

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 3, Issue 2

April 25, 2010

## Massachusetts Accordion Association

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

# What a Save !!!!

Many thanks to Dan for his never say die attitude and turning the lemons into lemonade.....what happened in case you missed it...we were showing up for the March meeting at



the Ciociaro Social Club site and the doors had not yet been opened.



As more of us gathered outside, we were a site....a troop of accordion players waiting on the steps of the old library. Dan persisted and found the Hibernian Hall a little ways done the road. We ended up having a great meeting.

It was really nice seeing new guests and members. Always great to have friends visit with us.

Our play-a-long included the songs Dan had sent out by e-mail of world wide flavor:

C'est Ci Bon; Summer in Eumbria; Deliah; A Media Luz; Mazurki.

Our play-a-long session is open to

everyone.....all you need is to be there with an accordion, although we are an accordion club, we welcome other musicians to join us.

The Hibernian Hall was a little bigger than most places we meet so



it was more difficult to get the play-a-long group in a single photo. Our play-a-long group consisted of James Gerke, Dan MacKowiak, Carmen D'Angelo, Patty Simmons, Dan Dempsey, Patrick DeSantis, Jan Miller and Melody Chen (a current Boston grad student from out-of-state.).



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

1:30—4:00 pm

Upcoming Meetings:

**Ciociaro Social Club**

144 Bridge St  
Newton

Mark your calendars for another great year!!!!

**April 25**

**May 15**

@NH accordion club

**May 23**

Lenny Feldman

**June 27**

**July 25**

**August 22**

**September 26**

**October 24**

**November 21**

**December 19**

**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 March meeting!



Jan Miller

Tony D'Eramo



Carmen D'Angelo



Dan MacKowiak & Patty Simmons



Jan Miller & Oliver



Patrick DeSantis



James Gerke



Ed W.-our open "mic"

MC



Dan MacKowiak

## Club Officers

### President -

**Dan MacKowiak**

dmackowiak@verizon.net

### Vice-President -

**Bob Guenther**

bobguenther@comcast.net

### Treasurer/Secretary -

**Patty Simmons**

Pattysim@comcast.net

### Board Member -

**Tony Marini**

amarini@aamcpa.com

**Al Paradis**

aparadis@comcast.net

**Lewis Howes**

howesfam@comcast.net

**Ed Wawrzynowicz**

edchris@comcast.net

## WORLD ACCORDION DAY

a Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) Event



The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) is pleased to welcome you to World Accordion Day.

Join us during the Month of May, when the CIA will celebrate May 6th, the day the accordion was patented in 1829. Following the successful launching of World Accordion Day in 2009, the CIA will coordinate an annual world wide celebration, in a unified global crusade to promote the diversity of the accordion and the outstanding artists that play it.

We invite you to join our international tribute to the

accordion by holding an accordion event in honor of World Accordion Day on or close to May 6th.

World Accordion Day is a unique opportunity to promote public awareness of the accordion, an instrument without boundaries, one that spans all cultures and musical genres. From a solo performance to a Concerto with a 100 piece Symphony Orchestra, from a Duet or Trio to a 40 piece Accordion Orchestra, from the majestic sounds of the hand-made acoustic reeds to the latest in Digital Technology, from newly commissioned original works to dazzling transcriptions of the classics, from Classical to Jazz, from Ethnic to Pop, from the pit orchestra in a Broadway Show to the background music in a TV Commercial, from Tchaikovsky to Gubaidulina, from the tiny diatonic instruments to the multi octave concert models, from the shelves of a Museum to center stage at Carnegie Hall, from private Music Studios to the World's most esteemed Conservatories, there is no limit to where one might find the accordion, or have the opportunity to enjoy the variety of ways in which it is utilized. *Continued page 3.....*



# A note from the Prez.....



I am writing this article shortly after having heard Grayson Masefield play at the Newton Marriott. What a fabulous performance by an outstanding young musician! It was nice to see many of you at the concert. Were you not amazed by how he accomplished the second half of his performance using only the black keys on the treble side of his Hohner?

World Accordion Day is May 6 – when accordion enthusiasts worldwide will commemorate the origin of their favorite musical instrument. Actually, commemorative events will occur through the month of May. The MAAA will be joining the festivities when it gets together with the New Hampshire Accordion Association on Saturday, May 15, for an afternoon of music and fun. This is a good opportunity to visit with members of our “cousin” organization to the North, as well as to visit the Accordion Connection where the meeting will take place. The MAAA will present a short program – taken from the repertoire of play-along songs we have been developing over the past few months. And, of course, there will be other opportunities to play our accordions, either individually or in a group.

We will discuss the details of the New Hampshire field trip – including car-pooling possibilities – at our meeting on April 25. We will also spend a few minutes planning our spring outreach concerts which are most likely to occur in June.

Music for the April 25 play-along session was recently distributed by e-mail: three tunes with Italian heritage; two tunes in the Klezmer style; and a tango piece (that also may have Italian roots). These songs add a couple important ethnic elements to our repertoire. I’m looking forward to playing them with you.



As previously mentioned, the regular MAAA meeting on May 23 will feature accordionist Lenny Feldmann who will present a combined concert and workshop. You can look forward to an enjoyable and informative session at the hands of one of the finer accordion players on the east coast. We will soon circulate a publicity piece about Lenny’s appearance. Feel free to send it along to your friends.

And speaking of friends, you know we always like to see newcomers at our regular meetings...so spread the word.

Our first World Accordion Day held on 6th May 2009, marked the 180th birthday of the accordion. Please join us for this annual celebration, as accordionists from around the world pay homage to our wonderful instrument. This global event will serve as an exciting means of bringing us together in our efforts to promote and elevate the awareness and status of the accordion!

Please register your World Accordion Day event here so that we can unite in our campaign to promote accordion excellence.

Contact: Harley Jones - CIA Public Relations Officer e-mail: [harleyaccordion@yahoo.com](mailto:harleyaccordion@yahoo.com)

## Cynthia Cross

- *what happens when you don't tell someone they can't do something?*



Sometimes it isn't about performances in Carnegie Hall. Sometimes it isn't about winning the Coupe Mondiale or producing the CD that will change the accordion world forever. Sometimes it isn't about arguing over the greatest accordionist of all time or assembling an accordion band with participants from all over the world.

Sometimes it is much more basic than all that. Sometimes it is about a very unique talent and the musical instrument that has the versatility to express that talent. Sometimes it is about the joy of playing your music for a local charity event for those who would choose to listen. And for some very special people, sometimes it is about doing something because no one ever convinced you that you couldn't.

Cynthia Cross has been blind since birth, but it has been said that she brings a unique vision to those lucky enough to know her. She loves music, she loves to sing, and she loves the accordion. And though her blindness and a lack of understanding by certain members of society may suggest 'rules', her passion for music combined with a unique talent simply does not allow limitations and handicaps so often ingrained by teachers or the expectations of the accordion community.

Although she owns several accordions, Cynthia chose to play her 12-bass for this performance. She doesn't understand why people say playing her 12-bass limits her. In fact, limitations sometimes result in a greater creative palate. A good example would be Copland's piano pieces using only 5 notes. So the audience at the Lion's Club benefit was treated to a variety of songs, each one a fresh creation, born from a true talent unlimited by rules. For me, the most fun were the Elvis songs - some of her favorites.

Shane, Cynthia's biggest fan, was provided through the Lions Club's Leader Dog program. She is a student of Dale Wise and is currently being coached by William Cosby.

### American Accordionists' Association (AAA)

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



American Accordionists' Association announces that the 2010 AAA Festival will be held at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel in Harrisburg, PA from July 14-18 2010. Performances will take place at Hershey Park.

Press and Squeeze Party on Wednesday evening, a massed band performance at Hershey Park on Thursday followed by a cabaret night on Thursday evening. The Luncheon Concert is scheduled for Friday and the breakfast/meeting on Sunday morning. Performers and workshops leaders will be announced soon.

On Friday morning a unique program will take place: A children's program with an accordion "petting zoo" and a presentation of the book, "An Accordion! What Is That?" by Karen Malan-Uribe, Joan Grauman and Mary Tokarski. This is the first time that an accordion "petting zoo" will be part of the festival activities. Mary will read the book and perform. Joan will distribute crayons and colored pictures of Buzz Treble, the bee guide in the book. Karen will talk about the creation of the book. Following will be the "petting zoo" in which the children will be able to hold and play a 12 bass accordion!





**May 29, 2010:  
Ludwig and Auntie Hilda**

play Nick's German Restaurant and Bar, 124 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA  
9:30 PM - 12:30 AM. Lets yodel, do a German dance or two and sing "Sixteen  
Days of Oktoberfest" and "Ein Prosit". The German food at Nick's is the best!

**June 12, 2010:  
Dinner Dance at Sovitajaa Park**  
Finn Park, Finn Park Road, Rutland, MA  
Dinner: 6PM

Dancing: 7PM to 11PM

Music by: Mixed Grille

Mix of Scandinavian and American Dancing Music  
For information and tickets, call Bob at 508-842-8468



## How to Take Care of Your Accordion

From the Arizona Accordion club newsletter

Do not leave your accordion in heat or direct sunlight. Also, don't leave your accordion inside your car. This is especially important anywhere with hot weather. Likewise, don't leave it in cold weather. Ideally, your accordion should be in room temperature.

Do not leave your accordion in damp or humid places. Don't play your accordion in the rain or near the ocean, or leave it near a water fountain or swimming pool.

Try to avoid dusty or smoky environments, as this can clog up the reeds.

If you are coming inside from the cold, give your accordion some time to warm up to room temperature before playing. Whenever you come in from extreme temperatures, let it stand for one hour or more as needed. A trick to acclimate it to room temperature faster once you're inside is to hold the air button and pump it. This moves air inside without playing the reeds.

Gently place your accordion in its case, keyboard first and facing up, making sure it does not fall very far. Do not grab by the keys or crush any of the bass buttons.

Keep your accordion upright at all times, except in rare situations, on the four "feet" on the bottom.

Do not pick up the accordion by its straps. Always pick it up by the body with both hands.

Do not wear any bulky jewelry such as chains, tie clasps, brooches, etc. Keep a back pad on the accordion to protect it from belts, zippers, and buttons.

Keep your accordion in its case whenever it is not in use. Keep the case closed around pets so they don't soil the inside.

When driving or riding in a car, keep your accordion on a seat rather than putting it in the trunk or on the floor. Remember not to leave it in your car, or else it will be damaged by weather.

While playing, do not force the bellows too hard. It takes a month or so for a new accordion to condition itself. Continuously playing it forcefully and loudly will shorten its lifespan.

Carry the case with the lid side next to you in case it accidentally opens.

If you ever travel by airplane with an accordion, put adequate cushioning inside your case, as airplane packages get thrown around.



**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)
- [Roberto Cassan](#)—617-413-8199 (Roslyndale, 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

[Hans Palm's Accordion Page: My compositions for the ...](#)

<http://www.accordionpage.com/mytunes.html>

**Note!** All my compositions listed here are freely distributable. If you like them, spread them among your friends. Accordion music shall be played!

If you ever make a professional recording including one of my tunes, please send a copy to me .

The sound files are recordings of me playing the tunes. I´m rather lazy when I´m recording, add and combine the different phrases to your own preference, the recordings are rather short.

If you don't recognise the chord H in the notation for some of my tunes - it's just B-natural. We use H instead of B here in Scandinavia.

*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: April 25th**