



MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 8, Issue 1
March 2014

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

**Join us! Open to the public.
4th Sunday of every month**

1:30-4 pm
Ciociaro Social Club
144 Bridge Street
Newton, Massachusetts

**Next meeting:
March 23, 2014**

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www.MAAccordion.org



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Email your news and items of interest to Catherine Coleman, newsletter editor: catherine.coleman@gmail.com



MAAA members participating in the March playalong performed Harold Arlen's "It's Only A Paper Moon," Cole Porter's romantic waltz "True Love," a bossa nova arrangement of "Mam'selle" from the 1940s, and a truly snappy "Everything's Coming Up Roses" that would have made Ethel Merman proud. Dan Mackowiak develops two levels of arrangements for the playalongs so less experienced as well as advanced performers can participate. "The playalong is intended to be fun," Dan reminds us. "The important thing is to enjoy the experience of making music together." Photo by Carol Avedisian

Lots more in store for MAAA

The MAAA Board of Directors has been exploring ways of enriching members' experiences with the Association, and we can look forward to several exciting new activities and opportunities in the coming months. Some of them are outlined on pages 2-3, including:

- Developing a repertoire for volunteer MAAA performances
- Classical workshops by Emilian Badean
- March 23: Playing with another accordionist
- May and June presentations: Playing with other instruments and playing with a vocalist

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MAAA NEWS The coming months are bringing a rich array of new learning experiences and playing opportunities for MAAA members and the local accordion community.

New group to develop repertoire for volunteer MAAA performances

Accordionists of all levels are invited to participate in a new MAAA accordion group coordinated by board member Carmen D'Angelo. The group will rehearse at the Ciociaro Club after regular MAAA meetings. The first rehearsal will be announced shortly, and music will be determined by what participants are interested in playing.

"This is another way for us to play together, enjoy each other's company, and develop a versatile repertoire for the volunteer performances MAAA provides in response to requests from various local organizations," Tony Marini, MAAA president, explained with enthusiasm.

Instead of responding to performance requests with inadequate lead time for rehearsing, "This accordion group will gather together people who want to practice on a regular basis and work toward developing a diverse repertoire that would allow them to perform for an hour or more. Carmen volunteered for this because he has extensive experience--many many years of gigging. His experience will help us figure out what a particular audience wants and how we can produce a sound that people will enjoy."

All are welcome!

"I can't emphasize enough that this group is open to musicians of all playing abilities," Tony states. "If group members need help with the music, there are plenty of people in the group to help them. The only requirement is a commitment to playing as a group, learning the music, and coming prepared."

If you are interested participating, email Carmen at:

11kdangelo@comcast.net.

Classical workshops

Classical workshops developed by Emilian Badea will soon be integrated into some of our MAAA meetings. Emilian Badea is a well-known accordionist, bassoonist, conductor, and educator who has served on the faculty of several area institutions, including Brookline Music School, UMass Boston, and the New School of Music in Cambridge.

"Emilian has graciously provided some very interesting, multi-part pieces of classical music. We are sorting through these pieces to see what we should start with," notes Tony Marini. "We will practice these pieces during meetings when a playalong is not scheduled. We will repeat this several times until as a group we feel we are comfortable

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MAAA Board of Directors

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Tony Marini, President
Jim Avedisian, Vice-President
Patty Simmons, Treasurer/Clerk

Board Members

Al Bacchiocchi
Jan Borelli
Carmen D'Angelo
Lewis Howes
Gary Morin
Ed Wawrzynowicz



Board member Carmen D'Angelo is coordinating a new MAAA group of accordionists of all levels. Photo by Carol Avedisian

MAAA NEWS

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performing them. At that point, during one of our meetings Emilian will discuss classical music and we will perform the rehearsed pieces with the accompaniment of a cello and bassoon."

Players of all levels of ability are encouraged to participate, and Emilian is eager to work with players to provide support and answer any questions they might have about the music.



Classical workshops developed by Emilian Badea will be offered during MAAA meetings.

The classical workshops will complement MAAA's popular playalongs that are coordinated by Dan Mackowiak. Dan develops arrangements for a cluster of theme-linked pieces which are circulated to MAAA membership a couple of weeks in advance of the upcoming playalong. Members can choose to play either the basic- or advanced-level versions of the songs or simply sightread and join in

at a meeting. Read more the playalong philosophy in August 2013 newsletter, which is available on the [MAAA website](#).

March 23: Playing with another accordionist

At our March meeting, MAAA members Gary Morin and Ed Wawrzynowicz will discuss and demonstrate how to play with another accordion. Both Gary and Ed are seasoned performers. Ed has played out for many years in venues ranging from ballroom to Fenway Park, where he played the organ. Ed plays a Roland accordion and is renowned for his improvisatory skills. Gary, who performs frequently in a wide range of styles, was recently featured in the [Sentinel and Enterprise newspaper](#).

Both Gary and Ed are members of the MAAA Board of Directors.



Learn about playing with another accordion at MAAA's March 23 meeting.

Future presentations

May 4 meeting

Janet Borelli will present on how to play accordion with other instruments.

June 22 meeting

Presentation by Don and Leslie McMahon on "How to Back Up a Vocalist."

These are all exceptional opportunities to learn from outstanding professionals who are part of MAAA.



Open mike themes

MAAA open mike performances provide members an opportunity to share their playing. Beginning in March, open mike sessions will include a musical theme. The March theme is music from the 1950s and 1960s. Adhering to the theme is not required but we expect some interesting results from players who choose to focus on a particular era or genre. Examples of future themes include duets, ethnic pieces, and contemporary music.

Mesa Accordion Event



by David Magliozzi

In February, fellow MAAA member James Gerke and I flew to Los Angeles to pick up accordionist Frank Petrilli then drive through the desert to Mesa, Arizona. We all had signed up for the three-day Mesa Accordion Event, formerly the Frank Marocco Accordion Camp. This would be the last one ever run by Dan and Joan Grauman and it was to honor the 80th birthday of Joan C. Sommers, a world-class accordionist, educator, and conductor.

More than 50 accordionists at the event formed an orchestra that practiced its parts for three stressful days and nights. We performed on the last day. It was worth it!

We had two superb conductors, Stas Venglevski and Joan Cochran Sommers. The audience of nearly 400 people gave the orchestra and its special guests, including cellist Roza Borisova, four standing ovations.

Read more about the Mesa Accordion event online in Rita Barnea's [USA News](#).



David Magliozzi rehearsing with the Mesa Accordion Event orchestra in February. Photo by James Gerke.

From the archives: Shoulder straps

These shoulder strap suggestions from MAAA member Paul Monte were published in the March 2007 issue of the MAAA newsletter. Thanks, Paul!

Make certain to use straps made of non-slip material on the areas in contact with the back and shoulders, preferably a velvet fabric.

Adjust the straps so that the black notes on the keyboard line up directly under the chin. This setup allows the right arm and hand the most natural and tension-free access to the entire keyboard.

Rest the keyboard between the legs, braced against the right leg, and the bellows will balance nicely on the left knee.

The left bass strap should be adjusted to the tightness of a wrist watch.

RIP Evan Harlan

We note with sadness the passing of Boston-based accordionist Evan Harlan on February 27, 2014. A member of the New England Conservatory faculty, a world-traveled performer, and a noted composer, Evan headed the Klezmer Conservatory Band and several of his own groups, including Andromeda and Excelsior. He also was a MAAA guest performer.

CALENDAR



Black Sheep Jazz Band
March 4, 7:30 pm
Nick's, 124 Millbury Street,
Worcester
www.nicksworcester.com

This Dixieland group, featuring MAAA member Jan Borelli, musically celebrates Mardi Gras.

Cruzamente
March 14, 7:30 pm
Regattabar, Cambridge
www.regattabarjazz.com

Tal Shalom-Kobi, who recently performed at MAAA with Paul Monte, plays upright bass and accordion with Cruzamente, an all-female band led by singer Maria "Lutchinha" Neves.



St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn
March 14, Hanover Theatre,
Worcester
March 15, 16, Sanders Theatre,
Cambridge
www.wgbh.org

Performers in the annual St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn include the Alan Kelly Gang, fronted by Ireland's piano accordion maestro.

The Henry Girls
March 16, 8 pm
Club Passim, 47 Palmer Street,
Cambridge
www.passim.org

Three multi-instrumentalist and harmonizing sisters perform Irish folk and roots music.

Romance & Roses
March 22, 7:30 pm
March 23, 3 pm
www.mcbconcertband.org
Northeast Metropolitan Regional
Vocational School, 100 Hemlock
Road, Wakefield

Accordionist Lynda Fish, member of the New Hampshire Accordion Association and Central Massachusetts Accordion Club, joins the Middlesex Concert Band for a concert of classical and popular music.

March 24, 8 pm
Greek Music Ensemble
Berklee Performance Center, 136
Massachusetts Avenue, Boston
www.berklee.edu/BPC

Greek, Balkan, and eastern Mediterranean music is performed by three vocalists, double bass, percussion, acoustic guitar, piano, accordion, bouzouki, clarinet, violin, and oud.

The Sarajevo Haggadah: Music of the Book
March 26, 8 pm
Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321
Arsenal Street, Watertown
www.newcenterboston.org
 Bosnian accordionist Merima Ključo's multimedia performance is inspired by the musical traditions of Spain, Italy, Austria, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

March 28, 8 pm
Masters of Tradition
Somerville Theatre, Somerville
www.feitheatres.com/somerville-theatre/events/

An evening of Celtic music performed by some of Ireland's best traditional musicians, including Máirtín O'Connor on accordion and David Power on uilleann pipes.

New England
Music Festival
April 4-6
Boston Newton
Marriott,
Newton

www.atamnemusicfestival.com
 This annual musical competition sponsored by the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts features 3000 entries and 800 contestants from across New England.



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