



MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 7, Issue 7
September 2013

The MAAA is a group of accordion enthusiasts that includes players of all skill levels and accordion types, as well as interested non-players.

Join us!

4th Sunday of every month

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Ciociaro Social Club

144 Bridge Street

Newton, Massachusetts

Next meeting

September 22, 2013

Mark your calendar

October 27, 2013

November 17, 2013

December 15, 2013

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MAAA at Accordions Now! 2013



The 6th annual Accordions Now! festival, hosted by the New Hampshire Accordion Association (NHAA) took place at the Courtyard Marriott, Nashua, NH on August 9-10. Its proximity partially explains why the festival attracted so many MAAA members. The other reason, of course, was that it offered a varied and enjoyable accordion experience.

Over a dozen MAAA members attended the festival and many of them took an active role in the participatory activities: the marathon open-mic session on Friday evening; the play-along session on Saturday afternoon; the festival orchestra performance later on Saturday afternoon; and the "night-owl" jam session at the conclusion of both evenings.

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Dan Mackowiak led the play-along session at Accordions Now! 2013. It featured seven selections from the MAAA Play-Along repertoire.



MAAA Board elections and bylaw changes

The Massachusetts Accordion Association is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization. Nominations of candidates for Board positions will be made at the September meeting.

Board elections will take place at the Annual Meeting in October. Proposed bylaw changes will also be voted on at that meeting.

Details are available in the July issue of the MAAA newsletter, available online: www.MAAccordion.org.

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Donna Maria Regis conducted the Festival Orchestra, which included MAAA members Jan Miller, Dan Mackowiak, Janet Borelli, Tony D'Eramo, and Jerry Tramontozzi.

Dan Mackowiak led the play-along session, which featured seven selections from the MAAA Play-Along repertoire. MAAA members Jim Avedisian, Janet Borelli, Jan Miller, Patty Simmons, and Jerry Tramontozzi were in the play-along group. The participation level was extraordinarily high, and the musical results very satisfying--in part because of the spontaneous involvement of several members of Gamle Aker Spilemannslag, an ensemble of fine accordionists from Norway who performed just prior to the play-along session.

The Festival Orchestra was conducted by Donna Maria Regis, one of the founders of Accordions Now! Participation requires considerable preparation, including attending at least one rehearsal prior to the festival performance. The featured piece was a medley of five tunes from the rock-and roll era, arranged by Regis with MAAA members Jan, Dan, Janet, Tony D'Eramo, and Jerry contributing to the performance.

Several MAAA members did a fine job under the open mic spotlight. Jim, Tony, and Sam Falcetti demonstrated their individual styles on their Roland instruments, Janet and Lou Borelli played two of their special duets, and Jerry played a set of wonderfully nostalgic tunes.

Jerry also added to the festivities by entertaining during the social gatherings.

Later, when most of the festival goers were heading for their rooms or their cars at the end of each day, a small but energetic, group of players--including Jim, Janet, Lou, and Tony--gathered for a jam session.

The festival audience plays an important role by providing encouragement and support, particularly to non-professional players. This audience was lucky to include some of the MAAA's best cheerleaders: Carol Avedisian, Marissa D'Eramo, Maryann Mackowiak, and Oliver Mutch.

Dan Mackowiak, who has attended all six Accordions Now! festivals, commented: "This may have been the best so far. The styles among the professional players were wide-ranging; and the level of interaction among non-professionals was really high."

For the past few years, Dan has provided and manned the sound reinforcement equipment for the festival. He noted, "The NHAA expends a lot of effort each year to plan, organize and present the Accordions Now! festival. Virtually all of the work is done by volunteers who are dedicated to the idea of a major accordion event in New England. I really enjoy helping the way I do."

Thank you to Dan Mackowiak for providing this great summary of the festival.

AUGUST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



In addition to many wonderful tangos, Open Mike selections at the August meeting ranged from Elvis Presley and Rudy Valee tunes to a tarantella by Jerry Tramontozzi and his granddaughter, Danielle (pictured at left).

With a play-along theme of “silly song titles,” August’s assembled accordionists performed gems from the era of the Andrews Sisters (*Toolie Oolie Doolie, Ti Pi Tin*), Guy Lombardo (*Boo Hoo*), and early doo wop (*Sh-Boom*). Additionally, players and audience members were challenged to find the hidden musical quotes that Dan Mackowiak cleverly weaves into his arrangements.

With many members out of town during the final days of summer, August’s meeting had a special feeling of intimacy. Patty Simmons, our barefoot open mike MC, introduced new MAAA members in attendance, who were warmly welcomed by the group.

Perhaps the feeling of intimacy was what inspired the numerous tangos that were performed during the Open Mike, as well as David Rukhelman’s enlightening presentation on tango rhythms and melodies.



SAVE THE DATE

Octoberfest with the New Hampshire Accordion Association

Donna Maria Regis of the NHAA has sent the following message, inviting MAAA members to join in their October meeting. She writes:

“Last year MAAA and NHAA members had a good time celebrating Oktoberfest together here in NH. You and all of the MAAA are warmly invited to visit NHAA on Saturday, October 19 for another joint celebration.

“We usually have an informal Jam Session pre-meeting (~12:30-1 pm), Open Mike at 1:00 (anyone may play), a few brief announcements, ~2 pm Social Time with Refreshments, then ~2:30-4 pm Play-Along. Please let us know if you will be able to join us for a fun afternoon.”

Mark your calendar!
Oktoberfest at NHAA
Saturday, October 19, 2013
Accordion Connection
136 Route 106, Unit 1
Gilmanton NH

Getting together is a great way to enjoy the fellowship of our accordion counterparts in New Hampshire. The NHAA would love to see MAAA members!

Calendar

September 17, 2013

**Matt and Shannon Heaton
Club Passim, Cambridge**
www.clubpassim.com

Boston-based Matt and Shannon Heaton play traditional and updated Irish music on flute, accordion, guitar, and bouzouki.

September 20, 2013

**Coach Dave Leprise
Southwick's Zoo Cafe
Mendon, MA**
www.southwickszoo.com

"Coach Dave" Leprise performs in the Cafe from 4:00-10:00 p.m.

September 27, 2013

**Gary Morin
Drawbridge Puppet Theater,
Lunenburg, MA**
www.drawbridgepuppets.com

Gary Morin is performing as part of the theater's Friday night concert series.

October 1, 2013

**Lou Borelli Octet
Nick's, Worcester**
www.BorelliMusic.com

Jan Borelli, together with the Lou Borelli Octet, plays on the first Tuesday of the month at Nick's, 124 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA. No cover.

October 3, 2013

**DakhaBrakha
Johnny Ds, Somerville**
www.worldmusic.org

From the Ukraine, ritualistic Slavic songs, sounds from Asia

and Africa, Balkan singing, with percussion, didgeridoo, cello, and accordion.

October 8, 2013

**musAner
Regattabar, Cambridge**
<http://www.regattabarjazz.com/>
This ten-person ensemble blending jazz and Armenian folk music will be joined by the ethnographic singer Aleksan Harutyunyan.

October 18, 2013

**Debo Band
Regatta Bar, Cambridge**
<http://deboband.com/>
A highlight of the Somerville Squeezebox Slam in June, Debo incorporates traditional Ethiopian pop scales and vocal styles with American soul and funk rhythms, and instrumentation reminiscent of Eastern European brass bands.

**Email upcoming gigs,
performances by favorite
accordionists, and other
events to:**

catherine.coleman@gmail.com

MAAA LEADERSHIP

See page 1 for info about upcoming Board elections.

President

Bob Guenther

Vice-President

Jim Avedisian
vze2v42i@verizon.net

Treasurer\Secretary

Patty Simmons
Pattysim@comcast.net

Board Members

Lewis Howes
howesfam@comcast.net

Ed Wawrzynowicz
edchris@comcast.net

Al Bacchiocchi
rmbuck@comcast.net

Penny Yunuba
PYunuba@comcast.net

Board Advisor

Tony Marini

Keep up-to-date with the Massachusetts Accordion Association by visiting our [website](http://www.maaccordion.org) for the latest news, updates about meetings, and links to useful resources like teachers and repair experts. www.maaccordion.org

Follow MAAA on Facebook to get and give tips about music happenings in the area and news about the national and international accordion community.
www.facebook.com/MAAaccordion

For sale: Red Roland FR7X

In excellent condition. I just use it at home and I don't play out with it. I installed the Dallape sound expansion in it. I have advertised it in CraigsList for \$3,500 I but will sell it to an MAAA member for \$3,400. If you have any questions or need more information, please call me any time.

Contact: Ralph Visocci

617-467-5749 or 617-763-3971
Newton, MA

For sale: Galanti Deluxe piano accordion

I am reaching out to your group in the hope that we can find someone who would appreciate owning a vintage Galanti Deluxe piano accordion. If you happen to know of anyone who would like to find out more about it, would you be so kind as to forward my contact information to them?

Contact: Karen Fahey
all_in_ent@live.com
Peabody, MA

Keeping the art and science of accordion repair alive

"For forty-five years, Alex Carozza has run a small accordion shop near Times Square. It's one of the last fixtures of the old Music Row on Forty-eighth Street, and Carozza, after a lifetime of repairing musical instruments, still works six days a week while teaching some younger apprentices the skills of the trade.

"The shop is spread over three stories. The first is a small showroom packed with colorful accordions, bandoneons, and melodeons. While a standard accordion costs around four hundred and fifty dollars, a handmade squeezebox will run you upward of ten thousand dollars. On the second floor, Alex and his staff do repairs at skinny workbenches that are cluttered with the guts of disassembled instruments. The top floor is a storeroom that's lined with accordions, boxes of keys, and old bellows...."

Read "Making Money: Accordion Repairman," posted by Nate Lavey on the New Yorker's "Culture Desk Blog" (July 17, 2013) online or watch a video clip:

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/culture/2013/07/making-money-accordion-repairman.html>



The Theodore School of Music on Union Street in San Francisco. Thanks to Jim Avedisian for sharing this great photo.