

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

# ACCORDION REVIEW



MARCH 2020

VOLUME 37 ISSUE 1

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*Cover: Max Ciucciomei in Castelfidardo works during Italys shutdown.*

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## *Hello from the Editor*

Oh my how sad is 2020, what is happening? The year commenced with devastating bushfires all over Australia with not a state spared. Then floods in the North and now the most horrific of all, the unimaginable COVID-19 virus spreading to every corner of the world! I pray that Australia heed the warnings and take all the recommended pre-

cautions. China and Europe have clearly demonstrated what is in store for us if we wish to ignore the warnings ie dire consequences, so please isolate yourself from others and stay safe and well so we can all get through this.

Live music gigs and jam sessions are certainly on hold for an indefinite period but on the brighter side, we can get a lot of practice and learn those new pieces while we are locked away in our homes—that is my plan!

This is a very small edition but I am pleased to feature Max on our front cover, a Settimio Soprani accordion maker from Castelfidardo, Italy who is working each day during the country shutdown, see page 7.

Amelia Granturco has volunteered her time to be part of an exciting Antarctic project and I am eager to hear more about this project soon, details page 8.

Thanks to my accordion friends who checked on my welfare during the recent bushfire. I was asked to share my experiences so I have included an article on page 9, my view of the importance of music after a disaster.

Thanks Glenny for sharing your visit to the performance of War Horse page 17 and trip to Music Junction page 15, it certainly is an Aladdins Cave and a visit to Music Junction is certainly on my wish list.

**World Accordion Day is May 6th.** Why not setup a Skype link and share some music with fellow accordionists to celebrate the day.

Best wishes and good health to everyone through this difficult time.

*Cheryl*

## Presidents Report



*I would like to start by saying that we wish you all the best for your family and friends in this worrying time. I would like to remind people that although at this time there is a great deal of unnecessary hype surrounding the concerns of the Covid-19 virus, there are real and current health concerns and that it is very important for us to conduct ourselves in a manner becoming to the possibility of spreading a virus that we currently have little or no control or treatment over. I urge us not to get caught up in the idea that we stick together and fight it out. We need to stay away from each other and reduce our contact, we are currently discussing how we will move forward and keep in contact in a new way.*

*From this point forward we will be cancelling all further rehearsals. All of our performances at this point have been either cancelled or placed on hold. This will just be the beginning of a challenging time. If we do indeed manage to slow the spread of this virus it does not necessarily mean that there will not be further outbreaks, which may continue to affect us beyond this year. We will continue to move forward with our plans for our workshops and performances and we will continue to keep you informed of events and when they will start again.*

*We are considering online rehearsal as an avenue. There are many challenges in this environment and we will be meeting this week to discuss the viability of this option. To practice in this environment it is essential that you have sound equipment that is capable providing you with a reasonable dynamic level where you can interact with it as you normally would in any group. Currently Ian Watson who composes for Accordion orchestra is undertaking an idea that is called Global Accordion Project Orchestra. Ian Watson composes music for the London Accordion Orchestra. If you would like to join the orchestra you can email them on [mail@londonao.co.uk](mailto:mail@londonao.co.uk), let them know what part you would like to play and they will send you some audio and music to practice to. Alternatively you can find them on facebook London Accordion Orchestra.*

*I look forward to seeing everybody soon and hope all will be well. While we have this unexpected break I hope that everyone will continue to consider ideas of how they would like to grow the profile of the accordion in Australia.*

*Practice, practice, practice*

*Ben Pattinson*



## Accordion maker soldiers on despite the threat of COVID-19

With the spread of Coronavirus all around the world, the hardest hit has been Italy. However despite the threat many have a positive outlook and Maximiliano Ciucciomei, a maker of Settimio Soprani accordions in the Italian town of Castelfidardo writes; *"We must continue to work, day by day, we will win, the Virus is not made in Italy, we produce accordions made in Italy. Thanks in advance for all our partners, employers, accordion players, customers and friends that continue to support our company in this strange and dangerous moment."* **Max**

**Birthday wishes Max on your recent birthday.**

.. 8 MERCOLEDÌ — 11 MARZO 2020 — IL RESTO DEL CARLINIO

Ancona **Emergenza Covid-19, le storie**

# «Avanti con il lavoro: vinceremo»

Maximiliano Ciucciomei titolare della Maxim's group produce fisarmoniche: «C'è tanto sostegno»

**Le ricadute** sul comparto imprenditoriale sono già grandi. Lo sanno bene gli imprenditori della Valmusone, soprattutto di quei comparti che lavorano molto con l'estero e la cui credibilità si basa sul made in Italy. Maximiliano Ciucciomei, proprietario del Maxim's group sas Italy che accorpa i marchi Settimio Soprani, Sonola, Frontalini e Crucianelli, produttore di fisarmoniche, munito di mascherina si è fatto scattare una foto con i suoi strumenti musicali cui dà vita, ieri ha deciso di postarla sui social, scrivendo una didascalia in inglese che tradotta recita così: «Dobbiamo continuare a lavorare, giorno dopo giorno, e vinceremo il virus. Il virus non viene prodotto in Italia, produciamo fisarmoniche fabbricate in Italia. Ringraziamo in anticipo tutti i nostri partner, impiegati, suonatori di fisarmonica, clienti e amici che continuano a sostenere la nostra azienda in questo momento strano e pericoloso». Un messaggio di spiegazione e di incoraggiamento rivolto a tutti i suoi amici e clienti nel mondo. Nel giro di pochissimo tanti di quelli cui era rivolto l'hanno ripostato traducendo il messaggio nella loro lingua. «Per noi come per tanti al-

tri imprenditori questo momento è duro ma non molliamo e facciamo di tutto per lavorare come sempre», ha raccontato poi Ciucciomei. Tanti i messaggi ricevuti anche per sostegno nei confronti suoi e dell'intera popolazione.

ne. Un musicista e produttore messicano ad esempio gli ha scritto: «I miei migliori auguri a te, alla tua famiglia e a tutti gli italiani. Sii forte fratello». Un altro da Salisburgo ha aggiunto: «In questi momenti difficili per il popolo italiano, sento un bisogno umano e un obbligo di trasmettere ai miei molti amici in questo Paese parole di sostegno e compassione. Oggi siete voi e domani potremmo essere noi. Per questo dobbiamo essere uniti in momenti difficili come questi».

Tra i piccoli imprenditori c'è chi conta già in un aiuto e spera di poter riuscire a far fronte da solo a un momento buio come questo.

**Proprio** ieri il sindaco Roberto Ascani si è riunito con i responsabili di settore e tra le varie cose disposte è stato attivato un canale informativo rivolto agli studenti per sensibilizzarli a tenere comportamenti in linea con le prescrizioni normative, attraverso percorsi da concordare con le direttrici didattiche degli istituti scolastici.

**si. sa.**

## *The Australian Antarctic Music Recording Project*

*Early this year I was asked to volunteer some time to record Accordion on a new project titled: Mawson's Hut. For those that aren't aware - Mawson's Hut is the name of a collection of buildings in the Australian Antarctic Territory.*



*Many of the early Antarctic explorers from Australia took Musical instruments with them and often composed their own songs. Some of the transcripts have been saved and have recently been transcribed for this recording project. It is really special to be a part of history - where these songs have not been heard for over 100 years. Some of the songs were intended to be private jokes between the explorers and others were intended to be published, but it never eventuated due to the outbreak of World War I.*

*As the recordings become available I will update the review on where you can have a listen.*

*Amelia Granturco*





## *Music got us smiling again*

Contributed by Cheryle Mills

There was no music in my home town of Mallacoota on New Years Eve, matter of fact there was no celebrations at all, instead a disastrous bushfire swept up the coast destroying over 100 homes in our town and hundreds more as it accelerated up into NSW, a very sad time. Hundreds were left homeless and thousands traumatised.

Mallacoota is a close knit community and busied themselves to help each other wherever possible with myself helping as a kitchen hand to deliver daily meals to the many that lost their homes and to those that just needed company. I was fortunate that I did not lose my home but several of my friends did, so just being available to those in need was important. Many of us felt very flat with no desire to play our beloved instruments.

The daily community meetings conducted by visiting Police, Defence Forces, Red Cross and Government bodies, kept the residents and the thousands of trapped tourists up to date on the status of our roads, food supplies, planned evacuations, etc. These meetings were sombre until a local volunteer that worked tirelessly everyday in the community hall (despite losing his home), suggested two hours of MUSIC and a sausage sizzle to precede each Sunday meeting. This is exactly what was needed to pull us out of the doldrums.

There was some great music and what a wonderful opportunity to play alongside Mallacootas brilliant musicians, it was a good experience.



Musicians such as Padma Newsome, Kristin Rule, John Grunden and Justin Brady. Victorians will certainly know Justin Brady (mandolin, fiddle & harmonica) as a member of Zydeco Jump with George Butrumlis and also in the band 'Things of Stone and Wood'. Sadly Justin lost his house in the fire but he did not lose his spirit to produce some fantastic music. (*While the town was waiting for the fire to hit, Justin sat beside the Lake on a grassy bank and taught the children how to play harmonica, how wonderful.*)

The Sunday gigs were great and people started to smile again.



Padma Newsome, John Grunden, Justin Brady

The regular Friday afternoon music restarted at the Art Gallery, where everyone is welcome. Music varied from Beethoven, Blues, Rock to Country, all good fun. Not to miss out on music, even a broken arm wasn't a deterrent as shown in the picture below where Ian plays one handed with Kate.



Another initiative organised was a 'Healing Singing Circle' to help lift spirits. Well I am not a singer but I was encouraged to join in and oh my what a surprise, how good is it to sing in this manner with others. In one instance, words were modified to reflect the obstacles and feelings we were facing at the time, extremely powerful. I will definitely stick to the accordion but will not underestimate the power of group voices.

Everyone is attempting to get back on track however it is difficult when all of the burnt out ruins still remain with the government planned cleanup yet to commence. When music was finally getting back on track, COVID-19 has struck the world, how sad. Music events are again on hold but I will make my own music at home and a great opportunity to practice. We are all positive and will survive.

*Cheryle Mills*

*With all the wildlife devastated by the fires I was thrilled these Koalas were spotted a few days after the fires. What a trauma they have been through.*



*This male Kangaroo was also a welcome sight in my front garden after the fire...however I did ask him to leave and he gladly obliged, phew!*

# *Accordionists Out and About*

## **NO BREAK FOR MARIA!**

Maria Worthington had a major foot operation and was unable to weight bear for 6 weeks. Maria loves her accordion and to miss NSW orchestra practice on Monday nights was not on her agenda.

So with the purchase of a trolley to scoot around on and with the assistance of her daughter as chauffeur, Maria happily played with the group every week.

You can't keep a good woman down!

Well done Maria, proud of you.



## ALEX AND THE SYDNEY BALALAIKA ORCHESTRA

NSW Orchestra member Alex Zhao is also a member of the Sydney Balalaika Orchestra and a few of his accordion friends went along to attend their concert at Sutherland on February 11th. This orchestra was founded 30 years ago and are of a very high standard and we were treated to a wonderful evening of music and song.

Traditional Russian instruments are used which are fascinating and produce a beautiful sound. There were a couple of piano accordionists in the group, Alex (photo, back row) and Richard She (front).

If you get the opportunity please go along and see this orchestra, I highly recommend it.

Cheryle



## *SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS*

### *AATA Australian International Accordion Championships and Festival*

Contributed by Tatjana Marx

The AATA competition has an exciting new venue for the 2020 championships. The Cabra-Vale Diggers Club is conveniently located in Sydney's Western Suburbs and is very close to train and other public transport. This new venue also is close to accommodation with a number of hotels less than 5 minutes drive away.

The other change for this year are new dates – **22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August**. This will allow international contestants the opportunity to compete in preparation to events like the CIA – Coupe Mondiale.

For more information refer website [www.aata.org.au](http://www.aata.org.au) or contact AATA President Tatjana Marx by email [tats64@gmail.com](mailto:tats64@gmail.com)

### *Did you Know!*

*Music greatly impacts and boosts our learning capabilities. Listening to music, while reading or learning something could trigger the learning and you can memorise the stuff in a better way as compared to being in complete silence.*



## *Aladdin's Cave at Music Junction*

For years I've wanted to visit Melbourne and see for myself the Music Junction shop. I've always enjoyed their emails advertising the latest news and I visit the website often.

Living in Sydney I've always bought online! I've loved ordering bits and pieces (e.g. shoulder straps) and waiting for that special package to be delivered!

A couple of years ago, I bought my beloved brand new Scandalli Air 1 accordion online. It was delivered safely and specially packed in a hard case – plus an accordion bag (with shoulder straps – (and wheels!! What a great way to transport it as I get older!) (I'm only 73!)

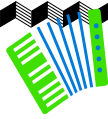
Recently, while visiting my family in Brighton, I persuaded my son to take me to the shop. It seemed at first just a regular music shop filled with guitars, brass, string and woodwind instruments. I wondered where all the accordions were!

I was asked to wait a couple of minutes as Palmi would take me personally to the display room. At the back of the shop there was a flight of stairs, narrow and well-worn. At the top of the stairs I saw it! .... Aladdin's Cave! Stacked high on all walls from the floor to the ceiling on strong metal shelving was every kind of accordion imaginable – some new, many second-hand from all corners of the world and all begging to be looked at and admired.

Palmi left me in there seated on a bench while I soaked up the experience! I stayed in there happily for about 30 minutes, looking carefully at instruments I never knew existed, planning my future purchases. I have a Retirement Plan! I plan to play accordion!

*Glenny*



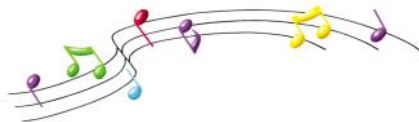


*Gig Guide &  
What's On*



**COVID-19**  
*Playing Australia wide*  
*Avoid it like the plague!*

*Enjoy your own GIG at home.*  
*Please be diligent and stay healthy*



**Wash, wash, wash your  
hands,**

**Get them very clean.,  
Do the rub, do the scrub,  
Covid is very mean**

**Wash, wash, wash your  
hands,**

**We should sing this twice,  
Do the rub, do the scrub  
'cause Covid isn't nice**



## War Horse

By Glenny Grunfelder

*I had read the book, seen the film and had been to the show 'War Horse' when it first came to Sydney a few years ago.*



*I went again in February this year at the Lyric Theatre Sydney in the Star Casino.*

*I loved it! - the staging was excellent and the puppeteers (two or three people to a horse) were wonderful. The lighting effects were terrific and the sound technology was frighteningly real and confronting ....*

*But the best part for me was the man who played the Songman, Ben Murray. He is an actor, folk musician, composer and singer from Whitley Bay, UK and founding member of a group called Tarras. His role was to sing the hauntingly, mournful, beautiful songs throughout the show accompanying himself on his accordion.*

*How great that an accordion was used in this way*

*It was a magnificent production - if you missed seeing it this time round, watch out for it in the future!*



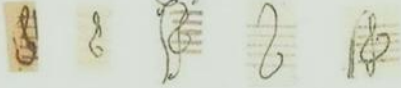
*Glenny*

Time for a laugh

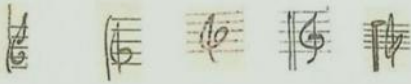


## It's okay

Bach Haydn Mozart Beethoven Schubert



Mendelssohn Schumann Brahms Debussy Ravel



## They struggled too

**So Sorry!**  
Due to panic buying,  
We must restrict sales to  
3 per customer.  
Sorry for the temporary  
inconvenience this may cause.



## Art Bonus Supports the Accordion Museum Castelfidardo – Italy

by [Harley Jones](#)



The Accordion [Museum Castelfidardo](#) building is currently being re-furbished after some 40 years and will reopen on May 9th, 2020. Some 15,000 people visit each year, making the Accordion [Museum Castelfidardo](#) one among the most popular venues, of the Marche region.

The Municipality of [Castelfidardo](#) has organised an Art Bonus which will allow contributors to take advantage of significant tax benefits in the form of a tax credit of 65%, for donations to support culture. Donations can be made as follows:

Beneficiary: Municipality of [Castelfidardo](#)

IBAN: IT11N0200837281000040883886

Purpose: Art Bonus - Municipality of [Castelfidardo](#) - International Accordion Museum - Entering tax code or VAT number of the patron / subscriber

The refurbishment includes the creation of additional display cases, an updated and modern exhibition, the installation of equipment such as a projector, awning, computer and LED monitor.

The museum writes: If you love the accordion, help us to complete the Museum with the Art Bonus project.

Source: [www.accordions.com](http://www.accordions.com)

*NEWS FROM  
NEW ZEALAND  
ACCORDION ASSOCIATION*



**SOUTH PACIFIC NATIONAL &  
NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL ACCORDION  
CHAMPIONSHIPS & FESTIVAL 30 & 31 MAY**

**Entries close 17 April 2020**

Due to Covid-19 only the South Pacific solo classes will run in 2020. At the moment we still have an alternative venue in the Rose Centre on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May but have provision to run these classes digitally on that day if required so KEEP PRACTISING.

**CLASSES that will be run 2020**

- SP249 9 and Under
- SP250 12 and Under
- SP251 15 and Under
- SP257 Junior Virtuoso, 18 years and Under
- SP259 Junior Solo, 18 years and Under
- SP258 Virtuoso Entertainment 32 years and Under
- SP252 Accordion Solo, 32 years and under

THERE WILL BE NO ENTRY FEES CHARGED FOR 2020  
THERE WILL BE NO PRIZE MONEY FOR 2020

Competition Secretary Renee Jeffries: [nzaacompsec@gmail.com](mailto:nzaacompsec@gmail.com)

## **GRAYSON MASEFIELD performs and adjudicates at the 14<sup>th</sup> Zhongsin International Music Competition in Singapore in January 2020**

The first Zhongsin International Music Competition was held in Singapore in 2007. The Competition aims to be one of the most professional, all-encompassing international music competitions. Upon its founding, this competition received tremendous support from the National Arts Council of Singapore and the Singapore Chinese Music Association.



Competitions include preliminary and finals, the preliminary qualifiers have over 50,000 entrants, and 1,000 finalist attend the competition every year. Competitors have come from countries such as the United States, Sweden, Canada, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, China, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, and Russia; they compete in categories of piano, voice, strings, guitar, winds, electronic organ, accordion, percussion, and folk instruments.

Competitors from mainland China include entries from the Central Conservatory of Music, China Conservatory of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Tianjin Conservatory of Music, Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Xi'an Conservatory of Music, Wuhan Conservatory of Music, Xinghai Conservatory of Music, Art Institute of Xiamen University, Jilin College of the Arts, Yunnan College of the Arts, Shenzhen Arts School, and others.



*10 year old winner of the NZAA 2019 12 and Under South Pacific Championship Rachael Xu won gold.*

**The organiser of this event** Xia Gang (Founder and Secretary-General of Committee of the Zhongsin International Competition) – Associate Professor at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Senior Member of the China Accordion Association (CAA) of Chinese Musicians Association was the NZAA 15 and Under South Pacific Winner in 1994.

## Milonga de Cuatro

For the first time in Auckland, Astor Piazzolla's masterpiece "Five Tango Sensations" will be played by the unique collaboration of "Milonga de Cuatro" musical instruments. The quartet includes [Lian Jones](#) (accordion), Celina Reyes Badger (viola), Natalia Meyta (piano) and Marija Dimitrijevic (double bass).



Their concert of Argentinian tango music will take place at the Mt Eden Village Centre, Mt Eden Rd, Mt Eden, Auckland, on April 8th at 7pm and will also include works by Argentinian composer Eduardo Rovira.

## "Saltire" duo

The "Saltire" duo which includes accordionist David Vernon and Alex Hodgson (guitar) have just completed a tour of New Zealand playing at shows, concerts & ceilidhs. The duo from Edinburgh, Scotland entertained at the 27th Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo in Paeroa, as well as in Huntly, Te Awamutu, Wellington and Stratford (in the North Island) and in Hororata, Dunedin & Christchurch (in the South Island).



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**APPLICATION/RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION**



**ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)**  
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)

I, .....  
(full name of applicant)

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

All memberships are renewable on 1<sup>st</sup> August each year.  
A once only joining fee of \$5.00 is payable on all new memberships.

General Member \$ 40.00  
Teacher Member \$ 50.00  
Family Member \$ 55.00

**Bank Transfer**      **Accordion Society of Australia Inc**  
BSB: **062 349**  
Account Number: **10030067**  
Please email a payment advice to **granvs@bigpond.com**

**Cheque** payable to the **Accordion Society of Australia Inc.**

Please forward to:  
Treasurer/Secretary      **Victorian Members only** send to  
Accordion Society of Australia ( Inc.NSW)      Accordion Society of Australia (inc VIC)  
51 Bogalara Road,      9 Bottlebrush Circuit,  
OLD TOONGABBIE NSW 2146      BANGHOLME VIC 3175

ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)  
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)

**Accordion Review Subscription Form.**

The Accordion Review is published 4 times per year by the Accordion Society of Australia Inc for distribution to its members. Subscription rate for non members is \$18.00 per year (within Australia). **Note:** *Full Members automatically receive the Accordion Review.*

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All materials, advertisements etc. should be sent to the Editor:

Cheryle Mills

Email: [cherylemills66@gmail.com](mailto:cherylemills66@gmail.com)

PO Box 442, Mallacoota VIC 3892

Mob. 0414 915154

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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Mobile: 0411 372 044



### **Accordion Repairs Australia (Sydney)**

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