

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 3, Issue 4

June 27, 2010

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com

MAAA Blasts Off!!!!

What a great meeting...Thanks to the ingenious efforts of Dan and his board, we had Lenny Feldmann as our guest artist. Lenny is a world renown accordion player and is also known as "the Cordeen Man" and offers all news and arrangements through his website and routine e-mail updates. If you haven't yet signed up for Lenny's e-mails, I strongly recommend that wait no longer and go to his website at www.cordeenman.com. You won't be disappointed.

The play-a-long group started the day off by playing the 10 songs it has been preparing for the outreach program.

Thanks to our ensemble players: Jan Miller, Dan Dempsey, Pat DiSantis, Lewis Howes, Penny Yunuba, David Magliossi and Dan MacKowiak for their participation in the play-a-long performance. Truly enjoyed by all.

We were also visited by the president of the Natick Alderman committee and

the president of the Ciociarro Social Club.

We were in competition with the Natick memorial day parade just outside the club where the review stand was set up.

The meeting was visited from reporters and photographer of the Newton Tab (the town newspaper) and a video was posted on YouTube.

We are starting a section of the newsletter featuring members who out and about and performing in public. The newsletter should contain information on where any and all MAAA members are playing, noting whether the event is open or closed to the public.

So, if you are a paid member of the MAAA, this is great advertising for you and if it is an open event, it will give other MAAA members a chance to come out and support you during your performance.

Bob

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!!!!

June 27

Patriotic Medley

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



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

DON'T LIKE OPERA!?



OH! SOLO CANNOLI!

JULY 30, 31 and AUGUST 1, 2010

Tenri Cultural Institute
43A West 13th Street (Between 5th and 6th Avenues)
New York, NY

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 FRANK BISHOP
ARACI GONZALEZ
FRANK STONE
DR. ALAN GOLDBERG
GEORGE NELSON
LORRAINE NELSON
CHRISTINA SPELGEN
JOHN HORN
KATHLEEN DUFFIN
ALAN CRONIN
LINDA REED
ANTHONY DEYERER
ANDREW CAVES
DAVE ZOLNER
DR. JACQUES ROUSSEAU
DR. SALVATORE FERRARO
JACQUES BLANCHARD
WILL HOLLANDER
MARTIN LI
JOHN BACALONE
DEBORAH BRADSHAW
MICHAEL KRAUSE
CARL REHL
DAVID BARNHART
MICHAEL SCHIMMEL
MARK KAPRIN
DR. RONALD DARRIN
KEVIN LAFORCE
LEE BALLORE
DAVID FIRST
DAVID STOLAR
CHANE MARCIA
ART BALLEW
DR. JACQUES ZOLNER
ANDREW BACH
THE TANGO PROJECT
VOCAL DUO
MARI DADA
JACQUES BACH
DANIEL WICKES
GARY ALLEN
KEVIN BERNARD
SYDNEY
AND OTHERS TO BE ANNOUNCED



August 6—7, 2010

Come to **ACCORDIONS NOW! 2010**, third annual music festival featuring an impressive array of concert performers and workshop presenters. **FRIDAY-SATURDAY, AUG 6 - 7, 2010** Highlander Inn & Conference Center Manchester, New Hampshire, USA
Co-Sponsored by N.H. Accordion Association & Accordion Connection LLC. Concert performers and workshop presenters include: TONY "Living Legend" LOVELLO; DON McMAHON; CORY PESATURO; the ACCORDIONS NOW! FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA; and Roger Allen - Nils Lundin - Gary Morin - Mario Pedone - Donna Maria Regis - Mary Tokarski - Jerry Tramontozzi - Others TBA!

from the Prez....



Many of us had the good fortune of getting together more than once in the month of May: first, at the Accordion Connection in Gilmanton, NH when we joined forces with the New Hampshire Accordion Association; and then at our regular meeting the following week - which was made special by our guest artist, Lenny Feldmann.

At the Accordion Connection, the MAAA Play-Along Group played several songs from its world music repertoire. Our performance was very well-received, and the New Hampshire folks were interested in the "play-along" concept which we explained as our way of involving as many players as possible. All the players from New Hampshire and Massachusetts also had the opportunity to make music together - some of which will be played by the festival orchestra at the upcoming Accordions Now Festival in August.



Lenny Feldmann exceeded our expectations with his sage workshop advice, captivating musical presentation, and engaging personality. What a delightful visit from a premier musician! As a result of including a notice of the Feldmann event in the Newton Tab, we received some very nice press coverage in the following week's edition of the Tab: an article with pictures, as well as a video in the on-line version. The MAAA has had a few inquiries stemming from this publicity.

The Play-Along Group is about to present an outreach concert at Lasell Village in Newton. Your participation in these extracurricular activities is appreciated. As you know, part of the MAAA mission is to "share accordion music with the community."

Music for the June 27 play-along session was recently distributed by e-mail. The music has a patriotic theme - appropriate for this time of the year. I'm looking forward to playing these selections with you.

Remember to spread the word about the MAAA. Feel free to bring a friend or relative to the next meeting.

Dan

Club Officers

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dcmackowiak@verizon.net

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edchris@comcast.net



Our play-a-long ensemble (from left to right): Jan Miller (on flute), Dan Dempsey, Lewis Howes, Pat DiSantis, David Magliossi, Penny Yunuba and Dan MacKowiak.



Ten DON'Ts For Pain Free Playing

(adapted from Janet Horvath)

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

1. **DON'T IGNORE PAIN:** Stop playing, ice the area, and take some time off. Try to analyze what may have caused the problem and return to playing slowly!
2. **DON'T BE OVERZEALOUS:** Don't practice for hours non-stop. Consistency is more important than music "marathons".
3. **DON'T PRACTICE MINDLESSLY:** Plan what you want to practice ahead of time and record what you play. Concentrate on problem areas and work methodically on those.
4. **DON'T IGNORE CHEWED UP FINGERS:** Callouses, blisters, and split fingers are signs of excessive or improper use. Adjust actions on stringed instruments and use only the pressure necessary to produce the desired tone. Hand percussionists should use hand lotion daily and consider taping their fingers.
5. **DON'T DO TOO MUCH AFTER TAKING TIME OFF:** Work back into a full schedule slowly, playing several short periods per day than one long session.
6. **DON'T SAY YES TO EVERYTHING:** Playing out five times a week plus lessons, jam sessions, and classes is asking for trouble - both your playing and your body will suffer.
7. **DON'T CRAM:** Allow enough time to prepare for auditions or recitals. Sight reading causes your movements to be awkward and jerky.
8. **DON'T IGNORE THE CONDITIONS AROUND YOU:** Set up as comfortably as possible with enough space to play unrestricted. Adjust your music stand to allow you to play with good posture and lighting. Use your own chair and footrest. Don't wear tight clothes or jewelry. Avoid cold environments and drafts.
9. **DON'T ABUSE DRUGS:** Cocaine and nicotine both impair your circulation, affecting your performance as well as your health. Remember, great musicians who take drugs are great in spite of their drug problems.
10. **DON'T PANIC IF SOMETHING HURTS:** Minor aches and pains are inevitable. Ice and a day off are usually all that's needed. Serious injuries are rare if you recognize the body's warning signals.

MAAA Members Performing



July 3, 2010: Ludwig and Auntie Hilda play Nick's German Restaurant and Bar, 124 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA 9:30 PM - 12:30 AM.

July 4, 2010:

Lou Borelli Octet plays the "Jazz on the Patio Series" at the Castle Restaurant, 1230 Main St, Leicester, MA, 3 - 7 PM. If it rains, we'll be in the dining room. Phone 508 892-9090;



July 5, 2010: Lou Borelli Big Band plays at the Sterling Band Stand, 6 - 8 PM. Bring a lawn chair. Bring the kids and the grand children. B There or B Square!

July 14, 2010: Lou Borelli Octet plays Conant Park Pavilion, 30 East Street, Southampton, MA, 7 - 8:15 PM. The Pavilion is adjacent to the library. Bring a lawn chair and a picnic to enjoy with the music. Bring the kids and the grand children too.

July 16, 2010: Lou Borelli Big Band plays at the Brookfield Town Common, 7 - 9 PM. Bring a lawn chair. Bring the kids and the grand children. B There or B Square!



Smooth dinner music by accordionist **Bob Guenther**

Every Monday 5:00p to 8:00pm

The Black Olive Restaurant,

1866 Main St., Tewksbury, MA

www.black-olive.com

Second Sunday of Every Month

Billerica Crossing Assisted Living

20 Charnstaff Lane, Billerica, MA

Picture

Not Yet

Available

Ed Wawrzynowicz

and the Ed W Band at

Moseleys on the Charles

50 Bridge St.

Dedham Ma. 02026

781-326-3075



Lenny's Workshop

Lenny's Workshop

Here is a brief overview of Lenny's work shop. He started from the back of the room playing one of our members accordions due to it's musette tuning (*see picture*).

He started with Misty and tipped that it is important to get the "feel" of the room: it's acoustics and audience. A quick note that the best place to practice at home is in the bathroom, preferably the bathtub due to the closeness of the walls and fixtures that the sound can bounce off of.

Next, Lenny spoke about what to do when you come across a new piece of music that you want to learn. It is important to look over the music before you start playing it, to figure out the time signature, the key and the road map of the piece and to get a feel for what the composer was thinking when he\she arranged it. Do not be tempted to immediately sit right down and start playing the melody. Work on playing the left hand alone, by itself, to get the tempo and the different chord changes and single note variations. Once you know the left hand, then you can fit in the right hand.

We also learned about the different music notations found throughout a piece. The notation to play an octave higher than written and that "Loco" means to play as written.

Lenny also made several recommendations on how to "enhance" your playing of a song. One of the ways is that you can change the reed switches at different places of the song for different sounds and\or emotions. You can also change parts of the piece where your fingers have a hard time or can't reach. You can also add the ever so popular bellows shake to liven up a performance. The changing of switches, octaves played and then returning to the original set-up relieves the listener of the monotony of the song. You could also add a note to the 3 note chord triplet, making it a 4 note arpeggio.

Another strong recommendation on enhancing your performance is to add an introduction to the song. He gave us several examples of developing an intro. Also, you could repeat the ending of the song twice, changing the speed of the second repeat or you can extend the ending by adding an arpeggio to the last chord.

Lenny, then gave us a private performance entitled "Music for a Sunday Afternoon" made especially for us at our May meeting. Some of the pieces he performed were by Pietro Deiro, Mario Tacca, Paolo Bagnasco, Charles Magnante, Charles Nunzio and Edmund Cifani, with a little historical background of each of these accordion maestros from the past.

Lenny, always a fan of the rock band Pink Floyd, had waited several decades for someone to write an accordion arrangement of Pink Floyd's 1973 album "Dark Side of the Moon". Tired of waiting, Lenny appointed himself and created his own arrangement, a little more than a six-month effort. Although he arranged the whole album, we were entertained with just a 13 minute sample that encompassed pieces of the different melodies from the album.

I have been a fan of Lenny's since I first read about him five years ago. I had an opportunity to personally meet him at last October's Roland FR-7X exposition in Totowa, NJ. He is truly a wonderful person and is truly a great person to meet. I hope you had the chance.

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



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)
- [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](#)

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!

AAA 2010 Festival

July 14-18, 2010 • Hershey, PA



The Performers

Thursday Night – Cabaret
Potomac Ensemble
Dom Karic & Ray Oreggia
Dr. Robert McMahan • Joe Natoli
John "Elvis" Moceo • Bruce Gassman

Friday – Luncheon Concert
Beverly Roberts Curnow
Vladimir Molloy & Annie Moger

Friday Night – Gala Concert
Mary Tokarski – Premier of
Tango Blues for accordion, flute, viola and cello
The Busso Trio
Vladimir Molloy • Martynas Levickis
and featuring
The Alex Meixner Band

[f](#) FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

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: June 27th