



MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 8, Issue 11
January 2015

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:

January 25, 2015

Detailed meeting info is available on our website:

www.MAAccordion.org



Like. Share. Post

www.facebook.com/MAAccordion

MAAA Board of Directors

Officers

Tony Marini, President

Ed Wawrzynowicz, Vice-President

Ron Mastrangelo, Treasurer/Clerk

Board Members

Al Bacchiocchi

Jan Borelli

Carmen D'Angelo

Lewis Howes

Gary Morin

Rocco Scenna

Send news and story ideas to the
MAAA newsletter editor

Catherine Coleman

catherine.coleman@gmail.com

MAAA meeting notes

We had a fabulous turnout for our December meeting, which featured a holiday-themed playalong led by Dan Mackowiak, as well as an open mike session. Thank you to Rocco Scenna for these photos of the playalong session.

January: Holiday party!

MAAA will launch 2015 with our

annual holiday party on January 25. At 1:00 pm the meeting will start with a delicious lunch, followed by a fun and sociable afternoon of informal playing. Feel free to bring someone new to this special meeting. Also, bring along a piece of sheet music to trade for something new. Read more about the January meeting in the President's Message on page 2.



President's note

I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2015.

MAAA is starting the new year with two noteworthy events.

Feb. 1 MAAA performance

Carmen D'Angelo is orchestrating MAAA's performance at Babson College on Sunday, February 1 (see article on page 3). The only time we can practice is at our next meeting on January 25th at the Ciociacio Social Club. Please let Carmen know if you can attend (dangeloc@comcast.net). Carmen also can let you know the pieces the Orchestra has been practicing as well as individuals who will be performing.

We are looking for volunteers to play a few pieces at the event--please let Carmen know if you are interested in this opportunity.

And if you are not playing with the orchestra, we hope you will come along, enjoy the performance, and give your support!

Holiday party

Our next meeting also is our holiday party. Please bring along a piece of music for you to trade. I know most people have a ton but pick one that is important to you! We will start our meeting with lunch at 1:00 pm and then have an afternoon of informal playing. This is a great time for you to bring someone new to experience MAAA!

Tony Marini

aamcpa@verizon.net

Nils Olaf Lundin (1921-2014)

by Dan Mackowiak

"Not too bad for a Polish guy..." Those were among the words of wisdom I received from Nils Lundin when we played together in December 2013. The event was the Swedish Yuletide Festival, sponsored by the Boston chapter of the Swedish Women's Educational



Association. Nils played only a few songs, because his stamina was affected by mounting health issues. But he had provided the music for that event for many years, and he felt compelled to make an appearance. The audience was very appreciative.

Several of the songs we played that day were composed by Lundin: schottisches, waltzes, hambos, and polkas. One of them was the American Wooden Shoe Polka, which earned Lundin the prestigious Elin Award – the Swedish equivalent of the Grammy Award. All of his songs have trademark characteristics: melodically interesting and eminently danceable.

Nils Lundin began his dance band career as a teenager, in collaboration with two of his brothers. The Lundin Brothers Orchestra, along with subsequent ensemble variations, were prominent in the Massachusetts dance scene for many years. The Viking Club in Braintree and the Scandinavian Athletic Club in Shrewsbury were frequent performance spots. Many consider him the dean of Scandinavian music in our area – an entertainment mainstay of Scandinavian events throughout southern New England. Nils Lundin was duly recognized by his native

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

country when, in 1981, the King of Sweden honored him for his efforts to promote Swedish musical traditions.

Bernie Nowak, the founder of the Central Massachusetts Accordion Club and a dance instructor, is an ardent admirer of Nils Lundin. According to Bernie, "Nils always focused on the dancers. Whether it was Scandinavian or American, the rhythm, tempo and feel of his music had a gliding effect, making it a joy to dance to."

Lundin is also credited with originating the "accordion jamboree" in this area. Bob Belden, a long-time friend of Lundin and Scandinavian event organizer, describes it like this: "Nils thought it would be a good idea for accordionists to play together for the benefit of charitable causes. He developed a repertoire, garnered interest from accordionists across the area, and took on the leadership role. Over the years, many charities benefitted from these events." One of these jamborees evolved into an annual event in Foster, RI – currently under the direction of Jerry Tramontozzi. Nils Lundin was definitely an ambassador for accordion music, and for accordionists.

This past December, I was again invited to play at the Swedish Yuletide Festival. Because of his health, Nils was not able to even make the limited appearance he made in the previous year. I cannot overstate the number of people who walked by the stage and asked, "Where's Nils?" I felt more privileged than ever to be playing his music for his audience.

Nils passed away three weeks later – but his music will live on, played by musicians here and everywhere – including by this Polish guy.

MAAA Orchestra plays Feb. 1 at Babson College

The MAAA Orchestra will be appearing on February 1 at 2 pm (we will be arriving around 1) at an event organized by the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society (EMCATOS) at Babson College in Wellesley.

Ed Wawrzynowicz, a member of both organizations, arranged for this unique outreach program.

See the President's Message on page 2 for rehearsal details.

The performance takes place at Knight Auditorium, Babson College, and everyone is invited to this free event.

Founded in 1956, EMCATOS is dedicated to "the preservation and restoration of the great American Theatre Organs from the silent movie days and to the encouragement of musicians, young and old, to pursue this fascinating instrument."

Date: February 1, 2015

Time: 2 pm

Place: Knight Auditorium, Babson College, Wellesley

Here's a link to a map of the Babson College campus: <http://www.babson.edu/admission/visiting-babson/wellesley/Pages/campus-map.aspx>

Nils Lundin on YouTube



Nils Lundin playing [Carol's Waltz](#), which he wrote for his daughter, at the ACCORDIONS NOW! 2010 Festival. Filmed by James Gerke.



Nils' [Wooden Shoe Polka](#) performed at the Scandinavian Accordion Jamboree, Finnish Heritage Society Sovittaja's (FHSS) dance hall at Sovittaja Park, Rutland, MA on Sept. 19, 2010.



[Jämt Gubben](#) played by Walter Eriksson and Nils Lundin while on tour in Massachusetts.

SPECIAL MAAA EVENT

MAAA Orchestra

February 1, 2 pm

**Knight Auditorium, Babson
College, Wellesley**

[http://www.babson.edu/
admission/visiting-babson/
wellesley/Pages/campus-map.
aspx](http://www.babson.edu/admission/visiting-babson/wellesley/Pages/campus-map.aspx)

See article on page 3 about this
very special MAAA event.

CALENDAR

Jan. 21, 8 pm

Grand Fatilla

**The Beehive, 541 Tremont St.,
Boston**

www.beehiveboston.com

Grand Fatilla's new CD, Global
Shuffle, just received four stars
from Downbeat Magazine. Their
music encompasses Argentine
tangos, Italian tarantellas, Turkish
sacred Sufi songs, Irish reels,
Moroccan trance, and Bulgarian
dance music.

Jan 24, 4pm

**Josh Lederman and the
Cambridge/Somerville All Stars
Plough and Stars**

**Mass Ave., Central Square,
Cambridge**

www.ploughandstars.com

This band plays every other
Saturday to a happy, appreciative
crowd. The specific personnel
changes depending on who's
available so there's always a
new take on their traditional
and original material. Michael
McLaughlin's accordion is joined
by horns, violin, stand-up bass,
tuba, clarinet, Josh's guitar, and/
or a minimal drum kit.



Grand Fatilla

Jan 24, 7 pm

The Iguanas

**Johnny D's, 17 Holland St.,
Somerville**

www.johnnyds.com

This New Orleans band reflects
the diversity of musical styles
found in their home state by
fusing blues, classic R&B, zydeco,
Cajun, Tex-Mex, and roots rock &
roll.

Jan. 29, 8 pm

**Musaner with Alex Vavilov
Regattabar**

Charles Hotel, Cambridge

www.regattabarjazz.com

Musaner's critically acclaimed
jazz orchestration and Armenian
folk music will feature, in this
special performance, Alex Vavilov
on viola.

Feb. 13, 7:30 pm

**CJ Chenier & The Red Hot
Louisiana Band**

**Johnny D's Uptown Restaurant
and Nightclub**

www.johnnyds.com

State-of-the-art Zydeco from
a masterful musician and
performer. Upbeat dance music



which includes blues, boogie,
waltz, funk, and original zydeco 2
step music.

Feb. 17, 7:30 pm

Squeezebox Stompers

**Johnny D's Uptown Restaurant &
Music Club, Somerville, MA**

www.johnnyds.com

Celebrate Fat Tuesday (Mardi
Gras) with this Boston area Cajun
and Zydeco band.

**Send info for the calendar to
catherine.coleman@gmail.com.**