

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

# ACCORDION REVIEW



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*Cover: Finn Macdermid with the late Amos D’Pasqualle Story page 19.*

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Editors Vic newsletter

Margaret Berens & Holger Golinski



## *Hello from the Editor*

October is a busy time of year for many accordionists, with the Oktoberfest celebrations. Good luck to all who will be busy bringing the many German restaurants and cafes around the country to life with the sounds of oom pah pah.

Our thoughts go out to the D'Pasqualle family with the passing of Amos. Last edition we published a letter from Amos supporting Finn Macdermid on his trip to the NZ Championship.

Finn did a wonderful thing on his return, see article on page 19.

Italian Day at Birchgrove Public School in Sydney celebrated with everything Italian on the day, this included children dressing in Italian colours. Of course the accordion had to be on the agenda so Ben Pattinson and Sandra Mackay went along to an accordion show and tell and even had the children dancing the Tarantella, story page 8.

NSW Orchestra practice venue has moved from the All Hallows church to Russell Lea Primary School hall. We thank Glenny Grunfelder and the School Principal (a great support of the orchestra) for offering us the use of the hall free of charge. Address and other details are on page 7.

Accordions Alfresco and young players from the AATA performed at a concert at the Mosman Art Gallery on September 24th. The audience were wonderful and at the end I was approached by two people wishing to become ASA members, that's positive feedback. It was a lovely afternoon, story page 15,16.

Congratulations to Frank Moschella on being honoured with an OAM for his support of charitable organisations. Thank you to Frank for being a huge supporter of the ASA, refer page 20.

If members would like to continue their support for the ASA, memberships are now due. Full membership is \$40 and Accordion Review Subscriptions only \$18, details page 33.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on October 22 in Sydney and connections via Skype will be available for those wishing to participate, refer 6 for details.

Unfortunately no articles were received from Victoria for this edition. We all enjoy reading your stories so we would love to include some in our Dec issue.

Bye for now and Happy reading,

*Cheryle Mills*

## *Presidents Report*



Welcome to all members to the Octoberfest edition of the Accordion Review. NSW has been busy organising events including educational workshops, concert excursions and concert events to mention a few. There are many more things to organise especially at this very busy time of the year and early next year, any support you could give us is always greatly appreciated. Our focus this year has been to engage and encourage new and younger members. It is difficult to quantify your success in this area, it is terribly frustrating and can feel like you are only ever just scratching the surface. Perseverance pays off eventually and we are starting to see the results from our hard work from recent years.

In late August Sandra Mackay and I presented a workshop on the history of the accordion to Birchgrove Public School. 400 students were in attendance from kindergarten to year 6. We split the school into two groups and gave a 1 hour interactive presentation to students on the history and development of the accordion. The event was to be focused on the influence and traditions of instrument in its Italian context. Sandra and I decided that a more holistic approach would be more beneficial to students and for the promotion of the instrument. We learnt a great deal about the student's opinions and knowledge of the instrument (one girl said it looked like a toaster?). Two additional schools have shown great interest, we are now submitting proposals to these and others schools in the Sydney area.

With our focus on younger accordion players we decided many months ago to have a fundraising concert. We wanted to involve younger accordion players as well as our orchestra in Sydney which now has 13 players. We found a venue in Mosman, Mosman Art Gallery Community Centre. We featured 5 children between the ages of 4 and 11. We would like to welcome Janan Alim, Marko Butler, Timofey Prakhiv who were making their debut public performance, and Mita Tomasevik, to our ever-growing accordion family. Finlay MacDermid also performed as he often does with us. A great amount of time went into preparing for this event. Our orchestra were hard at it for 4 months learning all the new material. Tania Marx sent Mita and Janan to play, it is great to see both the AATA and ASA working together. The show was a huge success the audience loved it and

the room was full of excitement for a whole 80 mins. While many in the audience were friends and family it was great to see that many had come from the local area to see the accordion concert and were unknown to us previously. Stay tuned for information regarding our next concert.

In August the Accordion Society were asked to attend a concert under the directorship of Classical Accordion Virtuoso, James Crabb at the Opera House entitled Seven last words. James and the Momentum Ensemble presented works from Vivaldi, Piazzolla and Sofia Gubaidulina. James is a very talented performer and arranger, his music is emotive and passionate, he is a true joy to watch, we look forward to his next concert series. The momentum ensemble aims to help musicians develop a multi-faceted career. This is something that is very important to me as not only an accordion player but also as a musician. It is a great challenge for the Accordion Australia wide. Granted it is difficult to learn how to play an instrument however, it is ten times harder to know what to do with it once you do. There is a future for professional accordion players in Australia although the road seems difficult and elusive. We are here to help you and guide you.

May our futures be bright

*Benny Pattinson*

### *2017 ASA Annual General Meeting'*

All ASA members are being advised that the 2017 Accordion Society of Australia Congress and Annual General Meeting is to be held in Sydney on October 22nd;

**Time and date:** 9.30am Sunday 22 October  
**Venue:** Croydon Park Club  
55 Seymour St, Croydon Park NSW

Please send any agenda items to the Secretary Sandra Mackay [mackaynoyce@gmail.com](mailto:mackaynoyce@gmail.com) or President Ben Pattinson [ben.h.pattinson@gmail.com](mailto:ben.h.pattinson@gmail.com) so they may be included on the agenda. The agenda and other documentation will be sent out to members closer to the meeting date.

Interstate members and members from outside Sydney will be able to connect to the meeting using Skype. Details of the Skype account to connect to will be provided with the agenda.

## *Accordions Alfresco have moved !!*

NSW Orchestras venue for their Monday night practice is now held at:

**Russell Lea Primary School Hall  
1 Lithgow Street, Russell Lea.**

Thank you to Glenny who was able to secure this hall free of charge. Practice is held each **Monday 7pm to 9pm** and everyone is welcome, so grab your accordion and come along, we'd love to see you.



---

## *Lunchtime Entertainers*

On Sunday 6th August, our President Ben Pattinson along with Amelia and Dominique entertained over 200 at a Luncheon for Our Lady of Monte Alto in Five Dock.

Guest danced the Tarantella and sang to the Italian songs the Trio played.

Funds raised on the day were used to purchase a new gold Thurible for St Joseph's Church Enfield.



## *Accordion Workshop at Birchgrove Public School World Italian Day*

Birchgrove Public School held a great event for World Italian Day in August. All the kids were asked to wear something in the Italian colours. There was bocce and soccer and woodfired pizza and, most importantly, accordion music.

I think it is fair to say that Ben Pattinson and I don't usually play to such a young crowd! However, in the spirit of spreading the word about our favourite instrument to future players, we somewhat nervously arrived at the school ready to deliver what we hoped would be a crowd-pleasing workshop on the accordion to over 250 children. The first group were Pre Kindy to Year 2. The second group were the older children from Year 3-6.

We played a few well known lively Italian tunes and the audience threw themselves wholeheartedly into the clapping and percussion activities we had prepared for them. In fact, they could not get enough of clapping, with some of the little ones rather inexplicably insisting on clapping their own heads instead of their partner's hands.

We also talked with them about the history and components of the accordion, and they had lots of ideas that they were willing to contribute all at once.

They loved the story about spiders being the inspiration for the Tarantella. We also were brave (or foolhardy) enough to teach a number of volunteers from the younger group some dance steps to the Neapolitan Tarantella. (Credit for choreography goes to a couple of Italian girls dancing in their garden on You Tube!) What the younger ones lacked in coordination, they very much made up for in enthusiasm. Some of the older group had been taught a tarantella in their folk dancing class and got up on the stage and danced while we played the tune faster and faster.

Ben had prepared a display of several disassembled accordions and an old button accordion. At the end of the workshops the children came up and pushed a few buttons had a really close look at how accordions work.

In fact their enthusiasm overall was really infectious. We had a great time and left pleased to have shared the pleasure that accordion music can bring, and very much in awe of primary school teachers who have to work that crowd every day!

**Sandra Mackay**





# FERRA GOSTO



**AUGUST  
2017**

*In August each year Ferragosto is celebrated by Italian communities across the world. The sound of the accordion at an Italian festival is a must so we were not surprised ASA members in Sydney and Griffith joined the festivities.*

## **SYDNEY**

The Sydney suburb of Five Dock celebrated its 20th anniversary of Ferragosto on August 20th and since its humble beginnings, Ferragosto has grown into Sydney's main Italian festival with close to 120,000 people visited the event across the day. Organisers advertised the event with a poster on Sydney State Transit buses and we were thrilled to see our own Dominique Granturco smiling at us from the back of the bus, part of that poster is shown below.



## FERRAGOSTO

Ferragosto is an ancient Italian festival celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August that dates back to the Romans and incorporated by the Christian faith and later by popular culture

### ROMAN ORIGINS

The term Ferragosto from the Latin expression Feriae Augusti (Augustus rest) indicating a festivity set up by emperor Augustus 18BC. Ferragosto was an addition to the existing festivals which fell in August. The ancient Ferragosto had the purpose of linking the main festivities to provide a period of rest called Augustali, necessary after the hard labour of the previous weeks. The festivities included horse racing, and the labour animals like oxen and donkeys were rested and decorated with flowers.



### RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE

The Catholic Church celebrates this date as a Holy Day of Obligation to commemorate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Before Christianity this holiday was celebrated in the Roman empire to honour the gods, in particular Diana, and the cycle of fertility and ripening.

### RISE OF THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY DURING FASCISM

Starting from the second half of the 1920's, in the mid August period, the regime organised, through the Fascist leisure and recreational organisations, hundreds of popular trips, due to the setting up of the "Peoples Trains of Ferragosto", at discounted prices. This gave opportunity to less well off families to travel and it was during these trips the majority of Italian families would see the mountains, the cities of art and the sea.



## *Griffith celebrates Ferragosta*

Scalabrini Village Griffith held a Mass in their Chapel on Tuesday August 15th to celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by celebrations at 3pm in the central courtyard area which came alive with music and fun and a lovely afternoon tea.

Scalabrini village residents sang, clapped and some even danced along with Lou Forner who took the time to entertain our seniors, an enjoyable day. Many thanks Lou your playing put smiles on their faces it was just wonderful .

Cheers Joe



## *Griffiths Salami Festa*

God bless Griffith, for those that have not been able to visit yet it's a must to come and enjoy the most friendly people you would ever meet. Griffith has many functions throughout the year, I must say Salami Festa is a weekend that should not be missed. From it's humble beginnings 18 years ago with 40 or so people maybe 2 salami to judge, yours truly playing a few tunes around 4 tables Mr Roy Catanzariti ,Nigel Ippoliti ,Frank Perosin and committee brought it to what we have this year ,2 huge marques more than 1100 wonderful people that travelling from many towns and cities around Australia and many of them entering their salami trying to take out first prize .



Saturday is judging day this year more than 120 entries were received, the 24 judges had the task of selecting number one .



Nigel Ippoliti slicing the salami being helped by another 'number one' salami maker Ferruccio Fattore.

Roy Catanzariti preparing for judging together with Pino Foresti from Sydney (Dolce Vita Fine Foods)



Joe with John Mangos



That evening Casella Family Wines C E O John Casella together with his wife Nancy invited judges and families with their guests to their wine cellar dinner amazing evening thanks to Jim Salvestro with his portable mini bongos made the night more entertaining .Sunday was just great all had a taste of top ten salami with John Mangos being master of ceremonies ,and this time My Kitchen Rules stars Martino Convertino and Luciano Ippoliti also entertained through the day . Well after a couple of hours of music and formalities the dance floor filled to capacity as the band played on till late arvo thanks to Jaya ,Jim , Frank for taking part again to entertain yet another great crowd.

Saturday evening the squeeze box was kept busy as the buses rolled into Griffith for the Salami Festa, many guests sang and danced to his wonderful sound and melodies from Bruno .

Once again well done first with the acoustic accordion around the tables then the wonderful sound of the Roland accordion .

Cheers Joe



The Band  
Joe ,Frank ,Jim ,Jaya



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## Mosman Art Gallery Concert

Cheryle Mills

What a wonderful venue! On Sunday September 24th at 2pm, the NSW orchestra 'Accordions All-fresco' held a concert at Mosman Art Gallery Community Hall on Sydney north shore.

Prior to the day, I must admit I expected a modern hall attached to an Art Gallery, but wow, I never expected an old church complete with cathedral ceilings and stained glass windows, what a pleasant surprise.

The stage was quite small but we found it worked to our advantage as we could seat the 1st and 2nd accordions on the stage with the remaining players in front.

The concert was opened with bright, happy tunes 'Happy Wanderer' and 'España Cani'. The acoustics were excellent so after our opening pieces we were all smiles and pleased we were able to hear each other.

Ben has always encouraged young accordionists to participate so we were thrilled to be able to include five children aged 4 to 11 in our program. Timofey Prakhyy and Marko Butler, pupils of Ben Pattinson, performed and played well.



A trio by Glenny Grunfelder, Maria Worthington and Ben Pattinson followed with 'El Relicario'. The Orchestra continued with more pieces including Fascinating Rhythm, a new piece to most of the group, so very pleased we could successfully incorporate it into our repertoire, it definitely has a fascinating and off beat rhythm!

Janan Alim and Mita Tomasevik, both Tania Marx students, performed and did a wonderful job. Mita managed extremely well and didn't miss a beat when the fan blew his music book closed twice! He didn't attempt to reopen it so I rushed in and only when I attached a clip to the page did it stay open, I am convinced Mita did not need the music, well done Mita!

Dominic Granturco and myself then performed 'Clarinet Polka' as a duet which was fun then a solo by 9yo Finn Macdermid, a pupil of Cathy Day, Finn played very well.

The concert continued with 'The Pink Panther', 'Go West', 'Rhapsodia Andalusia' and finished with a Ross Maio arrangement 'True Blue Medley'. The

audience were wonderful so we completed the concert with an encore of Zillertaler, to which the entire audience clapped along.

Afternoon tea was available to everyone. It was a very successful and profitable afternoon with two unknown audience members asked to join the ASA. Thank you to Sylvia Granturco for a fantastic job organising the entire day including the venue, afternoon tea, lucky door prizes and much more, we all greatly appreciate your efforts. *Cheryle*





## *James Crabb—Accordion Virtuoso*

In August eight Accordion Alfresco members went to the Sydney Opera House to attend a concert titled 'Seven Last Words' under the directorship of Classical Accordion Virtuoso, James Crabb.

Soloists James Crabb with Julian Smiles on Cello demonstrated the versatility of their instruments with some very diverse works. Also present were some of Australia's best young instrumentalists from Momentum Ensemble, powered by the Australian Youth Orchestra. They presented works from Vivaldi, Piazzolla and Sofia Gubaidulina.



*James Crabb  
with Accordions  
Alfresco mem-  
bers*



*Home time!*

# *SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS*

## **NEW GUINNESS RECORD - LARGEST ACCORDION ENSEMBLE**

Who:

China Accordion Association of Chinese Musicians, Shenzhen Bao'an District People's Government, China Accordion Association of Chinese Musicians

Where:

China (Shenzhen)

When:

24 July 2017

What:

The largest accordion ensemble consists of 2,260 participants and was achieved by Shenzhen Bao'an District People's Government, China Accordion Association of Chinese Musicians and Shenzhen Accordion Association (all

China) in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China, on 24 July 2017.

The accordion ensemble lasted for 6 minutes and 5 seconds



Like to support the ASA?

Now is the time to renew your Membership or accordion review subscription.

It is so easy with direct debit/Bank transfer.

Refer pages 34, 35 for details

Readers may remember the letter in our previous edition from Amos D'Pasqualle to Finn Macdermid in support of his recent trip to the New Zealand championships. After Finns return, Finn was very keen to meet and thank Amos so flew to Qld with his grandmother Maria Worthington to say thank you.....

### *Finn plays for Amos*

Finn Macdermid visited the Prince Charles Palliative Care Unit in Brisbane where his dear friend and Accordion enthusiast Amos D'Pasqualle was resident. It was an emotional and joyous moment for both of them.

Finn played some of Amos's favourite songs which Amos enjoyed as did the other residents there on the day.



### *In Memory*

*Sadly Amos De Pasqualle passed away on September 20th. He went peacefully and is no longer suffering. Mr De Pasqualle was a long term and generous member of the Accordion Society.*

*Our thoughts go out to his family and friends, he will be sadly missed. RIP*

*Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia  
Frank Moschella*



Congratulations to ASA member Francesco (Frank) Giuseppe MOSCHELLA on being honoured with an OAM for his service to the community through a range of organisations.

Frank supports many charitable organisations and has been a wonderful supporter of the Accordion Society of Australia. On behalf of the ASA I would like congratulate Frank on his achievement and thank him very much for the support and generosity he has given to our society.

Regards, Cheryle Mills

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Thank you note below from Leo Mazzei

*Dear Cheryle,*

*I have just finished reading your June edition for the fifth time with my eyes welling up (also for the fifth time). The last couple of months have been a very trying time for me as the passing of my father affected me greatly. He was my mentor, my teacher, my hero and above all, a very loving and great father.*



*The space you dedicated to his tribute and the very kind and flattering words by yourself, Ross Maio, Ben Pattinson, June Jones and our own Marie McGuinness were very much heartfelt and appreciated and I'm sure that Dad would be tickled pink.*

*I thank you very much from the bottom of my heart.*

*Warm Regards,*

*Leo Mazzei*

*PS Even though I don't play anymore, I still look forward to receiving your magazine and enjoy reading it and keeping up with the accordion world.*

### *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.

### *Ben Pattinson*

October 6th, 7th, 14th, 21st, 27th to celebrate Oktoberfest:

*Bavarian Bier Café*

*2-8 Phillip Street, Parramatta.*

**Every band exists because  
people took the time to  
listen, to go to shows, to buy  
albums, to spread the  
word..... Music talent is  
everywhere!! Help and  
support your fellow  
musicians!!**



14th  
October  
2017



9:00 a.m. - Walk Up and Play  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. - Morning Tea  
12:00 Noon - Lunch  
1:00 p.m. - Main Concert  
3:00 - 3:30 p.m. - Afternoon Tea  
6:00 p.m. - Dinner

7:00 p.m. till late - Old Time Dance  
Food and Drinks available

Licensed Bar in the afternoon and during the dance



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Adults \$10 (Dance only)  
Children under 15 Free  
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E: [maclagansqueezeboxfest@gmail.com](mailto:maclagansqueezeboxfest@gmail.com) W: [www.maclagansqueezeboxfestival.org](http://www.maclagansqueezeboxfestival.org)

Find us on Facebook- Maclagan Squeezebox Festival

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*Here is another accordionist in our series to locate accordionists to see where and what they are doing now. Here we have John Pollock Young from Devonport, Tasmania. John is an Accordion Teacher and his details may be found in the 'Teachers Directory' at back of this review.*

**Name:** John Pollock Young

*When and where did you start to learn the accordion?* About 1999, Devonport, Tasmania

*How old were you?* 56

*Who was your first teacher?* Myself

*Were there any other teachers involved in your musical education?* I was classically taught on piano when I was about 8 yrs of age in Scotland.

*Your first accordion was a?* Baille 48 Bass / 12 x 4

*What make and model accordion(s) do you have now?*

- 1) Beltuna 3-voice 96 Bass
- 2) Beltuna 4-voice 96 Bass

*Who or what most inspired you during your musical education?* Classically trained on piano, used to play piano at University Union (for Beer!). Played Dixiland Trombone. Taught myself guitar in my 20's. I have always played music on several different instruments—now teach them all. I can read music and play by ear. Bit of a 'Loner' musically

*Tell us about your music achievements, family and has your involvement with the accordion helped you in your journey through life?*

When I was 8 years of age I was sent for piano lessons, which I took for five years, quitting when I attended high school. I was taught very well by a 'Classical' lady, and I still draw on her teachings in my own capacity as teacher. I learned all about the Three Chord theory, key circles, relative majors and minors, etc., so this has stood me in good stead all my life. I was born in 1943, by the way.

At the High School of Glasgow (founded 1184!), I began learning the trombone, and ended up playing in our 60 piece school orchestra. Several of the lads wanted to start a jazz band, and I took up an interest in that. We played

for school dances, tennis club dances and the like. That is why I have a very comprehensive chord-knowledge. You don't find much use for that when playing the Brandenburg Concerto, although I can still hear chord progressions in what is commonly called 'Classical Music'. Trad. Jazz was all we played back in those days, and band leaders like Kenny Ball, The Dutch Swing College and Acker Bilk were all to the fore. We even supported Kenny at a concert he gave in Glasgow about 1960. Sadly, with the advent of rock music and The Beatles, traditional jazz was given the big body-swerve!

When I attended university I used to play piano in the Union, and have staggered back to my digs many times in the wee sma' hours having downed a few 'nippy sweeties'. One of the fellows in the digs was trying to learn the guitar and I borrowed it from him, bought a book of chord shapes and began to teach myself that instrument.

A girlfriend came along, and we eventually were married in 1966. She was not very supportive of my musical pursuits, and it caused a few problems to say the least. We came to Australia in 1972, settling in Devonport, Tasmania and were too involved with establishing ourselves for me to be occupied with music, so it was put on the back-burner for a while. However back in 1982 I wrote an anthem for the City of Devonport when it was declared a city by Prince Charles.

The years went by and when I was about 56 I had the good fortune to come by a Baille 48 bass piano accordion. It had always been a bit of a 'mystery' instrument but after I realised that the bass section was simply the circles of fourths and fifths, I was up and running with it. I bought and sold many accordions before settling on a 96 bass Beltuna 3-voice, which is a beautiful instrument and suits me right down to the ground. I also have a Beltuna 4-voice, mint, new condition (which is for sale), but I prefer the 3-voice, as it is lighter (I am nearly 74).



I sold the 3-voice Beltuna away back in 1999 to a member of the Accordion Society, as I wished to buy a Balkan Star (I was a lot younger then) and this cost me my marriage, and nearly ruined my business as a video-producer. However a friend and ex-student of mine happened to tell me that the person I had sold it to had offered it to him, and he bought it. Well, can you imagine how much I wanted that instrument back? It took me 5 years of pressuring, cajoling, and damned near murder for me to get it back. It also cost me a lot of money as I had eventually bought ANOTHER 96 bass Beltuna to replace the one I had bought back from him. Beware the wrath of a patient man!.....  
Phew!

However the 3-voice 96 bass Beltuna is now back where it belongs and the circle is complete. I was lucky that this person sold it in Devonport or I would never had known about it. This instrument also has Foster and Allen's auto-graphs in the bellows, which makes it even more precious! I use it to play at retirement homes, senior citizens clubs and the like, also playing the piano. I play some modern material and a lot of singalong stuff, which is what the old-ies like. I also teach piano, accordion and guitar, and I do some simple repairs to accordions. The big music shops in Tassie pass their enquiries on to me. My business has gone from strength to strength, despite divorce, near ruin, and being a basket-case (I now own two 'Mercs'). Unfortunately my only child, a daughter, despite having two University degrees, shows no aptitude for music (she takes after my ex-wife!), I hope her two children reverse the trend! Yes, music has played a pivotal part in my life, and continues to do so.

Thank you.

John P. Young



How do you get an accordionist to play in time?  
Get them to play by themselves.

What is the definition of an optimist?  
An accordion player with a pager



"Hold it right there, copper!  
— One step closer and I play 'Lady of Spain'!"

## *A Violin with Three Strings*

*Jack Riemer*

On Nov 18, 1995, Itzhak Periman, the violinist, came on stage to give a concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City.

If you have ever been to a Periman concert, you know that getting on stage is no small achievement for him. He was stricken with polio as a child, and so he has braces on both legs and walks with the aid of two crutches. To see him walk across the stage one step at a time, painfully and slowly, is an awesome sight.

He walks painfully, yet majestically, until he reaches his chair. Then he sits down, slowly, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, tucks one foot back and extends the other foot forward. Then he bends down and picks up the violin, puts it under his chin, nods to the conductor and proceeds to play.

By now, the audience is used to this ritual and remain reverently silent and wait until he is ready to play.

But this time, something went wrong. Just as he finished the first few bars, one of the strings on his violin broke. You could hear it snap—it went off like gunfire across the room. There was no mistaking what that sound meant. There was no mistaking what he had to do.

We figured that he would have to get up, put on the clasps again, pick up the crutches and limp his way off stage— to either find another violin or else find another string for this one. But he didn't. Instead, he waited a moment, closed his eyes and then signalled the conductor to begin again.

The orchestra began, and he played from where he had left off. And he played with such passion and such power and such purity as they had never heard before.

Of course, anyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings. I know that, you know that, but that night Itzhak Periman refused to know that.

You could see him modulating, changing, re-composing the piece in his head. At one point, it sounded like he was de-tuning the strings to get new sounds from them that they had never made before.

When he finished, there was an awesome silence in the room, and then people rose and cheered. There was an extraordinary outburst of applause from every corner of the auditorium. We were all on our feet, screaming and cheering, doing everything we could to show how much we appreciated what he had done.

He smiled, wiped the sweat from his brow, raised his bow to quiet us, and then he said—not boastfully, but in a quiet, pensive, reverent tone—“You know, sometimes it is the artist’s task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left.”

What a powerful line that is. It has stayed in my mind ever since I heard it. And who knows? Perhaps that is the definition of life—not just for artists but for all of us.

Here is a man who has prepared all his life to make music on a violin of four strings, who, all of a sudden, in the middle of a concert, finds himself with only three strings; so he makes music with three strings, and the music he made that night with just three strings was more beautiful, more sacred, more memorable, than any that he had ever made before, when he had four strings,

So, perhaps our task in this shaky, fast-changing, bewildering world in which we live is to make music, at first with all that we have, and then, when that is no longer possible, to make music with what we have left.

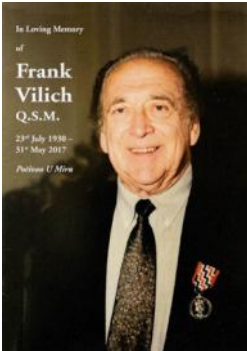


*Thank you to Maria Worthington for sending in this article.*

# NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION



## In Memory of **Frank Vilich QSM, NZAATC,** **23 July 1930 to 31 May 2017**



Frank's musical career commenced at the tender age of five years when his father gave him a ukulele. Although his father was a guitarist and singer Frank's preferred instrument was to be the accordion. He was given a concertina when he was seven, and an accordion for his 10th birthday.

His early years were spent in Australia where he learned drums, playing them in the Broken Hill Junior Boys Brass Band. In these early years, Frank was involved in entertaining as a child accordionist on the radio and later while in Sydney he formed his own dance band. While living in Sydney his accordion was stolen from a train, but this misfortune was compensated for, when he made music with a Dalmatian group, an activity he loves and is renowned for.

In 1951 Frank made a visit to NZ where he travelled to Dargaville to meet a number of his countrymen who reside in that area. One evening he was invited to a dance and on returning to his seat, he found a lady and her very attractive daughter had occupied his vacant seat. He soon became acquainted with that beautiful daughter Stephanie Sutich and she became the reason he stayed in NZ, and a little later she became his wife.

After he settled in Dargaville, Frank was to contribute to making it one of the centres of the accordion in NZ. Although a small town, at its peak, it boasted six accordion bands and has produced some of NZ's best accordionists. Frank soon started teaching the accordion and formed the Frank Vilich Accordion Band (FVAB) as well as performing with the Dargaville Tamburica Orchestra.

His accordion band never accepted fees for their performances even though they travelled over much of Northland and performed ten or twelve times per year for many charity functions.

They were instrumental in raising thousands of dollars for these charities. The

accordion Museum in Dargaville currently has memorabilia on display from these times.

It was a sad day for Dargaville when Frank left to live in Auckland. However Auckland has benefited from his enthusiasm for music and the accordion and once again Frank began teaching and formed the Frank Vilich Revival Accordion Band, which, as it had done in Dargaville, delighted so many people with performances of Dalmatian and other types of music.

Here in Auckland the dominant feature has been helping good causes without accepting remuneration. Frank often returned to Dargaville to entertain at various functions held by the community.

In addition to these activities Frank has judged regularly at the NZ Accordion Championships, and played for a number of years at night clubs and restaurants.

During his brief tenure as President of the NZAA he initiated a picnic and a regular Association Ball. While living in the North he was a member of the first music group to make a recording in that area and in later years while residing in Auckland he has recorded for local radio stations.

Frank is a Life Member of the New Zealand Accordion Association. In 1990, Frank Vilich was awarded the Accordion Examination Board of New Zealand Merit Award. In 1996 Frank Vilich was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for Community Service (QSM) in the New Zealand, New Years Honours of the NZ Government.

Frank has entertained at retirement homes for many years, both in groups and as a soloist. During his lifetime he has given pleasure to tens of thousands.

Thank you Frank Vilich.



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**APPLICATION/RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION**



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(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)

I, .....  
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of .....  
(address)

Phone ..... Email .....

hereby apply to become a member **OR RENEW** my membership of the abovementioned association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

.....  
Signature of applicant Date

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It is very helpful if stories and photos are emailed to Cheryle to avoid the need to retype and scan. Thank you.

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