

Where knowledge and fun meet

Volume 3, Issue 11

January 23, 2011

Massachusetts Accordion Association

www.MAaccordion.com

Let's Make Some Music!!!

Hey, Happy New Year, everyone. The holidays are over and believe it or not, spring is rapidly approaching. It means a lot more time to practice and play our beloved accordions.

My sincere congratulations to the holiday party committee and their tremendous efforts in making it a truly enjoyable effort and excellent food and friends. Of course, there were accordions and camaraderie. A lot of new faces and friends we hadn't seen in awhile.

The holiday party did have a play-along thanks to Patty Simmons organization. What happened after that was pretty amazing. Someone started playing a song from memory and all of a sudden, several accordionists just jumped in without music. It turned out to be a great

"jam" session of accordions. Hopefully we can all get together and try this again.

I found it truly wonderful that we have so many wonderfully talented members with so many different stylings, accordions, techniques and experience levels.

I would like to also thank those who played at our out-reach performances this holiday season. A couple of videos are posted on our MAAA yahoo group for anyone interested.

I hope you enjoy the pictures inside this newsletter. Due to the holiday party, I didn't take any notes, just too busy having a great time.....

Hope to see you sometime during this wonderful year.....

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!!!!

February 27

March 27

April 24

May 22

Due to some upcoming holidays, some dates may change.

Notification will be made thru e-mail, the newsletter, the website and the yahoo site

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



Happy New Year everyone!

Before we leave 2010, I would like to acknowledge two special accomplishments this past December. The first was the completion of another set of community outreach concerts. A total of twelve MAAA players took the stage to share our accordion music with welcoming audiences at two senior living centers. Thank you to those who contributed their time and talent. The second accomplishment was the first-ever MAAA holiday party. A great big thank-you goes out to the organizers and contributors for their efforts. The food and festivities were delightful! And thanks to everyone who attended the party, which attracted more members and guests than any previous MAAA event.

Now, on to 2011. The on-line MAAA "conversation group" on Yahoo, recently spawned a conversation about "new year resolutions for accordion players." Several participants joined the thread to indicate their personal aspirations, which was not only interesting, but also inspiring. Many MAAA members have signed-on to the conversation group, but the more the merrier. We will send a reminder invitation to you by e-mail. The sign-up process is easy, and it's fun to be in touch with MAAA members between meetings.

One of our goals is to maximize the number of players that participate in the monthly Play-Along group. Our newest idea is to create two subsets within the music set: one subset is geared to the skill of most players; the other subset is geared to more experienced players. Played together, they should result in some great music. The four songs in the Play-Along set for January have a "moon" theme – but are quite different in terms of time signature, tempo and style. If you haven't given the Play-Along group a try to this point, there's no better time than now.

By the way, we regularly receive e-mail inquiries about the MAAA, and do our best to extend invitations to our meetings to visitors and newcomers. Feel free to do the same with your accordion friends.

Dan

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TEACHING TIPS

(Can You Still Play?)

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

Sooner or later nearly all instrumentalists discover that their technique is slipping. The constant and varied demands of life can easily drain away time with your instrument and thus form a serious threat to your hard-earned technique. The old phrase, "use it or lose it" still says it all.

Many of us come to feel that just practicing once in a while, or merely playing for students during lessons will keep the fingers in trim. This would be fine if it worked, but over the long pull, this approach only leads to frustration and you may begin to notice that you can't even do a passable job on your students' easier pieces.

The only reliable solution to the problem of retaining your technique is to first realize the importance of keeping what you've worked so hard to get - and that your present technical equipment will inevitably deteriorate if neglected. Like all applied skills, technique thrives only with use.

1. DO IT NOW

Don't "try" to find time to practice. Take it!! Decide now what the best time is for you to sit down with your accordion on a regular basis, and then do it.

Continued on page 3

Our first Holiday Party.....



Teaching tips, continued from page 2

2. USE YOUR PRACTICE TIME EFFECTIVELY

Enjoyment is the key to sticking to any regular activity, whether it's a physical fitness program or instrumental practice. So spice your playing sessions with the things you want to play and enjoy, but remember to make time also for a few of the basic technical drills as well. If you do a few scales each time you practice, you can cover them all in a week. If you just keep these in trim (and up to tempo), you will have done much to keep your technique in shape.

3. PICK A FEW "OLDIES" TO PERK YOU UP

Select one or two of your old exercises and polish them up. Better yet, why not re-memorize them so that you can use them as your standard warm up.

4. THE OLD AND THE NEW

Decide which numbers in your repertoire are important for you to know, and go over them now and then to keep them available. On the other hand, pick up a few of the pieces you've always wanted to learn, and read through them during your sessions. If you keep this up, before long you will be gratified by having mastered them. It's important to keep your learning muscles in shape too.

What's up and coming

Come Play with us...



AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

2011 AAA Festival

July 13-17, 2011

The Sheraton at Charleston Airport
4770 Goer Drive • Charleston, SC

International Accordion Orchestra Competition
International Orchestra Entries must be confirmed by 2/28/11

CASH AWARDS

WORKSHOPS • EXHIBITS • CONCERTS • COMPETITIONS for all ages

Tentative Schedule

WEDNESDAY	REGISTRATION • PRESS & SQUEEZE
THURSDAY	LUNCHEON CONCERT • CABARET NIGHT
FRIDAY	MASSED BAND PERFORMANCE conducted by Frank Busso GALA CONCERT
SATURDAY	AWARDS CONCERT • BANQUET LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTATION FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA conducted by Joan Sommers
SUNDAY	BREAKFAST MEETING and FAREWELL

Join us as we honor
JOAN COCHRAN SOMMERS

With the AAA's prestigious
Lifetime Achievement Award



AAA Festival Coordinators

Mary Tokarski • Frank Busso • Linda Soley Reed
for details, contact AAA1938@aol.com



Mark your Calendars for the 21st ANNUAL
Cotati Accordion Festival

August 20 & 21, 2011

2011 ATAM Festival

49th Annual Festival

April 8-10, 2011

Marriott Hotel, Newton, MA

- * Battle of the Bands
- * ATAM Entertainment Competition
- * Competitions
- * Solos, Duos, Ensembles, Bands
- * Some Non Competitive Categories
- * Cash Awards
- * Over \$3,000.00 in prizes
- * Awards Banquet

Contest Co-chairman:

Peggy Falcetti and Roger Latulippe



American Accordionists' Association (AAA)

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



MAAA Members Performing



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.



My favorite accordionist,
Ed Wawrzynowicz and his band, with
great dance and big band sound will be
performing:

The Jackson Suite, Malden on 2/5
Roller World, Saugus on 2/12
Moseleys On The Charles on 2/23

Ed also will be performing an organ
program for the North suburban Organ Society on 2/27/11. They
meet at the Woburn Senior Center. Meetings start at 1:30 P.M.

Our Play-a-long Group

Our Play-a-long Group



Looking for accordion music or lead sheets or fake books.....check out:
<http://www.sheetmusicplus.com/instruments/folk-accordion/3>

Hey, do you really like polkas??????????

Check out:

247PolkaHeaven.com

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)
- [Bill LaPollai](#) —401-245-5209 (Barrington, R.I.)
- [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



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: January 23rd