



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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

July-August



What's inside...

AAA Commissioned Chamber work "Child's Play" by Joseph A. Natoli
featuring Joseph A. Natoli and Dr. Robert Young McMahan, accordion;
Cecylia Barczyk, Cello and William Trigg, percussion
World Premier
Friday, July 19, 2019
Valley Forge Casino Resort
King of Prussia, PA
"The Venue"
6:30 p.m.

Center Pull-out Contains
2019 AAA Festival
Schedule of Events
and
Workshop Schedule

Sponsored by the
American Accordionists' Association

From the Editor:

Welcome to the July-August 2019 edition of the AAA Newsletter. We are excited to welcome everyone to the AAA Festival from July 17-21, 2019 to be held at the Valley Forge Casino Resort (Radisson Hotel) in King of Prussia, PA. The AAA website at www.ameraccord.com has all the latest information regarding the outstanding lineup of events and we hope that our members will have a chance to experience first hand, the inspiring array of activities that will be presented.

Many of our members are actively involved in a variety of events showcasing the accordion in a diverse array of genres! We invite you to submit news items about these activities so that we can share it with our readers.

My sincere thanks to Past AAA President, Linda Reed for her ongoing work in making the final Newsletter Publication and in particular our Board of Director Rita Barnea for her work in helping source accordion events across the USA that we often include in our Newsletter publications.

Items for the September-October 2019 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. As always, text should be sent within the e-mail or as a Word attachment if possible. Pictures should be sent as a high quality .jpg file, and the larger the file size the better. We can always reduce/crop the picture if necessary, however we are unable to increase the quality from smaller pictures. The deadline for the September-October Newsletter will be the 15th of August 2019.

Thank you in advance for your continued support with the Newsletter and we look forward to hearing about your many diverse activities.

Sincerely, Kevin
Kevin Friedrich – AAA Newsletter Editor



Carrozza Scholarship Dinner

**Sunday, September 8, 2019 Famee Furlane of NA Club
2010 127th Street • College Point, NY 11356**

**Cocktail Hour - 12 noon-1:00 p.m.
Long Island Accordion Alliance**

**Dinner and Dancing – 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Mario Tacca with Mary Mancini and Phil Battiston, Drummer**

**Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation
Joey Miskulin**

Visit us online at ameraccord.com

New England Digital Accordion Orchestra

The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra under the direction of Sam Falcetti announces their summer and fall concert line-up.

- June 27th at the Sturbridge Concerts on the Common from 6-8 PM at Sturbridge Common, Route 13100.
- July 30th at the Chiopee Summer Band Concert Series from 6:30 - 8:00 PM at the Aldenville Commons in Chicopee.
- August 31st at The Spencer Fair from 2:00 to 3:45 PM at 48 Smithville Rd, Spencer, MA and September 17th at the Eastern States Exposition from 3:30 - 5:00 PM at the Big E Gazebo and

Stage in Storowton Village.

- December 31st at the First Night Chatham 2019-2020 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM at Chatham, MA.

Throughout centuries many types of Orchestras and Bands have had their own identity. From the Symphony, Woodwind and String Orchestras to the Swing, Marching and Ethnic Bands representing different countries, each served a purpose in musical evolution. Even the 30's and 40's had their Banjo, Hawaiian Guitar, and Accordion Bands and Orchestras prominent throughout the United States. Never has there been an Orchestra that could do it all until now. In 2004 Roland Music's Founder Ikutaro Kakehashi, the creator and designer of the Roland V Accordion, made this a possibility.

After adjudicating in October of 2011 at Roland's 5th International

V Accordion Festival in Rome, Italy, Sam Falcetti was convinced that this incredible instrument was perfect for creating a Digital Accordion Orchestra. The New England Digital Accordion Orchestra comprises over 20 Roland Digital Accordion performers from throughout New England area. The Orchestra was organized and is conducted by Mr. Falcetti, and is also complimented by drums, percussion, guitar and vocalists. On January 20, 2013, the Orchestra's first rehearsal was held in the performance hall at Falcetti Music in Springfield, Ma. This orchestra is a dream come true for Sam Falcetti and it is the only Digital Accordion Orchestra in the US.

The distinct makeup and sound of the New England Digital Accordion Orchestra has jumped the Atlantic, with a spread featuring founder and director Sam Falcetti of Springfield, MA and his regional players in the German accordionists' magazine "Akkordeon". In the email interview, Falcetti said the Roland V does more than imitate the sounds of other instruments to provide an enhanced "orchestra in a box". It has perfected the nuance a seasoned player would bring to each instrument, from varying the tension on a violin bow to the way a trumpeter adjusts lip movement, adding each element with ease. Along with the range of accordion sounds, "violin, wind, or other instrumentation can be added, or if you need a banjo for country music you can have it at the push of a button."

For more information, please contact samfalcetti@gmail.com. ■



Perfect Timing for a Blast

Accordionist Gene McGinty recently played the popular novelty arrangement by Charles Magnante of Casey Jones (written by Eddie Newton, Lyricist: Wallace Saunders and T. Lawrence Seibert) at the Augusta Museum of History (AMH).

The work was written as a tribute to the legendary train Engineer Casey Jones who perished in a train crash in 1900 at the helm of Engine 382. Jonathan Luther Jones got the nickname 'Casey' because during his early days as a railroad man, he lived in the town of Cayce, KY.

The legend of Casey Jones began shortly after midnight on April 30, 1900. It was supposed to have been Casey's night off, but another engineer was ill, so he kissed his wife, Janie, goodbye and went to take over the other man's train, pulled by Engine No. 382.

Casey ordered his fireman, Sim Webb, to "pour on the coal" as he opened the throttle to make up for lost time on the run from Memphis to Canton, Mississippi. He raced through several stop signals as he approached the railroad sidings at Vaughan, where three other trains were supposed to have pulled out of the way to let him high-ball through.

One of the trains was too long for the siding, and four cars protruded onto the main line. Before the train could get out of the way, 382's headlight could be seen roaring out of the darkness.

Casey pulled the brake lever and ordered his fireman to jump clear. Webb leaped to

continued on next page



Perfect Timing, cont'd. from page 2

safety as Casey's train, with its brakes screeching and sparks flying from its wheels, plowed into the four cars on the track ahead.

Casey was killed when the engine flipped over onto its side. The "brave engineer" who stayed at the controls of his train was the only casualty.

Gene McGinty's Father's Day tribute performance to honor his grandfather C.C. McGinty who was a former engineer of Engine No. 302 before the Engine was retired to the museum.

As Gene began the final exciting bellows shake, slowing down to signal the Engine's arrival, just before the final high pitch note to indicate the air escaping the brakes, everyone heard a piercing train whistle and it didn't come from the performer!

Everyone in the audience jumped in surprise as there was a train outside on the track visible through the large front museum window that blew it's whistle at the exact right moment!

Gene has played Casey Jones with the Christine Mangelly Accordionaires at AMH several times before, but this was the first time for a Father's Day Performance. Asked about the perfect timing of the train whistle after the show, Gene stated it was definitely his grandfather's blast of approval! ■



Pictured above L to R: Gene McGinty, Christine Mangelly Meimarides, Nick Savin, Sheilah James, April Curry.

Kansas City Concerts feature Accordion

The Johnson County Community College (JCCC) in Overland Park, KS will feature two concerts this fall showcasing the accordion. The popular group Russian Renaissance will perform on October 11 at 8:00 PM and the Pablo Ziegler Jazz Tango Trio will perform at 8:00 PM on October 26, 2019, both at the Polsky Theatre on the JCCC Campus.

After emerging with the \$100,000 Grand Prize at the 2017 M-Prize Competition, the largest prize for chamber music in the world, the Russian Renaissance has established itself as one of the most electrifying and exhilarating ensembles of today.

Through stunning performances of everything from tango and folk to classical and jazz, Russian Renaissance is redefining the possibilities of their traditional folk instruments including balalaika, domra/domra alto, accordion and balalaika contrabasso. The ensemble dazzles with breathtaking style and touches the hearts of listeners of all ages and backgrounds.

In addition to their success at the M-Prize Competition, Russian Renaissance has also received a Gold Medal for Chamber Music at the 1st Vienna International Music Competition (2019), 1st prize at the 69th Coupe Mondiale in Russia (2016), and was named Musical America's New Artist of the Month (March 2018).

Recent and upcoming performance highlights include Russian Renaissance's widely acclaimed debut at UMS (described by one critic as "one of the finest displays of musicianship in the world"), their highly anticipated debuts on Lincoln Center's Great Performers Series and Kennedy Center's Fortas Chamber Music Series, and appearances at Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Wheaton College, Da Camera of Houston, Hope College, Festival Napa Valley, Peoples' Symphony Concerts, The Berman, Midland Center for the Arts, Musical Bridges Around the World, and National Sawdust, among other leading venues in North America. International appearances include concerts at Izumi Hall (Osaka), Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, YOTASPACE Concert Hall, The Youth Theater (Rostov-on-Don), and Theater of Uzice (Serbia), in addition to extensive tours throughout Europe and Asia.



Pablo Ziegler Jazz Tango Trio

The Pablo Ziegler Jazz Tango Trio showcases the diversity of the bandoneon. Pablo Ziegler, with Hector del Curto, bandoneon, and Claudio Ragazzi, guitar, won the 2017 Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album.

Tango maestro Pablo Ziegler, the GRAMMY®-winning pianist and composer who helped shape the modern tango, delivers stripped-down, jazz-tinged arrangements of his essential repertoire. From fiery, improvised solos to delicately woven ensemble playing, the trio delivers unmatched readings of beloved works by Ziegler as well as modern classics by his late, long time collaborator Astor Piazzolla. Witness the living history of nuevo tango with one of the most important living interpreters of this vital musical tradition.

Praised by The New York Times as a "splendid player," Argentinean bandoneonist Héctor Del Curto's career, spanning for more than twenty-five years, has encompassed the traditional Tango, New Tango, Jazz, Classical and World music. As one of the most sought after bandoneon artists of today, he has performed with luminaries across many musical genres including the Tango legends, Astor Piazzolla and Osvaldo Pugliese, latin jazz giant Paquito D'Rivera, jazz violinist Regina Carter, saxophonist Joe Lovano, violinist Cho-Liang Lin and appeared with prestigious orchestras such as Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, St Louis Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Mobile Symphony and Buenos

continued on next page

KC Concerts feature Accordion, cont'd. from p. 3

Aires Symphony Orchestra.

Born into a family of bandoneon players, Mr. Del Curto was introduced to the world of Tango and bandoneon by his grandfather, Héctor Cristobal. By the age of 17, he had won the title "Best Bandoneon Player Under 25" in Argentina, and was invited to join the orchestra of the legendary Osvaldo Pugliese, the "Last Giant of Tango." In 1999, Mr. Del Curto received the Golden Note Award from the Italian-American Network in recognition of his artistic achievements. As a music director, he directed the spectacular show Forever Tango on Broadway and founded the Eternal Tango Orchestra, a ten piece ensemble.

The JCCC box office, Yardley Hall and Polsky Theatre are located in the Carlsen Center on the campus of Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, Kansas 66210, phone 913-469-4445. ■

Joseph and Frances Macerollo Accordion Scholarship

TCanada's renowned accordionist Joseph Macerollo has made a generous gift to the Faculty of Music of the University of Toronto.

Recipient of the scholarship, Micheal Bridge, said, "I'm very proud to be mentioned alongside my professor, Joseph Macerollo. Joseph Macerollo started the first accordion degree program in Canada at Queen's University over 40 years ago, later transplanting it to the University of Toronto, where it remains Canada's only place to study accordion at university - right up to the doctoral level.



Joe Macerollo and Michael Bridge

"I am the third doctoral candidate at U of T (and proudly the first from Canada), following the footsteps of graduates Dr. Ina Henning and Dr. Branko Džinović. Having now endowed a new accordion scholarship in his name at U of T, the accordion continues to be cemented within the contemporary music scene in Toronto, Canada and Internationally."

When Joseph Macerollo enrolled at U of T's Faculty of Music in 1961, he was forced to study the piano, although he'd been a child prodigy on the accordion, his chosen instrument was barely on the radar. But by 1972, a few years after he had graduated with an MA in musicology, Macerollo was invited to

August 16 Cotati Concert Supports Scholarships

Planning an early arrival to attend this year's Cotati Accordion Festival, August 17-18, 2019? Don't miss the 6th annual Benefit Concert for Student Accordionists in downtown Cotati, CA at the Redwood Café (8240 Old Redwood City Highway), August 16. The concert starts 4:30 PM with an impressive line-up of popular western US accordionists. A \$5.00 donation per person is requested to hear these outstanding entertainers: Paul Betken; Reno Di Bono; Lou Jacklich and Collette Ogata; Frank Lima (AKA the Great Morgani); and, Sheri Mignano Crawford of Due Zhigi Baci (Two Gypsy Kisses with Michael Van Why, tenor). The Student Stage competition takes place 9:30 AM on Saturday morning, August 17 in the Social Hall of the Church of the Oaks (175 Page St.), a few hundred yards from the South entrance of the Cotati Accordion Festival. The Social Hall is conveniently located at the intersection of W. Sierra Ave. and Page Street (just down from the Polka Tent). Admission is free. Come and encourage young talented accordionists as they play their hearts out that morning. Student Stage scholarship recipients will be announced during the Festival between 1:20 – 1:35 PM that same day.



set up an accordion program at the faculty.

A half century later, Macerollo is at the other end of an exceptionally productive and storied career. In addition to teaching the instrument for decades at U of T, the Royal Conservatory and Queen's University, he has toured the world as a soloist, written and performed music for film and television, and premiered dozens of works written especially for him.

And now he has made yet another contribution to building a future for his instrument: a \$100,000 gift to the Faculty of Music to endow the Joseph and Frances Macerollo Accordion Scholarship - the first such award in Canada. "I wanted to say thank you to the University for the opportunity, and for taking a risk all those years ago," Macerollo says.

Under his leadership, the U of T program is one of only a handful in the world that offer a doctorate in the instrument: Doctor of Musical Arts with Performance Emphasis on the Accordion. And fittingly, in the first two years of the scholarship, it's been awarded to one of Macerollo's DMA students, Michael Bridge, who's in his eighth year at U of T and is working on his third degree.

"Getting a scholarship in my professor's name means a tremendous amount and is very inspiring," says Bridge - these days known as U of T's "Accordion Guy". His doctoral work is focused on body-control techniques in accordion playing that his teacher pioneered, which brings the award full circle and ensures that Joseph Macerollo's work will become even better known among accordionists around the world. ■

Welcome New Member

Professional Members

Annie Xu • Matthew Chen • Don Ryan

Associate Members

Joseph Milano • Alan Schoen • Donald Tsusaki

Student Members

Terrence Matthew Penn • Rachel Shutt

Thank You for your Donations

Youth Programs

Steve Balog • Jim Blasiak

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Ginger Grider • CAA

Peter Sbuttoni • Peter Sbuttoni

General Fund

Peter Sbuttoni



American
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www.ameraccord.com

The American Accordionists' Association

presents...

Festival 2020

Save the Date:

July 8-12, 2020

Come join us at the
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Alexandria, VA

\$130 Single or Double, Triple, Quad

Guest Artists



Festival
Orchestra
Mary Tokarski,
Conductor



Sam Reider • Cory Pesaturo • Joey Miskulin
and many more

Lifetime Achievement Award

presented to

Linda Soley Reed
with a tribute to all the
Great Ladies of the AAA

...Past and Present



Exciting
Competitions
Workshops
Youth Involvement
Jazz Ensemble
Junior & Senior
Festival
Orchestras



AAA 2019 Festival July 17-21 - Valley Forge, PA

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, July 17

3:00 – 5:00 pm	Registration	Liberty Foyer
3:30 pm	Draw for Position – all Carrozza Memorial Competition participants	Liberty Room
4:00 pm	Workshop: Music Notation in the 21 st Century - Joe Natoli	Conestoga
5:00 pm	Workshop: Survivor: The Accordion! A Discussion of Its Past, Present, and Projected Future - Dr. Robert Young McMahan	Conestoga
5:00-9:00 pm	Exhibits Open	Buchanan
7:00 pm	Meet & Greet: Informal performances by competitors and guests alike – Special guests from the local media, including newspapers, radio and TV	Liberty Foyer
8:00 pm	Reception for Registered Guests (Ticket required)	Adams
9:00 pm	After Hours Club – Guest Host, Michael Bridge	Conestoga

Bring your instrument and be a part of the entertainment! Everyone is welcome.

Thursday, July 18

8:00 – 9:00 am	Junior Orchestra Rehearsal	The Venue
9:00 – 11:00 am & 1:00-3:30 pm	Registration	Liberty Foyer
9:00 – 11:30 am & 1:00-5:00 pm	Exhibits	Buchanan
9:00 – 11:30 am	Competitions - Evaluation A, Jazz Solos, Standard Solos	Mt. Davis
	Competitions - Founder’s Intermediate & Senior, Open Intermediate & Senior	Quaker
9:00 – 9:50 am	Workshop: Piano, Diatonic, Chromatic, Oh My! - Cody McSherry	Conestoga
10:00 – 10:50 am	Workshop: The Musical Life of Charles Magnante - Ray Oreggia & Don Gerundo	Conestoga
11:30 am	Luncheon (Ticket required) –	Franklin Adams
	<i>Entertainment featuring Nathan Chapeton, Joe Soprani and Stanislav Culcicovschi</i>	
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Exhibits	Buchanan
1:00 pm-3:00 pm	CLUB PUB	Franklin Adams
1:30 pm-2:30 pm	Carrozza Memorial Competition Junior Division	Mt. Davis
2:30 pm-3:30 pm	Carrozza Memorial Competition Open Division	Mt. Davis
1:30 – 2:20 pm	Workshop: <i>9 Types of Bellows Shakes</i> - Michael Bridge	Conestoga
2:30 – 3:15 pm	Fun Band (bring your accordion and a music stand)	Conestoga
3:30 – 5:30 pm	Festival Orchestra Rehearsal	The Venue
6:30 pm	Pasta Night (Ticket required)	Franklin Adams
	<i>Entertainers: Ray Oreggia, Cody McSherry, Chris Brettschneider</i>	
8:00 pm	Concert featuring <i>Mario Tacca & Mary Mancini</i> and the <i>Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra</i> , Joanna Darrow, conductor	Franklin Adams
9:00 pm	After Hours Club – Guest Hosts, Cody McSherry and Nathan Chapeton	Franklin Adams

Bring your instrument and be a part of the entertainment! Everyone is welcome.

continued

Competitions, Workshops and Exhibits are open to Registered Participants only!



AAA 2019 Festival July 17-21 - Valley Forge, PA

Schedule of Events

Friday, July 19

- 8:00 – 9:00 am Junior Orchestra Rehearsal The Venue
- 8:30 am – 11:30 am Competitions - Open Juniorette & Junior Solos, Pop Solos, Adult Pop Mt. Davis
- Competitions - Adult Open Solos, Adult Founder’s, Ethnic Solos Quaker
- 9:00 am – 9:50 am Master Class with Michael Bridge Conestoga
- 9:00 am – 11:30 am Registration Liberty Foyer
- 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Exhibits closed from 11:30 and 2:00 pm Buchanan
- 10:00 – 10:50 am Workshop: *The Birth, Development, and Passion of My Musical Life* - Mario Tacca . . Conestoga
- 11:00 – 11:5
- 0 am Fun Band Conestoga
- 9:30-11:30 am Youth Involvement Program Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal Franklin Adams
- 11:30 am-2:00 pm Rehearsal - Chamber Ensemble The Venue
- 12:00 – 2:00 pm **AAA goes to the King of Prussia Mall** – Schedule of performers to be announced
- 3:30 – 5:30 pm Festival Orchestra Rehearsal Franklin Adams
- 6:30 pm Gala Concert (**Ticket required**) – Guest Artists – Joseph Natoli Chamber Ensemble . . The Venue
- (with Dr. Robert Young McMahan, William Trigg and Cecylia Barczyk),
- Petar Maric, and Featured Guest Artist, Michael Bridge
- 9:00 pm Artist Reception (**Ticket required**) Franklin Adams
- 10:00 pm After Hours Club – Guest Host, TBA Conestoga

Bring your instrument and be a part of the entertainment! Everyone is welcome.

Saturday, July 20

- 8:00 – 9:00 am Junior Orchestra Rehearsal The Venue
- 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Exhibits Buchanan
- 9:00 am – 9:50 am Master Class with Michael Bridge Conestoga
- 9:30 am – 12:00 noon Competitions - Evaluation B, Duets, Adult Ethnic Mt. Davis
- Ensembles, Orchestras, Entertainment AAA The Venue
- 10:00 am – 10:50 am Workshop: Innovative Bass Lines – Sam Falcetti Conestoga
- 10:00 am – 12:30 pm Youth Involvement Program Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal & Lunch Franklin Adams
- 1:30 pm Awards Concert – Junior Orchestra, Youth Involvement Jazz Ensemble The Venue
- Bennett Competition Winners, AAA’s Coupe Mondiale Representative, Prizes
- 3:30 – 5:30 pm Festival Orchestra Rehearsal The Venue
- 6:00 pm Cocktail Hour – Entertainment featuring Don Gerundo Balcony
- 7:00 pm Gala Banquet (**Ticket required**) – Performance by Festival Orchestra Conestoga
- 9:00 pm After Hours Club – Guest Host, Mitch Guido

Bring your instrument and be a part of the entertainment! Everyone’s welcome.

Sunday, July 21

- 9:00 am Farewell Breakfast and Open Meeting (**Ticket required**) Franklin Adams

Competitions, Workshops and Exhibits are open to Registered Participants only!



AAA 2019 Festival July 17-21 - Valley Forge, PA Workshops and Presenters

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 4:00 p.m. - CONESTOGA
Music Notation In the 21st Century
Joe Natoli, Presenter

How would you like to completely eliminate the need to use pencil and staff paper ever again when notating your own wonderful music creations? The technology to help you with that has been here since circa 1997 and keeps getting better all the time. As Joe Natoli indicates: "I personally have never put one note on paper since that time and as a result, this technology has been an absolute blessing to me personally. It was the stuff of science fiction that many of us dreamed about when we were children!" You owe it to yourself to take advantage of this technology. As long as you own a computer, or even a tablet, Joe will provide a complete review of all the tools available to you in all different price ranges (including FREE!). He will also show you how this software works, with live examples using Finale, while also providing you the latest developments in what has now become a niche industry. If you compose or arrange music, even if you already use notation software, you will not want to miss this workshop.



THURSDAY, JULY 18 - 10:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA

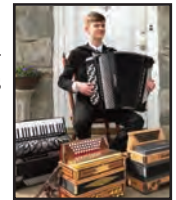
The Musical Life of Charles Magnante
Ray Oreggia & Don Gerundo, Presenters

A slide show presentation of the musical life of the great Charles Magnante, including recordings and stories about one of the founding fathers of the American Accordionists' Association.



THURSDAY, JULY 18 - 1:30 p.m. - CONESTOGA
Piano, Diatonic, Chromatic, Oh My!
Cody McSherry, Presenter

This seminar will focus on the advantages, limitations, and ins and outs (pun intended) of various types of accordions. Bring your questions!



FRIDAY, JULY 19 - 10:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA
The Birth, Development, and Passion of My Musical Life
Mario Tacca, Presenter

Mario Tacca dazzles audiences across the US and around the world with his unmatched virtuosity on the accordion and his exciting interpretations of international music, the classics and pop. His workshop will highlight his amazing career as a student, competitor, and performer.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 5:00 p.m. - CONESTOGA
Survivor: The Accordion! A Discussion of Its Past, Present, and Projected Future In Light of Other Keyboard Instruments, Both Extant and Extinct
Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Presenter

A wide variety of keyboard instruments has come and in many cases gone over the centuries in the Western world—everything from those barely remembered today and at times bizarre, such as the archicembalo, bowed clavier, and clavictherium; the slightly more familiar portativ organ, virginal, clavichord, and fortepiano; the mallet percussion instruments xylophone, marimba, and vibraphone; and among the most familiar today, the pianoforte, celeste, harpsichord, pipe organ, harmonium, ondes Martinot, electronic keyboards, and, of course, accordion. All of these instruments were invented for specific purposes and varying roles in both solo and ensemble repertoire. However, many have become extinct or rarely used today, while others have survived the test of time, including the accordion. We will examine the accordion in light of its near 200-year history and ask why it has survived and what its future may be.



SATURDAY, JULY 20 - 10:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA
Innovative Bass Lines - Sam Falcetti, Presenter

Learn how to WALK the bases; how to learn more about styles and patterns in the left hand. This is the #1 question asked by those playing an accordion. They want to play more than just alternating bass and chords. This workshop has a handout with examples and suggested songs with 20 patterns and styles. Attendees will be able to learn how to "walk the basses like a pro!" Guaranteed!



THURSDAY, JULY 18 - 9:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA
9 Types of Bellows Shakes
Michael Bridge, Presenter

Recently released book by Michael Bridge, the "Nine Varieties of Bellows Shakes" will enlighten you to the various affects you can create. In two parts: Part 1: Standard Bellows Shakes; Part 2: Advanced Bellows Shakes



FRIDAY, JULY 19 - 9:00 a.m. and/or

SATURDAY, JULY 20 - 9:00 a.m. - CONESTOGA
Master Class with Michael Bridge

Two sessions offered. Need 3 volunteers for each session with diverse ability levels to prepare a piece for evaluation. Michael will dissect the piece and recommend solutions and practice methods to make the most challenging passage become "a walk in the park" and thus producing a rewarding performance.



**All Workshops will take place in the Conestoga Room located in the Radisson Tower Lower Level
Any changes will be posted at the AAA Registration Desk.
Workshops are part of your registration! Be sure you wear your name badge!**

Joseph Natoli "Chameleon CD Vol. 2" Release

Joseph Natoli announces the release of his latest CD entitled Chameleon Vol. 2. As with the release of Vol. 1 of this set last year, this Chameleon Vol. 2 continues to showcase Joe's highly diverse compositional output which he has avidly pursued since the age of 19 when his first major work, "Toccata No. 1" was written while in his 2nd year of college. It was subsequently published by Giulietti Corporation's Neofonic label and is one of the more virtuosic pieces still performed in Europe and Asia and continues to surface among competitors in the Coupe Mondiale competitions.

In talking about the origin of the CD title, he stated that when it comes to composition, he considers himself a musical chameleon, adapting to any style according to the need and purpose of the composition, just as a chameleon adapts immediately to its current environment. Therefore, he has written music in every possible genre, from contemporary Avant Garde, to quasi-minimalist, jazz, Classical, Baroque, ethnic polkas & waltzes, cinematic, neo-Romantic, ragtime, Latin, and even Pop. This collection hopes to demonstrate and celebrate that diversity of creativity. Joe performs all the selections and even individual parts on this CD, with two of the compositions having been recorded live including Polkacism (for accordion and clarinet) and Prism [Rebirth] for accordion, violin, viola, flute, clarinet, & percussion.

There is something for everyone on "Chameleon Vol. 2" which introduces a new duet called "Gratitude" to be premiered by Joe and Michael Soloway at the 2nd annual International Digital Electronic Accordion Symposium (IDEAS) in Warren, Ohio.

Also included is Joe's composition entitled "Friendship", written last year for Guy Klucsevsek and premiered at the 1st IDEAS Symposium in 2018 and to be performed live at this year's AAA Festival. The CD also introduces the 2019 AAA Commission, entitled "Child's Play" to be world-premiered at the AAA Festival July 17 - 20, 2019 in Valley Forge, PA. Child's Play is decidedly contemporary in flavor, but with very accessible and appreciated harmonies and rhythms for any type of listening audience. There is even a Baroque invention called Invention in C performed on a harpsichord sound on the digital accordion. The CD will be on sale at both the 2019 AAA and ATG Festivals. ■

"Child's Play" for 2 accordions, cello, and percussion

"Child's Play" by Joseph Natoli is a new chamber ensemble composition written in three movements (1. Awakening, 2. Sadness, and 3. Happiness) for 2 accordions, cello, and percussion. Although the piece is decidedly contemporary in flavor, its themes, harmonies and rhythms are very accessible and relatable to the listening audience. This work is dedicated to the memory of two of Joe's students (9-year-old Chloe and her stepfather Jim), who both tragically lost their lives in a traffic accident in February 2019. In that context, the profound sadness of the second movement is overcome by the joy and exuberance of the third movement which is representative of the consistent joy Chloe and all children of her age tend to relish in their young lives. All three movements are based on children's Haiku poetry, and will be featured at the upcoming AAA Festival during a concert on July 19, 2019.

Joseph Natoli makes his home in Northeast Ohio with his wife, JoAnn, and has been a performer and advocate of the accordion since the age of seven (inspired to play the instrument by his grand-



Festival Special

Donate \$100 to AAA's Composers Commissioning and receive the AAA's recently commissioned chamber work entitled *Child's Play* by Joseph A. Natoli, complete score, set of parts and Vols. 1 and 2 of "Chameleon".

father -- also Joe Natoli, and his father, Frank Natoli). Joe started his studies with prominent Ohio accordion teacher, the late Mickey Bisilia of Youngstown, Ohio, and won the 1972 AAA US Virtuoso Accordion Championship under Mr. Bisilia's tutelage, while placing first runner-up several months later in the Coupe Mondiale world accordion competition in Caracas, Venezuela. More recently, Joe won the grand prize for the first Roland US V-Accordion competition held in Los Angeles, California, in 2008.

Joe's education includes Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in music theory and composition from the University of Toronto Faculty Of Music in Toronto, Canada, where he was the first student accepted there to use the free bass accordion as an applied major instrument, studying with renowned Canadian accordionist, Joseph Macerollo. Mr Natoli started his musical career mostly as a performer, but had always been interested in composition, and has focused on his compositional craft even more in recent years. Joe has written many original pieces in all musical styles and genres for standard and free bass accordion, all of which are available by inquiries to janpressmusic@yahoo.com.

Professionally Joe has enjoyed a career in Information Technology (IT) and over the years has been involved in both IT technical and leadership roles for many large companies. Joe studied computer science at Youngstown State University as well as Franklin University, and also achieved an MBA degree at Franklin University in Columbus, OH. For further information: josephnatoli@ymail.com. ■

Peter Soave Music Academy

2019 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Peter Soave Music Academy, the International Music Academy for musicians and music lovers taking place from July 21 - August 4, 2019. The Peter Soave Music Academy generously offers a rich musical experience that plunges each participant into the depths of musical artistry.

The summer session includes workshops, intensive coaching,



master classes, chamber music, and rehearsals culminating in concerts where participants and professionals will be playing side by side. Excerpts from the website: The exquisite picturesque setting for the Academy is Sauris, this tiny alpine village nestled in the Dolomite mountains of Italy, bordering Austria.

Peter shares, "My wife, Madeleine, and I have worked passionately to realize this project and create a multifaceted program and environment to equip instrumentalists from around the world with the knowledge and skills they need to perform music. We are delighted that friends and esteemed artists are on board every year: their presence and contributions bring a higher level of meaning and support to what we are striving for.

Teachers showcase a variety of accordion professionals including Semionov (Russia), Tokarski (USA), Lavrov (Russia), Pivdori (Italy), Šavron (Slovenia) and Bethke (Germany) will be with us. I especially welcome two more outstanding international personalities for their first visit: Joey Miskulin (USA) and Mas-

similiano Pitocco (Italy).

Sauris di Sotto, Italy, sits at an elevation of 3,976 feet and is the highest municipality in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. This tiny alpine village is nestled deep within the Dolomite mountains of Italy, bordering Austria. Situated within the Carnia mountain area of Friuli, it is located about 37 miles northwest of the provincial capital Udine, 75 miles northwest of Trieste and 120 miles from Venice. The PSMA headquarters is at Albergo Morgenleit, a charming hotel resort.

USA Faculty members for the 2019 session include Joey Miskulin and Mary Tokarski.

Joey Miskulin, performer, composer, producer, multi-instrumentalist, is a hall of fame accordionist and producer. In a music career spanning more than four decades, Joey Miskulin has collaborated with a range of artists including Paul McCartney, John Denver, Johnny Cash, Ricky Skaggs, Roy Rogers, Andy Williams, Ricky Van Shelton, Emmylou Harris, Frankie Yankovic, U2 and many others. He is a performer, studio musician, producer and pedagogue.

Joey, the child prodigy discovered by Chicago's Roman Possedi, toured the United States with Yankovic - "America's Polka King" - as his featured accordionist at age thirteen, writing and arranging songs between performances. Broadening his experience, Joey toured the Far East with the Hawaii International Revue, and, in the 1970's became a studio musician and producer, performing on bass, piano, banjo, guitar, organ, accordion, and as a vocalist with the likes of Andy Williams, Doc Severinsen, and Charlie Daniels. Among his astounding list of credits are countless appearances on national television and radio, in the movies, and on video; hundreds of recording sessions; four Grammy-winning and several gold and platinum albums among scores of international hit recordings.

Mary Tokarski (Connecticut, USA) is an outstanding artist and dynamic educator who is dedicated to the accordion. Long time member of the "K" Trio, Mary is the former President of the American Accordionists' Association (AAA). For over 20 years Mary served as Director of Music Education at Tokarski Music Center, where she taught piano and accordion, conducted the choral & ensemble programs, supervised the pre-school programs, and served as a Music Educator in the North Haven Department of Education's Early Childhood Development Program at Green Acres Elementary School. ■

For further information:

petersoavemusicacademy@gmail.com

Hudson Valley New Music Concert Series includes New Works for Accordion

The Hudson Valley New Music Concert Series Concert No. 1 with five new premieres by Christopher Cook, Michael Dilthey, Dale Marie Hoagland and Peter Jarvis took place on July 6th at the Morton Memorial Library Auditorium in Rhinecliff, NY.

Since 2017, Morton Auditorium has been an active venue for contemporary classical music, and has attracted performers from New York City, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont.

The program includes:

Dale Marie Hoagland

"Deer" (2019) for clarinet and accordion (world premiere)

Dale Marie Hoagland

"Rainbows" (2018) for clarinet and accordion

Peter Jarvis

"Bellows and Wind" (2019) for clarinet and accordion (world premiere)

Peter Jarvis

Music for Accordion and Drums - Perhaps Electric" (2019)* (world premiere) *electronic percussion version

Dale Marie Hoagland - "*Triptych*" (2018) for accordion and voice

1. Fallow Lago, 2. National Ruin and 3. *Melilot

Christopher Cook - "*Spectrum II*" (2018)

for accordion and electronics

1. Violet, 2. Blue, 3. Green, 4. Yellow, 5. Orange and 6. Red

Michael Dilthey - "*Sonata*" (2018)"

for solo accordion (world premiere)

Christopher Cook - "*Spin Cycle*" (2019)

for clarinet, accordion and electronic (world premiere)

Musicians include: Emily Herder (clarinet), Rocco Anthony

Jerry (accordion) and Chelsea Snider-Katt (vocals).

Christopher Cook received his Doctor of Music degree from In-

continued on next page

diana University where he served as assistant director of the Center for Electronic and Computer Music. He is a recent recipient of a Fromm Music Foundation commission from Harvard University and has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, the Music Teachers National Association, and the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies. He has served as Composer-in-Residence at James Madison University, Amherst College, the University of Evansville, the Monroe County Community Schools Corporation (Indiana), and for the city of Somerset, Pennsylvania. His compositions are widely performed in many university and festival settings including: June in Buffalo, Music of Our Time, the Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival, The Society of Composers Inc., the Annual American Music Week (Sofia, Bulgaria), and the Utrecht Music Festival (The Netherlands). His electro-acoustic works have been presented at numerous conferences and festivals including: the International Computer Music Conference and more. He is Assistant Professor of Music at Chowan University.

Michael Dilthey received his Doctorate in Composition at Northwestern University. He also holds Master of Music degrees in composition and conducting. He has composed two operas, three musicals, orchestral and choral music as well as theatrical incidental music. Recently his musical Greetings from Fitzwalkerstan had a successful run in Madison, WI. Another musical, My Way of Life, workshopped in New York City and he had a composition for string orchestra premiere at Carnegie Hall and in Sweden. His areas of teaching are music theory, history and composition.

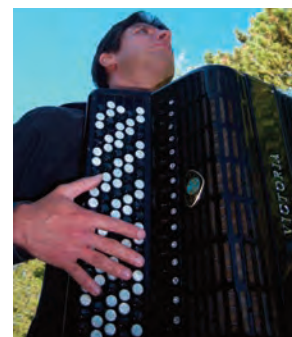
Dale Marie Hoagland is a composer and multimedia artist based in New York City. She is a graduate of Bennington College, and her music has been performed at Time & Space Limited and at the 2018 Hudson Valley New Music Festival.

Peter Jarvis is a percussionist, drummer, conductor, composer, music copyist, print music editor and college professor. He is Director of New Music at William Paterson University. He teaches percussion

and chamber music at William Paterson University, Connecticut College and Bergen Community College in New Jersey. He is an Associate Director of the Composers Concordance and has over 100 compositions. Over the decades, he has performed popular and unpopular music with equal enthusiasm. He has performed as a soloist, chamber player, Broadway musician and as conductor/player with numerous chamber music ensembles, orchestras and choruses. The proliferation of percussion literature is extremely important to Jarvis, and nearly 100 solo pieces have been composed for him, which he has performed on multi percussion, timpani, vibraphone, marimba, solo snare drum and drum set composed for him. He has been nominated for a Golden Globe and an Academy award for "Best Score" as part of the composing team for major Hollywood films.

Chelsea (Snider) Katt studied jazz piano and composition for 17 years and has also worked in movie production and video performance art. She has a diverse background in African drum and dance, Javanese and Balinese Gamelan, and Middle Eastern and Balkan ensemble improvisation. Currently on the staff at Time and Space Limited, Chelsea has a Moving Image Arts degree from The College of Santa Fe.

Accordionist **Rocco Anthony Jerry** is a concert accordionist and curator of the Hudson Valley New Music Festival. As a performer, he collaborates with composers to develop and introduce new works for the concert bayan (accordion). He has premiered works by Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen, Christopher Cook, Michael Dilthey, Daniel Goode, Peter Jarvis, Conrad Kehn, Peter Machajdik, Arthur B. Rubinstein, Max Simonic, Bjorn Bolstad Skjelbred and Christian Wolff, and has given the US premieres of many other pieces. ■



Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society

WMAS celebrated Fathers Day with music, of course; it was the annual members concert. Ken Kunec opened as the greeter and then also as the emcee—and he took the opportunity to give us a couple of songs in honor of his and Teddy's wedding anniversary. "I save a lot of money this way, not having to buy a gift," he joked. Other performers included Janice Lavoie, Jim Vandelly, Peter DiGiovanni and his student Victoria Arellano-Pappas in duet, Peter solo, Mona Berch, Robert Ford, Joe Kulick, Yimin Zhuang, and JoAnn Pankow. In addition, JoAnn and Mara Cherkasky played Ashokan Farewell as a tribute to Joan Grauman, who has moved from the area.

We are deeply grateful to Joan for everything she's given the club over these many years: all the music she's arranged and conducted, the tunes she's performed, the musical instruction and advice she's dispensed, the dances she's taught, and just simply the fun with which she's filled the room. Everything she's given us has been out of love, and we miss her dearly! The club is not the same without her, but we know she'll come back to visit when she can!

As we swelter in a 90+ degree heat wave, it's not too soon to be thinking about the Holiday Concert! Peter DiGiovanni is starting to

work on new arrangements and selections for the WMAS Orchestra, and he has a few questions for us. Do you intend to participate in the orchestra? Are you comfortable playing bass (left hand)? Do you have any ideas or requests regarding selections for the orchestra to play? Please email him at peter@musicisforever.com or call/text him at 703-919-5701.

Our next meeting will be July 14, Bastille Day. Joyce Palmer's group CHAOS (Capitol Hill Accordion Orchestra Society) will be our greeters starting about 3:45 pm, and then Robert Ford will present a bellows workshop. Please bring your accordions so you can participate in that as well as in the play-along that will follow the workshop. Don't forget your binders of sheet music either!

We don't always meet in both July and August, but this opportunity was too good to pass up. On August 18, Russian accordionist Elena Stenkina will be in town on her way to a competition on the West Coast, and she has agreed to perform for us for 30 minutes and then teach a one-hour master class! So put WMAS on your calendar for August 18 at 4 pm, and take a look at this video when you get a chance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlqOa8cAiQk&feature=youtu.be>



Coast to Coast

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



FAIRBANKS, AK

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival will be held on 10 stages at the UAF campus and various venues around Fairbanks, Alaska from July 14th to 28th. Nearly 10,000 people come together at the Festival every July to study, perform and engage their spirit in an empowering way.

Accordionist Jamie Maschler will teach three workshops at the University Community Presbyterian Church in College Road, Fairbanks. Workshops include: "Accordion for Kids", "Accordion Workshop" and "Playing through tunes". The workshops will include learning about the accordion mechanics, theory that allows you to open up opportunities on the accordion, different bass accompaniment outside of our typical 3/4 and 4/4 patterns that will include chord combining techniques and some bellows tips. Jamie will also take a look at a few familiar accordion classics like Tico-Tico, No Fuba and La Cumparsita and talk about how to play them as a solo or with other people.

COTATI, CA

For those making an earlier arrival to the Cotati Accordion Festival, August 17-18, 2019, you might like to attend the 6th annual Benefit Concert for Student Accordionists in downtown Cotati, CA at the Redwood Café (8240 Old Redwood City Highway), August 16. The concert starts 4:30 PM with an impressive line-up of popular western US accordionists. A \$5.00 donation per person is requested to hear these outstanding entertainers: Paul Betken; Reno Di Bono; Lou Jacklich and Colette Ogata; Frank Lima (AKA the Great Morgani); and, Sheri Mignano Crawford of Due Zhigi Baci (Two Gypsy Kisses with Michael Van Why, tenor).

The Student Stage competition takes place 9:30 AM on Saturday morning, August 17 in the Social Hall of the Church of the Oaks (175 Page St.), a few hundred yards from the South entrance of the Cotati Accordion Festival. The Social Hall is conveniently located at the intersection of W. Sierra Ave. and Page Street (just down from the Polka Tent). Admission is free. Come and encourage,

WALLKILL, NY

The Magnanini Winery hosted a special event on Sunday, June 2, 2019, at the Magnanini Winery in Walkill New York featuring accordionists Frank Carozza, Dominic Karcic and Frank Toscano performing a 'Valtaro' Reunion.

BROOKLYN, NY

The Brooklyn Accordion Club hosted two guests at their June meeting: Stephanie Simon Gadjji Accordion from France and Cordeone Loic De Silva. Stephanie presented a lecture on accordion tuning and operation and Cordeone gave a performance featuring a mix of Jazz, Fado, Brazilian music, Funk, Reggae and hip hop. For information on future activities, please email to reserve: brooklynaccordionclub@gmail.com

CHICAGO, IL

The Chicago Accordion Club hosted a Dick Contino Tribute Show on May 20, 2019. The event began with pre-meeting music by accordionist Bob Hoge who is a member of the "Snowbird Polka Band" in Florida and also "The Bruce Korosa Band". This was followed by a performance by Lenny Leto, entertaining everyone with his own well-known style of playing some of Dick's most popular tunes! Judy Contino presented the "Dick Contino Celebration" delivering an audio-visual presentation and celebration of the life of Dick Contino. She shared her collection of many of Dick's most memorable performances.

Founded in 1988, the Chicago Accordion Club is dedicated to the wonderful fans of all varieties of accordions and accordion music in Chicagoland and around the world. Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at the American Legion Hall in Elmhurst, Illinois at 310 W. Butterfield Road. You do not have to be a member to attend. Doors open at 6:PM. For further information: normannewman@gmail.com

DENVER, CO

The 2019 ATG Festival offers many workshops during their 79th Annual Festival. Workshops including: "Duet Workshop" with Dan and Kim Christian, "The Art of Musical Improvisation" by Augustines Rakauskas, "Improve Your Playing Technique" by Augustines Rakauskas, "Teaching Group Accordion Lessons" by Mary Ann Covone & Gail Campanella, "Arranging for Accordion and String Ensemble" by John & Madalynn Neu, "Playing Brazilian Music on the Accordion" by Jamie Maschler and Gabe Rodrigues, "Accordion Repair Workshop and Repair "Station" Throughout the Festival" - Dan Tulenko. For information on all activities, please visit: www.atgaccordions.com.

A MEMBER ASKS...

I play the bandoneon and I'm interested in how early tuning of the accordion defined the early bandoneon sound. There were a couple of Italian brothers who pretty much tuned every professional players instrument from the 30's till the end of the century in Buenos Aires and that's how we know what tango sounds like from that period: they tuned and then the players recorded. This sound is sacred to the Argentine players and to this day none of them are willing to play modern instruments because they sound like accordions. (Think Nissan versus and old Spitfire: better in every way except it's just not an old cantankerous spitfire with a unique sound).

There is one last tuner in Buenos Aires, an apprentice of Los Tanos (the Italians) who still tunes in that fashion: the intervals are stretched and any meter will tell you many of the notes are off. But they sound so much better when played in chords than when they're tuned more accurately. Perhaps it's due to the fact that bendonenons have multiple reeds on any single plate so there are a ton of ugly partials, but not if it's tuned by ear. You avoid those partials but sacrifice cleaner intervals.

I'm wondering if this "just so" tuning was a thing back around the turn of the century when so many things had to be done by ear.

If anyone has information for this member, please send an email to ameraccord1938@gmail.com and we will forward to the interested party.

WMAS

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlqOa8cAiQk&feature=youtu.be>.

Check out our website at www.washingtonaccordions.org.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Our July meeting will be on Saturday the 27th in Bow. Please let Anne (cletebaier@comcast.net) know if you will be attending. The anticipated August meeting date will be the 3rd Saturday, August 17.

The rain came and went and the wind came also...but we had a great time performing for an enthusiastic audience at the Concord Market Days last month...see picture below. Five emails in my inbox from attendees were:

"I love watching and hearing you"; "Everyone loves accordions!"; "What a time we all had...you were just fantastic!" and accompanying a picture of two women dancing, "too bad there's no video...you can't tell it's a polka...we had fun!"; "It was really fun to catch your concert. You all sounded great and looked like you were enjoying yourselves." It certainly WAS a fun day for all. See picture below taken before the Concord Market Days performance.

There is an accordion repair course being offered in England in October 2019. For info, contact plg@plgmarketing.com. **Dorean for the NHAA**

