

**National Accordion Association
National Accordion Convention March 9-12, 2016
Hyatt Regency North Dallas– Richardson, TX**

Convention Summary by Laura Niland, NAA Convention Coordinator 2016

The 2016 National Accordion Convention was held in Richardson, Texas, at the Hyatt Regency North Dallas Hotel on March 9-12. Conventioneers came from 21 States and two countries, USA and Canada. The Convention featured: Band Camp with the **NAA Fun and EZ Band** directed by **Dick Albreski** of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and the **NAA Symphonic Orchestra** directed by **Maureen Jarosh** of Calgary, Canada; as well as the **NAA Youth Orchestra** directed by **Dick Albreski**, along with workshops, concerts, opportunities to play at **Arlyn Visentin's 15 Minutes of Fame**, the first **Digital Accordion Symposium**, **NAA Rising Star Competition for Kids Ages 4-18 in Piano-Keyboard-Accordion**, **First Lesson: Accordion Workshop for Kids Age 4-18**, **Circle of Champions**, **International Concert and Dance**, **NAA Banquet and Awards Ceremony**, and grand finale, "**An Evening Under the Stars**" Concert with **Michael Bridge**, **Cory Pesaturo**, and **Jamie Maschler**.

The Convention theme, *It's All About the Musician*, featured workshops designed to teach principles of music based on Ten Core Categories: *Know Your Accordion, Musicality, Musical Styles and Ethnic Genres, Music Theory Simplified, Effective Practice and Presentation, Strategies for Working Together and Group Applications, Solo Performance Strategies, Effective Use of Technology in Music, Personal Evaluations/Critiques, and Participation*. The design of the convention began a year in advance with initial work by **Norman Seaton** and **Laura Niland** on the **Continuing Education for Lifelong Learners (CEU)** document outlining principles for building the workshops. You can visit the NAA website at www.nationalaccordion.org to see how the workshops reflect the guidelines for these educational standards. **Norman Seaton**, **President of NAA**, worked in conjunction with El Centro College to offer conventioneers college credit with ten hours of workshops translating to 1.0 hours of college credit. The new feature, **Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** were popular this year with 30+ participants in the program. A certificate from El Centro College was given to indicate the credits. This is the first time that college credit was offered at an accordion convention and appears to be popular among conventioneers. The college credit also acknowledges those who have taken time to advance their education and training in accordion music. The NAA Board worked together to create an outstanding program for the 29th Annual National Accordion Convention.

Wednesday-Thursday Band Camp was in full swing on March 9-10 with half of the Conventioneers arriving early to attend practice sessions and socialize. Thursday practices continued until the evening when final performances were ready for the audience. The **NAA Fun and EZ Band**, directed by **Dick Albreski**, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, played: *Crusin' Down the River*, *12th Street Rag*, *2016 Polka Medley*, *You Were Meant for Me*, and the *National Accordion Swing* (composed by Albreski). All of the music was arranged by Albreski, who has been a part of this program for many years. There were 70+ participants in the NAA Fun and EZ Band. The audience loved their performance, and the participants truly enjoyed playing with the group. Many thanks to Dick Albreski for his devotion to the NAA Fun Band. The **NAA Symphonic Orchestra**, directed by **Maureen Jarosh** of Calgary, Canada, played: *Pipeline*, *Mission Impossible*, *Go West Medley*, *Third Man*, *Continental* and a workshop piece, *Palladio*, to demonstrate strategies of unison and expression in an Orchestra. **Gerry Jarosh**, Maureen's husband, also played drums for the Orchestra. There were 30+ participants in the NAA Symphonic Orchestra. The participants really enjoyed Jarosh's energetic, enthusiastic style of conducting as she worked with the performers and engaged the audience. The music was varied in style, showcasing different tempos, rhythms and styles, and the performers enjoyed playing the music too.

The **Digital Accordion Symposium**, organized by **Laura Niland** and moderated and taught by **Dr. Ian Fries**, began on Thursday with **Dr. Fries** opening the Digital Gatherings workshops with special topics about Roland V-accordion setups and other electronic questions from the audience. Each Digital Accordion workshop had good attendance rates, as there were many conventioneers who came specifically for instruction and information on digital accordions, MIDI and peripherals. Our presenters for the Symposium included: **Dr. Ian Fries**, **Jay Fox**, **Beverly Garcia**, **Chuck Henry**, **Michael Bridge**, **Cory Pesaturo**, and **Gordon Kohl**. **Joe Natoli** was unable to attend, after an extremely difficult attempt to drive to Richardson during several flooding on IH 20 and areas east of Dallas. He was disappointed that he could not attend, but safety is our first concern. He returned safely to his new home in Ohio and is doing well. Stepping up to cover for Joe's workshops were **Michael Bridge**, **Cory Pesaturo**, **Mario Pedone** and **Chuck Henry** as well as **Dr. Fries** and **Jay Fox**. The teamwork with these presenters was clearly appreciated by all, as they made the Symposium a highly successful NAA event. There was a special presentation at the *Digital Accordion Forum* (**Dr. Fries**, **Michael Bridge**, **Cory Pesaturo**, **Gordon Kohl**, **Jay Fox**), a Panel discussion group moderated by Dr. Fries, which posed interesting questions about digital and acoustic accordions to these experts, such as: *Why do they play digital accordions? How do their instruments compare to acoustic accordions?* Audience questions were also posed to the panel with very interesting and informative results. Many thanks to this great team for all of their effort and assistance to the workshop attendees.

Friday -Saturday highlights

The Digital Accordion Symposium continued through Saturday. On Friday, **Jay Fox**, of **Jay Fox Band** exhibited at the convention and also presented two workshops, one on the *new digital wireless-reedless accordion from Siwa & Figlia*, which was very lightweight and truly innovative in its technology. This was the first time it was shown at any trade show, as it had only been in the US for a week. Additionally Fox demonstrated the features of the *Ketron Sound Module*, which attracted our digital crowd.

Beverly Garcia held her 2nd iPad workshop at NAA. Many folks from last year attended and obtained a boost of confidence from Beverly and others about using their iPad for their sheet music and performances and garnishing other tips from Beverly and other participants. **Michael Bridge**, **Cory Pesaturo**, **Mario Pedone** and **Chuck Henry** substituted for Joe Natoli, who could not be there due to weather, and gave their impromptu workshop on: *Getting the Most from your MIDI setup, BK-7m and*

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Roland 7x and 8X, and Notation Software . Each digital workshop had between 8-18 participants who were pleased with the quality of each workshop. The Digital Accordion Symposium was highly successful in meeting the needs of our conventioners.

Friday NAA workshops continued with great attendance, while folks would take breaks to eat at the fabulous Hyatt restaurant. **Laura Niland**, Convention Coordinator 2016, gave a workshop on *Accordion Synergy* explaining the strength of the organization through active participation of its members, describing the features of the Convention overall and the educational focus on training for our conventioners. **Jane Christison** opened with a great workshop *Squeezing Money Out of Your Accordion* with tips on performance techniques, strategies to get gigs and more. Her energetic presence on stage taught everyone how to connect with the audience. **Debra Peters** from Austin, TX gave a great workshop *Playing Country & Western Classics*. You can't come to Texas without knowing how to play CW Classics, and Debra knows how to do it BEST! **Shelia Lee** brought us *Accordion Lessons via the Internet* and discussed online learning provided on her website, as well as explaining how SKYPE lessons work. **Jamie Maschler** presented a series of workshops. First, the *Music of Brazil*, with audience participation, focused on creating the rhythms of Brazilian *forro* style, then the *Theory of Pythagoras*, explained how notes and sounds are created by the cutting of a string, then plucked to make the individual note sounds, as well as explaining the structure of the Circle of 5ths, showing warm-ups and improvisational techniques. Later, Maschler presented a workshop, *Tango Nuevo*, demonstrating the sensual style of tango music and its history from Buenos Aires, Argentina to the popular Tango Nuevo of today. Maschler's workshops were informative and dynamic, bringing an appreciation of the culture of Brazil and the lure of South American music.

Ina Yakubeika, of Accordion Renaissance (a non-profit from Virginia) presented *Articulation & Expression Through Music*, a workshop demonstrating how you can effectively play a piece and enhance your presentation. Another presentation given by **Yakubeika** was the *Best Strategies & Methods for Teaching Young Children*, where she shared her tips on research studies and successful tips for helping children learn music on the accordion. The large crowd was interested in her creative work with using games, colors and multi-sensory approach to learning music. **Yakubeika** together with Accordion Renaissance is currently writing a new *Accordion Primer* to teach accordion to new students and has submitted a grant proposal to support this endeavor. Dale Wise, Jim Rice, Ina Yakubeika, Sid Sward, Mark Cooke and Tatyana Babakaeva are founders of Accordion Renaissance, a non-profit, whose purpose is to promote the accordion through "education, training and performance".

NAA together Accordion Renaissance provided support for the *NAA Rising Star Competition for Kids Age 4-18 (piano/keyboard/accordion)*, and *First Lesson: Workshop for Kids Age 4-18*. In addition, a generous grant of \$2000 was provided by the **Michigan Accordion Society (Joe Recchia President)** from the **Tony Dannon Youth Endowment Fund**, to support this project, allowing NAA to gift two accordions to students playing piano and taking their first accordion lesson at the workshop, transitioning their skills from piano to accordion. We are grateful for this generous donation to make this special program possible. These funds allowed NAA to offer three \$150 Scholaships, two of those went to the students awarded new accordions (32-bass Ballarini model) for their lessons (**Nathan Evanhar and Maya Faith Thomas** whose teacher is Elena Fainshtein), and one scholarship of \$150 to **Job Elliott**, accordion competitor (Dick Albreski, instructor). **The First Lesson: Workshop for Kids Age 4-18** was taught by **Brian Berlin, Carlestone Elementary School Music Teacher from Pearland ISD** and assisted by **Ina Yakubeika** and **Jane Christison**, who earlier had judged the Rising Star Competition for Kids. Berlin has taught 350+ students to play accordion in his elementary school program and continues to expand their repertoire with music from around the world. Berlin's one hour *First Lesson: Accordion Workshop for Kids* at NAA, attended by 14 students, was held after the Competition in the same room creating a **Virtual Classroom Setting**, and was videotaped for future study on how children learn to translate their skills to new musical endeavors, namely the accordion. Over 70 people watched the lesson unfold as children age 4-18 donned the accordions, worked through their lesson, eventually playing together "Ode to Joy" in perfect unison. Their expressions and reactions to the lesson were priceless! Witnessing their success were their parents, grandparents, siblings and conventioners. This was a highly successful project undertaken by NAA under the direction of Laura Niland, Youth Events Coordinator.

Congratulations to these 15 talented young musicians who participated and also to their teachers: Elena Fainshtein, Dick Albreski and Jim Rice. Student Participants included (all piano except as noted): David Gozlan, Mikahella Gutman, Katherina Zaidel, Mia Shabanov, Sophie Gozlan, Michael Chuprakov, Elizabeth Zaidel, Nathan Evanhar, Maya Thomas, Katherine Chuprakov, Owen Phillips (accordion), Peter Gresser (accordion), Elijah Clements (accordion), Job Elliott (accordion), Michael Carriveau (accordion). Trophies awarded for 1st-3rd, for piano by age Category and medals for other places. Trophies for 1st-3rd in accordion and medals for other places. Certificates of Participation given for the Competition as well as a Graduation Certificate from Brian Berlin for completion of their First Lesson on Accordion.

Category-Place-Name-Music selection for NAA Rising Star Competition for Kids

Age 4-6 Category: 1st David Gozlan (*Rockin On*); 2nd Katherine Zaidel (*Love Somebody*); 3rd -Mikahella Gutman (*Tum Balalajka*)

Age 7-9 Category: 1st -Mia Shabanov, 2nd-Elizabeth Zaidel (*A Concert Piece*), 3rd Michael Chuprakov (*The Entertainer*), 4th Sophie Gozlan (*Carnival in Venice*)

Age 10-12 Category: 1st—Nathan Evanhar (*Prelude by Bach*), 2nd Katherine Chuprakov (*Under the Sea*), 3rd -Maya Faith Thomas (*Hungarian Rhapsody #2*)

Category Accordion: 1st -Job Elliott (accordion-*The Brave Matador* by Frosini), 2nd-Elijah Clements (*Jenny Lind Polka*), 3rd- Owen Phillips (*William Tell*), 4th -Peter Gresser (*Soldier's Joy*).

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Friday-Saturday continues with more workshops, concerts, dances!

Cory Pesaturo, World Class Champion in both acoustic and digital accordion presented a workshop on *Authenticity of Styles* showing how to morph a simple tune into different styles showing at least 10 different styles to put pizzazz into your performance. **Pesaturo** also presented *Improvisation and Using Music Theory to Improvise*, showing participants how to re-invent a music piece and create your own style. The audience enjoyed Pesaturo's explanations of the circle of 5ths, in a different point of view, the infinite line.. instead of the circle. Mathematics and Music connect in surprising and interesting ways. **Gordon Kohl** presented two workshops on *Playing Jazz in a French Cabaret*, sharing his research from sources in France South America and beyond demonstrating chord structure and music arrangements featuring various dance styles including foxtrot, fast swing, samba tango, waltzes, marches, French musette, French waltz and more. Kohl's workshop was packed with ideas, music arrangements and tips for your next gig.

Bill Palmer presented an interesting workshop on *Making Your Performances More Effective* with excellent tips on how to leave a lasting positive impression on your audience. **Dale Wise** brought his strength in teaching with *Wise Choices Part I and Part II*. Wise is a true educator, teaching us all the best with improve, expression, bellows control, bass patterns, musicality, jazz talk and notation, and the tyranny of the bar line! There was no room for boredom, as every second was a learning experience. **Dr Ian Fries** used the huge poster of the Bass Note Chart to demonstrate his workshop *Accordion Bass Jazz Chords for Accordionists*. Fries showed how orchestral sounds, for example clarinet, saxophone, etc., on a Roland or any digital accordion, single notes must emulate those instruments, thus by augmenting sounds using combinations in the left hand (bass), you can create enhanced jazz sounds that translate to acoustic accordion as well as digital. This was a unique and special presentation and extremely informative.

Michael Bridge, World Class Champion accordionist from Canada, presented two dynamic workshops at NAA this year. The Bellows: From A to Z showed how the heart of the accordion, the bellows, is the key to expression and sound that it creates. **Bridge** demonstrated how to hold the accordion, accent notes effectively, using the bellows and showing how the left hand vs right hand lead into the note structure creates a more effective sound. **Bridge** demonstrated how to tastefully introduce bellow shakes, bend a note and other bellows techniques to improve your style of play in a range of musical genres. The second workshop was *Overcoming Nerves to Deliver a Masterful Performance*, revealing techniques that the master uses to perform flawlessly under pressure. His advise: "blow out the candle, smell the rose" to release tensions and fear, and create a new image in your mind before you play, by using mental imaging to reduce stress while gaining confidence and control.

Mario Pedone returned to NAA with two workshops: *Embellishments*, and *Play Along with Mario*. The *Embellishments* workshop gave participants strategies to give a "twist" to each music piece, with arpeggios, glissandos, grace notes, transitions, chords and expression. The ever-popular *Play Along with Mario*, selected audience volunteers with their own favorite music styles playing along with Mario on Ketron keyboard. Pedone emulated the band backup, while the musician learned to keep tempo, focus on beginnings, endings and staying within the time signature. This strategy is key to working with a group. Pedone creates backup mp3 files which can be purchased for those playing digital or acoustic accordion and enhance their music performance at future gigs. Ever popular master jazz accordionist, **John Simkus** from Chicago, returned to refresh our memory with *Jazz 101: Comping and What is Jazz?* **Simkus** taught us some of the Do's and Don'ts when comping with other players, and also how to work together in duet, trio or ensemble jazz performances to create greater success. In the *What is Jazz?* workshop, participants learned that jazz is embedded in many other genres, without us knowing, we are playing jazz! **Simkus** has taught us not to fear jazz, but to embrace it! **George Secor**, presented the features of the Moschino Free Bass, and demonstrated the structure of the accordion and versatility. The bass layout is different than that of the Stradella free-bass which may offer some ease for new players. **Chad Harmon and Dr Nicki Cohen** presented a fascinating workshop on *The Inner Bellows: The Use of Accordion in Music Therapy*, provided clinical studies to show how accordion music can be used in advanced music therapy for different populations. Harmon and Cohen have constructed a comprehensive manual on the value of the accordion for therapy.

Jamie Maschler and Norman Seaton presented an interesting short topic workshop, *Accompanying a Speaker*. Strategies were offered on how to play background music, provide cues, and present tasteful music during a lecture or stage program when the speaker is the star, not the accordionist. **Jim Rice**, of Accordion Renaissance, presented a lively workshop on *Solo Techniques for Public Performance*, sharing the successful method he incorporates in planning, preparation and playing both in the public and private sector. He used small breakout groups to demonstrate and practice techniques discovered during the workshop. These strategies are valuable tools for improving and maintaining a performance. **Sharon Seaton**, presented *Seaton's Circle*, an interactive workshop. Participants brought music to play in the "circle" while the group offered positive feedback to the performer concerning strong points and areas for improvement. **Elena Fainshtein** offered a *Master Class: An Open Lesson*, where participants brought a piece of music and Elena offered encouragement, redirection and pointers on improving performance, including tips for musical expressions, using the bellows, posture and sight-reading tips from Fainshtein's teaching strategies. The ever popular, **Tony Lovello** return to celebrate Texas with the *Accordion Jamboree*, with participants sitting campfires style playing a tune, with everyone joining in. Tony helped "spur" things forward with encouragement, jokes, stories, and tips, with everyone having fun too!

The **NAA Youth Accordion Orchestra**, directly by Dick Albreski featured students from Oklahoma, Texas and Virginia. Participating students included: Bria Smith, Becca Smith, Matthew Medley, Hannah Sweeney, Job Elliott, Peter Gresser, and Owen Phillips. It was a special year for the Youth Orchestra by having participants join the group from other states. They prepared with their teachers at home, and then came together at NAA for practice sessions and a stage performance on Saturday, attended by a huge cheering crowd. This year, they played the following selections: *El Relicario*, *Medley of Love*, *Our Song for You*, *Stars and Stripes Forever*, and *Tisket*. Solo performances: Bria played *Rock & Roll Waltz*, Becca played *Ah! Le Petit Vin Blanc*, Matthew

played *Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes*, Hannah played *Scotland, Land of the Brave*, Job played *La Mariposita* by Frosini, Peter played *Merry Widow Waltz*, and Owen played *Military Medley*. Each year these young musicians improve their performances. Thank you all for your participation and for the parents and teachers who helped to make this event special. Many thanks to Dick Albreski, who arranged many of the music pieces for the Orchestra, and spent countless hours in rehearsal. Medals were given to the students for the NAA Performance, as they too are Rising Stars! Congratulations!

Banquet, Dance, and Concerts

Circle of Champions on Thursday evening, began with a fabulous lineup of beloved star performers: **Jane Christison, John Simkus, Debra Peters & Carol Garrison, George Secor & Robert Mansfield, Nancy Leonard, Jay Fox, Cory Pesturo, Lou Le Brun, Bill Palmer & his wife Dr. Julie, Mario Pedone & Michael Bridge, Nick Ballarini & Tom Becker, and finale with Greg Klugiewicz & Tony Lovello**. Now THAT's a lineup of Accordion Stars! Every performance was stellar! The music was varied, lively, inspiring and simply AWESOME! This was only Thursday, with two more days of great music to come, so conventioners were on their feet ready for what came ahead.

Friday night International Concert and Dance, featured **Jane Christison, Eli Davidson & Gordon Kohl** opening the show with a host of dance styles to get people involved. Ethnic music from around the world was featured, as folks danced their way through the evening. The highlight of the show was the performance from **Mario Pedone with singer/performer Liberty Palileo from Suglarland, Texas**. Pedone played all styles of dance and popular music as Liberty lured the audience with her powerful dynamic voice. Joining Mario on stage were **Michael Bridge, Cory Pesaturo and Jamie Maschler** as well as **Becca Huck**, who was invited to join in. The dance lasted until late in the evening, with a standing ovation when the last patriotic song was played and sung by all: *God Bless America*. It was a beautiful ending to a SPECTACULAR evening.

Saturday evening began with the NAA Banquet and Awards Ceremony. The Officers and Board of the National Accordion Association, honored past Officers and Board members on stage. Norman Seaton presented the awards to past Treasurer, **Judy Dillard**, honoring her many years of dedicated service to the NAA and friendship to all members of the Association. Awards were given to **Greg Klugiewicz**, former Board member and Convention Coordinator, whose years of service, countless hours of volunteer work and coordination for NAA events is truly admired and appreciated. In addition awards were given to honor **Chett Warzusen**, for many years of service his organizational work for NAA and also to **Bill and Louise Kucera**, who managed the front desk at all the conventions along with Judy Dillard, and offered assistance to NAA whenever it was needed for many years. These individuals are greatly appreciated for the work they have done for NAA and all of its members.

Saturday Concert: "An Evening Under the Stars" with Michael Bridge, Jamie Maschler and Cory Pesaturo, was one of the best concerts ever heard at the National Accordion Convention. **Michael Bridge** has performed in China, Croatia, Italy, France, UK, across the USA and Canada. He also made his solo orchestral debut with the Boston Pops at age 17 and performs classical, contemporary, folk, jazz, rock and pop on acoustic accordion, digital accordion and piano. Bridge is a graduate student at the University of Toronto and has won numerous awards including being a two-time winner of the Canadian Digital Accordion Championship (2013, 2011). **Jamie Maschler** is carving her name on the musical scene as Sanfoncira or accordionist, she is among the few female lead instrumentalists. She has played since she was 4 and spent years perfecting and competing with challenging pieces by Tchaikovsky & Rachmaninoff. She has played all over the world including: Canada, Brazil, Mexico, St Lucia, and across the US, most recently in Alaska and Texas. **Cory Pesaturo** is a graduate of the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA where he was the first musician ever to major in accordion. Pesaturo is one of only 4 accordionists to win World Championships on both acoustic and digital accordion and the only person ever to win a World Championship in Jazz. Pesaturo's extensive resume includes appearance at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton, TV appearances including the Letterman Show with Johnny Depp, just to name a few of the many famous performers.

The evening concert was led by Bridge with his selections: *Morning, from Peer Gynt Suite, Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Western Medley, Petite Fleur, Gankino Horo, and the 1812 Overture*. Maschler led with her powerful sensual style playing *Forro Na Penha, Baiao da Penha, A Alma da Sanfona, Feira De Mangaio, Eu Lembrei do Ceara, Papu Furado*, and a piece by Maschler and Meese Tonkin, called *Elas*. Backup musicians on keyboard, bass guitar and drums from Austin, Texas were outstanding musicians: **Owen Summers, Aaron Parks and Daniel Durham**. Their addition to the stage provided an intensity which was celebrated by the audience. Maschler's powerful performance showed her strength as she took off her accordion, lowered it to the stage and continued to play it, keeping the rhythm and tempo of the Brazilian music, then lifting the accordion abruptly not missing a single beat or note, rising to the crescendo of the haunting rhythms. Maschler's intensity showed that the talent and power of a woman can command the stage with equal fervor. **Cory Pesaturo** commanded the stage with a collection of jazz styles, as well as Chopin's Fantastic Impromptu, and Electronic medley and more. The audience was amazed as the house lights dimmed for the flashy electric display on his Roland V-accordion timed to the Electronic Fantasy theme. Bridge, Maschler, and Pesaturo played over two hours, combining talents of each musician in duet, trio and ensemble performances, mixing up the styles, and creating heightened momentum for the climax performance with ALL of the performing together. They received a standing ovation for an outstanding, creative and fabulous NAA Evening Under the Stars.

As the 2016 National Accordion Convention closed, conventioners said their "goodbyes" until next year. Many thanks go to the Officers and Board of the NAA, Norman Seaton (President), Nick Ballarini (Vice President), Sharon Seaton, Rebecca Ratliff, Nancy Bernstein and Laura Niland (Convention Coordinator) for all of their hard work and dedicated to make the 29th Annual NAA Convention successful. We also want to thank our wonderful sound man and stage coordinator, Tom Jordan, for his outstanding work with our conventions. In addition, we want to thank our Exhibitors and Vendors for their support of our endeavors. It was an exciting convention, and though we may be tired, we are rejuvenated and eager to see what will come at the celebration of the **30th Anniversary of the National Accordion Convention on March 8-11, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency in Richardson, Texas. We hope to see YOU again and bring your friends for this 30th Anniversary Celebration.**



Photo credits:
 Beverly Garcia
 Greg Klugiewicz
 Jim Rice
 Cory Pesaturo
 Bruce Lawrie



Left to Right: Jami Maschler, Cory Pesaturo, & Michael Bridge

Saturday Concert Stars: Aaron Parks, Owen Summers, Jamie Maschler, Cory Pesaturo, Michael Bridge, Daniel Durham



Left: Dick Albreski directs the NAA Fun & EZ Band
Above: Maureen Jarosh directs the NAA Symphonic Orchestra



Left: Jane Christison shares ideas how to have fun while getting paid to play your accordion!
Right: Jamie Maschler gives talk on Tango Nuevo
Below Left: NAA Youth Orchestra (Left to right) Dick Albreski, Bria Smith, Becca Smith, Matthew Medley, Hannah Sweeney, Job Elliott, Peter Gresser & Owen Phillips
Below Right: First Lesson Accordion Workshop for Kids Age 4-18, fourteen students taught by Brian Berlin, assisted by Jane Christison & Ina Yakubeika learn "Ode to Joy"





Officers and Board Members applaud Cory Pesaturo presenting a donation of \$2000 to NAA for Youth Activities that promote the accordion from the Michigan Accordion Society, Joe Recchia, President. Funds were used to support the NAA Competition for Kids Age 4-18 (piano, keyboard, accordion) and the First Lesson Accordion Workshop for Kids taught by Brian Berlin, Pearland ISD and assisted by Ina Yakubeika (Accordion Renaissance) and Jane Christison. Fourteen students attended the workshop and 15 students competed. Trophies, medals were awarded and two accordions gifted two to students who attended the workshop, transitioning their skills from piano to accordion. In addition, 3 scholarships were awarded to students to further their lessons on accordion. NAA is grateful for this generous donation, the largest single donation on behalf of our youth.

Tony Lovello teaches confidently!



Left: (L to R) Ina Yakubeika (Accordion Renaissance, Assistant . instructor for Accordion Workshop for Kids), Elena Fainshtein (piano teacher), Laura Niland (NAA Youth Activities Coordinator), Jane Christison (Asst. Instructor for Accordion Workshop for Kids), and Brian Berlin, Pearland ISD (instructor for Accordion Workshop for Kids)

Below Left: Student competitors are proud of their awards. Congratulations to these fine young musicians.



Right: Mario Pedone and Greg Klugiewicz enjoy the convention

Below center: Pedone workshop teaches how to Play Along with Mario and keep tempo

George Secor on Moschino Free Bass Accordion



Left: Ina Yakubeika teaches expression and musicality

Right: Dale Wise workshop teaches music theory, expression, and tips to make your music fun!



National Accordion Association 2016 Awards Ceremony Honors past Officers and Board Members for their Dedicated Service to the Members of NAA

Presenting the Awards: Norman Seaton, President of NAA



Chett Warzusen



Judy Dillard



Greg Klugiewicz



Louise Kucera



Bill Kucera



Liberty Palileo & Michael Bridge



Friday International Dance: Liberty Palileo, Michael Bridge, Mario Pedone, Cory Pesaturo, Jamie Maschler and center front: Becca Huck

Left: Line dancing on Friday night! Yippee!

Right: Rebecca Ratliff, Sharon and Norman Seaton with Becca Huck at lunchtime music session

Below Right: Accordion Renaissance Team Jim Rice, Ina Yakubeika, Dale Wise



Michael Bridge, Becca Huck, Cory Pesaturo & Jamie Maschler



It's almost over: The Conga Line at the Banquet
Bill Palmer plays spoons at the Banquet

Far Right: The man who really keeps it going, Tom Jordan, our sound man!! Don't worry Tom, IT'S OVER !!! WE LOVE YOU!

