

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

Member International Music Council, IMC-UNESCO

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Festival Organizers invited Kevin Friedrich, as the CIA President to the Shanghai Spring International Accordion Festival to take part in International Symposium on Accordion.

He was invited to present information to the attendees about the history and activities of the CIA.

Following are the notes which accompanied the Power Point presentation at the Symposium.

Our organization is governed by a 7 member Executive Committee, and 7 member Music Committee. Our committee members are elected for four year terms of office by our member delegates attending the bi-annual General Assembly congress meetings.

Our current officers include:

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – Executive Committee

President: Kevin FRIEDRICH (USA)
Vice President: Raymond BODELL (United Kingdom)
Vice President: Kimmo MATTILA (Finland)
Vice President: Tibor RÁCZ (Slovakia)
2006 Honorary Vice President: Kjell R. OLSEN (Norway)
Secretary General/Treasurer: Walter MAURER (Austria)
Public Relations Manager: Harley JONES (Fiji)
Chairman of the Music Committee: Frédéric DESCHAMPS (France)

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – Music Committee

Chairman: Frédéric DESCHAMPS (France)
Vice Chairman: Joan C. SOMMERS (USA)
Member: Max BONNAY (France)
Member: Harley JONES (Fiji)
Member: John LESLIE (United Kingdom)
Member: Viatcheslav SEMIONOV (Russia)
Member: Jacques MORNET (France)

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – General Information

Originally founded in 1935 in Paris by three countries (France, Germany and Switzerland) as the Association Internationale des Accordeonistes, the 'Confederation Internationale Des Accordeonistes' was reconstituted under its present name in May 1948 at a well attended meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland. At this meeting, delegates from Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Poland and Switzerland met under the Presidency of Mr. Max Francy. Each country represented elected three members to a Governing Board (Conseil Superieur), which then proceeded to elect the first officers of the Confederation.

Under this reconstituted format, Mr. Francis Coderay (Switzerland) was elected President, with Mr. Max Castelli (Great Britain) and the late Professor Luigi Oreste Anzaghi (Italy) as Vice Presidents; Mr. Max Francy (France) became the first General Secretary, with Mr. Frans van Cappelle (Holland) as Assistant, Mr. Charles Demaele (Belgium) as Treasurer, Mr. Crzybek (Poland) as Assistant Treasurer and Mr. Ernst Ditzuleit (Germany) as Archivist-Librarian or Custodian of Records.

This meeting in Lausanne also included the International Championship Competition 'Coupe Mondiale', which was won by the young French girl Yvette Horner, who has since become world famous for her outstanding career as an entertainer both in France and abroad.

Mr. Max Francy holds a permanent position of Honorary Founder President, while Mr. Adolph Oehrli and Dr. Hans Buscher are Honorary Presidents, and Mr. Andrews Martignoni and Honorary Member of the Executive Committee.

From the commencement it was always recognized that one of the primary aims of the Confédération should be to elevate the status of the accordion, which at the time was scarcely recognized as a serious musical instrument in the general world of music. This involved raising the standard of musicianship amongst players of the instrument, and with this objective in mind, the Lausanne convention incorporated the first World Accordion Festival for performers. Players were nominated by many of the participating countries to compete for the "Coupe Mondiale", which soon became internationally acknowledged as one of the highest distinctions an accordion player can achieve.

The Confederation recognizes the importance of developing the repertoire of music composed specifically for the accordion and it works with its member organizations to select a new original composition as the test piece for the Coupe Mondiale and requires candidates competing in its annual International Competitions to perform at least one other large concert work originally composed for the instrument.

During the 1970's, a Committee was set up to assist affiliated associations with the preparation of examination syllabus, and in securing full recognition for the instrument in the highest centers of national musical education. It is excellent to note that the accordion has now been accepted for many years, into the regular curriculum of the leading musical establishments in a number of countries.

Under its democratic system of management, the Confederation continues to extend its scope and develop its membership from year to year. Full control of all activity is vested in the General Assembly of Delegates which meets twice each year. Each affiliated country is entitled to send four delegates to a Congress, where all matters of policy are determined by free vote at the General Assemblies, at which member countries have equal voting rights.

In 1975 the CIA became the first instrument specific organization to be accepted into the International Music Council (IMC) which is the largest non-governmental division of UNESCO. Today, the CIA continues to promote international excellence in the accordion world and in addition to the regular meetings, takes advantage of the electronic communication to coordinate its activities.

The CIA has members in two categories, including voting members and corresponding members. The voting members conduct the business of the CIA and provide the formal approval of policy and procedure, while the corresponding members serve in a valuable advisory capacity partaking in all discussions relating to policy formation.

From the three original founding members of France, Germany and Switzerland, the membership of the CIA has grown to include 31 members including 24 voting members, 6 corresponding members, and 1 incoming corresponding member:

Membership of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – Voting Members

- Australia - Australian Society of Accordionists (ASA)
Federal President: Elizabeth Jones
- Austria - Harmonikaverband Österreichs (HVÖ)
President: Professor Walter Maurer
- Denmark – Danske Harmonikaspilleres Landsforbund (DHL)
Chairman: Alfred Renner
- Croatia - Hrvatsko Društvo Harmonikaških Pedagoga (HDHP)
President: Vjera Odak-Jembrih
- Estonia – Eesti Akordioniliit (EAL)
President: Tiit Kalluste
- France - Confédération Nationale Française de L'Accordéon (CNFA)
President: Lydie Kotala
- Finland - Suomen Harmonikkaliitto (SHL)
President: Kimmo Mattila
- Germany - Deutscher Harmonika-Verband e.V. (DHV)
President: Ernst Pfister
- Hungary - Magyar Harmonika Társaság (MHT)
President: Panna Grigoncza
- Italy - Accordion Professional Music Center (APM)
President: Gianluca Pica
- Luxembourg - Union Grand-Duc Adolphe (UGDA)
President: Robert Weyland
- Macedonia - Ljubiteli na Klasicnata Muzika in Skopje
President: Zorica Karakutovska
- Netherlands - Nederlandse Organisatie voor Accordeon & Moundharmonica (NOVAM)
President: Dr. J. Eelderink Sellersmaat
- New Zealand - New Zealand Accordion Association (NZAA)
President: John Statham
- Norway - Norske Trekkspilleres Landsforbund (NTL)
Chairman: Kjell R. Olsen
- Portugal - Conservatorio Regional de Castelo Branco
Accordion Professor: Paulo Jorge Ferreira
- Slovakia - Methodical Centre of Accordion "Marta Szokeová" (MCA)
President: Tibor Racz
- Spain - Hauspoz Euskal Herriko Akordeoi Elkarte (HAUSPOZ)
President: Joxean Anduaga
- Sweden - Sveriges Dragspelares Riksförbund
President - Åke Hellman
- Switzerland - Eidg. Harmonika und Akkordeonmusikverband (EHAMV)
President: Mr. Urs Weber
- United Kingdom - National Accordion Organization of the United Kingdom (NAO)
President: Raymond Bodell
- USA - American Accordionists' Association (AAA)
President: Linda Soley Reed
- USA - Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG)
President: Joan Cochran Sommers
(USA-AAA and USA-ATG share voting membership from USA)
- Vietnam - Hanoi National Conservatory of Music
President: Luu Quang Minh

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – Corresponding Members

- Australia - Australian Accordion Teachers Association (AATA)
President: Tania Lukic-Marx
- China - Chinese Accordion Association
President: Zhang Ziqiang
- Czech Republic - Conservatory of Pardubice
Professor Miloslav Stritesky
- Lithuania - Vilnius Conservatory and Lithuanian Academy of Music
Mr. Ricardas Sviackevicius
- Poland - Katowice Conservatory
Professor Joachim Pichura
- USA - Accordion Federation of North America (AFNA)
President: Randy Martin

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – New incoming Corresponding Member

- Spain - Union de Acordeonistas (UNAC)
President: Angel Luis Castaño

In addition to working with its member associations, CIA has developed a close relationship with the International Music Council (IMC).

Membership to the International Music Council (IMC-UNESCO)

The CIA's membership to the International Music Council (IMC-UNESCO) opens the door to work with leaders and members of the largest and most important musical associations and organizations in the world. Interestingly, the CIA is the only instrument specific group to be a member of the International Music Council.

When the CIA applied for IMC membership in 1975, there was some skepticism about the accordion being accepted into the International Music Council from one of the member nations. The President of the IMC at the time put everything into perspective by asking the General Assembly if they agreed that the accordion was an instrument, and that the instrument was capable of making beautiful music, and if composers were excited to have the opportunity to write for the accordion, and if the IMC should not be an umbrella over all musicians?

When this was agreed on, the President then gained tremendous support for the CIA to enter into the IMC and it was overwhelmingly accepted as a new member. That IMC president was famous violinist, the late Yehudi Menuhin!

Today the CIA has tremendous respect from the IMC, with many of the IMC Member organizations using the accordion or accordion music in their various activities and projects including festivals both classical and folk and working with contemporary composers.

To give you a brief insight into the depth of the IMC, it was founded in 1949 at the request of UNESCO as a non-governmental advisory body on musical matters. It currently comprises national music committees in 74 countries on all continents as well as 34 organizations representing most fields of musical activity; membership also includes Members of Honor chosen among the world's outstanding musicians, a few individual members and supporting members in recognition of their individual or corporate generosity. Members elect a 12-member Executive Committee that meets regularly between General Assemblies. A permanent Secretariat is located at UNESCO House in Paris. IMC members benefit from a wide range of professional services and extensive possibilities for exchanges at many levels.

The International Music Council is the main global music organization. It works in close association with UNESCO and considers that the experience of music and music-making is a vital part of the everyday life of all people. It is a basic right for all people to express themselves and communicate through music.

A world expert organization, a forum for exchange and reflection, an observatory in the field of music thanks to its geographic extension and the variety of competence of its membership, the IMC is an organization geared to speak to governments, institutions and regions. Thus it:

- monitors the availability of access to music for all
- supports endeavors which assure and secure this right
- informs widely about music and the right to it
- exercises advocacy when and where needed

It is the IMC's objective to contribute to securing the following basic rights:

- the right for all children and adults to express themselves musically in all freedom
- the right for all children and adults to learn musical languages and skills
- the right for all children and adults to have access to musical involvement through participation, listening, creation and information
- the right for musical artists to develop their artistry and communicate through all media, with proper facilities
- the right for musical artists to obtain just recognition and remuneration for their services

The IMC aims at contributing to the development and strengthening of friendly working relations between all the musical cultures of the world on the basis of their absolute equality, mutual respect and appreciation. It concerns itself with musical creativity, education, performance, broadcasting and promotion, research and documentation, the status of musicians and various other aspects of musical life. This is made possible through the unparalleled range of expertise of its membership.

The IMC comprises national music committees in more than seventy countries on all continents, over thirty international and regional organizations representing most fields of musical activity as well as individual members and members of honor chosen among the world's outstanding musicians; it also appoints supporting members to recognize generous individual or corporate donors.

Every two years, travelling to a different country, IMC members gather for a General Assembly and a world congress with the next one to be held in China in Beijing, in October of 2007.

Activities of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

One of the highlights of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) is the running of the International Competition for Accordionists "Coupe Mondiale". From the first competition in 1938, it has been promoted regularly ever since with Coupe Mondiale having been hosted in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Through the years, the Coupe Mondiale has been significant in establishing continually rising standards of performance. Each year many players return to their countries with various distinctions, all of which are worthy of local, national and international publicity, resulting in increased interest in musical activity and positively encouraging younger players to pursue their studies and improve their musicianship.

In recent years, the Confederation has increasingly recognized the importance of securing the interest of the younger generation of musicians and to secure their proper place in cultural activity throughout the world. With this in mind, a special international competition for Juniors was run for a number of years, in which national associations selected their best young performers to record a performance on tape; those gaining special commendation in the international adjudication were subsequently invited to appear in a special presentation concert at the next Coupe Mondiale. This has developed into a Junior Coupe Mondiale category run for the first time in Slovakia in 1996. The Virtuoso Entertainment category was established in the 1970's and became a regular feature of the Coupe Mondiale in 1989 for the purpose of highlighting the versatility of the accordion and its entertainment possibilities. This class has enjoyed enthusiastic audiences and has since been expanded to include a Junior Virtuoso Entertainment category.

In London, under the auspices of the CIA member, the National Accordion Organization of the United Kingdom (NAO) the first International Competition for Piano Accordion was held, and a year later, the first International Competition for Chamber Music. Both have been included into the regular curriculum of the annual Coupe Mondiale Competitions. Still in the evolution process, The International Competition for Chamber Music has been expanded to a Chamber Music-Ensemble category, which will accommodate those wishing to compete using as combination of multiple accordions.

Unlike the most of the other international competitions such as the highly respected events in Castelfidardo, Klingenthal and Arrasate for example, the CIA Coupe Mondiale, (like the CMA Trophee Mondiale) takes place in a new city and country each year, hosted by one of our Confederation members. While this does present certain logistical problems, it also adds a sense of excitement for our attendees, as well as allowing the prestige of an international competition to be brought to various locations around the world which might otherwise not have the opportunity to experience such an event. It also offers a great boost to the national organizers to be able to offer such an international event while promoting new repertoire with commissioned composers and highlighting the national accordion movement.

While we cannot say that winning the CIA Coupe Mondiale is the reason for the subsequent successful careers of our winners, the title and the respect it demands, does play an extremely important role in the overall building of international prestige for the recipients. A world title is always widely respected in the music world as a sign of musical excellence and achievement and for the winners, it creates publicity of national and international acclaim in their respective countries.

Through the CIA international competitions, we are proud to create opportunities for people, and then encourage them to employ their talents to succeed at those opportunities. Together, with our national members, we put together an event that challenges our competitors to express their creativity while expanding their limits.

While recently interviewing Yvette Horner, our oldest surviving Coupe Mondiale Champion who resides in Paris, it was interesting to note that she attributes her concert career success directly to the recognition she received after winning the 1948 Coupe Mondiale. As a result of this Coupe Mondiale win, she was awarded a recording contract, which led to concert appearances and a snowballing accordion career.

Many other of our CIA Coupe Mondiale Champions have gone on to distinguish themselves in many areas of the music world as concert artists and earning teaching positions at the most respected learning establishments around the world. To name just a few:

- Yvette Horner (1948) was launched into stardom and made a full time career entertaining with the accordion after her win at the Coupe Mondiale. She has performed for world leaders, and continues to this day to have an active concert career.
- Max Bonnay (1979) founded the accordion division at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris. His projects include working with composers, concertizing on bandoneon and accordion as well as presenting master classes and seminars around the world.
- Peter Soave (1984) Peter was the very first competitor to achieve multiple world titles, by winning each of the major International Accordion competitions. An extremely versatile musician, Peter is equally at ease performing in jazz, classical and improvisation styles.
- Mika Väyrynen (1989) teaches at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, and works with many well known composers and orchestras around the world. He is probably one of the most recorded accordion artists of all time. Mika has done much to gain respect for the accordion with his work both with composers and top musicians and conductors of major orchestras around the world.
- Angel Luis Castaño (1990) has established himself as a respected teacher and concert artist.
- Jerome Richard (1997 Virtuoso Entertainment and 1999 Coupe Mondiale) our first CIA double winner, is one of the most sought after artists and teachers on the entertainment scene. He is also extremely active as a composer of entertainment music.
- Alexander Poeluev (2002 Coupe Mondiale and International Competition for Piano Accordion) has accepted numerous invitations for concert performances in New Zealand, Australia, USA and Europe as a result of his Coupe Mondiale title.

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – Awards

The CIA currently offers two awards recognizing excellence in the Accordion world.

Each year, the CIA approves up to two (2) 'Merit Awards' recognizing 'Outstanding contributions to the International Accordion Movement' and up to four (4) 'Honored Friend of the Accordion Awards' recognizing outstanding contributions to the Accordion Field (not necessarily by an accordionist).

The 'Honored Friend of the Accordion Award' was instituted in 2003, and is a means by which the CIA may recognize and honor those who have made a significant contribution to the accordion movement and/or organizations. Recipients may be either accordionists or non-accordionists who have had an outstanding influence in supporting and promoting the accordion.

Over the years, the CIA has presented 70 CIA Merit Awards and 14 Honored Friend of the Accordion Awards.

Nominations for the CIA Awards are made in writing to the General Secretary and then submitted for review and subsequent Congress approval at the Winter Congress General Assembly meeting.

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – New Works for Accordion

Each year the CIA works with its member nations to promote well known composers and encourage them to write new works for the accordion, resulting in exciting new pieces being added to the accordion repertoire. Recent additions include:

- 2004 - Frank Angelis – France, 'Impasse'

French composer Franck Angelis is recognized as one of the outstanding accordion composers of modern accordion literature today. His works are heard at major conservatories and international Competitions around the world.

- 2005 - Carlos Marecos – Portugal, 'O Medo Do Ritmo'

During his career, Marecos has received commissions from entities as Culturgest (CGD), the Service Acarte of the Foundation Calouste Gulbenkian, Expo-98 of Lisbon, the Clarinet Orchestra of Almada, OrchestrUtopica and the International Estoril Festival. He was awarded the Composition Prize "Prémio Lopes-Graça" for his work 'Portuguese Folk Songs' for soprano and piano and the next year, the same prize for his work "5 Miniatures for Cello Solo".

- 2006 - Wolfgang Plagge – Norway, Fractals, Op. 41

Mr. Plagge's music is being performed by musicians, ensembles and orchestras all over the world, and his reputation as a composer is ever growing. In 1996 he was created "Composer of the Year" with the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra. He received the American ASCAP Award for 2001 and won the Vocal Nord composers' contest 2003. He is a member of the Norwegian Society of Composers.

- 2007 – Karen Fremar – USA, 'Fantasy for Accordion'

Karen Fremar won the Entertainment Category and placed 3rd in the 1974 Coupe Mondiale held in Sweden. She also won the Swedish award for the best performance by a female candidate in the Coupe Mondiale. Her degrees include the Bachelor of Music-Accordion Performance (with distinction) and the Master of Music-Composition from the University of Missouri at Kansas City; and the Master of Music-Philosophy and the Ph.D. in Music Theory from the University of Kansas. She is a published composer and has composed works for accordion solo, chamber works, and works for accordion orchestra; and she was selected as the composer of the 1981 Coupe Mondiale test piece entitled 'Reflections'.

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – Publications

The CIA Publishes a yearly news book which includes news and activities of the CIA, the International Music Council and each of the CIA National Members, both Voting and Corresponding.

Recent Printed Publications: Recent printed publications include:

- CIA International News 2003
- CIA International News 2004
- CIA International News 2005
- CIA International News 2006 – in preparation

On-line Information: The CIA shares information on its activities with two Internet sites:

- www.accordions.com/cia
- www.coupemondiale.org

Other Recent Productions:

- 7 CD Compilation of 2004 Coupe Mondiale International Competition in Portugal
- 7 CD Compilation of 2005 Coupe Mondiale International Competition in Portugal
- Compilation of all Media Reporting
- Video Documentation of Coupe Mondiale Festivals and Competitions

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – New Archive Center

Members of the CIA Executive Committee, Music Committee and Delegates celebrated the official opening of the CIA archive collection, which is housed at the Hanuritalo (Accordion House) on February 24th, 2006 during an International Press Conference. The archives contain documents, music, programs, press coverage, recordings and much more highlighting not only the history of the CIA, but also of the instrument, its repertoire and the development of the accordion in various countries around the world.

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) – Future Activities

18-22 October, 2006

59th Coupe Mondiale and 116th General Assembly of Delegates

Host: Norske Trekkspilleres Landsforbund (NTL) - Asker, Norway

23-28 January, 2007

Winter Congress and 117th General Assembly of Delegates

Host: New Zealand Accordion Association - Nagigia Island, Fiji

14-18 August, 2007

60th Coupe Mondiale and 118th General Assembly of Delegates

Host: Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International (ATG)

Host: American Accordionists Association (AAA) - Washington DC, USA

IMC-UNESCO CONGRESS	2007	Beijing, CHINA
WINTER CONGRESS	2008	Glasgow (Scotland - UK)
COUPE MONDIALE	2008	Glasgow (Scotland - UK) from October 22 – 26, 2008
WINTER CONGRESS	2009	High Tatra (SLOVAKIA)
COUPE MONDIALE	2009	Auckland (NEW ZEALAND)
IMC-UNESCO CONGRESS	2009	TUNISA
COUPE MONDIALE	2010	Varastien (CROATIA)
COUPE MONDIALE	2011	FINLAND
COUPE MONDIALE	2012	FRANCE
COUPE MONDIALE	2013	NETHERLANDS
COUPE MONDIALE	2014	Salzburg (AUSTRIA)

As the CIA recently concluded its 70th Anniversary celebrations, and moves forward into the next decade, members of the Confederation Internationale des Accordionistes (CIA) seek to work in harmony to help support the development and respect of the accordion and its rightful place in the music world. Our annual congresses and Coupe Mondiale competitions allow members and welcomed guests to share information and ideas, while providing opportunities to our young students to expand their horizons and limits. Our International events provide important opportunities to network and connect with fellow professionals around the world.

Through our International Membership, both voting and corresponding, we are blessed to be surrounded by the finest accordionists worldwide representing artists, teachers, composers, academic institutions, publishers, manufacturers, organizations, media and students. Comprising accordion experts in the field of classical, jazz, folk and entertainment, working together, our collaboration will ensure that we continually strive to further the cause of our beloved accordion.

Shanghai, CHINA

May 4, 2006

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

<http://www.accordions.com>

<http://www.coupemondiale.org>