

Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG)

The ATG presented many concerts during its festival including appearances by: Alexander Poeluev, Coupe Mondiale winner from Russia, K & S Accordion Orchestra from Ireland, Jarosh Accordion Ensemble from Canada, Milwaukee Accordion Club Ensemble, Stas Venglevski, John Simkus, Stan and Joanna Darrow, Mikhail Litvin, Tony Gorenc & Hal Miller, Amy Jo Sawyer, Lidia Kaminska from Poland and a past winner of the ATG's Anthony Galla-Rini Competition for Classical Accordion, Daniel Andersson from Sweden, Riverwest Accordion Club, The Busso Trio featuring Frank and his son and daughter, Jerome Richard - Coupe Mondiale winner from France, Dee Langley & Greg Dagoumas Duo, The University of Missouri-Kansas City Community Accordion Orchestra, and the USA Jazz Legend - Art Van Damme.

There were several outstanding workshops including: Dr. Herbert Scheibenreif (Austria) on *The Accordion Concerti of Zolotariew*; Helmi Harrington on *Accordion History 1910-2004*; Art Van Damme on *various aspects of his life in the jazz field*; Gerry Kelly (Ireland) on *Irish Accordion Music*; and Betty Jo Simon on *The Music of Anthony Galla-Rini*.

ATG Accordion Hall of Fame: Joan Cochran Sommers and Myron Floren (in absentia) were presented the ATG's Hall of Fame Award for their contributions to the accordion field. Anthony Galla-Rini was the first of the three people now a member of this Hall of Fame.

Galla-Rini 101st Birthday: Anthony Galla-Rini celebrated his 100th Birthday last January 18 with a big party held in Los Angeles. A party for his 101st Birthday has been planned for January - 2005, in Los Angeles.

Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini still conducts the birthday and music camp orchestras by memory, a remarkable feat for this icon of the accordion world!

ATG Member CD Recording: This year saw the release of the ATG's first CD, an intriguing anthology of music from its talented roster of members demonstrating the beauty and versatility of the instrument across a broad musical spectrum, featuring both soloists and a variety of groups. The CD was issued as a means of raising funds for future ATG activities and all of the artists donated their efforts without charge.

ATG Establishes Important Commissioning Fund: One of the most needed resources for accordionists in the United States is the promotion of serious original accordion compositions both for soloists and, particularly, chamber groups of all combinations. The ATG, in sensing and responding to this great need, has established a new committee, chaired by Joan Cochran Sommers, devoted to raising funds for commissioning noted American composers to write for the accordion.

As a great gesture of confidence in the ATG to begin this worthy task, Faithe Deffner made an outstanding financial donation to being this fund, a donation that will undoubtedly encourage others to do likewise.

Other members on the commissioning committee include Guy Klusevcek, well-known in the performance of new chamber music that includes the accordion; Liz Finch, who works in the Los Angeles music industry of film and television with many outstanding American composers; and Amy Jo Sawyer, composer of many accordion works both solo and ensemble.



2004 ATG Festival Orchestra conducted by Joan C. Sommers