



# MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

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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:**

**March 22, 1 pm**

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

[www.MAAccordion.org](http://www.MAAccordion.org)



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**Send news and story ideas to the MAAA newsletter editor**

Catherine Coleman

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## **MAAA's March meeting will be big!**



Our February meeting was cancelled because of snow (sigh) but we are making up for it this month! The [Lou Borelli Octet](#) will be the featured performers at MAAA's March meeting. Jan Borelli, an MAAA member, who usually plays piano in the group, will be playing accordion. Her husband, Lou, will be on trumpet and vocals. The other instruments in the band are tenor sax, trombone, baritone sax, bass, guitar, and drums.

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 Octet performs arrangements originally created by the Dave Pell Octet, one of the bands credited with the creation of the West Coast Jazz scene in the 1950s. Shorty Rogers and Marty Paich were the first arrangers to showcase the unique sound of this group.

A video of the Octet has just been added to the Borelli's YouTube page and can be viewed [here](#).

## New England Music Festival takes place April 10-12 in Newton, MA

The New England Music Festival will be held April 10-12, 2015 at the Newton Marriott in Newton, MA. Sponsored by the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts, the Festival is an annual musical competition and 2015 marks its 53rd year. The Festival averages more than 2000 entries and over 700 contestants from all across New England.



All events are free and open to the public. Entry fees for contestants vary by category. During the festival, contestants, ages through 22, take part in accordion, guitar, bass guitar, drum, percussion, piano, violin and voice competitions.

Non-competitive categories include evaluation solos and festival group divisions. Contestants must be students of ATAM members. More than \$4,000 in cash will be awarded throughout the weekend.

The three-day event takes place Friday through Sunday. On Friday evening and Sunday, a Junior-Senior Battle of the Bands competition takes place in the Grand Ballroom. Saturday and Sunday, continuous group competitions and Entertainment Solos are held in the Grand Ballroom. Solo and duet competitions are ongoing. The Championship competition is held on Friday evening.

Saturday evening's awards banquet, attended by more than 400 people, will include a \$500 scholarship and cash awards and trophies presented to Championship, Entertainment, all NE Cup Solos, and Improvised Drum contestants.

Also at the banquet, Mary Tokarski will be recognized as a Lifetime Honorary Member of the ATAM.

Students will be able to have fun at a Dance Party on Saturday evening.

Internationally famous accordionist, Cory Pesaturo, will be performing in concert on Sunday afternoon in the Grand Ballroom.

More information is available on the [Festival website](#).

## Mary Tokarski to be honored at the 2015 New England Music Festival

Mary Tokarski, who has adjudicated at the Accordion Teachers Association of Massachusetts (ATAM) Competition and Festival for more than 25 years, will be recognized by the Association as a Lifetime Honorary Member at their annual Banquet on Saturday evening, April 21.

## Cory Pesaturo performing at New England Music Festival

Internationally renowned accordionist and MAAA member, Cory Pesaturo, will perform in the Grand Ballroom at the Marriott Hotel in Newton, Massachusetts on Sunday afternoon, April 12, 2015.

As a youngster Cory competed in the New England Music Festival for several years. He was a student of the late Tulio Gasperini at Gasperini Music in Pawtucket, RI.

