

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



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Accordion
Society of
Australia

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Hello from the Editor

Another year almost over and a sad year for many across the world and also here amongst our own members as you will read in this review but 2023 is shaping up to be a better year.

Anthony Schulz has been busy revamping the Victorian ASA and you will notice we now have a new ASA logo plus new initiatives to bring us into the 21st century, thank you Anthony and team.

I am personally looking forward to the new ideas and workshops being planned for 2023 after successful collaboration between ASA NSW, Vic and AATA, keep up the great communication.

Welcome to the ASA members who have recently joined. Luka Brne has kindly sent in a profile of why he chose to play the accordion which is very interesting, thank you Luka, *refer page 25.*

An amazing story of how important playing the accordion can be! Maria Worthington currently underwent lengthy cancer treatment with a positive attitude that *"I must continue to play the accordion"* so much so that the Professor became involved and she made breakthrough news, *refer page 24.*

The Funkordions are expanding and have had their first performance at a local shopping centre. Three of the members are siblings! Can you imagine three accordionists learning and practicing in the same household! Kids Corner on page 12 has the details.

Merry Christmas to everyone and may you all be blessed with good health and happiness throughout 2023 and the future.

Yours musically,

Cheryle Mills



Presidents Report

Merry Christmas to everyone. This year has been very enjoyable indeed. Although it was a little slow to start it managed to get going at the big end of the year. I am looking forward to the new year, we have a great deal planned. I would like to thank all our members who stood by us in the last three years. Your help and support was greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to providing you with many events and activities in this following year.



This year we will be looking forward to the New South Wales committee holding its first planning day in many years. We are reaching out to teachers and performers to help assist us in building a stronger and better society. The Accordion Society of Australia has always had a good base of professionals who provide support to our society. Over the last decade some of these people have left the society for various reasons. This year we are looking to establish a good base of professional supporters again who can help us carry out the musical events and workshops that we will be running in 2023. We are looking forward to providing some of the following workshops in 2023

- * *Repairing and Maintaining accordions*
- * *Performing and improvising Cajun/Blues/Zydeco Music*
- * *Your first gig. How to get from booking to performance to payment without hassle*
- * *Accordion and voice. How vocalists and accordion players work together*
- * *Accordion and Instruments. How accordions work in bands and ensembles*
- * *Travelling. How to manage your instrument when travelling.*

At the Accordion Society we realise that not every member can always attend these types of events. We have just recently started a new YouTube channel and we will be posting these events and workshops online. This will benefit members who cannot attend and members who would like to review and revise information that was mentioned on that day. We are launching the new YouTube site in late February/ mid-March after our Christmas break.

As you can see, we have a great deal of work to get done. The Accordion Society has regular meetings in Sydney and Melbourne, if you could help us out that would be great. Contact Ben Pattinson for Sydney (NSW) meetings and how you can help and Anthony Schulz in Melbourne (VIC).

Once again, I would like to thank all the members of the Accordion Society of Australia. From our members to our committees to our supporters. You help us make this society great. I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Hoping that Santa brings you lots of presents and Accordions.

Merry Christmas

Benny Pattinson



Chess the Musical with Accordion!!

Term 4 for my music studio is always the most hectic as we have eisteddfod, studio concert and students involved in all manner of other concerts plus starting to learn new exam pieces. To add to the mix this year I was invited to play accordion in a six piece band for the musical Chess. The music was written by Bjorn and Benny from ABBA and the lyrics by Tim Rice.

The musical director wanted the authentic accordion sound and although there is a part written for accordion, I used the piano score and doubled also as a bass guitar, reinforcing the piano bass line.

I had a couple of accordion featured songs with ensemble backing as well as being a part of the band in other pieces. The show was put on by the Mackay Choral Society and performed in concert style, much like the ones available on Youtube. I totally enjoyed my time showcasing the accordion as both a solo and ensemble instrument and had quite a few wonderful comments about my playing. One of the keyboard players indicated that “we are so lucky to have the authentic accordion sound and not have to find a substitute on the electric keyboard”.



Being a part of the Mackay musical and arts community is always rewarding but even more so when you introduce the next generation of thespians to an instrument they know little or nothing about.

Long live accordion participation!

Rhonda Bates

News from Victoria

2022 has been a positive year for the Victorian branch with a number of important steps taken to reinvigorate the organisation. The committee met regularly and in November we held our first planning meeting, forum and discussion panel. We were very happy to have National ASA President Ben Pattinson and AATA president Tatjana Lukic Marx join us from Sydney to participate in the day's events. All in all, there were 18 participants across the planning session, forum and discussion; a real success!

We have a number of exciting events in the pipeline for 2023 including an outreach busking program at Preston Market, student concerts, and a 2 day Accordion Festival in September.

On the accordion related performances and promotion front, during 2022 the Victorian Branch facilitated a student concert at Christ Church in Brunswick in July, and in partnership with Multicultural Music organisation the Boite, presented a series of performances throughout 2022 that featured the accordion.

ASA – Boite 2022 Program

March: Bela Ciao with Salvatore Greco (accordion), Enzo Pozzebon (accordion) and special guest George Butrumlis (accordion). Mark St Hall Fitzroy Nth.

June: Tangos to Turkey with Stephen Cuttriss (bandoneon) Amy Lynch (piano) and Phil Carroll (accordion). Box Hill Community Arts Centre

September : Stiletto Sisters. Box Hill Community Arts Centre.

October: Melbourne Tango Orchestra. Box Hill Community Arts Centre.

December: Polyfonix concert at Estonian House Brunswick, in partnership with 3ZZZ featuring Zulya and the Children of the Underground (Anthony Schulz; accordion), Vardos (Sofia Chapman; accordion) and 4 other bands.

We wish all ASA members a wonderful end of year break and all the best for 2023!

Anthony Schulz

*(Vice-President, National and Victorian branch)
on behalf of the Victorian branch committee.*



Bella Ciao (Salvatore Greco, Enzo Pozzebon, and special guest George Butrumlis.



Stephen Cuttriss (bandoneon)



Accordion Accents perform German Favourites

On Sunday the 16th October, under the theme of “Well-loved German Evergreens”, Ian Lowe presented a fun filled afternoon at the Austrian Club where the audience was invited to sing along and dance to music that brought back many memories.

Our program consisted of a Gerhard Winkler and a Viennese Medley, a few solo songs sung by Ian, our well-known Victorian Baritone, and of two dance brackets.

Holger, Tineke and Jeannette were their best on the accordion and our singers, three ladies and two gentlemen placed amongst the audience, did a great job in animating everyone to sing from the song sheets on their tables and to dance, making it a joyous event.

Margrit Zafisz

for the Accordion Accents Ensemble



Great Initiative for our young Accordionists

Tatjana Marx, President of the Australian Accordion Teachers Association (AATA) and Ben Pattison, President of the Accordion Society of Australia (ASA) have initiated a partnership to work together promoting young accordion players, connecting them to accredited teachers, sourcing age-appropriate music, providing mentoring experiences and providing performance opportunities as Funkordion members.

Tania communicated the following to Ben at the ASA:-

"The AATA is excited to see our new younger members getting involved with the accordion and you will appreciate how important it is for these players, in particular, to see their involvement as a part of AATA recognized and for them to feel a sense of belonging. The team spirit will be so important to keep them engaged with what we are all trying to achieve.

On behalf of the AATA, I would like to thank you and your ASA colleagues from Accordions Alfresco for your assistance in helping our Funkordion group in the recent Five Dock, NSW Ferragosto performance.

I think it is wonderful that our two associations can work together like this to promote the accordion and hope that our cooperation can continue."

I am keen to ensure that both our organizations are able to benefit from public events like this, and will do whatever I can to make sure the ASA is acknowledged whenever appropriate."

At the Funkordion Christmas Party, December 11th the young players will be part of the Annual General Meeting and members of the ASA will attend as well.



KIDS CORNER



Family of three Accordionists!

Hi, my name is **Kyan** and I'm 6 years old. My sisters and I started playing accordion 3 months ago. I like the sound of accordion and enjoy going to FUNKORDION.

Hi, my name is **Ashlee** and I'm 7 years old. I started playing accordion 3 months ago and I love it. I have the best teacher, Miss Tatjana who introduced me to accordion. The sound of the accordion is great especially when played together in a group. Accordion is so fun to play and it has different sizes according to your age.



Hello! My name is **Krystella** and I'm 10 years old. I play accordion and piano and I enjoy playing them both.

I started accordion 3 months ago. I like playing accordion because it is fun and loud. It produces different sounds.

I joined the Funkordion Group because I like playing accordion in a group. Accordion sounds amazing when played in a group. We can learn from each other in the group.

FUNKORDION



On November 20th Funkordion performed Christmas Carols for over an hour at the Birkenhead Point Shopping Centre in Drummoyne, Sydney. There were 21 young accordionists and 5 adults playing to the shoppers passing by. It was a wonderful experience for the group even though they were playing in 28 degrees of heat! (The Birkenhead Management quickly provided shade and water to make everyone comfortable...Funkordion was their first and largest group of entertainers!)

The performance could only have occurred through the commitment of their parents in supporting their young musicians and the dedication of everyone involved.



Vale Doug Mills

The Accordion Society lost a great friend when Doug Mills passed away on September 7, 2022. Doug was the beloved husband of Cheryle Mills, our Accordion Review Editor and long-time NSW orchestra player.

Doug himself was never an accordion player, but we want to pay him tribute as his contribution to the NSW ASA was significant and we will miss him greatly.



Doug was born on the Isle of Man and moved with his family to New Zealand when he was around 10 years old. Doug was a hard worker and always looking for the next opportunity and came to Australia to pursue his career in his early twenties. From a family of traditional butchers, Doug followed the family line and was a butcher for most of his working life. As was Doug's way, he treated his customers with fairness and respect and was rewarded by strong customer loyalty leading to a successful business life.

Doug and Cheryle had 30 truly happy years together. Luckily, although not a player, Doug loved music and became an enthusiastic supporter of Cheryle's accordion playing and a supporter of all of our accordion group activities. He accompanied us on many of our trips. From China to Melbourne, from Leeton to Maclagan and beyond, Doug was there helping, supporting and enjoying it all.



Doug with Cheryle and his mother Sylvia at an ASA function.



Doug had a genuine enthusiasm for life and a real interest in the story of every person he met. This meant that Doug formed friendships easily and that was certainly the case with the ASA orchestra and committee members.

Doug with Jedda and Rob at Bunnings Sausage sizzle

Doug was a person with a strong ethical compass. He was loving and loyal to his family and friends. He was, in the best sense of the word, a gentleman. He would never stand back when help was needed. If something needed doing, Doug would see that it needed doing and just do it. He was there to BBQ hundreds and hundreds of sausages at our fundraisers, there to carry an accordion for someone who was struggling, there to sort out a problem we were having, or there to tidy up a hall after a show, and he was there always ready to give encouragement and praise for our playing.



Doug handled his illness with admirable grace and dignity right to the end. Cheryle cared for him throughout that very difficult time with similar grace, great strength and love.

Here's to you Doug Mills. Thank you, Dougie, for the decency, kindness and laughter.

Thanks for being our friend.

Sandra on behalf of your ASA family

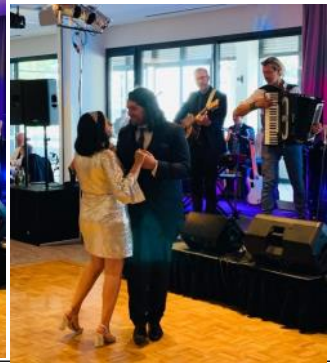
Wedding



Amelia Granturco and Benjamin Marshall finally had the big formal wedding they had always planned and it was a magnificent day of endless music, dancing and wonderful food in the true Italian tradition.

Amelia and Ben were due to be married in 2020 however Covid put a stop to that and it was rescheduled for 2021. The wedding went ahead in 2021 but again due to Covid only 10 close family members were permitted to attend (not the wedding shared with family and friends they had dreamed of). In July 2022 they were blessed with a son Julian Vincenzo so the Marshalls combined their special day with a wedding and the christening of Julian Vincenzo.

Ben Pattinson was the roving accordionist pre reception and played a few tunes with the band during the night.



Chris Tavernese weds

Congratulations to Chris Tavernese and his new wife Jessica who were married in Sydney on 3rd December.

Chris and his family were long time members of the ASA NSW orchestra. We wish them all the best for their future together.

Amelia



Ross Maio



Ross Maio performed at Norton Streets Italian Festa in October. This Italian Festa is a large annual street festival in Leichhardt (Sydney), with more than 140,000 people coming together each year in late October to celebrate all things Italian.

This street has long been known as 'Little Italy', with the suburb of Leichhardt being the emotional centre of the Italian community in Sydney mainly because it was the first stop for many of the first Italian immigrants to the city many decades ago.



Ross Maio @ Norton Street Italian Festa 2022

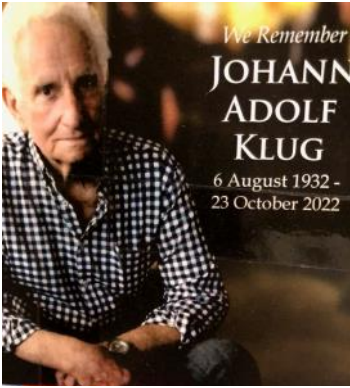
Lookout for Ross Maio playing at

Caruso's Italian Restaurant

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*In Memory of:
John Klug 1932 - 2022*

It is with great sadness that I advise of my husband's death on 23/10/22. John and I have been keen supporters of the Melbourne accordion community, contributing to some local accordion band activities from time-to-time.

The accordion continued to bring joy to John right up until his last moments as our friend

Michael Glinski played for him during visits to John over his last seven weeks in the nursing home. We thank Michael and also the many supporters attending John's funeral where there was an accordion tribute presented. Thank you to all.

Edda Klug



Alan Henry Jones

14.02.1937 - 11.10.2022

Mr Bus Driver R.I.P

Alan Jones was a great supporter of the ASA for most of his life. His daughter Elizabeth Jones our president and conductor for many years and his wife June keeping everyone organised as secretary.

For numerous years he donated his services as bus driver, ferrying the ASA Orchestra and its members around Australia. Even when our

friends from Germany and Austria came to visit he was ready with his bus to show them the sights. He even picked them up from the airport!

He would always take the "long way" or was happy to do a detour so we could see interesting things and give us facts along the way.

We would all get on and off the bus with a "hello Mr Bus Driver" and "Thank You Mr Bus Driver" and he would always answer me "Welcome Miss Passenger".

A few members and the ASA NSW Orchestra recently visited him in Bowral and he was still answering to the name "Mr Bus Driver". R.I.P.

Amelia Granturco

“Music is one of life’s most important survival tools. It nourishes us, it gives us hope, helps us heal, and gives us the strength to keep going even in the toughest of times”

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Regards

Salvatore



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16. Home Sweet

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24. Love in G Minor
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Funkordion's Christmas Party

Funkordion celebrated their first Christmas party with about 15 children and their parents who came laden with plates of food, chairs, accordions, music stands...and younger siblings! Lucy came with her Cimbalom which added to the Christmas atmosphere.

Maria, Maree and Glenny had decorated the rehearsal room and the party tables - (and especially a chair ready for the visit from Santa's helper!)

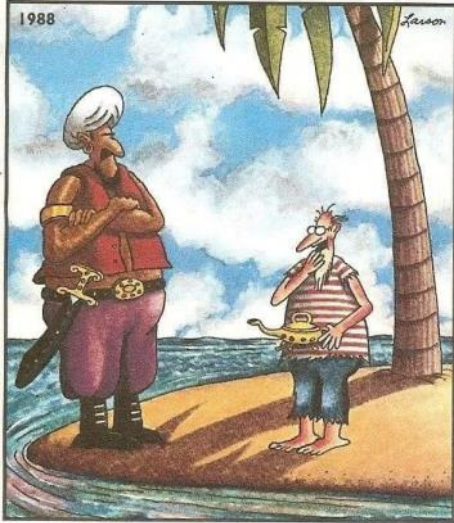
After the AATA AGM the festivities began with the accordionists playing Christmas carols until Santa arrived to 'Jingle Bells'!. Santa sat on his chair for photos and gave out lolly bags. We all went to a room for the lovely party food! The highlight was a piñata full of more lollies!

Tania received lots of messages afterwards from families who said it was the best party ever! Two teenage players, Finn MacDermid and Zelda Mormul played afterwards. The younger students were very interested in Zelda's button accordion. **See next page for photos!**

XMAS PARTY



Time for a laugh



"Well, let's see—so far I've got rhythm and I've got music. ... Actually, who could ask for anything more?"



Look at you! Folding laundry. And last night it was the dishes. Yesterday you took out the garbage. Just exactly what part of "You're not buying a \$10,000 Accordion don't you understand?"



Accordions Alfresco bring Xmas Cheer to Shoppers

An early start saw Accordions Alfresco assembled before 9am ready to spread some Christmas cheer for shoppers at Fred Kelly place in Five Dock in Sydney. The weather was kind and we played for a couple of hours. There were lots of smiles and applause from the locals who stopped to have a listen. Not to mention approval from a few dancing toddlers, who would really have preferred just to keep hearing Jingle Bells on repeat! A fun morning and we are all still grateful just to be back out there playing together again.



The Two Fillies serenade diners

Maria Worthington and Glenny Grunfelder (aka the 'Two Fillies') were out and about despite Maria currently undergoing cancer treatment (refer next page). Here they are playing at a Baulkham Hills Christmas dinner function with singer Suzanne. Well done ladies.



Cancer treatment modified for Accordion player!

Good news! Maria Worthington has made an incredible recovery from her illness this year! So much so that her radiation oncologist at ICON Norwest invited her to perform to his medical team and news media reporters. He wanted to show that, with the latest equipment and excellent management of her treatment, she hadn't lost the use of the muscles in her arms (a risk).

Her goal, (of which she reminded her oncologist regularly!), was to be able to continue playing the accordion! This passion motivated Maria throughout the months.

At the finish of her sessions, not only could she play the accordion but she inspired the thrilled gathering to leap up and dance to her vigorous 'Zorba the Greek'!

What a legend! (and so is the Professor!)

I'm so happy that my other half of The Two Fillies is playing again! (We will be playing together at Christmas this year!).

Glenny



New Cancer Centre

Maria Worthington from Baulkham Hills was the first patient to be treated at Icon Cancer Centre at Norwest.

The 79-year-old's 25th and final radiation therapy session was at the end of October.

She was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer in April.

"I felt a lump in the breast while I was showering. I booked in to see my GP straight away. It all happened very quickly," she said. "I had surgery, followed by four months of chemotherapy. After my chemotherapy treatment, I was advised to have radiation therapy. My daughter told me that Icon was opening a new centre only three minutes from home, which was a big relief. Prior to Icon Cancer Centre Norwest opening, the closest centre with state-of-the-art equipment was an hour away from home."

Maria still plays the piano accordion in The Accordion Society of Australia Orchestra.

When radiation oncologist, Professor John Boyages discovered she played piano accordion he carefully planned Maria's treatment to ensure her shoulder was not impacted.

"Shoulder dysfunction after radiation is not uncommon. Thanks to modern radiation techniques used here at Icon, we can better direct the treatment to where it needs to go, which was imperative in Maria's case. I'm constantly amazed at the sub-millimetre

accuracy we can now achieve for patients through our cutting-edge treatments. We have also introduced a new advanced tattoo-less technique.

"Many radiation departments still use tattoos to help the radiation therapist position the patient correctly to deliver treatment to the right location. Unfortunately, these are a constant reminder of treatment even many years later," he said.

Icon Cancer Centre Norwest has the capacity to deliver 900 courses of radiation therapy each year and offers the latest technology and treatment techniques.

The centre is home to an advanced Varian TrueBeam linear accelerator with cutting-edge IDENTIFY technology, which offers patients the option to have tattoo-less treatment.



Maria Worthington and Prof. John Boyages

"As the first private radiation therapy centre in the region, Icon Cancer Centre offers a co-ordinated approach to cancer care in partnership with Norwest Private Hospital. These services are vital in our ageing local community. We are proud to support our healthcare partners, medical community and the patients who will benefit from comprehensive cancer services on their doorstep for years to come."

~ Icon Group CEO, Mark Middleton

Welcome Luka - new ASA member

My name is Luka Brne, I'm 34, I was raised in Melbourne, born in Slovenia. As a child I spent much of my time surrounded by Slovenian music. Growing up I listened to the music my parents listened to until I was able to begin exploring my own world of music.

I would go with my parents to parties or Slovenian clubs (here in Melbourne) where the accordion was likely to make an appearance.

When I was a young boy my father bought an accordion as he wished for me to learn it, however, at the time, I was more inclined to learn the drums as it was a lot "cooler", at least I thought so. My appreciation for the accordion changed when I went back to Slovenia in 2018 and spent some time with my uncle who took me out to a local bar one evening and had organised for two accordionists to play.

They arrived and everyone cheered. They played and everyone sang along. It was the music that changed the atmosphere in that bar, and touched everyone who was present, including myself. My uncle passed away not long after, from cancer. He knew about it and never told anyone. He knew it would be the last time we'd see each other and so I hold this moment close to my heart.

Recently, I met a girl who told me her yoga teacher plays the accordion at the end of class as it is said to be an instrument of the heart and so, although I enjoy the traditional sounds of the accordion, I look forward to discovering my own expression and hope to make this instrument my own, using the accordion my father had bought for me all those years ago..

Thank you for welcoming me into your community and I hope to meet you all along the way!

Cheers,

Luka

Jaga Band

Tatjana Marx and Ludmila Nikolsky are two members of Jaga Band, a well-known group of musicians who play around Sydney at every opportunity to promote live music and the Ukrainian culture. Recently they gave a wonderful concert to an enthusiastic audience in Bondi, "Ukrainian Songs for Freedom". (Both Tania and Lucy (cimbalom) are founding members of Funkordion!)

NASHA KAZKA & JAGA BAND
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PRESIDENTS REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present my 2022 Australian Accordion Teachers Association President's Report. Our organisation has continued to celebrate the accordion, created performance opportunities for members and worked actively to build and reinforce relationships with our accordion friends both here in Australia and around the world.

This year, we saw the reformation of Funkordion – an accordion ensemble based here in Sydney. It is particularly exciting to see so many new, young accordionists enjoying playing with others. I would like to take this opportunity also to acknowledge the support and co-operation from some of the local ASA members who have been instrumental in creating performance opportunities including combined presentations at Birkenhead Point and earlier in the year at Five Dock.

In recent months, the AATA has been involved with regular "trans-Tasman" meetings involving our association, the ASA, the Canterbury Accordion Association (Christchurch NZ) and the NZ Accordion Association. Together we are exploring initiatives to continue raising the profile of the accordion in both countries, and in particular ensuring that it remains an attractive option for younger students taking up music.

It is essential that accordionists and accordion organisations co-operate and work together as much as possible to help showcase the accordion to the general public in a positive light. At the same time, we must also ensure that the AATA's unique identity and role in promoting the accordion continues to be acknowledged. Our association is the Australian representative to the world accordion body, and we remain committed to building and maintaining Australia's reputation in the international accordion community. The uncertainty around travel that still existed at the start of this year meant that holding our international championship in a face-to-face environment was still not really practical this year. It had been our intention to organise an online invitational competition instead. This was to be a follow up to the tremendously successful AATA online video project. The AATA believes that music should

bring people together and unite those from all nations and backgrounds. Unfortunately, current tensions in Eastern Europe have seen many accordion organisations come under considerable pressure to publicly take sides relating to ongoing military action taking place. This is not what our association is about, and so the decision was made to postpone our competition until such time that we can welcome musicians from all nations without our event being seen as a geo-political platform for participants to push personal agendas.

On a more positive note, the video project just mentioned was a real celebration of all things accordion. We received literally hours and hours of videos from every corner of the world showing the huge versatility of the accordion. The final edit uploaded to YouTube in June runs for over an hour and a half, and shows the tremendous power music has to unite us all. It was particularly pleasing to see our Australian accordionists alongside some of the worlds best known accordion concert artists and doing both themselves and our country proud! I think it is also appropriate to acknowledge Finlay MacDermid who travelled to represent Australia at the South Pacific Accordion Championships and festival in Auckland NZ in June. Finlay returned after having won 4 out of 6 categories entered. This is an excellent result and I am sure all our members will join me in sending congratulations. We would also like to thank Maria Worthington who kindly offered her home for Funkordion monthly practices. Thanks to you Maria and Maree for providing the snacks for children too.

As we look towards 2023, I am confident that the AATA has a bright future. We have already started making plans to be represented at the CIA Coupe Mondiale event in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the rollout of our new AATA teacher accreditation should both help raise the standard of accordion education for the benefit of our students, and also give our teachers an extra level of professional recognition. I would like to thank my committee and indeed all of our members for their ongoing commitment to our association and the accordion and look forward another musical year ahead.

Tatjana Marx

President

December 2022

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION



AOTANGO

Newly formed Aotango is made up of professional musicians, including accordionist Grayson Masefield. The success of two concerts 'A Century of Tango' in June has led to four additional concerts in Warkworth, Takapuna, Howick and Hamilton during Nov & Dec.



'Ao', meaning 'world' in Te Reo Māori is at the epicentre of Aotango. Enjoy their seamless fusion of world music and tango, in an eclectic mix of styles presented by musicians who call Aotearoa their home.

'A Century of Tango' is a musical journey through the evolution of tango, showcasing popular favourites such as El Choclo, Por una Cabeza and La Cumparsita, to the revolutionary nuevo tango style works of Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla.



**ANDREW
BEER**

Awarded Best Classical Artist at the 2020 NZ Music Awards, violinist Andrew Beer has been described as a "musical gift" (New York Times).

Andrew has been the APO Concertmaster since 2014.



**SOMI
KIM**

Hailed for her "breath-taking range of colour, tone and inflection" (The Times), South Korean born New Zealand pianist Somi Kim is one of Aotearoa's most sought after pianists.

She is the official pianist for NZTrio.



**GRAYSON
MASEFIELD**

New Zealand born accordionist and the first person to win World Championships in Classical, Virtuoso and Digital accordion categories.

Grayson has performed as a soloist and with orchestras throughout America, Europe and Asia.



**GORDON
HILL**

Gordon has performed with the Boston Pops Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

He has held the role of Principal Bass of APO since 1997.



**SAM
SWINDELLS**

A jazz guitarist who is involved in many genre-spanning projects spanning from 70's Funk, to Rockabilly, to Jazz.

Sam is the director & bandleader of Big Ticket and leads the Kristin Jazz Combo program.

VALE MARIE JONES

born in England, 4/12/1928 to 7/11/22

NZAA LIFE MEMBER

Just before her 94th birthday Marie Jones passed away at the Lady Allum Care Suites. Having recently suffered Covid, a broken leg and two strokes she is now at peace.

Marie Jones was the much loved mother of Harley and Maurice Jones and Heather Masefield and loved grandmother of Amber Masefield, Grayson Masefield and Alanah Jones. She is survived by her sister Nita Rotherham, the last of her 6 siblings.

In October 2003, Marie Jones was the first person awarded the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) Honored

Friend of the Accordion Award at the CIA Congress in Hungary for her many years of contribution to the accordion in New Zealand in her role as Secretary of the NZAA since 1971 (to 2008) as well as for her work towards national and international events held in New Zealand over many years.

A life dedicated to the accordion and family that was well lived.

There was a private cremation, and a Celebration of Life was held on the 13th November.



Four Generations

Great Grandpa Alf Jones played the accordion
His children played, then their children and so on!



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