



MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 8, Issue 12
February 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.

Ciociaro Social Club
144 Bridge Street
Newton, Massachusetts

Next meeting:

February 22, 1 pm

Detailed meeting info is
available on our website:

www.MAAccordion.org



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MAAA Board of Directors

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Tony Marini, President
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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 Orchestra debut performance



Rocco Scenna conducted the MAAA Orchestra on February 1 at Babson College in Wellesley

The MAAA Orchestra made its first public appearance on February 1 at Babson College in Wellesley. The event was sponsored by the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society (EMCATOS). Ed Wawrzynowicz, a member of both organizations, arranged for this great program.

Conducted by Rocco Scenna, the MAAA accordionists performing in the orchestra were Dan Mackowiak, Ed Wawrzynowicz, Carmen D'Angelo, David Rukhelman, Louis Howes, and Jan Borelli, whose husband Lou added trumpet to the sound. Orchestral pieces alternated with solo, duo, and trio performances by these exceptional musicians.

Dan Mackowiak began by honoring the memory of Nils Lundin (see the January issue for Dan's remembrance of Nils), performing Lundin's Wooden Shoe Polka with Doris Forcielli, who traveled in from Central MA for the performance. Dan also played Jo Privat's "First of May."

David Rukhelman followed with two Astor Piazzola tangos, "Por Favor"

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President's notes

MAAA's annual holiday party took place on January 25 and was really a fun time. People sat around a circle, playing anything they wanted and joining in with others. Our accordion players were just extraordinary, and Lou Borelli added his clarinet and trumpet. Looking around the room I saw nothing but big smiles. There was nice food and it was a nice time to be together.

The MAAA Board of Directors met before the holiday party and there were many significant outcomes from our meeting.

Rocco Scenna has agreed to serve as the conductor of the MAAA Orchestra, which had its debut performance at Babson College on Sunday, February 1 (see related article on page 3). Rocco has been playing accordion and conducting bands and choruses for decades. We are thrilled that he has agreed to wave the baton and bring us together, and Carmen D'Angelo will continue to help move it forward!

Dan Mackowiak announced that he is stepping back from producing MAAA's play-alongs, which he's been doing since 2009. He has spent countless hours finding appropriate pieces united by a common theme, then preparing arrangements that accommodate the limitations of less experienced players while providing more experienced players with interesting challenges. We're deeply grateful that Dan has provided the group with such wonderful music to play together over the years.

Future playalongs will dip back into Dan's extensive library of arrangements and will also introduce new multi-part music that our members are identifying. Board members will lead some of our play-alongs.

MAAA meeting formats will be slightly reconfigured moving forward. Meetings will start at 1 and the playing will begin shortly thereafter, followed by either a guest artist and/or a group play-along.

Member recordings: There has been some interest in making it easier for members and others who join our open meetings to acquire CDs produced by MAAA accordionists. We have some great artists who have spent a lot of time and effort recording their music. If you're interested in making your CDs available, please let me know. When we have a sense of the scope of this possible endeavor, we'll be better able to implement it.

Upcoming meetings are chock full of great activities and guest performers--see the schedule in the right-hand column, and always check our website for the latest updates.

Tony Marini
aamcpa@verizon.net

Upcoming MAAA meeting highlights

February 22, 1 pm

Play-along and an open mike, the theme of which is "Songs of the Heart."

March 22, 1 pm

[Jan and Lou Borelli](#) bring their eight-piece orchestra to our March meeting. We've never had such a big group perform before so this will be a unique treat for members and their friends. Each band member is a seasoned professional, and the band will perform an exciting and diverse program. Come early to get a seat--this meeting is sure to be standing room only.

The (optional) open mike theme in March is "A new song you have learned."

April 26, 1 pm

Arthur Welch will present to us on "Different Reeds, Different Wood." Arthur is a noted accordion expert. He and his wife, Sue, own the [Accordion Connection](#) in Gilmanton, NH, which Arthur established in 1957.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May: No meeting

June 28: Sam Falcetti

July 26: Ray Caviccio

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Rocco Scenna conducts the MAAA Orchestra

and "Tanguedia," his bayan on the latter sounding much like an organ.

Rocco Scenna then conducted the full orchestra in rich, proficient arrangements of "Tennessee Waltz" and "Que Sera Sera."

Jan Borelli performed Bach's Tocatta in D Minor, a demanding piece usually heard on the organ, which sounded wonderful on Jan's accordion.

A trio--Jan, her husband Lou, and Ed Wawrzynowicz--then performed terrific renderings of "Here's That Rainy Day," "The Lady is a Tramp," and "Besame Mucho."

The full orchestra then came together again to perform a Tony Dannon arrangement of "Spanish Eyes" and some rousing marches.

Closing out the afternoon's music, Ed Wawrzynowicz ascended to the auditorium's jewel, a vintage Wurlitzer organ, and thrilled the crowd with "Let There Be Peace

on Earth." Ed's first accordion teacher, who went by the stage name of Don Artiste, was a theater organist who introduced Ed to the instrument.

The Wurlitzer organ was rescued by EMCATOS from the former Loews Theater in Boston's Back Bay. They refurbished it and then found it a fitting home in Babson's Knight Auditorium. EMCATOS members kindly took the assembled accordionists in a tour of the organ's working parts, which fill two towers in the auditorium. Founded in 1956, EMCATOS is dedicated to the preservation of the great American Theatre Organs from the silent movie days.

Ed Wawrzynowicz performs on the restored vintage Wurlitzer organ



CALENDAR

Feb. 13, 7:30 pm

CJ Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band

Johnny D's, Somerville

www.johnnyds.com

State-of-the-art Zydeco from a master.

Feb. 17, 7:30 pm

Squeezebox Stompers

Johnny D's, Somerville

www.johnnyds.com

Celebrate Mardi Gras with Cajun and Zydeco music.

Feb. 17, 7 pm

Black Sheep Jazz Band

Nick's, 124 Millbury St., Worcester

www.nicksworcester.com

MAAA members Jan and Lou Borelli lead this Dixieland band playing New Orleans-style music.

Feb. 18, 8 pm

Buckwheat Zydeco

Regattabar Cambridge

www.regattabarjazz.com

This band recorded the three biggest selling Zydeco albums of all time and here they are, right on our doorstep!

Feb. 21, 8 pm

Yaeko Miranda Elmaleh Quartet

Arts at the Armory, Somerville

www.artsatthearmory.org

Yaeko and her band (Michael McLaughlin on accordion, Ehud Ettun on bass, and Grant Smith on percussion) perform a mix of Jewish and Roma instrumental music.

Feb. 28, 8 pm

Atan

Somerville Theatre, Somerville

Regarded by many as the world's



The Black Sheep Jazz Band featuring Jan and Lou Borelli

finest traditional Irish band, Altan introduces their new accordionist, Martin Tourish.

Feb. 28, 8 pm

The Gnomes

Blackstone River Theatre, 549

Broad Street, Cumberland, RI

www.riverfolk.org

The Gnomes' eclectic blend of global folk fusion music--Celtic, Scandinavian, Russian, Eastern European, Caribbean, klezmer, Native American and originals--features Phil Edmunds on Irish whistle and button accordion.

March 1, 7 pm

Jeremiah McLane and Ariel

Friedman

Parlor Room, 32 Masonic St.,

Northampton

Northern Vermont accordionist Jeremiah McLane and Boston cellist Ariel Friedman present vintage tunes from Celtic regions and Scandinavia, France, and Appalachia.

March 2, 8 pm

Musette Explosion

Club Passim, Cambridge

www.clubpassim.org

Three New York musicians

explore the French musette repertoire and bring multicultural Parisian dancehall music to new places through improvisation and original compositions.

March 7

Barra MacNeils

Chevalier Theater, 30 Forest St., Medford

www.chevaliertheatre.com

The theater celebrates its 75th anniversary with traditional Celtic music by a family ensemble from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia that combines voices and stringed, percussion, and wind instruments in their first local appearance since 2003.

March 8, 3 pm

3rd String Trio

Concord

www.3rdstringtrio.com

Karen Axelrod (accordion, piano), Peter Barnes (guitar), and Aldo Fabrizi (mandolin) perform "Mostly Waltzes."

Send upcoming calendar events to catherine.coleman@