

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 1, Issue 8

Nov 25, 2007

## Massachusetts Accordion Association

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

Just a quick insight into the October meeting.....Joe started by setting the agenda which included our members playing a large playlist, demonstrating varying techniques and skill levels. We initiated a performance sign-up sheet to attempt to plan and coordinate the pace of our meeting. The amount of playing time will be restricted to allow all the members the opportunity to perform without over shooting our meeting timeframe. About halfway through the meeting, Joe gave us a great slideshow presentation and explanation of how the club has progressed since it's inception about a year ago. We've grown with new members and many family members and guests stopping by to listen and enjoy.

The club became a non-profit corporation in May, 2007. Due to this, Joe pointed out that we need club officers, e.g. at a minimum: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary and a set of by-laws to make things legal. We need to file quickly since a lot of time has past since May. Joe asked that any individuals interested in assisting, to please use the website contact page to let him know.

Joe also discussed the many directions and opportunities our club has before it. A discussion was held on how to get our club in front of more people, potential members and just people who love the accordion. Some thoughts were on pulling together an ensemble, volunteer performing at community events, signage, business cards, performing at "open mike nights" or contra-dancing venues, etc. We welcome your insights.

Our performers shared some insights during their performances. With just a

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### Thank you to the performers at our Oct meeting!

Dan Dempsey

Dan MacKowski

John Thorp

Lewis Howes

Al Paradis

Jerry Travantosi

Bob Guenther

Joe Maciejowski

See who these great performers are by visiting our website at

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

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:

November 25

December 16



**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

## Events Throughout New England

**November 10**

[Accordion Clinic](#) with Ari Chachere and Markus Centola

**November 10**

[Arthur Welsh 1 Day Accordion Seminar](#)

**November 11**

[Crowfoot](#) (Nicholas Williams - flutes and accordion) performing at the [Guiding Star Grange](#)

**November 16**

Ti'Acadie (Jim Joseph - button accordion) performing at the [Guiding Star Grange](#)

**November 23**

Contradance (Mary Cay Brass - accordion) performing at the [Guiding Star Grange](#)

Visit our website for further details of the above events

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



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

**Did You Know?**



### ***The Diatonic\* Accordion***

*Cajun Music, A Reflection Of A People, Vol. I, by Ann Allen Savoy*

Sometimes called a "squeeze box" or a "Cajun accordion," the diatonic accordion came to Louisiana from Germany. Today it has become such a vital part of Cajun music that many accordion builders are established in southwest Louisiana. The quality varies and the physical appearance ranges from natural wood tones with wooden and abalone inlays to bright colors with glitter and sparkling tapes. The sought after Monarch and Sterlings of the 1920's-30's are solid black with "gold" keys and trademarks.

Structurally the instrument is small (6" x 11" when closed) and light weight (8 lbs.). The size, however, is no indication of its sound power. The finest Cajun accordions have 46 reeds (four reeds per melody button and three reeds per bass button) which supply them with much more volume power than a 28 pound piano key accordion.

Though the diatonic accordion has many reeds, it has a limited range, having a full tonal range in only one key. A talented accordionist can perform in as many as four keys, but the 3rd and 4th keys are short of many notes. The Cajuns generally prefer C accordions, the second favorite being the D accordion.

On the right hand side of the instrument is a button keyboard consisting of basically ten buttons arranged in a "major" scale. Each button produces two notes, according to whether the bellows are being pushed in or pulled out while pressing a button. A tune is played by pushing or pulling the bellows in or out while pressing the button that corresponds to the needed melody note.

*Example of a Cajun Accordion This one is hand-made by Clarence "Junior" Martin of Lafayette, Louisiana. It bears his signature imprint on the bellows... a crawdad*

\* *Diatonic - "of or using only the eight tones of a standard major or minor scale without chromatic variations.*

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quick overview: Bob demonstrated the Torio Melody accordion, a low-cost \$600 as an option for beginning accordionists who may not want to spend thousands initially, Dan Dempsey discussed the format of the hornpipe set of reeds and even sang during his performance of an Irish Ballad, Dan MacKowski shared his experience at the Lowell Folk Festival and the many different types of accordion music (e.g. TexMex, Cajun, & Country). Dan also presented the ensemble playing concept for the club and shared a demo sample of Frank Marocco's ensemble arrangement from Frank's music camp. Dan also shared with us a sample of the conductor's score showing the varying arrangements for 6 accordions and guitar.

John Thorp shared with us a great idea on the "tushie" cushion. A wide small riser pad that with just a quick breath of air will allow the performer the comfort and ability to "sway" on the seat along with the music. He also noted that this was only his 2nd month of playing his new Roland FR-7 and is still looking for help in getting a Red Sox game to appear on the small screen on the Roland.

Al Bacchiocchi shared with us his new Organtana diatonic accordion. Joe Maciejowski played the Organtana and shared with us the concept of the diatonic, the different variations and it's companionship with the fiddles. Lewis Howes shared with us his, as he phrased it, "low cost" midi sequencer and accompaniment. Lewis used a Yamaha keyboard. He also shared with us the song he wrote for his daughter, "Recycle" which has been sang at many a playground. Jerry spoke about his work in pulling together groups of accordionists to perform at an annual event that he has kept alive by contributing his leadership. He is looking for more performers.

So, please don't skip a meeting.....we're beginning to "gel" as a club and there is a tremendous amount of shared knowledge, new people and just plain ole fun happening. Thanks Tony and Joe.....

**Hey!!!** There was even an accordion at Fenway Park for the Boston Red Sox' game 7 of the ALCS



Teens from the Forbes School of Irish Step Dancing of Quincy joined the Dropkick Murphys while they played "I'm shipping up to Boston," in center field before the

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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



Saltarelle Shamrock

**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

# Upcoming Meetings

Sunday November 25th	1:00 PM	Dolphin Seafood Restaurant Natick, MA		Scheduled
Sunday December 16th	1:00 PM	Dolphin Seafood Restaurant Natick, MA	MAAA Holiday Party	<b>Scheduled - PLEASE NOTE</b> Due to Holiday's, members have decided to hold THIS MEETING on the 3rd Sunday of Dec

*We invite all our members and friends to join in the fun!!!*

Visit our website at [www.MAaccordion.com](http://www.MAaccordion.com) to keep informed of upcoming events, see who are active performers are and to share your suggestions, thoughts or comments. This is something good.....

**Reminder– NEXT MAAA MEETING: November 25th**