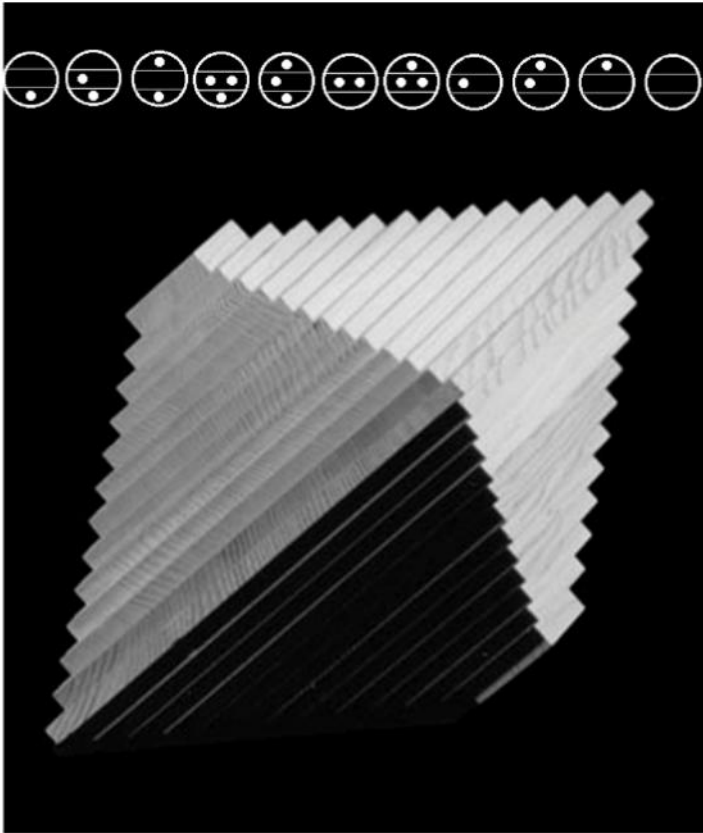


THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.'S

ACCORDION REVIEW



SEPTEMBER 2012

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Time has certainly flown and the festival is just around the corner. Closing date for all entries and registrations has passed (Friday 7th Sept.). As of date it does look like we will be having a small festival with limited competitors. Hopefully all members received our emails in regards to booking accommodation. There are no longer any rooms on hold for the ASA at the Bagtown Hotel, however I am not aware if they have sold out or not.

The Coupe Mondiale was held last month and daily updates were made available for the Coupe Mondiale website—hopefully our members all checked in and had a look. If not the links are still current and available for viewing at www.coupemondiale.org. Next year we hope Mathilde Aurox will be competing. Mathilde is looking forward to commencing her university studies in France. As we had no attendees at the CIA congress I nominated both Harley Jones and Kevin Freidrich as proxy votes for the ASA. I look forward to reading minutes of the Congress when distributed. The ASA also sent wishes for successful competition and congress.

In regards to the upcoming festival, could I please ask as a friendly final reminder that members return the perpetual trophies that they are holding to an ASA committee member. The trophies should be engraved and polished ready for a new holder to take home after Griffith.

On a final note I look forward to catching up with you all in the next week. Happy and safe travelling.

Dr. Elizabeth Jones DCA (UWS) BMus (Syd.Uni)

Congratulations to Emma First Prize!

Emma Smith attended the Balaklava Eisteddfod in South Australia on the 28th July.



She competed in the general instrumental section against a talented bunch of kids playing violins, clarinets, flutes, saxophones and even an electric guitar!

The competition was held in a Church with excellent acoustics, and when Emma played Monteverdi's "Ritornello" her accordion filled the room with sound.... almost like a church organ. It was very appropriate and the audience loved it.

She received 1st Place in the Junior Instrumental (up to 9 years old), and equal 1st Place tied with a Saxophonist in the Sub-Intermediate Instrumental (up to 11 years old).

Emma also played a duet with her school friend Alexandra (who plays Violin), and the girls placed 1st in the Junior Instrumental Duet section up to 9 years old.

Another young South Australian Piano Accordionist, Adrian Daniele, competed in the Senior Instrumental section and received third placing.

A special mention was made at the final presentation event that there had been accordions in the competition! And a photo of Emma with her accordion was taken for the local newspaper.

Emma received many lovely comments and was proud to promote the accordion as a versatile and sophisticated instrument.

I would encourage other young accordionists to attend general musical Eisteddfods, as we were made very welcome and it was a great experience.

The more we promote the accordion to the general public, the more kids will take up this wonderful instrument :-)

Best Wishes from South Australia,

Yvonne Smith



- *Renewal of your ASA Membership is now due (a renewal form is included in this Review)*
- *Accordion Festival at Griffith on Sept 26-28 (refer next page)*
- *Enjoy playing your Accordion, join up with other accordionist, a band or orchestra and have fun.*

The Accordion Society of Australia
41st International Accordion Festival

Gala Concert

Friday 28th September 2012

7:00pm

Tickets \$15 (available at the door)

Bagtown Inn Motel, 2 - 4 Blumer Ave, Griffith



Featuring the ASA Combined Orchestra,
NSW Band, Victorian Band,
and highlight performances from the
International Accordion Competition.

MTA Centenary Celebration (1912 - 2012) *Parliament House, Sydney*

On Friday, 13 July 2012 The Council of the Music Teachers' Association of NSW (MTA) held their Centenary Luncheon celebration (1912 - 2012) at Parliament House, Sydney. This significant event was hosted by The Member for Oatley, Mr Mark Coure, MP.

Dr William Clark, former MTA president, was the Master of Ceremonies, **Dr Karl Kramer, Dean and Principal, Sydney Conservatorium of Music** and **Dr Rita Crews, MTA President and AMEB (NSW) Deputy Chair**, both delivered inspirational speeches. A message was also read out from **Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of NSW**, who unfortunately wasn't able to attend on the day due to an unexpected last minute commitment. She remarked in her message that the Association will remain strong into the next century which was echoed by the current 35th MTA president.

Li Li, former and most recent winner of the MTA Margaret Chalmers \$3000 Scholarship was invited by Dr Rita Crews, to perform at this auspicious event as the only soloist. She delivered a magnificent performance of Carmen Fantasy by Georges Bizet - arranged by Rudolf Wurthner. The atmosphere was electric; you could hear a pin drop during her performance, after which Li received a rapturous round of applause from the large audience which consisted of many distinguished guests, including Patrons, Dr Deanna Hoermann & Mr Gerd Hoermann, Mr Barry



Walmsley, MTA Vice President, KSJ, Mr Patrick Thomas MBE, Mt Justin Ankus, Manager Conservatorium Open Academy, Ms Maree Lucas, State Manager AMEB NSW and even our very own **Dr Margaret Brandman**. Li's fiancée, Wen Chao LIU, Anneke van Mosseveld (all the way from Armidale), myself and many others also attended the prestigious Centenary Luncheon which was a memorable once in a life time event and a resounding success. It was truly a fantastic day for the accordion which was unprecedented in our nation!

On the day of the event, Dr Rita Crews said, "Li's performance was nothing less than superb" and added in her most recent president's report, "Li Li's performance was outstanding". Denise Heriot, Illawarra Branch President said, "I haven't heard such a talented accordionist before". Li was personally congratulated by many of the distinguished guests in the audience (some of the highest calibre musicians and pedagogic specialists in Australia), most of whom were totally blown away by Li's performance and the calibre of repertoire that is possible on the accordion.



Above: Dr Karl Kramer , Dr Rita Crews

Below: Myself with Li & fiancée Wen Chau Liu



Li is now in her third year of a bachelor of medicine / bachelor of surgery degree at Sydney University. She has won many state and national solo and duet competitions, including most recently, the AATA Australian Piano Accordion Championship in 2010. Li has also been successful in obtaining her AMEB AMusA Diploma on Accordion (High Distinction) and on the Piano.

Please join me in congratulating Li on her wonderful performance at Parliament House and all of her outstanding achievements over the years.

I would like to take this opportunity to also wish Elizabeth Jones, President and the ASA committee and its members all the success with the upcoming 41st International Festival and 42nd Congress in Griffith later this month.



Above: Myself with Li Li

PS As some of you may already be aware, my son Joel, is a high school student at Newington College and about to commence year 12. Just recently I had the opportunity to speak with Mr Mark Scott, Head of Music at Newington, about the accordion, it's capabilities and what is happening with it in Australia and on the world stage. I was very pleasantly surprised to hear that he liked the accordion and was very open minded about introducing it as an instrument and for composition purposes at Newington College in the coming year. He has asked me to send him information, recordings, video clips etc., which I am in the process of doing. If any of you have anything specific to contribute to this please let me know and I will be glad to include it with what I will be sending him. I am very excited about the prospect of the accordion being introduced at such a school which has very deep rooted traditions. I will keep you posted on how this progresses over the next year or so.

Yours musically,

Zeljko Bedic

Director - **Bedic Music Studio**

ASA TDip, MMTA, MASA, MAATA

Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) Diploma Examiner

Sydney Conservatorium of Music / Sydney University Accredited

NSW Music Teachers' Association (MTA) Accredited

Novelty Accordion Music

Here are some novelty pieces appropriate to accordion orchestra music kindly advised by Marika Jetelina of Germany. All sheet music samples plus many more may be viewed on www.jetelina-verlag.de (*Change to English is available top right!*). Payment via credit card is available. If you have any questions then please email Marika: info@jetelina.de or via the website.

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

from the film "Bodyguard", score: middle

Music by: PARTON, D./HOUSTON, W. | Arrangement: Russ, W.

http://www.jetelina-verlag.de/product_info.php/info/p1873_I-will-always-love-you.html

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS

form Metallica, Score: middle

Music by: HETFIELD, J./ULRICH, L. | Arrangement: Dalhof, T.

http://www.jetelina-verlag.de/product_info.php/info/p1881_Nothing-Else-Matters.html

BRAZIL / AQUARELA DO BRASIL, score: middle

Music by: BARROSO, A.E. | Arrangement: Ruß, W.

http://www.jetelina-verlag.de/product_info.php/info/p1841_Brazil.html

AI SE EU TE PEGO / NOSSA – NOSSA - score: middle

Music by: ACIOLY ALCOVERDE, S./DIGGS, A. | Arrangement: Russ, W.

http://www.jetelina-verlag.de/product_info.php/info/p1883_Ai-Se-Eu-Te-Pego.html

A FUNKY NIGHT IN TUNISIA

Music by: GILLESPIE, D. | Arrangement: Brehm, M.O. Score middle

http://www.jetelina-verlag.de/product_info.php/info/p1773_A-Funky-Night-in-Tunesia.html

GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS

Music by: KAJANUS, G. | Arrangement: Retter, J. (score: middle)

http://www.jetelina-verlag.de/product_info.php/info/p1848_Girls--Girls--Girls.html

BILLY JOEL IN CONCERT

Medley of the pieces: **Uptown Girl. Honesty. She's always a woman. Just the way you are. Piano Man. My Life.** Score middle.

Komponist: JOEL, B. | Bearbeiter: Kölz, H.G.

http://www.jetelina-verlag.de/product_info.php/info/p1844_Billy-Joel-in-Concert.html

'THE FOUR ACCORDIONISTS OF THE APOCALYPSE'

Some of you may remember the Vardos Trio who performed at our Gala Concert in Melbourne, 2005. Sofia Chapman, the accordionist from the trio, has written and composed 'The Four Accordionists of the Apocalypse' which is to be performed as part of the 2012 Melbourne Fringe Festival. "Frigg, Goddess of Fertility, feels she's no longer worshipped and auditions accordionists for an Apocalypse to regain control, yet fears a 'Twilight of the Gods'. Should she get Apocalypse insurance?

With exquisite vocalist Zulya Kamalova and an incredible revolving set, witness the unleashing of the full destructive force of accordions!"



September 26 – October 7

Wed, Fri 6.30pm, Thu, Sat 8.30pm, Sun 4.30pm

Running time: 80 minutes

La Mama Courthouse Theatre,
349 Drummond St Carlton, near cnr Elgin.

Tickets \$25 Full , \$15 Concession

Written and Composed by Sofia Chapman

Directed by Jo Loth

Performed by Zulya Kamalova, Terry Cole, KT Prescott, Carl Pan-nuzzo, Emma Louise Pursey, Isabel Hertaeg and Rama Nicholas

Musical Director: Sofia Chapman

Set Design by Alana Hunt

Sound Artist: Kirri Buchler

Dramaturgy: May-Brit Akerholt and Jami Bladel

A Burning Deck Theatre Production -

More information is available from

<http://www.abaf.org.au/donors/artist-projects/the-burning-deck.html>

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND



It is my pleasure to present to you my first annual president's report. Our newsletters have detailed the numerous outstanding individual performances and achievements of many of our top students and talented professional accordionists both here in New Zealand and overseas. You have all highlighted the versatility of the accordion and I thank you for the huge contribution you have all made to maintaining and improving the profile of our instrument in this country. Following is a summary of other significant activities during the past year.

On Sunday 25 September 2011, the Allan William Jones Memorial scholarship morning was held at the newly refurbished Brian Gerrard Theatre at Birkenhead College of Auckland's North Shore. The variety programme included performances by the North Shore Music Makers and the four New Zealand competitors who were leaving the following week to compete at the Coupe Mondiale Championships and Festival in Shanghai, China being Eddie Giffney, Patrick Liu, Alexandra Reekie and Bor-Kuan Song. All competitors used the opportunity to perform their programmes before the international competition. The Accordion Examination Board awarded each competitor a well-deserved cash sum to reward them for their hard work and efforts in preparing for the competition. The Douglas Mews Rose Bowl for excellence was presented to Helen Wang.

A large contingent of New Zealanders including myself went to Shanghai for the Coupe Mondiale Championships from 1 October to 6 October. Due to the size of the contingent, a New Zealand welcome party was put on for us the night before the championships began hosted by the CIA Ambassador, Kevin Friedrich.

The New Zealanders were well represented at the championships. Myself, Carol Yan, Heather Masefield and Grayson Masefield were all delegates for New Zealand. Alison Worthington was a delegate for the United Kingdom and assisted with the results. Heather Masefield, Grayson Masefield and Stephanie Poole were members of the international jury. Harley Jones as Public Relations Manager on the CIA Executive and Grayson Masefield on the CIA Music Committee.

The four New Zealanders all competed well to a standard we can all be proud of in some fierce international competition. Grayson Masefield

also performed as a guest artist in the evening concerts. What became apparent is that New Zealand is firmly cemented on the international accordion scene.

On Sunday, 25 March 2012, a contingent of accordionists left Auckland for Dargaville. This was to open the *Wakefield to Masefield* exhibition at the Dargaville Museum. The exhibition tells the story of the accordion in New Zealand from Wakefield's ship in 1839 to Grayson Masefield winning the Coupe Mondiale in 2009. A concert was held beforehand at the Dargaville Museum hosted by Kevin Friedrich. The concert included a variety of performances from local artists. Kevin provided a variety of accordion entertainment. There were also performances from the NZAA Accordion Orchestra conducted by Gary Daverne (which was especially formed for this concert), the Starlight Duo and the Reekie family. It was also an opportunity to honour Kevin in front of his home crowd with the presentation of his NZAA Lifetime Achievement Award and a birthday cake to celebrate his 50th birthday. Following the successful concert, there was an official opening of the exhibition by myself, Marie Jones and Dargaville Mayor, His Worship Neil Tiller. This exhibition runs until November 2012 and I would encourage members to make the trip to see this impressive exhibition. It was a most fitting way to cap off our 40th anniversary year.

I note the passings of Jean Cheetham of Wellington in July 2011, Toni Savage, an Auckland entertainer in January 2012 and John Dooley, the secretary of the Canterbury Accordion Association in May 2012.

On 25 April 2012, the accordion community lost one of its most charismatic entertainers, Grant "Yogi" Martin. His death came as a shock to many. He is remembered for his great contribution to the accordion in New Zealand and his unique and individual style.

Shortly afterwards, on 1 May 2012, the NZAA lost one of its most important and valued life-time members Silvio De Pra. Silvio's contribution to the accordion in New Zealand was immense not only as an entertainer but as the Chair and examiner of the Accordion Examination Board. Silvio freely gave up his time over 40 years to the NZAA adjudicating and entertaining at the annual competitions. Silvio was farewelled at a service held on 4 May. The following evening, Jim Sutton presented a tribute to Silvio on the radio. Lionel Reekie played at a Variety Artists Club tribute for Silvio on 7 May. Silvio was involved with this entertainers' club for many years and was held in very high regard by them.

As always, our annual competitions and festival were held on Queen's birthday weekend. This year we had something different with a youth orchestra for players from all around New Zealand and overseas guests under the age of 18 years. This orchestra performed at the Sunday Farewell concert conducted by Christine Johnstone. It was great to see a mass of younger players assembled on stage performing together.

This was a memorable weekend and was capped off at a dinner at the Brigham Restaurant in Whenuapai where we were again treated to a great evening and wonderful accordion entertainment including the "junior" Starlight Duo of Alanah Jones and Alexandra Reekie who performed with their fathers. It was a very memorable performance enjoyed by the appreciative audience. Thank you also to the other entertainers on the night, Stephen Cope, Maurice Jones and Lionel Reekie.

At the evening, trophies were presented to the following winners of the South Pacific Championship classes:

1. **12 years and under - Alexandra Reekie;**
2. **15 years and under - Helen Wang;**
3. **Open Accordion Solo - Patrick Liu; and**
4. **Accordion Solo - Christal Sautaux.**

The 2012 special awards were also presented to the following recipients:

1. **Samantha Rutherford Memorial Trophy - Dan Robinson**
2. **Cecil Smith Trophy - Caleb Hendry**
3. **Cocorullo Family Trophy - Tyler Battista**
4. **Doreen and Ben Emmett Memorial Rose Bowl - Kristina Roper**
5. **Emmett Family Classical Ensemble Trophy - North Shore Music makers**
6. **Ben Emmett Accordion Orchestra Commendation Trophy - East Auckland Accordion Orchestra**

As you are aware, this has been my first year as NZAA president and obviously I have had some big shoes to fill with John Statham who was president for 28 years leaving the role last year with an impressive legacy. It is pleasing to see that we have such a committed group of people dedicated to guiding the Association into the future and I look forward to continue to work with you all.

SONJA PALINICH

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

CANTERBURY ACCORDION ASSOCIATION (NZ) CELEBRATES 50 YEARS 1962 to 2012

On Friday 5th July the Canterbury Accordion Association held a weekend long celebration for their 50th Anniversary. The CAA is the oldest Accordion Association in New Zealand still running. Whilst a major effort had been made by committee members to contact past members this was hampered by the recent earthquakes that have devastated the city of Christchurch, with many killed. Some CAA members had left permanently or moved house several times.

On Friday the 6th, when visitors were arriving from all over New Zealand, they experienced a 4.9 earthquake.

Before all events a safety plan was outlined should a further earthquake take place.

All events were held in the picturesque town of Lincoln, about 20 kilometres out of Christchurch.

Photo Report on the NZAA website:www.accordions.co.nz

REPORT ON CAA CELEBRATIONS

CONTRIBUTED BY CRAIG PERRY

Well here I am, back in Auckland reflecting on a wonderful week spent in my hometown of Christchurch for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Canterbury Accordion Association. For me, my wife Hui-Leng and children Adam and Maia, it was a chance to visit family – my parents and brother Mark – for the first time down in Christchurch since the big earthquake in February last year, to see the damage and change to the city I grew up in. Equally as important was a unique opportunity to travel down with the Music Makers junior accordion orchestra and the Auckland accordion contingent, and celebrate the significant milestone as one NZ accordion family.

As it was the school holidays, we travelled down a week before the celebration weekend to spend time with family, take Adam and Maia skiing for the first time, see the Crusaders play at their new home stadium and to give me a chance to practise with the Christchurch Accordion Orchestra. The group had kindly agreed to let me rejoin the orchestra for the anniversary concert. To be able to do this was very special to me as I was able to reunite with my brother and friends I had played with for many years prior to moving to Auckland 15 years ago. This meant picking up the accordion again and practising some serious music after being 'retired' for many years.

The weekend consisted of group practices and a meet and greet on the Friday night, followed by a cake cutting ceremony, concert and dinner on Saturday.

The highlights of our weekend were seeing Adam and Maia playing in the concert and my involvement in the Christchurch Accordion Orchestra. The accordion had been played by many generations of my family, starting with Arthur Perry, who played the accordion in Cornwall, England around 1900 before emigrating to New Zealand. He was Adam and Maia's great great grandfather! His son Clarence, my grandfather, also played and I had inherited his accordion. Therefore, to see my children continue the legacy of playing, in my hometown, celebrating a significant milestone in the history of the accordion in Canterbury, was very, very special indeed.

Playing with so many familiar faces in Christchurch Accordion Orchestra was like time had stood still, and I felt at ease playing in front of a crowd despite the rust! I was honoured to be given the opportunity to use John Dooley's accordion for the concert. John was the long serving Secretary of the CAA and we lost him very suddenly a couple of months ago. He will be very much missed by the Association and the Orchestra.

The concert was well attended, with over 200 people enjoying the wide variety of accordion music. There were soloists, duos, orchestras, a choir and 2 mass orchestras combining players, young and young-at-heart, from Christchurch, Auckland and Australia.

Overall the weekend was a resounding success, all credit to the hard work of the CAA Committee. I shall certainly remember the wonderful music, catching up with old friends, and making new ones. Not to mention doing the Chicken Dance at the dinner again!



CAA Committee

There were many messages read out including from the NZAA, To the President Lynette Kelcher, Committee and Members of the Canterbury Accordion Association

On behalf of the New Zealand Accordion Association, I take this opportunity to congratulate you in celebrating your 50th anniversary on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th July. I apologise that I am not able to attend this weekend to celebrate with you all.

It is very pleasing to see that recent collaborations between the New Zealand Accordion Association and the Canterbury Accordion Association have resulted in the Christchurch Accordion Orchestra performing at the Coupe Mondiale Championships in Auckland in 2009, members of the Canterbury Accordion Association attending and taking part in the last three NZAA competitions, a concert for Grayson Masefield being staged in Christchurch in

September 2011, two contestants from Christchurch successfully competing in the 2012 NZAA competitions and taking part in the NZAA Youth Accordion Orchestra performing both in Auckland and Christchurch. We look forward to working further with the Canterbury Accordion Association in creating opportunities to further promote the accordion and accordionists in New Zealand.

Again, congratulations on reaching this milestone. On behalf of the New Zealand Accordion Association, I wish you all the very best for the future and I thank you all for your tireless work and efforts in promoting our instrument.

Sonja Palínich

President of the New Zealand Accordion Association

Concert Programme

Christchurch Accordion Orchestra

A La James Last
Meg Fidler - CAA History
One Moment in Time – Conducted by Meg Fidler

Leora Werner and Ben Hurley (Duet)

Christchurch Accordion Orchestra

Hungarian Dance
Loch Lomond

Bob Grant

North Shore Music Makers Orchestra

Bob Grant

Christchurch Accordion Orchestra

My Heart Will Go On
Intermezzo
The Happy Wanderer (with St Albans Community Choir)

St Albans Community Choir

INTERVAL

2012 NZAA Youth Group

Starlight Duo - Lionel Reekie and Maurice Jones

Christchurch Accordion Orchestra

Bridge Over Troubled Water
Who Is He
The Lone Ar-Ranger
Stars and Stripes

Starlight Duo - Lionel Reekie and Maurice Jones

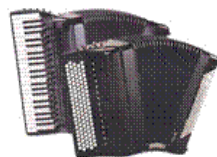
Massed Orchestra

Chopstix
Old Comrades

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

Member International Music Council, IMC-UNESCO

Kevin Friedrich – Ambassador
P.O. Box 150393
Kew Gardens, NY 11415-0393
USA



Internet: www.accordions.com/cia www.coupemondiale.org

03 July 2012

Dear President Lynette Kelcher and the Canterbury Accordion Association,

On behalf of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) it is my great pleasure to offer sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the Canterbury Accordion Association's Fiftieth Anniversary.

As you gather in Christchurch over the weekend of July 6-7, 2012, it will be a great opportunity to proudly reflect over the half a century of your many diverse activities promoting the accordion not only in your area, but also throughout New Zealand and Internationally.

At the CIA, we are extremely proud and grateful of the CAA's recent support of our 62nd Coupe Mondiale and Festival held in North Shore City, Auckland, New Zealand in 2009. A tremendous undertaking, to bring an International event of this magnitude to New Zealand shores for the benefit of the accordion movement in New Zealand, the CAA was an integral part of the success of this festival.

Not only did the CAA support our event by having the Christchurch Accordion Orchestra, a mainstay of the CAA, perform at the Gala Friday evening Concert at the Bruce Mason Center, but your organization generously provided important funding for the prizes in the Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Music Competition. This was a united nationwide effort to raise the necessary prize money to attract the elite of the accordion world to New Zealand in their quest for musical excellence, which in turn inspired our New Zealand accordionists who spent the week in Auckland listening to everyone compete.

Our 2009 Coupe Mondiale was won by our very own well known New Zealander Grayson Masefield, who now proudly serves on the CIA Music Committee, and the CAA has been extremely supportive of him, hosting him in concert last year, in May of 2011.

On a personal note, I have also had the great pleasure of being the recipient

of the hospitality of the CAA, performing as a soloist in the Christchurch Town Hall on a Variety Show when I myself was competing in the Coupe Mondiale festivals, and also with both The International Trio and the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) Accordion Orchestra during our tours of New Zealand.

I remember an amusing situation during our CAA hosted concert with The International Trio, as mid concert, there was a blackout and the venue was plunged into complete darkness. As Bass accordionist, I think I only had one switch change in our entire program, and wouldn't you know it, it was right at that moment, however, I was lucky and my blind stab hit the right coupler! Soon the lights came back on, and we carried on as if nothing had happened.

As the longest serving organized accordion group in New Zealand, we are sure that the CAA's ongoing work will be of great benefit to the future of our instrument in New Zealand. It is very inspiring to see that your work not only encompasses the elite and International level of accordion activities, but also the wonderful collaboration between the young students who have gathered for this 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Unfortunately I am not able to be there in person to support your event, as several of our CIA Officers including myself as Ambassador and Grayson, as a member of the Music Committee are serving as the President and member of the Jury respectively for their annual International Primus Ikaalinen Accordion Competition as part of their own 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Sata-Hame Soi International Festival in Finland.

We are sure that you will have a most successful 50th Anniversary Celebration, and we wish you the greatest of success in your future activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Friedrich". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Friedrich - Ambassador

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

AATA COMPETITIONS IN SYDNEY

CONTRIBUTED BY LIONEL REEKIE (NZ)

The Australian Accordion Teachers Association annual festival was held in Sydney on 9th and 10th June. I was pleased to have been invited to attend the festival, primarily as the international guest artist for the Gala Concert held on the Sunday, and also as an adjudicator. This created an opportunity also to take my youngest daughter, Alina to compete in her first ever accordion competition. Although only 5 years old, she has watched her older sister, Alexandra travel away to accordion competitions several times before, so it seemed only fair to give her an opportunity this time around.

On the Friday morning, Alina and I were met at the Sydney Airport by AATA President, Tania Lukic-Marx. Tania is a well-respected accordion teacher and performer, originally hailing from Yugoslavia. She studied accordion in Ukraine, and competed at some of the world's most prestigious accordion competitions, including a 2nd place in the 1988 Coupe Mondiale. Now an Australian Citizen, Tania continues to travel internationally giving workshops, master-classes and adjudicating at international accordion events. She was most generous to offer putting us up in her home over the weekend of the competition. Also staying with her, were 3 other kiwis - Mylie Thwaites from Hawera, and Rebekah Greig with her partner, Nick van Dijk from Levin. Mylie and Rebekah were also adjudicators over the weekend as well as helping with the running of the event.

Despite the early start, Alina was keen to see some of Sydney, and as the weather was so good, we both took the train into Circular Quay, to take the obligatory photos of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House. We eventually found our way to Darling Harbour, where the number one priority was to find a new colouring book! (It's funny what five year olds see as the most important things in life!) As soon as this matter had been resolved, Sydney's Wildlife World was the next thing on the list. After an afternoon seeing kangaroos, emus and even petting a koala, Alina declared that "Sydney is the best city in the world!!!!"

The competition on Saturday was held at the Marconi Club. This huge facility has several auditoriums and function rooms and has been the venue for the AATA competition for several years now. Although the majority of the competitors were from Sydney, there were also those that had travelled from Melbourne and Adelaide to participate in the Australian Championship categories. The top class (which, like the NZAA competitions, follows the rules of the Coupe Mondiale Masters Category) was contested by players from Australia, Switzerland and Slovenia. This year, Alina was the only NZ competitor, but she gave a confident performance in the 7 years and under class, beating out some other stiff competition to gain a third place. All place-getters received a trophy to take home, and Alina was so proud. (Her Dad was pretty happy too!)



Alina Reekie

Photo Report: http://www.accordions.com/aata/report2012_june09.htm

The Jury for the top class was made up of the three kiwis. Rebekah previously competed at the 2001 Coupe Mondiale (representing Australia) and Mylie (another previous Coupe contestant) has been studying for her Masters in accordion, full-time in Kiev for the past eight years. It was quite an

honour for me to have been asked to be an adjudicator for this class. (I suspect that this may have been the first international accordion competition outside of NZ where the jury was made up only of New Zealanders.) There was some very fine playing from all of the competitors in the class, although eventually the title was awarded to the Slovenian, Nejk Grm. Christel Sautaux who had competed in the South Pacific Championship in Auckland the previous week, gained the second place.

The Sunday morning of the festival featured two very interesting masterclasses. Firstly, Nick van Dijk, who had previously been a lecturer in Jazz at the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington for 20 years demonstrated how to develop the skills of improvisation. With a tremendous musical knowledge, and a wealth of experience as a jazz musician, Nick (who is actually a brass player) gave some good, "plain English" explanations of how to get students of any level to start exploring music beyond the dots and lines on the page. This was followed with Slovenian, Primož Parovel, Professor of Accordion Studies in Ljubljana, working with Australian Accordion Champion, Edin Kocić on the more serious "concert" repertoire.

The Gala Concert featured the prizewinners, the "Accordigles" orchestra, and my guest spots. Held in the second of the Marconi Club's theatres, the sound system was fantastic. My accordion has in-built Sennheiser microphones, so I was able to plug straight into the venue's system. You know that the sound system is good when the engineer tells you during the sound check that you really need to be in front of the stage to hear the proper balance because "all the sub-woofers are built in, under the stage itself". Most of my programme was lighter entertainment music from around the world although I did include a few accordion standards like *Bel Viso*. There was also opportunity to sing a few numbers from my CD of songs from stage and screen - "From Russia With Love" which had been recorded last year with a symphony orchestra in Russia.

The festival came to close with a social "pizza dinner". With NZAA secretary, Heather Masefield also adjudicating at the event, and NZAA Vice-President, Harley Jones compiling the daily reports for *Accordions Worldwide*, there were a number of Australian competitors who seemed very interested to learn more about the South Pacific event, so hopefully we will see a few new Australian faces on our side of the "ditch" in the years to come.

Our last two days in Sydney were spent looking around shops (dodging the rain) and relaxing after a busy but fun weekend. Little Alina decided that she needed to get her ears pierced so she could look pretty for the journey home. She still remains most indignant about the fact that the lady in the Chemist shop tricked her into thinking that it would only feel like a mosquito bite. "It was much more ouchy than that." Nevertheless, we both had a wonderful time in Australia, and we would like to thank the AATA and Tania Lukic-Marx for hosting us. I look forward to heading back to the festival again sometime in the future, and maybe next time, (and provided she does enough practice) Alexandra might get to go too!

Lionel

Snippets & Gossip

Spotted in the Sydney Morning Herald's 'Theatre' section, this promotion for the 'The Sea Project' appears to feature an accordionist although there is no mention of it in the review. If anyone happens to see this play then please send us your comments for the next edition of the Accordion Review.

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Strong cast ... Meredith Penman and Travis Cardona star. Photo: John Feely



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Interested students to contact Head of Accordion Studies, Dr. Elizabeth Jones at ejones@aim.edu.au. In your email please state whether you are interested in enrolling in the Bachelor course, diploma course, and participation in ensembles, young AIMS or the high school.

You can contact Elizabeth Jones at ejones@aim.edu.au or on fisaccord@hotmail.com

SHORT HISTORY OF THE ASA

...continued

2008 began on a happy note with a letter from David Krygger with a resume of events of activities in Western Australia from 2006 when Enzo and Dean Toppano, paid a visit, and performed with other WA members at concerts and informal get togethers. The Viennese Accordion Ensemble arrived in August and performed a delightful concert. A former student of David's, Luigi Frisina, produced a CD using a Roland Reedless accordion and a Scandalli Super V1, accompanied by the brilliant Don Vickers on keyboard. Luigi was 18 years old when he appeared on 'Spotlight' with the Hector Crawford orchestra in Melbourne. David passed on information about students who are doing very well both on accordion and piano. The Perth orchestra had been restricted in performances through illness, holidays and university studies, which had not allowed for the usual regular rehearsals. But there was a concert held in March 2007 that raised one thousand dollars for the victims of the Dwellingup fires where fourteen homes were lost. What a wonderful gesture from the accordionists in Perth. It is letters like this that shows the value of the Accordion Review, which is an excellent way to keep all accordionists informed about various activities.

February 2008 saw a trip for Jedda Kassis with Amelia and Dominique Granurco to the Gold Coast in Queensland. They accompanied the Abbruzzi choir on their trip up there to perform.

In March, Elizabeth Jones gave birth to her son Bryn Aiden. In her report to Congress 2008, she thanked the committee for all their support and help in organizing the Festival, because they knew just how busy she was with her added responsibilities. Also in her report she spoke about fund raising activities that would allow the NSW Youth Orchestra to go to New Zealand in 2009 for the Coupe Mondiale. She reported that the orchestras in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and the Gold Coast had been busy with performances. These performances were a great way to publicize the versatility of the accordion.

In 2007 the Accordion Society lodged their paperwork with the Department of Fair Trading. For the first time in many years no paperwork was returned and all was lodged correctly. A feeling of relief was felt by all concerned on the committee.

Also at Congress 2008, John Kalkbrenner gave a report on the activities in Victoria. The annual picnic was held in February. A concert was held at the Abel Tasman Dutch Club that featured Palmi Snorransson. The Victorian State Championship was held with 40 items performed and 2 orchestras competing. The biggest so far. The Victorian annual ASA concert was held at the Austrian Club and was highly successful, playing to a full house. The concert held in September was a great concert with performances by the Big Squeeze Band, George Butrumlis and John Kalkbrenner jnr. Plans were underway for a concert to be held in 2009 with Enzo Toppano and George Butrumlis.

There were no competitors for the Australian National Championship or Australasian Championship in 2008, which was very disappointing. It was decided to hold the 2009 Festival in Sydney possibly combined with the NSW State Championship because of the Coupe Mondiale.

At the end of 2008 Elizabeth received notification that she had been awarded her Doctorate of Creative Arts and she is now Dr. Elizabeth Jones.

Everyone was looking forward to a rewarding year in 2009 with the Coupe Mondiale being held 'down under' after many years of waiting.

The beginning of 2009 was devoted to organizing the visit to New Zealand for the Coupe Mondiale and the tour to follow with the NSW Youth Orchestra to play at venues on both Islands and incorporating some sightseeing as well. The beginning of the year sped by for the accordionists at AIM with not only normal studies but also concerts in the Concert Hall at AIM, the Art Gallery of NSW and St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney.

The 38th. International Festival was incorporated with the NSW State Championship on Sunday 3rd May and was held at the St. George League's Club in Kogarah, Sydney. Because of the small number of competitors it was held on only one day - but it was a day filled with beautiful music. The Rauza family made the journey from Melbourne to participate. They are to be congratulated for their enthusiasm. Sam was rewarded as he won 1st place in every category in which he played. Unfortunately there were no entrants for the Australian National Championship or the Australasian Championship.

The Coupe Mondiale was held in August in Auckland NZ. There were no individual competitors from Australia, but four groups had been invited to perform at the fringe festival which they did superbly.

The ASA Ensemble (NSW), Queensland Accordion Ensemble, Funkordion (Sydney) and Domenico and his Band from Queensland.

It was very exciting listening to the best the world has to offer and all the concerts were well attended. The stage was large and able to fit the World Orchestra 111, about 140 players. A new piece for the orchestra had been commissioned and three wonderful conductors were to conduct at various items. Joan Sommers from the USA, Fritz Dobler from Bavaria and Gary Daverne from New Zealand. The excitement was in the air for the whole time. It was also an opportunity for the ASA committee to be part of the CIA Congress. One topic was world accordion day that is held in May. May the 6th was the date but it was decided to make it for the week that had the 6th in it, as the actual day was not always convenient.

After the Coupe was finished, John Kassis put on his of Coach Captain hat and we all piled into the mini coach and travelled to Rotarua did some sight-seeing and performed at a concert. From there to Wellington for more sight-seeing and another concert. June and Gary Stratton came along, so it was good to see friendly faces. The next day is was off to the wharf to catch the ferry to Christchurch and the mini coach came too. It was quite an experience. The Canterbury Accordion Association had organized a concert and it was certainly the 'icing on the cake' and a wonderful way to finish our tour and get ready for the return flight home.

The Congress for the ASA was held on 28th. September 2009 in Dalhousie Street. The President's report congratulated everyone on all that had happened during the year and complimented the younger members on their enthusiasm and John Kassis in his role of MC. A report was sent by the Vice President of the sub committee in Victoria. Victoria had a busy year with the Victorian Championship getting bigger and better. The highlights had been the 2008 Christmas concert, the annual picnic, the Evening with..... concerts and a performance by Mirko Patarini. There had been an attempt to break the Guinness Book of Records for the most accordions played at one time. It was held in Wangaratta but unfortunately the record was not broken but they will try again next year! Victoria was now looking forward to a concert by Enzo Toppiano in October and a first ever youth concert in November. Congress looked forward to the 40th anniversary of the ASA in 2010.

...to be continued

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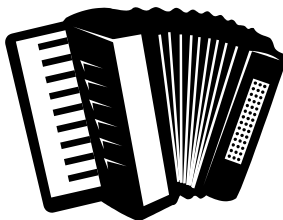
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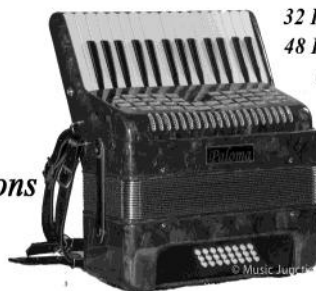
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