

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 3, Issue 7

September 26, 2010

## Massachusetts Accordion Association

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

As the summer time glides into fall.....

I would like to thank Dan and everyone for covering me at the August meeting ...Sometimes family issues interrupt my accordion passions.....As the song goes, "I'll See You in September".....Bob

The August meeting was another excellent one - particularly in terms of player participation. We used three rows of seats to accommodate everyone in the Play-Along Group. And the open mic player list was the longest in recent memory. As you know, a key element of the MAAA mission is "to encourage and enhance the enjoyment of the accordion by its members." Based on the results of our meetings this summer, we are definitely achieving that objective.

Speaking of strong showings, the new MAAA "conversation group" on Yahoo has gotten off to a great start since its launch in July.

To date, approximately one-third of MAAA members are participating. Dave Magliozzi is doing a terrific job as moderator - and as an instigator of interesting discussions. For those of you who have not yet taken the plunge, I encourage you to check it out. Participation is reserved for members and a few invited guests, so you can feel as comfortable in these online conversations as you do when we are together at meetings.

Planning for 2011 has already begun. The Board of Directors had a brainstorming-session a few weeks ago to discuss feedback from members and ways to improve - and we developed two or three promising ideas. More work has to be done, but you can look forward to an even better MAAA experience in the near future.

Dan

The 60th Anniversary Trophée Mondial de l'Accordéon organised by the Confédération Mondiale de l'Accordéon (CMA) is being held from 21 to 26 September in Vigo (Spain).



I list this since we've had some members partake in the event in prior years.....

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!!!!

September 26

"Roberto Cassan"

October 24

"Show Tunes"  
Annual meeting

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

# from the Prez...



The next meeting on September 26 will feature Roberto Cassan as our guest artist. You can learn the details about his upcoming appearance elsewhere in this Newsletter. It suffices to say his performance and workshop will make for a very entertaining and informative afternoon. (I can't wait for the workshop session on playing the tango.)

The MAAA Play-Along Group will play in advance of Roberto's presentation. As indicated in a previous e-mail message, the six play-along songs were selected from the music we've played over the past three months. Be sure to bring your accordion.

And don't forget to tell a friend about the MAAA.

## Our September meeting

## featured performer

### Club Officers

#### President -

**Dan MacKowiak**

dcmackowiak@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

## Roberto Cassan



Roberto Cassan, accordionist, arranger and composer from Fanna, Italy. He started playing the accordion at the age of eight, playing and performing mostly Italian folk repertoire, and classical music. He moved to Boston in 1991 to attend Berkley, and has been living here since then, as a performing and recording artist. Comfortable in different styles of music, his most recent collaborations include, singer Lila Downs, harpist Maeve Gilchrist, folk Italian group Newpoly, guitarist John Muratore, Trio Nuevo and the present duo with Lia Davis.



I strongly recommend that you check out the latest issue of Accordion USA, the best on-line newsletter of what's happening in the accordion world.

Rita Davidson, the editor, does an incredible job in keeping current on all things accordion.

The current issue lists Frank Marocco's newest CD "turns up the flame", the upcoming 2010 International Accordion Convention in Las Vegas (room rates at \$29.00), "The Big Squeeze" Accordion Festival, Dr. William Schemmel's 2010 workshop and many others.

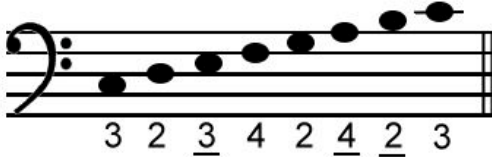
The website is:

<http://www.accordionusa.com/default.aspx#art549>

**RE: Stradella Bass**

I am often asked about the best way to develop using all four fingers in the left hand.

As you are aware, most of us were taught to play the major scale with the following fingering:



As you know, this uses just three fingers (2 - 3 - 4). Also, the standard Bass-Chord-Chord accompaniment also only Utilizes only the second, third, and fourth fingers.

Then we encounter a piece that calls for the use of our fifth (pinky) finger... and this is when we realize that it is 'weak' because we have never used it before (exercised it)!

Another thing we should be doing in the Left Hand is getting used to stretching the fingers to be able to easily and accurately make reaches between bass buttons in order to play the more modern bass-chord combinations.

The following solution to this problem was taught to me by the great Carmen Carrozza ([go to his website](#)) when I took lessons from him back in the early 1990's.

**Learn to play the LH major scale in just the fundamental bass row!**

This technique involves the use of all four fingers (2-3-4-5) and also exercises the 'webbing' between the fingers for stretching.

I will show you this starting on the 'C' fundamental bass. Of course, because of the Stradella system, it works the same for every button in the fundamental bass row... and... **also in the counter-bass row!!**

Start out slowly and deliberately. Get used to placing your fingers over the buttons. Visualize each finger in the proper location as you make the finger stretches.

Gradually increase the speed until you can play both ascending and descending scale evenly and accurately. Duplicate the process by starting the scale on all 12 bass buttons in the fundamental row...

C-C#(Db)-D-D#(Eb)-E-F-F#(Gb)-G-G#(Ab)-A-A#(Bb)-B

Then do the something utilizing the buttons in the counter-bass row!

- (1) Start with your 5th finger on C bass
  - (2) Place your 3rd finger on D bass
  - (3) Place your 2nd finger on E bass
  - (4) Next, move your 5th finger from C down one button to F bass
  - (5) Place your 4th finger on G bass
  - (6) Next, move your 3rd finger from D up one button to A bass
  - (7) Next, move your 2nd finger from E up one button to B bass
  - (8) Next, move your 5th finger from F up one button to C bass
- You have now played the ascending scale. Do the reverse fingering to play the descending scale.

*Continued go to newsletter page 5*

# MAAA Members Performing



You are cordially invited to attend  
A regularly scheduled meeting of the  
**Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the  
American Theatre Organ Society**

Featuring

**The Ed W. Orchestra**

With

**Ed Wawrzynowicz at the Mighty Wurlitzer**  
**Pat Stout on Trumpet**  
**Ben Goldstein on Sax and Clarinet**  
And  
**Don Pentleton on Drums**

**Sunday, October 10, 2010**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Knight Auditorium at Babson College  
Wellesley, Massachusetts**

Free admittance  
Open console and complimentary refreshments  
following the program

Directions to Babson College: from Route 95/128, take Route 9 West to Route 16 in Wellesley Hills. Or from West of Wellesley, Take Route 9 East to Route 16 West in Wellesley Hills. Once on Route 16 West (a little less than a mile), take a left on Forest Street (there is a traffic light there and a building on the left marked "PLAYHOUSE SQUARE"). Proceed on Forest Street until you hit a four-way stop (about a mile or so). Continue on Forest Street, a short distance to the Babson College main entrance. Turn right and follow the street to the end. The Knight Auditorium parking lot will be on your right.



**First Tuesday Jazz**  
1st Tuesday of every  
month  
with the Lou Borelli Octet  
(Jan on accordion) at  
Nick's, 124 Millbury  
Street, Worcester  
7:30—9:30 p.m.



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](http://www.black-olive.com)

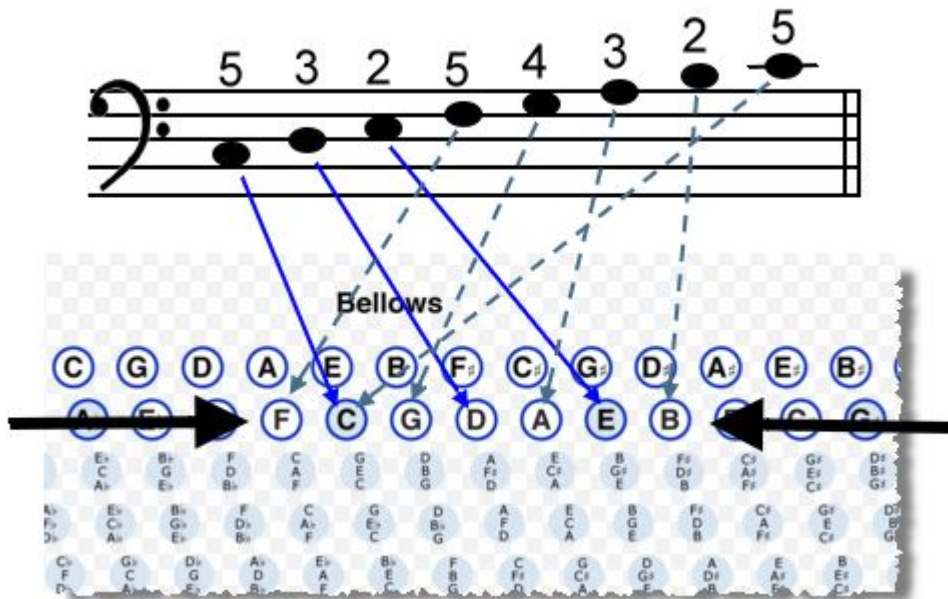
**Second Sunday of Every Month**  
Billerica Crossing Assisted Living

**CordeenMan News: Issue 079**

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**RE: Stradella Bass**

Here is the fingering pattern in graphical form:



I suggest that you do this "single row scale pattern" exercise five to ten minutes daily and you will find that in just a few months that your left hand dexterity and abilities will be greatly enhanced and you will enjoy playing your accordion even more than you do now!

Long Live the Accordion!

Lenny Feldmann  
The CordeenMan  
[www.cordeenman.com](http://www.cordeenman.com)



**You Threw Away a Good Career**

By Cynthia E. Mehary  
Buffalo, NY



This is a great story I found on the MakingMusicMagazine website. Check it out...I found I could really relate to this woman's journey...

If you do not subscribe to the magazine, I would recommend it since it has many great articles for all types of music and skill levels.

One of the best music magazines I have ever read...

<http://www.makingmusicmag.com/staccato/Mehary.html>

### 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



## Ever looking for new songs.....

Here's something for you if you are ever looking for new accordion compositions.....

Hans Palm has a website for all his free downloads of accordion compositions....check it out at:

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

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

Please don't put copies on your own page. Add a link to this page instead and if you still would like to have your own list, link directly to Hans files. <http://www.accordionpage.com/myself.html>

*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: **September 26th**