

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 3, Issue 2

May 23, 2010

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com

A note from the Prez

The April meeting was an excellent one - high attendance, new faces and players, creativity in performances, and delightful homemade treats at the refreshment table.

Congratulations to everyone!

Over the past couple weeks, we have been preparing for our visit to the New Hampshire Accordion Assoc. on May 15 and for the MAAA guest artist meeting on May 23. The work has involved the rehearsal of a selection of songs from our play-along repertoire, so we can present a tight program of world music on each of these occasions. Participation in this project has been good and I am confident the results will be fruitful. Incidentally, Lewis Howes arranged for comfortable rehearsal space in Natick, for which we are grateful.

We are working on arranging two outreach performances in June. The program for these events will build on the short program to be used at the

May events; and it will also include a few solo and duet performances to round-out an hour-long performance. The details on this outreach project should be completed by the time of our meeting on May 23.



Speaking of May 23, Lenny Feldman will be appearing as our guest artist at that meeting. His concert will undoubtedly be dazzling - as he plays arrangements by several great accordionists, as well as some of his own arrangements. And as is customary for our guest artists, Lenny will also spend some time in the workshop mode, during which he will present a hands-on discussion of ways to enhance a basic piece of music to become a show piece. Be prepared to be entertained and informed.

Tell a friend about the MAAA; bring a friend to the MAAA. Keep the energy flowing.

Dan

Study of the Accordion, the beginners' method adults have been anticipating for the last 40 years! Palmer Hughes was great in its day and is still great for kids. But adults have requested something that moves faster and doesn't have all the juvenile illustrations. Ralph Stricker, who has written another JAN-Press top seller jazz instruction method, now brings you a beginners' method that will get you learning and playing fast!



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!!!!

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 April meeting!



Bob Cenedella



**Dan Dempsey
Tony Porretta**



Penny Yunuba



**Bob Penza,
Tony Porretta,
Dan Dempsey &
Mike Teddeo**

The Ten Accordion Commandments

(source unknown)

Compliments of Steve's Accordion Shop (330) 332-1111

Club Officers

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1. Thou shalt not keep me in the trunk of the car when we go riding so that my wax will melt, or my bass buttons fall in.
2. Thou shalt not stretch my bellows as far as they will go to see them rip apart.
3. Thou shalt not be careless when placing me in or out of my case, for my keys will pop up and catch on the straps as you pull them over.
4. Thou shalt not push my bass buttons in quite hard, or bump them on a door, for my wire fastenings will then bend and I will lose my buttons.
5. Thou shalt not set me on the seat of the car so that I roll off onto the floor when you stop.
6. Thou shalt not take me apart to find out what makes me click!
7. Thou shalt not forget and leave me near a heater so that I will warp and thus be the only accordion with rounded sides.
8. Thou shalt not forget to bring me in for my yearly check-up at the repairman or I may wheeze and cough.
9. Thou shalt not take me out of the case and begin to play me while I am still cold and not full of air.
10. Thou shalt not misuse me and therefore soon throw me away with mean words because I didn't behave.



LENNY FELDMANN TO APPEAR ON MAY 23



Accordionist, Lenny Feldmann, will be the guest artist at the MAAA meeting on Sunday, May 23, 2010.

Feldmann's program will combine a solo performance and a workshop session. The workshop will address the development of an accordion arrangement - the decorative enhancements that turn a basic piece of music into a show piece. Attendees will be provided a musical score on which they can make notations of the ideas presented.

The concert will include original compositions and arrangements by accordion greats such as Pietro Deiro, Mario Tacca, Paolo Bagnasco, Frank Marocco, Leo Fancelli, Edmund Cifani, Anthony Galla-Rini, and Charles Nunzio. In addition, Feldmann will perform his Darkside of the Moon Suite for Acoustic Stradella Accordion based on the melodies of the 1973 progressive rock group Pink Floyd.

Lenny Feldmann is a former virtuoso competition state champion, both in Illinois and New Jersey. After earning a degree in music education from Vander-Cook College in Chicago, he taught and played accordion professionally in the New York area for many years. He later pursued a performing career in Florida, during which period he toured with the world-famous Mantovani Orchestra. Feldmann eventually returned to the New York area, from which he has continued to be very active in the United States accordion scene - as a performer, workshop presenter, and competition adjudicator. He is also the assistant conductor and plays bass accordion for the Accordion Pops Orchestra based in New Jersey.

Fitting melody to chords??

A bit from the classical composer's cookbook

(all quantities subject to adjustment by the cook):

Compliments of Steve's Accordion Shop (330) 332-1111

1. Conjunct motion. A nice melody usually moves mostly by step (adjacent or nearly adjacent keys on the piano, for instance), and more rarely by leap.

2. Avoid stuttering. There often is a more elegant solution than repeating the same note or wiggling back and forth among the same two or three notes.

3. Phrase shape. Many folks prefer phrases that have a definite beginning, climax, and end. The climax is usually the highest note of the phrase, but sometimes the lowest note. Climaxes are usually more convincing if, within a phrase, they're unique: the melody reaches the extreme only once. Phrases are often grouped together into larger units with their own beginning, climax, and end, and again, the climax is a unique one of the phrases.

4. If you've already got a series of chords, an easy way to sketch the backbone of a melody would be to choose notes from the chords.

If you're making classical counterpoint, your series of chords will be a bit more specific in voicing, and you'll want to make sure your melody lines don't introduce things that classical counterpoint shuns, like parallel fifths, ugly doubling, etc..

5. The backbone can generally be decorated in the following 3 ways:

a) Arpeggiation. A chord tone can be replaced with a series of notes within the chord.

b) Ornaments. A melodic tone can be replaced with a more-or-less conjunct wiggle containing and emphasizing the melodic tone, e.g. beginning and ending on it.

c) Passing motion. Two melodic tones separated by a leap can be replaced by a scale beginning on the first note and ending on the second.

These three expansion rules can be applied recursively to the notes of an already ornamented melody. Classical style would require, once more, that the added notes never introduce anything that classical counterpoint shuns.

Classical musicians further subdivide the world of ornaments into a number of different categories. Some theoreticians (notably Koch and Schenker) feel that a listener can and should be able to sense the hierarchy of ornaments recursively applied, and that creative use of these structures can in itself be expressive.

Non-classical musicians usually use some but not all of these ideas. For instance, what classical musicians call "stuttering", chanting repeatedly on one note, is an important core of reggae, an opportunity to highlight vocal rhythm.



**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



**July 23 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!



**THE AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION
MASTER CLASS & CONCERT SERIES-2010**

DON'T LIKE OPERA!?



**OH! SOLO
CANNOLI!**

JULY 30, 31 and AUGUST 1, 2010

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*Three consecutive days of seminars, *workshops, lectures, discussions and performances
with accordionist-composer-author-philosopher*

DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL
as moderator/curator

*Each afternoon workshop will feature up to five performers who wish to receive advice,
criticism and tools for improvement from the presenters, the audience and Dr. Schimmel.
Reserve a place early.*

DAILY WORKSHOPS 3-5pm DAILY CONCERTS 7pm

**PARTICIPANTS
WILL INCLUDE**

- DR. ROBERT YOUNG McMAHAN
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 - DR. HUGO GOLDENZWEIG
 - THE "K" DUO
 - GODFREY NELSON
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 - CRISTINA SPELIGENE
 - JOHN FOTI
 - KATHLEEN TIPTON
 - RALPH CRISPINO
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 - LEE McCLURE
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 - DAVID FIRST
 - DAVID STOLER
 - DIANE MAKOFKA
 - ART BAILEY
 - DR. ROCCO JERRY
 - ANONYMOUS BACH
 - THE TANGO PROJECT
 - YOICHI FUKUI
 - MAMI OKADA
 - LUCIFER BACH
 - DUALITY WRECKS
 - GARY KLEIN
 - KEVIN FRIEDRICH
 - SYDKNEE
- and others to be announced.*

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

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-Urbe, 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!

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: May 23rd