to end. There were tributes by family members, former Senator Joseph Lieberman, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, and there were lovely musical tributes – all carefully selected by John McCain.

One of McCain's musical requests was that world-renowned soprano, Renée Fleming, perform the universally loved Irish ballad “Danny Boy.” Ms. Fleming did so, beautifully, accompanied by the Diderot String Quartet, which is in residence at the cathedral. One of the newscasters said that hearing Danny Boy was “the most moving moment of the entire service”. It surely was for me, too – not just for its heart-rending lyrics and melody, but also because one of my favorite musicians, celebrated accordionist and composer Guy Klugevsek, was chosen to join this stellar group! The soft, sweet sounds of Guy's reeds so flawlessly blended with Fleming's beautiful voice and the quartet's stirring harmonies.

John McCain passed away on Saturday, August 25. That evening, Guy received a call from a musician friend of his saying, “You won't believe the conversation I just had with Renée Fleming! She said she was doing something later this week for which an accordion might fit perfectly, and I told her that would be a great idea, and that I had the perfect accordionist for her!”

The following Monday, Guy received an e-mail asking him to call Mike McCarthy, the music director for the Washington National Cathedral. He was stunned and touched to be given the opportunity to play at this memorial service, and to accompany Renée Fleming. Guy and his wife Jan immediately postponed their vacation to Cape Cod and were on their way to Washington, DC.

For Guy, who has been described by the Seattle Weekly as “one of the world's most versatile and highly-respected accordionists”, this was an “experience of a lifetime!” He spoke with me about the atmosphere in the cathedral: “I looked out and saw, directly in front of us, Cindy McCain, who cried on her son's shoulder as we played, and there were the Obamas, the Bushes, the Clintons, and McCain's casket. It felt unreal and deeply moving.”

Guy enjoyed playing with the young, highly professional members of the Diderot String Quartet. They played on “gut” strings (Baroque instruments), which are normally tuned to A=415, and though they were not-at-all accustomed to tuning to a “sharp” accordion (A=442), they adapted to it quickly and with great precision. “It was a joy to rehearse and perform with them,” Guy remarked, “and, of course, with Renée, who possesses a voice for the ages!”■



"DANNY BOY"
PERFORMED BY RENÉE FLEMING
REMEMBERING JOHN McC

Alex Meixner – One-Man Band

Reprinted from Ithaca College alumnae magazine, "Luminaries"

Alex Meixner '98 is a one-man band, in more ways than one.

In the most literal sense, he's the star of the Hormel Food Company's "Pepperoni Pep It Up" ad campaign. The commercials feature a lederhosen-clad Meixner energetically singing and dancing around with a bass drum and cymbal strapped to his back, and his accordion and trumpet in hand.

A bouncing piece of pepperoni helps viewers follow the lyrics and sing along with the upbeat tune and (ridiculously catchy) lyrics: "You can pep up anything, pep-pepperoni. Pep it up, it's the one and only. Pep it up. Hormel pepperoni."

Even when the Grammy-nominated polka star isn't physically juggling multiple instruments, he's working to harmoniously blend a number of roles. Those include leading the Alex Meixner band in live performances (in which he also sings, dances and plays the accordion and trumpet), recording tracks both for his own albums and those of artists he collaborates with, teaching master classes and seminars, and running a talent agency focusing on Oktoberfest entertainment.

"My mix of ethnic music, polka, folk rock, and anything else that sort of gets slammed in there, is probably what I'm most noted for," says Meixner, who focused on the trumpet at Ithaca as a performance and music education major.

All told, he estimates he averages 60,000 miles a year on the road for performances and other commitments. Which role takes focus depends on the time of year.

"In Oktoberfest season, the education and recording work goes out the window," Meixner says. "It's just survival mode getting through the amount of gigs coming in for both me and the bands I'm going to manage."

For Meixner, music has been a lifelong pursuit. His bio describes him as "finally, at age 3" beginning a formal study of the piano.

"I'm the fourth generation of my family that are musicians in the United States, and we go back untold generations in Austria," he says.

When it came time to choose a college, as Meixner recalls it, other music schools provided the best promotion for Ithaca.

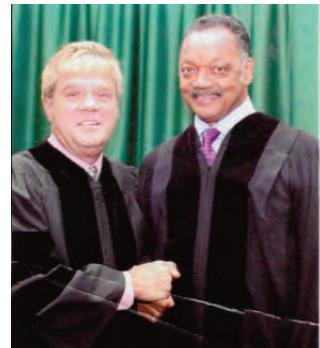
"At the time, my total idea was that I was going to be a college music professor," he says. "One of the best ads for Ithaca was that every school I looked at, at least one faculty member had done an undergraduate degree at Ithaca. It's got a stellar reputation in music education."

As a student, Meixner received a myriad of financial aid and talent-based scholarships, one of which was the Herbert Mueller Scholarship, named in honor of the former trumpet professor.



Meet AAA Member and ASCAP Artist, Joe Napolitano

At 18 years of age as a student and protege of Louis Del Monte (who played the "Accorgan" on the Lawrence Welk Show), Joe became a Certified Teacher Member of the American Accordionists' Association and the Accor-



dion Teachers Association of New Jersey. He has taught music at Snyder H.S. in Jersey City, NJ, Hackensack H.S., Hackensack, NJ as well as Louis Del Monte Accordion School and Master School of Music in Jersey City.

As a composer and musician, over the years, Joe is a member of ASCAP, has had a number of songs published including in the movie: Die Hard 2 in Spain. He has been a keyboard player for a number of popular singers and groups including Tony Orlando, Madonna Ciccone, Dr. Hook, Jay and the Americans and Jersey City's own, Duprees.

Joe is pictured above with the Rev. Jessie Jackson and Ugly Betty star, America Ferrara. ■

"Professor Mueller's widow met up with me a few times at concerts and for lunch," Meixner says. "She showed a very strong interest in continuing the legacy of her husband and of the institution in general. That has been influential to me in many of the organizations I have worked with through my life."

Meixner also credits retired jazz studies professor Steve Brown with shaping his IC experience. "He was a selfless educator," Meixner says. "To this day, he is a valued friend and mentor—and a major reason that I approach much of my music the way I do."

This past year has provided a wealth of opportunities for Meixner. There was the Hormel gig, which came after someone associated with the company saw Meixner and his band perform at the Wisconsin State Fair.

"I had no clue what I was getting into when I first answered their email, but it's obviously turned into a pretty high profile opportunity for me," he says. "Hormel is a wonderful company to work with."

Meixner also did two days of recording with actor Jack Black for "The Polka King," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival this year. And the Texas-based Faust Brewery created the Alex Meixner Polka Pilsner to honor his contributions to polka music. ■

2019 AAA Festival July 17-21, 2019

Valley Forge Resort Hotel & Casino • Valley Forge (King of Prussia), PA 22314

Guest Artist - MICHAEL BRIDGE



Music Museum in Holland

Dominic Karcic sent us some photos of a Music Museum in Holland submitted by a regular patron of LIAA events, Mrs. Terry Williams. She visited Holland recently, and came across a wonderful Music Museum in Helmond. Below are some of the instruments that were displayed. The Speelklok Museum is known as the "most fun museum in Holland." The self-playing instruments perform hourly and the repertoire varies from Viennese waltzes and tangos to "tear-jerkers" and the very latest hits. ■



Papa Joe at Gracie Mansion (NY)

On Thursday, October 4, 2018, Mayor Bill de Blasio and his wife hosted the annual Italian Heritage Celebration at their Gracie Mansion home in NYC. The celebration was attended by hundreds of people who were of Italian heritage and represented various Italian organizations throughout the city.

As the people entered into the celebration area, which was located in a large tent on the grounds of Gracie Mansion, they were welcomed by "Papa Joe" De Clemente on the accordion. Joe received numerous compliments from the visitors and many of them requested Papa Joe to join them in their personal photos.

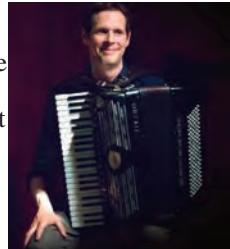


"Papa Joe" De Clemente, who lives in Queens, New York, was brought up in an Italian family environment and started playing the accordion at the young age of nine years old in 1956. He was interested in playing because he used to visit his relatives, the IORIO's, who manufactured accordions in NYC, as far back as 1907. Joe has performed in numerous venues and loves to entertain people. He is also a member of the Long Island Accordion Alliance.

Joe has been married to his wife, Janet, for 49 years and is the father of 4 kids and has 11 grandchildren. Joe also volunteers at a local elementary school in Queens where he is trying to help young kids to learn how to play and appreciate the accordion. ■

Will Holshouser's Concert at WMAS
By Joan Grauman, AAA Historian

Will Holshouser was the fall guest artist at the September 16 meeting of the WMAS. The concert was enjoyed by all, not just because of Will's beautiful compositions and excellent skills, but also because of his wonderful explanations of how he was inspired to write and title his compositions. In the words of Mara Cherkasky, "Will Holshouser..... is proof that the accordion has a beautiful future."



The fact that many people in our club were unfamiliar with his work made the concert an even bigger success, as part of our mission is to spread the word."

The video from the concert, included with this article, features one of Will's latest compositions entitled "Three Glasses". Will Holshouser is an amazing accordionist who composes for a wide variety of musical contexts. He leads his own groups and has played with artists including Regina Carter, David Krakauer, Suzanne Vega, Eric Vloeimans, Andy Statman, NYC Ballet, NYC Opera, Brooklyn Philharmonic, and many others.

Will has recorded three CDs of his music with his own trio, as well as albums with Musette Explosion and Han Bennink & Michael Moore. He has appeared at Monterey Jazz Festival, Vienna Akkordeon Festival, American Accordionists' Association Festival, and on NPR's Fresh Air. Will grew up in Cambridge, MA and now lives in Brooklyn, NY with his wife and daughter. Will is performing with The Western Wind vocal ensemble: Dec. 4th / Kiawah Island, SC and Dec. 8th in NY. ■

Above photo of Will by Albie Mitchell.

AAMS 2019 Festival - March 15 & 16, 2019

Dee Langley, Honoree

The American Accordion Musicological Society will host its 2019 Festival on March 15 and 16, 2019 in the Social Hall of Westmont United Methodist Church, 200 Emerald Avenue, Westmont (Haddon Township), NJ 08108. The Festival Orchestra will be conducted by Honoree, Dee Langley of Minneapolis, MN. In addition, a series of workshops is also planned. Early presenters include Mike Dellapenna and Dee Langley. The event will be culminated with a Concert and Banquet also at the Social Hall. More information will be available in upcoming newsletters. Contact ACME Accordion School for information on the Heritage Series, Polish Christmas Carols arranged for easy accordion solo, duet or ensemble by Dee Langley. Limited quantity available thru Acme School. ■

About Dee Langley

Dee Langley specializes in both solo and ensemble works for the accordion having appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Duluth Symphony Orchestra, Ancia Quartet, Minnesota Sinfonia, Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, Nautilus Music Theater, Ethnic Dance Theatre and Flying Foot Forum. Ms. Langley is winner of the 2012 Minnesota Emerging Composer Award (Orkestar Bez Ime - World Music), the 2011-2012 McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians. She is a former president of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International, currently on the Advisory Board of World of Accordions Museum and teaches accordion for Minneapolis Community and Technical College as well as privately at her home in NE Minneapolis. ■



Music Literacy - Can you read music? It's never too late to learn!

Throughout grade school and high school, I was fortunate to participate in quality music programs. Our high school had a top Illinois state jazz band; I also participated in symphonic band, which gave me a greater appreciation for classical music. It wasn't enough to just read music. You would need to sight read, meaning you are given a difficult composition to play cold, without any prior practice. Sight reading would quickly reveal how fine-tuned playing "chops" really were. In college I continued in a jazz band and also took a music theory class. The experience gave me the ability to visualize music (If you play by ear only, you will never have that same depth of understanding music construct.)

Both jazz and classical art forms require not only music literacy, but for the musician to be at the top of their game in technical proficiency, tonal quality and creativity in the case of the jazz idiom. Jazz masters like John Coltrane would practice six to nine hours a day, often cutting his practice only because his inner lower lip would be bleeding from the friction caused by his mouth piece against his gums and teeth. His ability to compose and create new styles and directions for jazz was legendary. With few exceptions such as Wes Montgomery or Chet Baker, if you couldn't read music, you couldn't play jazz. In the case of classical music, if you can't read music you can't play in an orchestra or symphonic band. Over the last 20 years, musical foundations like reading and composing music are disappearing with the percentage of people that can read music notation proficiently down to 11 percent, according to some surveys.

Two primary sources for learning to read music are school programs and at home piano lessons. Public school music programs have been in decline since the 1980's, often with school administrations blaming budget cuts or needing to spend money on competing extracurricular programs. Prior to the 1980's, it was common for homes to have a piano with children taking piano lessons. Even home architecture incorporated what was referred to as a "piano window" in the living room which was positioned above an upright piano to help illuminate the music.

Stores dedicated to selling pianos are dwindling across the country as fewer people take up the instrument. In 1909, piano sales were at their peak when more than 364,500 were sold, but sales have plunged to between 30,000 and 40,000 annually in the US. Demand for youth sports competes with music studies, but also, fewer parents are requiring youngsters to take lessons as part of their upbringing.

Besides the decline of music literacy and participation, there has also been a decline in the quality of music which has been proven scientifically by Joan Serra, a postdoctoral scholar at the

Artificial Intelligence Research Institute of the Spanish National Research Council in Barcelona. Joan and his colleagues looked at 500,000 pieces of music between 1955-2010, running songs through a complex set of algorithms examining three aspects of those songs:

1. Timbre- sound color, texture and tone quality
2. Pitch- harmonic content of the piece, including its chords, melody, and tonal arrangements
3. Loudness- volume variance adding richness and depth

The results of the study revealed that timbral variety went down over time, meaning songs are becoming more homogeneous. Translation: most pop music now sounds the same. Timbral quality peaked in the 60's and has since dropped steadily with less diversity of instruments and recording techniques. Today's pop music is largely the same with a combination of keyboard, drum machine and computer software greatly diminishing the creativity and originality. Pitch has also decreased, with the number of chords and different melodies declining. Pitch content has also decreased, with the number of chords and different melodies declining as musicians today are less adventurous in moving from one chord or note to another, opting for well-trod paths by their predecessors. Loudness was found to have increased by about one decibel every eight years. Music loudness has been manipulated by the use of compression. Compression boosts the volume of the quietest parts of the song so they match the loudest parts, reducing dynamic range. With everything now loud, it gives music a muddled sound, as everything has less punch and vibrancy due to compression.

In an interview, Billy Joel was asked what has made him a standout. He responded his ability to read and compose music made him unique in the music industry, which as he explained, was troubling for the industry when being musically literate makes you stand out. An astonishing amount of today's popular music is written by two people: Lukasz Gottwald of the United States and Max Martin from Sweden, who are both responsible for dozens of songs in the top 100 charts. You can credit Max and Dr. Luke for most of the hits of these stars:

Katy Perry, Britney Spears, Kelly Clarkson, Taylor Swift, Jessie J., KE\$HA, Miley Cyrus, Avril Lavigne, Maroon 5, Taio Cruz, Ellie Goulding, NSYNC, Backstreet Boys, Ariana Grande, Justin Timberlake, Nick Minaj, Celine Dion, Bon Jovi, Usher, Adam Lambert, Justin Bieber, Domino, Pink, Pitbull, One Direction, Flo Rida, Paris Hilton, The Veronicas, R. Kelly, Zebrahead.

With only two people writing much of what we hear, is it any wonder music sounds the same, using the same hooks, riffs and electric drum effects?

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Connecticut Accordion Association Presents "Silver and Gold"

The October meeting of the Connecticut Accordion Association (CAA) featured Mary Tokarski with student, Nathan Chapeton, 2018 AAA representative to the Coupe Mondiale. The concert, entitled Silver and Gold was enjoyed by the full house in attendance at the Waverly Inn in Cheshire. Mary performed Dark Eyes (Magnanate), Pavanna & Rondo (Surinach) The Flying Butterfly (Pezzolo), Lecuona's Malaguena from the "Andalucia Suite and Magic Fingers (Neupauer).

Nathan's performance included the 4th Movement of the Zolotariev Sonata No. 3, Bach Prelude & Fugue in G Major, Aria by Zubitsky, Flight Beyond the Time by Makkonen and Asia Flashes by Franck Angelis.

Mary and Nathan concluded the afternoon's concert by performing the Stas Venglevski duet, "Stasera". ■



Above: Nathan Chapeton;
Top right, Janina Nawarskas,
Nathan, new member Joan
Thomas, seated, Nathan's
mom, Aracelly and teacher,
Mary Tokarski. Bottom right:
CAA President, Marilyn O'Neil,
Nathan, Joan Thomas, Mary
Tokarski and Julie Cardona.



Music Literacy, cont'd. from page 6

Intelligence was also studied by Joan Serra over the last 10 years using several metrics such as "Flesch Kincaid Readability Index," which reflects how difficult a piece of text is to understand and the quality of the writing. Results showed lyric intelligence has dropped by a full grade with lyrics getting shorter, tending to repeat the same words more often. Artists that write the entirety of their own songs are very rare today. When artists like Taylor Swift claim they write their own music, it is partially true, insofar as she writes her own lyrics about her latest boyfriend breakup, but she cannot read music and lacks the ability to compose what she plays. (Don't attack me Tay-Tay Fans!)

Music electronics are another aspect of musical decline as the many untalented people we hear on the radio can't live without autotune. Autotune artificially stretches or slurs sounds in order to get it closer to center pitch. Many of today's pop musicians and rappers could not survive without autotune, which has become a sort of musical training wheels. But unlike a five-year-old riding a bike, they never take the training wheels off to mature into a better musician. Dare I even bring up the subject of U2s guitarist "The Edge" who has popularized rhythmic digital delays synchronized to the tempo of the music? You could easily argue he's more an accomplished sound engineer than a talented guitarist.

Today's music is designed to sell, not inspire. Today's artist is often more concerned with producing something familiar to mass audience, increasing the likelihood of commercial success (this is encouraged by music industry execs, who are notoriously risk-averse).

In the mid-1970's, most American high schools had a choir, orchestra, symphonic band, jazz band, and music appreciation

classes. Many of today's schools limit you to a music appreciation class because it is the cheapest option. D.A. Russell wrote in the Huffington Post in an article titled, "Cancelling High School Elective, Arts and Music—So Many Reasons—So Many Lies" that music, arts and electives teachers have to face the constant threat of eliminating their courses entirely. The worst part is knowing that cancellation is almost always based on two deliberate falsehoods peddled by school administrators: 1) Cancellation is a funding issue (the big lie); 2) music and the arts are too expensive (the little lie).

The truth: Elective class periods have been usurped by standardized test prep. Administrators focus primarily on protecting their positions and the school's status by concentrating curricula on passing the tests, rather than by helping teachers be freed up from micromanaging mandates so those same teachers can teach again in their classrooms, making test prep classes unnecessary.

What can be done? First, musical literacy should be taught in our nation's school systems. In addition, parents should encourage their children to play an instrument because it has been proven to help in brain synapse connections, learning discipline, work ethic, and working within a team. While contact sports like football are proven brain damage, music participation is a brain enhancer. ■

This article appeared online in intellectualtakeout.org, Jon Henschen, August 16, 2018

WMAS Happenings, Fall & Winter

Joan Grauman, WMAS Music Director

The Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society (WMAS) has something for everyone!

Our Oktoberfest, which was held on October 21st, was a great success, with wonderful food (including homemade bratwurst and sauerkraut and homemade baklava!), lots of German and Austrian accordion music, Bavarian outfits and dancing.

If you are in the Washington, DC area on December 16, join WMAS for our 15th annual Holiday Concert & Potluck Dinner! Always fun and festive, the event features soloists, the Holiday Orchestra, beautiful decorations and great food. Hope to see you there!!

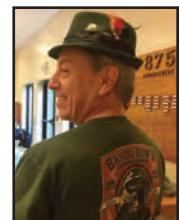
For more information, check out our website: www.washingtonaccordions.org. ■



Oktoberfest music play-along



WMAS Holiday Orchestra 2017, under the direction of Joan Grauman



WMAS Vice Pres., Robert Ford dressed for the Oktoberfest celebration



The Connecticut Accordion Association

CAA Holiday Concert
"Seasonal Melodies and other Songs"

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018 • 2:00 PM
Mattatuck Museum
144 West Main Street • Waterbury, CT 06702

This concert will feature the
Connecticut Accordion Association's Orchestra,
along with some very special guests,
performing a variety of holiday favorites

Peter Peluso, Conductor

\$10.00 General Admission, \$7.00 Seniors, Under 16 FREE

Note: This concert, sponsored by the Mattatuck Museum,
replaces the November and December meetings of the
Connecticut Accordion Association.

RSVP or obtain additional information, call (203) 272-1202
Visit us on the web at www.CTAccordion.com

Long Island Accordion Alliance

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) is very happy to announce that it will be starting off the new year at La Villini Restaurant, 288 Larkfield Road, East Northport, NY 11731 with the following guest artists:

January 2, 2019 - Manny Corallo and Frank Toscano



February 6, 2019 - Zevy Zions and Ken Maltz (An evening of Klezmer Music)



March 6, 2019 - Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini

April 3, 2019 - Don Gerundo Duo

The Long Island Accordion Alliance (LIAA) is in its eighth year of "celebrating the accordion on Long Island." ■

Accordion and Mandolin

If your travels took you to Chicago, Kansas City or Manhattan you may be one of the lucky few who were able to get tickets to hear Kesinija Sidorova and Avi Avital (mandolin) in concert.

November 6 at DePaul University
November 7 in Kansas City
November 10 - NYC's Carnegie Hall.

Their program includes the following:

- Franz Waxman: Sinfonietta for Strings and Timpani (1955)
- Nino Rota: Canzona (1935)
- J. S. Bach: Concerto for Violin & Oboe, BWV 1060 (arranged for Mandolin & Accordion by Paul Chihara)
- Benjamin Wallfisch: Concerto for Mandolin and Accordion (Orpheus Commission)
- Miklós Rózsa: Hungarian Serenade, Op. 25 (1945)

We encourage any of our members who are fortunate to be able to attend one of their concerts, to please send your review to amer-accord1938@gmail.com. Greatly appreciate any input from our members at any time. ■



Avi Avital (mandolin) and Kesinija Sidorova (accordion).

Save the date...

Carrozza Scholarship Fundraiser
Dinner and Dancing
September 8, 2019
Famee Furlane Club of NA
College Point, NY

A World of Accordions Museum

A World of Accordions Museum Remembers John Berquist, Sr. and Jr.

Two John Berquists are the first father-son generations whose estate items are found in the museum. The senior John Berquist's name elicits recognition and respect as a musicologist who preserved accordion history through his collection of accordionists' recordings and articles. Dozens of his vinyl records of Scandinavian accordionists were sold by Oscar Lindberg and are now preserved in the museum's Accordion Resource Center Libraries. Berquist's writings were published in contemporary accordion periodicals, also available at AWAM.

Even before the museum was founded, acquisitions from the Berquist estate proved to be prescient[1]. Our button chromatic accordions were pictured in Karen Gerlovich's 1995 calendar. This page now hangs in AWAM's Concert Hall.

The younger Berquist († May 12, 2016) was a "most respected folklorist who presented programs that brought to life the heritage and lore of the Upper Midwest."

A Minnesota native of Swedish and Norwegian descent, he performed on multiple instruments at local Minnesota venues and throughout the USA and Europe.

We remember his sponsorship of button diatonic events at Ironworld USA (Chisholm, MN), and especially for his 2015 donation of a rare "Catania" accordion. Little information is available about the history of this "B-system" button chromatic instrument or its Catanian origin. Possibly it was discovered when John cleared out "the old homestead" where the "old man had collected many things."

We presume its manufacture to be 1905-1940 based on its boxy shape, unique bellows lining paper, and exterior decorations that reflect both Italian and German characteristics.

This accordion, shown along with an article recognizing Berquist, was the year-long feature in the concert hall's "Celebrity Accordionist" cabinet and is now shown in the chronology section of the museum.

(Unfortunately, the magnificent colors of the bellows will not be enjoyed in our black and white newsletter. You should visit A World of Accordions Museum to experience the full beauty of all of the exhibits.)

[1] In the years around 1950, John Berquist wrote many articles relating to accordion history from his home in Richfield, MN. After his death the estate passed (at least in part) to Oscar Lindberg, also of Richfield. At whim Lindberg sold off many items including the accordions shown here and described by Berquist in "Accordion World" magazine as his pride and joy.

[2] Quoted from his website. Author and photographer are unnamed. ■



Vampyr at the Los Angeles Opera

Kansas City based accordionist Samantha Wagner was center stage in the orchestra at the ornate Spanish Gothic Theatre at Ace Hotel for the Los Angeles Opera's 'Off Grand' series Halloween production of the horror classic 'Vampyr'.

Samantha, a student of Joan C. Sommers, is a former participant at the CIA Coupe Mondiale festival and is currently a member of the UMKC Chamber Accordion Ensemble.

Matthew Aucoin conducted the new Joby Talbot (United Kingdom) score for "Vampyr" as the film was screened to a capacity audience costumed in masks, top hats and plastic fangs.

Jody Talbot was chosen to continue this tradition and expand the repertoire. An innately theatrical, cinematic composer, he has written for the stage, concert hall and screen ("The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" and "Closed Circuit"). Talbot's score effectively



blended the old and new, striking a balance between nostalgic, romantic motifs and unmistakably modern material. The score calls for a 15-piece chamber orchestra including accordion, and relies on driving percussion, expressive harp playing and mesmerizing bass clarinet and muted trumpet melodies to infuse wordless scenes with dramatic intensity.

Concert screenings of classic black-and-white horror films accompanied by live orchestral music are fast becoming a Halloween tradition. The Los Angeles Opera has in recent years presented the 1931 Bela Lugosi film "Dracula" (with live music composed and performed by Philip Glass with the Kronos Quartet), the 1922 film "Nosferatu" (with a score by Aucoin) and the 1946 classic "La Belle et la Bête" (Philip Glass), all at the Ace. ■

Carrozza Scholarship Competition

July 17-21 2019

AAA Festival in Valley Forge, PA

Categories and Cash Awards

will be announced shortly.

Watch for details on the AAA website

www.ameraccord.com



Joe Soprani with Community Band

Accordionist Joseph Soprani will perform with the Marple/Newtown Community Band featuring one of his latest arrangements called "Il Convegno" by A. Panchielli originally written for two clarinets and concert band. It is one of Panchielli's Romantic instrumental masterpieces. The concert takes place on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 7:00 PM at Congregation Beth Israel, 542 S. New Middletown Roda, Media, PA. 19063. Additional selections include: "Royal Welsh Fusiliers", "Andante Cantabile" from Paganini "Variations by Rachmaninoff", "Oliver", "West Side Story", "Calypso Christmas" and "Sleigh Ride" among others.



Joseph will present the world premiere transcription of "Il Coven" and "Jolly Caballero" for clarinet, accordion and band played by the US Air Force band Soloists Tony Wastler and Joe Soprani with guest conductor Dan Panchelli.

Joseph was asked to arrange the composition for accordion and clarinet by the conductor of the band, Tony Wastler, who was the former clarinetist of the USAF Band in Washington, DC in the late 1960's. Joseph Soprani was the accordion soloist under Col. George Howard in the late 50's.

In addition to performing in Broadway shows such as "Fiddler on the Roof", "Zorba", "Cabaret" and "Irma la Douce", Joe has performed in world premieres of "Frida," a musical that called for a virtuoso accordionist and "Another Kind of Hero," a musical which featured him on stage for an entire scene.

Joe, who appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show and won the Arthur Godfrey Show, appeared with TV Star Nell Carter in a "Colors of Freedom" production at the Convention Center in Philadelphia in 1995. He also appeared with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops playing a special arrangement by Nero with Soprano Evelyn de LaRosa.

In November of 1997, Soprani became the first accordionist to perform in "La Traviata" by Verdi presented by the Opera Company of Philadelphia, at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia. Klaus Arp, the opera conductor from Germany, decided to use the accordion in the small ensemble on stage during "La Banda" sections.

Joe has also performed with Russell Watson on Good Morning America, and continues to promote the accordion as a serious instrument at various clubs and organizations. His workshops at schools and colleges, where he demonstrates his skills as performer and arranger to young composers and arrangers, have been well received.

For further information please contact: Joesoprani@gmail.com or call: 610-308-8692 ■

Coupe Mondiale, cont'd from page 3

The office of President held by Mirco Patarini will come up for re-election again in 2020. Officers chosen were three Vice Presidents: Li Cong (China), Viatcheslav Semionov (Russia) and Jörgen Sundqvist (Sweden), Secretary General & Treasurer: Kimmo Mattila (Finland), Public Relations Manager: Harley Jones (New Zealand) and 2019 Honorary Vice President: Tong Jianhua (China).

The Music Committee Chairman is Alexander Selivanov (Russia), and Vice chairman – Grayson Masefield (New Zealand). Five additional members were elected for the Music Committee (I was a candidate, but fell just a few votes short of making the committee – I ended up with over 110 votes, but needed 120 – next time, I guess). Members chosen were: Jiří Lukeš (Czech Republic), Andreas Nebl (Germany), Antonio Spaccarotella (Italy), Kazys Stonkus (Lithuania) and Raimo Vertainen (Finland).

Joan Sommers and Kevin Friedrich continue to be part of the CIA Advisory Council along with Immediate Past President Raymond Bodell (United Kingdom) and Kevin retains his appointed role on the Executive Committee as CIA Ambassador.

The entire festival concluded with the US and Canadian delegates all participating in the magnificent World Accordion Orchestra X conducted by CIA Honorary member Joan C. Sommers.

Upcoming CIA events include the 2019 Winter Congress: March 1-3, 2019 to be held in Tallin, Estonia and the 2019 Coupe Mondiale to be held from August 13-17, 2019 in Shenzhen, China, boasting an almost 500,000 Euro budget to host the event. For details as they become available, please visit www.coupemondiale.org. ■

There's a lot happening in Westchester County (NY)

Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini have a hectic holiday season. In addition to the formation of the new Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble, Stop in at Taormina Restaurant on December 8th and say hello to AAA president-elect, Dr. Joseph A. Ciccone.

Mario and Mary have some "not to miss" performances for your enjoyment. If your travels take you to Westchester County, be sure to stop in and say "hello":

Thanksgiving Day
Mario Tacca
Magnanini Winery -1-5 pm

Sat. November 25
Mario Tacca
Magnanini Winery 7-11 pm

Bean Runner Cafe - Peekskill NY
Mario Tacca, Mary Mancini & Friends
Fri. November 30 - 8-10 pm

Mario - Sat. December 1
Mario Tacca
Magnanini Winery - 7-11 pm



Radu Ratoi, 2018 Coupe Mondiale
(Moldova)

A World of Accordions Museum

Giorgio (George) Curletto Estate

A World of Accordions Museum is proud to announce receipt of George Curletto's musical estate on November 9, 2018. George, who lives in Washington D.C., arrived with his driver to personally deliver a first van-load of items. Further portions of his estate are promised for the near future. These unique pieces include hand-made samples of George's copyrighted MIDI holding devices, multiple amps, speakers, keyboards, digital devices and reedless Electronic Vertical Keyboards. These "were created for the modern performer to minimize weight related discomfort and as an unsurpassed ergonomic alternative to traditional full sized accordions, keeping in step with the ongoing technological evolution of digital instruments."

Helmi and George met about 25 years ago when he was at the forefront of developments in electronic accordion inventions. Now, decades later, the invitation to preserve evidence of his genius at AWAM is becoming reality.

We are currently discussing further cooperative efforts in biographical documentation recording his observations of, and participation in, MIDI developments during the last 50 years. ■



Two paintings of George Curletto now hanging in the museum's Sue Spencer and Friends Electronic Instruments room.

Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini with the Hudson Valley Ensemble
Thursday - Dec. 8
7:30 pm
Taormina Restaurant – Peekskill, NY

Mary, Mario & Friends
Victor Lioni String Quartet,
Assumption Youth Spirit Singers
Annual Christmas Concert
Friday Dec. 14 - 7:00 pm
Assumption Church
Peekskill, NY



Ksenija Sidorova Debut at Carnegie Hall

On Saturday evening, November 10, 2018, I had the pleasure to hear accordionist Ksenija Sidorova and mandolinist, Avi Avital perform with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra to a full house at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage which seats 2800 people in New York City.

Ksenija made her New York debut at this event where she premiered two new concertos: the Double concerto "Monomachia" for Mandolin, Accordion and Chamber Orchestra by Golden Globe®, GRAMMY® and Emmy® nominated British composer Benjamin Wallfisch and J-S Bach's "Concerto for Accordion and Mandolin in C Minor, BWV 1060R" arranged by Paul Chihara.

The program included the following selections:

- Waxman, "Sinfonietta for Strings and Timpani"
- Rota, "Canzona"
- Bach, "Double Concerto in C Minor, BWV 1060R"
 - (arr. Paul Chihara)
- Wallfisch, "Concerto for Mandolin and Accordion"
 - (Commissioned by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra)
- Rózsa, "Hungarian Serenade, Op. 25"

Ksenija Sidorova ended her USA tour with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and long-time musical partner Avi Avital at Carnegie Hall. During their tour, they performed at the Weis Centre for Performing Arts within Bucknell University in Lewisburg, at Mary Patricia Gannon Concerto Hall within DePaul University in Chicago, at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City and at the Staller Center within Stony Brook University.

The first selection performed by Ksenija and Avi was Benjamin Wallfisch's "Monomachia" (Concerto for Mandolin and Accordion, commissioned by Orpheus). The orchestra included solo mandolin and accordion accompanied by flute, oboe, clarinet bassoon, horn, trumpet, percussion and strings. Benjamin Wallfisch has become one of Hollywood's most in demand composers composing for "It" and "Blade Runner 2049" and collaborated with Has Zimmer on "Hidden Figures."

Ksenija and Avi performed with great virtuosity, expressiveness and intensity which made the "Double Concerto in C Minor" by Bach a composition that is highly relevant today in that original music of composers is often reorchestrated for new combinations of instruments. Excerpts from the program: Bach showed time and again that he would gladly substitute instruments to make use of talented performers. I am sure he would have been thrilled to see hear Ksenija and Avi perform his concerto. In that spirit and with assistance from composer and frequent Orpheus contributor, Paul Chihara, this concerto now features the novel yet highlight idiomatic pairing of accordion and mandolin. The plucky mandolin substitutes easily for the bowed violin, and the accordion producing its unique sound is similar to the oboe.

Ksenija brings the artistry of a classical education to her chosen instrument, the accordion. Encouraged by her grandmother, she began playing folk music in her native, Riga, Latvia before going on to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Accordionist Ksenija Sidorova brings amazing talent and a fiery stage presence.

I was mesmerized by her accurate, virtuosic technique and her ability to demonstrate a great range of dynamics and feelings. I happened to be seated next to a seven year old boy and his father. The boy had his eyes on the accordion the entire time and was thoroughly enthralled with her performance. As you may know, not too many seven year olds can quietly sit, as he did, through a long evening concert.

After the performance of the final selection, "Hungarian Serenade, Op. 25", Ksenija and Avital received enthusiastic and continuous applause from the appreciative audience and they returned to



Pictured above is Ksenija Sidorova with Rita Barnea and Avi Avital (mandolin).

the stage performing a duet. The audience and The Orpheus Orchestra, seated behind them, were fascinated by their artistic and virtuosic performance. The audience would not let them leave the stage! Their performance was of such high quality that the audience "demanded" another encore!

All would have been happy with even a third selection!

Accordionist Ksenija Sidorova brings amazing talent and a fiery stage presence which enthralled the audience. Immediately following the concert, Avi Avital and Ksenija Sidorova were available to sign copies of their most recent CD's. I was fortunate to meet them both and they were very gracious patiently taking their time to speak with me and take photos with everyone who wanted to see them.

Excerpts from the Carnegie Hall program: Dodging war and chasing riches, top European composers like Hungary's Miklós Rózsa, Italy's Nino Rota, and Germany's Franz Waxman immigrated to America and helped to fuel Hollywood's golden age. Their concert music shows off the evocative tone painting and craftsmanship that made their film scores so indispensable to Hitchcock, Fellini, and Coppola, among others. Soloists Ksenija Sidorova (accordion) and Avi Avital (mandolin) each bring modern glitz and glamor to their old-world instruments, whether playing a reconfigured Bach concerto or debuting the brand-new work written for them by Golden Globe®, GRAMMY® and Emmy® nominated British composer Benjamin Wallfisch (Andy Muschietti's *It*, *Blade Runner 2049*, *Hidden Figures*). This Orpheus commission is the latest addition to American Notes, a project that explores the landscape of new music from diverse perspectives.

Benjamin Wallfisch said, "*The impetus for the piece was the idea of a concerto as a form of theatrical drama. In "Monomachia" which translates as "duel" I wanted to create the musical equivalent of the relationship between the featured actors and the accompanying Greek Chorus. Conflict and conversation permeate the work as the two soloists play off of one another trading musical thoughts..... all while the chamber orchestra provides its collective thoughts on the action unfolding.*"

I highly recommend that you attend one of her concerts, and, if this is not possible, to see her performances on YouTube. ■

Stas Venglevski to Appear in 2 Houston Concerts

Stas Venglevski will be performing with the Houston Accordion Orchestra and the Houston Balalaika Society Orchestra on January 19, 2019 starting at 6:30 P.M. Stas will give a second concert on Sunday January 20, 2019 at 6:30 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Houston with an accordion ensemble and domra guest performers Misha Litvin and Olga Douglas.

The accordion ensemble includes Gail Campanella, Lynn Ewing, Beverly Fess, Madalynn and John Neu, Judy Ridenour, John Simkus and Heidi Spendlove.

For further details contact Ms. Megumi Hada at meghada33@gmail.com. ■



Francis Lai, Oscar-winning Film Composer, dies at 86

Francis Lai, who won an Academy Award for his heart-tugging musical score of the blockbuster 1970 movie "Love Story" and who composed the music for more than 100 films, including the 1966 hit French film "A Man and a Woman," died Nov. 7 in Nice, France. He was 86.

Mr. Lai (pronounced "Lay") began his musical career as an accordion player and as an accompanist to the renowned French chanteuse Edith Piaf. He was primarily a songwriter before being introduced to filmmaker Claude Lelouch, who invited Mr. Lai to compose a score for "A Man and a Woman" — and for another 35 films on which they worked together.

"His music was not just beguiling, but it conveyed a charming seductiveness," film music historian Jon Burlingame said in an interview. "There was something sexy about it."

The slender plot of "A Man and a Woman" revolved around two widowed parents — a film assistant played by Anouk Aimée and a racecar driver played by Jean-Louis Trintignant — who fall in love after being brought together by their children, who attend the same school. The film, shot in black and white, includes scenes of racing, walks on the beach, all-night drives in the rain and breathless reunions of the two central characters.

Accordion Revolution: A People's History of the Accordion

Bruce Triggs from the Accordion Noir Festival and Radio show in Vancouver, Canada has shared information on his project a music history book called Accordion Revolution (about the history of the accordion!) It's coming out in 2019 and interested individuals can contact www.AccordionRevolution.com for information.

The book has chapters on the squeezebox in many folk genres in North America (zydeco, Irish, klezmer), and big sections about jazz and 150 country and western accordionists (who knew?) I think it will be an eye-opener for readers and a fun new take on a lot of different music. ■

ACCORDION REVOLUTION

A People's History of the Accordion in North America from the Industrial Revolution to Rock and Roll



Mr. Lai twice turned down offers to work on "Love Story." He was finally persuaded by French actor Alain Delon, who flew to Paris with Paramount studio head Robert Evans to show Mr. Lai a rough cut of the movie.

"I came out of the screening incredibly moved," Mr. Lai said in a statement to the Los Angeles Times in 2001. "I went straight home, sat at my keyboard and wrote that theme that very night."

The haunting score, much of it played on piano, deepens the heart-tugging quality of the movie, which featured Ali MacGraw and Ryan O'Neal as college lovers. "Love Story" was nominated for seven Oscars, but the only one it won was for Mr. Lai's score.

Through the years, Mr. Lai developed an unusual working arrangement with Lelouch on their many films, which include "Live for Life" (1967), "And Now My Love" (1974) and "A Man and a Woman: 20 Years Later" (1986).

His final project with Lelouch, "Les plus belles années," which reunited Aimée and Trintignant more than 50 years after "A Man and a Woman," is scheduled for release in 2019.

"He was an angel disguised as an accordionist," Lelouch told a French radio network after Mr. Lai's death. "He made the heart beat in all my films."

(Excerpt from Washington Post obituary 11/16/18)

Creosote (duo)

Creosote is an accordion duo featuring Jamie Maschler (2017 AAA Guest Artist) and Gabe Hall-Rodrigues (2010 AAA US Champion and 2011 AAA Guest Artist with Ocotillo), playing a dynamic array of original and world music. Maschler and Rodrigues are seasoned musicians and are individually and collectively mastered at their craft. Expect to hear virtuosic and elegant arrangements of new Brazilian and World music classics. The instrumental duo is currently working towards a studio album to be released end of 2018. ■



HUDSON VALLEY ACCORDION ENSEMBLE



Left to Right: Front row: Mary & Mario, Monique Brooks, Bill Jordan, Bruce Naylor, Suzana Beites, Fred Schwinger
Back row: Don Simons, Bob Duffy, Dario Ebbri. Missing in the photo: Joe Ciccone, Bruce Nielsen

Mario Tacca – Music Director

Mary Mancini Tacca – Artistic Director/Manager

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To have fun and gather with friends!

To make great music together!

To bring the melodic and unique sounds of the Accordion to people of all ages!

To bring joy to others!

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

The Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble will perform on the **Second Thursday** of every month at **TAORMINA RESTAURANT**, 59 Hudson Avenue, Peekskill, NY. 10566

PRIX FIX 4 Course Dinner with several delicious choices! - \$33.00 pp + Tax & Gratuities

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST! CALL EARLY TO RESERVE – 914-739-4007

Mark your calendars!

Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Hanzhi Wang

On Monday evening, October 22, Hanzhi Wang had the audience spellbound and practically off of their seats as she wowed them with her musicality and technique. She performed in the Judy and Arthur Zankel Hall located in Carnegie Hall in NYC. This was the 58th Young Concert Artists Series and Hanzhi was the first accordionist ever chosen to perform at this concert. It was evident to the entire music hall why she was chosen as she delighted us with her interpretations.

As I looked around at the audience two things struck me: the hall was filled and I could see no one that I recognized. This was not a hall filled with the typical band of accordionists. These people were music lovers and did not come as lovers of the accordion. It was refreshing to see an accordion artist attract a room full of non-accordionists at Carnegie Hall.

The concert started at 8:30 pm and Hanzhi opened the pro-

by Don Gerundo



gram with J.S. Bach's Partita No.2 in C minor, BWV 826 that she arranged for accordion. She played all 6 movements including : Sinfonia, Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, Rondeau and Capriccio. This was followed by a more contemporary work by Sofia Gubaidulina. It contained palm-smears on the keyboard as well as many bellow-shaking affects. She magically made the piece come alive and was able to draw the audience in. The first half of the concert concluded with Mozart's Andante in F major, K.616. This is such a delicate work of music and Hanzhi was able to capture that exquisitely.

The second part of the program started with Five Tango Sensations by Astor Piazzolla and was performed by the Omer Quartet along with Hanzhi. The blend and balance of the quartet with the accordion was superb. The piece included three movements: Anxiety, Awake and Fear. The interaction between the Quartet and the accordion was precise and musical. It was evident that this piece was a crowd pleaser. The next two pieces were by Martin Lohse and Moritz Moszkowski. Lohse work contained 3 movements: Encircled, Menuetto and Passing III. This was a New York Premiere. The Moszkowski was entitled Entincelles, Op. 36, No. 6. ■

Kidz Korner

Oktoberfest in Florida with Vince Demor

Vince Demor performed recently at the world famous Village Beer Garden in Cocoa Beach, Florida. His fans and the crowd insisted that he return to another sold out engagement to play Friday night. "We couldn't get a good picture of all of the fans and Frauleins that were storming the stage. Security personnel did a good job fighting to keep them back, way back."



After his last performance at Cocoa Beach, Florida, Vince traveled across the state of Florida to Indian Rock Beach, FL where on Saturday, October 13, he was featured as their main Polka, Waltz and Chicken Dance attraction at Indian Rock's 3rd Annual Oktoberfest celebration. Vince is a student at St. Petersburg College (FL) and is studying Music Composition, and Recording with a major in Accordion Performance. He participated in the AAA's 80th Anniversary Celebration in Alexandria, VA from July 11-15 in both the Youth Jazz Ensemble and the Junior Festival Orchestra. ■

Guest Artist, Gia Ciccone

Gia Ciccone, 11 years old, is an accordionist in the 6th grade at Somers Middle school in Sommers, NY and a student of Mario Tacca.

Gia will perform as a Guest Artist for the Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble on Thursday, November 8th at Taormina Restaurant in Peekskill, NY. She will also be the Guest Artist at Mario and Mary's "A Candlelight Christmas" Concert on Friday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Gia has consistently entered and won many prizes at the AAA's Annual Festival held each July. She is pictured with a few of her awards that she received for her performance at the AAA's 80th Anniversary Festival in Alexandria, VA. She has participated in the AAA's Youth Orchestra under the direction of AAA President, Mary Tokarski, since its inception a few years ago, as well as the AAA's "Youth Outreach Program."

Gia's proud dad is AAA 1st Vice President, Dr. Joseph Ciccone who also performs with the Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble. In addition, Dr. Ciccone has written numerous selections for accordion and has entered these compositions in the AAA's Elsie M. Bennett Composition Competition consistently receiving awards for his selections.

If you would like to attend the performance of the Hudson Valley "Italian Night" at Taormina which is located at 59 Hudson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10558, please contact them directly at 914-739-4007.

Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini's "Candlelight Christmas Concert" is held annually at the Church of the Assumption, 131 Union Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566. In addition to guest artist, Gia Ciccone, the concert will also feature the Victor Lioni String Quartet and the Assumption Youth Spirit Singers. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 14th. ■



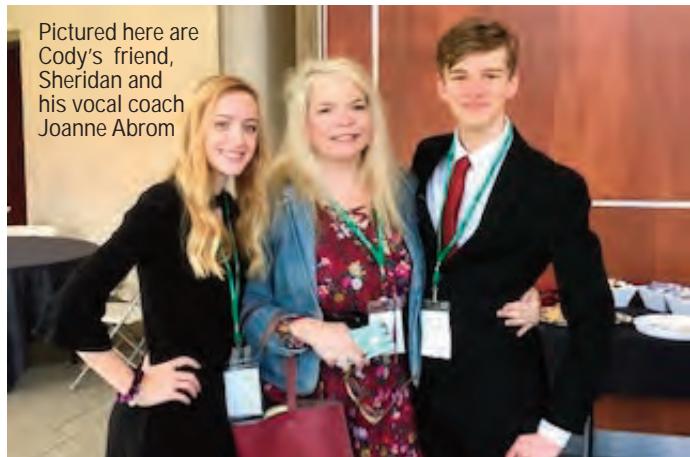
Cody McSherry - Oktoberfest and so much more....

Cody McSherry continues to maintain a very busy schedule with accordion performances and other activities. Some of the month's highlights included a performance on accordion and voice at Delaware's Dover Downs with the Bavarian Barons for the casino's invitation-only Oktoberfest, and also a performance with his own band, "Polterabend," at Masonic Villages in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Also in October Cody earned positions in county and district school choruses through competitive auditions and will compete for a position in regional chorus in early 2019. Cody also performed an accordion solo and took part in a dance presentation with Kolo Club Marian at the Penn State Harrisburg campus.



Lastly, in late October, Cody was asked to perform in the season preview show for Servant Stage Company's 2019 season.

His upcoming schedule will be no less busy. On November 3, Cody competed at the Allegheny Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) in the classical voice competition where he performed pieces in English, German and Italian and ultimately won grades 9 & 10 AND the 11 & 12 grade category for men's classical. Cody performed in the winners concert that afternoon. See photo below.



Pictured here are Cody's friend, Sheridan and his vocal coach Joanne Abron

On November 20, Cody will perform at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Theater. The performance will be at 6:00 PM (tickets are not required). For those who cannot physically attend the performance, the show will be live-streamed through the theater's website, and it will also be available in the theater's online archives. On November 29 Cody has the honor of performing at Serra Club's dinner honoring priests in the Harrisburg Diocese and for his excellency Bishop Ronald Gainer. On December 9 he will perform a concert on organ at First St. John's Lutheran Church in York, Pennsylvania. Also, on January 20, 2019, Cody has again been asked to perform at the annual officers' installation meeting of the Polish-American Heritage Society in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Cody continues to dance with and play accordion for Kolo Club Marian, a Croatian heritage dance group from Steelton, Pennsylvania. Additionally, Cody performs in Lancaster Catholic High School's percussion ensemble, Vox Pop acapella group, jazz band, concert band, concert choir, and Mass choir. In addition, he is simultaneously studying five foreign languages (Italian, Latin, Spanish, French and ancient Greek). ■

Spotlight on Linda Soley Reed & Mary Tokarski --Lifelong Advocates for the Accordion

By Joan Grauman AAA Historian

It has been a total pleasure to work with so many gifted individuals in the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) through the many years I have been on its Governing Board. Some have stood out, working tirelessly – for decades – as educators, adjudicators, performers and promoters of the instrument we all love: the accordion.

This article celebrates two of these hard workers who are also close friends and colleagues of mine: Linda Soley Reed (former AAA President, 2005-2014, and current AAA 2nd Vice President) and Mary Tokarski (current AAA President).

It is accurate to say that Linda Soley Reed retired two years ago from her full-time job at a recruitment advertising firm to work “around the clock” for the AAA! While still working full-time, it was not uncommon to find Linda coming home to put in another eight hours working on the AAA newsletters, journals, and booking performers for AAA functions. Always doing her work with humor and a steady, loving commitment to the organization, Linda has been a joy to work with all of these years!

Linda Soley Reed began studying the accordion at the age of seven, and participated in Connecticut statewide and AAA competitions, winning numerous awards. She studied with the late Rudy Molinaro, was a music theory major at the University of Bridgeport (Connecticut), and also studied conducting privately with Dr. Harrison Valante and John Maucieri at Yale University (Connecticut).

Linda became a Certified Teacher member of the AAA in 1962. By 1971 she was an active member of numerous AAA committees as well as the owner of the Molinaro School of Music in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She chaired the AAA “Accordion Day” events for many years, and her ensembles and orchestras consistently won awards at the AAA competitions. Linda also performed with the four-piece band Odyssey for over 15 years, which was in constant demand entertaining at numerous social events, catering halls and country clubs all over Connecticut.

In 1984, Linda married Jim Reed and their first vacation was to – you guessed it – an international accordion competition in Linz, Austria! This was the beginning of numerous accordion related excursions for the couple. In 2004, Linda became the Connecticut Accordion Association’s conductor of their newly formed orchestra, a position she held until moving to Florida with Jim in 2016.

In April of 2016, she was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Accordion Musicological Society in Whippny, New Jersey. Linda continues to serve on numerous AAA committees and, we on the Governing Board are delighted to have such a fun, active and dedicated member!

Linda met Mary Tokarski when she was eleven and Mary was a tiny seven-year old, just beginning to play the accordion. Linda clearly remembers how amazingly well this little girl played -- and Mary still plays amazingly well!

Mary also hails from Connecticut, where she studied accordion with her half-brother Michael Fernino at his studio in Anson-



nia, where they had extensive training in all aspects of music. She and her siblings Julie Cardona and Walter Kasprzyk won competitions as soloists and with ensembles throughout their childhood years. Mary won first place in the AAA's US Virtuoso Championship in 1971. She represented the United States in Belgium the same year at the World Cup of the Accordion (Coupe Mondiale).

A renowned concert accordionist, Mary has performed internationally in Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Scotland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and throughout the United States. For many years, Mary performed and toured with her brother Walt and sister Julie as The “K” Trio. Their performances were always joyously anticipated, and they dazzled audiences with their tremendous skills, great accordion arrangements and fun antics.

In 2006, I had the pleasure to collaborate with Mary and our friend Karen Malan-Uribe to create the celebrated children’s book, “An Accordion! What Is That?” Karen wrote the book, I illustrated it, and Mary narrated and played accordion for the accompanying CD. The three of us presented assemblies in schools, thrilling young children with our beautiful accordions and our colorful, educational book and CD. My favorite trip was to the Green Acres Elementary School, where Mary served as music educator in their Early Childhood Development Program. The children called her “Music Mary”!

For 35 years, Mary served as Director of Music Education at Tokarski Music Center in North Haven, Connecticut, where she taught piano and accordion, as well as conducted the choral and ensemble programs. She is still teaching piano and accordion in her home in Northford, Connecticut, and continues to travel extensively presenting workshops and accordion master classes, coaching, performing, as well as adjudicating for national and international juries.

Since 2015, Mary has been the President of the AAA where, along with her many duties, she also conducts the annual festival Youth Orchestra.



Stars Illustrated is a predominantly French publication and is available thru Barnes and Noble as well as Amazon.com. Prices vary from as much as \$46 per issue to \$12 - although the full color edition has limited copies so you might receive the black and white reprints. The accordion has been featured in several recent issues including the September issue which featured an article on the AAA’s Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Lou Coppola. Lou was pictured on the cover with son John and Rose-Marie Coppola. The issue also included an article on AAA Historian Joan Grauman. The October issue featured the lovely Linda Ann Warren highlighting her long-time career with the accordion that she loves so dearly. And Cory Pesaturo was also featured in an earlier publication.

The photos are wonderful in the November issue and speak for themselves. Additional photos of accordionists appear throughout including Richard Galliano and Ksenija Sidorova. Our thanks to Marjorie Lerner, City Editor, for her dedication and perseverance and wish her a speedy recovery. The magazine can be purchased thru Amazon or Barnes & Noble. ■

Coast to Coast

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

FLORIDA ACCORDION CLUBS (West Coast)
I was thrilled to find "accordions" in SW Florida in both Sarasota and St. Petersburg. The Suncoast (Sarasota) club meets the first Thursday of the month at the Elks Club in Sarasota. There was a great turnout for the first meeting of the season and many very fine accordionists - both soloists and with other instruments and lederhosen and dirndles were optional (many did don the traditional attire and it certainly added to the evening's festivities).

Pictured here is AAA member Chris Brettschneider performing with professional banjo artist, Mrs. Jackie Tholotowsky from Sarasota, Fl. Chris also plays at Sandra's German Restaurant in Punta Gorda and Snook Haven in Venice as well as volunteering for "Fun With Music" at the Charlotte Cultural Center. Chris originally hails from Baltimore and is now a permanent resident of Port Charlotte.



The St. Petersburg Club meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the American Legion Hall in St. Pete. Bill Carrozza (not related to Carmen - at least we don't think so) - is pictured at left. John Gaunt who has a music shop in St. Pete has a display room with new and used instruments and accessories and was also at the meeting and much to my surprise, Sam Falcetti (AAA Board Member) walked in and we both shared our "what are YOU doing here?" comments. I know that Sam and Peggy frequently vacation in the Clearwater area but never expected to see a fellow New Englander and AAA Board Member.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY (NY)
The newly formed Hudson Valley Accordion Ensemble played their first "gig" on October 11 at Taormina Restaurant in Peekskill, NY. and will perform again on November 8th and December 13th. Call Taormina at 914-739-4000 for reservations. You won't want to miss this one!!

CASTELFIDARDO TRIP - COME JOIN US!
Once again, Peter LeGeyt is hosting travel to Castelfidardo - May 2019. Join other accor-

dionists from around the UK & USA for a visit to 'The Home of the Accordion' Castelfidardo in Italy between May 14-18 , 2019. Over the past few years a number of USA accordionists have participated and enjoyed this event. The trip will include a number of visits to accordion factories, the accordion museum, and to restaurants in the evening with entertainment. Cost for the entire trip without flights starts around US\$650. Can also travel to London and travel with UK group. If you would like to receive full details, please contact: Peter Le Geyt (member of Guildford Accordion Club UK) email: plg@plgmarketing.com (+44 (0) 20 8977 6680

BACHTOPUS
November 13, 2018 @ 6:30pm,
SUNY Global Center,
116 E 55 St.,
New York, NY 10022

Bachtopus performs as the "house band" for a live taping of the entertaining and informative podcast, "Person Place Thing," hosted by Emmy Award winner, Randy Cohen.

The featured guest is Marc Guggenheim, screen and television writer. For more information: <https://personplacething.org/>

BROOKLYN ACCORDION CLUB

HOLIDAY CONCERT
Sunday, December 2
Berg'n (899 Bergen St
between Classon and Franklin)
5:30pm-8:00pm
(4:30pm-5:30pm ensemble rehearsal/call time)



Admission: \$10.00 [Kids under 18 are free!] If you're interested in participating, please let us know by putting your name and additional info (green columns) on the google doc (by 10/31). Your prompt response is appreciated to help us arrange music and email you music and plan additional aspects of the event. We'll be playing most of the same rep as last year, so there will be no added rehearsals, but please make yourself available at 4:15pm the day of the concert to run through all the ensemble pieces with our arranger and conductor, Denise. Please note this event is taking place at BERG'N.

Hope you all can participate in what will likely be a very unique and jolly event!

WMAS HOLIDAY CONCERT

This year's Holiday Concert, will take place on Dec. 16 at Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church. If you are a WMAS member, can read sheet music, and can play at least the right hand (left-hand skills are not a requirement), you are welcome to join our orchestra! I welcome all skill levels!! MP3s of all of the pieces for orchestra participants are available, so you can play along with them to familiarize yourselves with how Joan Grauman will conduct each selection.

ACCORDION POPS - BEGENFIELD, NJ

On Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 3:00 PM, the Accordion Pops Orchestra will perform at the Conlon Hall Auditorium, 19 North William Street in Begenfield, NJ, 07621. This will be the fifth such concert presented by the orchestra for the benefit of Saint John the Evangelist Church in Bergenfield, NJ. The orchestra will present a variety of pieces including several Christmas favorites. The concert is open to the public for a \$10 donation, which is used by St. John's for charitable purposes. For more information, please visit <http://www.accordionspops.com>.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ACCORDION CLUB

Thanks to Doreen Kimball for the NHAX updates. The next meeting is Saturday, November 17 at 1 pm in Bow. If you have time, please practice La Cumparsita to measure 57 and also take a look at The Jolly Coppersmith which Bob recently sent to active members. Please let Anne (cletebaier@comcast.net) know if you will be coming....she will give directions if needed.

The picture below was taken at lunch after we performed at the Pleasant Valley Nursing Home in Derry to a very enthusiastic group of residents.



*We invite all accordion clubs to send us their meeting schedule and special events.
Email: ameraccord1938@gmail.com*

Seasons Greetings!

