

Where knowledge and fun meet

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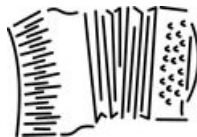
# Massachusetts Accordion Association

[www.MAaccordion.com](http://www.MAaccordion.com)

## Did You Know?

*A quick letter from the editor*

In just the few months I've been a member of this new-born accordion organization I've met many new friends and associates, discovered techniques and styles I hadn't even thought about and discovered that many of us just play for the sheer enjoyment of playing the accordion. It's almost like "coming out of the closet".



I started at an early age and am now grateful for my mom's persistence that I practice every day. I stopped playing in college since it really wasn't a party type instrument on campus. It was almost 30 years before I picked it up again. After my illness I decided to play to try to bring enjoyment to others.

I had friends that introduced me through karaoke that there were many songs that people enjoy listening to over and over again. I focused on increasing my repertoire and started playing in front of people. I wish this club was in existence then, it would have made this transition much easier.

I will never possess the skill level of many, but I can play basic melodies and chords for the sing-a-longs I now play at various assisted living facilities. Although I volunteer these concerts, it is the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences that break up my hectic day to day issues.

So, play just because you like to.....

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:

May 27th

June 24th

July 22nd



**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 April meeting!

Italo DeMasi

Bob Guenther

Al Paradis

Melissa Benjamin

Lillian Monte

Joe Maciejowski

See who these great performers are by visiting our website at

[www.MAaccordion.com](http://www.MAaccordion.com)

# Profiles in Encouragement:

## Interview with Tony Marini

Tony Marini, along with Joe Maciejowski, is co-founder of the Massachusetts Accordion Association (MAAA). This month's profile begins with a note of appreciation for Tony's father, a lifelong accordionist who passed away just over 30 years ago. Tony played the accordion a bit in his childhood but returned seriously about 7 years ago. A friend, Ron Mastrangelo (also a member of MAAA) told him about the well-known teacher Paul Monte, our featured member in last month's column. Tony began lessons and his current journey with the accordion was underway.

One pivotal experience occurred last summer, when Tony attended the accordion convention in Las Vegas. He met many people who were active in accordion clubs in their own states, and said to himself, "We should have a group in Massachusetts!" This tells you much about Tony: he arrived home and immediately began networking, met Joe Maciejowski (you'll meet him in next month's column), and soon the two of them had MAAA up and running!

When asked about how he deals with those moments of dis-

couragement or frustration with his accordion playing, Tony said that the best step is to talk with someone who is trusted and believable. He has learned to be realistic about his own strengths and weaknesses as a musician. Working hard, practicing effectively, these are what he sees as keys to success.

Tony underlined that for him, accordion playing is a hobby that should be enjoyed as such. His father was a great entertainer when he strapped on his accordion and sang with his wonderful voice. In that vein, Tony notes that the great professional accordion player Peter Soave talks about making his accordion "sing". Whether listening or playing, Tony tries to take in each note with pleasure, as one would drink a good wine. Just watch Tony smile when he introduces performers at our meetings, or watch him applaud, and you will see that his appreciation for accordion music is truly a gift.

## Performance Tips from our April Meeting

by

Patty Simmons



IT'S OK TO USE YOUR WRITTEN MUSIC, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A SECURITY PROP FOR YOU.

This month's youngest performer, Melissa Benjamin, asked her teacher (Paul Monte!) to turn pages during her powerful performance of the "Pioneer Concerto", for which she won a trophy in a recent competition.

For others, it's even safe to have a trusted spouse come up and turn pages!

PLAYING IN FRONT OF EACH OTHER IS FOR OUR MUTUAL ENJOYMENT.

If you feel anxious about playing in front of others, this is a supportive and non-judgmental place to give it a try. You are probably your own worst critic!

BY LISTENING TO OTHERS,

You can find those who play near your level and get great ideas for new pieces, hints about web sites for ordering music. At the same time, you might focus on a more advanced performer and say "I want to play like that by this time next year."



**THE LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL  
ACCORDION CONVENTION  
JUNE 18-21, 2007  
AT THE GOLD COAST HOTEL**

**Las Vegas  
International  
Accordion Convention**  
1760 South 450 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115  
HOT LINE: 1-800-472-1695  
Available 24/7

**Celebrating the Centennial  
of the Piano Accordion!**

Come join us Monday, June 18, through Thursday, June 21, 2007  
for "The Best Annual Accordion Event in the World!"

Four nights and three full days of unforgettable entertainment,  
inspiring workshops, special events and much, much more!

Enjoy our sumptuous Las Vegas Style buffets,  
with two meals offered each day, and join friends – new and old  
**for the best accordion event ever!**

All meals, concerts, events and classes are included in one low price!

Seven meals, seven concerts, all special events and classes are included!

Single Attendance \$435, \$60 Reservation Deposit;

Couple Attendance \$765, \$85 Reservation Deposit.

Evening-Only Options are available—contact us for details!

Special Room Rate ONLY \$45 per night!

**For more information call the 24/7 HOT LINE at 1-800-472-1695 or**

**visit the website at <http://accordioninfo.com/convention/>**



# Upcoming Events



## Events Throughout New England

### June 30th

Central Mass Accordion Club ensemble performing at the  
Finnish Heritage Society - Sovittaja (Dance)  
7:30pm - 10:30pm, Finn Park Road, Rutland, MA  
Call 508-885-2083 for further details

### July 27-29

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

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



### Where knowledge and fun meet

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](#) (Cheshire/Plantsville, CT) <http://www.ctaccordion.com>
- [New Hampshire Accordion Assoc](#) (Gilmanton, NH) 1-800-328-5227
- [Central Mass Accordion Club](#) (Rutland, MA) 1-508-885-2083

### JOE MACIEJOWSKI'S CLOSING ACT !

Quote from Joe: "I truly am fond of this instrument since it can be used in so many applications, is portable, very musically diverse and can be traced back into assorted cultural roots. "

This month, Joe strapped on his PANjet piano accordion. He began his performance by noting that most popular music familiar to Americans is in 3/4 and 4/4 time. He tapped out and then played a piece in 5/8 time: "Everything's Alright" from the 1970's musical "*Jesus Christ Superstar*". Another piece from this musical, "I Don't Know How to Love Him" gave some of us a chance to hum a familiar tune. And the "Zackopani Jump" featured some of the ethnic and strongly rhythmic music that Joe clearly loves.

Joe closed his set with a staggering rendition of Pietro Frosini's piece "Tailspin", played originally by Frosini on a three row chromatic accordion. The blinding movement of the right hand in this piece led Joe to joke that he would not have time to scratch his nose during the piece. Joe's virtuosity left all of us simply scratching our heads in disbelief!

- 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: May 27th**