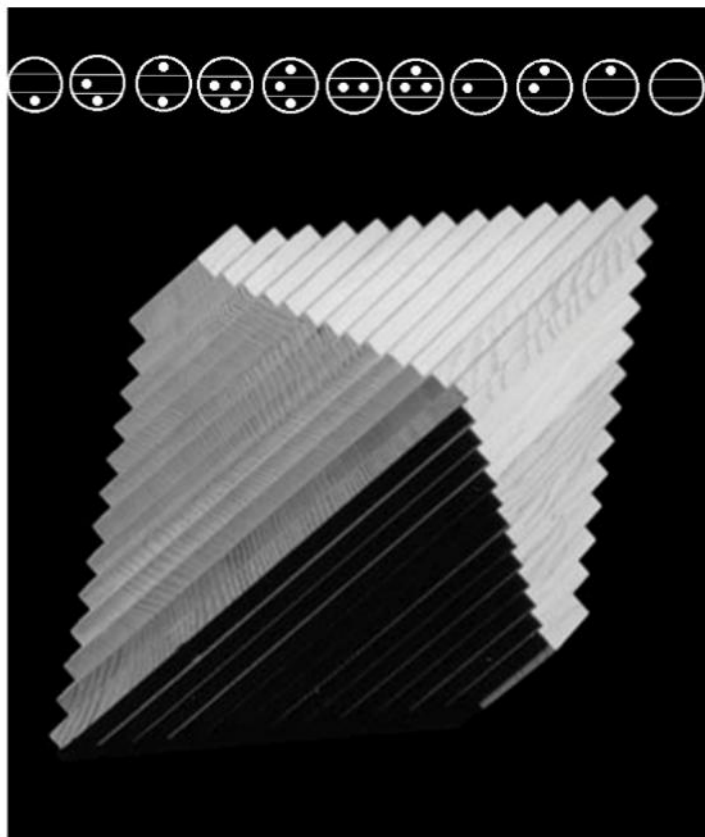


THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.'S

# ACCORDION REVIEW



DECEMBER 2012

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 4

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## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members, subscribers and readers. I hope that you all have an enjoyable and relaxing break and a musical Christmas period. It is great to see that members in both NSW and Victoria celebrated with Christmas gatherings. It is a great way for members who don't get the chance to catch up during the year to meet and relax.

The 2012 festival in Griffith was a great success with many concerts and performances. Although small in regards to competition numbers members had a great time visiting vineyards, performing on the local radio station and performing at the gala concert as well as the Scalabrini Village, Centro and the Griffith Show. The idea of taking the festival to a regional area was a success and the venue for next year's festival will be Shepparton, Victoria. Dates are not yet confirmed but will be in the September/October school holidays. Bookmark the proposed dates for pre-planned holidays. We are already gathering information so hope to be in touch soon with confirmed dates and details.

Since the festival committee members Amelia Granturco, Yvonne Smith and Jedda Kassis have been busy organizing a new website for the ASA. Please take the time to look at [www.accordionsociety.webs.com](http://www.accordionsociety.webs.com)

A call is out from the webmasters for any photos, pictures or news articles for inclusion on the site, in particular photos of the recent Griffith festival. Please send any news for inclusion on the website to [asa.inc@hotmail.com](mailto:asa.inc@hotmail.com)

Accordion legend and long time supporter of the ASA and the accordion has announced his retirements and relocation to overseas. We wish the amazing Enzo Toppano all the best in the next chapter of his life.

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  
Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2013

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

## *Accordionists accompany Abruzzesi Association Choir*



On the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2012 Jedda Kassis and myself were invited to accompany the Abruzzesi Association of NSW choir on a bus trip to Griffith.

Once we arrived in Griffith we visited West End Winery, where we were taken on a tour to view the process of wine making and were able to taste and purchase wine.

On Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, the Abruzzesi Association committee had organised a festa/luncheon held at the Yoogali Club, to celebrate 'Abruzzo Day'. Joe Staltare, an accordionist from Griffith, musically entertained us during the festa. After a BBQ lunch, the choir sung ten songs from the Abruzzo region. After the choir had sung Jedda and myself were invited to play a couple of songs with Joe Staltare. We played a tarantella, to which the (listeners) got up and danced along.

On Monday the 6<sup>th</sup>, we went to a bakery (Bertoldo's) and a salami factory where we were able to purchase some bread and salami for lunch. We stopped for lunch at Lake Temora, which was beautiful.

We were looking forward to returning with the Orchestra for the National Festival in September.

*Dominique Granturco*

## *ASA Website is Online!!*

The ASA website is up and running and apart from a few minor issues which are being addressed it is available and ready for viewing. Please have a look at

[www.accordionsociety.webs.com](http://www.accordionsociety.webs.com)



## ***In memory of Günter Zalisz***

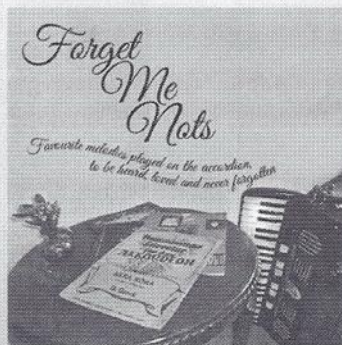
### *CD Launch 'Forget Me Nots'*

Some Accordion players have come together in Memory of Günter Zalisz and produced a CD as Fundraising for Cancer research.

Accordionists George, Palmi, Jeanette B, Mischa and Holger will be performing selected numbers from the CD at the launch on Saturday Dec 8th. *Refer following page for concert details.*

*You are cordially invited to the CD launch of:*

*Forget Me  
Notes  
In Memory of Günter...*



*Some of the music he loved to play -  
now played by his friends*

*This is also a fund  
raising project to aid  
the Cancer Council of  
Victoria.*

*You can listen to excerpts of the CD played by the  
accordionists featured and enjoy afternoon tea.*

*Saturday, 8th December, 2.30pm – 4.30pm*

*At: Templestowe Valley Primary School  
Multi Purpose Hall  
15 Birchwood Avenue  
Lower Templestowe, 3107 Melways 33 A 5*

*Car Park: Entry Airs Road*

*RSVP by 1st December, 2012  
Tel. 03 9850 3609 or [m.zalisz@ozemail.com.au](mailto:m.zalisz@ozemail.com.au)*

## 2012 *International Festival*

Members and accordion enthusiasts descended on Griffith on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of September. Although small in numbers enthusiasm was high and a successful 41<sup>st</sup> International Festival.

On the Tuesday night the early arrivers met up with local well-known accordionist and ASA member Joe Staltare at a local Italian restaurant. All enjoyed a pizza/pasta meal that was followed with accordion music by Joe, Amelia and Dominique. A great start to the festival for those who could attend. Big news was that the local radio station had been in touch and the group that had already arrived from NSW was to perform first thing in the morning. A flurry of text messages organized a group to be at the station for 6.30 am the next morning.

For the group of early arrivals Wednesday started with a 6.30am drive up the hills to the local radio station that covered the entire Riverina area. After solos, ensemble performance and an interview all returned for a well-deserved breakfast. The publicity received from this broadcast was great and even resulted in an extra concert at the Griffith Show on the Sunday. The Wednesday for all other attendees was a relaxing start to the couple of days that lay ahead. Members visited the function room at the Bagtown Hotel to receive registration packs and to catch up with friends not seen for the past year. A hot start to the festival as the temperature climbed some members escaped to the local swimming pool for a cool down before joining a tour to the local wineries. After a quick lunch stop accordionists joined in on the first combined orchestra rehearsal. The baton was shared between 2 conductors – John Kalkbrenner Senior from Melbourne took the orchestra through their paces in *Comedians Gallop* and *Skater's Waltz* and Elizabeth Jones oversaw some intense rhythm





practice in Fascinating Rhythm. The first day concluded with a buffet style dinner at the sister hotel to the Bagtown Inn on the main street of Griffith.

Thursday was the competition day and the audience that attended was treated to high level accordion playing. Highlights including seeing the progress that both Edin Kocic and Emma Smith had made with their accordion performances. Results from the day of competition can be seen elsewhere in the Review. After combined orchestra and an extraordinary committee meeting all went to the Presentation Dinner. The night was filled with music as competitors, adjudicators and guests entertained all.

Friday was the last official day of the festival. Members travelled to local vineyards, and orchestra members had one last chance to learn all their notes before the Gala Concert. Members of the orchestra looked forward to the evening event as the publicity for the concert had been great. The hall filled up and the concert commenced with the NSW Ensemble performing some favorites.



The President of the Griffith Music Society spoke at the Gala Concert thanking us for coming to their town and kindly presented a cheque for \$150 to the ASA to put towards venue hire for the concert.

The first half also highlighted the musical achievements of the Smith family and members of the NSW ensemble Amelia, Jedda and Dominique. Amelia, Jedda and Dominique performed some Italian favorites and had the crowd join in.



The second half of the concert again featured the NSW ensemble and also local accordionists Joe Staltare. Joe had the audience involved with his great renditions and was joined by Dora Marcheal from South Australia and Jedda and Dominique at the close of his bracket. The evening ended with all accordionists on stage as the Combined orchestra.



After saying farewells at the end of the concert all were looking forward to the 2013 festival, which will also go regional - Shepparton, Victoria.

# 2012 FESTIVAL RESULTS

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>COMPETITOR NAME</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
<u>BB6 Novice Soloist 30 years &amp; over</u>	Phillip Naughton (VIC)	70

## STANDARD BASS CHAMPIONSHIP

<u>B2 up to 12 years. 2 contrasting pieces</u>	Emma Smith (SA)	80
<u>B3 up to 15 years. 2 contrasting pieces</u>	Emma Smith (SA)	80
<u>B5 Open Age. 2 contrasting pieces</u>	Dominique Granturco	71
<u>D4 up to 18 years</u>	Edin Kocic (VIC) & Emma Smith (SA)	86
<u>I1 Pop/Jazz Solo (all ages)</u>	Emma Smith (SA)	74
	Edin Kocic (VIC)	82
	Philip Naughton (VIC)	68
<u>J1 Traditional/Folk Solo (all ages)</u>	Emma Smith (SA)	80
	Edin Kocic (VIC)	96
<u>K1 Showmanship (all ages)</u>	Frank Berens	90

## GROUP CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

<u>E2 Open Trio</u>	Paul, Yvonne and Emma Smith	83
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## A AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Edin Kocic (VIC)	88
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## A1 AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Edin Kocic (VIC)	84
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## Travelling Accordions

A fine sunny day in Griffith saw members of the orchestra perform at the Griffith Central Shopping Centre, where a good crowd turned up to listen to the music of the accordion. In fact, extra seating was required to cater for the large number of inquisitive locals and lovers of accordion music, some of whom were at the concert the previous night. The sound of accordions was heard throughout the centre, much to the delight of the Saturday morning crowd. John Kassis (father of Jedda) had the responsibility of being the Master of Ceremony on the day, keeping the gathered crowd informed on the history of the accordion and the music being performed. The highlight of the morning was formally thanking our Griffith host and fine accordionist, Mr. Joe Staltare. Much to Joe's surprise and the crowds delight, Joe was handed an accordion and asked to play a couple of numbers which he duly did. The stay at the shopping centre lasted for about 2 hours. A fine effort by all.



## *Scalabrini Village*

In the afternoon, the Orchestra travelled to the Scalabrini Village Nursing Home, Yoogali (Griffith) for a performance. And what a performance it was. In fact it brought a tear (joyous one) to the eyes of members of the orchestra and fellow travellers, to see the enjoyment, excitement and appreciation by the staff and residents of the nursing home. This was their day, their long weekend. The residents, some in wheelchairs, mobile beds and walking sticks, came to the Auditorium to hear the music of the accordion to bring back memories of their childhood or the village or city they were born in. The music they grew up with, the clapping, foot tapping and smiles as wide as Sydney Heads, there to be seen.

One Senior Staff member, said to one of our members, "This was going to be another Saturday, another long weekend for the residents, but to have the Accordion Orchestra there, this made it a 'special weekend' for them".

For the frail and very sick who were unable to attend the Auditorium, individual members of the orchestra went into their room and played a couple of numbers. A truly wonderful and a touching gesture by our orchestra members.

As we were leaving the nursing home, a number of visitors were enjoying coffee/afternoon tea at the Café, so a couple of our members got their accordion out and provided some music, much to the delight of the visitors.

Yes, we took the festival to Griffith, competition not as strong as in previous years, but so what! The smiles, the joy, the memories to our elderly citizens at Scalabrini Nursing Home, was worthwhile.

To members of the orchestra that stayed on in Griffith and who made that Saturday a special day, I say Thank You.

*John Kassis*

*News from the...*

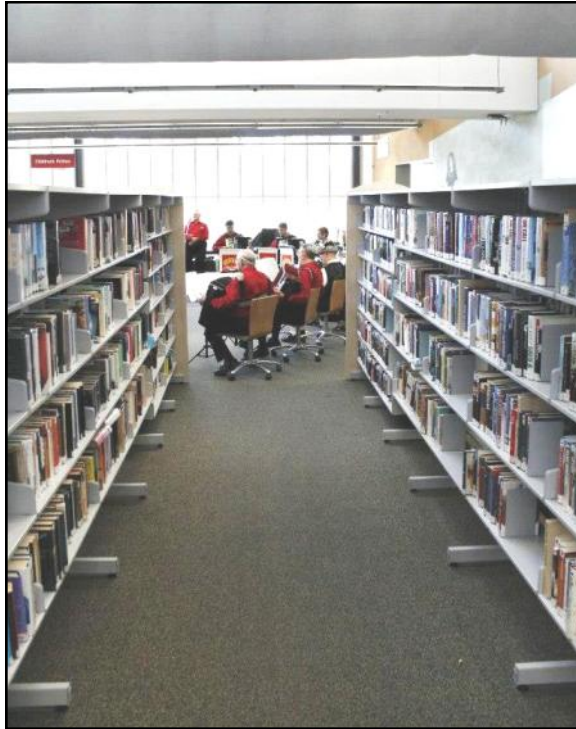
## *Elite Accordion Group in South Australia*

*Contributed by Yvonne Smith*

The Elite Accordion Group have been very busy over the past three months with several performances.

One of these was the Channel 9 Telethon Fundraiser "La Dolce Vita" in the beautiful wine region of McLaren Vale. The event was held at Penny's Hill Winery and the weather on the day was fine and sunny. We set up on the lawn under some large outdoor umbrellas, and when the guests arrived, we created the atmosphere by playing some popular and traditional Italian music. As the sounds of "That's Amore", "O Sole Mio" and "Tarantella Napoletana" drifted across the garden, the guests were served wine and gourmet nibbles. After about an hour the guests moved into a large marquee for the fund raising auctions, and we were invited by the Penny's Hill staff to try some of the food and wine ourselves. A most pleasant event, this was our second time playing for "La Dolce Vita" and it is one of our favourite venues.

One week after "La Dolce Vita" we performed for the Burnside Library German Cultural Day. Burnside Library often holds community events, and for this special day they had organised German food, dancing and music. It did feel a bit strange carting our accordions and equipment through rows of book shelves! The Accordion Group played German music inside the library before and after lunch, and it was especially nice to see the big smiles on the little kids faces - many had probably never seen live accordion music before.



*Burnside Library, Accordion Group playing at the German Cultural Day*

After the Christmas break, we will be playing at Schutzenfest on the 18th and 19th of January 2013. This annual German festival, held in the Adelaide city parklands, is always well attended and definitely our biggest event of the year. Thousands of people come to enjoy the music, sunshine, and of course the German Beer. This year we are also working together with the Bavarian Dance Group "Bund der Bayern", who will dance in traditional Bavarian Dirndl dresses and Lederhosen to a few of the songs we are performing.

We would like to wish all members of the ASA a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2013.

## *SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS*

### *Accordions en masse*



*We have obtained this magnificent photograph however we have no knowledge of its origin! If you know anything about these accordionist, where, when and why it was taken then please send details to the editor so we may advise our readers in the next edition. Thank you*

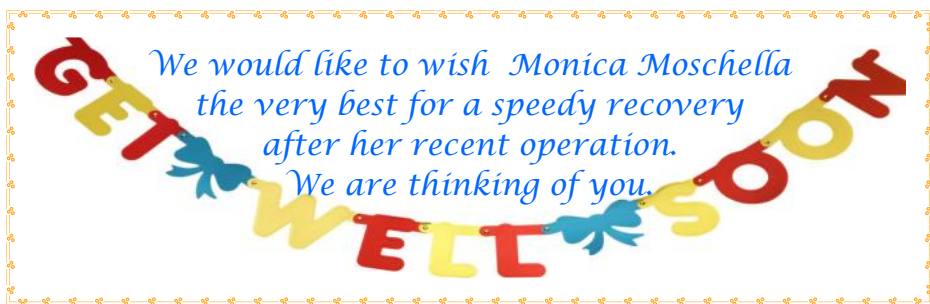


*A strange but lovely happening .....*

A couple of weeks ago President Elizabeth Jones received an email from a person in New Zealand. He had read a tribute in the Accordion Review to her Aunt, Shirley Evans, an accordionist who had passed away. The email was a request to send his details to David Evans who he assumed would be Shirley's brother. He was born in the same town Birkenhead, Cheshire, England and they had become boyhood friends in the scouts. Len had immigrated to New Zealand and David had immigrated to Australia. He last saw David in Australia in **1955** and by strange coincidence they lost each others details. But they are so glad to have been in contact again. Emails have been flying back and forth!!!

Amazing when you think about it. They are both in their mid 80s.

*June Jones* (sister to David and Shirley and mum to Elizabeth)



*Special Thanks to ASA member*

*A special thank you to Sam Tripodi for his enormous time and effort in videoing and photographing our various ASA concerts and International Festival. Sam also distributed DVDs and Videos free to members. We hope to see Sam playing with the NSW orchestra in the new year. Thanks Sam.*

*Merry Xmas from  
France*

*Mathilde Aroux sends  
her regards and would  
like to wish everyone a  
Merry Xmas*

# MELBOURNE ACCORDION ORCHESTRA ANNUAL "CUP EVE" CONCERT

*5th November, 2012*

The Melbourne Accordion Orchestra held its 16th annual "Cup Eve" concert at the Coatesville Bowls Club in East Bentleigh. The first ten years were predominantly a solo event by Bernadette Conlon, but with her departure to the USA in 2006 the orchestra carried on sometimes inviting guest performers but in recent years the orchestra performed with its various members doing solos, duets, quartets etc.

The evening commenced with the orchestra playing 'Pink Panther's Brother' by A. Chmykov, 'Phantom of the Opera' by A. Lloyd Webber, 'Libertango' by Astor Piazzolla, ABBA Medley arranged by Matthias Hennecke, and 'The Blues Factory' by Jacob de Haan, arr. by Gerd Huber.



The orchestra then left the stage to allow the solo performers, Finn Kenny playing 'Fantasy' and Arthur Naymenko playing 'Alloette', both young students of our Musical Director Iryna Stepko.

Palmi Snorrason then took the stage with his White Roland electric accordion playing 'Old Cape Cod' mainly with the saxophone coupler. The tempo changed when Phoebe Wan sang 'Down by the Salley Garden', lyrics by William Yeats, accompanied by Iryna on accordion, Jules on acoustic guitar and Peter on bass.

Lee Puccini and Rod Cope then played a piece called 'In Tango' by Isgr & Alberini. Dino Kocic then played 'La Campanella' by N. Paganini, a very difficult and high class concert piece which drew a generous applause by the audience. Mr. Evergreen Richard Stacewicz on his Excelsior, Midi played Silvana Waltz, Tico Tico and the famous Bullfight Song.

Intermission was announced, and all enjoyed a very generous supper with tea and coffee served by the ladies committee. Lorenza Puccini then was able to sell a few of our CD's.

After intermission, the orchestra returned to play 'Carnival de Paris' by Dario G. arr. by Iryna Stepko, 'Hotel California' - The Eagles, arr. by M.O. Brehm, 'In a Persian Market' by Albert Ketelby, 'Frankie Boy Forever' arr. by Werner Kunzmann, and finishing off with Bert Kampfert's 'A Swinging Safari' arr. by Rico Reinwarth.

The audience applauded generously and the Bentleigh Organ Music Chairman Mr. Cliff Washfold thanked the orchestra for a wonderful night of music, the ladies for supper, other helpers who helped make the night a success. Dianne Washfold seconded that and made other announcements for members.

The orchestra was invited to return in 2013. We were honoured to have the State Member of Parliament Ms Elizabeth Miller who thanked the organisers for the invitation and enjoyed the performance.

There are about 175 groups/organisations in her electorate, and she has attended about 120 of their functions, so I am sure that the accordion movement will be greatly appreciated as a result of this interest.

Another unusual event was a two and a half year old Lachlan seen wandering around the rear isles of the hall during performances playing his Suzuki cardboard violin and tapping his foot on the floor!



*Lee Puccini*

## *Glebe Festival—November 2012*

After last year's successful and well attended concert, Accordions Alfresco were delighted to return to the Glebe Music Festival. As the hour struck to begin, seats quickly filled with locals and of course, our wonderful cheer squad of family and friends. The first set saw many a smile, toe tap and marvel from the audience, some of whom had never seen an accordion being played, let alone a stage full of them! The interval meant it was time for us to re-strengthen our left arm muscles and for the audience to sip on a hot cup accompanied by many delicious home-made sweets. A big thanks to the baking team within our orchestra!



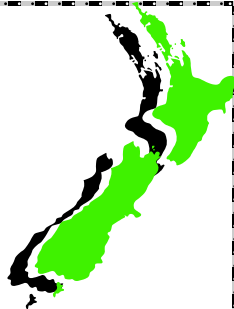
Accordions Alfresco: L to R Amelia, Cheryle, Rob, Jedda , Dominique

A special guest kicked off the second half of the afternoon, not to mention, bringing a large entourage of family to support him. This was Amelia's student, Antonio who blitzed many a Palmer Hughes tune on stage. Credit goes to both Antonio and Amelia especially as this was his first appearance at an ASA event. Our run order continued to touch all corners of the globe from rumbas to Russian folk and colourful-complex-classical music to tantalising-timeless-technical-tangos. However, it wouldn't be an Accordions Alfresco concert without returning home, so we concluded with Ross' infamous Aussie Medley.

A huge thank you goes to David McIntosh, the artistic director of this event and Rob Scott-Mitchell for organising this wonderful afternoon, and ofcourse to our supportive audience.

*Jedda Kassís*

## NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND



### AUCKLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

*Free Family Concerts* THE ORGAN SYMPHONY

*Programme includes* Daverne - A Musical Party

Guest Conductor Gary Daverne with Soloist Stephanie Poole

Sunday November 11th 2.30pm Auckland Town Hall

Sunday November 18th 2.30pm Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna

**Gary Daverne**, VAC's 2010 Benny recipient will be making a guest conducting appearance with the Auckland Symphony Orchestra. Gary formed this orchestra in 1975 and remained their resident Music Director and Conductor for 35 years until he retired in 2010 handing the baton over to a younger person in Peter Thomas. Gary now holds the position as the orchestra's Music Director Emeritus.

Gary will be conducting music from the film, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and the premier of his composition, *Musical Party for Solo Accordion and Orchestra*. Stephanie Poole will play the solo accordion part, in this composition dedicated to the late Silvio De Pra. This community concert is a family-friendly event with an orchestral programme designed to entertain all ages.

**Stephanie Poole** (née Grey), a native Aucklander, has been a prolific winner of accordion competitions in New Zealand, including three-times winner of the New Zealand Solo Accordion Championship. She was principal accordionist with the Air New Zealand Accordion Orchestra which toured extensively through Europe, North America and China. During this time, Stephanie

also recorded a number of original accordion works composed by Auckland Symphony Orchestra Music Director Emeritus, Gary Daverne. Stephanie has taught a number of New Zealand's top accordionists, and taught accordion for the University of Auckland's Bachelor of Music (Performance). She has adjudicated internationally at the Coupe Mondiale International Competition for Accordionists in 2007, 2009 and 2011. Stephanie has performed over recent years with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Auckland Symphony Orchestra, Bach Musica, and the New Zealand Pops Orchestra.

## ***THE 2012 BENNY AWARDS***

*Contributed by Heather Masefield*

On Sunday 28th October Maurice Jones, NZAA President Sonja Palinich and I attended the 2012 Benny Awards held at the Crowne Plaza in Auckland, New Zealand. These awards held by the Variety Artists Club are the highest award given to performers, musicians & artists in New Zealand

With both Silvio de Pra & Toni Savage, long time accordion performers, passing away we have lost the 2 Benny winners who were accordionists.

The slide show of members that had passed away during the year featured both Silvio & Toni. Angelina & Gabriella Witten-Hannah sang 3 items during this dressed as Angels - and they sang like Angels too!

It was also nice to see the photos of Silvio de Pra & Toni Savage winning their Bennys in the slide show presented of previous Benny winners. There were several really nice tributes to Silvio de Pra during the evening. One of the organizers of this superb event was Gary Daverne.

The Mayor of Auckland sat briefly at our table & mentioned the NZAA in his speech before presenting the 2012 Benny Award.

NZ News contd.....

## **MERCER ACCORDION DAY**

*Contributed by Sheila Haigh*

Mercer Accordion day was held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, with at least 40 accordions and other instruments, such as oboe, saxophone, drums, flute to name a few. It was a very enjoyable day with accordionists coming from far and wide. Many people came along to listen and joined in singing the well known tunes. One couple performed Peter Seller's "Goodness Gracious Me", which was very much enjoyed. Mercer Day is held on the first Sunday in March and the first Sunday in October at the Mercer Rowing Club Hall. After finishing at Mercer, quite a few of us went back to the Bombay Autobahn - a great finish to a very enjoyable day.

## **TRACEY COLLINS - BASTILLE DAY**

Here is the link. I was asked to perform for Bastille Day.

<http://tvnz.co.nz/good-morning/extra-130712-tracey-video-4967696?ref=facebook>

## **PAPER CRANES**

*Contributed by Kristina Roper*

Just letting you (and anyone else who might be interested) know that I'm in a band called Paper Cranes and we recently released an EP. It can be downloaded free from

<http://lovepapercranes.bandcamp.com/album/oh-love> for a limited time. I play the accordion in the band, a bit of oboe, some backing vocals and occasional percussion. I play accordion in the band in most of the live versions of the songs but only one of those songs is on the EP ("Little Darling"). Anyway, just thought you might be interested.

Antoinette actually saw us play live at The Bunker a little while ago - was just a coincidence that she was there!

NZ News contd.....

## *Sonatas and Tangos at Twilight'*

*21 July 2012 - Contributed by Rosalind Giffney*

*'We marvelled at the combined talent and skill of both of you and the music both inspired and challenged us all. And the wonderful combined sound of the piano accordion and violin was a 'first' for us I think.'*

*Peter Robertson - On behalf of Waiheke Musical Museum Charitable Trust*

This exciting and complex programme, performed in the unique historical music museum by two top players was, indeed, a concert to remember and much appreciated by the full house audience.

Professional violinist Dr Joe Harrop (PhD Royal Academy of Music) performed with 19yr old Eddie Giffney who is acknowledged to be one of NZ foremost young pianists as well as a past NZ and South Pacific Champion on piano accordion.

The programme opened with Mozart's Sonata for Piano and Violin KV380 in E flat. Their intelligent playing perfectly captured the elegance of the first movement, the inherent sadness of the 2nd (one of the rare examples of Mozart writing in minor key slow movement) The energetic rondeau movement provided a lively conclusion.

The second sonata - Ravel's Sonata for Violin and Piano in G is a delightful mixture of French Impressionist textures with a jazz influence. From the atmospheric opening piano solo of the Allegretto movement it was evident that this was going to be a sublime performance.

The last movement, a *Perpetuum mobile*, is known to test the limits of the violinist's virtuosity and was faultlessly handled by Joe Harrop through the propulsive, uninterrupted 16th notes, driving the work to an elated end.

Demonstrating his musical versatility, Eddie Giffney then swapped to play piano accordion for the Tango section of the programme with three contrasting pieces -

Tango Pour Claude by Galliano (arr Giffney / Harrop)

Milonga En Re by Piazzolla (arr Ryskov)

Oblivion by Piazzolla (arr Giffney / Harrop)

This allowed the audience to fully appreciate the beautiful blend of violin and accordion, a combination perfectly suited to the tango genre. At times achingly beautiful and lyrical, at times passionate and fiery this section of the programme was a treat for all and seemingly enjoyed as much by the performers as the audience.



Music Review by Larry Lapidus—Correspondent October 23rd

### *Trophée Mondial opens in Spokane with flair*

For the past 61 years, students and teachers of the accordion have come together for the Trophée Mondial (“World Cup”) de l’Accordeon, a competition extending over several days in which contestants are judged for their excellence in various categories of performance: classical, variety, and now digital. These meetings have taken place all over the world, but never in the United States.

Dozens of competitors from dozens of countries have converged in Spokane for this year’s championships. A gala concert celebrating the opening of the competition was offered Tuesday night at the Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox. As befit the occasion, the musical portion of the program was preceded by greetings to the international attendants by local dignitaries and by a gracious welcome from the President of the Confederation Mondiale de l’Accordéon, Frédéric Deschamps.

Following a trooping of the colors by the U.S. Marine Corps color guard and the singing of the national anthem, soprano Marsha Schlangen led the audience in the unofficial anthem, Irving Berlin’s “God Bless America.” Then, accompanied by the Spokane Symphony, conducted by Eckart Preu, Spokane’s Kinderchor performed a song titled “Here in This Land” written especially for the occasion by Kasia Haroldsen and very sensitively arranged by William Berry. Kinderchor, directed by Sharon Smith, sang with beautiful tone, splendid diction and great energy, providing an inspiring transition to the musical performances that followed.

Accompanied by the strings of the symphony, again under Preu’s direction, New Zealand accordionist Grayson Masefield – the current holder of the Trophée Mondial – performed “Picasso’s Guernica” by Gorka Hermosa. The piece effectively represents the violence and terror of that famous painting, and amply demonstrates the communicative power of the instrument in the hands of a master. Masefield is not only a most impressive artist, but also a generous and supportive one, since he has travelled from New Zealand to serve as a judge at the competition.



## ***Eddie Giffney performs with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra***

*by Heather Masefield*



2010 New Zealand Accordion Champion Eddie Giffney is a 3rd year student at the University of Auckland School of Music. On the 9th November, Eddie Giffney performed his final piano recital.

Two days later he performed with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra at the Trusts Stadium, Waitakere premiering his arrangement of the Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in G minor - 3rd Mvt arranged for accordion and string orchestra as part of his university studies.

Eddie also performed a Daverne arrangement of Oblivion and gave an interesting talk about the accordion before he played.

This superb arrangement was well received by the hundreds of locals who had come to see the "meet the instruments" section of the event in an informal setting.

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## ***Auckland Symphony Orchestra Concerts***

*by Heather Masefield*

The Auckland Symphony Orchestra performed in concert on Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Auckland Town Hall and again on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>, 2.30pm, at the Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna. The guest conductor was Gary Daverne and the solo accordionist Stephanie Poole. The programme includes 'Daverne - A Musical Party'.

Gary (founder conductor of the ASO) conducted music from the film 'Pirates of the Caribbean' and the premiere of his composition, 'Musical Party for Solo Accordion and Orchestra'. Stephanie Poole, three-times winner of the New Zealand Solo Accordion Championship, played the solo accordion part in this composition, which is dedicated to the late Silvio De Pra. This community concert is a family-friendly event with an orchestral programme designed to entertain all ages.



Stephanie Poole and the Auckland symphony Orchestra

## CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES ACCORDIONISTES SPOLETO 2012

*Contributed by Sonja Palinich*

I arrived in Spoleto, Umbria, Italy on a very hot summer's day. As I pulled into the train station, I could see a huge, rather ominous, cloud of smoke billowing out from the top of the hillside. If I didn't know any better, I thought I had arrived at Mt Vesuvius! As it happened, it was a bush fire. Not surprising in such hot, dry conditions.

The heat immediately hit me as I stepped off the train. It was around 38 degrees. Shortly afterwards, I arrived at Hotel Clitunno where most of the delegates, jury and competitors were staying for the 65<sup>th</sup> Coupe Mondiale World Championships to be staged that week.

I had arrived a day before the official start of the championships. Our Italian hosts had arranged a number of pre Coupe Mondiale concerts. That night, along with Alison Worthington, Kevin Friedrich and Harley Jones, I attended a concert featuring two local contemporary dancers and the Russian accordion duo of Alexander Selivanov and Yulia Amerikova *Una Sinistra*. At the interval, we were treated to drinks and nibbles in the garden whilst enjoying the balmy early evening temperatures.



**Delegates and Guests enjoying the Welcome Reception**

Left: Viatcheslav Semionov (Russia), Kevin Friedrich (USA), Antonio Spaccarotella (Italy), Aino Ojakoski, Kimmo Mattila, Minna Plihtari and Ville Mattila (Finland), Alison Worthington (New Zealand)

Right: Alison Worthington (New Zealand), Elke Ahrenholz (Italy), Mary Tokarski (USA), Heather Masefield (New Zealand), Joan Cochran Sommers (USA)



The next day signaled the official start of the Coupe Mondiale. The first General Assembly was held featuring a strong New Zealand presence. The official New Zealand delegation consisted of myself, Grayson Masefield, Heather Masefield and Maurice Jones. Sitting on the CIA Executive were Harley Jones as public relations manager and Kevin Friedrich as CIA ambassador. Alison Worthington attended as a delegate for the United Kingdom.

We did not have any competitors representing New Zealand this year but we definitely had a presence with helping run the event. Kevin Friedrich, Heather Masefield and Alison Worthington all worked as category managers. Grayson Masefield worked as an adjudicator and also sat on the music committee.

The opening concert was staged (as were all the performances) in the magnificent 19<sup>th</sup> century opera house – *Teatro Nuovo*. It was quite a thrill to watch the performances from up high in the box seats. A highlight for me in the opening concert was the performance by the accordion ensemble *Concertino* from Moldova. A six piece accordion ensemble complete with bass, piano and drums thrilled the audience with their dynamic playing.



*Accordion Ensemble 'Concertino' (Moldova)*

Myself, Harley Jones, Grayson Masefield and Heather Masefield all played in the World Accordion Orchestra VI. This was performed (rather late one evening) at a concert the night before the championships finished. We played two pieces being *Paragon March* conducted by Torsten Petzold and *Selections from ET* conducted by Joan C. Sommers. I thought we sounded pretty good given that we had had only two rehearsals!

Whilst the orchestra were all set up and seated behind the curtain waiting to perform, it was announced that Harley Jones had won the Paolo Soprani award. A very surprised Harley leapt up from his seat to accept the award. This very prestigious award was awarded to Harley in recognition of his work promoting the accordion via the Internet. We congratulate him on this achievement..



*Above: Premio "Paolo Soprani" Now in its third edition, the Paolo Soprani prize will be awarded by Mirco Soprani, the Mayor of Castelfidardo, and Vincenzo Canali, President of the International Accordion Museum of Castelfidardo. This year's recipient is Harley Jones, Director of Accordions Worldwide in recognition of his work promoting the accordion via the Internet.*



*World Accordion Orchestra VI, conducted by M° Joan Cochran Sommers*



## THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

The Australian Institute of Music is proud to be the first tertiary institution in Australia to offer accordion studies within their classical performance department. Students will be able to study for a Bachelor of Music (Performance – Accordion), a Diploma of Performance, be actively involved in ensembles or for younger school members attend young AIMS for lessons, or attend the high school for years 11 and 12.

Accordion will also be offered for individual private lessons.

Students who already hold a Bachelor of Music degree can also apply for post-graduate studies at a Masters level.

The Accordion performance component of the course will be headed by Dr. Elizabeth Jones and students will participate in master classes and performance practice on a weekly basis, on top of having individual tuition. Students will also actively participate in chamber music and pedagogical classes. Accordion students will also be following the outline of the Bachelor of Music course with studies in music history, harmony, aural skills and pedagogy. For further details on course requirements for the Bachelor degree in Music, interested accordionists are invited to go to the website [www.aim.edu.au](http://www.aim.edu.au). At the moment the accordion is not listed on the website, but the Institute is in the process of updating and re-designing this site.

Interested students to contact Head of Accordion Studies, Dr. Elizabeth Jones at [ejones@aim.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:ejones@aim.edu.au) or on [fisaccord@hotmail.com](mailto:fisaccord@hotmail.com)

## *SHORT HISTORY OF THE ASA*

*...continued*

Victoria ended 2009 on a positive note with a concert given by younger members. Ages ranged from 8 years old to 16 years old. The concert was a high standard – well prepared and enthusiastically played. The next 40 years of the ASA will be in safe hands.



A former member of the ASA and now a student of Zeljko Bedic had a successful year in 2009. Li Li won the prestigious Music Teacher's Association of NSW \$3,000 Chalmers Memorial Scholarship award. She played her accordion in competition with other instrumentalists. She also attained her A Mus A on the piano and plans to sit her L Mus A on the accordion in 2010.



February 2010 was the 40<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of the founding of the ASA. To celebrate the occasion a gathering was held in Mittagong with a



BBQ and a toast was made by President Dr. Elizabeth Jones to the ASA – past, present and future. Some of the photos and yellowing pages from the archives were on display. The accordionists present performed and an enjoyable time was had by all.



The whole of 2010 seemed to be a celebration of this historic milestone with many varied activities taking place. In May, Accordions Alfresco (NSW) resplendent in *lederhosen* costumes performed at NIDA for 4 nights as part of a student production *Big Top*. A fun time was had by all with much praise coming from various heads-of-departments at NIDA.



Also in May two accordionists completed their degrees at AIM (Australian Institute of Music). Both hard working members of the ASA. Milica Krga presented her final recital for B.Mus (Classical Performance) degree with Honours. Amelia Granturco presented her final recital for B.Mus(Classical Performance) degree.



The AATA competitions were held in Sydney also in May with Li Li and Bin Lu highly successful. The NZAA competitions were held in June in Auckland New Zealand. Mathilde Auroux and Amelia Granturco represented Australia. Amelia as an adjudicator and Mathilde competed in 4 different categories and won each of them.

June saw Accordions Alfresco performing at the well known 'The Basement' in Sydney. It was an all accordion night with the ensemble opening the show to a very appreciative audience. After Accordions Alfresco, Ross and Robyn performed as did Marcello Maio and Lukas Maio. A great night all round.

The annual Festival was held in July in Melbourne. It was held in St. Kilda and was very well attended. Seven days of glorious accordion playing. A fantastic Gala Concert with a combined orchestra of accordionists who only had a few hours to practice together before the night. Soloists and groups and special guest artists. The week culminated in the Presentation dinner where many anxious contestants were presented with their reports and trophies. As usual the whole affair was one of friendliness and only friendly rivalry in the competitions. Unfortunately 2010 did not have a National Australian Champion, but Bin Lu was a worthy Australasian Champion for 2010. It was also in July that the ASA lost a staunch supporter, Severino Guiducci.



The Accordion Orchestra of Melbourne presented a special night of music on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This has become an institution and they perform each year for the Eve of the Melbourne Cup.

In December another accordionist completed his Bachelor of Music (Classical Performance) at AIM. Vincenzo Tavernese performed his final recital to a very appreciative audience – very well staged and presented.

Another milestone was reached in 2010 – The Accordion Review celebrated 25 years as the ASA magazine, the first edition was in February 1985.

This is where my collecting of the history of the ASA will end. The first 40 years have seen many events come and go. Lots of wonderful memories and some sad ones too. But the next 40 years have started off very well with festivals being planned and a trip to China for the Coupe Mondiale with an ensemble to compete for the first time, and all members of the contingent playing at concerts and in the World Accordion Orchestra.

Best wishes to all

*June Jones*

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# *Merry Christmas*

*to all ASA members, their family and friends and hope you all enjoy a happy and prosperous New Year filled with music.*

