



EXHIBITS
WORKSHOPS
COMPETITION
GALA CONCERT
GUEST ARTISTS
DINE & SOCIALIZE
JR. & SR. FESTIVAL
ORCHESTRAS
OPEN MIC & JAM SESSIONS

AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

86th Anniversary AAA Festival
July 12-14, 2024

MARRIOTT PHILADELPHIA WEST
111 CRAWFORD AVENUE
WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, PA 19428

SUBSCRIPTION - \$20



Welcome to the American Accordionists' Association 2024 Festival

Greetings, AAA members and festival attendees! It is wonderful to reconvene with our accordion family at another phenomenal festival in the Philadelphia area, this time celebrating 86 years of the American Accordionists' Association!

This year's festival features several **concerts and dining experiences** you won't want to miss:

- Friday's Kickoff Luncheon with Nikolay Bine and Dallas Vietty
- Friday's Pasta Night with Frank Busso Sr, Frank Busso Jr, Dee Langley, and others
- Friday's Gala Concert featuring Hanzhi Wang and Joe Natoli
- Saturday's Luncheon with Nikolay Bine and the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra
- Saturday's Awards Concert with trophy presentations and lots of music
- Saturday's Cocktail Reception & Gala Banquet, featuring Don Gerundo, Trio Called Leonard (with Dallas Vietty on accordion), & the AAA Festival Orchestra conducted by Frank Busso Sr.
- Finally, Sunday's farewell breakfast and open meeting will be a great opportunity to review this year's festival and to discuss future AAA endeavors

Throughout Friday and Saturday, please visit our **Exhibit Room** to say hello to Ernest Deffner Affiliates, JANPress Music, and Music Magic USA, and to learn more about AAA's rich history.

Let's learn! Our Friday **workshops** will be led by Nikolay Bine (1:00pm) and Dee Langley (2:00pm). On Saturday, Dallas Vietty and (10:00am) and Joe Natoli (12:30pm) will take over.

For our new-to-the-accordion adult hobbyists, please join us at 1pm on Friday and 12:30pm on Saturday to play with the AAA's **Beginner Adult Band**, led by the ever-friendly Joanna Darrow.

Interested in a **jam session** or **open mic**? Come play with us on Friday at 2:00pm (hosted by Don Gerundo) and Saturday at 3:30pm (hosted by Ray Oreggia).

Finally, I invite you to **become an AAA member** for the first time or to renew your membership here at the festival. Your membership will help you stay up to date on accordion events and helps to fund AAA events and projects.

I look forward to connecting with you during the festival!

Very best musical wishes,

Frank Busso, Jr.
President
American Accordionists' Association





Frank Busso, Jr., President
Frank Busso, Sr., 1st Vice-President
Sam Falcetti, 2nd Vice-President
Rita Davidson Barnea, Secretary
Ray Oreggia, Treasurer

GOVERNING BOARD

Frank Busso, Jr.
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Dr. Joseph Ciccone
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Sam Falcetti
Kevin Friedrich

Donald Gerundo
Joan Grauman Morse
Dominic Karcic
Dr. Robert Young McMahan
Ray Oreggia
Linda Soley Reed
Mario Tacca
Al Terzo
Frank Toscano

APPOINTMENTS

FESTIVAL CHAIRPERSON

Frank Busso, Jr.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Mario Tacca

COMPTROLLER

Donald Gerundo

HISTORIAN

Joan Grauman Morse

PRESIDENT EMERITA

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AFFILIATIONS

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)
International Music Council (UNESCO)
National Music Council
A World of Accordions Museum

**deceased*



Mayor Danelle Fournier
West Conshohocken Borough
112 Ford St
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

Mayor Yaniv Aronson
Conshohocken Borough
400 Fayette St, Suite 200
Conshohocken, PA 19428

July 5, 2024

For the second straight year, we have the honor of welcoming all of you to the Annual American Accordionists Association's 86th Anniversary Festival. Thank you for again choosing West Conshohocken to host this celebration, competition and festival, and please make it a point to cross over the Schuylkill River and into neighboring Conshohocken! You will find both boroughs to be welcoming, friendly, and highly passionate about the arts. In fact, the Conshohocken Arts Festival was started in 2018 to cater directly to residents' requests for expanded arts programming, to join West Conshohocken's rich history and tradition in the arts.

We are so thrilled to see that the AAA has thrived through 86 years in its mission to unite, educate and facilitate bringing people together to play, study and honor the accordion and the artists to who play the accordion. What a thrill it is to also host your featured guest performers Hanzhi Wang, Joe Natoli, Dallas Vietty, and Nikolay Bine!

We wish all of you the warmest welcome from our two boroughs. We will be a richer community for your visit, patronage, and friendship July 12th through the 14th, 2024.

Sincerely,

Danelle Fournier
Mayor, West Conshohocken Borough

Yaniv Aronson
Mayor, Conshohocken Borough



American
Accordionists'
Association



KICKOFF LUNCHEON CONCERT

FRIDAY, JULY 12
11:30 AM

Celebrating 86 years of the AAA



Nikolay Bine



Dallas Vietty

TICKET REQUIRED



the world's standard of accordion excellence



*We salute AAA's featured
TITANO artists and educators:*

*Frank Busso Sr, Dee Langley,
Joanna Darrow, and Frank Busso Jr*

The rich history of Titano Accordions includes many important artists and educators who have developed and popularized these world-class accordions ...

◆ Bill Palmer ◆ Bill Hughes ◆ Joan Cochran Sommers ◆ Grayson Masefield ◆
Stanley Darrow ◆ The "K" Trio ◆ The International Trio ◆ Helmi Harrington
◆ Kevin Friedrich ◆ The Busso Trio ◆ Mary Tokarski ◆ Harley Jones ◆ Bill Schimmel ◆

...just to name a few.



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AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

86th Anniversary Festival - July 12-14, 2024

Schedule of Events

Friday, July 12, 2024

10:00am	Registration Desk opens (until 11:30am)	Ballroom Foyer
11:30am	Kickoff Luncheon Concert (ticket required)	Ballroom B
	<i>featuring Dallas Vietty and Nikolay Bine</i>	
1:00pm	Registration Desk opens (until 5:30pm)	Ballroom Foyer
	Exhibit Room opens (until 5:30pm).....	Forrest Room
	Junior Festival Orchestra Rehearsal (until 2:00pm)	Ballroom B
	Competitions (until 3:00pm)	Academy Room
	Beginner Adult Band Rehearsal #1 (until 2:00pm).....	Walnut Room
	Workshop #1 presented by Nikolay Bine:	
	"Interactive Workshop - Proper Fundamentals"	Salon E
2:00pm	Open Mic and Jam Session	Walnut Room
	Workshop #2 presented by Dee Langley:	
	"Losing the Fear of Flats and Sharps: Playing in Any Key You Want"	Salon E
3:30pm	Festival Orchestra Rehearsal #1 (until 5:30pm)	Ballroom B
5:30pm	Pasta Night (ticket required)	Salon D
	<i>featuring Frank Busso Sr, Frank Busso Jr, Dee Langley, and others!</i>	
7:00pm	Gala Concert (ticket required).....	Ballroom B
	<i>featuring Hanzhi Wang and Joe Natoli</i>	
8:30pm	Artist Reception immediately following concert (ticket required)	Salon E





AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION

86th Anniversary Festival - July 12-14, 2024

Schedule of Events

Saturday, July 13, 2024

9:00am	Registration Desk opens (until 11:30am)	Ballroom Foyer
	Exhibit Room opens (until 11:30am)	Forrest Room
	Junior Festival Orchestra Rehearsal (until 10:00am)	Ballroom B
	Competitions (until 11:00am)	Academy Room
10:00am	Workshop #3 presented by Dallas Vietty:	
	"GrooveGrid: A Method for Connection to your Inner Groove"	Salon E
10:15am	Competitions (until 10:45am)	Ballroom B
11:30am	Saturday Luncheon (ticket required)	Salon D
	<i>featuring Nikolay Bine and the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra</i>	
12:30pm	Registration Desk opens (until 7:00pm)	Ballroom Foyer
	Exhibit Room opens (until 5:30pm)	Forrest Room
	Beginner Adult Band Rehearsal #2 (until 1:30pm)	Walnut Room
	Workshop #4 presented by Joe Natoli:	
	"Inexpensive Studio Quality Home Recording"	Salon E
2:00pm	Awards Concert	Ballroom B
	<i>featuring Entertainment AAA, the Junior Festival Orchestra, and more!</i>	
3:30pm	Festival Orchestra Rehearsal #2 (until 5:30pm)	Ballroom B
	Open Mic and Jam Session	Salon E
6:00pm	Cocktail Reception	Ballroom Foyer
	<i>featuring Don Gerundo</i>	
7:00pm	Gala Banquet (ticket required)	Ballroom B
	<i>featuring the 2024 AAA Festival Orchestra and Trio Called Leonard (Dallas Vietty accordion, Shane Aaserud bass, Kevin Ripley drums)</i>	

Sunday, July 14, 2024

9:00am	Breakfast (ticket required) and Open Meeting	Ballroom B
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86 Years of American Accordionists' Association Presidents



1938-1939
Pietro Deiro, Sr.



1940-1941
Charles Magnante



1942-1945
Joseph Biviano



1946-1947
Eugene Ettore



1948-1949
Joseph Biviano



1950-1951
Charles Magnante



1952
Pietro Deiro, Jr.



1953-1954
Eugene Ettore



1955-1956
Charles Magnante



1957-1958
Louis Iorio



1959-1960
Pietro Deiro, Jr.



1961-1962
Joseph Biviano



1963-1964
Eugene Ettore



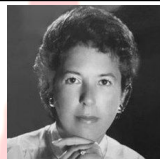
1965-1966
Carmen Carrozza



1967-1968
Joseph Biviano



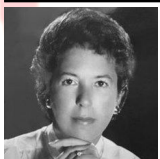
1969-1970
Charles Magnante



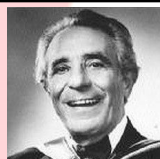
1971-1972
Maddalena Belfiore



1973-1974
Elsie Bennett



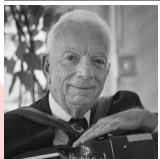
1975-1976
Maddalena Belfiore



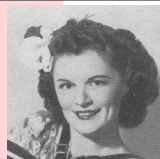
1977-1978
Carmen Carrozza



1979-1980
Maddalena Belfiore



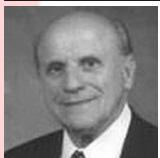
1981
Frank Busso, Sr.



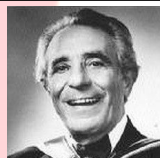
1982-1984
Addie Cere



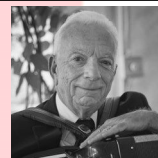
1985-1986
Faithe Deffner



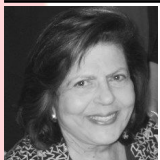
1987-1988
Anthony Ettore



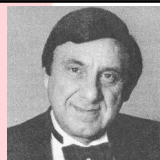
1989-1991
Carmen Carrozza



1992-1994
Frank Busso, Sr.



1995-2000
Faithe Deffner



2001-2004
Dr. Carmelo Pino



2005-2014
Linda Soley Reed



2015-2018
Mary Tokarski



2019-2022
Dr. Joseph Ciccone



2023-present
Frank Busso, Jr.

Ernest Deffner

Celebrating 90 years!



Sheet Music & Method Books from:

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♦ Mosti ♦ Preissler ♦ Santorella ♦ Schmuelling ♦ Stricker ♦ *and others!*

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2024 AAA Festival Competition Schedule

***Solo & Duet categories will be in the Academy Room
Ensemble & Band categories will be in Ballroom B***

Friday, July 12 - 1:00pm

EVALUATION SOLO A

Daniel Lee

Ed Komczyk

Corbin Schaeffer

Nate Smith

Friday, July 12 - 1:30pm

EVALUATION DUET

Corbin Schaeffer & Nate Smith

Friday, July 12 - 1:40pm

STANDARD SOLO ELEMENTARY

Daniel Lee

Friday, July 12 - 1:50pm

FOUNDER'S SOLO ADULT

Kathy Haywood

Mike Silvia

Friday, July 12 - 2:10pm

OPEN SOLO JUNIOR

Ava Yip

Caroline Lammers

Liza Pokislyuk

Friday, July 12 - 2:35pm

ETHNIC SOLO JUNIORETTE

Iven Kavich

Friday, July 12 - 2:40pm

ETHNIC SOLO JUNIOR

Liza Pokislyuk

Friday, July 12 - 2:45pm

ETHNIC SOLO SENIOR

Gabe Abreu

Saturday, July 13 - 9:00am

EVALUATION SOLO B

Karen Blisnuk (A)

Michelle Reasso

Julianna Busso

Francesca Busso

Ava Yip

Karen Blisnuk (B)

Olasonda Cerrito



2024 AAA Festival Competition Schedule

***Solo & Duet categories will be in the Academy Room
Ensemble & Band categories will be in Ballroom B***

Saturday, July 13 - 9:45am

OPEN DUET JUNIORETTE

Julianna Busso & Francesca Busso
Iven Kavich & Heloise Kavich

Saturday, July 13 - 10:00am

OPEN SOLO JUNIORETTE

Julianna Busso
Iven Kavich

Saturday, July 13 - 10:10am

POP SOLO JUNIORETTE

Francesca Busso

Saturday, July 13 - 10:15am

POP SOLO INTERMEDIATE

Nicholas Busso

Saturday, July 13 - 10:25am

HONORS SOLO JUNIOR

Caroline Lammers

Saturday, July 13 - 10:30am

HONORS SOLO INTERMEDIATE

Maksim Toft

Saturday, July 13 - 10:40am

FOUNDER'S SOLO SENIOR

Gabe Abreu

Saturday, July 13 - 10:50am

HONORS SOLO JUNIORETTE

Iven Kavich
Julianna Busso

Saturday, July 13 - 10:15am

FESTIVAL BAND

Westmont Accordion Club

Saturday, July 13 - 10:30am

OPEN SENIOR ENSEMBLE

Imbriglio Trio

Saturday, July 13 - 2:00pm

ENTERTAINMENT AAA

Busso Festival Orchestra

*Congratulations and good
luck to all competitors!*



Meet your 2024 AAA Festival Guest Performers and Presenters

Nikolay Bine: Kickoff Luncheon Concert Performer, Saturday Luncheon Performer, and Workshop Presenter

Nikolay Bine's accordion playing spans over 22 years. Despite being only 28, he has already won many prestigious worldwide competitions, including first place in Accordion Star International (USA, 2022) and Trophée Mondiale (Kaunas, Lithuania, 2014), where he was named a world accordion champion. In 2019, Nikolay was also invited to play in the international exhibition "The New York Times Travel Show" in New York. He has played with world-famous musicians such as 24-time Grammy winner Chick Corea and Emmy-nominated trumpeter Benny Benack III. Nikolay has also been an invited jury member of the prestigious world accordion competitions in "PIF Castelfidardo" (2019), "Trophée Mondiale" (2020), "Italia Award" (2021), and "Accordion Star International" (2023). In 2022, Nikolay made his debut at the world famous Carnegie Hall.



Frank Busso, Sr.: AAA Festival Orchestra Conductor



Frank has served on the governing board of the American Accordionists' Association for over 45 years. He has held the offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Treasurer. Frank started studying and playing accordion at age 7. Since then, he has achieved great successes as a performer throughout the New York metropolitan area. As director of the Staten Island Music School in New York, Frank taught many award-winning students and conducted numerous classical & festival accordion orchestras. He was also the music teacher at two parochial schools for over 25 years. Currently a resident of northern Virginia and Palm Beach, Florida, Frank continues to perform and arrange orchestral works. At last year's AAA Festival, he became the twelfth recipient of the AAA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joanna Darrow: AAA Beginner Adult Band and Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra Conductor

Joanna Arnold is the personal protégé of Stanley Darrow. During her studies at the Acme Accordion School, she covered all aspects of musical training, specializing in music of the Baroque period and chamber music. Joanna has studied with Guy Klucsevsek, and also composition and analyses with Dr. E. Avril. Performing in conjunction with bassoon, harp, harpsichord, strings, and piano, she has brought the accordion to the attention of local professional musicians and to members of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, for which she now serves as staff accordionist. Joanna is Director of the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the AAA, Accordionists and Teachers Guild International (ATG), and A World of Accordions Museum. She has also been appointed adjunct accordion instructor for accordion majors at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.



Don Gerundo: Cocktail Reception Performer



Don is an active accordionist and pianist in the New York metropolitan area, playing various styles that range from popular American standards to jazz and rock. He has performed with the Bensen-Scott Big Band, the Westchester Jazz Band, Scott Wenzel Big Band, Lenny Welch (hit record "Since I Fell For You"), and Joe Piscopo. Don starting playing the accordion at age 10, later studying harmony and theory with famed accordionist Tony Mecca and improvisation with Adolph Sandole in New York. During that time, Don started to perform club dates with some of the local leaders in the New York metropolitan area, as well as working at resorts in the New York Catskill area. This on-the-job training helped him hone his improvising skills and expand his repertoire. Don continued to perform during his college years attending Ithaca College, where he joined the national music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha as the first accordionist to be offered an invitation in that chapter. For the last several years, he has focused on the free bass accordion, exploring its use in the pop and jazz idioms by utilizing its flexibility in chord voicings, bass lines, and general accompaniment.



Meet your 2024 AAA Festival Guest Performers and Presenters

Dee Langley: Workshop Presenter and AAA Junior Festival Orchestra Conductor

Dee specializes in both solo and ensemble works for the accordion, having appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Guthrie Theater, Nautilus Music Theater, Ethnic Dance Theatre, and Theater Latte Da. She won the 2012 Minnesota Emerging Composer Award (Orkestar Bez Ime - World Music), the 2011-2012 McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians. In 2019, Dee was honored at the American Accordion Musicological Society (AAMS) for her lifelong dedication and service to the accordion as a performer, educator, director, and composer. She was inducted into the American Accordion Hall of Fame in 2020. Founder and coordinator for the NE Accordion Festival, Dee is also a past president of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild International (ATG) and currently teaches accordion for Minneapolis College, as well as privately in NE Minneapolis.



Joe Natoli: Gala Concert Performer and Workshop Presenter



Joseph Natoli, has been a performer and advocate of the accordion since age seven. He won the 1972 AAA Virtuoso championship under the tutelage of Mickey Bisilia of Youngstown, Ohio, and earning first runner-up honors several months later in the Coupe Mondiale in Caracas, Venezuela. In 2008, Joe won the grand prize for the first Roland US V-Accordion competition held in Los Angeles, California. His education includes Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in music theory and composition from the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, where he was the first student accepted there to use the free bass accordion as an applied major instrument, studying with renowned Canadian accordionist, Joseph Macerollo. He is also well-known for his original compositions and has written many pieces in all musical styles and genres for standard and free bass accordion.

Dallas Vietty: Kickoff Luncheon Concert Performer, Gala Banquet Performer, and Workshop Presenter

Dallas' unique style comes from his background in the American jazz tradition, as well as study and immersion in the European swing tradition of Django Reinhardt (Gypsy Jazz) and French accordionists. He remains very active on the East Coast concert and festival scene. His groups have performed at some of the top US festivals, including TEDx Philly, and Djangoary Festival. As a sideman, his performances have taken him to legendary venues such as: on Broadway as the accordionist in Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish 2019/2020, for Djangofest Northwest with Rhythm Future Quarter 2019, The Iridium NYC, BB King's Times Square, Dizzy's Club at Lincoln Center, the Philadelphia Kimmel Center, many performances across the beautiful city New Orleans, and performances in concert halls in Auvergne region of France in 2022.



Hanzhi Wang: Gala Concert Performer



Acclaimed for her "staggering virtuosity," Hanzhi Wang is the only accordionist to ever win a place on the roster of Young Concert Artists in its 60-year history. An ambassador for the accordion, she has been praised for her captivating stage presence and performances that display passion and finesse. A first prize winner of the 2017 Young Concert Artists Susan Wadsworth International Auditions, Hanzhi debuted in New York in The Peter Marino Concert at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall. Her Washington, DC debut opened the 40th Anniversary Young Concert Artists Series at the Kennedy Center, co-presented by Washington Performing Arts. She holds the Ruth Laredo Prize and Mortimer Levitt Career Development Award for Women Artists of YCA. Hanzhi won First Prize in the 40th Castelfidardo International Accordion Competition in Italy. She inspires the next generation of accordionists with lectures, performances, and master classes at the Manhattan School of Music, Royal Danish Academy of Music, Tianjin Music Conservatory, Ghent Music Conservatory (Belgium), and in Norway and Portugal.



American
Accordionists'
Association



PASTA NIGHT

FRIDAY, JULY 12
7:00 PM

Celebrating 86 years of the AAA



Frank Busso, Sr.



Frank Busso, Jr.



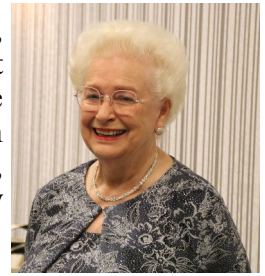
Dee Langley

...AND OTHER ENTERTAINERS!

TICKET REQUIRED

2023 AAA Festival in Review

The many activities of the 85th Anniversary AAA Festival began on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 with exhibits, competitions, a workshop, and socializing during our Meet & Greet Reception. Thursday started off with two workshops and more competitions before celebrating Accordion Day at the King of Prussia Mall. When we returned to the hotel in the afternoon, we had our first AAA Festival Orchestra rehearsal, followed by Pasta Night, with entertainment provided by AAA champion Mario Tacca, acclaimed vocalist Mary Mancini, and the Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra directed by Joanna Darrow.



Friday included time in the Exhibit Room, a pair of morning workshops, and our Luncheon Concert with entertainment provided by world champion Grayson Masefield, AAA Coupe Mondiale representative Nathan Chapeton, and the Westmont Accordion Club. That was followed by two more afternoon workshops, competitions, the second AAA Festival Orchestra rehearsal, and our Gala Concert featuring Grammy winner Joey Miskulin, world champion Grayson Masefield, AAA champion Mario Tacca, and the Accordion Pops Orchestra conducted by Al Terzo.

On Saturday, there were more workshops, competitions, another visit to the Exhibit Room, our awards concert, and the final AAA Festival Orchestra rehearsal. The Gala Banquet included the 2023 AAA Festival Orchestra conducted by world-famous conductor Joan Cochran Sommers, The United States Air Force Strolling Strings with accordionist Senior Master Sergeant Frank Busso Jr, and the AAA Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to Frank Busso Sr. Finally, during Sunday's breakfast and open meeting, we had a chance to recap the festival and gathered attendees' ideas for future AAA events and initiatives.



The Gala Banquet included the 2023 AAA Festival Orchestra conducted by world-famous conductor Joan Cochran Sommers, The United States Air Force Strolling Strings with accordionist Senior Master Sergeant Frank Busso Jr, and the AAA Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to Frank Busso Sr. Finally, during Sunday's breakfast and open meeting, we had a chance to recap the festival and gathered attendees' ideas for future AAA events and initiatives.



2023 AAA Competition Results

Honors Solo Juniorette

Julianna Busso 1st
Iven Kavich 2nd

Honors Solo Junior

Maksim Liam Toft 1st
Caroline Lammers 2nd
Ava Yip 3rd

Honors Solo Intermediate

Max Hoffmann 1st
Alexander Lammers 2nd

Open Solo Juniorette

Julianna Busso SILVER
Iven Kavich GOLD

Open Solo Junior

Caroline Lammers GOLD
Vladimir Maximilian Stefanik GOLD

Open Solo Intermediate

Max Hoffmann GOLD
Alexander Lammers GOLD

Open Solo Adult

Mike Silvia SILVER

Pop Solo Juniorette

Francesca Busso SILVER

Pop Solo Junior

Nicholas Busso GOLD

Ethnic Solo Adult

Mike Silvia GOLD

Founders Solo Adult

Mike Silvia SILVER

Entertainment AAA

Busso Festival Orchestra

Evaluation Band

Acme Adult Preparatory Band

Evaluation Duet

Janine Lenguadoro &
Michelle Reasso

Evaluation Solo

Gabe Abreu
Dan Badecki
Karen Blisnuk (2 entries)
Francesca Busso
Julianna Busso
Ethan Davenport
Kaidson Davis (2 entries)
Lisa DeAngelis
Kathy Haywood
Iven Kavich
Bob Klatte
Daniel Latch
Janine Lenguadoro
Judy Monro
Michelle Reasso
Dan Riccio
Grace Wu
Ava Yip



American
Accordionists'
Association



EXHIBIT ROOM

FORREST ROOM

Celebrating 86 years of the AAA

- Shop for your next new accordion
- Browse accessories and music
- Learn more about 86 years of AAA history

FRIDAY, JULY 12

1:00 pm - 5:30 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 13

9:00 am - 11:30 am

12:30 pm - 5:30 pm

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 JAN Press Music

 AAA
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American Accordionists' Association



WORKSHOPS



Nikolay Bine

Friday, July 12 - 1:00pm

Interactive Workshop - Proper Fundamentals

In this workshop, Nikolay will talk about fundamentals of accordion playing are neglected by many accordionists. It will consist of topics such as proper band and hand postures, bellows change techniques, the role of pauses in music, proper phrasing, and others. Being able to follow these tips gives a great freedom to a musician when playing music. Connecting all the important fundamentals will bring much more confidence and professionalism to playing that is so important for a musician.

Bring your accordion!



Dee Langley

Friday, July 12 - 2:00pm

Losing the Fear of Flats and Sharps: Playing in Any Key You Want

Ever just turn the page of a good song in resignation when you see too many sharps or flats in the key signature? In this workshop, Dee will walk you through the mysteries of key signatures with concepts and exercises that unravel the stress of keys other than "C." The group will focus learning to change keys (transpose) with attainable folk songs while using the harmonic strength and wisdom of the stradella system (left hand buttons) of the accordion. Never fret about missing or forgetting a sharp or flat again! This workshop is non-threatening and suitable for all levels.

Bring your accordion!

**All workshops are included
with your Festival Registration.
Don't miss out!**

Saturday, July 13 - 10:00am

GrooveGrid: A Method for Connection to your Inner Groove

Join Dallas for a class that shows you how to create the groove inside you, feel it in your body, and hear it in the voice in your head, and *THEN* add the notes of your accordion into the good feeling grid. Relaxed, expressive, and deeply satisfying. This is a method Dallas has found to be a solution to his own struggles with time and feel, which he shares in his own group and private classes every week. You'll learn how to understand the unique GrooveGrid of your music, how to feel it in your body, how to put your accordion notes on top of the GrooveGrid, and how to listen and adjust to sync up with musicians on recordings and in real life. For all styles of music and all levels of experience. *Bring your accordion!*



Dallas Vietty

Saturday, July 13 - 12:30pm

Inexpensive Studio Quality Home Recording Workshop

If you have ever wanted to provide studio quality recordings of yourself in the comfort and privacy of your own home, but on a very minimal budget, you will want to attend this workshop. If you already have a functional computer, you can add just a few pieces of inexpensive equipment to produce stellar quality recordings that will amaze you. In fact, if so desired, once you produce your own studio quality recordings, you can then capture them on CDs for friends and family, or even market your music to online distribution venues like YouTube, Spotify, Amazon, Apple Music, and many more. Joe will provide all the necessary information to demonstrate exactly how easy it is to get top quality recordings at home. Live examples will be provided.



Joe Natoli

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American Accordionists'
Association!*

*Frank Busso, Sr.
First Vice President*

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P.O. Box 401, Crompond, NY 10517

Best wishes to the AAA from the
Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society
for a successful 2024 Festival!

Peter DiGiovanni, President
Robert Ford, Vice President
Mara Cherkasky, Secretary/Treasurer



Upcoming WMAS Guest Artist:

September 15 – **Mariachi Esmerelda**

www.washingtonaccordions.org
peter@musicisforever.com



American
Accordionists'
Association



GALA CONCERT

FRIDAY, JULY 12
6:30 PM

Celebrating 86 years of the AAA



Hanzhi Wang



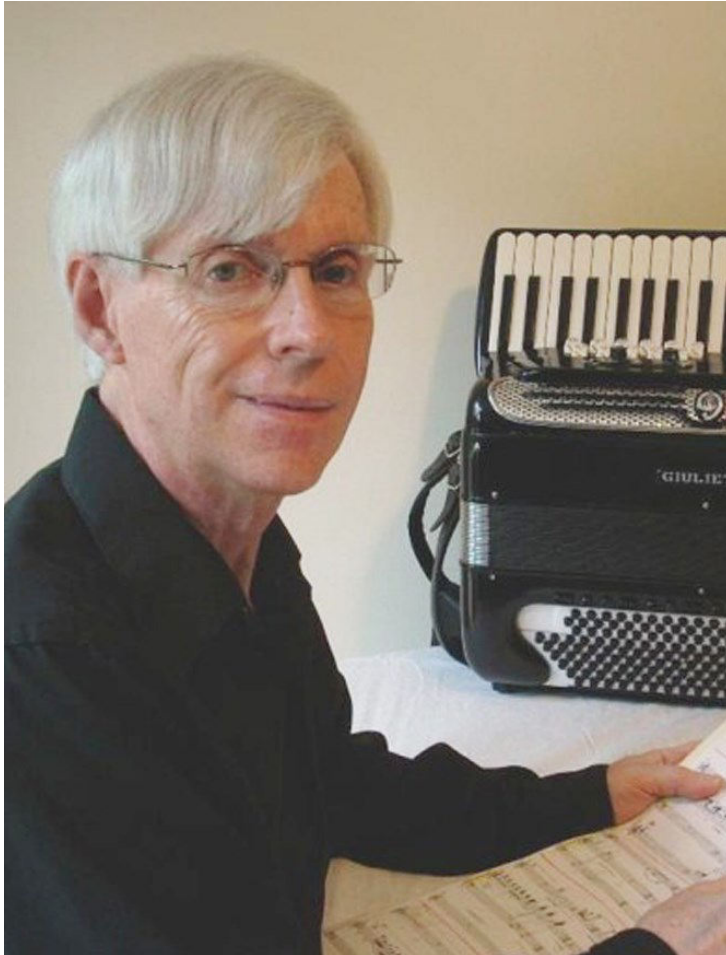
Joe Natoli

**TICKETS REQUIRED FOR
CONCERT AND RECEPTION**

Reception
immediately
following the
concert!

Update on the AAA Commissioned Works Historical/Analytical Articles Expansion Project

Robert Young McMahan, DMA
Professor Emeritus, The College of New Jersey
AAA Composers Commissioning Committee Chairperson



Welcome to the second post-COVID AAA Festival and, among its many traditional events, its continuing quest to commission, have performed, and examine contemporary concert works for or including the accordion via its Composers Commissioning Committee, established 71 years ago and boldly carried out over the first 50 of them by the late Elsie Bennett. For those new to the AAA or at least this compartment of it, the following is a bit of a review of what my involvement in all this is about.

Knowing of my interest in performing and composing works for or including the accordion, Elsie, in 1992, first commissioned me to compose two works for the AAA (which resulted in my *Incantations*, for cello and accordion, and *Apparitions*, for flute/alt piccolo and accordion) and then invited me to join her AAA committee in 1995. Two years later, I decided to begin a series of articles for the annual AAA Festival Journal researching the history of each commissioned work as well as examining its structural and stylistic aspects. This plan was carried out every year from 1997 to 2019, skipping only 2007 when AAA's efforts concentrated on hosting the Coupe Mondiale.

By covering from one to four works per annual issue, I was able to research and analyze the first 35 of what presently stands at 62 compositions by 38

composers before the advent of the COVID-created hiatus between AAA festivals. During this "quiet" period, however, Harley Jones suggested I consider making my articles available worldwide by preserving them on the AAA website and linked from Accordions Worldwide (accordions.com) via announcements of new articles each month or so in the announcement section of the USA segment of AWW. This was a very liberating idea since it would be easy to make the articles far lengthier and thorough and supply copious musical examples, occasional sound samples, and photos, all far beyond the spatial and economic limitations of a once-per-year, black and white print journal available only to AAA festival attendees during a days-long annual event.

As a result of this new liberation, my immediate impulse was to first expand my past 19 articles, now liberated from just print form, adding photos, musical examples, sound samples, etc. before getting on to new articles on the works that follow the ones about which I have already written, all of which would hereafter only be on the AAA website as are now the old, newly expanded ones. Therefore, one by one, I have expanded my past articles in the ways described above and Harley Jones has generously and painstakingly converted them (again, one by one as his incredibly busy schedule allows) to html form and put them on the AAA website. In addition, each month I announce in the American section of accordions.com the latest article that has undergone this process and supply a direct link to it for anyone who wishes to easily access it.

Continued...

AAA Commissioned Works...continued

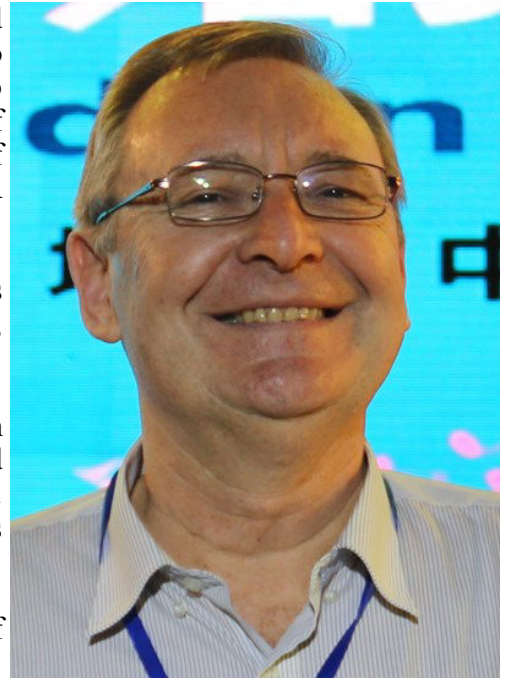
As of now I have expanded all but the first of the past 20 articles and they are edited and either already converted to html or will soon be to replace their old versions still in the articles section of the AAA web page (www.ameraccord.com/aaacommissions2.php). When that part of this project is completed, I will then forge on to writing new articles of the ever-growing remainder of the chronological list of AAA contemporary repertoire.

In the meantime, here is a quick reference guide to AAA Commissions content on the History section of the AAA website, www.ameraccord.com:

Music Commissions Home: List of commissioned works in alphabetical order by composer, with titles, dates of commission, and recordings or videos (mp3 or mp4) of performances when attainable. Return often to this page for new additions of works and/or recordings as they become available. www.ameraccord.com/aaacommissions.php

Music Commissions Brief History: A brief overview and history of this endeavor. www.ameraccord.com/aaacommissions1.php

Music Commissions Articles: My actual articles on the history and analysis of the AAA commissioned works in chronological order of commission. Therefore, each article is somewhat like a chapter in an ever-expanding book on the compositions. Included in the updated, expanded editions are musical examples, occasional sound samples, and many priceless, historical photos, mostly taken from Elsie Bennett's photo albums in which she more often than not posed with the commissioned composers and involved accordionists who helped edit and often premiered the works. www.ameraccord.com/aaacommissions2.php



Harley Jones



Elsie Bennett

Composer's Guide to the Piano Accordion: A short manual I created for non-accordionist composers writing for any of the three prevalent forms of the accordion played by most American artists (piano right-hand manual, 120-button stradella left-hand system, and the two prevailing forms of free bass systems used in the US, the quint and chromatic formats). www.ameraccord.com/commissions/ComposersGuide.pdf

In closing, I hope this report has been of interest and use to the reader and has provided encouragement to check out the broad, historical, multi-varied original contemporary works for or including accordion that the CCC has provided over the last 67 years. Keep tracking us on Accordions Worldwide and watching the AAA website for updates. Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or requests at mcmahan@tcnj.edu. I would love to hear from you!

~~~~~  
Final idea and possibly-annual request: Please report to me any performances of AAA commissioned or other contemporary classical works for or including accordion so that I may list them in this annual journal and periodically online on Accordions Worldwide. The world needs to know! Send information or any comments you wish to make to [mcmahan@tcnj.edu](mailto:mcmahan@tcnj.edu). Grateful thanks!

**Works Commissioned by the American Accordionists' Association - 1957-2021**

| <b>Composer</b>         | <b>Music (with publication or completion dates)</b>                                                                           | <b>Publisher</b>                |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Adler, Samuel           | Canto XVIII (2009)                                                                                                            | Ludwig Masters                  |
| Bakasa, Robert          | Accordion Sonata (1998)                                                                                                       | Theodore Presser                |
| Bennett, Robert Russell | Four Nocturnes (1960)                                                                                                         | Chappell & Co.                  |
| Bennett, Robert Russell | Quintet (Psychiatry), for Accordion and String Quartet (ca. 1963)                                                             | Chappell & Co.                  |
| Biviano, Joseph         | Quintet in G, for Accordion and String Quartet (n.p., n.d., ca. 1986)                                                         | Rental Only                     |
| Brant, Henry            | Sky Forest, for Four Accordions (1962)                                                                                        | O. Pagani & Bro.                |
| Brickman, Joel          | Prelude and Caprice (1973)                                                                                                    | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Cowell, Henry           | Concerto Brevis, for Accordion and Orchestra (1962)                                                                           | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Cowell, Henry           | Iridescent Rondo (1960)                                                                                                       | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Creston, Paul           | Concerto for Accordion and Orchestra or Band (1960)                                                                           | Ricordi Music/Ernest Deffner    |
| Creston, Paul           | Embryo Suite (1968)                                                                                                           | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Creston, Paul           | Fantasy for Accordion and Orchestra, or as solo (1966)                                                                        | Mills Publishing Co.            |
| Creston, Paul           | Prelude and Dance (1957)                                                                                                      | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Davidson, Roger         | Tango Blues, for Flute, Viola, Cello, & Accordion (2010)                                                                      | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Diamond, David          | Night Music, for Accordion and String Quartet (1966)                                                                          | Southern Music                  |
| Diamond, David          | Introduction & Dance (1967)                                                                                                   | Southern Music                  |
| Diamond, David          | Sonatina (1966)                                                                                                               | Southern Music                  |
| Flagello, Nicholas      | Introduction and Scherzo (1964)                                                                                               | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Foss, Lukas             | Curriculum Vitae (1978)                                                                                                       | Pembroke                        |
| Foss, Lukas             | Triologue, for Violin, Cello, and Accordion (n.p., n.d., ca. 2003)                                                            |                                 |
| Franceschina, John      | Concerto for Accordion and Orchestra (1987)                                                                                   | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Franceschina, John      | For Elsie (2004)                                                                                                              |                                 |
| Franceschina, John      | Scaramouche (1975)                                                                                                            | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Fremar, Karen           | Introduction & Allegro for Accordion and Synthesized Tape (1976)                                                              | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Fremar, Karen           | Herricks Road, for Accordion and Percussion (2009)                                                                            | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Friedman, Gary William  | Accordion Samba for Vocalist, Bassoon, Cello and Accordion (1997)                                                             | 150 Music                       |
| Gordon, Louis           | Aria, Scherzo and Finale for Accordion and Orchestra or Band (1962)                                                           | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Halac, Jose             | Accordion Shadow for Accordion, Flute and Percussion (n.d., 1993?)                                                            | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Holshouser, Will        | Redbud Winter, for B-flat Trumpet & Accordion,<br>with alt. versions for B-flat Clarinet & Accordion, and 2 Accordions (2021) |                                 |
| Katehis, George         | Become/Desiccated (2017)                                                                                                      | katehis-music.com               |
| Kleinsinger, George     | Prelude and Sarabande (1963)                                                                                                  | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Klucevsek, Guy          | Three Tributes (2016)                                                                                                         | Guy Klucevsek                   |
| Krenek, Ernst           | Toccata (1964)                                                                                                                | O. Pagani & Bro.                |
| Lockwood, Normand       | Sonata Fantasia (1965)                                                                                                        | O. Pagani & Bro.                |
| Luening, Otto           | Rondo (1961)                                                                                                                  | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| McMahan, Robert Young   | Apparitions, for Flute (alt. Piccolo) and Accordion (1996)                                                                    | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| McMahan, Robert Young   | Incantations, for Cello and Accordion (1995)                                                                                  | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Natoli, Joseph          | Child's Play, for 2 Accordions, Cello & Percussion (2019)                                                                     | JANPress                        |
| Natoli, Joseph          | Sonata in F Major (in the Classical Style) (2018)                                                                             | JANPress                        |
| Oliveros, Pauline       | Shape Shifting (1995)                                                                                                         | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Pisk, Paul              | Adagio & Rondo Concertante, for Two Accordions & Orchestra (1962?)                                                            | Alfred Music                    |
| Pisk, Paul              | Salute to Juan (1961)                                                                                                         | Alfred Music                    |
| Riegger, Wallingford    | Cooper Square (1958)                                                                                                          | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Schimmel, William       | Fables (1975)                                                                                                                 | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Schimmel, William       | Remembering a Legend: Charles Magnante (n.d., 1987?)                                                                          | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Schimmel, William       | The Spring Street Ritual (1979)                                                                                               | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Schimmel, William       | Variations in Search of a Theme (n.d., 1976?)                                                                                 | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Siegmeister, Elie       | Improvisation, Ballad and Dance (1962)                                                                                        | Sam Fox Publications            |
| Serebrier, Jose         | Danza Ritual (1967)                                                                                                           | O. Pagani & Bro.                |
| Serebrier, Jose         | Passacaglia and Perpetuum Mobile, for<br>Accordion, Strings, Brass and Percussion (1974)                                      | Peer International Publications |
| Soldier, Dave           | Sontag in Sarajevo, for Accordion, Melody, Chordal,<br>and Bass Instruments, and Drums (n.d., 1993?)                          | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Still, William Grant    | Aria (1960)                                                                                                                   | Sam Fox Publications            |
| Still, William Grant    | Lilt (1967)                                                                                                                   | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Surinach, Carlos        | Prelude to the Sea (1965)                                                                                                     | Alfred Music                    |
| Surinach, Carlos        | Pavana and Rondo (1959)                                                                                                       | Alfred Music/Ernest Deffner     |
| Tcherepnin, Alexander   | Invention (1968)                                                                                                              | O. Pagani & Bro.                |
| Tcherepnin, Alexander   | Partita (1962)                                                                                                                | O. Pagani & Bro.                |
| Tcherepnin, Alexander   | Tzigane (1968)                                                                                                                | Pietro Deiro Publications       |
| Thompson, Timothy       | Growth Cells (n.d., 1977?)                                                                                                    | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Thompson, Timothy       | Keyworld (n.d., 1977?)                                                                                                        | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Thompson, Timothy       | Rossiniland (n.d., 1977?)                                                                                                     | Ernest Deffner Publications     |
| Thomson, Virgil         | Lamentations (1960)                                                                                                           | Pietro Deiro Publications       |

Most Pagani and Deiro titles available from Ernest Deffner Publications





American  
Accordionists'  
Association



# SATURDAY LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, JULY 13  
11:30 AM

*Celebrating 86 years of the AAA*



**Nikolay Bine**



**Westmont Philharmonia  
Orchestra**

*Joanna Darrow, conductor*

**TICKET REQUIRED**

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# *Awards Concert*

## *Saturday, July 13 - 2:00pm*

### ◆ *Ballroom B* ◆

*Competition Prizes* ◆ *Busso Festival Orchestra*  
 ◆ *Junior Festival Orchestra* ◆

*Included with your Festival Registration*

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American  
Accordionists'  
Association



# GALA BANQUET

**SATURDAY, JULY 13**  
**6:00 PM COCKTAIL RECEPTION**  
**7:00 PM BANQUET**

*Celebrating 86 years of the AAA*



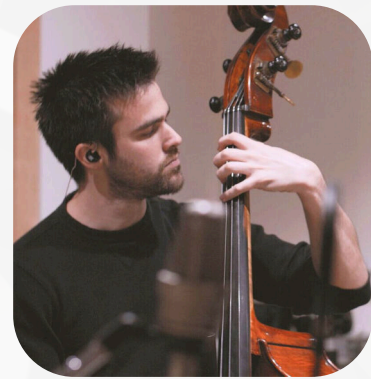
**2024  
AAA Festival  
Orchestra**

Conducted by  
Frank Busso, Sr.



**Trio  
Called  
Leonard**

Dallas Vietty, accordion  
Shane Aaserud, bass  
Kevin Ripley, drums



**TICKETS REQUIRED**

**COCKTAIL / BUSINESS ATTIRE**



# Memories of AAA Events Through the Decades

An Ongoing Photo Article by  
Joan Grauman Morse, AAA Historian

Old photos, as well as more recent photos, can evoke amazing memories of accordion events of yesteryear. I am so very grateful for the opportunity to be present at so many of the AAA events and festivals through the decades. I was blessed to get to know one of the founders of the AAA as well as many of the early renowned accordionists in the US. I heard fabulous performances and made many friends along the way. I am certain that many of you have your own special memories of AAA events through the years! Please send me your favorite photos as I will be adding to this article on a regular basis. It won't be in chronological order. Some additions will be of a particular person, some of particular events — whatever comes to mind! As the AAA Historian, I have amassed an enormous collection of beautiful and historical photos that I want to share with all of you. Let's step back to 20 years before I was born. The young (and not so young) accordion greats of the 1930s were busily creating a new national accordion organization. The time had come to bring together

accordion enthusiasts, teachers, publishers, and performers for the purpose of standardizing registers on the instruments, standardizing notation in sheet music, creating educational materials, promoting the accordion, and the list went on. The first meeting of this new organization, the American Accordionists' Association (AAA), took place in March 1938. The planning of this organization, however, began a few years earlier. One thing that the founders encouraged was professional, promotional 8x10 photos of the prominent accordionists of the day. These beautiful, glossy, black and white photos were treasures to those who received them. They were often autographed and dedicated to the recipient. This practice lasted through the early 2000s! The first group of photos in my article will be of many of these early 8x10s. I hope you enjoy seeing them and reading the dedications! I will continue to post later promotional photos — so please send me yours!  
[graumanjoan98r@gmail.com](mailto:graumanjoan98r@gmail.com)



Charles Magnante



Anthony Galla-Rini



Myron Floren &  
Maddalena Belfiore



Elsie Bennett

*Continued...*



*Memories of AAA Events Through the Decades...continued*



**Abe Goldman, Charles Magnante, Gene Von Hallberg, Joe Biviano**



**Essie Bradshaw**



**Maddalena Belfiore**



**Lou Coppola**



**Elsie Bennett**



**Andy Arcari**



**Joe Biviano**



**Anthony & Dominic Mecca**



**Maddalena Belfiore**



**Charles Nunzio**



**John Serry**



**Don Mills**

*Continued...*



## Memories of AAA Events Through the Decades...continued



John Magnante



Frank Gaviani



Maddalena Belfiore



Elsie Bennett

The next five collages depict delightful record album covers. The ones featured here are part of my collection and, of course, they all feature accordion soloists, duos, and ensembles. It is truly hard to comprehend the enormous number of accordionists who created LPs in the 1950s through the 1980s! Featured in my photo collages are LPs from greats such as Carmen Carrozza, Charles Magnante, Leon Sash, Stephen Dominko, brothers Harley and Maurice Jones (New Zealand), Myron Floren, Dick Contino, and the list goes on.



Continued...



## Memories of AAA Events Through the Decades...continued



What a pleasure it is to listen to these greats on my old turntable! If you have old accordion records, or come across any at yard sales, etc., take them home, dust off your turntable, pour a glass of wine, and ENJOY!

And remember: this is an ongoing article. I look forward to seeing your photos and including them in the article. Please send them to me at:

[graumanjoan98r@gmail.com](mailto:graumanjoan98r@gmail.com)

*“The American Accordionists’ Association’s aims and accomplishments, if itemized, would fill volumes but, suffice it to say that, since its beginning, it has been dedicated not only towards building a position for the accordion and the accordionist in the family of music and musical instruments, but in helping to further the musical culture of the world.”*

—Pietro Deiro, Jr., 1962



# Join us on September 15 for an AAA Carrozza Scholarship Fundraiser

Featuring:

Alex Chudolij, Lillianna Chudolij, Dominic Karcic, Mary Mancini, Ray Oreggia, Mario Tacca, and Frank Toscano

**Sunday, September 15, 2024 - 12:00-5:00pm**

**Famee Furlane Club: 2008 127th Street, College Point, NY 11356**



Event ticket includes buffet dinner, bottles of wine, entertainment, & dancing

No. \_\_\_ @ \$85 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- I will submit my payment through the AAA secure payment portal at [www.ameraccord.com/cart.aspx](http://www.ameraccord.com/cart.aspx)

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 City / State / Zip / Country \_\_\_\_\_

This ticket order form and all checks payable to AAA should be mailed to:  
 American Accordionists' Association  
 c/o Ray Oreggia, Treasurer  
 36 Renee Road, Syosset, NY 11791 USA  
 Email: [ameraccord1938@gmail.com](mailto:ameraccord1938@gmail.com) Phone: (631) 864-4428

**Please RSVP by September 6, 2024**

**The American Accordionists' Association is a 501(c)(3) corporation. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.**

**For event details or to become an AAA member, please visit [ameraccord.com](http://ameraccord.com)**





# AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION



The American Accordionists' Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1938 for the following purposes and objectives:

- To provide the media and public with information to stimulate an increasing awareness of, knowledge about, and appreciation for the accordion;
- To promote unity within the accordion community by encouraging cooperation among members and with their organizations which work on behalf of the instrument;
- To set and maintain high standards for those interested in the accordion, thereby working to facilitate and coordinate the various segments of the accordion world;
- To increase the number of people playing and studying the accordion, with a particular emphasis on young people;
- To honor achievement throughout the accordion community;
- To organize, sponsor, and support competition for accordionists at all levels and dispense scholarships and/or honors to those who distinguish themselves through outstanding performance;
- To organize, sponsor, and support workshops, advancing educational standards and artistic levels of accordion enthusiasts;
- To promote communication among segments of the accordion world; and
- To assist all accordion-related organizations with a forum for discussion of matters affecting the accordion in particular, and music in general, both nationally and internationally.

**AN ORGANIZATION OF ACCORDION ENTHUSIASTS: PROFESSIONALS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND HOBBYISTS**

*Members receive publications of worldwide accordion news and special rates for a variety of accordion functions and accordion-related items.*

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