

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 1, Issue 24

February 22, 2009

## Massachusetts Accordion Association

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

### What a great time.....

The January meeting was a great start to the new calendar year. Despite the relocation at the Dolphin due to construction, we were all greatly entertained with the Emilian Badea and the Good Days ensemble. A great feature was the duet of Penny Yunuba (one of our newest members) and Emilian. Emilian also demonstrated an accordion with the bass reeds on the keyboard side of the accordion and the left hand side blank. This was to enable a truly easier bass accompaniment to an ensemble or band performance. More about Emilian and his ensemble on page 3.

An important note to all, the website has the full 2009 meeting calendar and the planned music themes and activities. Please bookmark the web-

site, [www.MAaccordion.com](http://www.MAaccordion.com) as a favorite and keep up to date of all activities.

Just a quick note, the February meeting music theme is "Songs about Seasons".

Some of the true highlights of the meeting included: Gabriele and her vocals accompanying her folk songs, Vito and his entertaining anecdotes with his performance, Al Buck and his "pocket" sheet music and finally our youngest audience member:

Dan MacKowiak's grandson: Jonathon.



Dan MacKowiak also had a CD give-away. The names of the three winners were drawn from a collection of all attendees at the meeting. I truly look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Be well and stay warm.....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:

Jan 25

Feb 22

March 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 January

Bob Guenther

Al Paradis

Al Buck

Gabriele Mezger

Vito Aiello

Dan MacKowiak

Dan Dempsey

John Thorp

Emilian Badea &

The Good Days Ensemble



# Donna LaRue and the MAAA Ensemble



Many thanks to Donna LaRue and the ensemble performers: Al Paradis, Dan Dempsey, Dan MacKowiak, Penny Yunuba, Gabriele Mezger, Vito Aiello, Joe Maciejowski, Lewis Howes Al Bacchiocchi and our much talented percussionists.

## Club Officers

### President -

**Joe Maciejowski**

[jmaci@charter.net](mailto:jmaci@charter.net)

### Vice-President -

**Dan MacKowiak**

[dmackowiak@gpinvestors.com](mailto:dmackowiak@gpinvestors.com)

### Treasurer/Secretary -

**Al Paradis**

[aparadis@comcast.net](mailto:aparadis@comcast.net)

### Board Member -

**Tony Marini**

[amarini@aamcpa.com](mailto:amarini@aamcpa.com)

### Board Member -

**Donna LaRue**

[ihsdlrue@gmail.com](mailto:ihsdlrue@gmail.com)

## Did you ever wonder about?

Charles Magnante was what you'd call an accordionist's accordionist. Three-time President of the American Accordion Association, Magnante helped raise the accordion from its image as a hokey folk instrument to recognition as a serious instrument capable of a wide range of styles. If it missed that mark in the popular eye and landed just this side of "Lady of Spain" hokeyness, the fault is certainly not Magnante's.

Although he got his start squeezing out (or, as the accordion's sex symbol, Dick Contino, puts it, humping out) "O Sole Mio" in Italian restaurants, Magnante steadily moved away from this stereotypical setting. For much of the 1940s, he was, with Tony Mottola on guitar and George Wright on organ, a fixture of CBS radio, providing the network with its own version of the early Three Suns. Like Mottola, he remained a member of the CBS musical staff for many years while working a steady series of studio sessions on the side. He also worked with musical publishers on instructional books and arrangements of popular and classical tunes for the accordion. More than a few Magnante arrangements are still considered standards for the instrument.

Magnante was certainly one of Enoch Light's favorite accordionists, for he was the only one Light featured as a performer on two of his three labels. Magnante recorded two albums on Grand Award and three on Command. Magnante stayed to conventional material on all of these, preferring to showcase his skills as an interpreter rather than his proficiency on the instrument. But, then, it's no small feat to tackle an airy little bossa nova number like "One Note Samba" on the accordion and not bludgeon it over into "Lady of Spain"-land. The gonifs at MCA, as conductor William Steinberg called them, did Magnante a disservice, then, in titling the double-LP reissue of his Command recordings *Accordion Bellicosity*. Magnante made art, not war, with his accordion.



Emilian Badea

Emilian Badea

# The Good Days and The Good Days Ensemble

We were graciously entertained by Emilian Badea and the Good Days ensemble. The ensemble consisted of several musicians new to the accordion and several seasoned performers. In quick summary, the members consisted of: Jie Gao—Jie learned her first instrument, the accordion, right before Christmas, 2007.

Alex Helman-Alex grew up in Odessa and played the accordion at a morning concert at his elementary school at age 7.

Penny Yunuba (*one of our newest members*) - Penny started playing the accordion in February 2008. Penny has come a long way in such a short time. She was selected to also perform in a duet with Emilian which proved to be a great addition to the repertoire of the ensemble's performance.



Jape Shattuck-Jake grew up in Connecticut and chose to take flute music lessons through the 8th grade. Forty years later, Jake has been playing the accordion for a little over two years and truly loves making music.

Sarah Gordon-Sarah started taking music lessons with Emilian in March of 2008. She works at Harvard College and has excitedly, just received a Beatles song book for Christmas to make the practice hours melt away.



Ray Williams-Ray started to play accordion last July and he's already having more fun than childhood piano lessons ever provided!

The Good Days ensemble entertained us with multi-part renditions of the Blue Danube and the Skaters Waltz. A truly enjoyable experience for all.

The open mic session music theme for our meeting on February 22nd is "Songs about Seasons".

So bring your accordion and believe that there is more than winter.

## Events Throughout New England

### February 6

Greenfield Contra Dance with music by "The Moving Violations" with Becky Ashenden on accordion. 8:00pm, Guiding Star Grange 401 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA Call 413-367-9380 for further details and entry donation

### February 7

"Ludwig and Hilda" aka Lou and Janet 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

### February 7

Mardi Gras with the Magnolia Cajun Band featuring Alan Bradbury on cajun accordion. Besides traditional Cajun music, a Mardi Gras Costume contest will also be held. The Le Foyer Club is RI's oldest French Club. This is a great chance to visit and dance with some of RI's native French community. 7:30pm Le Foyer Club, 151 Fountain St, Pawtucket, RI Call 401-965-0849 for further details and tickets

### February 7

"Carnevale" featuring accordion music by Mario Tacca with vocals by Mary Mancini. 1:00pm Magnanini Farm Winery and Restaurant, 172 Strawridge Road, Walkkill, NY Call 845-895-2767 for further details

### February 26

BeauSoleil with Jimmy Breaux on the button accordion performing at Regattabar. Since their inception in 1975, BeauSoleil has not only spearheaded a cultural Renaissance but has elevated Cajun music to one of domestic and international acclaim. Bob Dylan, upon listening to BeauSoleil during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival was asked "What do you think about BeauSoleil's music?" Dylan replied "That's my kind of music!" 7:30pm, Regattabar Jazz 1 Bennett Street, Cambridge, MA Call 617-395-7757 for tickets

### February 27

Greenfield Contra Dance with music by "The Greenfield Dance Band" with Mary Cay Brass on accordion. 8:00pm, Guiding Star Grange 401 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA Call 413-367-9380 for further details and entry donation

**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



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



**Mark your calendars for this year's...**



**Accordion Teachers Association of Mass (ATAM) Musical Festival**

*47th Annual Festival April 3-5, 2009 Marriott Hotel, Newton, MA*



The dates and place of the 2009 AAA Festival have been changed to:

July 15-19, 2009

University of Memphis / Holiday Inn Suites

*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: February 22nd**