

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 2, Issue 10

December 20, 2009

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com

from the Prez

Many of us have been seeing a lot more of each other these days! As you know, the MAAA has undertaken to present holiday concerts at two assisted living facilities during December. In preparation, we have gotten together for two rehearsals, during which we developed the concert program and practiced the songs to be played. A special thank-you goes out to Tony Marini who arranged for a perfect rehearsal site in Natick. Our first performance will be at The Willows in Westborough, MA on the evening of December 10. The second performance will be at Whitney Place in Natick, MA on the afternoon of December 19. I am looking forward to reporting on the results of this community outreach project in next month's newsletter.

Planning for 2010 is still at an early stage, but we are developing a couple ideas that, we believe, will spark your interest. Once again,

remember your suggestions and feedback are valuable, so please relay your thoughts to any Board member.

Our meeting on December 20 will include familiar elements, including a play-along session and an open mic session. The play-along session will reprise some of the music from previous sessions. And we intend to set aside enough time to enjoy some refreshments and exchange holiday greetings among us.

I hope to see all of you this month. If for some chance our paths do not cross, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our wishes to you and your families for an absolutely wonderful holiday season. Try to find an opportunity to play your accordion. It will make you and your listeners smile.

Dan

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

1:30—3:30 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Ciociaro Social Club
144 Bridge St
Newton

December 20

Holiday Song Fest

Look for any changes to our meeting place

Planning for 2010 meetings and events is in process.

We will keep you posted....

Thank you to the performers at our November

Jan, Ollie Mutch & Penny Yunuba



Dan Dempsey

Lewis Howes



Penny Yunuba & Dan MacKowiak

Jerry Tramantozzi



Patty Simmons



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

Our November meeting at the Ciociaro Social Club



Our November meeting provided many new insights into our members creativity. We started with Dan providing additional holiday songs for the play-a-long and planning our outreach practice and performance sessions. Jan accompanied our play-a-long session with her wonderful flute performance. This led Dan to suggest that if any of our members would like to invite any other type of instrument to accompany our accordion play-a-longs, it would add a nice touch. Our open mic session began with Jan, Ollie and Penny performing with a trio of the accordion, the flute and vocal, Dan told us about the little people who live inside his accordion and how happy they are hearing Italian music with emotion. Dan extended his thanks to Donna LaRue for the song Aname E Core and to Jerry for inviting him to play in Everett several years ago. Lewis Howes played a song from his last accordion lesson back in 1961. Jerry Tramantozzi, just back from the Florida smash gave us Jingle Bells with the bellow shake and Patty Simmons introduced us to her new Acctone accordion with the Limex system. Dan gave us a Tech Tip on the accordionist as an accompanist with a hand-out by Henry Doktorski.

Club Officers

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"Accordion."

The very word turns up the corners of their mouths
and all those pent-up jokes pour out.

(Where do they come from?

What gas bubbles thrust them up and out?)

We listen, my accordion and I,
distancing ourselves:

"these comments are not these people really!"

We wait till silence follows.

And tales of childhood joys flow:

parents' homeland tunes sing again,

cleaning ladies, from their youths, swish mops in tune

to pulsating polkas,

maybe even, buried deeper, some tender childhood musical tinkerings
burp to the surface.

The price of releasing strangers into these sweet memories

is borne by that most unassuming "accordion,"

its pride a "free-will offering",

a contribution to purchase these moments of joy.

A poem from Penny Yunuba



Joe was gracious enough to take some time and lend us a little insight into how he became such a great performer.

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

I started accordion lessons at 8 years old. I remember a local music studio visiting our home to demo a small 12 bass accordion. Soon after that, my parents took me for weekly accordion lessons every Saturday morning as well as ensemble sessions Wednesday nights. While my parents encouraged me to play, and being fond of the instrument, I put a fair amount of extra weekly practice in without being told to do so. By the age of 12, I was a regularly playing accordion at Polish picnics and festivals, composing, and had conducted my grammar school Holiday Choir. In my late teens, I had formed a Trio. Part of my undergraduate and graduate education were expensed in part from that Trio's gigs. The Trio included trumpet/flute/sax, a drummer, and myself on accordion/keyboards/guitar. We were the featured "house band" at various restaurants throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

What kind or type of music do you like playing the most?

Being an electrical engineer, I often view my music closely complementing my neuron-acoustic and ethnic research. I do not focus on any one particular type of music, but rather on the ways sound can stimulate and influence particular states of mind. I often call on ethnic rhythms to establish a sonic foundation image either recognizable or completely new to the listener. I use various musical and instrumental specific elements such as pitch, tempo, contour, timbre, loudness, and harmony to acoustically convey, shape, and position particular music moods with that image. I use elements of classical music theory to help convey structure, form, reappearance of an idea, theme, or subject. For pure sensory perception, I use computer generation and stochastic mathematical principals such as probability-group-set theory and Boolean algebra, to produce scores. Those compositions tend to have more abstract image and tonal evolving qualities, often labeled soundscape music. So, the type of music I like to play the most, is the music I compose which conveys my music interpretations and experiences for audiences.

How did you get over the fear of performing before an audience?

My life's experiences have always seemed to put me in front of audiences. As with anything done repeatedly, things will tend to become natural when repeated over time. Thus being in front of audiences represented no particular fear. With regard to performing music in general, I find that while I perform, I am focused on the artistic elements that I am trying to convey through a particular music selection. Whether it is one of my own compositions, my original variation of a song, or performing another composer's piece, I put myself totally into the elements of the song to visualize its characteristics and image the composer was trying to musically convey. That keeps one pretty busy, thus performance fear does not set in. Joe

Events Throughout New England

Dec 11

Greenfield Contra Dance with music by Stuart Kenney with **Mary Cay Brass on accordion.**

8:00pm, Guiding Star Grange, 401 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA

Call 413-772-0501 for further details and entry donation

Dec 11

Solas - A Christmas Celtic Sojourn
Mick McAuley, from Kilkenny, **featured on accordion and concertina.**

8:00pm, The Hanover Theatre, 2 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA

Call 877-571-7469 for further details and tickets.

Dec 13

"Christmas Festival" featuring **accordion music by Mario Tacca** with vocals by Mary Mancini.

1:00pm, Magnanini Farm Winery and Restaurant, 172 Strawridge Road, Walkill, NY

Call 845-895-2767 for further details

Dec 16

Black Sheep Jazz Band - Holiday Performance
The band is a family oriented Dixieland Band playing music reminiscent of New Orleans and songs for children. Featured accordionist - **Janet Borelli**. Free concert based on Museum admission.

2:00pm, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA.

Call 508-799-4406 for further details

Dec 31

"NYE Celebration 2010" featuring **accordion music by Mario Tacca** with vocals by Mary Mancini.

1:00pm, Magnanini Farm Winery and Restaurant, 172 Strawridge Road, Walkill, NY

Call 845-895-2767 for further details

Jan 2

Magnolia Cajun Band - New Years Dance
Since 1989, Magnolia has been New England's hometown Cajun band.

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

Jan 8

Greenfield Contra Dance with music by Stuart Kenney with **Mary Cay Brass on accordion.**

8:00pm, Guiding Star Grange, 401 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA

Call 413-772-0501 for further details and entry donation

Jan 22

Greenfield Contra Dance with music by Stuart Kenney with **Mary Cay Brass on accordion.**

8:00pm, Guiding Star Grange, 401 Chapman Street, Greenfield, MA

Where knowledge and fun meet

WWW.MAaccordion.com

4th Sunday of every month
Check the newsletter or
website for locations

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

Grammy Nominees Announced

The Best Polka Album award may be gone, but there are still plenty of accordions among the nominees announced yesterday for the 52nd annual Grammy Awards. The Best Cajun/Zydeco Album category is full of them:

Alligator Purse by Beausoleil Avec Michael Doucet

Lay Your Burden Down by Buckwheat Zydeco

Stripped Down by The Magnolia Sisters

Live At 2009 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival by Pine Leaf Boys

L'Ésprit Créole by Cedric Watson et Bijou Créole

The accordion is apparently mandatory in the Best Norteño Album category, too:

Dejame Soñar by Cumbre Norteña

El Niño De Oro by El Compa Chuy

Pese A Quien Le Pese by Los Rieleros Del Norte

Tu Noche Con...Los Tigres Del Norte by Los Tigres Del Norte

Soy Todo Tuyo by Los Tucanes De Tijuana

There are also a handful of accordionists scattered through other categories. Los Texmaniacs and Sunny Saucedo are both vying for Best Tejano Album, Weird Al Yankovic is up for Best Comedy Album, and David Hidalgo's accordion was a key ingredient in Bob Dylan's Together Through Life, nominated for Best Americana Album. And finally, many thought that the demise of the polka award would spell the end of 18-time winner Jimmy Sturr's Grammy run. Not so fast — Jimmy and his orchestra garnered yet another Grammy nomination; this time, for Best Traditional Folk Album. The competition will be stiffer but, after all these years, I know better than to bet against Jimmy Sturr. *From Let's Polka-an Accordion Blog*

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

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

Reminder— NEXT MAAA MEETING: December 20th