

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



Alpski Muzikantje Alpen Musikanten

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*Cover: Phillip Nadvesnik with his Australian Slovenian/Alpine Folk Music Trio.
Details on page 20 to 25.*

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Accordion
Society of
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Hello from the Editor

Welcome to our first edition of the Accordion Review for 2024 and hope the year is going well for you so far.

May 6th each year is International World Accordion Day and I encourage members to collaborate with fellow accordionist, be creative and have some musical fun on this day. Refer next page for details about the event.

Our member profile for this edition is Victoria ASA member Phill Nadvesnik who also features on our front cover. Phill has a passion for Alpine folk music from Slovenia, Austria, and surrounding Alpine regions and is part of an amazing trio. Phill has kindly agreed to share his very interesting musical journey with us and special thanks to Glenny Grunfelder who interviewed Phill to create the profile, refer pages 20 to 22. Phill has also provided a wonderful insight into Slovenian and Alpine Folk Music, refer pages 23 to 25.

New Zealand news on page 29 features a 'Quintessential Queensland Variety Festival' tour to occur on 10th to 20th May, 2024. A group of NZ musicians including accordionist Tracey Collins will perform concerts at various Queensland coastal towns. Check out their website for details.

Victoria has confirmed their **2024 Victoria Accordion Festival** will be held on **November 9, 10** at Kensington Town Hall, refer page 10.

Thank you to everyone that contributed and hope you enjoy this edition.

Cheryle Mills



ASA HISTORICAL DATA WANTED

A 'History' page is being created within the ASA website

<https://accordionsaustralia.com/history>

We are seeking the assistance of our members to provide historic ASA data such as photos, snippets, newspaper cuttings, anything at all that would be an interesting addition to the ASA 'History' .

If you can help, please forward your contribution to Phill Nadvesnik at:

pnadvesnik@gmail.com

Thank you

Don't forget.....

International World Accordion Day!

May 6th

Come on Australia—what are you doing for [World Accordion Day](#) to promote the accordion in your country? No event is too big or too small. ALL accordion events celebrating WAD are welcome. This is a [Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes \(CIA\)](#) promotion for the accordion in which every accordion enthusiast can participate and help bring our accordion world together as well as strongly promote the accordion.

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

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

Where: Worldwide

Register your activity: Everyone can register their activity on the [WAD](#) website and send a report of their event after, for that website. **No event is too big or too small. ALL accordion events celebrating WAD are welcome.**



[World Accordion Day \(WAD\)](#) is on May 6th, which is the day the accordion was patented in 1829.

World Accordion Day was started in 2009 by the [Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes \(CIA\)](#) and has been very successful, generating a lot of positive publicity for the accordion. A key part of this event is the [WAD](#) website.

Every association, group, orchestra, performer and teacher, is asked to actively support WAD by encouraging national and local accordion activities to happen in their country on this day or the weekend either side of WAD if that should be more convenient.

This is a [CIA](#) promotion for the accordion in which every accordion enthusiast can participate and help bring our accordion world together as well as strongly promote the accordion.

Come on Aussies, come on!

Presidents Report

Hello and welcome to what will hopefully be the beginning of a reprieve from the hottest temperatures we have felt in some time. We must remember that on hot days that it is very important to take steps to ensure the safety of both your instrument and you. Remember to keep hydrated as playing the accordion in hot and humid environments is akin to an exercise workout session. Take regular breaks and try to stay out of direct sun. Remember that your accordion reeds are held to timber reed blocks with wax. When this wax is heated up the reeds can loosen from their wax seal when air pressure is placed against the reed. This is normally a symptom developed by instruments that have been left in hot/unventilated cars. This has also been known to happen with instruments left in cases in the hot sun. To mediate the risk please make sure that your instrument lives, travels and is stored in well ventilated spaces. I also travel with my instrument on the rear seat of my vehicle as it is a much safer place then in the boot of a vehicle.



It is now that time of the year again when we should be preparing our students for the various competitions that are held in our South Pacific Region. On the 8th and 9th of June the Australian Accordion Teachers Association will hold their regular competitions in Five Dock NSW. For more information go to <http://www.aata.org.au/>, Last year the ASA and the AATA co-hosted 2 events on the same day. This year is promising to be a very big and exciting competition. The event will be hosted by Tanya Marx and is planned to run over 2 days. Tanya Marx is a huge ambassador for the accordion in Australia and all over the

world. Tanya has been very active in creating accordion ensembles where all ages can come and benefit from playing in larger musical groups. We also have accordion ensembles in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. If you would like to join one of our various groups, contact details may be found within this Accordion Review. I'm looking forward to the next time we play together as a massed accordion orchestra.

The New Zealand Accordion Association will also be hosting their regular accordion competition in Auckland New Zealand. This competition will be held on the 1st and 2nd of June this year. Last year we attended with students from the AATA and the ASA. I regularly attend these competitions each year as an adjudicator and assistant to the NZAA. Its great to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Because New Zealand is relatively close to Australia it is a great stepping stone to international competitions. Costs are less than travel to Europe or the United States. I recommend that you start getting your pieces together for this competition and the AATA competition. Information at <https://www.accordion.co.nz>, Just imagine how many prizes you could bring home over these two weekends.

A big shoutout to Alex Chao our NSW musical director and accordion player with the Sydney Balalaika Orchestra. They have been working on their latest recording at studio 301 Sydney. We will keep you posted on the release of this project and upcoming shows in the future. We are looking forward to future collaborations with the Sydney Balalaika Orchestra.

Work hard and you will reap the rewards.

Benny Pattinson

PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL 2024

By Guy Bellman and Robin Mullen

Anthony, Guy and Robin attended the 2024 Port Fairy Folk Festival as representatives of ASA Victoria.

We set up a display in the Instrument Makers pavilion, featuring Guy's tuning table and a diverse collection of accordions.

Guy was well prepared to undertake accordion repairs on the spot, bringing along his tool kit.



Guy Bellman relaxing with his tuning table and accordion display at the Port Fairy Folk Festival. You wouldn't know he was sweltering in 40-degree heat!

As it turned out, people just wanted to *talk* about accordions. The display looked terrific and attracted visitors all day long.

We handed out lots of flyers and presented stickers to anyone who dared to squeeze one of the accordions. Lots of youngsters were very keen on this activity.

We lost count of the number of times someone started a conversation with 'This looks like my granddad's accordion, which I have kept in a cupboard for X years.'

A valuable experience

Visitors enjoyed the demonstrations of accordions. Having a variety of button accordions and piano accordions, large and small, helped people understand the differences in playing styles and application to various genres.

Children loved the smallest accordions and were keen to try playing them.

Next time we run a display, we will make sure to include small 12 or 24 bass accordions. Impromptu accordion performances at the stall were applauded, especially the improvised duets. Next time, we would think about organising a playlist that spanned a range of genres.

The tuning table with its bellows piqued the curiosity of visitors. This was a great entrée for Guy to demystify the workings of accordions. Occasionally Guy would open up an instrument to educate people on accordion care. This generated more ideas for future activities: Maybe we need to run an accordion myth busters series on social media? Myth 1: It's OK to store an accordion for decades without playing it. Myth 2: Australia is home to accordion manufacturers.

There appears to be large demand for accordion valuation and repairs, more than one person can handle. We wonder: Is there anyone else in Victoria who would like to hang out their sign as an accordion repairer?

We encouraged all visitors to check out the ASA website and handed out heaps of flyers. We had many interstate people, so it was a great opportunity to promote the national presence of ASA.



Typical sight at the accordion display: Guy Bellman and Anthony Schulz sharing the joy of accordions with multiple Port Fairy Folk Festival visitors.



2024 VICTORIA ACCORDION FESTIVAL

November 9th and 10th, 2024

The Accordion Society of Australia (Vic) Festival 2024 is now locked in for **November Saturday 9th** and **Sunday 10th** at the **Kensington Town Hall**.

This location is part of the City of Melbourne and is well serviced in terms of airport access, accommodation, cafes and restaurants.

There will be 8 workshops and 2 masterclasses, plus a massed orchestra workshop/rehearsal, a Saturday evening social event featuring the Melbourne Tango Orchestra and a Sunday afternoon concert featuring Grayson Maysfield/ Andrew Beer (NZ, Accordion & Violin), Vardos (Vic, Accordion Violin and Double Bass) as well as the massed orchestra. There will also be stands for sheet music, an accordion display, accordion repairs and more.

Alongside the festival, work is taking place to put together a concert series with four duos/trio groups that feature the accordion. This is an international series with players from Poland and Scotland as well as Sydney and Melbourne. The dates for the series are **Friday 1st November and Friday 8th November at Tempo Rubato in Brunswick** (note that the 2nd Friday leads into the festival commencing on Saturday 9th).

The program for the series at **Tempo Rubato, Brunswick** is as follows:

Friday 1st November

8.00pm – 8.45pm. Rachel Scott (cello) and Anthony Schulz (accordion) (45mins)

9.00pm – 9.45pm. James Crabb (accordion) & Genevieve Lacey (recorder)(45mins)

Friday 8th November

8.00pm – 8.45pm. Ball Hanlon Schulz - Eugene Ball (trumpet), Ben Hanlon (double bass), Anthony Schulz (accordion)(45mins)

9.00pm – 9.45pm. Karolina Mikołajczyk (violin) & Iwo Jedynecki (accordion)(45mins)

Anthony Schulz



Accordion
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Australia

National Accordion Players Survey Results



The Victorian branch of the ASA conducted a national survey of accordion players in December 2023. There were 124 participants from across Australia.

The findings highlighted that the accordion playing community is diverse, particularly in cultural backgrounds. The report describes important recommendations for the future direction of the ASA, including the need to increase promotion, outreach and support for younger and beginner accordionists; expansion of networking events; diversification of ASA events (including beyond the piano accordion); ongoing and strong social media presence; supporting the development of and access to accordion repairers; and finding ways to include accordionists who live outside of metropolitan areas and in states where the ASA currently does not operate.

The ASA will use the findings to inform their ongoing activities related to preserving the strong cultural heritage of the accordion and creatively engaging the next generation. To read the full report click and open [this link](#).

We would like to thank the 124 participants from across Australia who took the time to engage with the survey and provide us with valuable information and insights into their experiences of, and vision for, the accordion and the ASA.

Lucy Kerr, Phillip Nadovesnik, Lucy Riddett, Anthony Schulz



Thank
you

SYLVIA & VINCE GRANTURCO

A huge and well deserved **THANK YOU** is in order for the enormous effort the Granturcos have committed to the Accordion Society of Australia over the past 30 years.

Sylvia and Vince have worked tirelessly both at a National and Branch level to organise and run everything from treasury, concerts, festivals, meetings, administration, fundraising events (*not forgetting the infamous Bunnings Sausage Sizzle!*) and much, much more.

Sylvia and Vince have decided it is time to step down as Committee members to support their family and their new grandchildren.

Thank you again and we wish them the very best.



Congratulations Les and Bronte

Les Maroun (*accordionist with Sydneys Accordions Alfresco*) and his wife Bronte welcomed the arrival of their first child, a son Otis Elias on February 16th.

Congratulations and we wish Les, Bronte and Otis a happy and healthy life together.



KIDS CORNER

Let's Meet Ainslie

Hi my name is Ainslie Mills and I am 10 years old and live in Sydney. I love playing the accordion and have been learning about 8 months. When I saw my Nanna playing the accordion I thought it sounded good and looked very relaxing.

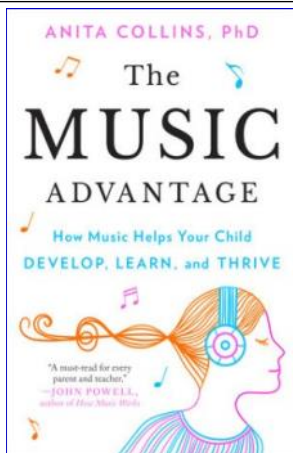
Playing the accordion is easy to learn and I have Zoom lessons and like to play happy tunes and relaxing tunes. One day I would like to play relaxed and straight out of my head and be good enough to get a bigger accordion.

Last school holidays I went to Mallacoota and played with lots of my Nannas friends in a big circle and it made me happy and gave me confidence and I felt like a champion. I really liked playing with other people and can't wait to visit there again.

My other interests are softball, art and drawing and spending time with my dog Huey and my family and friends.

Ainslie





Playing the Accordion Benefits Your Brain

By Rita Davidson Barnea, Editor USA Accordion News

This article is being shared from Accordions Worldwide website. Click and Open the following video

[VIDEO: How playing an instrument benefits your brain](#)

Note: This video link also includes the text below.

Did you know that when you play the accordion, you are benefiting your brain? When you listen to music, multiple areas of your brain become engaged and active. But when you actually play an instrument, that activity becomes more like a full-body brain workout. What's going on? Anita Collins explains the fireworks that go off in musicians' brains when they play, and examines some of the long-term positive effects of this mental workout.

Anita Collins explains how music benefits your brain and, therefore, your entire life. Excerpts from her website: Anita Collins is an award-winning educator, researcher, and writer in the field of brain development and music learning. She is internationally recognized for her unique work in translating the scientific research of neuroscientists and psychologists to the everyday parent, teacher, and student.

Since 2016, Anita has travelled around the world to interview over 100 neuroscientists and psychologists about music learning and brain development, known as neurological research. Anita now uses the research to present, consult and advocate for an updated understanding of how music learning can benefit every child's development.

Anita's work first came to prominence when she wrote the script for the highly successful TEDEd video, How playing an instrument benefits your brain, followed by her TEDx Talk, What if every child had music education from birth? Anita is best known to Australians for her role as an on-screen expert and campaign lead for the Don't Stop the Music documentary that aired on ABC in late 2018.

Anita was awarded the Barbara Matthews Churchill fellowship in 2016 which allowed her to travel to the US and Canada to learn from

researcher leaders, such as Professor Isabelle Peretz from the BRAMS Lab in Montreal and Professor Nina Kraus from the Brainvolts lab in Chicago. In 2017, Anita was awarded a sabbatical to continue her studies, again in the US, Canada, and Germany with leaders such as Professors Glenn Schellenberg and Sandra Trehub at the University of Toronto Mississauga and Dr Assal Habibi and Dr Mathew Sachs at the Brain and Creativity Institute in LA. In recognition of her work, Anita was awarded the inaugural Australian Women in Music award for Music Education in 2019.

Dr. Anita Collins is an award-winning educator, researcher, and writer in the field of brain development and music learning. She is internationally recognized for her unique work in translating the scientific research of neuroscientists and psychologists to parents, teachers, and students. Her film “How Playing an Instrument Benefits Your Brain” is one of the most viewed TED-Ed talks of all time. Dr. Collins was the lead onscreen expert in the ABC TV series “Don’t Stop the Music” and is Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Canberra and Associate Fellow of Music, Mind and Wellbeing at the University of Melbourne.

About her book, “The Music Advantage”: An expert in cognitive development and music education reveals the remarkable and surprising benefits that playing—or even appreciating—music offers to children.

When you watch this video and read more about the benefits of playing an instrument, you will realize that you can learn an instrument at any age. If you have an interest in learning the accordion, go for it! Buy an instrument, find a teacher, and begin an amazing musical journey that will result in new learning and new experiences. Want to share how you have benefited from playing the accordion? Send your thoughts to Ritabelll@aol.com



*Join an Accordion Group—its great fun!
Everyone is welcome, details below & next page*



Adelaide Orchestra

The Adelaide Accordion Orchestra would love to have some new accordionists come along and join their group. If you live in or around Adelaide please come and join us. Rehearsals are at the German Club, 7.30 to 9.30 pm, each Tuesday night. If you are interested please contact

David: dmpeterson5159@gmail.com

Accordions Alfresco—ASA NSW Orchestra

Sydney based Accordion orchestra 'Accordions Alfresco' meet in Sydney on **Monday nights 7pm - 9pm** at Russell Lea School hall, Russell Lea.

Note: *The last Monday of the month is conducted over ZOOM (everyone welcome)*. Anyone interested in coming along, please contact

Ben: ben.h.pattinson@gmail.com

ASAVO—ASA Victoria Orchestra

The ASA Victoria Orchestra (ASAVO) is always on the lookout for new members. Rehearsals are every second Saturday from 3.00pm for 1.5 hours at the Fairfield campus of Melbourne Polytechnic. Single or block fees per person are payable on the day or in advance and includes room-booking, photocopying, arranging, and composition for the ensemble, and PL insurance. Contact Anthony for fee information, rehearsal and performance dates. Please note that the ensemble is inclusive of all experience levels, age, gender and musical tastes.

If you are interested please contact Anthony: anthonyjschulz@gmail.com

Prahran Accordion Band—Victoria

The Prahran Accordion Band meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and beginners' band on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the German Club Tivoli in Windsor, 7-9pm. So whatever your performance level from beginner to intermediate come and join in.

Members will have to join the Tivoli club eventually at a very reasonable rate. Further details email Judy: judygunson58@gmail.com



Hills Accord
@ Belgrave Library, Vic

We are a group of accordionists called 'Hills Accord' from the Dandenong Ranges that regularly play in an informal and welcoming environment. Accordionists with some level of experience are welcome.

We meet at Belgrave Library
7pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.



**Important Notice
for Performers**

**NEW ASA PERFORMER
DIRECTORY**

We would like to extend an invitation to ASA member accordionists to promote themselves on the ASA website. Increasingly, the ASA website is becoming a resource for people wanting to find out more about the instrument, how to connect with local players and ways to book players for a variety of engagements. If you would like to take part in the ASA Performer Directory please provide the following information to: Anthony Schulz at

anthonyjschulz@gmail.com

- Photo
- Blurb/bio (not too long)
- Styles/genres
- Full Name
- Website link and/or links to videos/recordings
- Contact phone number or email address (or both)
- State/city



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BEHIND THE BELLOWS:

A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE ACCORDION

BY STEVE MOBIA



Click the video link above/below to watch the video or manually type in the link to your browser

[Video Link](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pPoMtgSzg4&t=2422s>

ACCORDIONISTS OUT AND ABOUT

Ross & Phillippe—a recipe for a great night!

Ross Maio is seen here with chef Phillippe Lebreux outside Chez Pascal French restaurant at Sans Souci, Sydney last October.

My dear friend Jean and I went to dinner to celebrate the restaurants 40th anniversary. Together with delicious food, Ross Maio and his beloved Accordion entertained the diners with soft French tunes.

The restaurant become animated after the meal with not only lively

French music but also some Australian tunes. Ross also played and sang La Marseillaise and we all joined in the singing. Vive la France et Vive Pascal.

Annick Lucchetti

PS If you feel like a nice French meal, I highly recommend Chez Pascal.



Hearts and Love Songs on Valentines Day

Maria and Glenn, The Two Fillies, had a wonderful Valentine's Day at a local Residential Care Centre in Sydney. They entertained the audience with favourite love songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s, shared memories and reminisced about sweethearts and partners. There was a lot of laughter as they all joined in the singing.

The morning was made extra special by the staff who had decorated the hall with love hearts and had set up tables with lovely tea sets for a Devonshire morning tea.



The Remarkable Journey of Phill Nadvesnik Slovenian/Alpine Folk Music Specialist and Educator

*Have you experienced isolation being an accordionist?
Have you wondered if there are others out there who have your
passion and love for this instrument?*

***Read about an accordionist who plays a niche style that comes from a
very specific part of the world!***

Phill Nadvesnik's parents migrated from Slovenia to Australia, where he was born and raised in Melbourne. His parents both enjoyed Slovenian/Alpine folk music, particularly his father who loved listening to the accordion as a child (but came from a farm where they couldn't afford to sell a cow in order to fund an accordion for him!)

Initiated by his father simply wanting him to try the accordion, Phill started playing around the age of nine. Until this point, he wasn't interested in any music whatsoever, but once he had heard some Slovenian/Alpine folk music, he was "hooked"! His first accordion was "some cheap hunk of junk"! But soon he upgraded to a Morelli/Baile.



Phill's teacher was Don Quattrocchi, a well-known teacher and arranger of popular songs for Australian and international accordionists. Don was very encouraging and supportive as Phill started his learning journey.

Highly motivated by his interest in Alpine folk music, Phill quickly started to learn his favourite songs by ear out of necessity, as acquiring sheet music was very difficult. There were no online resources for this type of music....yet!

He remembers practising whenever he wanted to, even if it was late at night when the rest of the house was trying to sleep! He was also fortunate enough to locate some old sheet music through some elderly Slovenian people who wanted to pass it on to someone.

After studying at university Phill worked as a software engineer. He played in venues around Melbourne and experienced one memorable occasion when, at a party, he joined with Peter Grivic a Slovenian-Australian, Denis Novato from Italy (world champion of the Alpine diatonic button accordion or Steirische Harmonika) and Gerhard 'Gegi' Gabriel a well-known entertainer from Austria. After this 'high', only a week later, Covid shut down everything!



Phill had been able to form his own trio in 2019 with two high calibre and seasoned Slovenian musicians, Peter Grivic from Wollongong (better known as an accordionist) and Steve Rezonja from the US, who had both a few years earlier relocated to Victoria. Both had a deep connection with the Alpine genre.



They started to perform together for Austrian and Slovenian venues. How life changing to find like minds!

During 2020 Phill started to collaborate on YouTube with more musicians of like minds in the USA, Canada, Slovenia, Austria and Germany.

The lockdowns, and connecting to musicians internationally, set Phill's passion alight to the potential of supporting and educating accordionists in the Alpine genre, online, regardless of the location.

Now, after ten years in software engineering, Phill is dedicating his time to both freelance web design as well as music, in the form of sheet music arrangements, tutorial videos, online lessons, providing advice, giving tips, techniques and tricks, making resources more readily available, and fulfilling his goal to help others to learn to play Alpine folk music, especially in English speaking countries where it is difficult to get face-to-face help.

Phill has just said farewell to the original guitarist and co-founder of his trio, Steve Rezonja, who has recently retired. The trio has found a new guitarist, highly regarded Australian composer and vocalist of many languages and genres, Paul Gillett, who was immediately "hooked" upon hearing this happy, energetic music!



Alpski Muzikantje **Alpen Musikanten**

Phill's thoughts on life and the accordion!

“Never assume that you know everything. Constantly look to others of a higher calibre and skillset for inspiration, for opportunities to learn and to collaborate. Most importantly, never stop learning. Believing that you have ‘finished’ learning will only hinder your journey. Avoid telling yourself that you need to play how others play the accordion, or that you need to play the same styles or songs that others play. When you start being open to being yourself and exploring your passion, whether it’s an instrument like the accordion, or a unique style of music that makes you feel isolated or even shunned, eventually

SLOVENIAN and ALPINE FOLK MUSIC

by Phill Nadvesnik (Melbourne, Australia)

My passion is Alpine folk music which comes from Slovenia, Austria, and surrounding Alpine regions like Bavaria, Northern Italy (South Tyrol) etc.. In Slovenia it is referred to as ‘narodnozabavna glasba’ or popular-folk music, while in Austria it tends to sit under a ‘Volksmusik’ or folk music umbrella.

One of the predominant styles was pioneered in Slovenia in the 1950s by Slavko & Vilko Avsenik and incorporates elements of Swing and Jazz, and even a guitar rhythm inspired by French Gypsy Swing. It demands high calibre musicians and vocalists and despite only featuring polkas and waltzes, it deserves to be separated from the stereotypical ‘Oompah’ (which seems to only exist in English speaking countries in its current form).

Trio formations feature an accordion providing the melody or accompaniment to vocals (either piano accordion, chromatic button,

or diatonic button), double bass or electric bass (alternating with the baritone; but not a tuba) and a guitar providing a percussion-like rhythm, while quintet formations feature the trio joined by a trumpet and clarinet duet.

The style is still played today in these parts of Europe and is constantly evolving with new songs and new takes on this genre, and is sung in both Slovenian and German languages. The Avsenik style is referred to as 'Oberkrainer' music in German speaking areas, which comes from the German name for the Slovenian region of 'Gorenjska' or 'Upper Carniola' from which the Avsenik brothers hail (interestingly the Kransky sausage originates from this region too, whose Slovenian name is the 'Kranjska' sausage!).

Of note is also the fact that the Avsenik brothers wrote over 1000 compositions and sold over 30 million records from the 1950s to the 1990s, and Slavko Avsenik's funeral in 2015 was attended by a massive crowd of his fans as well as being televised on Slovenian national television.

*Avsenik
Brothers Ensemble*



The most influential and popular artists in this genre include the Avsenik Brothers Ensemble from Slovenia and Alpski Kvintet or Alpenoberkrainer from Slovenia. These two groups have a far-reaching influence spanning from Northern Croatia, up through Northern Italy (South Tyrol), Austria, Switzerland, and into the southern parts of Germany (Bavaria) where Alpine folk music is a popular form of folk music. Both of these groups have inspired several generations of musicians who constantly seek to emulate their energetic, happy and swingy music.

[Please check out my website!!](#)

accordionmaniac.com

Alpski Kvintet or Alpenoberkrainer



Saturday 4th May 2024
 9 am - 3.30 pm
 ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH HALL
 431 Bridge Street Wilsonton, TOOWOOMBA

ACCORDION music lovers

If you love to play the accordion,
 or like to listen to accordion music,
 then make sure you book your seat.
 (Numbers are required for catering purposes)

Light refreshments BYO - cushion
 (Church fundraiser)

ENQUIRIES:
 \$5 per person Joan 0427 170 857



Fundraiser in
TOOWOOMBA Qld
 on
Saturday May 4th

Hello players of the accordion and accordion music lovers ...

Our first concert of the year will be on the first Saturday in May (4th) at St Paul's Lutheran Church Hall (behind the Church), 431 Bridge Street, Wilsonton, Toowoomba. (Located halfway between the Toowoomba airport and the Wilsonton Shopping Centre).

Jeanette Kummerow has once again offered to lead the day and we plan to follow the same successful format as last year where our program will be as follows:

- 9am start** *individual players followed by a group jam session*
- 10.30** *morning tea*
- 11.00** *individual players followed by a group jam session*
- 12.30** *lunch*
- 1.30 - 3.30** *individual players followed by a final group jam session*

In the past we have had players of the button, piano and digital accordion entertain us and words for many songs are put on the screen for visitors to sing along.

Church members have always put on an excellent selection of food for us to enjoy for both morning tea and for lunch, at very reasonable prices. At previous concerts we were treated to cupcakes, quiches, slices, pikelets and many varieties of yummy sandwiches. Cups of home-made soups are also available if the weather turns cool. Tea and coffee is free. Please bring along some spare cash to support this fundraising venture for the church. Gluten-free options are always available.

Our group jam sessions are usually held at the front of the hall, not on the stage, so seating for visitors will be limited.

These concert days in Toowoomba are very popular and the hall fills quickly just through 'word of mouth'. If you would like to attend our Saturday May 4th concert as a player, we would love to add your name to our player's list and program.

If you would like to attend as a spectator, it is imperative that you book in early so a seat can be reserved for you. Thank you.

Joan van Kuijck 0427 170 857

George Butrumlis Workshop – Feb 2024

On Saturday 24th of February George Butrumlis presented the second ASA Victoria workshop titled *Interpreting a Lead Sheet: from Oom-pah to Groove* at Open Studio in Northcote. The workshop was in response to survey feedback indicating that accordionists are very keen on developing a deeper understanding of how to accompany themselves more effectively with the left hand when working with a lead sheet. With over 12 attendees, George focused his presentation to a couple of key areas; the importance of good rhythmic left hand accompaniment and, exploring the possibilities of the stradella system beyond the typical major, minor, dominant and diminished chords. For example, a C major 7 chord can be constructed by playing a C bass with an E minor chord or D minor 7 flat 5 can be played with a D bass and an F minor chord (and that's just a taster!).

George gave many excellent demonstrations putting his examples into action and the participants were provided with opportunities to try thing out along with extensive written materials and arrangements of songs to help contextualise principles and practice at home.

It was of particular interest to hear George speak of his musical journey and how he incorporated his experiences playing guitar in Rock bands into his accordion playing and his observations on the energetic role of drums and how the left hand of the accordion can fulfil a similar function.



The next ASA Victoria workshop will be on Saturday 27th of April at Open Studio and will be facilitated by Anthony Schulz. The title of the next workshop is *Between the lines and spaces: From chords to scales and back* and will be immediately before *Bellows and Beverages*. Please check the ASA website for details (accordionsaustralia.com). We hope to see many of you there!



New CD Release **"Malibourne"**

Djoliba Rattler recently launched their new CD titled "MALIBOURNE"

This CD has been a long time in the making due to the Covid interruption but finally made and released on February 18, 2024.

This is a great project bringing together master Malian musician, Aboubacar Djelike Kouyate with accordionist George Butrumlis, percussionist Ray Pereira OAM, and bassist Mark Ferrie.

Here is the link to the Bandcamp page where you can purchase the CD as a high quality digital download.

[Djoliba Rattler - Bandcamp](https://djolibarattler.bandcamp.com/album/malibourne-2)

-or- <https://djolibarattler.bandcamp.com/album/malibourne-2>



Aboubacar Djéliké Kouyaté - *Vocals/ Guitar/ Ngoni/Calabash*

George Butrumlis - *Accordion/ Lead Vocal on Jon D*

Ray Pereira - *Congas/ Djembe/ Talking Drum/ Percussion*

Mark Ferrie - *Bass*

Amadou Suso - *Kora on Badenya and Djembe*


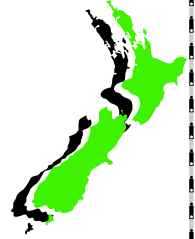
Luke Koszanski - *Electric guitar on Rebellion*






Guitar Frets



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**QUINTESSENTIAL QUEENSLAND VARIETY
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10th to 20th MAY 2024

New Zealand's favourite artists - singers, accordionist Tracey Collins and pianist Grant will be embarking on an 11-day Variety festival travel tour of Queensland, Australia. They will visit the Sunshine Coast, Fraser Island, Brisbane, coastlines and Glass Mountain.

Check out their itinerary below;

<https://www.operatunity.co.nz/assets/Queenland-2026.pdf>

ARTISTS ON THIS TRIP:

Bonnie, Karl, Amanda, with fiddler Marian, accordionist Tracey, pianist Grant





Waiheke Musical Museum Accordion Collection Curated

By Christine Johnstone

Uwe Grodd from the Waiheke Musical Museum on Waiheke Island, Auckland, asked accordion specialists in New Zealand Grayson Masefield and Kevin Friedrich to help with assessing their accordion collection at the Museum in January 2024. The accordions are found among an impressive collection of pianos, keyboard and string instruments.

New Zealand based Grayson Masefield, multiple world champion, teacher and concert artist performed at the museum in duo with Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra concert master, violinist Andrew Beer on 18 February 2024, while Kevin Friedrich is the curator of Accordion Gems, A Master Collection of Accordions through Time at the Dargaville Museum (New Zealand) and the Vice President of World of Accordions Museum in Superior, Wisconsin.

The Waiheke Museum was very pleased to hear that the majority of their instruments are in good condition and only a few repairs will be needed. Grayson and Kevin confirmed that the collection of accordions warranted continued maintenance and an investment in better ways of displaying them.

The Museum was founded in 1996 by Lloyd and Joan Whittaker who had collected musical instruments found in New Zealand. Lloyd was a talented musician who played a variety of instruments from an early age. He was also a consummate restorer of these instruments. When the couple moved from New Plymouth to Waiheke Island in 1996, they brought their collection with them and, with help from the community, started the Museum at Artworks in Oneroa. It moved into the current space in 2000. Lloyd and Joan presented their Live Show together every Saturday afternoon until their retirement in 2019 aged 87 and 90.

In 2007, the Waiheke Musical Museum Charitable Trust was formed to ensure the preservation and ongoing management of the collection. While some instruments were gifted to the Trust by the Whittakers, many of the larger or more valuable instruments were purchased from them by individuals and Community organisations and donated back to the Trust. The centerpiece is world famous Polish musician Paderewski's 1897 Bechstein Concert Grand piano, brought to New Zealand in 1904 for his Australasian Tour and still used for many of the Museum's concerts.

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NEW MEMBERSHIP / ANNUAL RENEWAL

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

ASA Annual Membership is August to July. Renewal time is 1st August each year ;

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

New Membership AND Renewals can now be done using the ASA streamlined online system. Please log into:

ASA website. www.accordionsaustralia.com

Payment is via Bank Transfer. Note that Victorian members have a different Account to the other states, as indicated below.

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