

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



MARCH 2015

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Cover: Rob Scott-Mitchell (President) with Denise Kassis (Vice President) and Sylvia Granturco (Secretary) at Robs farewell dinner

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Hello from the Editor

Hello everyone and welcome to our March edition.

This Review brings news of the multicultural performances from our accordion groups in Victoria, South Australia and NSW.

We also have two separate reviews from members who attended a fabulous show in which Ross Maio performed titled "Mario Lasagne" (Mario Lanza) plus another show "Great Divas and Maestros". By the reviews, we missed a wonderful show and I hope there will be another performance in the future as I would love to attend, please let us know Ross. Thanks to Sam (page 26) and Annick (page 30) for taking the time to write these reviews.

A lovely letter from Lou Toppiano to Ross Maio, written in 1996 may be found on pages 19-21. Lou details the involvement of accordions in his life and his vision of the accordion for the future including the electronic accordion, an interesting letter.

Do our members still have a sense of humour! Refer page 13 for a picture of two of our members that require your wit to add a caption.

And finally I would like to pass on our condolences to the Bolesic family on the passing of Ivan Bolesic. Also the Granturco and Tavernese families on the passing of Sylvia and Marys father Sam Crisafulli, our thoughts are with you all..

Thanks again to everyone that contributed to this review and please keep the articles and reviews coming in.

Bye for now,

Cheryl Mills

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Welcome to the first Accordion Review of 2015, I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year break, though that does seem a long time ago already!

Accordions Alfresco (NSW Ensemble) have been rehearsing in the new venue since late last year - All Hallows Church Hall, 2 Halley Street, Five Dock. We welcome a new member Sandra Mackay who has joined as a result of the ASA website, and Les who is a student of Jedda Kassiss. We also very pleased to welcome back old members such as Hera Antoniadis, Maria Worthington, and Niki Lange who will join us in April when she returns from Canada. At last count we had 11 players. This is wonderful for the ASA given the steady decline over recent years. There are plans to introduce a new format to the weekly practice with duets and trios in addition to the orchestral arrangements. Cheryle will address this in more detail.

The AATA festival is on again in June, with a massed orchestra under the baton of International Guest Conductor, Lionel Reekie. This is suitable for players of all ages and playing levels. New to the festival this year will be an accordion orchestra conducting workshop, and a few younger participants will be selected to conduct alongside Lionel Reekie. The dates are June 6th and 7th, registrations must be made by May 15. For further information visit www.aata.org.au

With great sadness I pass on the news that Salvatore (Sam) Crisafulli, beloved father of Sylvia Granturco and Mary Tavernese, grandfather of Amelia, Dominique, Chris, Natalie and Josephine, and great-grandfather of Matthew, passed away on March 14. Our thoughts and condolences are with you all at this time.

Condolences also to the Bolesic family after the passing of long time ASA member Ivan Bolesic in late March after battling a long illness.

On a personal note, Lindy and I are settling in to our new home in Coorabell, northern NSW. My health is steadily improving, with gym, physio and long dog walks on the beautiful beaches close by. Lindy is travelling a lot with her work, so I am often here just with my 3 Scottie dogs and wonderful neighbours. My only real regret is not being able to attend weekly rehearsals with the ASA, which has been such a big part of my life for so long. On the musical side I am playing a lot of guitar again for the first time in many years. Hoping to get down to Sydney and catch up with everyone sometime in the next month.

All the best and happy playing
Rob Scott-Mitchell

Our President has gone bush

Our President Rob Scott-Mitchell and his partner Lindy (pictured right) departed Sydney in January to live in their new country retreat of Coorabell in northern NSW. A farewell dinner was held at an Italian restaurant in Haberfield on Jan 12. It was a fantastic night with lots of good food and also wonderful accordion music thanks to Amelia, Dom, Jedda, Vince, Ben and Ross. Other diners also enjoyed the music and clapped along with restaurant staff.



We wish Rob and Lindy all the very best and hope the new environment and warmer weather will see an improvement in Rob's health. Best wishes.





Ross Maio and Amelia Granturco entertaining our members and other diners.



Rob was presented with some gifts from the ASA. This photo shows on left Denise Kassis (Vice President) and Sylvia Granturco (Secretary) presenting Rob with gifts which included a lovely black hat ideally suited to his new country life (refer previous page showing Rob wearing his new hat which was a perfect fit).

Canberra Multicultural Festival

The Canberra Multicultural Festival was held on February 13th to 15th 2015, a festival that transforms Canberra and unfolds in the city centre. This iconic event which unites the community is a celebration and sharing of culturally diverse traditions, dance, food, performances, exhibitions, concerts and information.



This festival featured all the key events and performances it is renowned for, including: the Food and Dance Spectacular, Carnival in the City, Chinese New Year and Pacific Island Showcase. Thousands of people flocked to the heart of the city to revel in Canberra's love affair with its cultural diversity. The fact that Canberra is one that is built on a firm foundation of multiculturalism. In fact, it's what defines Canberra. Canberra is home to more than 100 embassies and high commissions, with a community comprised of individuals who hail from over 170 countries from across the globe. Below are photos of Amelia and Dominique Granturco playing with The Abruzzi choir in Canberra on the Sunday and the audience.



Good news for NSW Orchestra (Accordions Alfresco)

NSW 'Accordions Alfresco' are thrilled to have doubled its players this year with new members joining and the return of previous members, we welcome you all.

New premises for our Monday night practice is a spacious, clean and easily located church hall at Five Dock, it even has distant water views! Thanks to Sam Tripodi for organising this wonderful venue.

A change of our practice format has been proposed to introduce duet and trio pieces in addition to the existing orchestral arrangements. It is envisaged that the less experienced players will gain confidence and improve their skill with some tunes requiring bass. This will also permit a performance to go ahead in the event that 4-5 members (ensemble) are unavailable. At this stage, details of this proposal are yet to be discussed with all players.

We welcome new players of any level to join us on Monday night including previous members who would like to start playing again. The group meet every;

Monday—7pm to 9pm

*All Hallows Church Hall, 2 Halley Street, Five Dock-
Call Amelia on 0431898344 for details or just come
along.*



Bucklands Concert

Our annual concert at Bucklands Retirement Village in Springwood on March 15th took on a different format to previous years. It is a concert we love to perform at however after confirming the attendance of Accordions Alfresco back in November, all our key players were unable to attend with Jedda overseas, Rob relocated up north and Amelia and Dominique attending an important family function.

Our recently joined members did not feel confident at this early stage to play with the group which left Ben and Cheryle, not enough players to perform our ensemble pieces.



Thanks to Sam Tripodi and Bob Bourne who agreed to come along and join us, we all played our favourite tunes with Ben supporting us to create duos and trios. Ben also performed some wonderful solo to the delight of the audience who clapped along.



Photos top left clockwise:
Ben and Sam: Ben playing solo:
Audience: Cheryle and Ben

The day was a success and gave us all some experience playing our own tunes with Ben as backup.

It was an extra special day for Sam being his first stage performance as he has only been learning the accordion for 2 years. Congratulations to Sam who performed very well and to Ben for giving us his full support.

Cheryle



Cheryle Bob and Ben



Margaret from Bucklands presenting cheque to ASA.

“Schutzenfest” Folk Festival



The Accordion Group in Adelaide had a fun start to the year with two appearances at the “Schutzenfest”, which is the Southern Hemispheres largest German Folk Festival. Attendances were well up on last year at our new Rymill Park location, with beautiful sunny weather, temperatures in the high 20’s and plenty of shade, seating, food, wine, beer and traditional German hospitality.

On Friday evening we performed for the VIP opening party which was attended by a number of politicians and dignitaries including South Australia’s Premier Jay Weatherill.

On Saturday we played on stage for two hours in the family zone and had a very appreciative audience including many families - with kids, parents and grandparents dancing happily to the sound of many German musical favourites.

Following our performances at Schutzenfest we were invited back to play at the German Club for the Schutzenfest Helpers Party which acknowledged all the volunteers who contributed to the successful event.

We received a lot of positive feedback after Schutzenfest and have since been booked for two concerts in the Barossa Valley, a festival in Horsham, and a private function. Looks like it's going to be a busy year!

Best Wishes to all from the

Elite Accordion Group (Adelaide)

How good is your Humour?

*Below is a photo of Ross Maio and Ben Pattinson but what is Ross saying to Ben? Test your wit by adding a caption to this photo and YES, **you will win a prize!** Everyone is eligible including Ross and Ben.*

Email your caption to cherylemills66@gmail.com or call or SMS to [0414915154](tel:0414915154).

I know our members have a great sense of humour so don't let me down. Winner will be published in the next review, good luck.



Victorian News

Ukrainian Club Essendon

The Melbourne accordion orchestra were invited to perform the last act of the Ukrainian Concert held at the Ukrainian Club at 5 Russell Street, Essendon, Victoria on Sunday 15th March, which commenced at 1.30pm, in which many performances included male and female choirs, some supported by traditional musical instruments, also poetry recitals, and addresses to the membership by the President.

There was an interval at which tea, coffee and cake were served, and last but not least we played a medley of four traditional folk pieces displaying the range of human emotions resulting from their national history and to top it all off, the male choir joined us for the finale piece called "Reve ta stoygne Dnipro shyrokyy" arranged by Iryna Stepko which lifted the audience and performers to a high to finish on. Here are some photos of their day.



Lee Puccini

(Photo above) Myron Huskiak in traditional costume



Ukrainian Choir

Palmi Snorrason





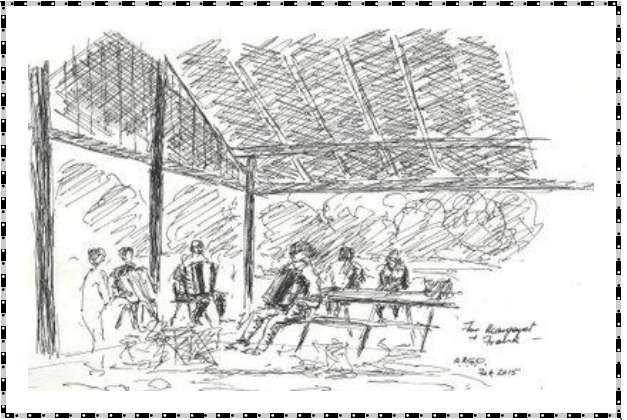
Melbourne Accordion Orchestra



Ukrainian Choir with the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra

Accordion Day Picnic 2015

Melbourne had their Picnic Day on Feb 22, a very enjoyable day. Here is a pencil sketch of the day by Andrew Orr, our oldest ASA member (oldest in time) plus a thank you letter to Margaret Berens.



23rd February 2015

Dear Margaret,

A note of thanks to you and Frank for a memorable Accordion Society Picnic Day at Studley Park Boathouse yesterday. I hope and believe all who attended will have happy reflections. It is encouraging to experience the camaraderie and shared enjoyment of music from accordions, and the enthusiasm - specially Robert Fry and Margaret from Stawell.

I have not forgotten Margaret's kind gift of a sketch book on about 15 Sept. 2013. I am enclosing copy of a pen & ink drawing from a photo from yesterday. Also, as a reminder of a damp picnic day on 7th Dec 2014, a colour photostat from much the same area.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew R. L. Orr

Victorian Jam Session

By Frank Berens

About 18 months ago the ASA Vic started a "Jam Session" every 2nd Sunday of the month, from 1-30-5pm.

The aim was to attract [closet] accordionist who play the accordion occasionally to come to a nonjudgmental jam session.

We have attracted all sorts level of playing. The achievement so far has been overcoming the shyness to play in front of other people we even have a lady who is playing duo now.

One plays & sings beautiful bush ballads or music from all corners of the earth as we have many nationalities.

The format is thus ; we sit in a circle then each person plays one piece then on to the next person etc. When we have completed one round we all play a simple tune [Under the Bridges of Paris] some of the better players can fill in the nasty bits. After the 2nd round we have afternoon tea for 1/2 hour exchange of ideas etc. then the same again.

Usually 8 to 14 people attend and although it is not for everyone, most think it's the best thing since sliced bread and want it to keep going.

We have hired a scout hall in East Kew @ \$ 40-00 per afternoon which we pay 3 months in advance. There is a volunteer tin on the table which goes toward expenses and the contents are counted and verified at the end of the session and any surplus is kept until our Christmas break up. So far it's paying its way adequately.

Kind regards

Frank

Victorian Gig

The Big Squeeze Band and the Melbourne Orchestra will be playing at the Emerald Festival on 12th April.

ASA members are again invited to attend the AATA Festival in June. Please Note: registration has been extended to May 15th.



**The Australian Accordion
Teachers Association (Inc)
Invites you to join our
2015 FESTIVAL MASSED
ORCHESTRA!**

Following the success of our 20th Anniversary Orchestra, we are thrilled to once again have International Guest Conductor, Lionel Reekie (NZ)

SUITABLE FOR PLAYERS OF ALL AGES AND LEVELS

When: Sat/Sun 6th and 7th June 2015

Where: Australian International Accordion Championships and Festival - Sydney, Australia

Requirements: Register your interest before **1st April 2015**. You will be sent your music by email well before the festival.



There will be two massed rehearsals over the course of the Festival weekend and then a Performance at the AATA's International Gala Concert on Sunday 7th June.

START PLANNING TODAY!!!

For information about the AATA, its competition or festival, please visit: www.aata.org.au or email info@aata.org.au

The AATA has held one of Australia's largest Accordion competitions annually for the last 21 years. We encourage all players, and accordion enthusiasts to join us in sharing our love of the accordion.

New for 2015!!!

**"ACCORDION ORCHESTRA CONDUCTING"
WORKSHOP.**

This workshop is open to all those interested in getting some basic conducting techniques, and a few of the younger participants will be selected to conduct alongside Lionel in our festival GALA CONCERT!

See you in June 2015.

Letter from Lou Toppiano, 1996

The following letter was written to Ross Maio from Lou Toppiano about accordions in his life and his life as an accordionist.

3 Sept '96

Dear Ross,

As you are helping to keep the name of the accordion alive in Australia and doing a good job of it I thought that like all of us accordion players you would be interested in knowing what other accordion players have been doing in this country.

Having spent some 40 years of my life in Melbourne not a great deal of what I was doing would have been known in Sydney so I will give you a brief summary and send you a tape of a couple of things I dug out of the garage recently. Not in the best condition but it will give you an idea of what went on in my line of work. Almost all of my work was in radio or TV with orchestras of all sizes either conducted by myself or other conductors.

I was hoping to meet Marcoscignori and give him the music of *La Campanella* as he could get the real bell effect on his electronic accordion. As this was not possible I am sending it to you as you might know someone who would like the challenge of learning it. In fact it's more difficult than it sounds on the tape I am sending you which was taken from an A.B.C. show I did a long time ago.

Going back to the beginning of the accordion history in Australia in the early 30's most of the accordion players (about half a dozen) were in Broken Hill amongst the Italian community and all played by ear. My father sent me to a piano teacher and fortunately he was good. He soon found out how the bass of the accordion operated even though he never played one. I stayed with him for about 6 years and then my father decided to send me to the Conservatorium in Sydney.

(2)

I was then about 15 years old and when I told them at the Conservatorium I wanted to learn the accordion they said 'What's that'. Anyway they asked me to bring it along and let them hear it. After hearing me they said I could study music but they had no teacher for the Piano Accordion. Fortunately as I was playing one of the singing teachers came in and said he had been looking for one of these instruments for a session he was doing at 2 C.B.

So I got my first job. Next I was offered one pound a week working at Selings Music but as I wanted 30 shillings I didn't get the job. Soon after however I landed a job with a six piece band at Hiltner in Pitt St. playing 6 days a week for £7 pounds ten shillings. The hours were 12 noon to 2pm 4-7pm to 7pm and 10pm to midnight. That lasted two years. From then on I did some broadcasts for the A.B.C. and they offered me a tour of all states doing two 15 minute recitals twice a week. At the end of the tour I joined the A.B.C. staff orchestra in Melbourne on a one year contract which finished up lasting almost 20 years. During this period I also worked at commercial stations with my own bands including a fourteen piece dance band playing at the Palais De Dance which was then Australia's leading ballroom. In 1950 I toured America with the big named band of Art Mooney. Returning to Australia I formed my own bands ranging from 7 piece to 30 piece. When television arrived in 1957 I conducted a 30 piece band for the opening of channel 9 in Melbourne. I then switched to channel 7 and was musical director of all their live shows for 6 years. In those days the live shows were almost all music and doing 4 or 5 numbers per show was the usual. It was killing work to keep continually getting new numbers. These days bands do 4 or 5 numbers per show almost

(31)

The amount of musical number required to keep the shows going was enormous. After six years the pressure got at me and I decided to do something else so started the Lou Toppano College of Music which built up to over 2000 students on all instruments with about 40 teachers full or part time. When channel 10 opened in 1964 I conducted a 30 piece orchestra for the opening but by this time I was well involved with retail and wholesale of musical instruments and decided to stay with it.

I hope there is something of interest & what I have written. The tapes are of course a bit scratchy but they may give an idea of what went on in my day.

I am going to Queensland for a month and perhaps when I get back we can have lunch one day.

Best wishes

Lou Toppano

P.S. I believe the electronic accordion can offer more expression and dynamics than the electronic organ and will continue to grow in popularity.

SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

Moschella family

This year has seen unfortunate health for Vince and Monica Moschella, Vince undergoing heart surgery and Monica battling her ongoing illness. A gift from the ASA was sent and a lovely thank you note was received:-

Dear Sylvia

Just a note of deepest thanks for your prayers and concerns during Monicas present and my own recent hospitalisation.

We received an incredible gift of assorted hunter valley fruits today from the ASA. I am unsure how we will be able to handle the volume of fruit. It is so generous. I thank you and the ASA for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Our Love

*Vince, Monica and Jane
Moschella*



Vale Sam Crisafulli

Salvatore (Sam) Crisafulli, beloved father of Sylvia Granturco and Mary Tavernese, grandfather of Amelia, Dominique, Chris, Natalie and Josephine, and great-grandfather of Matthew, passed away on March 14. Our thoughts and condolences are with you all at this time.



Here is a lovely photo of the Granturco and Tavernese girls (and partners) with their beloved grandfather Nonno Sam

Vale Ivan Bolesic

Ivan Bolesic, a long time member of the ASA passed away at the end of March after battling a long illness.

Ivan was a very good musician and competent player of many instruments and was a member of the ASA orchestra in previous years. Ivan has been an accordion teacher for many years.

On behalf of the ASA we would like to pass on our condolences to his family and friends at this sad time.

Overseas CD release

Tango Reaction CD by Buttons & Bellows Duo - Serbia

by Harley Jones

Buttons & Bellows Duo of Aleksandar Nikolic & Petar Maric have released a new CD titled Tango Reaction. This CD features 11 tracks of excellent music and is available online at Cat No. beltango5



Aleksandar Nikolic (bandoneon and accordion) is musical director and accordion and bandoneon player of the Beltango quintet, one of the worlds best-known tango groups, which has performed more than 500 concerts in 25 different countries.

Aleksandar Nikolic is also the President of Belgrade Accordion Association and Artistic Director of the Belgrade Tango Festival.

Petar Maric (accordion) is recognised as one of the finest young accordionists having won Coupe Mondiale categories for classical, virtuoso and electronic music and is a performer of many different musical styles.

These two superbly talented players with the unique combination of bandoneon and accordion and the special collaboration between professor and student show an abundance of tango repertoire and their very special musicianship.



This CD may be purchased online, refer Beltango website

<http://www.musicforaccordion.com/inform/beltango/beltango5.htm>

The above information was extracted from Accordions Worldwide website for information only to readers and has not been reviewed by the ASA.

Here is an extract from the 'Accordions Worldwide' Website of a former, very famous accordionist and sister to our long term, hard working ASA member **June Jones** and Aunty to **Elizabeth Jones**. The video referred to in this article may be found using the link below then select the title of this story.



<http://www.accordions.com/news.aspx?d=27-Mar-2015&lang=en#art10081>

The accordion starts: 1:37 A sample from the special....the Fish and Chips stop! Enjoy The Beatles 1967 style!

+++++

Shirley's Wild Accordion' on 'Magical Mystery Tour', London - UK

By Rob Howard



In 1967 The Beatles filmed 'Magical Mystery Tour', their third movie. Merseyside-born accordionist Shirley Evans (1932 - 2010) appeared in a scene on board the coach, accompanying some lively sing-along numbers with the Beatles.

Another scene showed her playing 'Shirley's Wild Accordion', written for her by John Lennon, on which she was backed by Paul McCartney on maracas and yelling "Go on, Shirl!", and Ringo Starr on drums.

However, the accordion playing scene in the above video was left out during final editing, and until now this unique recording has remained unissued in the vaults at EMI in Abbey Rd, London.

The latest DVD/Blu-ray re-issue of 'Magical Mystery Tour' includes 'Shirley's Wild Accordion' in the bonus material. 'Shirley's Wild Accordion' was recorded on October 12th 1967 at EMI Studios, Abbey Road, London, in eight takes, with Evans playing from an arrangement written by Mike Leander from a tune composed by John Lennon.

Shirley Evans was a world travelled professional accordionist, composer, dancer, presenter/writer of a children's TV show in Hong Kong, and latterly was involved in show business agency work in Florida, USA. She entertained on cruise ships, and in the 1970s performed as a duo with CIA Coupe Mondiale winner Donald Hulme.

A Musical Week

By Sam Tripodi

Mario Lasagna Show

On Tuesday January 20th I was having my accordion lesson with Ross Maio and he mentioned that he had performed to a full house in a show the previous week with a Tenor at The Camelot Lounge in Marrickville, Sydney. The show "**Be My Love**" (Italy) inspired by **Mario Lanza** and one of his iconic songs.

The show included Mario Lasagna as **Mario Lanza**, **Tenor Costa Latsos** and **Ross Maio** on accordion. The audience enjoyed the show so much that they asked for a repeat, so the Camelot Lounge was booked for a second show on Thursday Jan 22nd. Ross was pessimistic about the attendance and thought they would be lucky if they got 20 people however when he checked the website he said 25 five people had already booked. I commented that had I known earlier I would have called some of my friends to come along.

I finished my lesson and quickly checked the website to find out a little more about the **Mario Lasagna Show and the Tenor**. It was advertised as "**Be My Love**" featuring a mix of operatic arias, film music and songs from musical stage from the 1940's and 50's. It sounded good so I called my friends and managed to get 10 that were interested (the others chose to watch soccer featuring Australia in the Asian Cup) so we booked a table of 10.

At 6.30pm we arrived at the Camelot Lounge for the 7pm show. The venue looked like a huge tent, an oasis in the middle of the desert, filled with large



and small toy camels and rugs and carpets everywhere. Camel pictures framed by spot lights hung from the walls and ceiling, the tables and chairs were all different. Within 10 minutes the place was packed, some people were standing and others were sitting anywhere they could, I was glad I had booked a table.

It was a fantastic show about the story of Mario Lanza from birth to death. The young singer **Costa Latsos** has a very powerful and beautiful voice, he told the story with great professionalism in an ironic

stroll down memory lane highlighting the high and low points of Mario Lanzas life in a very detailed way, giving the audience the opportunity to experience the vocal, emotion and physical ups and downs of the silver screen star and the golden days of Hollywood.

He was accompanied by **Ross Maio** and his accordion. I have never seen such a combination of a tenor singing arias from Opera and Operetta alongside a **piano accordion**, (piano....yes! but accordion? no!). Perhaps it was the first time ever (*or should I say second time ever*) and I was there to enjoy it Ross did a fantastic job in covering all the different songs and arias, at times he sounded like a full orchestra as the music required.



The audience responded promptly at the end of every performance with a loud applause in appreciation. I was very impressed by both artists for their performance in delivering a very good and entertaining show, certainly a night to remember.

At the end of the show my wife and I wanted to meet and congratulate the singer but unfortunately the crowd swarmed around him so quickly that it was impossible to get near him, and after a while we decided to give it a miss. When outside my friends thanked me for inviting them to such a wonderful show which they enjoyed very much.

The next day Ross called to thank me for coming along and bringing my friends to the show and I congratulated Ross and the tenor for their wonderful performance. Ross then told me about another show he will be performing on Saturday Jan 26th titled "**The Great Divas & Maestros**" which I will now continue to tell you

The Great Divas & Maestros

On Saturday January 26th, Ross had 2 shows at the Juniors Club, Kingsford "**The Great Divas & Maestros**". and he had 4 courtesy tickets for his friends but regrettably they had to cancel so he asked me if I'd like the tickets which I gladly accepted as I would love to see the show. I again called a couple of

friends and with my wife we headed off to the club arriving at 9pm for the 9.30pm show.

There were only few people in the auditorium at that time and as we were looking for our table we surprisingly saw the young Tenor of the Camelot show Mario Lasagna. We now had an exclusive opportunity to congratulate him on his performance the previous Thursday night and wished him well in his future singing carrier. We continued chatting for a while and more people arrived and soon it was almost a full house.

The Great Divas and Maestros included:



The incomparable **Helen Zerefos** with her divine soprano voice.

The ultimate virtuoso **Ross Maio** & his accordion

Andras Racz with his Violin and his great tenor voice

Plus the backup of **4 great musicians** on piano, electric guitar, electric bass, electronic keyboard.

All artists have a long career full of credits and achievements.

Together they delivered a journey of musical magic taking the audience through the grandeur of Strauss Waltzes, fire of Hungarian Gypsy melodies, passion of the Tango, romance of the Italian songs, drama of contemporary musicals and timeless Classics. It was a real magical night full of beautiful music and the audi-

ence showed their appreciation with loud applause at the end of every performance.

As an aspiring accordion player I had the opportunity to see this show once before about 2 years ago, precisely the day before I started accordion lessons from **Ross Maio**, and on both occasions I have been overwhelmed by their professionalism, their music skills and the emotions that they generate with their great performance.

It is so inspiring for an aspiring accordion player like myself to see his teacher perform live on stage, showing how it is done, great stuff. **What a musical week...unforgettable.**

Sam Tripodi



Gig Guide & Whats On



Ross Maio Gigs

Please check with the venue to confirm performance times.

2015 Gigs

- 12 APRIL 6:30pm Private Function
17-25 APRIL Cruising Sydney – Apia
03 MAY 5:00pm Tony Pantano & Ross Maio .Three Saints Festival @ Holy Cross Church Woolloowin .Brisbane .QLD.
06 MAY 10:00 AM Ross Maio Solo Cabaret Morning Melodies @ The Juniors Club.Kingsford. NSW
09 MAY 6:30 PM Dioni” in Ode to a Crisis . Hellenic Club. Canberra
11 MAY 11AM & 2PM Bernard Waltz’s “The Good Old Days Concerts” @ Sydney Town Hall.Sydney NSW
14 - 23 MAY Cruising Hong Kong – Busan
28 MAY 10:00 AM Ross Maio Solo Cabaret Morning Melodies @ Ingleburn RSL Club .Ingleburn NSW
29-30 MAY 10:00am Italian National Day @ Griffith Central.Griffith NSW
<http://www.griffithcentral.com/>
02 JUNE 10:00 AM Ross Maio Solo Cabaret Morning Melodies @ Merrylands RSL Club .Merrylands NSW
04 JUNE 12:00 PM Ross Maio Solo Cabaret Morning Melodies @ Everglades Country Club .Woy Woy NSW
07 JULY 12:00 PM Ross Maio Solo Cabaret Morning Melodies @ Liverpool RSL Club .Liverpool NSW
12 JULY 2:00 PM Nadia Piave Trio “Bastille Day Celebration” @ “Foundry 616” 616 Harris Street. Ultimo.Sydney NSW
14 JULY 6:30 PM Ross Maio Solo “Bastille Day Celebration “ @ Bistro de Philippe 741 Pacific Highway .Gordon. NSW
26 JULY 3:00 PM Back to the Tivoli Show @ Petersham RSL Club. Petersham NSW
28 JULY 12:00 PM Ross Maio Solo Cabaret @ City Diggers Club.Wollongong NSW
05 AUGUST 10:30 AM Back to the Tivoli Show @ Bankstown Sports Club NSW
26 AUGUST 11:00 AM The Great Divas & Maestros Show featuring Helen Zerefos,Ross Maio & Andras Racz @ The Joan.Penrith.NSW
<http://thejoan.com.au/whats-on/great-divas-maestros/>
19 SEPTEMBER 11:00 AM - 3PM Ross Maio Trio “Annual Porchetta Day Celebration “ @ Gunnedah. NSW <http://www.porchetta.com.au>
01 OCTOBER 10 AM Oktoberfest @ Toronto Workers Club .Toronto. NSW
03 OCT 7:00pm-11:00pm Bavarian Quartet @ Berowra RSL Berowra. NSW
17 OCT 7:00pm-11:00pm Bavarian Quartet @ Club Rivers. Belmore.NSW
07 DECEMBER 10 AM Back to the Tivoli @ Kedron Wavell Ex-Services Chermiside South.QLD
08 DECEMBER 10 AM Back to the Tivoli @ Twin Town Services Club .Tweed Heads.NSW
09 DECEMBER 10 AM Back to the Tivoli @ Twin Town Services Club .Tweed Heads.NSW
13 DECEMBER 1:30PM Back to the Tivoli @ Mingara Recreation Club.Tumbi Umbi.NSW

Another ASA member attended the Mario Lasagna Show and sent in this review.

Review of 'Be My Love' Mario Lasagna Show

By Annick Lucchetti

Just logged in into my Facebook and there is a post about a show called '**Be My Love Mario Lasagna**'. The singer can sing like MARIO LANZA , I am almost on my way as I have loved Mario Lanza even before I met my Italian husband. The show is next Saturday the 22nd January at 8pm and at the Camelot Lounge in the heart of Marrickville and the good news is, we have no commitments. I immediately call my dear friend and also a great music lover to ask if she wants to join us with Umberto. The Camelot is unknown and unheard of to us however I call to make the booking and get the answering service, a kind of spooky voice tells me to book on line.

Great I have my four tickets. We are now on our way to No 19 Marrickville Road, in the middle of factories wondering if we are at the right place. Yes we are, there is No 19 written in yellow on the side of a concrete step and an uninviting front door. Ahead of us is a steep concrete stairway 30 plus steps, As I climb those difficult steps I think of musicians caring their heavy musical instruments, I do not bother thinking about the singers they do not have to carry their voices.

Finally we enter the show room, what an amazing and unusual place. there are artist photos everywhere , picture frames all sort of gadgets all over the place , things are hanging from the ceiling (*right is a photo of my husband and friend in this room*). The stage has no curtains, there is a bar (*I did not visit the bar as I had no intentions of rolling down the stairs*) the place is noisy, the atmosphere is great and you sit where there is room. Over the microphone we are told the show is about to start.

Mario Lasagna appears dressed up in black just like Mario Lanza and to our great surprise Ross Maio is the musician.



What a great voice, we get to hear Mario sing in English and Italian, so many familiar songs like 'Come Back to Sorrento', 'O Sole Mio', 'Because You are Mine' and 'Be My Love', songs that touched my heart and many other peoples hearts over the years.

It was also a very clever show with a great sense of humour, after each song Mario told the life story of Mario Lanza. The show lasted two hours and ended too quickly and with Ross Maio and the accordion, it was top entertainment. Like with every great performance, the crowd wanted more but Marios' vocal chords were now ready to eat a great plate of lasagna and the accordionists golden fingers needed to cool down with a cold drink. It was lovely to catch up and chat after the show with Regina, Ross and Robin.

Annick

I would like to thank Ross Maio for the following.

Konstantinos Latsos started his studies under the tutelage of Australian tenor Reginald Byers prior to moving to Italy in 2006

In 2003 and 2004 he won the tenor award in the City of Sydney Eisteddfod.

Roles debuted in Australia include les contes d'Hoffmann, la Boheme, Don Giovanni, The Merry Widow, and the Greek Opera The Masterbuilder.

Since moving to Italy he has been working with mezzo soprano Laura Bulian and Phil Prat. He has participated in many concerts around Italy, Australia and Russia and masterclasses with LTL Opera Studio at Teatro Giglio Lucca; Giovanna Lamazzi (AsliCo) Alberto Palosccia (teatro Goldini, Livorno), Enrico Stinchelli and Maestro Marco Zambelli.



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NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Queen's Service Medal for Heather Mitchell-Gladstone

Musician, leader of the St Alban's Community Choir, Heather Mitchell-Gladstone was named in the 2015 New Year's Honours List. "It was such a wonderful surprise," says Heather of her Queen's Service Medal for services to music.



From the age of 11, Heather has played piano and accordion, and sung for live audiences. After leaving school she obtained her music degree from the University of Canterbury and in later years returned to the university to teach extension courses in accordion.

Heather has performed both nationally and internationally as a soloist, as well as in bands, groups and orchestras, including the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and three tours of Australia with the 2nd Battalion Army Band. She has toured extensively in Australia, Europe, England and America. She has also spent some time as a music specialist and touring musician in schools in the South West of England and in Finland.

A founding member of the Canterbury Accordion Association (CAA), in 2005 Heather received a Merit Award from the Accordion Examination Board in recognition of outstanding services to the accordion movement and this was followed by lifetime membership from the CAA in 2013.

In 2007 Heather received a Community Services Award from the Christchurch City Council for services to music in the Community. This award recognised her work running numerous choirs through the years including the Christchurch Star Children's Choir and the St Alban's Community Choir. In 2012 Heather was awarded the Vernon Griffiths Prize in Musical Leadership from the University of Canterbury in recognition of her outstanding contribution to music.

"Heather has a philosophy of music for all," says Doug Lamb, a choir member for over eight years. "I went along one evening to see what the choir was all about. I was in my early 50s and had no singing experience. As soon as I arrived I was welcomed into the group and had music thrust into my hands with the clear message to join in. Since that day I have had nothing but encouragement."

Heather is always working on a variety of musical projects, volunteering, leading musical tours through Europe, playing in folk bands and currently running the choir along with her own music school, teaching accordion, singing, and piano.



Musician: Dan Antunovich, 31, has been playing music since the age of 5. The former Te Atatu South resident is visiting his parents before taking off to the United States and touring with Grammy Award-winning artist Kitaro.

SESSION musician Dan Antunovich is sharing the excitement of a Grammy nomination. The former Te Atatu South resident plays bass guitar on Japanese artist Kitaro's album *Symphony Live in Istanbul* which is in the running for the Best New Age Album award. "It's huge," Antunovich says. "It's one of those benchmarks where as a kid you go, 'oh yeah one day I want to do that'." His ultimate goal as a child was to be on television. He ticked that off the list in the late 2000s by playing for the TVNZ house band.

Antunovich supported the shows *The Singing Bee* and *New Zealand's Got Talent* and appeared often on *Good Morning* as well as playing for the Anzac celebrations for Maori TV. He wondered what his next goal could be. That's when he decided that working on an album which then goes on to win a Grammy Award might be possible. The 31-year-old began playing the piano accordion at the age of five influenced by his Dutch and Croatian heritage.

He played accordion for about 10 years and then he picked up the bass guitar, although he still dabbles in playing keyboard. A session musician doesn't permanently stay in one band or musical project and instead works on an array of ventures. Antunovich says the variety has kept his musical career interesting. "I don't just like rock, jazz or pop - I want to play it all. "So I think that's what's kept me going week to week, I'll be doing different stuff." He says if he had to pick a genre that he likes best, it would be rock, stemming from his West Auckland roots. He has recorded with a host of well known New Zealand artists including John Rowles, Tina Cross and the Ladykillers. He has supported the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and been involved in the recent season of *Jersey Boys* at the Auckland Civic Theatre.

Antunovich studied jazz at the University of Auckland and Massey University before leaving to follow his dreams of being a fulltime musician. Life as a musician has taken him all over the world. As a 19-year-old he was based in Dubai and toured Asia and the Middle East playing bass guitar in a cover band. The Grammy Award nominated album was recorded live on a tour through Russia, Turkey, Poland, Azerbaijan, Romania, Singapore and Japan playing to full houses.

He is currently visiting his parents in Taupaki while he waits for his work visa for the United States.

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