



# MASSACHUSETTS ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

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August 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:

August 23, 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

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## Ray Cavicchio will perform at August 23 MAAA meeting



Piano accordion legend Ray Cavicchio will perform at MAAA's upcoming meeting on August 23. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Cavicchio is a long-time favorite Boston entertainer who has appeared on the Lawrence Welk Show. He performs a unique mix of Broadway, Hollywood, and ethnic music, including Italian, Greek and Jewish tunes.

Highly regarded as an electronics master, Ray has invented his own instrument, the Cavichord, dramatically expanding the range and sound of the standard accordion by adding over three octaves to the bass line and creating authentic sounds of other instruments.

## Grayson Masefield dazzles at UMass Boston

by Tony Marini

A special performance organized by MAAA member Emilian Badeo brought five-time world accordion champion Grayson Masefield to Boston on July 12, 2015. The concert, free and open to the public, took place in McCormack Hall at UMass Boston.

Several MAAA members were able to enjoy this special presentation. Jerry Tramentozzi was there and I have to say that Grayson's bellow-shake was almost as good as Jerry's!

Born to accordion-playing parents in Auckland New Zealand, the 28 year-old brought people to their feet during his concert.

In 2009, Grayson became the first person to win the Coupe Mondiale top classical category and the Coupe Mondiale Virtuoso Entertainment category in the same year. In 2009 he also won the Roland International V-Accordion Competition & Festival, Rome and the Primus Ikaalinen International TV Competition, Finland, showing his amazing musical versatility. In 2010, he won the Trophée Mondial Classique World Accordion Championships and retired from competitions.

What is most impressive is that he achieved these honors playing a piano accordion. Most competition winners play a chromatic accordion. It is widely agreed that the piano accordion player is at a disadvantage compared to a chromatic player because of the way the chromatic keyboard is set. Grayson overcame that hurdle.

Grayson's left hand was free base. A free base accordion has various scales and it was amazing to witness his physical ability to play that instrument. Not only was his right hand extremely accurate, quick, and responsive, but he generally played with three or four fingers on his left hand. We were all shaking our heads, incredulous!



For people who may not be familiar with chromatic accordions, only the major scale buttons are on the left hand at different octaves. For him to play a C chord, he has to press three buttons (C-E-G). His left hand was just so impeccable.

Grayson played a diverse repertoire that encompassed very intricate classical music through Piazzola tangos and fun pieces. The hour he played seemed to pass by like seconds.

One of the people who attended noted how interesting it was that Grayson got into character for each of the pieces. His presence and the way he moved showed how into each piece he was.

**Many thanks to Emilian Badeo for arranging this event and for inviting MAAA members to it.**

**CALENDAR**

**Aug. 28, 8 pm**  
**Sarah Borges Band & Session Americana**  
**Natick Center for the Arts, 14 Summer St., Natick**  
<http://www.natickarts.org/performance/sarah-borges-band-session-americana>

Sarah Borges earned national attention performing with the Broken Singles. Tonight she performs with Boston-based roots supergroup Session Americana: Billy Beard (drums, vocals), Jon Bistline (bass, keyboard, vocals), Ry Cavanaugh (guitar, bass, mandolin, mandocello, vocals), Jim Fitting (harmonica/vocals) and Dinty Child (mandocello, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, guitar, accordion, keyboards, vocals).

**Bird Mancini**  
**Me & Thee Coffeehouse**  
**28 Mugford Street, Marblehead**  
[www.meandthee.org](http://www.meandthee.org)

Boston’s accordion/guitar duo’s acoustic rock pop style features guitar, accordion, harmonica, and percussion.

**Sept. 12 & 26, 4 PM**  
**Josh Lederman and the Cambridge-Somerville All-Stars Plow and Stars, 912 Mass. Ave., Cambridge**  
[www.ploughandstars.com](http://www.ploughandstars.com)

Fervently performed Americana music with an ever-changing array of local musical luminaries. Just back from a summer in New



*Accordianist Sandy Theodorou performs Greek folk music with Revma at Shiraz*

Orleans. Biweekly performances to keep us warm all through the winter.

**Sept. 13, 2:30-6:30**  
**Dennis Polisky and Maestro’s Men**  
**Pulaski Park, 40 Belchertown St., Three Rivers, MA**  
[www.maestrosmen.com](http://www.maestrosmen.com)

This is the last polka party of the season, rain or shine in the outdoor pavillion. Polish and American food.

**Sept. 16, 7:30 pm**  
**Moody Street String Band**  
**Gore Place, 52 Gore St., Waltham**  
[www.goreplace.org](http://www.goreplace.org)

Presented at the historic Gore Estate, a lively blend of Irish, English, Scottish and Old-timey New England music on fiddle, accordion, banjo, mandolin, guitars, and bass.

**Oct. 1, 7:30 pm**  
**Revma**  
**Shiraz Restaurant, 72 Bigelow Ave., Watertown**

[www.shirazcuisine.com](http://www.shirazcuisine.com)  
 Greek Night features music from Nisiotika (island music), Epirotika, Thrakiotika, Smyrnaika, kalamatiana, tsamika, zembekika, tsiftetelia. Accordianist Sandy Theodorou is also a vocalist and laouto player who specializes in traditional Greek village music and Greek urban rebetika.

**Share the music!**  
**Send info about your gigs or upcoming performances of note to:**  
**Catherine Coleman**  
**MAAA Newsletter editor**  
[catherine.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.coleman@gmail.com)

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