



MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 8, Issue 9
November 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:
November 23, 2014
Detailed meeting info is
available on our website:
www.MAAccordion.org



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Gary Morin
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Send news and story ideas to the MAAA newsletter editor

Catherine Coleman
catherine.coleman@gmail.com



*Patty Simmons emceeding the November open mike with Jerry Tramontozzi
(photo: Carol Avedisian)*

Patty Simmons looks back and ahead

In the last issue of the MAAA newsletter, Tony Marini announced Patty Simmons' departure from MAAA. "Patty has been involved from the beginning and over the years has been extremely active, supportive and able to sort out issues like no one else I know," he wrote. "Always caring about the well being of the organization and being focused on our primary mission...have fun with the accordion."

Patty took time at the October 29 meeting to share some MAAA memories and update us about her next steps.

You've been an integral part of MAAA for a long time. Why are you leaving?

My husband retired a month ago and we would like to live where it's a little bit warmer than here so we're going to Georgia. I grew up in Connecticut and have lived in Boston since 1977 but my dad grew up in Atlanta and half his family is still in Georgia. We found a community in Greensboro that has a big lake, bass fishing, and a golf course. I golf, my husband Jeff fishes--we'll have easier access to things we love to do.

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President's note

I hear that the October meeting was great fun! I am sorry I missed it.

Our next meeting, on November 23, promises to be another good one. MAAA member Dave Sullivan, who is gigging more and more, will be presenting about chord progressions, including how he changed his methods and how he currently plays.

We'll also have an open mike. This month's theme is "Current" but this should not limit what you want to play.

Patty Simmons is packing up and shipping out. We owe much to Patty and I can't imagine this group without her. We have many things to be grateful to her for.

Carmen D'Angelo's orchestra group is shaping up. Please send Carmen an email if you are interested in participating or learning more about this open group (dangeloc@comcast.net).

We're working on the MAAA 2015 meeting calendar. If there is someone or something you want to see, hear, or learn about, let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you at the November meeting!

Tony Marini
AnthonyM@lmmcpas.com

November open mic excerpts



David Rukhelman (top left) dazzled us with Bach's Prelude and Fugue for Organ and Tchaikovsky's Autumn.

Jerry Tramontozzi (middle left) treated us to an Oktoberfest medly.

Louis Howes (below) played and sang Heartbreak Hotel and the Whoop-de-Doo Polka.

Jim Avedisian (bottom) sang Georgia and Ain't Nobody's Business if I Do ("getting Patty ready for the Southern bars"). Later, he and Ed Wawrzynowicz played several songs, including Five Foot Two (for Patty).



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One of the first things I looked up in Atlanta was their accordion association. There are only a few things that are really important to me, and this is one of them.

How and when did you become part of MAAA?

I found out about it from Paul Monte, who I was studying with. The Association started in 2007, and I started coming to meetings pretty much from the beginning, when they were at the Dolphin in Natick. I became a board member and MAAA's treasurer about 5 years ago.

Have you noticed any changes over the years?

I don't think it has changed. What's good about it was there from the beginning and is still here--it's the people, the love of the accordion that the people have. The names have changed, the leadership, the location, the structure, but it's still a place where you will find people who have something very strong in common: love of the accordion. People have diverse backgrounds but we have something powerful that pulls us together. That's so vital today, because it's harder and harder to find.

I like that MAAA has stayed relatively small. Walking in here, people immediately people know you.

What have you enjoyed most?

I love to play for people, but more than that I love to listen to and encourage people. Every organization needs a mixture of different types of people. You need listeners, you need talkers, you need players. I really like to be a facilitator--to be the emcee of a meeting or an open mike session.

Also, being part of this group gives you a structure and a motivation to work on music, so you can set a target to aim for--preparing something for the next meeting. You want to entertain folks. It helps you bring your playing along. You can test out a song here and see how it goes.

I'm in the midst of chaos in my house and I have boxes and piles everywhere--I've lived there since 1986. I came to today's meeting because this is good for me--it will give me more energy and I'll feel better when I go home. This is food for my spirit.



(Photo: Carol Avedisian)

How did you get started playing accordion?

My mother wanted me to play the piano, but I was kind of a tomboy and a little rebellious. I wanted to play the trumpet or the drums but she said that those were what boys played. So I decided I wanted to play accordion. I would watch the Lawrence Welk show on Saturday nights with my grandmother, who lived with us. I thought Myron Floren was sexy! I started taking lessons when I was 6 and by the time I was 10 I was playing pretty complicated stuff. I played at the country club at Christmas, and at neighborhood parties. I stopped playing when I was 13--I was interested in other things and the accordion wasn't cool.

I started up again when I was about 50 and still working as a psychiatrist. When I retired, I got serious about playing again.

My husband Jeff plays guitar. We sit and jam a lot. I play banjo too, mountain style, and I'm pretty good with the mandolin. We're taking lessons together from a mandolin-guitar teacher, learning the same fiddle tunes.

When will we have to say goodbye?

The November meeting will probably be the last one for me for a while. But I'll be back to visit!

CALENDAR

Nov. 4, 5:30 pm

Gary Morin

Le Lyonnais Restaurant Français
416 Great Road, Route 2A Acton
<http://lelyonnaisacton.com/>

Gary presents Cabaret Tuesday and celebrates the French restaurant's 42nd anniversary.

Nov. 8, 10 am-5 pm

**Accordion Commotion Day
Accordion Connection, 136 Route
106, Gilmanton NH**

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e9xquufn32056949&llr=yelbovbab>

This all-day accordion event features MAAA member Gary Morin in concerts and interactive workshops on "Tone Changes: How Many Switches are Enough?" and "Secrets of Being a Professional Accordionist: Play for Pay!" Arthur Welch will also present a workshop on the differences between wet and dry tuning.

Bring your accordion for a free appraisal or to jam with New Hampshire Accordion Association members.

Nov. 16, 3 pm

**The Violin and Lyras of Greece
Fisher Recital Hall, UMass Lowell**

www.uml.edu/FAHSS/music/Performance-Calendar.aspx

Sandy Theodorou (Laouto, accordion, vocals), performed by Beth Bahai Cohen (violin and lyras from Thrace, Macedonia, Crete and Pontos), and Fabio Pirozzolo (percussion) perform traditional folk music from Greece.



DakhaBrakha performs on November 22 at 8 pm at the First Parish Unitarian Church in Cambridge

Nov. 20, 8 pm

**Long Time Courting
Club Passim, Cambridge**

www.passim.org

Shannon Heaton (accordion), Liz Simmons (guitar), Valerie Thompson (cello), and Katie McNally (fiddle) perform neo-traditional Irish, Scottish and American music with exquisite vocal harmonies.

Nov. 22, 8 pm

**Josee Vachon
Blackstone River Theater,
Cumberland, RI**

<http://www.joseevachon.com/index.php>

Vachon is a Franco-American singer performing French-Canadian music. Chanterelle opens.

Nov. 22, 8 pm

**DakhaBrakha
First Parish Unitarian, 1446
Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge**

This renowned quartet grounds its musical experimentation in the ritualistic songs of Ukraine and its Slavic neighbors, with Balkan singing, percussion, didgeridoo, cello, and accordion.

Nov. 22, 7:30 pm

**Bivolița
Arts at the Armory, Somerville**

Bivolița, featuring Christine Crowder on accordion, draws from Yiddish dance rhythms as the foundation for improvisation. Also appearing tonight: Rhythm Future Quartet performs Gypsy jazz standards and original compositions. Bulgarian born Vessela Stoyanova and others present Balkan music.

Dec 1., 7:45 pm

**Scottish Country Dancing
Canadian American Club, 202
Arlington St., Watertown
(617) 924-9827**

Scottish Country Dancing for all every Monday evening! Sponsored by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch. Weekly meeting with instruction, refreshments, and social dancing. No partner or experience required. Certified teachers with a strong sense of fun! Wear soft-soled shoes (sneakers OK). Live music every week--fiddle, piano, and accordion.