

# MAAA NEWSLETTER MAY 2022

NEXT MEETING: MAY 15th– 1:30 PM

CIOCIARO SOCIAL CLUB

144 BRIDGE STREET, NEWTON, MA 02458

WE HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT WORLD ACCORDION DAY MAY 6TH

Happy Cinco de Mayo  
May 5th



The April meeting was well attended and proved to be a great afternoon featuring a wide range of great music, comradery and fun for everyone present. Looks like events are getting back on track on all fronts.

This month's meeting will be one you will not want to miss. If you haven't heard our invited guest, Franklin Nichols, perform; you are in for a real treat. He recently received a gold medal in each of the three adult accordion competitions

at the recent ATAM Music Festival as well performing a solo concert.



Franklin resides in Chicopee, Massachusetts with his family and has been a student of Michael Falcetti for the past three years. To quote his teacher “Franklin has an incredible God given talent and is a joy to teach”. His newest instrument is the digital accordion. He started on an acoustic accordion three years ago and transitioned to the Roland digital accordion two years ago.

Franklin discovered his passion for music when he was just three years old, learning music on a piano and since then his countless hours of practice and natural talent have made him a master of the keys. A music enthusiast, he also plays the flute, saxophone, and harmonica.

Franklin has autism and is blind, and plays by ear with the ability to fill every musical part of an arrangement with ease--often becoming engrossed in melodies and harmonies, while contemplating the theory behind it all.

Franklin has attended Berkshire Hills Music Academy, a school for young adults with intellectual disabilities since 2013. When he matriculated into the LIVE Program in 2015, Franklin joined BHMA's Performance Troupe. He rehearses with the eight-member band daily and is booked for regular, paid gigs at schools, conferences, and various events across the Northeast. With his signature charisma and humor, he also entertains audiences through his work as a solo musician, as a member of a jazz trio, and vocal accompanist.

Franklin aspires to be a professional musician, as well as an advocate for others with disabilities. During Troupe performances, he shares powerful testimony about his experience living with a disability. Franklin also speaks about the importance of acceptance and inclusion-----values he aims to embody in his own life.

Innately inquisitive, Franklin enjoys getting to know people, traveling around the world, and utilizing the internet to teach himself different languages, including Spanish, Hebrew and Japanese.

### [MAAA CONTACT INFO](#)

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Please do not hesitate to submit photos, stories or events you wish to share with our members and audience.

**[Hope to see everyone on the 15<sup>th</sup>!](#)**

**[Don't forget refreshments](#)**