

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 22, 2009

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com

New Digs For the MAAA

The MAAA's long-time home - the Dolphin Restaurant in Natick, Ma - is undergoing a major floor plan change. As a result, the first floor space the MAAA has been using will not be available after the renovation is completed. The Dolphin Restaurant has been very generous to our group for over two years, and we are grateful for its support and hospitality.

Natick has important geographic advantages because of its access to major roadways, as well as to public transportation. So, the search for a new MAAA meeting site has focused on opportunities in that locale. We are pleased by the reception the search team has received from the community. It is heartening to hear, "Oh - you're the accordion folks that play at the Dolphin." A couple of direct contacts even admitted to being tempted to revive their own accordion playing by the MAAA's presence in the community.

The search for a new site has gravitated towards other not-for-profit organizations that rent meeting and performance space at a price affordable to the MAAA. Three locations have emerged as potential MAAA sites: two are located adjacent to the

Dolphin Restaurant; the third is located 1.5 miles down the road.

The Morse Institute Library (the Natick public library) houses a very attractive meeting room; however, due to the variability of library hours during the course of the year, it cannot serve as the regular meeting site. Nevertheless, it is a prime spot for a special event, so the MAAA has reserved the Library for the guest artist performance scheduled for March 22.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1274 (VFW) has a spacious function room in its facility. It would be available as a regular meeting site, and the MAAA has reserved the VFW space for the April 26 meeting.

The First Congregational Church (FCC) also contains a spacious function room which would be available as a regular meeting site. The MAAA has reserved the FCC space for its May 31 meeting.

This three-month schedule of meetings will allow the MAAA to test each of the locations, and will result in our choosing the one that best suits our needs.

Dan MacKowiak

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

1:00—3:30 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

March 22

Morse Institute Library

April 26

Natick VFW

May 31

1st Congregational Church

The Morse Institute Library

14 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760

Natick VFW Post 1724

113 W Central St Natick, MA 01760

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 February

Bob Guenther

John Thorp

Penny Yunuba

Patty Simmons

Jerry Tramontozzi

Dan Dempsey

Vito Aiello

Lewis Howes



MAAA Chromatic Accordion Concert - March 22

MAAA commences its 2009 Guest Artist series on March 22 featuring accordion artist Jon-Richard Knoff. Jon-Richard holds a BA from the University of Missouri Conservatory of Music having studied accordion under the distinguished guidance of Professor Joan Cochran Sommers. He will be performing using a Russian built "Jupiter" Bayan chromatic free bass accordion. Also performing various duets with him will be his daughter, Cassandra, who is currently taking advanced chromatic accordion schooling from a Canadian based teacher. A chromatic workshop/discussion to follow the performance.

Note, this MAAA meeting/concert is free and open to the general public. It is being held at the Morse Institute Library, lower level (elevator accessible) and starts at 1:30pm.

~~If your not here, we missed you...~~



Club Officers

President -

Joe Maciejowski

jmaci@charter.net

Vice-President -

Dan MacKowiak

Dmackowiak@gpinvestors.com

Treasurer/Secretary -

Al Paradis

aparadis@comcast.net

Board Member -

Tony Marini

amarini@aamcpa.com

Board Member -

Donna LaRue

ihSDLrue@gmail.com

American Accordionists Association Event

The American Accordionists' Association presents the 7th Annual Afternoon of Music, Food, and Fun at the Magnanini Farm Winery in Wallkill, NY on Sunday, May 3, 2009 to benefit the Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund for the advancement of promising young accordionists.

Traditional "Valtaro" music will be featured at the Carrozza Scholarship Dinner along with guest artists: Mario Tacca, Frank Toscano, Dominic Karcic, Frank Carrozza, Ray Oreggia, Beverly Roberts Curnow, Lenny Feldmann, Dr. Lou Persic, The Connecticut Accordion Orchestra, Mary Mancini (international vocal artist) and others to be announced.

The event begins at 12 Noon with wine tasting, 1:PM Dinner followed by entertainment. It will be a fun and entertaining afternoon with great food, dancing, and accordion friends! Reserve early! In the past, the event has sold out!

For more information, visit the AAA web site: www.ameraccord.com or email: drjiccone@aol.com. Phone: (914) 238 - 0041

Patty Simmons

Member Profile of the Month

Patty Simmons



Patty was one of the first members I met a couple of years ago. A wonderful person, Patty graciously agreed to share with us a quick glimpse into her life.

I am a 59 year old retired Psychiatrist, married to "Jeff", and mother of 25 year-old "Will". I started playing the accordion when I was 6 years old, stopped when I was 13, then started up again when I was 49. My Mom had wanted me to learn the piano, but I was most interested in trumpet or drums. We compromised, and the accordion was my choice! I took lessons for 7 years from a wonderful Italian woman, "Miss Regalbuto", in New London, CT.

By the time I was 13, I was playing complex music, such as Galla-Rini's arrangement of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue". And then I got interested in boys, and being "cool". Sadly, the accordion was put to rest for awhile. I continued to love music of all sorts. I learned to play tenor and 5-string banjo during my teenaged years, when folk music and "hootenanny's" were in vogue. (My mother had played tenor banjo in a band back in the 1930's).

While my accordion waited patiently in the basement from 1963-1999, I proceeded to go to medical school and become a Psychiatrist, get married, and raise our son. As the 20th century drew to a close, I faced my 50th birthday and that "mid-life crisis" phase. The wish to remain vigorous and creative led me back to my accordion. My husband bought me a nice used Palmer Hughes "Titano", since my childhood accordion had grown dry and creaky. I found Paul Monte, a gifted teacher who re-awakened my accordion skills and introduced me to a range of core music for our instrument. I played only for a year then, frustrated by not having enough time to practice. Then about a year and a half ago, I started up again in earnest. Once again, Paul Monte guided my hands to start dancing across keyboards and buttons.

I found the Massachusetts Accordion Club, a vital discovery!! Intrigued by Evan Harlan's creative approach to bass jazz harmonies when he visited the Club last fall, I am now taking lessons from him. Interested in re-invigorating my stringed instrument skills, I also took up the mandolin about 2 years ago. I especially enjoy Celtic music on this instrument.

My favorite music for the accordion comes from the 1920's-40's, the jazz and popular standards sung by Frank Sinatra, Sara Vaughan, and contemporaries. My Mom and Dad loved this music, and it was constantly being played and sung in my house as I grew up. I have especially enjoyed learning arrangements from Frank Marocco, but I am now creating my own harmonies, with focus on phrasing using bellows dynamics, and complex left handed jazz chords. And I have recently taken a new direction: the wonderful Parisian waltzes. such evocative and playful music!

The accordion is my major creative focus and my ticket to staying young at heart as I enter my 60's. The camaraderie and inspiration I have found at our Accordion Club has been truly a gift!!!

Cheers,
Patty

Events Throughout New England

March 13

Greenfield Contra Dance

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

March 14

Central Massachusetts Accordion Club Ensemble

Performing at the Saima Park St. Urho's Day Celebration
6:00pm - 10:30pm, 67 Scott Road, Fitchburg, MA
Call 508-885-2083 for further details.
Reservations suggested.

March 27

Greenfield Contra Dance

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

March 28

"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

April 3

Chango Spasiuk debut at Somerville Theatre

An exceptionally expressive performer, Spasiuk plays like a man possessed, visibly transported amidst the affecting swirl of his enchanted squeezebox. His revitalization of chamame, the powerful folk tradition of the Argentine northeast popular for its hard-swinging dance passages and gently exquisite soulful sections, can be compared to Astor Piazzolla's influence on the tango.

Spasiuk will be joined by an extraordinary ensemble on violin, guitar, double bass and percussion.
8:00pm, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, MA
Call 617-876-4275 for further details and tickets

April 3-5

New England Music Festival and ATAM Accordion Competition

Battle of the Bands, ATAM Entertainment Competition, Solos, Duos, Ensembles, Bands, Non Competitive Categories. Cash Awards in over \$3,000 in prizes, Awards Banquet. Commences Friday evening and through the weekend. Marriott Hotel, 2345 Commonwealth Ave, Auburndale, MA.
Call 603-882-8940 for further details

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

- [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

American Accordionists' Association (AAA)

Member of the Confédération Internationale des Accordionistes - CIA (IMC-UNESCO)



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: March 22nd