

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 1, Issue 5

July 22, 2007

# Massachusetts Accordion Association

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

## Did You Know?

*A quick letter from the editor*

I apologize to all of our members for this brief quick newsletter. This time of year with vacations and family events (cook-outs, graduations, weddings and the like) just make it a seemingly "short" time span between newsletters and meetings. I do promise that we will be in full swing come September, when schools are back in session and time is less dedicated to all the parties and vacations.



In the mean time, with much thanks to Tony and Joe, the meetings are slated and there still remains much to do and much to enjoy and, of course, many new songs to practice.....

So, please focus on the upcoming meeting, Sunday, July 22nd where the theme for performers is "Jazz". Come and you will be surprised at the types of songs that fit into the "Jazz" category. Personally, I always thought that Jazz was Sunday morning or coffee cafe music. It truly is amazing at the songs listed in the Jazz genre of music. So make a quick note and we'll see you Sunday, July 22nd.....Bob

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:

July 22nd

August 26

Sept 23



**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 June meeting!

Tony Marini

Italo DiMasi

Bob Guenther

Tony D'Eramo

Al Paradis

Joe Maciejowski

Dave Sullivan

See who these great performers are by visiting our website at

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

## Events Throughout New England

### July 18

The Engaging Concertina - Lecture by Doug Creighton  
4:00pm, Ventfort Hall, 104 Walker St, Lenox, MA  
Call 413-67-3206 for further details

### July 21

All Women Accordion Concert  
10:00am - 4:00pm, Accordion Connection, Gilmanton, NH  
Call 800-328-5227 for further details

### July 21

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)  
Large multi cultural weekend festival with variety of ethnic band music/food  
through out the city.  
Saturday July 28 at 5:30pm - 6:30pm: Accordion workshop being held  
by the various performing band accordionists.  
Check the above web site for schedule changes.  
Call 978-970-5000 for further details



### July 29

[Scandinavian Accordion Festival](#)  
2:00pm, Little Rhody Vasa Park, Boswell Road, Foster, RI  
Call 401-295-1392 for further details

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

## Did You Know?

Chinese history books trace back to the very birth of music itself, an event pinpointed in the Book Of Chronicles (Schu-Ching) as occurring during the reign of the legendary "Yellow Emperor", Huang Ti, around the year 3000 B.C. Huang's other accomplishments included the invention of boats, money, and religious sacrifice. He is said to have sent the noted scholar Ling Lun to the western mountain regions of his domain to find a way to reproduce the song of the phoenix bird. Ling returned with the cheng (or sheng), and captured music for mankind, taking the first step toward the genesis of the accordion.

The cheng is in fact the first known instrument to use the free vibrating reed principle, which is the basis of the accordion's sound production. Shaped to resemble the phoenix, the cheng had between 13 and 24 bamboo pipes, a small gourd which acted as a resonator box and wind chamber, and a mouthpiece. Other instruments using a free vibrating reed were developed in ancient Egypt and Greece, and were depicted in many beliefs.

Virtually unchanged after centuries of use, the cheng attracted the attention of European musicians and craftsmen after being taken to Russia around the year 1770.

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Just a very, very quick note.....Due to the lateness of this newsletter, I am just returning from the MA Accordion Association's special concert by Mario Pedone. It was incredible. Many members and guests attended and enjoyed the performance and the incredible personality of Mario.



There will be a much better review of this spectacular event in our next newsletter. Many thanks to Mario and his friends for taking the time to share with us their amazing talent and techniques.

Performance Tips from our June Meeting

by


Patty Simmons

“PLAYING BY HEART” is more than just playing from memory!

When you are able to memorize a song and take your eyes off the written page, something different might happen. You start to play “by heart”, which really means “from the heart.” The technical and intellectual aspects of playing become colored by your emotional interpretation of the music. Even if you do not feel comfortable without the written page for a given piece, you might notice that for periods of time, you get caught up in the music and hardly look at the music stand. This is “playing by heart”, whether or not the music is in front of you!



# Upcoming Meetings

 Sunday Aug 26	1:00 PM	Dolphin Seafood Restaurant Natick, MA	MAAA WORKSHOP Accordion Repair/Tuning Assessment Bring your instrument for a checkup survey, courtesy of the <a href="#">Accordion Connection</a>	PROPOSED <a href="#">Contact us</a> to confirm interest
Sunday Sept 23	1:00 PM	Dolphin Seafood Restaurant Natick, MA	Performing Ballroom dance songs	Scheduled

## 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

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Assertions that this marked the introduction of the free-vibrating reed principle in Europe are debatable. Among the earlier variations on this design in the West was the portative, which was widely heard in England during the 12th and 13th centuries. The portative consisted of a small keyboard, bellows, and reed pipes, and was strapped onto the player. The regal, later termed the Bible regal because of its wide use in churches, was the next step along this line. It had a keyboard, one or two sets of bellows, and, unlike the accordion and other open-reed instruments, close beating oboe-like reeds. This instrument eventually lost popularity due to a tendency to go out of tune too easily. It was frequently used for accompanying madrigal singers, between the 15th and 18th centuries.

Cyrillus Damian, a Viennese instrument maker, has often been credited with the creation of the first true accordion. He was, in fact, the first to patent an instrument of that name, having received royal patronage for his invention in 1829. Damian's design featured two to four bass keys that produced chords within a range of an octave. But the first true accordion made its appearance in 1822, when a German instrument maker named Christian Friedrich Buschmann (1775-1832) put some expanding bellows onto a small portable keyboard, with free vibrating reeds inside the instrument itself. He dubbed it the hand-aeoline, and helped spread its fame in 1828 by leaving Berlin and touring with it.

There were actually many varieties of the free-vibrating reed instrument developed during the early 1800s. Some of them are still quite well known today. Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875) was awarded the British Patent No. 5803 for his concertina in 1829. Heinrich Band (1821-1860) of Krefeld, Germany, invented the bandoneon in 1840; this square-shaped instrument, played by pressing finger buttons is popular with Argentine tango bands. That same year Alexandre Debain finished his harmonium in Paris. In this pipeless organ (commonly found in churches and households until the advent of electric organs in the 1930s) air is passed to the reed blocks via foot-operated bellows. In some early models a second person was required to pump air into the instrument through bellows attached to the rear of the keyboard.

Note: This article is reprinted from the Accordions Worldwide, the largest accordion resource on the web.

# Reminder— NEXT MAAA MEETING: July 22nd