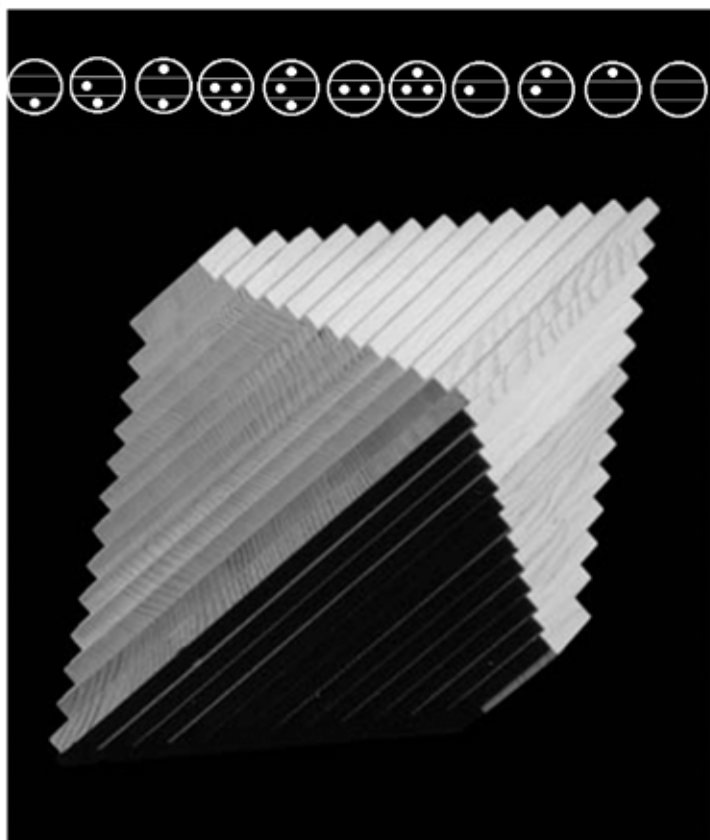


THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.'S

ACCORDION REVIEW



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Editors Vic newsletter

FROM THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT/CO-MUSICAL DIRECTOR

What a busy couple of months for members of the ASA. We are so sorry for the delay in issuing this issue of the Accordion Review, but am sure you will see how busy we have been in the last couple of months as you read this issue.

The end of September saw NSW host the 40th International Festival of the ASA and the 41st Congress. Members and guests enjoyed a friendly 4 days of accordion music and socialization. Tuesday was the start of competitions and the Welcome dinner and the days progressed with more competition classes, orchestra rehearsals, workshops and Farewell/Presentation Dinner. Friday night was Gala Concert night and a great evening of accordion music was experienced by all at Club Marconi. This year we had entrants in both the Australian National Championship class and the Australasian Championship class – Congratulations to our new Australian National Champion Edin Kocic from Victoria and the new Australasian Champion Richard She from Sydney.

You will read more about the festival inside this issue but I would like to take this time to thank all in NSW who helped make this festival possible and also our adjudicators – without the donation of your time and expertise we would not have a competition class. Thank you to Ross Maio, Zeljko Bedic, Tania Lukic-Marx, Milica Krga and George Butrumlis. Remember to watch out for news of the 2012 festival which will be held in Armidale, NSW.

Only 11 hours (and no sleep) after the Gala Concert members of the NSW Orchestra flew to Shanghai China for the 64th Coupe Mondiale of the CIA. After a long flight the bus ride it was time to check into our accommodation in the late hours of Shanghai's night. An early rise was needed for the draw of the competition classes, in particular the International Competition for Chamber Music of which the NSW ensemble was competing. Again you will read more about our tour to Shanghai in this issue of the review, but Congratulations to Amelia Gran-turco, Vincenzo Tavernese, Mathilde Auroux and Jedda Kassis on performing so well in the competition. All members of the group returned home with renewed energy and vigour and are planning on competing again in the 2013 Coupe Mondiale in British Columbia, Canada. If anyone is interested in attending the 2012 Coupe Mondiale it will be held in Spoleto, Italy.

As you are aware from the last issue of the review, we are chasing past champions of the ASA to provide us with biographical detail and current happenings to form articles for the review. Response has been very slow, but we are receiving news. Inside this edition you will find an article by Julie Castorina.

Please remember to contact either the President, Accordion Review editor or the Publicity Officer with any information, snippets or gossip, upcoming performances that you might like covered in the review. We look forward to hearing from all our members

Happy Reading and Happy Practicing
Dr. Elizabeth Jones DCA (UWS) BMus (Syd.Uni)

THE NEW AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION - EDIN KOKIC



Edin, "Dino" Kokicas was born on 04.10.1995 in Austria. He is in grade 10 at the Brimbank College of Victoria University.

Edin is a keen student who participates in a wide variety of areas within his school Performing Arts Department. especially in the area of Music. He is a co-section leader of the Saxophone section in the Senior Concert Band as well as being involved in a variety of his school's elective music classes such as the VET Music Industry

Class and the timetabled Concert Band Class.

Edin started playing an accordion at the age of 12 and has accomplished a lot in a short amount of time.

From the age of 13 he has been a member of the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra and plays an important part in the orchestra. Edin performs as a soloist at every concert. He has performed many times with the Combined Accordion Orchestra of Victoria at various locations and events. A highlight for Edin with the Combined Accordion Orchestra of Victoria was a concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre. He was also a member of the Combined Accordion Orchestra of Australia at the ASA Gala Concerts of the 2010 Festival in Melbourne and 2011 Festival in Sydney.

Edin has also participated in countless Multicultural events and Festivals throughout Victoria and at the Multicultural Festival in Canberra in 2010. He is also very active in the Bosnian Community and has performed with Folklore group "Dukat" at many Multicultural Festivals. In February 2010 he performed for the Bosnian Ambassador at the Bosnian Embassy in Canberra.

Edin has regularly performed as a guest artist at every cultural event, Humanitarian Concerts and traditional Festivals organized by the Bosnian Community. He often performs for other ex Yugoslav communities and for the Ukrainian community as well

Edin was interviewed and performed live on SBS Radio and appeared on Bosnian Satellite TV several times, Playing for 30-45 minutes traditional Bosnian music as well as other genre of accordion music such as French Mussette, Jazz and Classical.

From the age of 13, Edin regularly performed as a special guest performer at the Bosnian Independence Day Celebration and Ukrainian Independence Day Celebration. Another accomplishment of Edin's is as accompanist for the Bosnian choir "Sevdalinka". He has performed with them at the Multicultural Festival in Canberra in 2011 and the Melbourne Recital Centre in June 2011 at the Australian Festival of Choirs and also at BMW Edge on Federation Square Melbourne.

He has competed in a variety of competitions and has countless first and second place medals and trophies to show for his hard work.

At the ASA Victorian State Championship 2011 in Melbourne Edin won first place in every

single category he entered and he won Victorian Accordion Championship in both stradella and free bass sections.

Heinz Dabernig and Guy Scalise who were adjudicators at the competition, were very impressed with Edin's performance in the Victorian Championship category, Heinz gave a very emotional speech while reading his comments about Edin's performance. He said that he hasn't seen such a big transformation ever before in one year and asked him if he had time to sleep!!

In June this year Edin competed at the ATTA International Accordion Festival and Competition held in Sydney with competitors from China, New Zealand and Australia. For the second year in a row Dino won first place in the 15 and under Australian, International and Pacific Championship classes and he also won first place in 6 other categories.

At the ASA International Accordion Festival 2011 in Sydney, Edin again won first place in every category he entered (9 all together) and he won the Australian National Championship category. This was the first time in 5 years that it had been awarded.

The biographical information ended with this lovely note of thanks.

This has been an amazing year for Edin Kocic and we can only hope that it gets better from here and we are very thankful to all people who helped him in achieving his dreams, his teachers Iryna Stepko, Dragan Krnjeta and George Butrumlis, ASA Victoria and ASA NSW, AATA, and others who are helping him to excel in music.

There is still a load more to learn and there is a long road before him but Edin loves accordion so much and we as parents are there to support him as much as we can.

FROM THE BEDIC MUSIC STUDIO

Dear accordion friends, I am very excited to announce that, as the former Margaret Chalmers Scholarship winner, Li Li has been invited by Dr Rita Crews, President Music Teachers' Association of NSW, Deputy Chair AMEB NSW and Syllabus Advisor, Written Subjects to perform at the MTA Centenary Luncheon at Parliament House on the 12th of July 2012. She will be performing a six minute piece of her choice, still to be chosen, along with other former scholarship instrumentalist and vocalist winners. It should be a wonderful musical event.

It is also my great pleasure to introduce Angelo (Ange) Guiducci as a new member of the ASA who has only been learning and playing the accordion for a few months now but has already been successful in winning many competitions and trophies at the ASA NSW State Championships, the AATA 2011 Australian International Accordion Championships and Festival and most recently at the ASA 40th International Festival at St George Leagues Club. Many of you would already know that Ange is the son of the late Severino (Sev) Guiducci, a very close and dear friend of mine whom many of you know and miss. Ange has decided to follow in his dear dad's footsteps by taking up the accordion as his instrument of choice and to one day become an accordion teacher. Needless to say, Connie, his mum, and his grandad, Angelo, after whom he has been named, are over the moon with his enthusiasm and success.



Ange is already showing a lot of promise as a passionate performer, musician and a student who loves the accordion and who is already adding his own embellishments and improvisations to the pieces that he is learning and performing. Who knows, perhaps one day he could also become the ASA National Accordion Champion just like his dad.

I would like to thank Elizabeth, the ASA committee and everyone in the ASA for kindly inviting Ange into the ASA accordion family. Please join me in welcoming him to the ASA and wishing him lots of success and enjoyment with his new found instrument, the accordion.

Lastly, I have found some photographs of the Maestro Dante Simonelli Accordion Orchestra and Choir back from the late 1970s which I was a member of. Maestro Dante Simonelli was an amazing teacher, conductor and accordionist and yet he was completely blind. During the 1970s and probably earlier, he had some outstanding accordionists in his orchestra who performed in solos, duets and ensembles. If my memory serves me correctly, we recorded an album at EMI Studios in 1979, *Memories of Italy*, as part of the Shell National Folkloric Festival. One of the photos is the cover of the album on the Sydney Opera House steps. I'm the one at the front on the right with a FULL HEAD of HAIRJ ...they were the good old days. It appears that the album is still for sale on the internet. If anyone is interested in having a look and listen the URL is <http://www.mammalena.info/MY%20LP%20Records/DANTE%20SIMONELLI/MEMORIES%20OF%20ITALY.htm>



Ange and Anneke, a new student of mine from Armidale, whom you have all met now and I thoroughly enjoyed the ASA 40th International Festival 2011. Anneke was thrilled to be competing once again after many years and playing for the first time in the ASA combined orchestra. Who would have thought that we will be having our next ASA International Festival and Congress in Armidale. Anneke tells me that plans are already under way as we continue with our Skype accordion lessons every week. We

look forward in seeing you all there next year.

Yours musically,

Zeljko Bedic

Director - Bedic Music Studio

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CORDI'S COLUMN

Music

As usual the annual Festival provokes, inspires and renews one's thoughts about music. The way music and in particular accordion music, can affect the emotions with its beauty and passion. The Festival and subsequent trip to China for the Coupe Mondiale certainly highlighted these feelings. All returned with a desire to aspire to new heights and be prepared for future Coupe Mondiales.

Music has a very long history and there is archaeological evidence that African tribes played drums, horns and bells. Ancient Chinese played a form of mouth organ and panpipes. Indeed the 'Cheng' a reputed forerunner of the accordion was played in China. Peoples of Egypt, India, Israel and Mesopotamia played the harp.

The only way to hear music then was to play it yourself or to listen to someone playing. How times have changed with music available at every turn. The changes in recording media make music available with the touch of a button or the click of a mouse. It has come a long way from the phonograph record of the 1880's.

Throughout the years many genres of music have appeared. One is able to listen to and appreciate many styles.

Accordion music too has altered. The standard old favourites such as Fuert Los, Carnival of Venice to the atonal works of the 20th. century. Music composed to be played only with the left hand and accordion parts within orchestras and ensembles. The ensemble which played in China, performed a piece composed specifically for it. Let's hope more composers take up the challenge to compose for the accordion.

Check out the various web sites for music and see what can be found.

Happy reading

Cordi.

BIOGRAPHY – JOSEPH & JULIE CASTORINA (accordionists for 34 years)

Over 80 years of Castorina's & Accordions

The Castorina/Vecchio/Garozzo family's have a long history of accordion players stemming back from Giuseppe Castorina (their grandfather) who started the accordion over 80 years ago, taught in North QLD by Lui Pensini (photo attached 1949 – Giuseppe & Tom Castorina). Joseph and Julie have been brought up and surrounded by accordions their entire life, both parents Mary & Tom Castorina, grand parents, auntie's, uncles, cousins and extended family all proudly learnt/played the accordion both privately and professionally. There was no family get-together without an accordion as the entertainment.



Joseph and Julie started learning the accordion at the age of 6 and 5 years respectively from the infamous Mr Ossie Mazzei (still going strong at 97 years young) at his Accordion School in Fortitude Valley Brisbane, they then learnt from Andrea Niblo and upon closing of the



Ossie Mazzei Accordion School, Joseph and Julie continued with private classes from Ossie Mazzei's home residence. Ossie Mazzei was a very big part of their accordion tuition/careers, teaching 3 generations of Castorina's. Tom Castorina joined the Ossie Mazzei Orchestra from 1948-50 and Joseph and Julie later followed in their fathers footsteps and commenced in the orchestra from 1986.

Joseph and Julie named themselves the "Castorina Duo" and performed professionally in restaurants, clubs and concerts from as young as 11 & 12 years of age. They also featured and competed on 3 TV appearances in their younger years; 'Stairways to the Stars' and the Channel Nine Breakfast Show. One of many accordion highlights for them was performing with the Brisbane Symphony Orchestra and QLD Pops Orchestra conducted by the late Colin Harper AM MBE.

Joseph and Julie started competing in the ASA Festivals in 1983 Adelaide and attended annually until their last performance in 1992 at the Christchurch NZ Festival. Throughout these exciting years they proudly won many categories ranging from solos, duets, trios, quartets, showmanship and much more. These were unforgettable years which enabled them to meet fellow accordionists from all around the world who after many years are still very good friends. These festivals also showcased them the world, travelling the States of Australia for the yearly ASA festivals followed by overseas trips to perform as guests artists in New Zealand at various concerts and then flying to Europe with the Ossie Mazzei Accordion Orchestra in 1996 on a concert tour performing in 9 city's throughout Germany and Austria. Joseph later lived in Houston Texas and competed in the AAT National Festival in 2001 and came 2nd place in the American Championships category. Julie also ventured overseas and lived in Germany for nearly 2 years and played the accordion crossing European borders on the coaches/bus entertaining throughout Europe for the German tourists.

1st Place National Championship Stradella

1988 Joseph Castorina (Sydney)
1991 Joseph Castorina (Gold Coast)
1992 Julie Castorina (Christchurch NZ)

1st Place Australasian Championship Stradella

1989 Joseph Castorina Melbourne)
1990 Joseph Castorina (Sydney)
1991 Joseph Castorina (Gold Coast)
1992 Julie Castorina (Christchurch NZ)

Joseph is busily living in Brisbane with his wife Jackie and daughters Alexandria and Angelina who all have musical talents of the piano and violin. Joseph is the Business Manager at the Redland Hospital and in his spare time still entertains with his accordion at the Sofitel Hotel Brisbane and casually accompanies the well known 'Operatif' Opera entertainers with their Italian performances.

Julie is now living in Sydney with her partner Paul (former restaurateur) – who hired Julie as an accordionist to entertain his patrons. Julie is the Events and Inbound Manager for Dockside Group who run function centres and restaurants throughout Sydney. She promises that the accordion is out of the box nearby ready to pick up again very soon.

The Australasian Champion for 2011.

Richard She was born on the 2.5.1995. He started playing piano at the age of 5, and at the age of 10 Richard completed his grade 8 AMEB Piano exam. At the same time Richard also played the accordion and has achieved some remarkable results :

-1st place at the NZ South Pacific International Accordion Championships in the age group 12 years and under

-1st place at the Australian International Accordion Championships in the age group 12 years and under

-1st place at the NZ South Pacific International Accordion Championships in the age group 15 years and under

-1st place at the Australian International Accordion Championships in the age group 15 years and under

-1st place Australian International Accordion Championships in the age group 20 years and under

-8th Place at the Tianjin international Accordion Competition in China in 2008, age group 15 years and under



At the age of 14, Richard completed his AMEB A.Mus.A accordion exam, and at the beginning of October 2011, he completed his AMEB L.Mus.A accordion exam.

Richard is successful academically as well and shows great academic results at the James Rouse High School which he attends. At the recent school trip to Japan, Richard was asked to take his accordion along and perform in Japan as a part of his school presentation.

Richard is also a member of Sydney Balalaika Orchestra. With the SBO, Richard performed in Russia, Korea, China and many parts of Australia.

Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA)

Originally founded by three countries (France, Germany and Switzerland) in Paris in 1935 as the Association Internationale des Accordeonistes, the Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA) was reconstituted under its present name in May 1948 at a well attended meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In 1975 the CIA became the first instrument specific organization to be accepted into the International Music Council (IMC) which is the largest non-governmental division off UNESCO. It is also the only international academic accordion association.

The primary aim of the CIA: to elevate the status of the accordion worldwide; to hold international academic accordion conferences and competitions; and to transfer the information in the accordion world to coordinate its activities.

“Coupe Mondiale” is the World Accordion Championships promoted by the CIA, which was held for the first time in Paris in 1938. It was suspended for ten years 1939 to 1947 due to World War 2. It restarted in 1948 with the second session held in Switzerland. The Coupe Mondiale has been promoted regularly ever since, the host countries including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, USA and Venezuela with the 64th. session in China in 2011. This is an international competition with the longest history and the highest standard.

Shanghai and the Coupe Mondiale

What an exciting and busy time the last week in September and first week in October proved to be! After finishing late at Club Marconi on the 30th. September, it was off early to Sydney Airport for our flight to Shanghai. Everyone gathered at 8am, 16 people and 8 accordions. Amazingly the check in went smoothly with all baggage and accordions going through as a group and no excess baggage fee. We had time to relax, have breakfast and look at the shops before boarding the plane. Everything went smoothly and we were met by a travel guide with a large shuttle bus to take us to our hotel. The journey to the hotel took about an hour. It was dark but we were able to see a few sights. Nearing Shanghai we were amazed by the mass of coloured lights and spotted 2 bridges (looking like) a miniature Harbour Bridge and Anzac Bridge. At the hotel it was a bit chaotic, not much English but eventually we were allocated rooms and retired for the night.

The beds were so hard but being exhausted we fell asleep. Breakfast turned out to be quite hilarious – with the menu not what we expected. The opening ceremony and concert had been held on Saturday night, but we were too late to attend. So on Sunday we began our involvement in the Coupe Mondiale. It was raining but the little shop in the hotel foyer sold umbrellas. First stop was to one of the many halls being used for competitions to watch and hear the draw for the various sections.

Elizabeth had been whisked away as she had been elected to the judging panel. The important one for the Australian contingent was the Ensemble Music. There were seven categories altogether: the Coupe Mondiale with 43 candidates (each having to prepare 3 programmes of music); Junior Coupe Mondiale with 21 candidates (each having to prepare 2 programmes of music); Senior Virtuoso Entertainment with 20 candidates (each having to prepare 2 programmes of music); Junior Virtuoso Entertainment with 26 candidates (each having to prepare 2 programmes of music); Piano Accordion with 22 candidates; Ensemble Music with 25 candidates and Digital Accordion with 12 candidates. The actual draw took ages to complete and much to the ASA group’s relief they had a late draw, 3pm on Monday, which enabled Vincenzo a bit of time to recover from the sickness which had enveloped him. A bus had been organized to take various ensembles and bands to perform at local venues. The Australian group was taken to a beautiful park, which was packed with people enjoying themselves.



This was a National holiday to celebrate China's National Day. Many were flying kites and lots were sitting down enjoying the accordion music played by many different groups. Monday dawned with an overcast sky; Elizabeth was on the jury for Junior Virtuoso. We went to listen to some performances which were very good. Vincenzo was feeling a bit better and was able to practice with the Ensemble in preparation for their performance in the afternoon. They played very well in their section and were well supported by the group. Their



programme consisted of Concerto in A Minor (1,2 mov), A Poor Student – Beautiful Music, specially composed by D. Crawford and Teufelstanz by J. Hellmesberger. After the performance was over it was time for dinner at one of the local restaurants and then off to the Richard Galliano concert. Everyone returned after a wonderful concert and feeling inspired and pleased with what they had heard. Richard Galliano and the Tangaria Quintet performed works by Bach, Piazzolla, Hermeto Pascoal

and Richard Galliano. Tuesday morning everyone went to various concert halls to listen to different competitions. The standard is unbelievably high. Amelia and Elizabeth spent some time with Maurice Jones from New Zealand as both of their accordions had suffered some damage during the flight. Maurice managed to fix them enough to be playable for the World Accordion Orchestra. It's good to know the right people. During the afternoon we had a break from music and took a tour around Shanghai. Downtown Shanghai was very different to the suburban part where we were staying. A beautiful vibrant city with some very impressive skyscrapers.



We visited a Jade and Pearl factory and enjoyed the sight of the city from the Bund. We walked through the Dragon Temple and Gardens and went shopping in a market place. It was absolutely packed, a mass of humanity and not very fragrant.



From there the coach took us to the French quarter, quite a contrast, high quality shops and a plaza where you could eat at different places. We found a lovely German restaurant and all enjoyed the change of menu. Wednesday more competitions and the buzz of people going from venue to venue. The afternoon was the first rehearsal and set up for the World Accordion Orchestra 5. A bus transported everyone from the competition venue to Shanghai Star Stage. A magnificent

building and a lovely hall inside. The set up was incredible to watch. Over 170 accordionists from all over the world, on the stage together, a sight to behold. Three and a half year old, Bryn, was fascinated by all the activity – drumming away with the drummers and mesmerized by the conductors.

Thursday, the final day of competition and only the third round of the Coupe Mondiale to go. Only one hall in operation so it was not easy to get in, but we all managed to see and hear some of the finalists. The members involved in World Accordion Orchestra 5 had a final rehearsal and then Elizabeth attended the 126th. closing General Assembly and ratification of results. The rest went shopping and sightseeing, before boarding the bus to the hall for the final concert and presentation of awards. The prize winners played and were given their awards on stage. Following are the results.

Senior Coupe Mondiale

- 1st Nenad Ivanovic (Serbia)
- 2nd Xiaonan Xu (China)
- 3rd Pavel Zybko (Russian Federation)

Junior Coupe Mondiale

- 1st Predrag Radisavljevic (Serbia)
- 2nd Junchi Deng (China)
- 3rd Djordje Vasiljevic

Senior Virtuoso Entertainment

- 1st Pietro Adragna (Italy)
- 2nd Giorgio Albanese (Italy)
- 3rd Jialiang Tan (China)

Junior Virtuoso Entertainment

- 1st Matthias Matzke (Germany)
- 2nd Ke Qing Xu (China)
- 3rd Matteo Petronio (Italy)

International Competition for Piano Accordion

- 1st Alexander Kolomiytsev (Russian Federation)
- 2nd Dino Suljkovic (Serbia)
- 3rd Milos Beljakovic (Serbia)

Digital Accordion Competition

- 1st Pietro Adragna (Italy)
- 2nd Qian He (China)
- 3rd Han Zhi Wang (China)

International Competition for Ensemble Music



- 1st China Trio (China)
- 2nd Lux Aeterna (Serbia)
- 3rd Duo (Russian Federation)

The ASA quartet played well and were happy with their adjudication. They are now driven to do better and are already talking about Canada in 2013.

The concert was extremely good. All the first prize winners played and then the Beijing Children's Palace Baidi Accordion Orchestra. The orchestra was conducted by Chen Weiliang and presented the Colonel Bogey March (J.Alford), The Syncopated Clock (Leroy Anderson), Ethiopian Boy (Khatchaurian) and Porgy and Bess (George Gershwin). The Hohner Internal Orchestra performed Rondo Capriccioso (Zolotaryov). To complete the concert, and indeed the 64th. Coupe Mondiale, the World Accordion Orchestra 5 played Spring Festival Prelude (Li Huan Zhi) and The Jessamine Flowers (a Chinese Folk Song): conducted by Chen Weiliang. The concluding piece was Gershwin! (A medley) and was conducted by Joan C Sommers from America.

Friday was departure day for many but some had decided on a couple of days sightseeing. We had organized a full day tour to Suzhou and Zhouzhuang Water Village. Suzhou is an ancient town referred to as "Venice of the East" and "Hometown of Silk".

The silk factory was very interesting, from silkworms to finished articles. A lovely showroom for purchases made it difficult to choose gifts for home, they were all so beautiful. In the same building was an embroidery place where the craftsmanship was incredible – but so hard on the eyes. On to Zhouzhuang, the most popular ancient water village in China, preserved for more than 900 years. We went into one of the preserved houses with its reception rooms. There were classic courtyards and carved brick bridges over the canals. Finally a trip on a Chinese-style gondola gave a unique perspective of this fascinating water-village. Saturday and our last full day in Shanghai. Some went on a half day tour of the city. This was a worthwhile experience. We went firstly to the Shanghai Museum, which is housed in a magnificent building which was finished in 1996 and has eight imposing white marble lions at the front entrance. Then on to a different Jade and Pearl Centre, where we had time to browse and purchase. We finished at the Jade Temple which houses two large white Jade Buddha one happy and one reclining.



Then we left the tour and made our way to the tallest Skyscraper in Shanghai, and plucking up the courage we went to the 100th floor for the view of Shanghai. What an experience especially when the walkway was glass you could see through. The cars just looked like match box toys.

The day of departure arrived. Time to check out and store the luggage. A last look around and then the shuttle bus arrived to take us to the airport. With the help of the tour guide we had a very smooth check in and then through to duty free shopping and await our flight. Home in Sydney on Monday morning after a good flight. A wonderful experience musically and culturally from which we all benefited.



THE 40th ASA FESTIVAL IN SUMMARY

The festival began on Tuesday 27th. September at St. George Leagues Club in Kogarah, Sydney. Registration took place in the morning where those registered were given information about the days ahead and tickets for functions with a programme of events. Competitions started in the afternoon and though numbers were smaller than usual eight categories were held. This is a time of getting to know each other again but it is not long before there is a buzz in the air.

After the competitions had finished for the day it was time for the first get together of the combined orchestra. Ross Maio soon had order established and a couple of hours solid playing took place. Then it was time to relax at the welcome dinner which was served in 'The Grange', one of the function rooms in the Club. The welcome dinner is always a more sedate affair than the presentation dinner – because any nervousness on the part of the competitors has disappeared!! President, Elizabeth Jones welcomed everyone and wished all a happy and constructive week. This meal was a self serve buffet with excellent choices.

Wednesday morning the competitions started again. This time eleven categories were judged. After lunch the Australian National Championship took place with one candidate and the Australasian Championship with two candidates. An exciting afternoon of performances. After an interval the combined orchestra rehearsed. Not many opportunities before the Gala Concert.

The evening was like a mini concert with the Ensembles, Bands and Orchestras to be judged.

Thursday morning and the business side of the Festival took place. Congress was held with many issues to be discussed. Discussion was at times quite robust. One item for mention was the Research Library. Over the years this has altered in purpose. In the beginning music was very difficult to find and purchase. The catalogue lists pieces which have been donated or purchased since 1970. With the advent of the Internet many pieces of music can be viewed and purchased with relative ease. The Research Library is housed in Mittagong but can be accessed with requests. Sorting music and various items of memorabilia took years of work. The catalogue is now as it was when finished in 2006 and was given to the States and various individuals. The Junior tape competition was brought up to date with today's technology. A new Virtuoso category and a category for free reed instruments was discussed. They

are points to look out for when the Festival Handbook for next year is printed. One other relevant point is that TBA will not be accepted on future competition entry forms and closing dates will be strictly enforced. Tentative enquiries are being made to take the next Festival in 2012 to country NSW to Armidale. This was election year. No responses had been received for nominations to ASA committee. The present ASA committee agreed to shoulder the responsibility for the next three years and were elected unanimously. Congratulations! After a break for lunch and relaxing, it was back to the Mahogany Room for an interesting and informative workshop. This was presented by George Butrumlis, President of the Victorian sub-committee, in his own inimitable style.

Combined orchestra practice followed by the Presentation Dinner ended a full and eventful day. Presentation Dinner and full results are elsewhere in the Review.

Friday the last day of the 40th Annual Festival and 41st. Congress. The day was for free time and then a last combined orchestra rehearsal before the Gala Concert at Club Marconi. This was not as well attended as usual, but nevertheless it was a good concert full of wonderful music and a chance for the new National Champion to perform as the Champion.

Some Festival pics from Zeljko



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SNIPPETS AND GOSSIP.

At Congress it was proposed that John Cras (NSW) and John Kalkbrenner Snr. (Vic) be made Honorary Life Members of the ASA. This is in recognition of their many continuous years of support, not only for the ASA, but in promoting the accordion as a worthwhile instrument.



Congratulations.

Belated “Happy Birthday” to our founder and President Emeritus Mrs. Else Brandman. Mrs B. was 85 years old in September and had a party to celebrate – with Pavolva as the birthday cake. She keeps up to date with the news via the Accordion Review.

A request from a South Australian member for anyone who might have the orchestra music for “Cymric March”. The orchestra would like to play it but when the parts were given out page 2 of Accordion 1 was missing. If anyone can assist please email junala1@bigpond.com many thanks

In a local newspaper following the recent Festival an article appeared about Angelo Guidicci.



From the Victorian newsletter some info worth sharing. The ASA members in Victoria have been busy since the Festival. The Big Squeeze Band held a concert on the 30th. October at the Polish Club, Albion. A youth Concert was held on 6th. November. Good to see the young ones active. A Christmas break up will be held on 2nd. December at the Austrian Club.



Victorian member, Alan Parkin, sent a photo with a paragraph about being in PNG and having his accordion with him. An Austrian army guy there in charge of drill site preparation- couldn't believe his ears hearing Austrian music on the harmonica out in the jungle!!! Most of the Papuans had never seen an accordion before- what do you call it? – but they loved it.

Don't forget to look at the website www.accordionsocietyofaustraliavic.org.au

It is with sadness that we have to inform of the death of Peter Piccini in Western Australia, a well known accordionist. Condolences have been sent to his family. Next issue of Accordion Review will carry a story about his life. RIP.

Spotted on TV.

I happened to watch on ABC TV a program called My place. 1st ww.family story 1915 towards the end of the program,my ears pricked up, I heard an Accordion being played. Although it was only a fleeting glance (i think the camera operators have something against the Accordion because they always seem to focus on it for a very short time) I specially watched the credits to find out who the accordionist was. low and behold, it was MARCELLO MAIO very nice playing, but I have a bone to pick with the property department of the film set. they should have used a 1915 Accordion and not a modern one made in the 1990s.

Frank Berens

On Friday the 8th of July, the Australian Institute of Music held its 32nd Graduation ceremony. One of the lucky graduands was one of the Accordion Society's NSW members; Vincenzo (Chris) Tavernese. Chris graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Classical Performance).

Chris is the 4th student to graduate from the Australian Institute of Music with the Accordion as his major instrument. After Milica Krga (canak), Lina Chegodaev, Amelia Granturco and now Christopher Tavernese. We wish all the accordion students the best of luck with their studies.

Chris has moved onto the Australian Catholic University where he is studying his Graduate Diploma of Education, and should be a qualified Secondary Music Teacher by December.



A short history of the ASA (contd)

2004 proved to be a full, rewarding and exhausting time. Fundraising had been going on for a while, once it had been decided that the ASA should travel to Austria to compete in the Orchestra Competitions. An invitation had been issued to all members of ASA, but in the end the group consisted of members from NSW, Sydney area, Wollongong and ACT. The year started with emails flying back and forth to the ASA hosts, Gunther Zeilinger and Jacob Noordzij. Publicity information had been sent to the DHV, the organizers of the International Accordion Orchestra Competitions in Innsbruck, Austria. Apart from the competitions extra concerts were arranged and sightseeing for free days. It was working out to be a full and exciting two week itinerary. The Youth Orchestra was to compete in three classes:

Elementary Ensemble playing "Music".

Elementary Orchestra playing "Foxtrott Vision"

Advanced Orchestra playing "Irishe Suite"

Anton Wurzer, the current Australian National Champion joined the orchestra for the tour. It was arranged that the concerts in Germany and Austria would feature the combined orchestra, the youth orchestra, the advanced ensemble as well as solos and duos. The leader of the ASA Youth Orchestra was Lukas Maio. He is the son of entertainer extraordinaire – Ross Maio. The tour was to be from the 7th. to 20th. June 2004.



The Youth Orchestra returned home with a trophy

and 2 certificates and were very pleased with themselves.

News about Innsbruck in 2004 was not the only thing which was happening. Many other events were taking place. At the beginning of May an Accordion Spectacular was held at the Russian Club in Sydney which had a capacity audience and was one of the most successful to date. The last weekend in May the AATA competitions were held. The orchestra performed at the Gala Concert. Ann-Elise Koerntjes completed her secondary education in Melbourne, where she had been studying accordion, but decided to do a Bachelor of Arts degree at Macquarie University in Sydney. Thirteen year old Jedda Kassis joined her church orchestra and played at a special event alongside flute, clarinet, drums and singers. About 15 members altogether, playing old and new church music. Bernadette Conlon (Victoria) played at the Toowoomba Accordion Festival and launched 2 new CDs featuring the music of Frosini. The ASA also had the chance to attend the launch of the midi Roland accordion. An abbreviated 33rd Annual Festival and 34th. Congress was held in Queanbeyan. This was election year but no new nominations were received so the present committee was persuaded to work again for the next three years. The standard of competitions was good this year. Many members from Victoria attended the Festival for the first time and from comments received were impressed not only by the standard of playing but the overall friendly atmosphere. Again the work of the of the combined orchestra made a good impression. The Gala Concert was a success musically but with one of the smallest audiences ever. This had been a Festival of many ups and downs with problems of altered accommodation and venues. NSW and Victoria presented reports which contained hope for the following years. A tour to New Zealand for the competitions was discussed. The two new Champions were endorsed. The new Australian National Champion with a mark of 89.6% was Ann-Elise Koerntjes (Vic) and the new Australasian Champion with a mark of 87.6% was Chelsey Mayes (NZ). It was decided to hold the 2005 Festival in Melbourne in July.

ASA FESTIVAL RESULTS LIST

The 40th. International Festival of the Accordion Society of Australia was held from Tuesday 27th. to Friday 30th' September. in Sydney at St. George Leagues Club.

This year had fewer contestants than usual but nevertheless many categories had competitors. All competitors performed well and as usual the overall air was one of pleasure in what they were doing. The Presentation Dinner was held in The Grange with many happy participants. The meal was beautifully presented and enjoyed by all. Between courses the place getters were presented with their trophies and the new Australian National and Australasian Champions were named. The following is a full list of trophy winners. Congratulations to all.

N2 up to 12 years old up to 1 year playing.

1st.	Arthur Naumenko	75%
2nd.	Aleksija Canak	66%

N3 up to 15 years up to 1 year playing

1st.	Angelo Guiducci	85%
------	-----------------	-----

BB2 Novice Soloist up to 12 years

1st.	Sarah Rossi	65%
2nd.	Aleksija Canak	59%

BB3 Novice Soloist up to 15 years

1st.	Angelo Guiducci	88%
------	-----------------	-----

BB5 Novice Soloist Open Age

BB6 Novice Soloist 30 years and over

1st. Mathilde Auroux 83%	1st. Anneke van Mosseveld 77%
2nd. Dominique Granturco 69%	2nd. Phillip Naughton 75%
B1 Standard Bass Championship up to 9 years	
1st. Emma Smith 95%	B2 Standard Bass Championship up to 12 years
	1st Emma Smith 94%
	= 2nd. Arthur Naumenko/Teodora Djukic 78%
B3 Standard Bass Championship up to 15 years	
1st. Angelo Guiducci 92%	B4 Standard Bass Championship up to 18 years
	1st. Edin Kocic 93%
B5 Standard Bass Championship Open Age	
1st. Edin Kocic 93%	B6 Standard Bass Championship 30 years and over
2nd. Mathilde Auroux 81%	1st. Anneke van Mosseveld 84%
C5 Free Bass Championship Open Age	
1st. Edin Kocic 88%	D2 Duet Championship up to 12 years
	1st. Emma Smith & Sarah Rossi 79%
D5 Duet Championship Open Age	
1st. Edin Kocic & Iryna Stepko 93%	I1 Pop/Jazz Solo Championship
2nd. Yvonne and Paul Smith 78%	1st. Edin Kocic 94%
	2nd. Angelo Guiducci 92%
	3rd. Mathilde Auroux 90%
J1 Traditional/Folk Championship	
1st. Edin Kocic 89%	K1 Showmanship
2nd. Arthur Naumenko 87%	1st. Dominique Granturco 92%
3rd. Teodora Djukic 86%	2nd. Frank Berens 83%
Entertainment/Virtuoso Championship	
1st. Angelo Guiducci 86%	E2 Open Trio Championship
	1st. Dominique, Sarah & Chris 76%
F1 Ensemble Championship	
1st. NSW State Ensemble 87%	G1 Band Championship
2nd. NSW HSC Ensemble 84%	1st. Victorian Combined Orchestra 88%
3rd. NSW Competition Ensemble 83%	2nd. NSW State Band 11 87%
	3rd. NSW State Band 79%
H1 Orchestra Championship	
= 1st. Victorian Combined Orchestra and NSW State Orchestra 89%	
Australian National Championship	
1st. Edin Kocic 87%	Australasian Championship
2nd. Richard She 86%	1st. Richard She 86%

Two other trophies were awarded Highest Marked Solo Emma Smith (95%)
Best Stage Presentation Mathilde Auroux

Several categories also have perpetual trophies. If you were lucky enough to receive a perpetual you are the custodian for 11 months. Care for it and engrave it with your name and 2011 and return it to ASA headquarters in time for the Festival in 2012. This applies to the two special trophies as well. They all help to preserve the history of the ASA.

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