

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

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Dear CIA Members and Friends,

As 2006 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for a wonderful year and all that has been done on behalf of the accordion!

For the CIA, we began in Finland where we realized the dream of establishing our CIA Archive Center. We celebrated the official opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony during our annual Winter Congress while guests of the Finnish Accordion Association (SHL). It was a milestone occasion for the CIA and my thanks to SHL President Kimmo Mattila for his work and support in getting this project off the ground. It has been a significant achievement to gather so many important and un-replaceable documents that pertain to the history of the CIA. We look forward to adding to this collection as more material becomes available, and my thanks to all of you for your contributions thus far.

My sincerest thanks to our friends at the Norske Trekkspilleres Landsforbund (NTL) for the spectacular 59th Coupe Mondiale Celebration in Asker. It was a superbly organized event and the many messages of goodwill from around the world after our trip to Norway were testament to the incredible success of the event. My thanks to Kjell R. Olsen and the NTL members for their wonderful work and hospitality during our stay and of course to the 2006 Coupe Mondiale organizer Mr. Lars Arnevig for his tireless efforts in organizing this major international world class competition and festival. It was a tremendous success, and I cannot thank Lars enough for going above and beyond what could have been expected of an event organizer to ensure that all went to plan and that all the special requirements of our attendees from around the world were met.

While in Norway, we held our CIA elections and are pleased to introduce to you some new members of our CIA Executive and Music Committees. It is my great pleasure to welcome Herbert Scheibenreif (Austria) as a new CIA Vice President and our new Music Committee members Anica Karakutovska (Republic of Macedonia) and Jörgen Sundeqvist (Sweden). Congratulations and welcome! All have distinguished themselves in the accordion field through their respective work, and each will have important contributions to make to our CIA work during the course of their term of office.

We welcome Kimmo Mattila (Finland) to his new role as General Secretary and Walter Maurer (Austria) who, after retiring from 35 years as an Executive Officer of the CIA, was elected as our first ever Honorary Member of the CIA. Mr. Maurer's retirement marks the end of an era for the CIA and we offer our heartfelt thanks to him for guiding the CIA for such an incredible amount of time. The General Secretary carries out so many duties behind the scenes, and often goes unnoticed and even unrecognized, however Mr. Maurer's work has kept our organization alive and we offer our sincerest thanks to him for the decades of work carried out on behalf of the CIA. We now look forward to his ongoing guidance as an Honorary Member as we move forward. A big thank you to all our officers for their willingness to help support the efforts of the CIA!

As we welcomed in our new officers, we also said farewell for the moment to two long time members of our CIA Music Committee. A special thank you to John Leslie (United Kingdom) and Max Bonnay (France) for their outstanding efforts over many years on behalf of the CIA. We sincerely appreciate their work, and we wish them continued success in their respective careers.

Next year promises to be an exciting one, and we begin with a great adventure down-under to Fiji for the 117th General Assembly of Delegates to be held from January 23-28, 2007 on Nagigia Island, Fiji. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience this unique culture and environment while we conduct our important CIA business. I hope that as many of you as possible are able to take advantage of this generous offer to attend our Winter Congress. Please be sure to confirm your travel plans and attendance as soon as possible to our host Harley Jones, in order to assist in the planning of this extraordinary event. For complete details, please visit: http://accordions.com/cia/winter_07.htm

From the 13-18th August, 2007, we are pleased to present our 60th Anniversary Coupe Mondiale. For the first time in many years, we will be meeting in the United States and this event in the Washington DC area, is billed to be the largest International Accordion event in the United States ever! With attendees already booked in from all over the world, the festival in Washington DC will be held in conjunction with the annual festival activities of the AAA (American Accordionists' Association) and the ATG (Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International.)

Coupe Mondiale organizer and 2007 CIA Honorary Vice President Faithe Deffner informs us that in addition to the six Coupe Mondiale Categories offering approximately \$15,000 dollars in cash prizes and performance opportunities at the famous Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the festival will feature numerous International Accordion Orchestra performances, the AAA and ATG Competitions, outstanding accordion exhibits of both new and historical instruments, sightseeing in Washington DC, a performance of the Massed Band on the steps of the US Capital Building in the center of Washington DC and the much anticipated World Accordion Orchestra directed by CIA Music Committee Vice Chairperson Joan C. Sommers.

The United States is truly offering something for everyone and this promises to be a memorable and exciting event! We invite you to reserve the dates of this 2007 festival now, and the www.coupemondiale.org website will be updated by the 15th January 2007 with all the details.

My sincerest thanks and best wishes to not only our CIA members but also to our many friends involved in our fellow international accordion organizations, competitions and businesses for everything being done to promote and support the accordion and all those who play it. I look forward to meeting you at one or more of the many important accordion events being staged around the world next year, in addition to our CIA events in Fiji and the United States.

Meanwhile, I wish you all a very happy and safe Holiday Season and best wishes for a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,



Kevin Friedrich - President
Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

CIA Executive Committee

President: Kevin FRIEDRICH (USA) **Vice Presidents:** Raymond BODELL (United Kingdom), Tibor RACZ (Slovakia)
Herbert SCHEIBENREIF (Austria) **2007 Honorary Vice President:** Faithe DEFFNER (USA)

Public Relations Manager: Harley JONES (Fiji) **Secretary General/Treasurer** Kimmo MATTILA (Finland)

CIA Music Committee

Chairman: Frédéric DESCHAMPS (France) **Vice Chairman:** Joan C. SOMMERS (USA)

Members: Harley JONES (Fiji), Zorica KARAKUTOVSKA (Republic of Macedonia)
Jacques MORNET (France), Viatcheslav SEMIONOV (Russia), Jörgen SUNDEQVIST (Sweden)