

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 1, Issue 15

July 27, 2008

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com

July Ramblings July Ramblings

Well, we are halfway through the summer and the MAAA accordion ensemble is progressing very nicely. Many thanks to Donna LaRue and her tireless efforts in organizing, arranging and orchestrating the group of individualists with varying levels of techniques and skill levels. The comments from the audience have been very positive.

The group is currently working on the Dixieland Rag, a quicker tempo song than the prior arrangements. The ensemble is open to any member interested in playing with a group. Since there are different arrangements for each accordion section, you only need to focus on your piece of the song. This makes the ensemble a perfect way for one to play regardless of their skill level. The August meeting will be a refresher of all prior ensemble pieces.

Donna gave us a tech tip on Harmonetics which can be found on the web page under the Theory for Accordionists section.

The July open "mic" theme will focus on pieces of country, gospel and blues.

Starting with the next newsletter, the long awaited member of the month section will be added. The purpose of this section will provide a little background on our members (*in a totally random order*) so we get to know each other better and discover how we can learn from each other.

Need a little accordion humor.....

Check out the following website on "How to Stop Playing the Accordion"

I hope you find it funny and not offensive..

http://uncyclopedia.org/wiki/HowTo:Stop_Playing_the_Accordion

I look forward to seeing you this coming Sunday, the 27th at our July 2008 meeting. We've had a few new members join, so come on down and say hi....

Stay well and accordion cool.....Bob

Just a quick footnote.....If you haven't yet signed up for a daily news bit on accordions from around the country, check out:

<http://www.letspolka.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:

July 27

Aug 24

Sep 28



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!

Lewis Howes

Bill LaPolla

Dan Mackowiak

Dave Sullivan

Joe Maciejowski

Bob Guenther



Events Throughout New England

July 25-27

Lowell Folk Festival

FREE Lowell Folk Festival brings a proud history of traditional folk music, ethnic foods, and crafts demonstrations that attract visitors from across the country.

Various music acts feature accordion performers.

Located at various venues throughout Lowell, MA

Call 978-970-5000 for further details

July 25-27

American Accordion Association Master Class

Three day series. Master Classes start at 3:00pm, Concerts at 7:00pm

The Tenri Cultural Institute Of New York,

43A West 13th St (between 5th and 6th Ave), New York City

Call 212-876-0827 for further details and reservations



July 27

Midsommar Scandinavian Accordion Festival

Food, dancing, children games and activities.

2:00pm - 6:00pm, Little Rhody Vasa Park, 10 Boswell Trail, Foster, RI.

Call 401-647-5251 for further details

August 2

Accordions Now Festival

Accordion fun all day with Concerts, Workshops and Jam Sessions. Complimentary Instrument Evaluations, Vendor Displays, Accordions for Sale, Door Prizes and more !

Guest artists include Tony Lovello, Nils Lundin, Scandi-Dancers,

Chad Huval, John Leeman, Gary Morin,

Mary Tokarski and the "Accordions Now Festival Orchestra"

conducted by Donna Maria Regis.

9:00am - 6:00pm, Radisson Hotel Manchester, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH

Call 800-328-5227 for further details and festival registrations.

August 13-17

American Accordion Association Competition and Festival

Numerous solo and ensemble categories including Polka and Jazz.

Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced levels.

Holiday Inn-Rosslyn, 1900 N. Ft. Myer Drive, Arlington, VA (Washington, DC)

Visit the web site or call 203-335-2045 for further details

Contact MAAA with additional New England accordion news and events.

WWW.MAaccordion.com

Tech Tip

Ever wonder how to make a CD of your accordion songs that you can listen to while driving or to give as gifts to those who really love accordion music....

Well, I've started to make my first CD a few years ago when I was playing a Chinese made Cotati accordion. I started by hooking an external microphone to my PC and played using the MicroSoft sound recorder program. This created a CD of my recordings, but it was a poor quality with a lot of "air" in the music (you know, that hollow type of sound). So I searched for a way to get a direct type of hook-up from my accordion to my PC. At the time, I switched to the Roland FR-7 V-accordion. What I will describe will work with any accordion that can connect somehow to an amplifier, in other words, it has some kind of electronic connection using a RCB plug hook-up.

One day while walking around a shopping mall somewhere in Rhode Island (while my wife was shoe shopping) I came across a Radio Shack and started to browse. I found a cable that connects direct to either the accordion or amplifier to the USB port on my PC\laptop. It was the only one in the store, so I jumped on it. I have not seen another one like it since. I wanted to find more cables so I could share this with our group, so I started an exhaustive Google search and found the cable. This is the web page and the source. I bought the last two in stock for anyone interested. The cost per is \$44.00 since the total purchase for (2) was \$88.24 which included shipping and handling.

I use a Behringer 300 watt amp which has a built in mixer in that the Roland V-accordion plugs into the amp and the Orla XM-400 sound generator is driven by the Roland midi channels and plugs into another input in the amp. I then plug the cable into one of the amp's output jacks and connect to the USB port in my PC\laptop. This gives a great recording without any disturbance or frequency distortion. Truly great to listen to your own CD of accordion music to listen on trips or just to relax with a glass of wine.

I hope this works for anyone as great as it has for me.....

The distributor's website I found it on.....

<http://www.musiciansfriend.com/>



Easily and inexpensively connect your instrument directly to your computer.

This LightSnake 1/4" to USB instrument cable is basically a "sound card on a cable" that lets you record audio from your guitar or other instrument directly onto your computer. The LightSnake offers true plug-n-play operation: simply connect the 1/4" mono plug of the 10 ft LightSnake cable to your instrument and then connect the USB end to one of your computer's USB ports. No additional drivers are needed for Win 98 SE/Win ME/Win 2000/Win XP or Mac OS9/OS X.

An embedded 16-bit analog-to-digital converter with audio signal boost ensures extremely low audio loss and a 48kHz sampling rate provides you with high audio quality while recording. The HSDL (Host Side Data Loss) Noise Reduction function prevents any unwanted noise when converting the audio signal to digital format and saving to your computer. SoundTech's patented "Live when Lit" cable ends glow when connected properly and flash when sound is being transmitted.....



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

- [Donna LaRue](#)—781-646-3013 (Arlington, MA)
- [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

Did You Know...

Hyundai Makes Accordions?!

While most people think of Hyundai as a car company, they actually started as a construction company and over time turned into a conglomerate producing everything from semiconductors to ships (other examples of such companies include Mitsubishi, which makes everything from fruit juice to jet engines, and General Electric, who make everything from lightbulbs to jet engines to NBC/Universal).

I've seen all sorts of things bearing the Hyundai brand, but I had no idea they made accordions (or other musical instruments)! Better still, their C-level execs seem to "eat their own dog food": here's a video of Mr. Kim, president of Hyundai Music Corporation, playing *When the Saints Go Marching In* on a green Hyundai 12-bass piano accordion: www.youtube.com and search for: Mr. Kim and his Accordion

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

Remember, our meetings are scheduled on the 4th Sunday of each month.

Special dates around national holidays...

Reminder— NEXT MAAA MEETING: July 27th