



MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 8, Issue 6
August 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.

1:30-4 pm

Ciociaro Social Club

144 Bridge Street

Newton, Massachusetts

Next meeting: August 24

Detailed meeting info is available on our website.

Stay connected

www.MAAccordion.org



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Photo: Carol Avedisian

Micah Rickles Young performs at July meeting

Micah Rickles Young was the guest performer at MAAA's July 2014 meeting. Micah has studied accordion with Paul Monte for 3-1/2 years. He's 18 years old and about to become a freshman at Washington University in St. Louis. This talented young accordionist's past performances include the Music Improv Camp in New York City. He performed Hungarian Dance #5 and Andalusia (The Breeze and I) for an enthusiastic MAAA audience.

More meeting highlights on page 2.



Photo: Jeff Simmons

July 2014 meeting recap



Photo: Carol Avedisian



Photo: Jeff Simmons



Photo: Jeff Simmons



Photo: Carol Avedisian



Photo: Carol Avedisian

UPCOMING MEETINGS

AUGUST

Our next meeting is August 24. There will be both a play-along and an open mic. The theme for open mic is "Ethnic" but, as always, you can play whatever you want.

SEPTEMBER

No meeting due to a scheduling conflict at the venue.

OCTOBER: Two meetings:

- October 5, with guest performer Joe Cerrito
- October 27



Photo: Carol Avedisian

My Accordion Story

by Jooyeon June Koo

Please Note: Over the next year or so, I will be collecting stories from local accordion players here in Massachusetts (a big thank you to those who have already gotten in touch with me!). The stories will be published in the newsletter, with your permission, and/or kept in the archives of the association for reference by later generations of MAAA members. If you're interested, please send me an email at koojo11@gmail.com. To start off, here is how I got started on the accordion!



I was in the seventh grade when I fell in love with accordion music. While watching the film *Amélie*, I became enchanted by the lively French waltzes of the soundtrack. A decade later, I was in France for my first job out of college. Before leaving the US, I had set a goal for myself that during my eight months in the country, I would learn to play the accordion.

Playing music has always been meaningful for me because I've seen it as a way of belonging to a culture that I would otherwise not be able to call my own. This belief had inspired me to learn the jazz trombone in high school and the Irish fiddle in college. I thought that accordion playing would make a great souvenir, a fun way to "own" and forever keep with me a part of French

culture. But learning the accordion, like other aspects of my life in France, was not as easy as I had hoped or expected.

I was living in St. Julien-en-Genevois, a small border town located below a giant and quasi-permanent cloud. The gray winter began early, stretching for months and transforming the cloudiness into a slippery mix of snow and sleet. Getting to my weekly accordion lesson required carrying a 20-pound instrument while walking a mile, crossing a national border, and making two bus transfers. There were many nights when I was exhausted after work and it just felt too cold for anything. On top of it all, I often felt out of place and lonely, something that I had not expected in a country whose language and culture I so adored.

Despite this, I made it to every lesson. Looking back, two things had kept me going. One was simply that playing the accordion made me happy. I loved the accordion's sound and learning to master its intricate mechanisms. The other was that playing for people became a way to feel more connected to my home away from home. The first time I brought the accordion to one of my classes, my students were delighted to hear me play. Energized by their enthusiasm, I began incorporating the accordion into other English lessons and performing for neighbors and new friends.

Although I initially started learning the accordion in a somewhat naïve and misguided belief that it would let me "own" a part of French culture, I realized that music and culture are not things to be owned, but shared with others. Over the next eight months, my repertoire expanded to include the entire *Amélie* soundtrack and a French pop song my students liked to sing.

When I returned to Boston, I decided to continue playing. As a part of the Ladies Accordion Orchestra, I marched in the HonkFest parade last October and played at the Squeezebox Slam this June. Playing for a few old friends and hundreds of new neighbors, I appreciated that the accordion was still bringing me closer to my community, even on this side of the Atlantic.

CALENDAR



NHAA's Accordions Now! Festival August 8-9-10, 2014

Courtyard Marriott, Nashua NH
<http://accordionconnection.com/events-2/>

Check out the weekend-long program of events--gala concert, open mike cabaret, New England Accordion Museum exhibit, jam sessions, educational hands-on workshops, night owl jams, and vendor displays. The event is co-sponsored by New Hampshire Accordion Association and Accordion Connection LLC.

Featured performers include:

- Tony Lovello, the "living legend of the accordion world" dubbed "King of the Bellow Shake"
- Catfish Howl Blues Band's Cajun, country, blues, and original tunes
- New England favorite Brent Buswell

For more information:

AccordionsNow@yahoo.com or call 603-216-9582

Follow MAAA on Facebook for late-breaking updates.
www.facebook.com/MAAccordion

August 8, 8-10

Sharon Shannon

Irish Cultural Center, 200 New Boston Dr., Canton

www.irishculture.org

Performance by Irish accordionist Sharon Shannin, renowned for her solo accordion career as well as for being part of A Woman's Heart and the Waterboys.

August 10, 3-7 pm

Lou Borelli Octet

Castle Restaurant, 1230 Main Street, Leicester

Part of the "Jazz on the Patio Summer Concert Series"

August 17, 5-7

Black Sheep Jazz Band

West Boylston Bandstand, Rte 12

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Bring the kids and the grand children!

August 29-31

Rhythm and Roots Festival

Ninigret Park, 4890A Old Post Rd., Charlestown

www.rhythmandroots.com

Four stages of live Cajun and Zydeco music, food, a family tent for kids, dance lessons, all day and evening dancing on two dance floors, gourmet food and drink. This year's lineup includes The Duhks, CJ Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band, Donna The Buffalo, Jim and Lauderdale.

Cruzamente

July 30, 6:45-8 pm

Washington Park, Newtonville

Dancing in the Parks presents this all-female band's original and contemporary Cape Verdean music.



THE NORTHEAST SQUEEZE-IN

September 12-14

Camp Chimney Corners, 748 Hamilton Road, Becket (in the Berkshires)

www.squeeze-in.org

This is the 25th Squeeze-In, a "Brigadoon weekend for squeezers." Jam, contra dance or pubsing. Play tango, Klezmer, Breton, Scottish, Irish, or Balkan. Learn how to fix your instrument or "test drive" other instruments. There are no paid performers and everyone is welcome--beginner and advanced squeezers, and other instruments to round out the sound. **Mail-in registration ends 8/30.**

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