



MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 8, Issue 7
September 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 meetings:

October 5

October 26

**Detailed meeting info is
available on our website.**

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www.MAAccordion.org



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Joe Cerrito performance at October 5 meeting

Joe Cerrito began playing accordion professionally at age 14 and has been playing ever since. He was a member of the 1st Army Jazz Band and also played in the 56th Army Band while in Korea. He has backed up greats such as Sarah Vaughn, Steve Allen, and Harry Belafonte. Photos on his website, www.joecerruti.com, capture him playing with Tony Dannon and Myren Floren. He also appeared in the movie "True Lies" starring Arnold Schwarzenegger (in the orchestra and as a soloist).

"If you haven't heard Joe, you are in for a treat," enthuses Tony Marini, MAAA president. "Not only has Joe been a teacher in the area for many years, he has performed in many different venues, with many different people and various types of music. He is a wealth of knowledge and a great musician. Bring along a friend, you will have a great time."

The October 5 meeting will also include an open mic.

**Double your pleasure at MAAA's second October meeting, on
October 26, which will have a playalong and an open mic.**

President's letter

Thank you, Jim!

When Jim Avedisian agreed to be nominated to the Board of Directors and be the Vice President, he was clear that it would be for one year. Although I have been hopeful that he would reconsider, his year is complete and will be rolling off the Board in October.

Jim has stepped up and provided extraordinary support to this organization. From his diligence of note-taking during board meetings to his retooling and maintenance of the website to his performances to his caring about the organization, we will miss his counsel. Fortunately, he will continue to manage the MAAA website.

Board updates

We are proposing that Ed Wawrzynowicz serve as MAAA's Vice President for the coming year. Ed has sat on the board for many years and continues to work hard for this organization. We are thrilled that Ed will take this new role.

We also propose that Rocco Scenna join the Board. Rocco has years of experience with the accordion as well as other bands and chorus. We are fortunate that Rocco will be providing his guidance and input.

Music for the Orchestra

The Orchestra is progressing and growing. The purpose of the Orchestra is to have fun and play with other players. All playing levels are welcome and there are multiple parts. Carmen Angelo is leading this effort. The pieces that we are currently playing are:

Spanish Eyes
DeRossi March Medley
Danza Ungherese No. 5
In a Little Spanish Town
Whatever will Be, Will Be
Tea for Two

The Orchestra's first gig has already been scheduled in February 2015. More to come on that front!

It would be wonderful if someone can take the music and provide separate sheet music for the different parts. If you have some time and are interested, please let me know.

Also, if you need any of this music, please send me an email and I will send it along.

Tony Marini (AnthonyM@lmmcpas.com)

Roland V event!

Sam Falcetti invites you to the 16th semi-annual accordion event at Falcetti Music in Springfield, MA on Sunday, September 21 from 1-3 pm.

This is a great opportunity to explore layered orchestral and accordion sound, and learn how to use the up-and-down octave changes combined with dual high and low modes. These new blends work on all Roland models and will be available to take home with you. If your Roland model has USB port, please bring a flash drive.

Entertainment will include Falcetti Music customers who performed at the recent Accordions Now festival, and Angela Falcetti, Sam's nine-year-old granddaughter will perform on the Roland FR1X.

Falcetti Music is located at 1755 Boston Road, Springfield MA. For more information:

Email: peggyf1944@gmail.com
Call: 413-596-6940)

Visit: www.falcettimusic.com



Sam Falcetti at the Roland factory in Italy in May 2013.

Accordions Now! 2014

by Jim Avedisian

The New Hampshire Accordion Association held their 7th Annual Accordions Now! Music Festival, co-sponsored by the Accordion Connection, in Nashua, NH on August 8-9, 2014 at the Courtyard Marriott Nashua.

The MAAA was well represented there by Dan and Maryann Mackowiak, Jim and Carol Avedisian, Tony and Marisa D'Eramo and Sam Falcetti.

Starting off a great weekend, Carmen Vitanza provided entertainment in the Grand Ballroom using his Iorio H model before the Open Mic, which MAAA members Jim Avedisian and Sam Falcetti performed in.

A great concert by Brent Buswell followed. Brent is a blind accordionist



Brent Buswell (photo: Carol Avedisian)

who is absolutely...no really... incredible. He played many songs, alternating between his Bulgari and Accitone accordions. I am always amazed by the talent of this young man who learned to play by listening to music.

The traditional Friday Night Jam session, very informal, followed. MAAA members Jim and Dan participated in a lengthy session, from about 9 pm until midnight! There were about 8 participants in all, the most notable being Tony Lovello, aka the Liberace of the Accordion

and King of the Bellows Shake, who is really a living legend in the accordion world. The Jam sounded great, and people staying at the hotel were attracted to the music and came to see what was going on.

Saturday morning (we were all very tired, as you can imagine) there were workshops on "The Role of Music in Healing" by Doreen Kimball and "The Secret Gasperini Technique to Prize Winning Speed" presented by Lynda Fish. In addition, there were vendor areas open to participants from Arthur Welch of Accordion Connection and Sam Falcetti of



Donna Maria Regis, festival co-founder and ANFO Orchestra Conductor (Photo: Jim Avedisian)

Falcetti Music. There was also a most interesting exhibit by the New England Accordion Museum and Paul Ramunni, owner of the museum, gave an interesting talk during lunch called "Boxes of Stories" Volume III.

Dan Mackowiak (who also doubles as the sound man for the festival) ran the popular Just-For-Fun-Play-Along-Ensemble after



Late night jamming: Jim Avedisian and Dan Mackowiak (seated) (photo: Carol Avedisian)

lunch. He sent out the music in advance to all who indicated they wanted to participate when they registered for the festival. With Dan leading and Jim providing bass, a very large group of participants played a selection of eight songs and I must say, I was duly impressed. Though we all had the music in advance, there was no prior rehearsal. It sounded wonderful. Hats off to Dan for the arrangements, which were great as always, and to all the participants who obviously did their "homework," based on the quality of the performance.

While the ANFO Orchestra rehearsed after the Play-Along, there was another informal jam session in a different room, which had about eight participants and a small crowd listening.

At 4 pm, Donna Maria Regis and Lynda Fish gave a mini-concert. Two better players you won't find anywhere and they were very well received, judging by the attention of the audience and the applause.

The traditional festival performance of the ANFO Concert conducted by Donna Maria Regis consisted of a delightful medley of Beatles tunes. MAAA Members Dan Mackowiak and Tony D'Eramo participated. The cute little granddaughter of Donna Maria walked back and

forth holding up a card with the name of the song as each song in the medley was starting. She did a great job!

After the Gala Banquet Saturday



Tony Lovello (photo: Carol Avedisian)

night, participants were treated to not one... but two really good performances.

First came the legendary Tony Lovello, bringing his brand of showmanship and wit to the audience. If you have heard him, you know how great he performs and his bellows shaking was just out of this world (you'd be proud, Jerry!). As always, he gave away some of his CDs to the very appreciative crowd.

The second concert of the night was by the group Catfish Howl, consisting of an accordion player, a guitarist, a bass player, and drummer. They are known for their blues, blues-rock, zydeco, and country, along with some original music.

Catfish Howl invited festival participants to sit in with the band, something I have never seen done before at the festival (it usually isn't done anywhere). Several participants brought their accordions, but only one--Mike Soloway of New Jersey--had the guts to get up on stage and actually jam with them. Mike did a fine job staying right with the band and doing a great solo on his Roland using a saxophone and organ voicing.

After all of this, there was adequate time to meet the guest artists for conversation, photo-

ops, etc.

And of course, there was another late night jam session Saturday night, which went pretty late. Tony D'Eramo participated but I was too tired after all the activities and the Friday night late jam.

If you've never been to the Accordions Now festival, you should consider it.

There is always something for everyone to do. Donna Maria Regis and Sue Welch (co-founders) always do a great job.

“Accordion Cool” brings MAAA members to local TV

by Jim Avedisian

On Wednesday August 20, MAAA members Coach Dave Laprise, Jim Avedisian, and Linda Walden taped two ½ hour shows at the studios of DoubleACS TV 15, the local access channel for Attleboro.

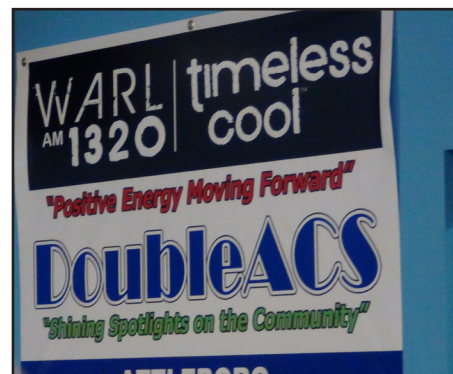
Coach Dave conceived of the idea for a show, seeking to create more positive exposure of the accordion to the public. As you know, the accordion is, and has been, looked upon as purely an ethnic instrument for quite a few years by the non-accordion playing public. It was not, for the most part, accepted into more contemporary popular music. Most of the public, when they hear the word accordion, think: polkas, Lady of Spain, Lawrence Welk, Italian, and other ethnic folk. I say most, because the accordion is actually a new and interesting instrument to the younger generation, and we have seen a slow but steady rise in the number of accordions appearing in contemporary bands and tv.

Coach’s aim is to show the accordion more in the mainstream music world, and contribute to its rising popularity. Thus the name of the shows: “Accordion Cool.” I say shows because Coach intends to do a whole series of shows on the station, including some with another MAAA member, Cory Pesaturo.

I found it fascinating being in a tv studio--the technology of the control room, and the precision timing of having to be on cue exactly when a



Linda Walden, Coach Dave Laprise, and Jim Avedisian filming Accordion Cool in the DoubleACS TV 15 studios in Attleboro.



monitor shows a countdown. It was a little nerve racking for a first timer. The lights on set are very bright indeed!

Each show consisted of two segments. The first was Coach Dave and I playing some numbers and chatting in between songs. The second segment of each show featured Linda Walden singing an up-tempo number with Coach Dave accompanying her.

At this writing, the editing of the shows tapes by the studio is not finished, but when it is I will pass along the address to the station’s website where the shows will be available for viewing.

MAAA Board of Directors

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Tony Marini, President
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Patty Simmons, Treasurer/Clerk

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