

Where knowledge and fun meet

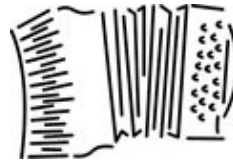
Volume 1, Issue 2

April 22, 2007

Massachusetts Accordion Association www.MAaccordion.com

Comments from Tony

The MAAA meetings and newsletters are truly wonderful! They capture all the items done and the learning experience. I am so excited about this group! I especially loved watching people talk and interact at the end. We had people with different experiences and ethnic heritages, with a common interest talking, enjoying their experiences and learning from each other. Can it get any better than that?



Here are a couple of ideas that I heard from people:

Should we have a group of accordions play?

If you are interested in playing with a group send an email to info@MAaccordion.com

What pieces should I play next time?

If you want to hear something specific, send an email to info@MAaccordion.com

Lastly I would somehow encourage people to bring a guest. We had 35 people. If half the people invited a guest we are up to 50 people.

Thank you for all your hard work!

Tony

Monthly meetings are the 4th Sunday of every month.....

1:00—3:30 pm

The Dolphin Seafood Restaurant

12 Washington St. Natick Ma.

(508) 655-0669

Upcoming Meetings:

April 22nd

May 27th

June 24th



Come and enjoy the fun!!!!

No experience is necessary, just a love for the instrument, either playing or listening, or both.

All instrument types, playing styles, and skill levels are welcomed.

the opportunities to perform on a sign up basis

open forum accordion discussions are chaired to encourage MAAA member participation, involvement and resource sharing

Thank you to the performers at our March meeting!

Italo DeMasi

David Frias & Dominic Cabral

Bob Guenther

David Frias

Dave Sullivan

Al Paradis

Dominic Cabral

Patty Simmons

Paul Monte

Joe Maciejowski

See who these great performers are by visiting our website at

www.MAaccordion.com

Profiles in Encouragement:

Interview with Paul Monte

Each month, this column will feature a brief introduction to one of our members, with a focus on some words of encouragement. It's most fitting to have Paul Monte in our first profile, for he has been or is currently a teacher and mentor to many of us.


Paul's interest in the accordion began back in the 1940's, when he was a teenager living in Somerville, MA. A boy in his school played accordion at school assemblies and was much admired, especially by the school's principle. Paul decided that he wanted to be on that stage, so he asked his mother for accordion lessons. She sent him to the Frank Gaviani School in Boston, where he traveled by street car and bus each week (and where he met his wife, Lillian—they just celebrated their 50th anniversary!). Paul's career as a professional accordionist progressed steadily from then on. He studied at the New England Conservatory and then played with many of the prominent orchestras of the time--the Marshard Orchestra, Ruby Newman, Herbie Sulkin, entertaining at the Hotel Statler (now the Park Plaza) and

with the Boston Pops. Besides delighting audiences with his music, he has taught countless students over these decades and has a full roster of pupils currently.

Paul begins his encouragement with a wise word for those of us who are middle-aged and beyond: "Carry a tune instead of a pill!" He notes that discouragement often comes when a student does not practice everyday. So if he sees a down-turned face, he will encourage his protégés to pick up their accordion each day. And then he will play for them, to remind them of why they are learning to make music with this wonderful instrument. Anyone who has watched Paul's nimble fingers dance along the keyboard will know that inspiration is easy to find in Paul Monte's music studio !!!

Patty Simmons

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### March Meeting Tips

by  
**Paul Monte**

**ACCORDION STRAP\$: everything you need to know!**

For shoulder straps, make certain to use straps made of non-slip material on the areas in contact with the back and shoulders, preferably a velvet fabric.


Adjust the straps so that the black notes on the keyboard line up directly under the chin. This set-up allows the right arm and hand the most natural and tension-free access to the entire keyboard. The keyboard will rest between the legs, braced against the right leg, and the bellows will balance nicely on the left knee.

The left bass strap should adjusted to the tightness of a wrist watch. If it should come free from being loosened too far, it is most easily re-threaded by holding the accordion on its side and letting gravity train the leading edge of the strap back into the opening.

Paul demonstrated the practical aspect of his tips. With accordion nicely braced, he showed that the TRIPLE BELLOWS SHAKE is a breeze! This is a complex maneuver that produces triplet notes and is best demonstrated in person. The important thing here is that it can be executed only if the accordion is correctly positioned.

**SAFELY PACKING AN ACCORDION FOR TRAVEL**

The bass mechanism of the accordion is very susceptible to collapse if the accordion is dropped. This can be prevented by simply opening up the bass compartment and placing some pieces of corrugated cardboard between the felt pads and the throws of the bass buttons. This prevents impact damage to this vulnerable part of the accordion's inner structure.



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Upcoming Events



Events Throughout New England

April 13-15th

45th Annual A.T.A.M. [New England Music Festival](#) at the Marriot Hotel (Newton, MA)
Call 413-543-1002 for further details.

April 14th

[Northeast Concertina Workshop](#) at the Button Box (Sunderland, MA)
Call 413-665-7793 for further details.

April 15th

[Tony Lovello](#) at the Accordion Connection (Gilmanton, NH)
Call 800-328-5227 for further details

April 20-22

[New England Folk Festival](#) (Mansfield, MA)
Call 781-662-6710 for further details.

July 27-29

[Lowell Folk Festival](#) Accordion Workshop (Lowell, MA)

Inform us of other local accordion events you have heard about!!!!

Performance TIPS from our most recent meeting

Dominic Cabral's performance needed no words to remind everyone of the multigenerational aspect of accordion playing. A teenager, Dominic played alongside his teacher David Frias who is many decades his elder. Their Portuguese music loved in common is a bond, not a barrier.

Al Paradis commented that learning an instrument is one thing, and learning music is another. He noted that professional musicians have taken part of a lifetime and many hours in their days to practice. He encouraged the amateurs among us to be patient and remember to practice whenever you can, even if it never seems to be enough.



Patty Simmons played one verse of her song as arranged by her teacher, noting that it was much more difficult than what she would have "safely" played. She said that a challenge and a bit of risk help you to musically grow.

Bob Guenther encouraged people to sing along as he played. With familiar songs, this is a wonderful way to engage the audience and enhance their appreciation of the music.

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WWW.MAaccordion.com

4th Sunday of every month
1:00 p.m. @
the Dolphin Restaurant

MAaccordion phone:
(508) 529-6163

E-mail: use our website for
direct contact

▶ Your music club where
fellow accordionists meet
for an afternoon of music
and discussions.

We're on the web:
MAaccordion.com



Local Resources for New and Pre-Owned Accordions

- [Accordion Connection](#) (Gilmanton, NH)
- [Luca Music](#) (North Providence, RI)
- [Monte School of Music](#) (Wellesley Hills, MA)
- [The Button Box](#) (Sunderland, MA)

Accordion Teachers throughout New England

- [Paul Monte](#)—781-237-0554 (Wellesley Hills, MA)
- [Joe Maciejowski](#) —508-529-6065 (Upton, MA)
- [A.T.A.M.](#)—Accordion Teachers of Massachusetts
- [CCE Boston Music School](#) Irish B/C Button Box classes at
Boston College & Harvard University

Additional resources for Accordion Music & Lesson Books

- [Accordion Connection](#) (Gilmanton, NH)
- [Mel Bay Publications](#) (Web)
- [The Button Box](#) (Sunderland, MA)



Other New England based Accordion Clubs

- [Connecticut](#) <http://www.ctaccordion.com>
- [New Hampshire](#) 1-800-328-5227

JOE MACIEJOWSKI'S CLOSING ACT !

Joe Maciejowski closed the afternoon with a description of and musical display with two distinctive accordions. First he strapped on his Irish B/C Button Box, a "Saltarelle Shamrock,". This delightful accordion was especially suited to the Irish tune Joe played, along with the Sweet Cajun Waltz. A challenging feature of this little gem is that a given button will play one note on bellows-in, and a different note on bellows-out. Everyone would love to see more music performed with button and chromatic accordions, so come one, come all!

Joe then picked up his Concert Piano Accordion, a "Giuletti Continental Super" . This is a 35 (or so) pound beauty with 169 bass buttons (includes free base section) and 45 key keyboard. He demonstrated the full-bodied and rich sound of this accordion with mesmerizing renditions of Moroccan Nights, Tarantella, and Tea for Two.

To see more of Joe and these great accordions, visit:

www.MAaccordion.com

- We appreciate your comments and any news related articles. Just visit the website and use the "Contact Us" tab. Fill out the **Meeting or Workshop Suggestion**. A response will be sent to you and may be used at our next meeting and/or newsletter.

Reminder— NEXT MAAA MEETING: April 22nd