

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



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VOLUME 34 ISSUE 1

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Cover: Accordions Alfresco at a recent concert, story page 15.

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Editors Vic newsletter

Margaret Berens & Holger Golinski



Hello from the Editor

The accordion is a fascinating instrument, something many of us have enjoyed for a very long time. Others of varying age groups are just discovering the accordion and wanting to see how this instrument is played. I have noticed more accordionists in bands recently.

In this edition we have an article by Michael Glinski about his 53 year love for the accordion and his urge to take it up after a 20 year break. Like Michael, I also started learning the accordion in the 60's and stopped for 32 years —*how could I have done that!!* I started playing again when I retired and love it.

I am pleased to introduce two new ASA accordionist to our readers, they are competent musicians but the accordion is new to them both. They have both joined Accordions Alfresco with much enthusiasm and we look forward to their accordion journey and welcome them to Accordions Alfresco and the ASA. Pollyanna Thomson and Glennly Grunfelder are introduced on *page 8*.

Accordions Alfresco performed at BUPA nursing home for long time ASA member John Cras and other residents. It was a wonderful afternoon and hope John enjoyed it as much as we did, *story page 9*.

Joe and Bruno have been very busy volunteering their time to play at various functions in and around Griffith NSW, keep up the great work, *pages 17—19*.

Melbournes 'Big Squeeze Band' were eager to perform and showcase their wonderful band and thought the local markets would be a good venue to attract an audience and they were right, *read about it on page 13*.

Welcome to Benny Milligram who is a new 'Big Squeeze Band' member.

World Accordion Day is on May 6th so wouldn't it be great if we can be part of this event. Think about how you or your band can contribute, *details page 23*.

The AATA '2017 Australian International Accordion Championship and Festival' will be held on the weekend of June 10th & 11th at Club Marconi, Bossley Park (Sydney), Tania Marx invites you to come along. The Gala Concert is held on Sunday 11th at 3pm, *details on page 25*.

Thank you to those who have contributed to this edition and please start preparing your news for the June edition, don't leave it to the last minute. Happy reading.

Regards,

Cheryle Mills

*PS It is with regret that I pass on the sad news that Queensland's long time ASA member and teacher **Primo Pin** has passed away (sometime during 2016). He will be sadly missed by his family, friends and those that knew him, RIP.*

Presidents Report



Welcome to another year of great accordion music!

Promoting the accordion is a key part of the Accordion Society of Australia's mission. Let's work together so that 2017 is the year where we really make a difference. We need to be sure that we put lots of energy into promoting both our Accordion Society and all those other accordionists that we meet along the way. I ask also that every single member of the organisation to help us increase our online presence.

In Sydney we have a very strong and growing ensemble and lots of great performances lined up for the coming months. We need to let people know about these events, and social media is a great way to do this. The various social media platforms might seem sometimes to be a complicated arena, but in the new world they are integral to our success.

In fact, it is only recently that we have started to use these platforms to our advantage. To give an example, by posting and sharing our recent videos and photos this past month, we have increased our Facebook audience engagement by 433%. Social media works by numbers and the bigger the numbers the better! When you all have the chance, please share what we do with your friends and everyone else you know. Ask them to like us, share our videos and posts with friends and groups, and most importantly ask them to follow us. Facebook is a community, as is our Accordion Society. We believe there many people wanting to engage with us, but first they must find us, so we need to make a lot of noise and get our message out there!!

It is with great pleasure that we announce that after many years we have decided to pass the Mrs Brandman scholarship to Finn MacDermid. Young Finn is the grandchild of long-time ASA member, Maria Worthington. With the assistance of the scholarship fund Finn will travel to the 2017 South Pacific and New Zealand Championships and festival for

the NZAA (New Zealand Accordion Association) on the weekend of the 3rd -4th June this year to compete in their annual competitions. A small ensemble from the Sydney orchestra will also attend to represent the ASA. We look forward to supporting more young and upcoming students in the future. If you would like more information about the New Zealand event, you can find it on the website <http://www.accordion.co.nz>. We will keep you posted on our Facebook page regarding this event. Having known Mrs Brandman personally, I know that this would please her. We are sure that young Finn will rock their world!

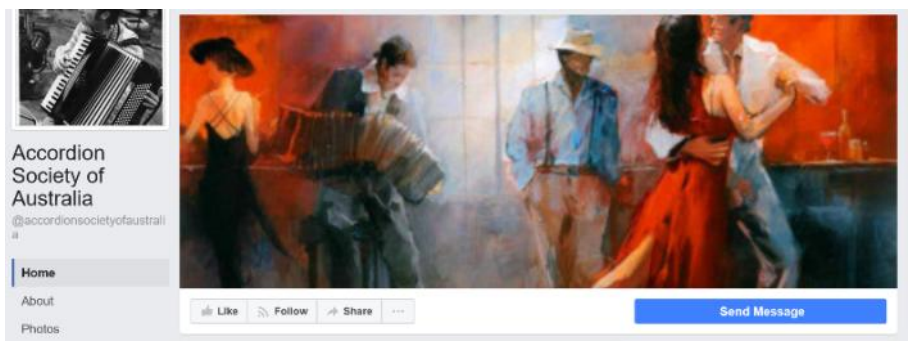
Let's also try and support all those bands out there that have an accordion player as part of their group. Bands such as Salty Lips, Zuyla and The Children of the Underground and Medusa's Wake feature the accordion as a regular instrument in their line up, and play very regularly around Sydney and Melbourne, and they would love your support. The future for our accordion is in the hands of custodians such as these. Hope to see some of you in the night time hours at live music events!

Watch our Facebook posts for what's coming up in the accordion world and remember we must all be more proactive than ever before in promoting accordion music in all its diversity!

Benny

Facebook Page 'Accordion Society of Australia'

We encourage all our readers to follow us on Facebook and keep up-to-date with what is happening in the accordion world. Our FB page is shown below. Thanks.





FREE CONCERT

**MONDAY - 27th
March 2017**

7pm

**Parish Hall
All Hallows Church
2 Halley St. Five
Dock**

**ACCORDIONS
ALFRESCO**

**LIVIO & DANILA
BERARDI
Saxophonist - direct
from Italy**

**All welcome
Supper Provided**



Welcome our new members

NSW are thrilled to introduce two new ASA and Accordions Alfresco members. They have kindly agreed to write a few lines to introduce themselves. Thank you Pollyanna and Glenny and welcome to the ASA, we hope you have years of enjoyment with us and the accordion.



Pollyanna Thomson

About two years ago I bought a piano accordion because I'd always been intrigued by the instrument, and being a pianist for several years helped me to pick it up fast. I joined the Accordion Society of Australia at the very end of last year, discovering the lovely group by seeing them at a Bunnings Barbeque. Not certain of what to expect at my first rehearsal, I was captivated by their passion for music and welcomed openly to the society. Being able to learn from the group has, and will continue, to elevate me as an accordion player to improve my skill and technique.

Pollyanna

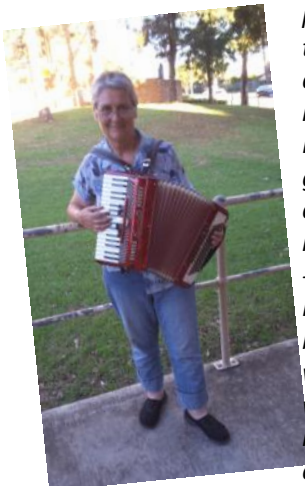
Glenny Grunfelder.

I joined the Accordion Society of Australia in January this year. I came from a background working as a professional musician playing the double bass in orchestras in New Zealand and Australia (for over 55 years). Last year I finally "hung up my bows" and sold my three double basses leaving a rather large void in my life!

I have always loved the sound of the accordion when playing gigs with small jazz and folk groups (on double bass) so when I discovered that the ASA rehearsed (literally 'around the corner') from my home in Russell Lea I decided to buy an accordion - a 'ladies' Scandalli.

My next challenge was to learn how to play! I would not have been able to have the confidence to continue learning to play without the great support of every member of the ASA! This wonderful group of people has made me feel so welcome, giving me advice, organising music and teaching me helpful tips - and all with lots of fun, laughs and camaraderie. I love the whole experience! Thank you, ASA!"

Glenny



Special Concert for our dear friend John Cras

Accordions Alfresco were thrilled to be invited to play at the BUPA nursing home Yagoona on Saturday Feb 25th for our long time ASA member John Cras. John and his wife Barbara have been long time supporters of the ASA, regularly attending our concerts and Xmas parties. John recently moved into BUPA and asked if we would come along and perform for them, what an honour. *The photo below shows John Cras with his fellow ASA members.*

The group played several pieces and then Ben took to the floor with some good 'ol oldies including 'Beer Barrel Polka' which the audience and visitors loved and 'Zorba the Greek' with Dominique and Jedda taking to the floor for a spot of dancing. A resident originally from Ukraine made a request to Ben for a Ukrainian piece, Ben quickly responded with Czardas and Hungarian Dance No 5 and although not Ukrainian was given the thumbs up, good work Ben.

Positive feedback was later received that it was the best concert BUPA had ever had. It is very satisfying to know we were able to brighten up their day.



Residents enjoying the afternoon



Dom, Jedda and a resident dance to Zorba

Ben playing requests from residents



Glenny our newest ASA member took along her small accordion for show and tell with the residents.

More than Sausages sizzled at this BBQ!!

Q: Who would slave over a hot barbeque all day in 43C heat?

A: ASA members at Bunnings Sausage Sizzle!!!

In scorching 43C+ heat, NSW members ran the Bunnings Ashfield Sausage Sizzle on Saturday Feb 11th. Hot sausages on a roll was not necessarily what the customers wanted, it was bottled **WATER** which sold out quickly with members needing to buy their own water in Bunnings! Profits were certainly down by half compared to our previous barbeque in Jan which earned us \$2000 profit. Credit must be given to all those who attended under these conditions and to those that entertained the crowds with some great accordion music, good work.



Vince Granturco and Leo Kroon cooking up a storm!



Leo Kroon, Jedda Kassis and Alex Zhao help with the cooking

Vince Moschella, Alex Zhao, Amelia Granturco and Sandra Mackay waiting for customers.





Left: Finn MacDermid and Ben Pattinson

Below left: Finn's playing even attracted a dog (or maybe it was a sausage he was after)!

Below right: Maria Worthington and Vince Moschella playing together.



The heat stress is starting to show and a well earned rest is called for with

above: Denise and Jedda Kassis, Sylvia and Vince Granturco

right: Rob Bourne, Vince Granturco and Sam Tripodi (still cutting onions)!



THE BIG SQUEEZE ACCORDION BAND MELBOURNE BUSKING AND BUILDING AN AUDIENCE

With a shortage of gigs for the first couple of months of 2017, we came up with the idea of approaching local markets where we could busk and at the same time practice our repertoire of pieces.

The response was very positive and our first market, on the 11th March, was

the Heide Makers' Market held in the grounds of the Heide Museum of Modern Art in Bulleen. The gardens are beautiful and the market nestles in a valley near the Yarra river.

We played at the top of the site and the slope down to the stalls, formed a natural amphitheater, allowing our music to be heard all over the market.



The weather was superb with just a hint of Melbourne Autumn in the air that quickly made way for a very warm day. We played two brackets of about forty-five minutes each starting at 9.30 and finishing at 12noon. We put out an accordion for busking; collecting some contributions and also selling a CD. We all agreed that it was a very pleasant way to spend a Saturday morning.



Our second market was on the 18th March. Part of the Melbourne Farmers' Markets, this one is held in the grounds at the Fairfield Primary School. It has been running for five years at this site and has a great selection of organic fruit and veg, honey, cider, cheese, wine etc.



Jimmy visited the market in February and selected a site for us under a large tree adjacent to the coffee carts. A terrific position; with plenty of customers wandering past.

Again, a beautiful Melbourne Autumn morning; a little cooler than the week before but that again morphed into a warm sunny day. We set up early to

play at 9am. The stall holders were welcoming and the crowds very appreciative of the pieces we played and very intrigued by our accordions. The children especially were mesmerised. On one occasion we counted seven children squatting down at the front of the band – enraptured. A parent cheekily asked us if we were available for babysitting!!! Again we sold a CD and collected quite a large contribution in the case. However, the most rewarding moment came at the end of the morning when the stall holders pooled together some money as a thank you for providing such wonderful entertainment and asked us to return. What more could we ask for!!

Our next gig is at the Holland Festival in Berwick on the 8th April. We are busy brushing up on some Dutch numbers that we may slip into our repertoire.



Annual Concert at the Mountains

Buckland's Retirement Village in Springwood NSW is an annual March concert for Accordions Alfresco taking place this year on Sunday 12th. Buckland concerts started many years ago when an ASA member and lover of the accordion Graham Loblely moved into the Village. Over the years we have been fortunate to have audience members who come each year plus many new residents. They are a wonderful audience and always make us welcome.

Our format varies each year, sometimes incorporating solos and duets and this year Accordions Alfresco played fourteen pieces and 8yo Finn MacDermid played two solo pieces and got the audience laughing when he took over the microphone.

A lovely afternoon tea is always served and this allows us to move around audience members for a chat. It is always a lovely afternoon, thank you Bucklands.



Accordions Alfresco (Vince Moschella and Ben Pattinson could not attend).



Italian Choir tour Griffiths Senior Lodges

On the weekend of 4th March the Italian Choir once again toured around Griffiths three seniors lodges. Choir members were fewer than normal as many were away, and yes we brightened up their day. Lou Forner showcased his new acquisition, a bright red Roland, well played Lou! Everyone enjoyed the new sounds and sing-along.

Joe



Thank you to Griffiths Volunteers

Volunteers in Griffith worked tirelessly all year to raise funds for many committees in Griffith and as a thank you, are treated to a dinner. This generally occurs around Christmas but in this case early January. Many were not able to make it this year but quite a few did and it was held at Pioneer Park.

Big thanks to Lou Forner for helping with the entertainment on the night.

Frank Perosin welcomed all volunteers with Roy Catanzariti summarising the years achievements, Alf Bergamin the oldest volunteer thanked all for their commitment as volunteers. *Joe*



Frank Perosin welcomes all



Oldest volunteer Alf Bergamin



Bruno entertains Seniors

Bruno Peruzzi was lending a hand to bring smiles on our seniors faces at Griffith City Library during seniors week, great work Bruno! Everyone enjoyed the morning cuppa and activities.

Joe

Tracey , Bruno, Michael and
co manageress Christine.



Bruno entertain-
ing seniors in the
Library.





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REPAIRS TO ALL TYPES & MAKES**

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Cordmagiovox Electronic Accordion

Very Original works well very good condition

Power supply and a good carrying case included

Also check for our Monthly specials



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Engadine NSW

Mobile: 0411 372 044

Email: accordionsrepairs@hotmail.com

Post Xmas Party

NSW ASA members were so busy at the end of 2016 that an available date could not be found to hold their xmas party so it was decided to have a New Year party on Monday January 9th at All Hallows Church Hall. It was a quiet affair until the accordions appeared with Ross and Lukas Maio, Ben Pattinson, Peter Lin, Amelia and Dominique Granturco and Jedda Kassis jamming until the end of the night. The music was fantastic.





Enjoying the get together L-R: Cheryle, Pollyanna, Jedda, Amelia, Alex

Great music thanks to: Peter Lin, Lukas and Ross Maio and below Amelia, Dominique and Ben



SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

WORLD ACCORDION DAY



Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA) invitation

Please join us for this annual celebration, as accordionists from around the world pay homage to our wonderful instrument. This global event will serve as an exciting means of bringing accordionists together in an effort to promote and elevate the awareness and status of the accordion!

What: World Accordion Day

When: 6th May (Concerts and events during the month of May may be dedicated to May 6th)

Why: a unified global effort to celebrate and promote the Accordion

Where: World Wide!

Register: [Register your event today](http://www.accordions.com) at www.accordions.com

General Information: Harley Jones, CIA Public Relations Officer: harleyaccordion@yahoo.com

Everyone can register their World Accordion Day activity on the website and send a report of their event after for the website. [Register](http://www.accordions.com)



Fantastic News!! June Jones is on the mend and due home from hospital this week. June was thrilled to receive visits from several of her ASA friends over the 3½ months she has been in hospital. Keep up the good work June and Get Well Soon, we look forward to seeing you up and about.

Thinking
of you

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Luigi Lucchetti who is currently ill.

Annick Lucchetti is caring fulltime for Luigi and we send our best wishes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Singing daily for at least 10 minutes reduces stress, clears sinuses, improves posture and can even help you live longer.



John Kalkbrenner

Every Thursday and Friday nights

Sam Rauza

Every Saturday and Sunday nights

'Hofbräuhaus' German restaurant
18-24 Market Lane, Melbourne. Phone 9663 3361

Heinz Dabernig

Every Friday and Saturday night and Sunday lunch.
Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenongs, Victoria

Ross Maio

Please check Ross Maio Facebook page for all his gigs and venues.

Ben Pattinson with Medusa's Wake (Sydney)

Please check Medusa's Wake Facebook page for their gig guide.



2017 AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION CHAMPIONSHIPS AND FESTIVAL - JUNE 10 & 11, 2017

AATA President Tatjana Marx warmly welcomes Australian and international contestants and supporters to the 2017 AATA Festival. Entry closing date is 1st May for the 2017 Australian International Accordion Championships and Festival.

Saturday 10th of June: Australian International Accordion championship

Venue: Club Marconi. 121 Prairie Vale Rd, Bossley Park Sydney, NSW 2176

Sunday 11th of June: Gala Concert 3pm. Farewell Dinner 7pm.

Venue: Club Marconi

Follow AATA on [Facebook](#) for up-to-date news and events

My Love for the Accordion - Michael J Glinski

This article is simply to express my joy at being able to play the accordion.

I am not a great accordion player by any stretch of the imagination, but really enjoy, and look forward to strapping on the 'box' (I learned that term from the late and great Kenny Laybourne, who I'll speak about later in this article) in the evenings, and discovering something new about it. It may seem strange to say 'discover something new about it', but after about to 20 years of playing I reckon I know conservatively about 20% of its capabilities.



My late father was from Poland, having gone through the German concentration camps. He loved the accordion, and although not being able to play more than a few basic tunes, had other ideas for me! He started me with an accordion teacher in 1964 when I was seven years of age (Mr Peter Bernar) of Elwood, and each Saturday afternoon for about three years we would travel across there with my red 80 bass Excelsior accordion in tow. I can't say I enjoyed the lessons, because Mr Bernar was a tough, old-school Italian gentleman who pushed me pretty hard. I didn't get away with not practicing, and was held to account on a weekly basis! One of the first tunes he taught me was 'Song of the Islands'. I remember this clearly, because at our monthly jam session with Frank Berens and the accordion society group this was one of the first songs we played together.

I always found it very hard, and still do, to read music. One day Mr Bernar took me into the kitchen after a lesson and struck tuning forks, asking me to name the note. I got seven out of the eight pitches correct, which he was most complimentary of, saying I had pretty well close to perfect pitch.

The reason I mention this is that I am very fortunate to be able to play by ear, and can hear a tune and have it pretty well right (to my hearing anyway!) in a short period of time.

Anyway, by 1967 I was playing at Polish parties in Fawkner, much to my

father's delight, coming home late at night; actually early morning, lying on the back seat of his 1956 Chrysler De Soto!

Unfortunately I gave the accordion away, and in 1970 the Excelsior was sold, with its beautiful mother-of-pearl keys. I wish I still had it now.

Fortunately, my father had bought a really nice 120 bass Paolo Soprani (pictured below) from Mr Bernar when I started with him, and I still have this beautiful instrument. It is a little unusual due to having square mute plates rather than the more common round ones.



I took the accordion up again in 1990 when I was 33 after a renewed interest. In 1997, after seeing the brilliant Bernadette Conlon play I took 12 months worth of lessons with the most professional Ian Southwood in Footscray, which helped me a lot.

My big break and great luck was when I went to an accordion recital by the late Kenny Laybourne, playing his magnificent electronic Farfisa Super Syn-taccordion and doing a medley of numbers from all around the world. I approached Kenny after that concert and made a personal friend of him and his then wife Cheryl. We had many great evenings of music, and he helped me

so much with the accordion. We had an affinity really; we both could not read music, but sounded pretty good jammin' together!

Kenny was born to play, having started when he was just two and a half. His grandmother bought him an accordion he pointed out to her in a shop. Her decision to buy Kenny the accordion was made after he was trying to press, in some order mind you, the buttons on her cardigan as he sat on her lap! His ear was brilliant, and he would listen to me play and constantly say "Can't you hear how you missed that half-note, Mike?" in his Cockney English accent. I couldn't hear it, but when we put that sharp or flat in, it made all the difference! Sadly we lost Kenny a couple of years ago, and I miss him still.

Such was the rapport I had built with Kenny, he saw fit to pass his beautiful accordion to me once it got too much for him to play. I spent many nights over a few weeks stripping the instrument down and lovingly restoring it to new condition, showing it to him only weeks before he passed. He was very happy to see it so lovingly respected (pictured).



Drawing ever nearer to retirement after 38 years with Victoria Police, I feel blessed to have a passion and level of talent to make music an integral part of my life after my career. In 2013 I performed a concert for 200 Protective Services Officers at Bobby McGee's in Melbourne playing Kenny's Farfisa, and in October last year did a concert for 300 people at the Box Hill Civic Centre on my father's Paolo Soprani. (pictured below)



Recently I discovered a terrific European band called Ausseer BradlmuSi. Together with a Swedish accordionist I really admire who specialises in Frosini (Alf Hagedal), I spend much time playing along in an attempt to master some of their great pieces. However, in my opinion Toralf Tollefsen is the grand master of the accordion. His video rendition of the 'Cuckoo Waltz' (available for viewing on Youtube) is masterful and magnificent.

What a great instrument the accordion is! Although it is very versatile, I have concentrated on European waltzes, marches and polkas; I think that must be my father's influence coursing through my veins.

I would really love to crown my passion for the accordion with buying a Scandalli Super VI eventually. Whenever I hear an accordion; whether it be on a CD, at a restaurant like the Hofbrauhaus, in a shopping centre or in the city being played by a busker, my heart skips a beat.

I love the accordion!

Kind regards,

Michael



Without Music
Life would Bb



An E-FLAT, G-FLAT AND B-FLAT WALK
INTO A BAR



THE BARTENDER SAYS "SORRY WE DON'T
SERVE MINORS



Free Accordion Music

Many accordionists will already be enjoying the accordion arrangements by Don Quattrocchi but for those that have not, I have included a background article on Don Quattrocci (below).

His music is free to download and there are some great pieces from various eras. Accordions Alfresco even play one as part of their repertoire 'Cherry Pink and Apple Blossum White'. If you haven't been into his website before, I encourage you to do so and hope you enjoy some of his arrangements. Cheers.

Cheryle

Maestro Don Quattrocchi



Don Quattrocchi contributed most of his life promoting the piano accordion. During the 70s he had the largest music school in country Victoria in Australia.

During his career he taught music at Kilmore Assumption College, Notre Dame College and Goulbourn Valley Grammar School.

At that time there were no accordion exams in the state of Victoria. Don composed music for accordion exams which was accepted by the Australian Guild of Music and Speech.

Follow the link below for a huge list of **FREE SOLOS** – most are basic lead line. **EXCELLENT LIST with Videos too!**

<http://donquattrocchi.com/>

Franco Cambareri
Accordíonist, Composer, Producer

Melbourne composer Franco Cambareri was barely able to walk when he first heard the magic sound of the piano accordion – an instrument he promptly fell in love with and dreamed of one day possessing.

From the shores of the Calabria region of Italy and at the tender age of fifteen, Franco boarded the steamer Neptune to make the long voyage down under and soon after arriving in Melbourne he started working to help pay for the rest of his family to join him in Australia. Franco was seventeen when he finally had enough money to put a deposit on an accordion and pay for one music lesson per week – his determination to learn meant he spent many a long hour in study and practice.

In the early sixties Franco spent twelve months in Rome furthering his studies in music and on return to Australia he formed a Quintet, a band which met with instant success and enjoyed popularity on radio, television and at social clubs and night clubs around Melbourne.

With this experience and after releasing several EP records it was time to move on and in the mid sixties the Trio Franco was born, a combo that was to become so much in demand. They sometimes performed even two or three times a day.

The group was awarded second prize at the first ever-International Song Festival in Melbourne and went on to record and release a number of EP's and a full length LP album. One of the highlights of this period was the collaboration as producers and actors on the weekly television musical program "Carosello". There followed an overseas stint on the South Pacific Island of Fiji where the Trio Franco delighted audiences at many and varied venues.

During this time Franco somehow managed to also teach music and accordion to many young aspiring musicians and today some of Melbourne's finest can lay claim to having their careers initiated from those early lessons.

Franco finally stopped playing and performing in public in 1973 in order to pursue a totally different career path but when he eventually retired around Christmas 2000 the passion for music returned as strong as ever.



He decided to devote himself to composing the music he loved and to date has written some 220 original instrumental works and has 12 CDs to his credit. The first of these, "Tender Feelings" (released through Colossal Records of Australia), has been featured by a number of radio stations across the country and currently most of his music is published by Groovy Music Publishing (www.groovymusic.com.au) as well as many of his compositions are published overseas by Frosini Society (frosinisociety.org) and MusicForAccordion.com

One of Franco's compositions titled "Pour "Pour Aline" was amongst the top ten awarded in the instrumental category from thousands of entries in the Australian Songwriters Association 2007 Song writing Contest, he was awarded 9th place for this piece.

Another composition titled "Capricciosa" also featured on ABC Classic FM as part of the ABC's "Sunday Live" concerts, which are broadcasted throughout Australia and internationally through radio and the Internet. Guitarist Giuseppe Zangari and Flautist Sally Walker received enthusiastic applause for the performance of the song in a recital transmitted live from the Harold Lobb Concert Hall at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music.

Franco dedicates the music he writes to his family and friends of which he has many – not surprising for a man and musician whose inspiration for composition comes unmistakably from the heart.

A list of his music and purchase details may be found on the website: MusicForAccordion.com

Contact: ciccio_franco@hotmail.com



*This article has been extracted from the Franco Cambareri website
<http://www.musicforaccordion.com/inform/cfranco/index.htm>*

2018 March Guinness World Record Attempt, London-UK
by [Rob Howard](http://www.accordions.com) (*www.accordions.com*)



London-based Russian accordionist [Nikolai Ryskov](#) (picture left) is organizing an accordion world record attempt next year. The intention is to gather together accordionists all playing an easy version of ‘Libertango’ by Astor Piazzolla. This event will take place on Ryskovs birthday, March 11th 2018 in a central London location to be announced. There will be a whole program of music and dance with food and drinks available and accordion displays.

The world record attempt will monitored for the Guinness Book of Records and is not an easy record to achieve.

On the 20th July 2014 a new Guinness record total of 1,361 accordionists all playing together was set in Shenzhen, China (picture below). [2014HohnerReport](#)

Then in 20 August 2016 in Tacheng China, a new Guinness record of 1517 accordionists all playing together (picture above). Report at: [2016Tacheng](#)

A fun event is planned, aiming to raise the profile of our instrument.

For further information email: nryskov@gmail.com



Jon Persson Accordion Classes for Chinese Seafarers – Pacific Ocean

by [Rob Howard](http://www.accordions.com) (www.accordions.com)



Beginner accordion classes were recently conducted for Chinese passengers on a 3,000-passenger ship in the fleet of the Princess Cruise Line, one of the largest cruise lines in the world.

The classes were limited to 20 students, open to people aged 8-88, and were conducted by American pianist/accordionist, and long-time Princess Cruises musician Jon Persson. As the classes were only 30 minutes long, and held twice during each 5 day cruise, there was not a lot of time to delve deeply into accordion technique.

The lessons focused on a very easy tune that was familiar in many countries, and to the Chinese people, 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star'. Moreover, the accordions purchased by the cruise line were basically toy accordions, but were perfectly fine for this purpose. Persson is not a speaker of Mandarin, so it was necessary for the lessons to be translated by another member of the ships staff, which sometimes made the lessons move a bit more slowly than normal.

Nevertheless, the sessions were light-hearted and enjoyed by all, and well-attended, so that the 20 accordions provided were snapped up quickly by the early arrivals.

For further information email: jon@jonpersson.com

London Accordion Orchestra Album Launch, London – UK

by [Rob Howard](http://www.accordions.com) (www.accordions.com)

The London Accordion Orchestra (MD Ian Watson) concert and album launch was on Saturday March 11th, at the Union Chapel, London. The LAO's new album, 'Flight', featuring original compositions, was recorded at the world famous Abbey Rd Studios.

The CD or download, available from the LAO website and other sources from March 10th, has the following track listing: 'Karneval' (Matthew Scott), 'Flight – 1st movement – Origin' (Ian Watson), 'Flight – 2nd movement – Migration' (Ian Watson), 'Flight – 3rd movement – Arrival' (Ian Watson), 'Rhapsody' (Stuart Hancock), 'Clowns' (Ian Watson), 'Europa – 1st movement – Moscow' (Jason Carr), 'Europa – 2nd movement – Madrid' (Jason Carr), 'Europa – 3rd movement – Rome' (Jason Carr), 'Europa – 4th movement – Stockholm' (Jason Carr), '2012 – 1st movement – Fanfare' (Ian Watson), '2012 – 2nd movement – Cauldron' (Ian Watson), and '2012 – 3rd movement – Race' (Ian Watson).



The London Accordion Orchestra (previously the Morley Accordion Orchestra) was formed in 1999. In May 2013 the orchestra performed at the World Music Festival in Innsbruck, Austria, and in 2016, the orchestra returned to the World Music Festival and achieved second place in the Advanced Orchestra category, performing specially commissioned works from contemporary British composers, including Matthew Scott, Stuart Hancock and Ian Watson.

The orchestra has furthermore been invited to perform in Nuremberg, together with the widely recognised and award-winning Nuremberg Accordion Orchestra on April 30th 2017 to showcase original works by British composers in an international context.

For further information email:
i.watson99@googlemail.com



*NEWS FROM
NEW ZEALAND
ACCORDION ASSOCIATION*



New Work Performed and Recorded

The NZAA for many years has proudly commissioned new works for the accordion. Thanks to Jessica Chen for the work in obtaining funding for this long term project

2nd Rhapsody for Accordion and Orchestra by Gary Daverne was recorded at the Takapuna War Memorial Hall, Auckland, New Zealand, 11th December.



This was a New Zealand Accordion Association (NZAA) project and the work was commissioned by a grant from Foundation North Trust. Published on Dec 19, 2016.

Soloist Grayson Masefield performs with the North Shore Accordion Ensemble conducted by Lionel Reekie.

Ensemble players: Lian Jones, Campbell Bettridge, Alanah Jones, Jenna Murray, Kristina Roper, Stephanie Panzic, Catrina Lin, Alexandra Reekie.

You can view a youtube version of this on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWjcGTf2Cxo>

GOVERNMENT HOUSE INVITATION

By **Lionel Reekie**

As Patron of the New Zealand Accordion Association, Dame Patsy Reddy, the Governor-General invited representatives of the NZAA to the Bledisloe Garden Party held on Waitangi Day at Government House - Wellington. This formal event is held every year and for 2017 Elena and I were lucky enough to be able to attend.

Flying to Wellington on the day before, we were welcomed by clear skies, warm sunshine and an uncharacteristic light breeze. However, by the Monday afternoon Windy Wellington lived up to its reputation, with strong winds blowing directly over the North Lawn and creating quite some excitement for the catering staff. Trays of egg sandwiches, salmon baguettes, and sausage rolls were circulated around the 1800 guests, but one quickly learned to avoid the trays carrying glasses of wine and beer, after seeing them many times literally blown out of the waiters hands and spilling wine not only on the lawn but also down the pants of anyone standing too close! (On return to Auckland we identified at least one other passenger from our flight that must have attended based on the multiple large red wine stains all down his light coloured trousers!)

The crowd was quite a mix, with Ambassadors from many nations attending along with Parliamentarians and the Prime Minister all rubbing shoulders with representatives from all sectors of New Zealand society. This was a special opportunity for us to discuss the NZAA with people who were not previously aware of our organisation, nor the international competitions and events that our members support.

The formal part of the afternoon revolved around the Governor-General's speech on the history of Waitangi Day, and entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon by the New Zealand Army Band - resplendent in their red dress uniform. I was fascinated by their choice of repertoire. Kiwi classics like Pokarekare Ana, and E Ipo together with God Save the Queen and God Defend New Zealand were to be expected - BUT - the Theme to Austin Powers did seem a little out of place!!!!

Thank you to the New Zealand Accordion Association for offering us the opportunity to represent at this event, and also to past NZ Accordion Champion - Paula Harris who offered to put us up while we were in the Capital.

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I,
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.....
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