



Accordions Society of Australia (VIC) Festival 2023

Welcome from the President.

The committee and I would like to extend a warm welcome to ASA Victoria's revived festival of the accordion. We would like to acknowledge that we work and live on the land of the Indigenous people of this land and respectfully acknowledge their Elders past and present. Furthermore, we take this opportunity to reflect on the cultural and musical lineage of Indigenous music makers that extends from the present day back for tens of thousands of years.

This festival invites us to join in celebration of the accordion's lively role in the arts and cultural life of many countries and cultures worldwide. The ASA committee invites you to join us at the Church of All Nations in Carlton on Saturday 30th of September to celebrate an instrument that one truly straps to the heart.

The accordion has a musical voice and a cultural impact that is immeasurable. From its origins in Europe, the accordion swept through the western world in the early 20th century in an explosion of popularity. From the streets to the concert halls, this remarkable instrument has touched the hearts of millions of people.

Regardless of whether you are an experienced long-time explorer, have picked up the instrument recently or simply are drawn to its otherworldly tones, the ASA festival will have plenty to offer you.

Workshops and masterclass

Throughout the day, there will be a number of workshops facilitated by some of Victoria's leading performers and repairers. Whether you want to learn more about playing Musette accordion and its origins, explore the technology of the digital accordion, or do some basic repairs on your beloved instrument, you will find something to interest and engage you.

George Butrumlis, of Zydaco Jump fame, will facilitate a public masterclass. Several students will present their pieces for guidance on instrumental technique. This is a wonderful opportunity, for students and audience, to get insight into the artistic methods and musical philosophy of one of Australia's finest musicians.

Please visit the ASA website for more details on the workshops, facilitators, schedule, tickets to the workshops and more.

Chalkboard session

Leading up to midday, there will be an open mic session (aka organised chalkboard). This is suitable for anyone who plays the accordion and would like to present a piece to an appreciative audience.

Members of the public are invited to bring their accordions and their ears to participate or listen to organised and impromptu performances. The chalkboard session is free and open to the general public.

Midday concert

The spectacular Prahran Accordion Band will present a concert of works. Led by Judy Gunson, it promises to be a lively and interactive session.

The midday concert is free and open to the general public.

Evening concert

What better way to end a day of accordion celebrations than a concert by the Stiletto Sisters? Performing in the beautiful Church of All Nations main chapel, the remarkable trio will be supported by ASA Orchestra Victoria (ASAVO) and a massed accordion orchestra presenting arrangements of works by the Prahran Accordion Band and Stiletto Sisters' very own Judy Gunson. I'm sure that this will be a concert to be remembered!

The Accordion Room

Have you ever wanted to try an accordion but not known where to start? Do you know a young person who would like to explore how an accordion feels and sounds? Do you need some sheet music for a new piece to learn? Would you just like to visit a place with some interesting accordions and have a chat? Then please come and meet us in our Accordion Room which will be open to the public throughout the day of the festival. Tell us what you love about accordions, find out more about the ASA, or ask how to upgrade your instrument.

An invitation

How often do you get the chance to immerse yourself in the world of the accordion? This is a rare opportunity for many to connect or reconnect with this instrument of the streets, the cafes, the dance halls, and the concert venues. We invite you to visit our website for more information about the day's goings on and come along and celebrate the accordion in all its glory! We look forward to seeing you there.

Anthony Schulz
President – ASA (Vic)

www.accordionsaustralia.com