

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



J U N E 2 0 1 5

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 2

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Cover: Emma Smith during her visit to Sydney for the AATA International Accordion Championships.

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Hello from the Editor

The June edition includes some exciting news about this years ASA Festival which is planned to coincide with Leetons annual 'The Outback Band Spectacular' on November 7, 2015, refer pages 7-9. I encourage everyone to come along and join in the fun.

The recent AATA International Accordion Championships and Gala concert was a great success with ASA member Emma Smith winning several awards, refer page 20. Thanks to Tania Lukic-Marx for inviting ASA members to participate in the Mass Accordion Orchestra, all participants had a fun day, refer page 6 and 28.

An article by Zeljko Bedic on page 28 shares a wonderful story of his amazing 96 year old student Willy Strader, who he claims is the oldest accordionist in Australia! Zeljko also teaches Judith, who is nearly 70 and both Willy and Judith participated in the AATA Mass Accordion Orchestra, story on page 28. A touching letter written by Willy about the care of his dear wife who suffered from a debilitating illness, appears on pages 29, 30.

The winner of the 'How good is your Humour' contest included in our last edition is announced on page 17.

Congratulations to Zeljko Bedic on earning an AMEB Service Award, details page 21. '

I hope you find this edition interesting and thank you to all who took the time to send me their articles and news. Sorry if your article does not appear, it will be published in the Sept edition.

Happy reading.

Bye for now,

Cheryle Mills

PRESIDENTS REPORT

We have arrived at our second Accordion Review for 2015, and so far it has been a busy year. We have recently received a large amount of music from one of our WA members – David Krygger. We are slowly reviewing it all and Accordions Alfresco will be performing them shortly. David has been a strong supporter of the Accordion and active member of the ASA for many years and we are all very grateful for this generous gift.

On the 6th and 7th of June our friends at the AATA held their annual festival. It was a greatly successful event and was great to catch up with friends from near and afar, particularly the Smith Family from SA. There were wonderful performances from renowned international artists from Austria, China, New Zealand and Belarus as well as many others. There was also the 42 strong-combined international orchestra, conducted by Lionel Reekie.

We invite all members and their friends to dinner at the parish hall of All Hallows Church, 2 Halley St, Five Dock after the 5.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday the 18th of July. Members of the NSW Accordions Alfresco group will be performing during dinner. It would be great to see a lot of members there supporting the parish, as they provide us with a rehearsal place each Monday night, free of charge. If interested, contact Sylvia Granturco on 0422 936 612 **before 10th July**.

Saturday 12th September helpers are required at our next Bunnings BBQ at Mittagong. If you are able to help please contact any of the NSW committee members, or just come on down for a sausage.

Our next big event will be participating in the Leeton Outback Band Spectacular. The ASA's participation in the event will this year replace our festival. The event is running from the 6th – 8th of November in Leeton. The ASA will be featuring on Saturday in the Festival of Music. Congress will also be held in the town on Sunday the 8th November.

CD sales of ON AIR are still continuing, and please remember that if you have any accordion news at all please share it with Cheryle Mills – our editor! We love hearing your accordion stories: cherylemills66@gmail.com

Denise Kassis

Vice President ASA

Bravo AATA



Congratulations to Tania Lukic-Marx for a successful festival and Gala concert. Several ASA members participated in the mass orchestra of about 45 accordianists led by Lionel Reekie. Accordianists competed from various countries and were of a high standard. The Gala concert was very enjoyable with top class acts plus 3 junior accordianist asked to conduct the orchestra. Surprise filled the room when Belarus accordianist Vitaliy Voronko (in costume) entertained the audience with singing and playing.

Photos clockwise from above: Tania; Mass Orchestra with Lionel Reekie; Emma Smith won 3 awards for 12 and under; Liu Hong Ting (China), 15 years and under International Open Winner; Milos Katanic (Serbia) 1st equal in the International Open Championship ; Vitaliy Voronko 1st equal in the International Open & here entertaining us all at the Gala concert.



Everyone is invited to...
this years ASA Festival to be held at

THE OUTBACK BAND SPECTACULAR

Leeton NSW
On Saturday November 7th., 2015
&
ASA Congress (AGM) will be held at this location.

*Note: The Spectacular runs over the entire weekend
so please refer next page/s for Weekend events.*

The ASA thought this would be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the accordion and have some fun. We had very short notice therefore we grabbed the opportunity and confirmed with organisers our attendance to perform on **Saturday 7th November**.

Now we need all our accordionists, members, family and friends to come along, **everyone is invited**.

We are required to confirm performer numbers with the organisers therefore please confirm your attendance by contacting Sylvia Granurco or Margaret Berens (Vic). If you have questions please phone or email **Sylvia** on granvs@bigpond.com or phone **0422 936 612**.

Accommodation—It would be appreciated if everyone can organise their own accommodation.

Look forward to seeing you in November!



Your invitation to...

THE OUTBACK BAND SPECTACULAR

For the past five years this weekend of Brass Bands, Concert Bands and Marching Bands has been growing, bringing visitors & performers from all over NSW and interstate.

Don't miss your opportunity to join us at the 2015 spectacular event!

Confirm your place by completing and returning the attached rego form by 15th May 2015

For further information please contact:
Alison Egan – Events Coordinator
Phone: (02) 6953 0939 Fax: (02) 6953 3337
E: Events@leeton.nsw.gov.au
www.leetonspectacular.com

We also encourage you to book your accommodation now to avoid disappointment! Visit www.leetontourism.com.au to find out more about Leeton and your accommodation options.

We know you will have a wonderful time with us and we warmly welcome you to our town! We look forward to meeting you, forming friendships and sharing our love of music together. And don't forget to bring the family and experience everything our wonderful town has to offer.



**6th, 7th & 8th
November 2015
LEETON**





The Leeton Town Band & the local community was saddened to learn of the recent passing of close friend, Mark Hamies. Mark was the leader and founder of the PremiAir V8s and became well known in town, having participated in the Leeton Town Band Outback Band Spectacular since 2011.

We would all like to extend our deepest sympathy to Mark's family and the rest of the PremiAir V8s.

In recognition of Mark's huge contribution to the success of the Band Spectacular, it is planned that there will be a tribute to him during this year's festival.

WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER

Our festivities will commence with a

Meet & Greet

evening for all bands and performers. Join us for nibbles & drinks - a chance to network!

(Venue & cost to be advised)

SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER

The day starts early with bands and performers entertaining the crowds at the

Festival of Music

Pop-up stages will host performers within the main street while smaller ensemble groups perform live within various Leeton businesses.

Rehearsals for the Mass Band performance will begin after lunch with lots of fun to be had.

Get ready to amaze the audience, with over 170 performers on stage at once at

The Spectacular Concert

held in the evening at the Roxy Theatre.

SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER

The festivities continue with

Music & Marching in Mountford

Join us for what is expected to be our biggest year yet, with market stalls and various displays filling the park! Enjoy brunch on the lawns and see some spectacular marching bands up close as they march into the park.



*Due to the ever increasing number of bands we have joining us each year, we cannot guarantee that all bands will have the opportunity to perform as an individual group at the Spectacular Concert. However we will ensure that all groups are showcased at one of the other various stages across the course of the weekend. And of course you'll be included in the Mass Band performance - the highlight of the weekend!

Emerald Pave Festival

By Frank Berens

Last October 2014 we were approached by Jules Vines one of our ASA members (whose son Toby is an aspiring young accordionist and very much involved with the Emerald pave festival), and asked me if the Big Squeeze Band and the Melbourne accordion orchestra would like to perform at their festival.

I passed on this info to Palmi and we grabbed this opportunity with both hands as in the past their festivals have attracted more than 15000 people.

So after a lot of toing and froing with emails the day arrived, Sunday 12th April.

We, the Big Squeeze Band was programmed to start at 10 am on the podium which was on a roundabout, talk about exposure they could view us from all sides where we played.

Our program consisted of some well-known oldies, La Paloma, Tulips from Amsterdam, Only you, Vaya condios, La Cumparsita, Spanish Eyes, Patrona Bavaria, Adelita. It sounded pretty good even though we had to compete sound wise with a rock band.

All of us would sincerely thank Jules and the hard working committee of the Emerald Pave festival for this opportunity to play for you and expose our wonderful instrument THE ACCORDION

Many thanks

Frank.



Melbourne Orchestra at Pave Festival in the Dandenongs

One living in or visiting the city of Melbourne cannot say they have seen the sights of Melbourne until they have taken a drive or tourist bus through the Dandenongs. One of the several areas that is very popular is the Emerald Lake park just outside the township of Emerald. One can take the Puffing Billy steam train there on a narrow gauge line built about a hundred years ago and closed in 1953, then reopened in 1962.



By car you take the Tourist route of Burwood Highway onto Belgrave Gembrook Rd through the hills of tall trees, farms and cute villages to Emerald. The Cardinia Council together with the traders committee held their Performing and Visual Arts Festival on Sunday 12th of April, and the Big Squeeze Band and the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra were invited to perform. It was held in the town with 37 areas set aside for displays, performances, food and souvenir traders etc. There were five "stages" set aside for performers, and ours was on the roundabout on the main intersection in the centre of town. The weather was fine, under 20 degrees, no showers in sight. Our performance consisted of the Best of Abba by Matthias Hennecke, Under Paris Skies by Stefan Schalamon, The Blues Factory by Jacob de Haan, Hotel California by Don Felder concluding with A Swinging Safari by Rico Reinwarth.

After the performance, we had time to wander around the streets sampling the wares, reading of the history, watching the antique petrol and portable diesel engines in operation that were used by farmers in the early days.

For me I have to say that in looking for a good cappuccino, I walked into the Emerald Bakery Cafe to look upon the staggering array of cakes, sweets, breads, tasty take away meals stacked up wall to wall and it was difficult to decide what to try they were all 'state of the art' . I guess we will have to return some day in the future to try another tasty morsel!

The return trip was via Wellington Rd. Which was almost all freeway, mostly downhill and we were home in very quick time for the forty kilometres. A great day was had by all.

Lee Puccini

Dino Kocic performs at the 'Melbourne Green' ceremony

Melbourne Green is all about beauty of the Earth and is an exhibition and ceremony celebrating the finest of Melbourne's food, culture, art and the natural beauty of Melbourne, Victoria and Australia.

Melbourne Green is an annual cultural program that showcases Victoria and features illuminations on some of our most historic landmarks. Melbourne Green is a dual-city (Melbourne and Beijing) initiative designed to enhance the cultural, environmental and trade relationships between Australia and China.

On May 13th 2015, Melbourne Green event and Opening Ceremony Dinner was held at The Royal Exhibition Building.

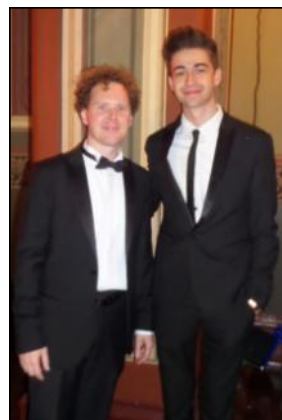


Melbourne Green concert started with musicians and ballet dancers from Victorian College of the Arts and young operatic tenor from Melbourne Grammar School, following singers from Melba Opera Trust. Melba Opera Trust is Australia's scholarship program for promising young opera singers. Driven by Dame Nellie Melba's conviction "a beautiful voice is not enough" the program nurtures artistic development alongside business training, mentoring and performance experience.

Also participating in the program there were Victoria Police Pipe Band, Didgeridoo player Robert Bamblett, Brenton Spiteri, tenor, Jade Moffat, mezzo soprano, Jeremy Kleeman, bass baritone, Morgan Balfour, soprano and Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School Chamber Choir lead by music director of Melbourne Green Mr. Dermot Tutty.

Dermot Tutty is a respected voice teacher, choral conductor, composer, stage director and a Melbourne Treasure.

This was a fantastic opportunity to promote accordion music and a beautiful night with the program to remember.



Dino Kocic entertained 500 guests from Australia and China, for 30 min. during dinner, with the performance on his piano accordion. Dino played several styles of music, some Jazz, French Musette, Italian, Finish polka, as well as some of his virtuoso pieces including Variations on a Ukrainian theme and Basso Ostinato.



Dino's program was very well received and some of the guests even danced during his performance.

Among of the guests at the ceremony were one of the best known public figures Ron Barassi, Mr. Ted Baillieu (former Premier of Victoria), China Consular, Mr. Greg Andrews, director of arts sector investment (Creative Victoria), individuals from Australia's Government institutions and director of Melbourne Green Mr. Matthew Joscelyne.



Mido Kocic



The Kocic family

South Australia News

'Volkstanzfest' National Festival

Emma Smith has been very busy promoting the accordion around Adelaide. In April Emma and her Dad Paul participated in "Volkstanzfest", Australia's National Festival for German, Swiss and Austrian Folk Dancing Clubs. The event was hosted by the SA Bavarian Dance Group "Bund Der Bayern" at the Adelaide German Club, with dance groups from all over Australia and also from Germany & Austria. Several accordion players made the journey to Adelaide and performed with their groups. Emma and Paul played accordion music for the Bund Der Bayern Children's Dance Group. The Festival was a huge success with many glowing reviews, and the next Volkstanzfest will be held in Canberra in two years time.



Emma performs at 'Recitals Australia'

In May Emma was invited to perform in a lunchtime concert for Recitals Australia with two students from the Elder Conservatorium of Music: Esther Chea on Violin, and Joseph Freer on Cello. The concert was held in the beautiful old Pilgrim Church in Flinders Street where concerts are held regularly because of the excellent acoustics. Emma performed some solo pieces on her accordion including "Aurelia Overture" by Pietro Deiro and "Carnival of Venice" arranged by Frosini, then Esther and Joseph performed a duet by Hoffmeister. At the end of the concert all three played Astor Piazzolla's "Oblivion" together, which had been arranged especially for the occasion by Jakub Jankowski. The performance was recorded for Adelaide Community Radio.

Regards,

Yvonne Smith, Adelaide



NSW News

In June, on one of Sydneys wettest and windiest nights, Victor Lange and his mum Niki braved the weather to meet up and say hello to the NSW orchestra at their Monday night practice. Victor has lived for many years in Canada and was visiting family for a couple of weeks and we were thrilled that he could make time to visit us. Victor was a key player in the NSW orchestra for many years, and borrowed an accordion on the night and played along with us. Thank you to Hera and Sylvia for providing a lovely supper and Victor for visiting us.



L to R: Cheryl, Vince, Niki, Victor, Dominique, Ben, Hera, Sam, Sylvia



Victor playing along with the group.

Accordion Encounters in NZ

During the April school holidays, to celebrate my Dad's birthday we headed across the ditch to explore New Zealand's North Island, and what would a trip to Auckland be without a stop over with our friends at the NZAA.

While in Auckland, on Wednesday night we stopped into their practise hall at a primary school in Takapuna, it was great to see how they set up their practise, and to learn about all the different groups the NZAA run each week. They were rehearsing for an upcoming performance at Dargaville, for the Accordion Museum that we visited in 2009.



The hospitality of our friends in New Zealand is always so wonderful, and we are looking forward to working with them at the upcoming AATA competitions.

Amelia Granturco

How good is your Humour?

Last edition we asked readers to add a caption to the photo below of Ross Maio and Ben Pattinson and the funniest caption would win a prize. We had a disappointing response however I thank those that entered. Congratulations to our winner, Annick Lucchetti of Sydney, a prize will be sent to you.

Winner: **Annick Lucchetti**

Winning caption:

“Should I translate this for you?”



Griffith News

Italian Festival

A spectacular day was held at Central Plaza Griffith with entertainment from the Master accordionist Ross Maio and his mate Mark Hudson. Also performing was the Griffith Italian Choir and Melissa's dance studio dancing the Tarantella.

Mark and Gail tuned the sound system to perfection as you could hear the entertainment throughout the plaza.

Thanks to the Manageress Cheryl Wood for another well organised day

Joe Staltare



Lou entertains Scalabrini village



Also in Griffith was Lou Forner who entertained the senior residents at Scalabrini village and once again it was a great success as Lou played all the sing along favourites for our senior's.

Pictured is Lou in preparation for that afternoon show, great playing my dear friend

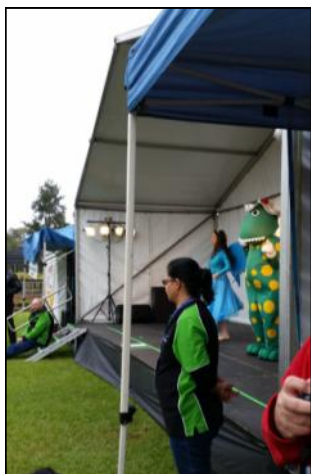
Joe Stalfare



SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

Emma Wins at AATA

At the AATA International Accordion Championship, Emma Smith from Adelaide won 3 awards for her age group (12 & under) against six other competitors from Australia, China and New Zealand. She won International Open Accordion Champion, International Pacific Champion, Australian Champion. Congratulations Emma from the ASA.



Dom joins the Wiggles

Dominiqve Granturco (pictured in blue) has been lucky enough to land some freelance work with the Wiggles!! and Dorothy the Dinosaur!!

Happy 21st Christine

On 10th May 2015, Christine Kroon ex-ASA member turned 21. Congratulations from all at the ASA.

Amelia and Dominique Granturco arrived in the "SSChristine Kroon 21" (pictured).

Christine's parents Emma and Leo Kroon are still ASA committee members and assist at all events along with Christine!



Congratulation to Zeljko on AMEB Award

Zeljko Bedic has recently been advised by the AMEB that he will be receiving a 25 Year AMEB Examiner Service Award next year, end of March 2016 at the annual AMEB Examiners meeting at Sydney Grammar.

Zeljko commented "I couldn't believe it when I was told that 25 years had passed and I'm the only remaining examiner in Sydney, NSW out of the original six who started it all off in the mid 1980s. Mrs Brandman, Ross Lombardo, Gunter Henke, Severino Guiducci, Geoff Mills. I believe all of them except for Geoff (not sure) have passed away, with Ross and Severino at an extremely young age of 46. So tragic. Life..."

Li Li has baby girl

It is my absolute pleasure to announce that Li Li has given birth to a beautiful baby girl called Zoe Liu.

She was born on the 1st of April 2015 at Westmead Hospital and weighed 2.845kg and was 45cm long. Please join me in congratulating Li and her husband, Wen Chao Liu on their gorgeous baby girl.

*Zeljko Bedic
Bedic Studio*



Thank you David Krygger

The ASA would like to thank David Krygger (Perth), an honorary life member of the ASA, for the donated music he recently couriered to Sydney. A large box containing his hand written orchestral/accordion arrangements created over many years, which would have involved an enormous amount of work and would be a possession that would be hard to part with.

David started playing the accordion when he purchased his first accordion in 1948 and played by ear before realising that the intricacies of the instrument would require further investigation. A dramatic turn in his life occurred when he met Peter Piccini Senior which became his teacher.

David has spent many years with Accordion Orchestras in Perth and it was his association with the Music Arrangers Guild of Australia where he became involved in score writing and arranging.

The NSW orchestra has selected some Singalongs and Xmas Medleys to begin learning and the music will be distributed among other states when all the contents have been reviewed. Thank you David.

Canadian accordionist visits Music Junction

On March 16 at Music Junction in Melbourne, and on what is our normal Monday night practice, we had the pleasure of hearing 18 year old Rebecca Beeizweller from Canada play about six or seven pieces.

There were many old friends there and the playing was first class. Rebecca played an 80 bass Pignini button accordion

with such expression and passion, shows that she has a top teacher back home.



The first piece she played was 'Andalusa' by R.Granados, which I new well as I had learned to play it on the piano many years ago. She managed to transcribe it for accordion with clarity and great expression that Spanish music requires. The next piece from memory was a piece called 'Giotto' then came 'Asturias' by Albeniz, a shorter version, followed



by 'Balade for Anne' by Frank Marocco, then 'Basso Ostinato', finishing with the well known 'Libertango' by Piazzolla, to a loud applause by the audience.

As it turns out, our Australian Champion Dino Kocic was in attendance and happened to bring along his Scandalli button accordion. We were then treated to a couple of pieces by him. He then decided to play a further part of 'Asturias' by Albeniz and then 'Haiti' by Frank Angelis.



Palmi Snorrason thanked the players and presented Rebecca with two of our Accordion Orchestra CDs, and I gave her a copy of the latest Accordion Review by the ASA as a memento of her visit and performance in Melbourne.

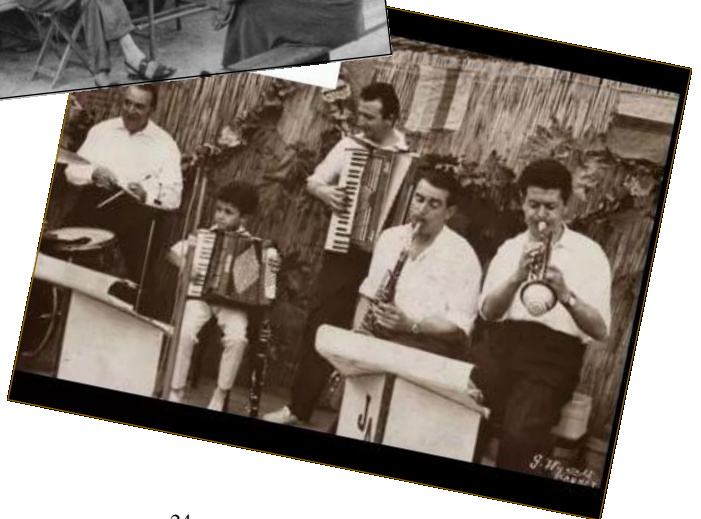
Lee Puccini

Accordionists from long ago



Russia
1942

Richard Galliano 7yo
ans avec son père
1958





Gig Guide & Whats On



Ross Maio Gigs

Please check with the venue to confirm performance times.

- 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 Chermside 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

Fun for the Kids (Sydney)

LAH LAH LIVE IN CONCERT

Mister Saxophone, Squeazy Sneezzy the piano accordion, Lola the Dancing Double Bass and lovable Lah Lah bring their catchy tunes on the road to families all over Sydney.

WHEN: June 30-July 11, various times

WHERE: Locations include Hurstville, Dee Why, Revesby, Kingsford, the Central Coast

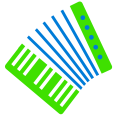
RECOMMENDED: Ages 3+

COST: Depending on location

BOOKINGS: lah-lah.com



Enjoy the catchy tunes of Lah Lah Live in Concert.



Gig Guide & Whats On



In & around Melbourne

5th July →

Związek Ziemi Wschodnich II RP w Melbourne

A MUSICAL FEAST

WITH A SEASONING OF POLISH

An entertaining show featuring brother and sister duo playing beautiful music on accordion and organ.



Terezia Kalkbrenner & John Kalkbrenner



Venue: Polish Club
19 Carrington Drive, Albion
Sunday 5 July, 2015
2.30pm

Tickets available at door: \$15
Enquiries phone: 0412 056 635

19th July

Annual Accordion in Concert at the Austrian Club (please book early with Margaret Berens).

Every Friday and Sunday nights

John Kalkbrenner and Heinz Dabernig perform at the 'Hofbräuhaus' German restaurant, 18-24 Market Lane, Melbourne. Phone 9663 3361.

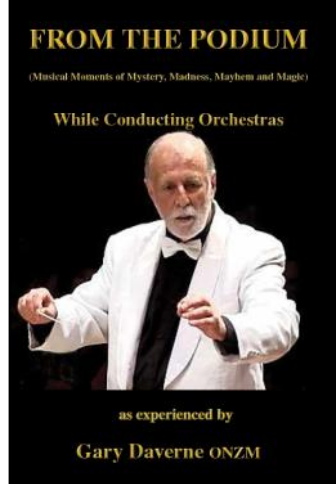
New Releases (Book & CD)

“From the Podium” by Gary Daverne

Gary Daverne ONZM, Music Director Emeritus, Auckland Symphony Orchestra

Gary has just released a book, ‘**From the Podium**’ and tells us:

For years I have considered writing about, what I call ‘happenings’ while on the podium conducting for some 40 years, orchestras and choirs all around the world including 35 of those years as Music Director/Conductor with the Auckland Symphony Orchestra. Some ‘happenings’ are serious; some are downright hilarious, things that the audiences are generally unaware of. So I have now put pen to paper. There are 300 pages, 77 photos and a complimentary CD included, containing some of my recorded original orchestral music. The foreword is by Max Cryer MBE.



Book cost \$30 (gst incl.) plus postage/pkg \$12 to Australia. RRP is \$42. You are warmly invited to purchase copies by email, mail or fax.

Direct orders to: daverne@ihug.co.nz advising postal and contact details. Payment can be made to BNZ Bank A/c: 02-0248-0099307-000 or mail me a cheque to 48 Shelley Beach Rd, Herne Bay, Auckland. Please feel free to extend this invitation to others you feel may be interested.

William Schimmel New CD and Broadway, ‘An American in Paris’ - USA

by [Rita Barnea](#)



Acclaimed accordionist Dr. William Schimmel is currently performing in ‘An American in Paris’ at the Palace Theatre on Broadway in New York. In addition to his performances, he also developed and realized the accordion part to give the show that distinct Parisian flavour along with the Gershwin Score.

The show has been nominated for 12 Tony awards. A cast album will be released on the Masterworks label soon. William Schimmel's new CD, ‘Theatre of the Accordion’ will be released in July 2015 on Roven Records. The Album will feature solo works written and realized by [William Schimmel](#). The guest artist on the CD is Wynton Marsalis.

For further information: billschimmel@billschimmel.com

News from Bedic Music Studio

AATA International Festival

I would like to congratulate Tania Lukic-Marx and the AATA on another fantastic international accordion festival at which I had the privilege to bring along two of my senior students, Judith Hague, almost 70 years of age and Willy Strader, a staggering 96 years of age (the oldest living accordionist in Australia). They both tell me that they absolutely adore playing the accordion and couldn't live without it.

Judith performed in the AATA Mass Orchestra last year and again this year and is the proud owner of a brand new Scandalli accordion which Palmi kindly shipped over for her, directly from Castelfidardo, Italy. She absolutely loves it and hopes to keep enjoying making beautiful music with it for many years to come. She also lives with and looks after her dear friend, of many years, Peg who is 94 years of age. She likes to refer to me as her angel from above:) Bless her soul.



Willy on the other hand, was inspired by Ross Maio on a world cruise when he was travelling with his beloved late wife, Fernande. He spent a lot of time on the ship talking to Ross about the accordion and upon his return he bought himself a brand new digital Roland. Willy practises eight hours a day and can even play the accordion standing up in front of a mirror. What determination and passion!

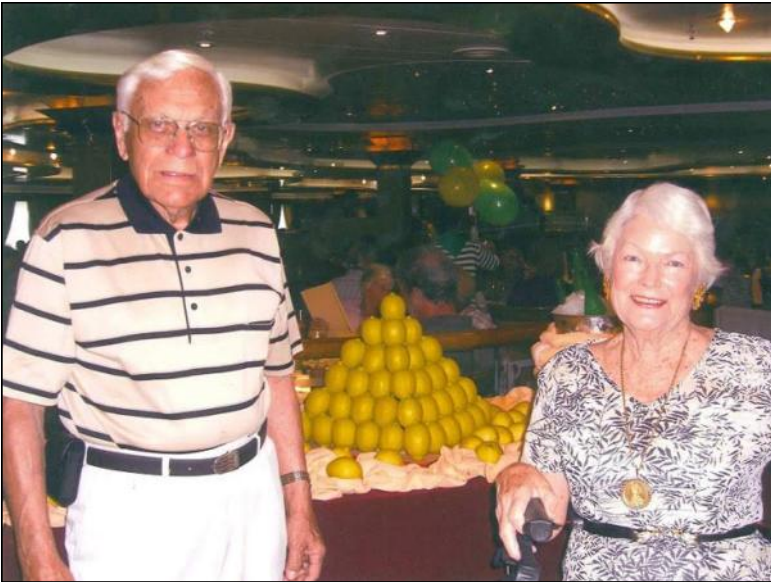
Following is a beautiful letter that Willy wrote to the Dawn Princess after a 104 world cruise

Letter to Princess Cruise Ship by Willy Stader

Apr 17, 2012

Throughout our marriage, my beautiful wife, Fernande, always shone brilliant light into my world and into the lives of everyone she knew. She spread sunshine wherever she went, through her genuine kindness and especially her warm, beautiful smile.

Sadly, in her later years, she began to suffer from dementia and a debilitating muscular disease. Our life together had definitely become much more challenging. Her difficulties made daily tasks so much tougher for her, both physically and mentally, that her smile had faded.



Still, I couldn't possibly think of sending my bride to a nursing home, so I dedicated myself to making her as comfortable as possible at home. I tried taking her out to see the world, but it was a challenge. However, one day I decided to take her on a short boat trip out in the harbor. I looked at my wife enjoying the sea air ... she was smiling for the first time in months. Finally, I was seeing that spark in her that I hadn't seen in so long!

I decided I had to find a way to continue this feeling for her. So, I made an impromptu decision to take her on a cruise vacation, and I'd take whatever sailing was the next available. Turns out, it was the 104-day world cruise on Dawn Princess!

This was quite a leap and I had no idea how it would turn out, but it became the best decision I'd ever made. We had only been on the ship two weeks when I knew this was the best place for Fernandé. My beautiful wife loved every moment of being on board the cruise ship. She was obviously filled with happiness and any difficulties she encountered seemed to melt away. It was like having my Fernandé back again — she was happy and constantly smiling.

Everywhere we went, the ship's staff couldn't have been more helpful or kind to us both. We never wanted more for anything and Fernandé had not a single problem while onboard. Her condition seemed so perfect that I immediately booked another cruise while still onboard. And onboard that voyage, I booked our next again.

Sadly, Fernandé passed away before we could take that next journey together, but I know that this experience brightened the last few months of her life and made her a lot happier, even if just for a little longer. As for me, this wonderful trip showed me that amidst all our challenges, we were still able to find such amazing joy.

I'll never forget this incredible experience, and I'm planning to be onboard Dawn Princess' 75-day Circle Pacific cruise this July in memory of my lovely Fernandé.

Willy lives in Cremorne Point, NSW. He has currently completed 160 sea days with Princess, with another 75 to come.

Yours musically,

Zeljko Bedic

Director - Bedic Music Studio
ASA TDip, MMTA, MASA, MAATA
Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) Diploma Examiner
Sydney Conservatorium / Sydney University Accredited
NSW Music Teachers Association (MTA) Accredited

Evolution of the Accordion

contributed by Michael Glinski

Chinese history books trace back to the very birth of music itself, an event pinpointed in the Book Of Chronicles (Schu-Ching) as occurring during the reign of the legendary "Yellow Emperor", Huang Ti, around the year 3000 B.C. Huang's other accomplishments included the invention of boats, money, and religious sacrifice. He is said to have sent the noted scholar Ling Lun to the western mountain regions of his domain to find a way to reproduce the song of the phoenix bird. Ling returned with the cheng (or sheng), and captured music for mankind, taking the first step toward the genesis of the accordion.



The cheng is in fact the first known instrument to use the free vibrating reed principle, which is the basis of the accordion's sound production. Shaped to resemble the phoenix, the cheng had between 13 and 24 bamboo pipes, a small gourd which acted as a resonator box and wind chamber, and a mouthpiece. Other instruments using a free vibrating reed were developed in ancient Egypt and Greece, and were depicted in many beliefs.



REED INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

Virtually unchanged after centuries of use, the cheng attracted the attention of European musicians and craftsmen after being taken to Russia around the year 1770. Assertions that this marked the introduction of the free-vibrating reed principle in Europe are debatable. Among the earlier variations on this design in the West was the portative, which was widely heard in England during the 12th and 13th centuries. The portative consisted of a small keyboard, bellows, and reed pipes, and was strapped onto the player. The regal, later termed the Bible regal because of its wide use in churches, was the next step along this line. It had a keyboard, one or two sets of bellows, and, unlike the accordion and other open-reed instruments, close beating oboe-like reeds. This instrument eventually lost popularity due to a tendency to go out of tune too easily. It was frequently used for accompanying madrigal singers, between the 15th and 18th centuries.

EARLY PIONEERS

Cyrrillus Damian, a Viennese instrument maker, has often been credited with the creation of the first true accordion. He was, in fact, the first to patent an instrument of that name, having received royal patronage for his invention in 1829. Damian's design fea-

tured two to four bass keys that produced chords within a range of an octave. But the first true accordion made its appearance in 1822, when a German instrument maker named Christian Friedrich Buschmann (1775-1832) put some expanding bellows onto a small portable keyboard, with free vibrating reeds inside the instrument itself. He dubbed it the hand-aeoline, and helped spread its fame in 1828 by leaving Berlin and touring with it.

There were actually many varieties of the free-vibrating reed instrument developed during the early 1800s. Some of them are still quite well known today. Sir Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875) was awarded the British Patent No. 5803 for his concertina in 1829. Heinrich Band (1821-1860) of Krefeld, Germany, invented the bandoneon in 1840; this square-shaped instrument, played by pressing finger buttons is popular with Argentine tango bands. That same year Alexandre Debain finished his harmonium in Paris. In this pipeless organ (commonly found in churches and households until the advent of electric organs in the 1930s) air is passed to the reed blocks via foot-operated bellows. In some early models a second person was required to pump air into the instrument through bellows attached to the rear of the keyboard.



EARLY LITERATURE

As the renowned for accordions grew, so did a demand for instruction manuals. The first such textbook, featuring both original music and arrangements of familiar pieces, was written by A. Reisner and published in Paris in 1832. Another tutorial volume, Pichenot's *Methode pour l'accordeon*, appeared later that year. In 1834 Adolph Muller published his instructional book in Vienna, and since then the music market has sustained a flood of similar programs, with about 30 titles published during the 1860s alone.

FURTHER INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

Meanwhile, from 1830 onwards, the development of the accordion continued at an accelerating pace. Still, there were some important differences between the instruments of that era and those of today. For one, early accordions did not have shoulder straps that allowed the player to hold the instrument close to the body. The older models were played by placing the thumb, the little finger, and sometimes the fourth finger of the right hand under the treble keyboard, leaving only the remaining two or three fingers free to press the keys. The thumb of the left hand was also placed under the instrument

to steady it, with only the second and fifth fingers used for playing. Most players today wear double straps, although single-strapped accordions, which leave the keyboard at a less upright angle, are popular in the Soviet Union.



Additionally early accordions, like the bandoneon (and, for that matter, the harmonica) that exists today, produced different notes on the press and draw of the bellows. Thus, if the C key were pressed to produce that note on the opening of the bellows, the note D might sound when the bellows were closed. These instruments are characterised as diatonic, and the pitch of their notes was determined by the placement of the keys and the reeds by each maker.

The chromatic accordion, which produced the same note on the press and the draw of the bellows, came into use in 1850 when an accordionist named Walter requested that one be custom-built for him. His model, incidentally, also featured 12 bass buttons, cleverly arranged so that all 12 key signatures could be accommodated.



One interesting development from this period was the appearance of what subsequently became known as the Schrammel accordion, first used in 1877 with a quartet comprising an accordion, two violins, and bass guitar. The Schrammel had 52 treble buttons arranged in three rows that produced the same notes, together with 12 basses that produced different notes, on the press and draw of the bellows. This model was used often at Viennese gatherings and can still be heard today, but its popularity is limited because of its small range of notes and the difficulty with which it is mastered.

It seems clear that at this stage the accordion was being conceived of as a portable type of organ. Pipe organs had of course become extremely sophisticated by then, with tones produced through open-ended wooden or metal flue pipes of up to eight feet (for the lowest C then in the instrument's range) in length, and with its own free vibrating reeds set in a brass plate, to be activated when the reed stop is engaged. This exact design was incorporated into the accordions of that era, with several brass or steel reeds embedded into a long wooden block in a somewhat simplified version of the modern accordion design.

THE MODERN ACCORDION

So when the first piano accordion, or the first accordion to feature a piano-style ivory keyboard, was produced in Vienna in 1863, many performers regarded it as a means of liberating themselves, to a limited extent, from being confined to their massive and immobile walls of pipes. As with the modern accordion, these keys were much smaller than those on the piano, and more rounded to allow for faster playing. Design requests from musicians helped refine the shape and appearance of the accordion keyboard even more over the next several years. One of these artists, Pietro Deiro, brought his custom built piano accordion to the United States and, thanks to a successful New York concert at the Washington Square Theatre in 1909, earned a reputation for himself as the father of the American accordion playing.

During the early part of the twentieth century the leading accordion manufacturers began increasing their output and, thanks to pressure from professional players, settling on a general standard size and shape for the instrument, with 19½" the agreed length for a 41 note keyboard. One company in particular managed to establish a solid slot for itself in the industry hierarchy. It is commonly accepted that Matthias Hohner (1833 - 1902) was to the accordion what Henry Ford was to the automobile and enterprising figure who made his product available to a great number of people at reasonable prices. Originally a clockmaker in Trossingen, Germany, Hohner had begun building accordions at his workshop in 1857, but by roughly 20 years after his death the business he had founded was creating them by mass production.



THE GLOBAL EFFECT

Today the accordion is truly an international phenomenon. There are several manufacturers of fine accordions in the U.S., but their output is small compared to their European counterparts. Large contemporary producers are located in Germany, France, and the U.S.S.R., where the bayan, and accordion with a button keyboard, is frequently played. But by far the most voluminous companies are in Italy. About 75 percent of the instruments built there are exported around the world; one firm, Scandali, a subsidiary of Farfisa, does an especially good business with the Soviet Union. In China the instrument is being built in large numbers there too, with two large manufacturers.

PERFORMANCE AND RECENT COMPOSERS

With all these improvements, it is no surprise that the parameters of performance have also grown in recent years. Music for piano, celeste, harpsichord, harmonium, and organ may now be played on the free bass accordion without having to alter a note of the score, thanks to the greater freedom allowed for the left hand. And there is a substantial repertoire of works specifically written for accordion by such composers as Tchaikovsky, Berg, Paul Creston, Henry Cowell, Walter Riegger, Alan Hovhaness, Tito Guidotti, Lukas Foss, James Nightingale, William Schimmel, Ole Schmidt, Tjornborn Lundquist, Hugo Hermann, Richard Rodney Bennett Douglas Ward, Wolfgang Jacobi, Nicolas Tchaikin, and many others. New works are also frequently commissioned by the American Accordionists' Association, the Accordion Teachers Guild, and other organisations.

Colleges and universities in the U.S. now accept music students majoring in accordion, a fact that reflects the instrument's unquestioned legitimacy in classical music. It has been seen on the concert platform at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Albert and Festival Halls in England, and has appeared as the featured solo instrument with the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London.

The accordion has also made inroads into the field of popular music. The Beatles, Billy Joel, Neil Diamond, the Rolling Stones, Emerson, Lake & Palmer, Jimmy Webb, the Beach Boys, Bob Dylan, and a host of other artists have used the accordion on records and onstage, while it has proven itself as ideal for soloing and for blending in well with the clarinet, the saxophone, and the flute in jazz settings too. The jazz world has seen such notable accordionists as Art Van Damme, Mat Matthews, Tommy Gumina, Leon Sash, Ernie Felice, Angelo di Pippo, and Jack Emblow.

Extracted from website accordions.com (Accordions Worldwide)



Aleksandar Kolovski from Macedonia was a guest artist at the recent AATA Gala Concert.



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NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Tribute to NZ Servicemen and Women

Contributed by Heather Masefield

Kevin Friedrich presented a moving tribute to New Zealand Servicemen and Women. Kevin is pictured next to one of the 888,246 handmade ceramic poppies used in the impressive display from the Tower of London in the United Kingdom.



New York based accordionist Kevin Friedrich returned to his home town of Dargaville, New Zealand to present his annual concert, which included moving musical tributes in honour of local servicemen and women.

The entire country as well as Australia and the United Kingdom are in the midst of presenting tributes, marking the 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli and the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII.

For Kevin's tribute, he worked with renowned New Zealand composer Gary Daverne to provide 16 minutes of original sound track for a multimedia presentation featuring local servicemen and women, to which Kevin played live. The work titled "This is Our Home" comprised three movements I. The Journey, (with backing by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra) II. Gallipoli, and III. This is Our Home which featured narration and vocals by Lionel Reekie. The audience was deeply moved by the poignant music, continuing to draw in audible breaths and sighs as the history of the many deaths and contributions of service was realised. Many eyes had tears in them as the audience gained their feet to applaud for a very long time this stunning capsule of remembrance.

Another original composition commissioned for the concert was a haunting waltz by popular Scottish accordionist Gary Blair, who had composed the piece *Waltzing Home* for Kevin to play on the program. The beautiful new work was extremely well received by the capacity audience.

The 8th Annual Concert presented by Kevin at Lighthouse Function Centre at the Dargaville Museum, was sold out weeks earlier, and featured an array of local and guest talent. The moving concert opened with the Last Post and Rouse along with the raising and lowering of the Flag in honour of the Service personnel and one of two National Anthems, God Save the Queen performed by the Auckland Accordion Symphonietta conducted by Lionel Reekie. The 18 piece accordion orchestra then opened the musical part of the concert, with the afternoon going on to feature vocalists, instrumentalists and readings, including performances by Maurice Jones and his daughter Alanah (vocals). Maurice performed with Lionel Reekie as the Starlight Duo, and were joined by Kevin for one number as the Starlight Trio.

A humorous moment occurred when Lionel Reekie and Kevin performed the old time favorite 'I Brought My Harp to the Party, but Nobody asked me to Play'. With some localizing of the words, the adapted song 'I Brought my Accordion to the Concert, but Nobody asked me to Play' included local identities and humor. At the end of the song when the words say 'so I threw the thing away' the audience was amused, and relieved to later find out, that through a quick switch and slight of hand, that the accordion that went hurtling out the door into the carpark, was actually a dummy polystyrene accordion!

The finale of the concert was the multimedia presentation, which elicited a standing ovation, with the concert closing with the second of New Zealand's National Anthem's God Defend New Zealand, followed by the traditional Jam Session.

World Accordion Day in New Zealand

Contributed by Heather Masefield

On Wednesday the 6th May the North Shore Accordion Orchestras celebrated World Accordion Day with 3 groups rehearsing at Sunnybrae Primary School, Auckland, New Zealand.

The young players in the Music Makers were under the baton of Christine Johnstone, the older players in Musicale under the baton of Megan Jennings and leading the top group, the Auckland Accordion Symphonietta, was Lionel Reekie.



All 3 groups are taking part in the New Zealand Accordion Competitions and Festival on 30th and 31st May.

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