

AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION (AAA)

Lifetime Achievement Award: On Sunday, November 6, the AAA will present well-known artist and teacher, Charles Nunzio, with the AAA Lifetime Achievement Award. The event will take place at The Fiesta, Wood-Ridge, New Jersey. Guest artists will include the Accordion Pops Orchestra, conducted by Dan Desiderio, Carmen Carrozza, Donald Hulme, (1959 Coupe Mondiale winner), Ed Monteiro, and a special performance by Charles Nunzio.

CUNY Concert in March 2005: the AAA commissioned John Franceschina to write an accordion composition entitled, 'For Elsie' in honor of long time board member, Elsie Bennett who celebrated her 85th birthday. The composition will be premiered by CIA President, Kevin Friedrich at the Composer Commissioning Concert to be held in at CUNY Graduate Center, New York City, March 11, 2005. Also to be premiered at this concert is an original accordion work by noted international composer, Lucas Foss, commissioned by AAA.

AAA to Co-sponsor the 60th CIA Coupe Mondiale in 2007: The American Accordionists' Association is looking forward to co-sponsoring the Coupe Mondiale in 2007 with sister organization the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International. Exact dates and location will be announced at a later time.

AAA Jointly Sponsors 2002 CIA World Champion: The 2002 Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA) Coupe Mondiale and International Piano Accordion Winner Alexander Poeluev from Russia recently completed a successful tour of the United States.

The tour to the United States was jointly sponsored by the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) and the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG) and included concert appearances at their respective July festivals. In addition to the AAA and ATG performances, Alexander also appeared in several other concerts on the east coast and Midwest.

Welcome to the 2005 CIA Winter Congress
Den Helder, Holland

conveniently located one hour from Amsterdam by train

Friday 28th - Sunday 30th January, 2005

Hosted by CIA Member: Nederlandse Organisatie voor
Accordeon & Mondharmonica (NOVAM)



AAA Masterclass and Concert Series: The 10th anniversary of the Annual Master Class and Concert series was presented August 27-29, 2004 at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City. Lecturer-in-residence of the American Accordionists' Association, composer, author, accordionist and philosopher, Dr. William Schimmel moderated this AAA event.

On the Saturday night concert, Dr. Schimmel was presented the CIA Merit Award from the Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the international accordion movement. At the presentation past AAA President Mrs. Faithe Deffner profiled many of Dr. Schimmel's outstanding achievements spanning decades of work with the accordion that led to the nomination for this prestigious International award which was presented by CIA President Kevin Friedrich in conjunction with the tenth anniversary celebrations.

Dr. Schimmel was the focus of a full page article published in the New York Times on the opening day of the event. "Dr. Schimmel's belief in the supreme adaptability of the accordion is also the philosophical core of this Master Class and Concert Series" stated the New York Times in a full page article that preceded the event. The three day series drew an audience of approximately 300 attendees, many as a result of the New York Times article.

Featuring the diversity of the accordion, listeners were treated to a wide variety of styles from the classics, contemporary, jazz to performance art, from solo accordion, bass accordion, 12 bass, punk accordion to accordion with trumpet, melodica, guitar, clarinet and piano and much more. Dr. Schimmel, who earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in composition at the Julliard School is already putting together the 2005 Master Class and Concert series.

Among the participants from this year were: The "K" Trio, Paul Stein and his mother Beverley, Jazz accordionist Will Holshouser, Dr. Robert Young McMahan, Allyssa Lamb, Kamala Sankram, Dr. Thomas Massucci, actress Kathleen Goodman, performance artist Ray Rue, songwriter Rembert Block (Avant-Garde the whole family can enjoy), Brian Dewan (Brain surgery without anesthesia) and Eugene Ettore specialist Rita Davidson. Also performing were Godfrey Nelson and Lorraine Nelson-Wolf, Micki Goodman, Benjamin Ickies (pictured on the left with Dr. Schimmel in the NY Times article) and many more.

Micki Goodman presented the fourth and final part in her ontological film called "What is this thing called the Accordion?" For a complete schedule of the three concerts and masterclasses that took place, please visit www.ameraccord.com.