

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 1, Issue 21

December 21, 2008

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

This is truly the most wonderful time of the year. All the hustle and bustle, the bringing together of families and a great opportunity for playing for family and friends. I wish all the happiest time and best wishes for a great healthy and prosperous new year.

Just the highlights of our November meeting....Dan handed out copies of the Boston Globe article written by the reporters at our October meeting. Dan also made note of a polka writing contest where the lyrics are just as important as the music thru polkatherapy.org. Holiday and seasonal tunes will be the theme at the December meeting.

Different members presented some items for an accordion gift wish list. Some items presented were: an Olympus micro recorder (WS-110 model); a Roland RA80 rhythm

generator; and a Recording Digid Design system.

Donna LaRue gave us a Tech Tip on music notation software. Examples discussed were US Finale, Gregorie, Noteworthy, Sibelius (Scorch is a reader for the Sibelius package).

Tony Marini back from his vacation trip through Italy spoke of his dismay to find that if you were in Rome and searching for an accordion store, there weren't any. The good news is that throughout Italy there are many world renowned accordion manufacturers, just none are in Rome.

A quick note to all, thank you for making the MA Accordion Association a great place for accordionists to meet and share.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

Bob

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

1:00—3:30 pm

The Dolphin Seafood Restaurant
12 Washington St.
Natick Ma.

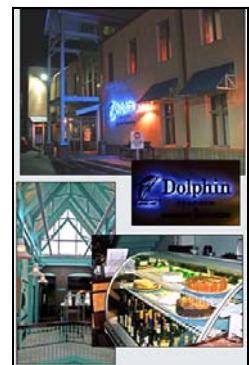
(508) 655-0669

Upcoming Meetings:

Dec 21

Jan 27

Feb 22



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 November

Patty Simmons—Titano

Bill LaPolla—Sonola

Al Buck—Roland

Jerry Tramontozzi—Petosa

Penny Yunuba—Hohner

Dan MacKowiak—Boss DR670

Events Throughout New England

December 27

"Ludwig and Hilda", aka Lou and Jan Borelli performing at Nick's German Restaurant and Bar.

9:30pm-12:30pm 124 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA
Call 508-752-6213 for further details



December 31

"Mixed Grill Trio" with Lou and Jan Borelli performing at Nick's German Restaurant and Bar.

6:00pm-9:00pm 124 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA
Call 508-752-6213 for further details

January 3

Magnolia Cajun Band post New Year's Party featuring Alan Bradbury on cajun accordion.

7:30pm The German Club, 78 Carter Ave, Pawtucket, RI
Call 401-726-9873 for further details and tickets

January 6

Lou Borelli Octet with Linda Dagnello on vocals, performing at Nick's German Restaurant and Bar.

7:30pm-9:30pm 124 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA
Call 508-752-6213 for further details



Contact MAAA with additional New England accordion news and events.

WWW.MAaccordion.com



I used this picture last year and I still think it's one of the coolest Christmas accordion pictures around. I just don't think that his helper is as into the festivities.

Another glimpse of the MAAA ensemble. All are welcomed to joined, regardless of skill level.



Member of the Month



This month's member of the month is Donna LaRue. Donna is very active with our group by leading the ensemble, arranging all the ensemble pieces being performed and as a board member. She is also an Accordionist/Vocalist with nearly 40 years' experience performs in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Yiddish (light classics, dances, sing-alongs or concert works) for private parties, receptions, banquets and programs. Also accepting a few students interested in theory, vocal work, and performance technique. Have played in and judged state and national competitions; done music history research and writing; played in and conducted accordion orchestras and ensembles. The following was shared by Donna but has been edited to accommodate the space below.

Question: When and how did you get started in playing the accordion?

My parents put an accordion in my lap when I was 4 years old and I've been playing ever since! My mother had played when she was a child but she stopped after a bit, and I've never heard her play. The plan was that I'd be able to play her grey mother-of-pearl Wurlitzer and they wouldn't need to buy a piano. There's a picture of me standing up and playing it, later--it was almost down to my knees. I started with a kind, but not very rigorous teacher; after about 5 years, I began studying with a more demanding teacher. My aunt and uncle were professional musicians and my parents both loved dance and music. We heard music—early jazz and swing (my father has a huge record collection, with original recordings from the 1920s-50s, old ceramic discs, and a wind-up Victrola that still plays)—musicals, and classical works around the house most of the time. I also had "cross-training," if you will, in voice and dance from about the same age, and I remember telling my mom once on the way to one lesson from another that they all went together, the rhythm from dance helped my music and learning to read notes helped singing in school choir. I like many types of music and I think a good musician should be able to play competently within a range of styles and repertoires. My picture of Heaven is that there will be a jazz cloud, and a Bach cloud, and a swing dance cloud, and a ballet cloud, and I plan to have a pogo stick and go hopping from cloud to cloud! Any piece should sound recognizable to experts in that genre. The fact that it's being played on the accordion should not make all the pieces one plays sound the same.)

Question: You are at a different level than most, what drove you to learn so much about music theory and arranging.

My aunt—a piano teacher and string bass player, and one of the earliest professional female musician in Ohio in the 40s/50s—decided when I was in 3rd grade that I needed to learn music theory, so I had lessons with her for two years. A one-year theory and music history course was offered in our high school; I also placed into an advanced junior/senior high school theory course at nearby Capital University, where my accordion teacher had studied and taught, so I had a chance to do more with it early on.

Two other bits of "I knew him when..." come from that time, too. I worked briefly with Mike Feinstein, the NYC jazz impresario, originally from Columbus, before he left for California to study with Ira Gershwin. (I was supposed to meet Mike a few years ago when he was on tour here, but a playing job came up, so I had to leave an apology at the stage room door!) And in the Capital theory class with us was a fellow who told us he was going to Switzerland to learn to play lute after high school, instead of going to college—we all thought that was a bit strange, but he was a nice enough guy, so no one made a big deal about it. His name was Paul O'Dette, and he's now the internationally known director of groups like "The King's Noyse" and the Swann Alley Players—I got to say "hi!" to him at the Boston Early Music Festival, where he was directing the orchestra for Orfeo, a few years ago.)

Question: Is there something that you would still like to achieve or do with all your music/accordion talents?

Still? :-} I've barely begun. There's so much good stuff to do, and so little time! I've worked on a music theory primer for accordionists that I would like to see into print—or do an online publication of it. I've developed ways of explaining things to my students within their lessons, since they don't always get a chance for the more formal study of what one is doing and how to think about it. I'd like to have it all in one pre-printed format sometime, instead of writing it out at their lessons (something my aunt used to do, while listening and correcting you) all the time!

Question: Also, anything you would like to tell about yourself would be a great feature.

I guess I would say I've been very lucky to have been raised in a family whose interests so well complemented my own and one that had its priorities balanced so that I learned how to decide what mattered and what to do about it. In many ways we somehow hung onto older values a bit longer than others, I guess. We drove the same old Chevrolet sedan for 12 years, and didn't own a color TV until long after they were available (and I still don't own a TV, just a video playback machine for teaching dance history!). But we all had any lessons we wanted (and maybe a few we didn't...) and so besides my own lessons, my sister played piano, percussion and harp, and danced; one brother played accordion and sax, and the other piano and ran track.

Next time you get a chance, say hello to Donna. She'll be more than happy to answer any questions you may have or to share any of her experiences with you. Thank you Donna.

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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

- [Janet Borelli](#) - 508-752-6213 (Paxton, MA)
- [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
- [Central Mass Accordion Club](#) (Rutland, MA) 1-508-885-2083

The MAAA November meeting highlights



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: December 21st