



# MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

Volume 9, Issue 4  
June 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:

June 28, 1:30 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

[catherine.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.coleman@gmail.com)

## MAAA at the 2015 Somerville Squeezebox Slam

The 2015 Somerville Squeezebox Slam was a huge success, with dozens of accordionists—including several MAAA members—playing in and around Davis Square. Five “main stage” performances by local groups demonstrated the global appeal and musical diversity of the instrument.

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*Paul and Lillian Monte stopped by MAAA's information table. Paul was a featured performer at last year's Squeezebox Slam.*

## MAAA's June 28 meeting will honor Sam Falcetti

Join us for what promises to be a fun and inspiring afternoon honoring Sam, a renowned performer, conductor, professor, competition judge, and founder of Falcetti Music. The open mike theme will be “Songs Sam Taught You.”

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Hundreds of people attended the event, pulled in by the music or simply amazed by the mystery and the beauty of all the accordions that could be seen. The sun was shining and everyone was smiling.



*Lewis Howes participated in the Accordion Anarchy that filled Davis Square.*

MAAA members spotted at the Slam included Paul and Lillian Monte, James Gerke, David Magliozzi, Lewis Howes, Carmen D'Angelo, Simon Shapiro, Betty Widerski, and NHAAs accordionist Richard Messina. It was a great day for the accordion!

MAAA answered questions and provided information at our display table throughout the afternoon. Takeaway cards provided our website and Facebook addresses. People were continuously amazed to learn that our Association exists, and we hope that this outreach activity will result in some new faces at upcoming meetings.



*Above: James Gerke, David Magliozzi, and Richard Messina performed together. Many other accordionists stopped by to join in with them too. Below: Betty Widerski was part of a massive klezmer play-along.*



*The 2015 event was the fourth annual Squeezebox Slam organized by the Nave Gallery and Somerville Arts Council.*

## Dave and James “Django in June” 2015 Adventure

by David Magliozzi

It was the first week of June and I received a Facebook message from Dallas Vietty, a professional performer and teacher of jazz and French musette accordion. “Why don’t you come to Django in June, Victor Prieto will be teaching this year.”

The Django in June Festival occurs on the campus of Smith College in Northampton, MA for a week every June. I heard from many participants that it is the very best Gypsy Jazz festival in North America and it is run by a guitarist Andrew Lawrence. Guitarists are central and make up the majority of the attendees, but I saw mandolins, violins, clarinets, a sax, a trumpet, several basses, and of course ten accordions. James Gerke and I of the MA Accordion Association supplied two of those accordions.

James and I came at the end of the week. We arrived Friday morning just before 9:30 am. Morning warm-ups had concluded, but the first workshop sessions were starting. I hopped into Victor Prieto’s class and James hopped into Dallas Vietty’s class. We were both blown away with what was being shared and taught. A short break followed and then we were treated to a facilitated jam session. The proctor of a facilitated jam would come up with a concept or song to work on and say something like, “Let’s play Sweet Georgia Brown. It is a string of



*The Gypsy Vado*

*Photo: James Gerke*

V7s. Let’s emphasize the 3 and the 7. Use the Mixolydian mode. Now let’s practice the bebop scale. Let’s go around the room, everyone take four bars. Listen to your neighbor and carry forth the idea.”

Afternoon classes were more facilitated jams. Of course people could opt out of class and just do their own thing. You could find non-stop jamming everywhere: in houses, under tents, on porches, under trees, in the driveways, on the steps. You could also visit a tent loaded with CDs and books and buy whatever you wanted. There was even a Gypsy Vado (my friend Craig Hollingsworth built it), which helped set the mood.

Django in June is a chance to totally immerse yourself in Gypsy Jazz, particularly if you want to learn this music but don’t have access to other like-minded players or qualified teachers. For James and me it was a chance to study advanced accordion concepts with Victor Prieto (NYC/Spain) and Dallas Vietty (Philadelphia). Marvelous. Just marvelous.



*Victor Prieto and Dallas Vietty, front. James Gerke, second row left. Dave Magiozzi, second row right. Photo: Jeffrey MacMillan*

## CALENDAR

**June 28, noon til 9 pm**

**Polish Fest**

**Christ the King Parish, Center Street, Ludlow**

Polish kitchen and American food, 5:30 Catholic Mass, and music all day and all night by John Stevens Doubleshot and Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push. Free to all.

**July 4, 9:30-noon**

**Fourth of July Parade, Plymouth Jan Borelli's Marching Band**  
[www.borellimusic.com](http://www.borellimusic.com)

**July 12, 3 pm**

**Grayson Masefield**

**McCormack Hall, UMass Boston**  
<https://www.umb.edu>

The five-Time World Accordion Champion gives a free concert of classical and jazz music. Open to the public.

**July 17, 8 and 10 pm**

**Cafe Accordion Orchestra**

**Amazing Things Arts Center, 160 Hollis St., Framingham**

<http://www.artsboston.org>

Dan Newton's Café Accordion Orchestra's sound has "French flair, Latin heat, and Bohemian attitude." In addition to accordion, instruments include guitar, mandolin, bass, percussion, and vocals.

**Spread the sound! Please send accordion calendar info to: [catherine.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.coleman@gmail.com)**



*Cafe Accordion Orchestra*

## Accordion Cool

Coach Dave Laprise produces a series of shows on Attleboro Local Cable Access called Accordion Cool. Past shows can be downloaded from "Video on demand" at [www.doubleacs.com](http://www.doubleacs.com). Dave is also playing at local farmer's markets and house parties.



*Coach Dave Laprise on set at Attleboro Local Cable Access*