

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

# ACCORDION REVIEW



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*Cover: The Melbourne Accordion Orchestra in the ABC Studio, story page 9.*

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## A.S.A.(inc.NSW) COMMITTEE DIRECTORY



### ASA (inc NSW) Headquarters

51 Bogalara Road,  
Old Toongabbie NSW 2146

President	Ben Pattinson email: ben.h.pattinson@gmail.com mobile: 0432 032 758
Vice President	Silvia Kocic email: s.kocic@hotmail.com mobile: 0403 491 780
Secretary	Sandra Mackay email: mackaynoyce@gmail.com mobile: 0422 105 147
Treasurer	Vince Granturco email: granvs@bigpond.com phone: (02) 9636 2674
Fundraising & Public Relations	Sylvia Granturco email: granvs@bigpond.com mobile: 0422 936 612
Co Musical Directors	Amelia Granturco & Dominique Granturco email: granturcomusic@gmail.com
Accordion Review Editor	Cheryle Mills PO Box 442, Mallacoota Vic 3892 email: cherylemills66@gmail.com mobile: 0414 915 154
<u>Victorian sub-committee</u>	
President	John Kalkbrenner Snr email: johncomputer1939@gmail.com
Vice President	Frank Berens (refer Margaret below)
Secretary	Holger Golinski email: holgs13@yahoo.com.au
Treasurer/Public Relations Officer	Margaret Berens 9 Bottlebrush Circuit, Bangholme 3175 mobile: 0402 452 955 margaretberens2@optusnet.com.au
Editors Vic newsletter	Margaret Berens & Holger Golinski



## *Hello from the Editor*

Welcome to the September edition which delivers some exciting news. Firstly congratulations to Finn Macdermid on achieving 2nd place in the **WORLD** in his age category at the World Championships in China. My goodness how proud are we all of Finn, well done!

China was a stressful time for Finn and his grandmother Maria, and unrelated to the competition, story on pages 7, 8.

Congratulations also to George Butrumlis and the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra on the success of their recent interview on the ABC 'The Music Show'. I thoroughly recommend you listen to the link on page 9, and read all about their upcoming concert at the Caravan Club.

Since the flyer for the Maclagan Squeezebox Festival appeared in our last edition, Accordions Alfresco will don check shirts, boots and hats and head to Qld on Oct 11th. What a great opportunity to promote the instrument we all love and to have some fun. Twenty one of us are going, 11 accordionists and 10 family members. Big thanks to our great team for organising the trip and the additional performances on Friday in Toowoomba. The first is at the High St shopping centre at 12noon followed by a 3pm concert at St Stephens Church.

A very important date I am looking forward to is the Masterclass planned for November 17. Details will be posted on our Facebook page closer to the event.

Thank you to those that contributed to this edition and please keep your news coming in. The next edition is December so I hope to receive your Oktoberfest and Christmas news.

*Cherylep*

## *Presidents Report*



With the Oktoberfest, due to start on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September the Accordion Society is guns a blazing for the season. We are looking forward to presenting you with many exciting events that will capture your accordion interest. I am looking forward to engaging with our community of enthusiasts and growing together musically.

Accordions Alfresco are travelling to Maclagan in Queensland for the Maclagan Squeeze Box Festival on the 11-13 October. The Maclagan Squeezebox festival <https://www.maclagansqueezeboxfestival.org> is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year and we can't wait to get up there and join in the celebrations. We would particularly like to thank Sandra Mackay, Amelia and Dominique Granturco for all their hard work in preparing the group for the event. It has been a considerable undertaking as we decided to prepare many new arrangements which have given us countless hours of rehearsal and hard work. A big well done to everyone and we are looking forward to our concerts in Maclagan and Toowoomba on Friday and Saturday. Keep your eye out as I will be playing a guest spot at the Bavarian Toowoomba restaurant from 6-9PM on Friday night.

The Melbourne Accordion Orchestra (MAO) led by George Butrumlis were guests on the ABC's [The Music Show](#) with Robyn Archer in July. It was a pleasure to listen to George talk about his experiences with the accordion over his career and describe the current status of the accordion in Australia as he sees it now and what may be awaiting it in the future. George has long been an ambassador for the instrument as well as being a brilliant arranger and musician. You can listen to the interview, refer page 9. We look forward to more from George in the future. If you would like to see both George and MAO play they are coming together for a rare event

with Zydeco Jump for information check out [Zydeco Jump and MAO](#).

The Belle Property Balmain Fun Run is on again this year and I would like to invite as many accordion players along as we can muster. Last year we put together a team of four accordion players, my partner Mardi also ran. Please contact us if you would like to run or support us in the event. The Belle Property Balmain Fun Run is setup to support our kids and get our community active. If you think you can do 5 kilometres and play a few tunes along the way come on down or come and support us. We will post some classic running songs closer to the event on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/accordionsocietyofaustralia/>, for you to learn. Further information is available at <http://www.balmainfunrun.com.au>

I have long suggested that we will soon host our next masterclass workshops, originally proposed for October this year. With Maclagan, our main focus we decided to wait for another time. Our next classes will be on Sun 17<sup>th</sup> November. We are fortunate that Grayson Masefield <http://www.accordions.com/gmasefield/>, will be travelling to Australia at this time and willing to participate in our event. Grayson Masefield was most helpful in providing performance tips to Finlay Macdermid (Finn) who recently competed against 236 Students as part of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Coupe Mondiale competition in Shenzhen China. Finn not only competed against 236 students aged 10-11 years, he was placed second. A great testament to a great performer. Finn is taught by Catherine Day who has tirelessly devoted many hours to his musical tuition and shaped him into a great performer. The Accordion society looks forward to his next challenge.

Never stop dreaming, we can do amazing things

*Ben Pattinson*

## Congratulations Finn!!

### *A Winner in the 2019 World championships in China*

Well done to Finn Macdermid in achieving **2nd place (Silver Medal)** in the 2019 Coup Mondiale **World Championships for 10 and 11 year olds**, held recently in Shenzhen China. What a fantastic achievement!

Finn went to China with his grandmother Maria Worthington and their Chinese neighbour Wincey (pictured right with Finn waiting to play). Maria said the entire trip was an experience and was encouraged to share it with us:

“The competition was intense with nervous parents fanning their kids with fans making them even more nervous while Finn just sat and read a book. There were 236 competitors in the 1B section for 10 and 11 year olds which Finn was in and it took **two and a half days to process** with a panel of 5 judges.

Ten competitors entered the hall at a time with no friends or family permitted. Some competitors were in for a shock when they found no music was permitted. Finn had no intentions of using music for his piece ‘Bel Viso’ polka.



When Finn read that he had won 2nd place and Silver medal, he thought there had been a mistake, he couldn't believe his luck.”

Credit must also go out to his teacher Cathy Day, congratulations!

Finn will receive the actual Certificate and Silver medal in the mail.

Winners placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd have been asked to compete in Germany in May 2020! Finn is very keen to compete so he is busy busking to raise money for the trip.

The trio had a lot more excitement away from the competitions as well ...

The owner of a restaurant that their Chinese neighbour Wincey frequents when she returns to China, was very pleased to see her and when they learned that Finn was an accordionist they offered him a free meal if he would play in the restaurant. Finn was very keen and obliged (photo right) and was having a lovely night until they brought out his dinner! Roast Duck complete with **head and beak!** Needless to say Finn could not eat this wonderful Chinese delicacy, he just felt sooo sorry for the duck.



Train travel in China was also an experience when they decided to do some sightseeing. With 50 platforms and train passengers packed in like sardines, the trio proceeded to board a train. Wincey boarded first followed

by Maria however a man looking at his phone pushed in front of Finn, the doors closed, leaving Finn on the platform and the train left!! Oh my goodness, Maria signalled to Finn to stay there. Meanwhile Finn approached a security guard to tell him “my grandmother has left me behind”. Security did not speak English and asked Finn to type into his phone which was installed with a translation app. Ah ah, he understood his dilemma.

Transport security was amazingly efficient and CCTV of the platform showed Maria boarding the train. No problems, his grandmother has been identified, so Maria can now be located.

However in the meantime Wincey had caught a return train back to the station and being very pleased to see Finn she proceeded to take him away . “NO, NO” insisted Security as this was not Maria and could well have been a kidnapper. Finn using the Securities translation app, and with suggested dialogue from Wincey, was able to explain that Wincey was my grandmothers friend and my Nanny. Finn was released to Wincey to finally be reunited with Maria. It must have been a stressful time for all and a very happy reunion.

## *ABC Music Show features MAO*

The Melbourne Accordion Orchestra (MAO) was recently featured on ABC's Radio National's 'The Music Show'. George Butrumlis, Musical Director of MAO was interviewed by Robyn Archer and the MAO performed 3 songs Live-In-The-Studio. It is a fascinating interview and an exquisite recording of the music says Tracey Claire who has taken over the management of the Orchestra.

To listen to the program, select the link below:

[https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/musicshow/mao\\_bw.jpg/11339004](https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/musicshow/mao_bw.jpg/11339004)





## *Zydeco Jump with the MAO*

ZYDECO JUMP are reforming by popular demand for a reunion show on **NOVEMBER 17th** (with the **Melbourne Accordion Orchestra**). This will be the first time ZYDECO JUMP have performed at the Caravan Music Club since their Farewell Show in 2014 – a legendary gig which sold out immediately.

**ZYDECO JUMP** was formed in 1988 by **George Butrumlis** and **Drummer Gary Samolin**. Starting out at The Club Dancing Bar in Smith St. Collingwood, ZYDECO JUMP soon became one of Melbourne's most popular bands packing out venues and dance floors.

The show will be an exciting and revitalised version of the wild mixture of Zydeco influenced two-steps, waltzes, blues and boogie that ZYDECO JUMP are famous for and featuring Justin Brady, harmonica legend and guest bass Player, Mark Ferrie from the RockWiz Orchestra. **MELBOURNE ACCORDION ORCHESTRA** will be supporting **ZYDECO JUMP** at this once-in-a-lifetime gig. MAO are a fresh and eclectic accordion orchestra who offer Led Zeppelin, David Bowie, Kurt Weill and some classic Aussie rock in their repertoire.

**MAO will perform at the Caravan Club, Bentleigh East, Vic @ 3pm , Nov 17**

For full details;

<https://www.caravanmusic.com.au/gigs/zydeco-jump-with-the-melbourne-accordion-orchestra/>

## *Accordions by the Beach*

On Sunday September 8th 2019 Accordions Alfresco joined together with Evergreen Music to put on a fabulous afternoon of Music. The concert was called "Accordions By The Beach" and it was our first performance on Sydney's Northern Beaches, we are slowly getting our music out to more areas of Sydney and it is very exciting.

The concert was opened by *The Evergreen Wednesday Singers* who performed a number of tunes, many of which were Acapella. We were then serenaded by young Accordion student Marco and finally Accordions Alfresco



took to the stage to perform the repertoire we are preparing for our trip to the Squeeze Box Festival in Maclagan next month. The concert was closed by both ensembles performing *Hey Brother* together.

After the performances we shared a wonderful afternoon tea together with the audience and chatted about all things Accordion. Looking forward to seeing you at our next event!





# News from Griffith

by Joe Staltare

It has been a busy time in Griffith so I thought I'd send some photos of what has been happening 'musically' around the town.

## Salami Fiestas 20th Year

This year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Salami Fiesta and it was once again amazing with 1200 or more people filling the twin marquee to enjoy lots of food and lots of Griffith wine, as they waited for the winner of the top ten finalists of homemade salami to be announced.



Once again the Band Kactus kept everyone entertained from 12.00 until 4.30. A big thank you to Prestine Audi, and great work by Mark (Griffith's own Sound Engineer) .



L-R: Kevin, Jim, Dr. Jaya, Joe and Frank



Joe and Mark

## *Music time for Seniors Week*

Another wonderful week of activities was held around Griffith for our elderly. Then 'Sing Australia Choir' sang many favourites with The Flamingo's keeping all the seniors in time and then they demonstrated how they could Dance the Duck Dance. Ha!!! an amazing day.



## *Dinner Dance at Retirement Village*

We attended a Griffith Retirement village where 60 plus people attended a 3 course dinner followed with music, singing and dancing.

Asio Arcifa (*pictured right*) was happy to dance but more importantly check out the sweets.

Italian singer, Silvano Codemo (*pictured below*) lead the group singing.



## *Italian Republic Day*

Zecca Restaurant in Griffiths main street was packed out for end of Italian Republic Day weekend.

Light music filled the air from Joe & Kevin as patrons were served a delicious 4 course meal. A well organised luncheon and many thanks to Anthony and Sonia for a wonderful day.



*Anthony, Joe, Kevin and Sonia.*

## MUSIC

It has the power to make us  
smile,  
and bring us to all types of  
tears.

It can carry us back in time,  
and inspire us to  
dance in the moment.

For all our happiest days,  
there is music.



## *Ferragosto Italian Festival*

On Sunday August 18th, Amelia, Dominique and Jedda performed at Ferragosto in Five Dock with the Coro D'Abruzzo choir, opening the festival after a religious blessing. This was the 22nd year the Ferragosto has been held. The festival ran from 10am to 4pm with 110,000 people in attendance over this time frame. Accompanying the group was Christopher Tavernese (an ex-ASA. member) on bass guitar and Ben Marshall on acoustic guitar.



## *Ferragosto Italian Festival*



*Coro D'Abruzzo Choir conducted by Amelia with Dominique and Jedda on accordion*



*Audience enjoying the Choir and festivities*

## *John Cras enjoys a Singalong*

Three members of Accordions Alfresco (plus Finn MacDermid) visited the BUPA Nursing-home at Yagoona on Thursday morning, 18th July. Resident John Cras (pictured) is an ASA member and ex-accordionist and always enjoys a visit by our accordionists. Usually more players come along but were unable due to work commitments.



Some of our popular repertoire was played to an appreciative audience with Amelia Granturco skilfully playing the missing parts! John had requested the use of a small, light accordion so he could join in, which I brought along. Before the concert started John had a singalong with Maria Worthington and myself while the audience came into the hall (he sang lustily with us which was lovely) then many of the others joined him in the singing with Que Sera Sera, On Top of Old Smokey, You are my Sunshine - and John's favourite, Beer Barrel Polka. John sat with us during the concert playing some of our tunes and humming happily along. He especially enjoyed listening to Finn who is becoming quite the confident young trouper as he accompanies his grandmother (Maria) to nursing-homes and retirement villages (the residents love him!)



The audience and staff were very appreciative and the concert was most enjoyable. We look forward to our next visit!

*Glenny Grunfelder*



## *Why are accordions special?*

*One of the most unique features of an accordion is that its bellows allow for a virtual total range of expression of sound and notes that can also be sustained for a greater amount of time than most other instruments.*



## **FOR SALE**

**120 BASS, LIGHTWEIGHT ACCORDION  
REFURBISHED**

**\$950 ono**

This 120 bass accordion is labelled Acmette but was made by Giulietti in the 1950's under specifications by the Pietro Deiro's accordion school.

Purchased in Allans Music Store, Melbourne in 1957.

Lovely accordion, plays well. **Contact Cheryle Mills 0414 915 154**



# *Accordionists Out and About*

## ROSS ENTERTAINS IN TONGA

Ross Maio had a ball entertaining a tour group in Tonga with the talented Jim Zappia



## CHINESE PROFESSOR

A brilliant Accordion Music Professor visited Accordions Alfresco's Monday night practice session on June 24th and were treated to

some magnificent music, a brilliant accordionist. She also played duet with her flutist.

Accordions Alfresco then played some tunes and she happily joined in.



## MUSIC IN MALLACOOTA



Cheryle Mills played at a 'Xmas in July' Seniors dinner in Mallacoota with a newly formed trio consisting of John Hilvert (Guitar) and Robin Bryant (Banjo).

It was a fun night with a few carols followed by some popular tunes.

### **ART GALLERY ROCKS!**

Friday afternoons in the Art Gallery (or outside weather permitting), the piano is wheeled out and anyone with an instrument and/or voice are encouraged to come along and join in.

One week there was a flutists, pianist, accordionist, singer/s, drummer and didgeridoo player, all playing together, good fun!



## NEW GERMAN CLUB, HAHNDORF

The wonderful town of Hahndorf, Adelaide is where Heidi & Herman (aka Yvonne & Paul Smith) together with Gerdy performed at the first members function at the new German Club.



*Heidi & Herman in their new costumes*

## *SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS*



*GLENNY GRUNFELDER*

*Everyone is saddened to hear of your recent illness. We all send you best wishes for a successful operation and a speedy recovery.*

*Even your little dog is sad and eagerly awaiting the sounds of your accordion and 'walkies'.*

*Love from all your  
ASA friends xx*



*Frank Moschella*

*A Certificate of Appreciation is presented to Frank Moschella by Vince and Sylvia Granturco as a show of gratitude for his ongoing support of the Accordion Society and its members. Thank you Frank, it is greatly appreciated.*

*Did you Know?*



**Playing music regularly will physically alter your brain structure**

Brain plasticity refers to the brain's ability to change throughout life. Changes associated with learning occur mostly at the connections between neurons. When studying musicians, they found that the cortex volume was highest in professional musicians, intermediate in amateur musicians, and lowest in non-musicians.



**IN LOVING MEMORY  
MARJORIE HAZEL JACKETT  
Aged 90 years**

*Marjorie Jackett passed away peacefully in July 2019. Marjorie had been an active member of the ASA with her daughters Catherine Day and Janine and gave many, many years of support to the ASA.*

*RIP you will be sadly missed.*

A couple of very interesting websites have been received and shared below. We have been advised they are worth a visit but warned that a lot of time can be spent in these sites due to all the interesting information, lol

<https://freelistenonline.com/>

<http://www.accordionwise.com/>

## *Ben Celebrates a Special Day*

Celebrations were warranted last July when Ben Pattinson had a very special birthday! Accordions Alfresco members and their families agreed that a dinner to celebrate this occasion was of greater importance than orchestra practice so they headed off to the Canada Bay Club in Five Dock. Everyone had a great night!



## *Sydney Balalaika Orchestra Concert*

*by Sandra Mackay*

The ASA's Alex Zhao is also member of the wonderful Sydney Balalaika Orchestra - and no he does not play balalaika. He plays accordion!

The orchestra, under their excellent musical director, Victor Serghie, has a large repertoire of traditional Russian music. The orchestra plays in venues all around Australia and has toured Russia three times, played in China and travelled to New Zealand to play in support of the Christchurch earthquake victims.

The orchestra comprises of a diverse range of instruments, featuring, of course, the authentic Russian folk instruments the balalaika, the bayan, the domra and the cimbalom.



The bayan (pictured left) is the Russian folk instrument closest to the piano accordion, and both bayans and accordions are played in the orchestra. The bayan (named after a legendary Russian folk singer) was created in Russia at the end of 19th century. It could play a 46 note chromatic scale. The size of Bayans range from 20 treble keys and 12 bass buttons, to the modern Chromatic Button Ac-

cordions which has up to 6 rows of treble buttons and 160 bass buttons.

A couple of ASA members were lucky enough to attend a recent concert at the Russian Club in Sydney and see Alex in action. We were treated to some truly uplifting Russian music. There were orchestral pieces, solos and two wonderful lead singers and the costumes were authentic and impressive.

We left inspired by the music and very proud of Alex.



*Alex Zhao in his Balalaika costume*



*A contrabass balalaika*



*The Domra family*



*The cimbalom*



## Gig Guide & What's On



### *Ross Maio*

Sunday 6th October, 3.30pm '**A Musical Affair**' Club Central Hurstville.  
Saturday 16th November, 8pm '**Viva Italia Show**' The Juniors Club, Kingsford.

### *Maclagan Squeezebox Festival*

Saturday 12th October at Maclagan (Toowoomba Region of Qld). *Refer next page*

### *Annual Melbourne ASA Concert*

Sunday 13th October 2pm. Austrian Club, Sheehan Rd, Heidelberg West  
Featuring: Melbourne Accordion Orchestra along, various artists including Accordion Accents Ensemble.

### *'AccordiRun' Balmain Fun Run*

Sunday Nov 10th, 7.30am King George Park, Rozelle. Fundraiser.  
5km run/walk playing the accordion! Everyone welcome

### *Zydeco Jump with Melbourne Accordion Orchestra*

Sunday Nov 17th Show starts 3pm. Doors open at 2.30pm  
Caravan Music Club. Bentleigh East, Victoria

### *ASA Masterclass*

Sunday Nov 17th NSW location to be advised.

## *Regular Performers/Gigs*

### *Ben Pattinson with Medusa's Wake*

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

### *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*



# Calling all **PERFORMERS & SPECTATORS**

*We want you at our festival this October!*

Be a part of this year's **Maclagan Squeezebox Festival**  
- the only accordion festival in Australia

**Join us again in our 17th year of  
Keeping the Accordion Traditions Alive...  
New players welcome.**

PLAYERS: Ring Joan on 0427 170 857  
to register your interest.

VISITORS & SPECTATORS: General Enquiries  
Ring Sherryl on (07) 4692 1265

Be part of a festival which truly embodies what our  
small rural communities are all about; resilience,  
friendship, and having as much fun as possible!

## **12 October 2019**

- 9.00 am - Walk up and Play
- 9.30 am - Morning tea
- 11.00 am - Official Opening
- 12 noon - Lunch
- 1.00 pm - Main concert
- 3.00 pm - Afternoon tea
- 6.00 pm - Dinner
- 7.00 pm - Jam session

Adults \$12  
*(all day)*

Adults \$10  
*(evening only)*  
Children under  
15 years free

Food and drinks  
available  
Market stalls  
Licensed bar  
Lucky door prizes  
and raffles!

*Find out more!*

Like us on Facebook.



[www.maclagansqueezeboxfestival.org](http://www.maclagansqueezeboxfestival.org)

Share these details with family and friends.



## **Newsletter/Update—Maclagan Squeezebox Festival Saturday 12 October 2019**

To all of those who love and play accordion music. This year we celebrate our 17th festival at the Maclagan Memorial Hall. A large number of players who performed at the earlier festivals have indicated that they will be back this year and a number of new lovers of the squeezebox have been in touch to say that they would like to play with us...Accordions Alfresco is an ensemble drawn from members of the Accordion Society of Australia. They share the fun of playing and listening to the accordion with people across Sydney and they have indicated that a number of their group are coming to Maclagan this year! Their flights, accommodation and car hire have been booked, so what a thrill it will be to be able to see them here at Maclagan!

**Saturday night** ...The committee is trialling a new program for Saturday evening and hope it will be a winner for those who like to play the accordion and for those who like to dance. Music genres such as Old time, Waltz, Tango, Rumba, Rock 'n Roll, Jazz, Cha Cha, etc will be provided by experienced musicians on stage, so there will be plenty of opportunities to twirl and swirl on the dance floor and for a good cardiovascular workout, if dancing is your passion. Accordions are brilliant solo instruments, but when used in instrumental combination, add variety and artistic colour. Bring along your violins, clarinets, flutes, harps, trumpets, trombones, harmonicas, banjos, mandolins, lagerphones, ukuleles, saxophones, melodicas, washboards, spoons and didgeridoos and join in the 'jam sessions' which will take place at the foot of the stage, (possibly also in conjunction with the dedicated dance segments). Maclagan is attempting to rekindle the old time song and dance traditions brought to Southern Queensland by the early German immigrants.

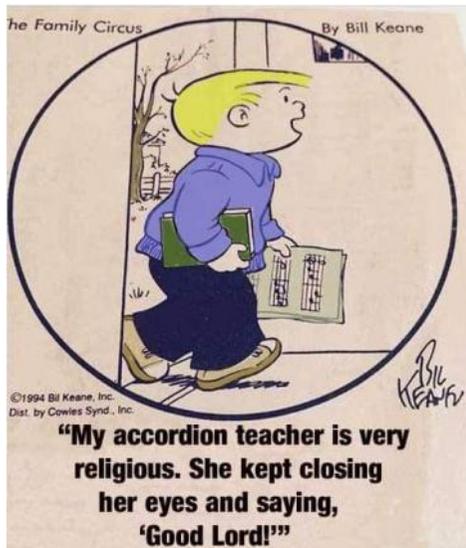
**Daytime program** ...The early Maclagan Valley Old Time Squeezebox Festival encouraged a range of self-taught musicians to come on stage to demonstrate their love of music and their instruments. Solo players played one or two of their favourite songs with their guitars and brought a 'country flavour' to the event. As the festival evolved, the focus moved more towards free-reed instruments such as accordions, concertinas and harmonicas, so now, the guitarists, mandolin and banjo players no longer play solo and only become part of that instrumental combination which adds that extra timbre to the compositions being played by the free-reed enthusiasts. With the numbers of performers steadily increasing each year, the committee attempts to fit everyone in. Generally performers are limited to one or two pieces but with increasing interest in the festival, players will be asked to team up with other performers so that all players who attend the festival can have some time on stage. O'Sheas Music Centres Richard and his daughter Ailee will be attending the festival again this year and the pair will be showcasing two newly released Hohner accordions as well as offering a selection of accessories, song books and good quality second instruments.

**Joan van Kuijck**

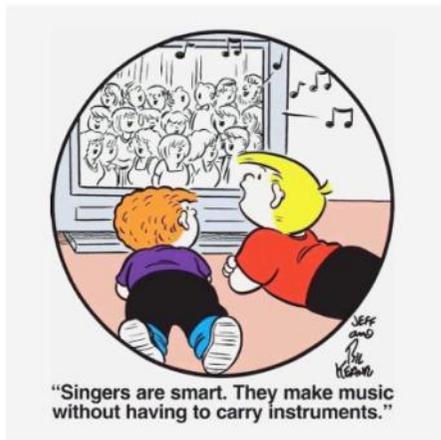
Time for a laugh



"... And his piano teacher says that he definitely has Van Gough's ear for music."



**"My accordion teacher is very religious. She kept closing her eyes and saying, 'Good Lord!'"**



**"Singers are smart. They make music without having to carry instruments."**



**"So there's 5 lines on the staff, 4 strings on a violin, 6 on a guitar, and 88 keys on a piano. You're just making this up as you go along, aren't you!"**

## *My trip to the World Music Festival*

*By Alex Zhao*

It's been my third year playing with the ASA, I'm so glad that I am part of the group. During the past three years, we have some major travel experiences including a trip to Melbourne and New Zealand. This time, the ASA was so generous to sponsor Ben Pattinson and myself to visit Europe, and perform with excellent accordion players from Australia, New Zealand, UK and Austria in the World Music Festival in Innsbruck, Austria.

In preparation for the performance, we had rehearsals every Sunday in Sydney for about 6 weeks to perfect the six songs on the list. In Innsbruck, we had a further 4 rehearsals with all the musicians organised before the performance on



stage. The building where the event was held was called the Congress Innsbruck, a historic building with excellent acoustics. Accordion competitions and exhibitions took place in the daytime, while people would have a few drinks and nice chat before going to the concerts in the evening. Ben and I watched the accordion orchestra concerts, the winners were also the first prize winners from last time.

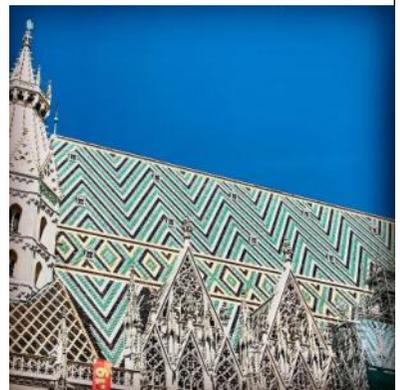
I was amazed to see how professional the Europeans view the music festival. The concert hall, called Tiroler Saal, was fully seated with an estimate of 800 people. The performing orchestra was grand as well, with vari-



ous instruments and more than 30 people on stage. They were dressed professionally, and more importantly, the orchestra was extremely well coordinated through different level of difficulties. We were totally impressed by their wonderful performance.

We did well on our own. We performed in the Innsbruck Saal, a smaller hall than the Tiroler Saal, but still with an audience of about 300 to 400. The six pieces in our performance included the Aussie Medley, Invercagill March, New Zealand in Song, Caprice, Howl's Moving Castle, and Tango Pour Claude. During the break between each song, more people came into the audience. The music director of the London Accordion Orchestra, Ian Watson, was among the audience so I hope he enjoyed the performance as much as we did performing the pieces.

Apart from the music performance, we visited a few cities in Austria and Germany. Our first stop, Vienna, which was extremely clean and tidy. It was very enjoyable to walk down the Herrengasse while seeing the unique baroque style buildings on both sides, though we were suffering from jet lag. One of the city's landmarks, St. Stephen's Cathedral, is a must-go! Since the mid 1100s, St. Stephen's Cathedral had been one of the two churches in the area where the present cathedral now stands. In the mid 1300s, during the reign of Duke Rudolf IV, the cathedral was rebuilt with Romanesque and Gothic architectural style occupying the area of the previous two churches due to a disastrous fire. One prominent characteristic of the church was the colourful roof, which was decorated with approximately 230,000 diamond shape mosaic tiles in beautiful patterns. The



spire at the South tower next to the decorated roof also reached 136 meters! Even with today's technology, the construction of such highly detailed steep pitched roof would still be a significant challenge! The cathedral also witnessed the marriage of the famous musician Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his wife Constanze in 1782.

One of the reasons why people like Vienna is that the city has a unique connection to Mozart, who was born in Salzburg, Austria in 1756, and moved to Vienna in 1781 at the age of 25. We visited his apartment at Mozarthaus, with a short stroll from the Stadtpark Vienna. This apartment is where two of Mozarts six children lived and where he composed some of the famous pieces, such as the Marriage of Figaro, Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, etc., while teaching student's music as well.



Joseph Haydn, known as "Father of the Symphony", was very impressed with Mozart's "Haydn" Quartets, and made a remark to Mozart's father Leopold that his son had great ability, furthermore, with most profound knowledge of composition. It's also amazing to see the pianos that Mozart used for composition and performance, as well as some of the original hand scripts of his music works.

We then drove to Salzburg and visited Mozarts birthplace. It's a lovely city with picturesque snow capped mountains in the distance. We walked up to Staatsbrücke, a busy walkway across the river. I suggested to Ben that this spot would be perfect for a photo shoot, as well as busking/playing a few tunes.



When Ben put on his Beltuna, his magic started to work! Local women and

children started to dance while he was playing Do-Re-Mi. Well that was just the beginning, and the traffic on the bridge soon jammed up during his performance of Beer Barrel Polka and Chicken Dance. It's hard to resist these songs in the sound of a music city. There was a problem when Ben refused to put out his hat for tips, so people had to stuff their tips into his pocket while he was playing the accordion! Then a group of Russian tourists surrounded him, he quickly switched from Beer Barrel Polka to Kalinka! Luckily, the Russian tourists got very excited and started dancing and were lucky not to break the bridge.



Once again, thanks to ASA for the opportunity to attend the World Music Festival in Austria. I feel so privileged to learn and play accordion with like-minded musicians. Our Monday night practice has become an important activity in my weekly routine, I truly look forward to sharing the love and passion of accordion music along the journey of life.

*Alex*



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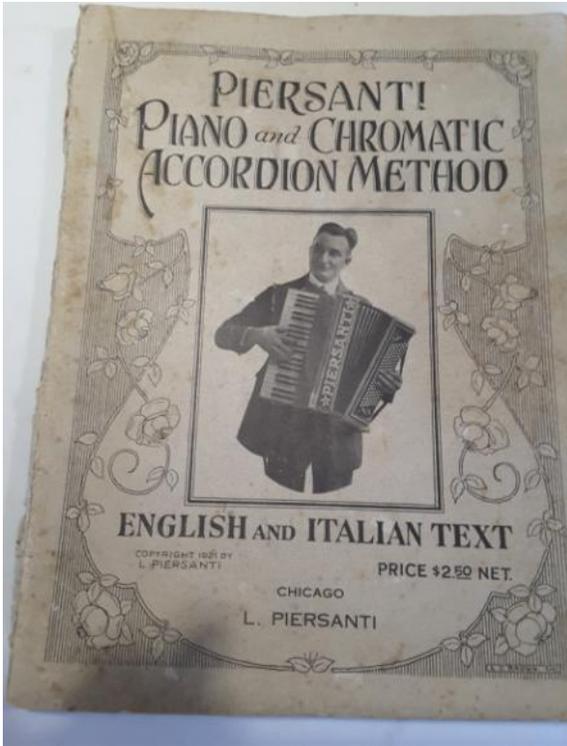
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## MUSIC HISTORY



This 1921 Piano Accordion book by Prof. Leo Piersanti, was recently given to me by a friend, and had belonged to her father. It consists of 110 pages. The theory lessons in the first section are in English on the Left hand side of the page and Italian on the right.

There are many, many different music styles and tunes which I am looking forward to playing some time.

Below is a picture from the back cover; America's Largest Accordion School, Chicago 1921.

*Cheryle Mills*



Thank you Sam Tripodi for kindly sharing a bit of history with us by sending in the:  
*Official Notation Standards for the American Accordionists*  
*April 4th, 1938*

Official Notation for the standard accordion, approved by the  
**AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION.**

AS ACCEPTED BY THE A.A.A. (America), U.B.A. (Brazil), B.A.A. (Great Britain),  
 A.N.I.A. (Italy), U.N.A.F. (France), C.I.A.I.A.R. (France), F.A.R.F.I.S.A. (Italy), and  
 Associations in Australia, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Spain, Poland, etc.

Approved by the C.M.A. (Confederation Mondiale Accordionists) Internationale.

Keep this sheet for reference. It is your guide to correct accordion notation.

Left hand is to be written in the bass clef.  
 Right hand is to be written in the treble clef.

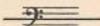
The bass notes use the compass of one octave in this position on the staff:

The optional C used only to facilitate reading.

Chords for the left hand are indicated by a single note which is the root (Tonic) of the chord:

The optional D used only to facilitate reading.

The third line in the bass is the neutral, or dividing line. It may be used optional for either bass or chord note.



Notes written above the 3<sup>rd</sup> line are chord notes.  
 Notes written below the 3<sup>rd</sup> line are bass notes.

The four kinds of chords on the standard accordion.

- M indicating the Major chord,
- m indicating the minor chord,
- 7 indicating the Dominant seventh chord, (5<sup>th</sup> omitted)
- d indicating the diminished seventh chord. (5<sup>th</sup> omitted)

Only a letter indicating the character of the chord (Not its letter-name) is placed above the chord note.

A chord note without a symbol means the repetition of the preceding chord.

A. A. A. correct notation.

The Bass Solo continues until there is a chord symbol.

Example:

A bass solo passage employing a compass larger than the one octave may be written on any part of the staff, but will then be indicated as bass solo by the words Bass Solo, or the abbreviation B. S.

Example:

A small dash - under a bass note indicates that the note is to be played in the counter - bass.

This is used as a courtesy only. To sustain bass notes use the word (sostenuto) or sostenuto il basso.

Direction of the bellows:  
 Open ← → Close

If your arrangements comply with this system, you may use the following wording on the printed sheet:

This Notation Approved by the American Accordionists' Association, Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> 1938

*NEWS FROM  
NEW ZEALAND  
ACCORDION ASSOCIATION*



*Congratulations to Alan Reekie*

Alan Reekie was presented on Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> with a prestigious Certificate of Lifetime Achievement from the Performing Arts Competition Association of New Zealand. This took place at the Pumphouse, Takapuna at the Becroft Aria final.

**NZAA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019**

I am delighted to present to you the 2019 annual President's Report. Our newsletters, website, Facebook and Instagram pages have detailed the numerous accordion activities of many of our accordionists both in New Zealand and overseas. Thank you all for the ongoing support and contribution you give to our association in whatever capacity. The following is a summary of the major activities that our members have been involved in during the past year.

In July 2018, Harley Jones was inducted into the American Teachers' Guild Hall of Fame in recognition of his accordion achievements particularly his work in connecting the accordion world via the internet. A ceremony was held in Chicago to honour him. Harley together with Kevin Friedrich and Heather Masefield later made a visit as part of an international delegation to the Accordion Museum in Superior, Wisconsin on the Great Lakes.

In August 2018, Angela Chen and Jessie Chen competed at the International Accordion Art Week and Competitions in Harbin, China. This is a major event on the Chinese and international accordion calendar. Grayson Masefield performed at the impressive Grand Theatre and Heather Masefield adjudicated at the event.

In September 2018, the 71<sup>st</sup> Coupe Mondiale championships were held in Kaunas, Lithuania. This year, the official New Zealand delegation consisted of myself, Harley Jones, Grayson Masefield and Amber Masefield. Grayson Masefield was elected Vice Chair of the Music Committee. Grayson together with Heather Masefield and Stephanie Poole were members of the international jury. New Zealand did not have any competitors this year. Most of the Kiwis in attendance participated in World Accordion Orchestra X at the final concert.

In November 2018, Heather Masefield adjudicated at the Trophée Mondial De l'ac-

cordéon international competitions held in Victoria, Canada. As a past winner, Grayson Masefield performed as a soloist with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra and did other promotional concerts in the area.

Grayson Masefield was appointed an instrumental tutor at The University of Auckland School of Music. Grayson has continued to perform regularly and give masterclasses for national accordion organisations and at the Tchaikovsky University (Italy), Shanghai Normal University (China) and Chengdu University (China). In October 2018, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Las Vegas Accordion Convention.

In February 2019, Lian Jones gave concerts with her group Tango Project “Milonga De Cuatro” which is a four-member group featuring Lian on accordion. The group have continued to perform regularly in the community.

In March 2019, Lionel Reekie was a guest artist and conductor at the National Accordion Association Inc Convention in Houston, Texas.

Kevin Friedrich returned to New Zealand to hold his 12<sup>th</sup> annual concert in his hometown Dargaville in March 2019. There were also performances from the Auckland Accordion Symphonietta, Lionel and Elena Reekie, Maurice and Alanah Jones.

Gary Daverne recorded his third album of accordion music called *Koriana* which features a number of New Zealand champion accordionists.

The Canterbury Accordion Association had a busy year with jam sessions, concerts and scholarship auditions.

Our annual competitions and festival were held over Queen’s Birthday weekend. Over the last six years, we have been fortunate enough to obtain funding to cover the cost of our venue hire from Pub Charity and the Four Winds foundation. This financial assistance has proven to be invaluable. We thank both organisations for their continuing support.

This year, we marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NZAA hosting the Coupe Mondiale in Auckland in 2009 under the auspices of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA, IMC-UNESCO). We were delighted to have in attendance some winners of their respective categories from the 2009 event, Grayson Masefield (New Zealand) and Cory Pesaturo (USA) who both thrilled the audience at a special winners’ concert. We also had competitors from China, South Korea and Poland in attendance.

The farewell concert featured the South Pacific and New Zealand solo accordion championship winners, other special performances from the weekend, the guest artists and the massed orchestra conducted by local conductors, Gary Daverne and Bryan Holden. Many players in the massed orchestra also performed at the World Accordion Orches-

tra III at the 2009 Coupe Mondiale. The front row of the orchestra comprised of players who had competed at the 2009 event.

The weekend was completed with a fantastic dinner at Aubergine restaurant in Takapuna. We thank our wonderful entertainers for the night for making it extra memorable, Cory Pesaturo, Tracey Emson, and the accordion/guitar duo Steevy Dan comprising of Steve Cope and Dan Wrightson who had us all up on the dancefloor. At the dinner, trophies and prize monies were presented to the winners of the South Pacific championship classes

Thank you to everyone for your contribution towards making this event a worthwhile, fun and enjoyable experience for us all. I would particularly like to thank the committee for the tireless work they put in to make this special event such a success.

Committee member Megan Jennings has decided to step down from her role as Competitions Secretary. A position she has held for many years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Megan for her invaluable contribution she has made to this considerable role.

In June 2019, Lionel Reekie, Alexandra Reekie and Alison Worthington performed as part of a Southern Hemisphere orchestra at the World Music Festival hosted by Deutscher Harmonika Verband in Innsbruck, Austria.

The NZAA provided masterclasses for those candidates preparing for international competitions in December 2018 and April 2019. As part of this programme, Angela Chen, Jessie Chen, Catrina Lin and Adam Perry performed at the Whangarei Keyboard Club in June.

New Zealand composer, David Hamilton wrote a choir and accordion composition for free bass accordion which was premiered at the Auckland Town Hall by Alanah Jones in June, as part of the Westlake Chorolation choir performance at the Secondary Schools Big Sing concert.

On reflection, it has been a very active year for our members both in New Zealand and internationally. This all helps to make the accordion more visible in the community and in turn, encourage more students to take up the instrument. Our members have gained respect and acknowledgement on an international level due to the work they do which is something we should all be proud of and continue to foster.

*Sonja Palinich*  
*President*  
*New Zealand Accordion Association*

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