

20TH ANNIVERSARY ACCORDION GALA



LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION CONVENTION OCTOBER 14-17, 2019

A ROARING 20'S CELEBRATION



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October 14, 2019



Dear Accordion Friends,

This is our TWENTY-YEAR anniversary celebration. It is truly overwhelming for me to think about all the wonderful years that we have had together, all the great artists, and how many great friends we've made along the way. Upon reflecting, I am so thankful that our paths crossed and we had a chance to experience such great music and friendship. Every living USA legend including Myron Floren, Dick Contino, and my dear friend Art Van Damme plus so many greats (see Hall of Fame – next page) along with past attendees who are now with us in spirit, thank you. You are remembered! We gather again to celebrate and thank you all for your contributions!

Again we are fortunate to rejoice with an incredible gathering of accordion stars. I want to thank each of them for their gracious fellowship. A special thank you to our Honorary Conductor, Cory Pesaturo, for his willingness to share his music, knowledge, and talent. Cory joins us for the third year. Thank you Cory. We are honored. Also, a heart-felt thank you goes to our returning honorary conductors and esteemed guests. Personally, I would like to thank our friends Rich DeLabio, percussionist, Ken Siefert on bass, plus all the artists & technicians gathered here. These talented people are amazingly gifted performers & instructors – THANK YOU!

A special thanks goes to Joan Cochran Sommers for all of her hard work and preparation in making sure, for 12 years now, that our grand finale performance of the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra is an amazing musical experience for both participants and listeners alike! What a great honor it is to have Joan with us!

Thanks to my good friends on the convention staff: Chans Iverson, Rob & Cherie Patterson, Jacqi & Everond Marshall, Hyrum Summerhays, Daniel Carlson, and especially to my dear friend Pat Whall who gives so freely of her time all year. Also thanks to volunteers Jerrilynn Comollo, Jenny Robinson, Dave Marasco & Marianne Fraser. Each of you makes this convention a reality, as I could not do this without your friendship and assistance!

Finally, I want to thank the most important person here – YOU the attendees! A few of you have actually been here for all 20 years and for some, this is your first time! To those returning and those joining us for the first time, a warm welcome! To each and every attendee, THANK YOU - it is because of YOU this event exists! May these events help us share in the inspiration of music and the instrument we love and hold close to our hearts.

Whether for the first time or the twentieth time WELCOME – we are honored to have you here as we celebrate the accordion -- the instrument that touches all our hearts. Long live the accordion and its magical ability to celebrate joy in all walks of life.

Best regards,

Paul Pasquali
Event Organizer



Las Vegas International Accordion Convention

Hall of Fame

HONORARY CONDUCTORS

2000 – Art Van Damme
2001 – Dick Contino
2002 – Myron Floren
2003 – Gina Brannelli
2004 – Joan C. Sommers
2005 - Peter Soave
2006 - Iona Reed Pukara
2007 - Walter Ostanek
2008 – Carl Fortina
2009 – Pete Barbutti
2010 – Frank Marocco
2011 - Angelo Di Pippo
2012 – Jeff Lisenby
2013 – Joey Miskulin
2014 – Stas Venglevski
2015 – Mary Tokarski
2016 – Mario Pedone
2017 – Gordon Kohl
2018 – Grayson Masefield
2019 – Cory Pesaturo

SPECIAL AWARD

Joan Cochran Sommers

FROSINI AWARD

Texas Accordion Association
Dallas, TX

Accordion Club of the
Redwoods -Petaluma, CA

Accordion Lovers Society
San Diego, CA

Golden State Accordion Club-
Vacaville, CA

Good Time Accordion Club
Escalon, CA

Tucson Accordion Club
Tucson, AZ

Northern CA Accordion
Society - Granite Bay, CA

Michigan Accordion Society

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Anthony Galla-Rini

Pete Barbutti

Gina Brannelli

Tony Lovello

Joan Cochran Sommers

Dick Contino

Liz Finch

VAN DAMME AWARD

Beverley Fess

Lou Jacklich

YOUTH AWARD

Ginny Mac

Mario Pietrodarchi

Spencer Wagner

Sammy Thomas

William Langton

Gino Bagala

Michael Bridge

Emanuel Gasser



Scheduled Events - by Artist's Last Name

Cory Pesaturo – Honorary Conductor

- **Early Improvisation**, *If you want to learn some basics of how to get out of just playing what's on the page, this is for you. Cory will throw many entry level tips at you as well as some advanced ones that you can jump into easily.*
Wednesday, 11:00 - 11:50 - B
- **Deep Listening**, *Cory will go over various aspects of what to listen for when listening to a player OR just music in general. This will give you insight on how to learn a song from the radio without ever seeing the music.*
Thursday, 11:00 - 11:50 - B
- **Master Class**,
Thursday, 2:10 - 3:00 - B

Gina Brannelli

- **Ten steps to learning/teaching Accordion**, *Set up, technique, dynamics, repertoire, psychological approach to learning and teaching.*
Tuesday, 10:00 - 10:50 - A
- **Ten steps to Entertaining**, *Preparation, presentation, use of devices - in depth look at life on stage.*
Wednesday, 10:00 - 10:50 - A
- **Accordion technique with Gina**, *Good technique is vital to improving your performance - come learn from a master.*
Thursday, 10:00 - 10:50 - A

Elena Fainshtein

- ***Elena's "Passion" workshop**, *Who should attend? Everyone who wants to refresh their basic skill sets. Don't bring your instrument, just your smile. You'll laugh, play games, and learn a lot!*
Wednesday, 9:00 - 9:50 - D
Thursday, 11:00 - 11:50 - A

Liz Finch

- ***The Current Hollywood Scene**, *An inside look at how music for film and TV is produced today.*
Tuesday, 9:00 - 9:50 - B
Thursday, 10:00 - 10:50 - D

- **Working with Notation Software**, *A look at specific and critical elements and operations with current notation software. (Will also talk about anything new on the market).*
Wednesday, 10:00 - 10:50 - D

Gordon Kohl

- **Playing beautiful music from Austria**, *A study of Austrian music including Viennese, Strauss, Mozart and Folk music. Gordon will demonstrate and have music available.*
Tuesday, 9:00 - 9:50 - A
- **Orchestrating with Digital Accordion**, *Gordon will show how to orchestrate solos and use some of his own original compositions.*
Wednesday, 9:00 - 9:50 - A
- **Great American standards**, *How to play music by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Doris Day and Celine Dion.*
Thursday, 9:00 - 9:50 - A

Ginny Mac

- **Stage Presence and Building Your Show**, *Exploring all the elements that go into building a set or a show; finding your "voice" as an artist; allowing your personality to shine; connecting with the audience.*
Tuesday, 11:00 - 11:50 - A
- **Accordions & Western Swing**, *Explores some of the great accordionists of the genre and their playing styles; incorporating songs and stylistic elements of the genre; also covers the many roles of the accordion in Western swing bands, accompanying vocalists, and improvisation.*
Thursday, 10:00 - 10:50 - B

Grayson Maselfield

- **Practicing & Playing**, *Identifying the best ways to practice and how to ensure those elements are in your performance.*
Wednesday, 11:00 - 11:50 - A
- **Master Class**,
Wednesday, 2:10 - 3:00 - B
- **Bellow technique and various accordion effects**, *Grayson will explore different ways to*

Continues on next page





Schedule Continued

use the bellows including bellowshakes, tremolo effects, note bending. Plus he will demonstrate proper phrasing technique and explore other effects such as glissandos and more.

Thursday, 9:00 - 9:50 - D

Paul Pasquali

- **The Concerto: A New Introduction**, Paul invites you (at 10, 10:30 or 11) to an informal 20-minute showing of the all new Concerto with Android & wireless technology.
Tuesday, 10:00 - 11:30 - Store
- **The Concerto Unleashed**, Paul demos & talks about a new world for the accordionist with Android & wireless technology.
Wednesday, 3:00 - 3:45 - A

Joan Sommers

- **Last Minute Questions/Concerns For Members of the Orchestra**, Just bring your music in and ask your questions. You do not need to stay throughout the period
Tuesday, 10:00 - 10:50 - D
- **Some Important Things All of Us Should Know Besides How to Read Notes**, Once we learn to read correct notes, what else is important? Joan Sommers has taught all levels of students and, while many of them earned the right to compete in the Coupe Mondiale, she also had students just beginning to play the accordion. Above all else, she considers herself a teacher, whether privately or as a conductor of groups. Today, we are in need of dedicated teachers in the USA!
Wednesday, 11:00 - 11:50 - D
- **Master Class for Youth & Adult Soloists**, If you have not signed up with Joan, please do so quickly. This is for all levels of players! You do not have to play Palmer Hughes Book 10 material! You must bring your printed music with you, please; Joan will need it. You do not have to play by memory unless you want to do so.
Wednesday, 2:10 - 3:00 - D
- **Tuesday, 3:00 - 5:00 - D**
Wednesday, 3:00 - 5:00 - D
Thursday, 3:00 - 5:00 - Ballroom

Antonio Spaccarotella

- **Prepare to Perform - Accordion & Symphony**, Antonio will share secrets and techniques he uses in preparing to perform. Items discussed will range from repertoire, how to remain focused, and staying calm. The discussion will focus on techniques and antidotes Antonio uses when he performs.
Tuesday, 10:00 - 10:50 - B
- **Master Class**,
Tuesday, 2:10 - 3:00 - B
- **Urban Contemporary Accordion**, Antonio takes a closer look at the various modern day aspects of the accordion including multimedia
Wednesday, 10:00 - 10:50 - B

Mary Tokarski

- **Before You Play the Very First Note**, Interpreting your music from the start makes learning and performing much easier! We will look closely at what everyone *SHOULD* do before playing the first note of a new piece! Also, bring any sheet music you may have a question on, and we will answer it together!
Tuesday, 11:00 - 11:50 - B
- **Adding Left Hand Rhythms and Patterns to your arrangements**, A look into how to "plan" a more interesting arrangement, including fills and bass embellishments. Planning out "your" arrangement of your favorite piece is great fun and rewarding. Together we will see how I have made some of my solo arrangements. Bring your instrument if you want to share some ideas with our group!
Wednesday, 9:00 - 9:50 - B
- **Master Class**,
Thursday, 2:10 - 3:00 - A

Stas Venglevski

- **Just Duet**, A miniature concert by Stas Venglevsky & Joan Sommers including discussion of the art of playing together and with other instruments, ensembles, and chamber groups.
Tuesday, 11:00 - 11:50 - D

***Repeated Classes**

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention – October 14-17, 2019





Schedule Continued

- **Master Class,**
Tuesday, 2:10 - 3:00 - A
- **Dynamics Expression and More,** *Stas will demonstrate proper phrasing and articulation and how to improve your musicality.*
Thursday, 11:00 - 11:50 - D

Mike Zampiceni

- ***Playing expressively & musically,** *The bellows are the heart of our instrument. Bolstering correct technique can make the difference between merely playing notes or playing music. This presentation focuses on common bellows transgressions and how to correct them.*
Tuesday, 9:00 - 9:50 - D
Thursday, 9:00 - 9:50 - B

A Special Thank you!

For your Generosity to our Scholarship fund:

Golden State Accordion Club
Gay Castellano

Rich Delabio

Dave Marasco - Marianne Fraser

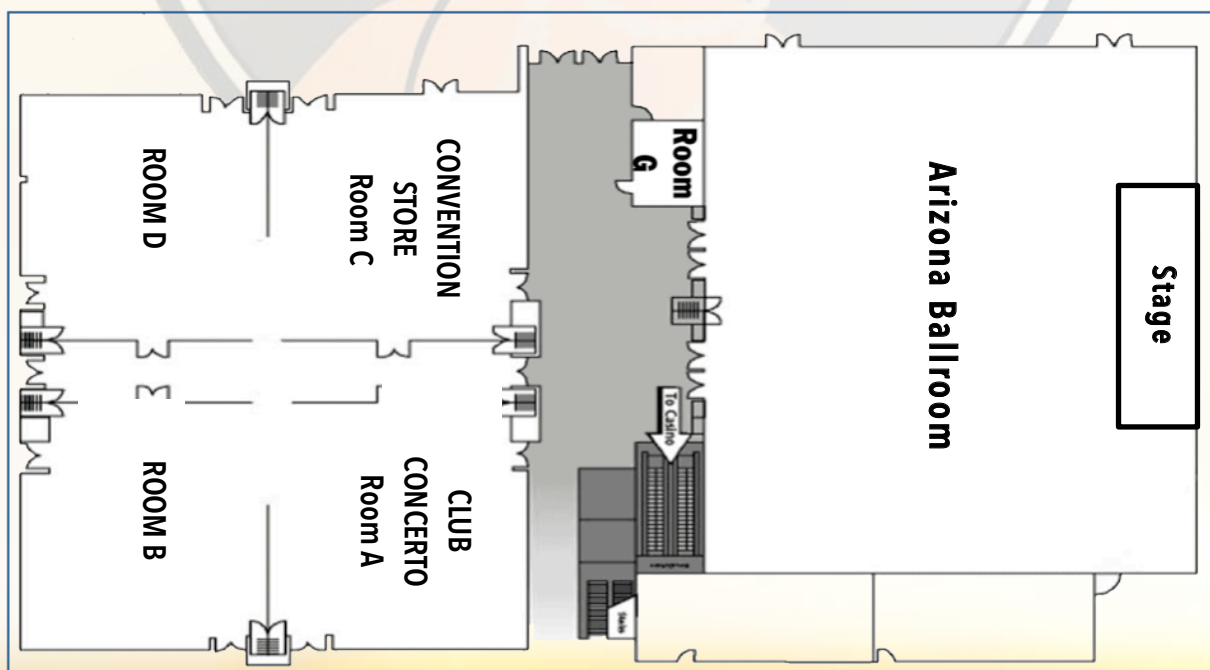


Venue Locations

The **Arizona and Nevada Ballrooms** are located on the second floor, which is just a short escalator ride up from the main casino area.

The **Arizona Ballroom** is where we come together as an accordion family to eat and be entertained.

The **Nevada Ballroom** serves as classrooms, the Convention Store and Club Concerto.





Monday - October 14, 2019

Day One - Arrive at the Gold Coast Hotel, check out the sights of Las Vegas and relax. Drop by the Arizona & Nevada Ballrooms on the Second Floor between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM to pick up your Convention Registration Packet and have a refreshing drink on us while you enjoy entertainment provided by **Gina Brannelli**.

Doors to the Arizona Ballroom open at 6:30 PM and the Welcome Dinner begins at 7 PM with strolling music featuring Joe Cairo. We will be entertained at the 8 PM Welcome Concert opening with **Steve & Michael Trucco**, followed by the talented and most popular artists Joan Sommers & Stas Venglevsky – we look forward to a great evening!

Be sure to take in the after-hours music at Club Concerto, co-hosted by **Gina Brannelli & Antonio Spaccarotella**, where the music and fun continue; Club Concerto - where YOU can be a Star!

Join the Club Concerto FUN

**After the main concert - In Room A
Featuring new hosts each night.**

Monday – ***Gina Brannelli & Antonio Spaccarotella***

Tuesday – ***Stas Venglevski & Grayson Masefield***

Wednesday – ***Ginny Mac & Cory Pesaturo***

Thursday – ***Gordon Kohl & Gina Brannelli***

RULES FOR CLUB CONCERTO

- All attendees are welcome to perform on stage at Club Concerto.
- You must sign your name on the signup board in Room A.
- We ask that you limit your performance to 2 songs, not over 7 minutes, *until everyone on the signup board has played. Then you may rotate and return.* We want to ensure that everyone has a chance to play within the first hour.
- **Come join the fun!**



Tuesday – October 15, 2019

Day Two – This is first full day of the convention. This is an exciting day of inspiring workshops and master classes. We will have a delicious luncheon in the Arizona Ballroom. This is your chance to meet old friends and make new ones. After lunch **Elijah Clements** (*a Scholarship attendee from Texas*) and his teacher **Elena Fainshtein** will entertain us.

Doors to the Arizona Ballroom open at 6:30 PM and our Honorary Conductor's Dinner begins at 7 PM with the strolling music of **Mike Zampiceni**. Tonight's concert will feature **Grayson Masefield** followed by our 2019 Honorary Conductor **Cory Pesaturo** with **Ken Siefert** on bass and **Rich Delabio** on drums. Be sure to join the after-hours music at Club Concerto hosted by **Stas Venglevski & Grayson Masefield**. At Club Concerto YOU'RE the STAR!

TUESDAY	ROOM	NAME	CLASS
9:00 - 9:50	Room A	Gordon Kohl	<i>Playing beautiful music from Austria</i>
*9:00 - 9:50	Room B	Liz Finch	<i>*The Current Hollywood Scene</i>
*9:00 - 9:50	Room D	Mike Zampiceni	<i>*Playing expressively & musically</i>
10:00 - 10:50	Room A	Gina Brannelli	<i>Ten steps to learning/teaching Accordion</i>
10:00 - 10:50	Room B	Antonio Spaccarotella	<i>Prepare to Perform - Accordion & Symphony</i>
10:00 - 10:50	Room D	Joan Sommers	<i>Questions/Concerns For Orchestra Members</i>
10:00 - 11:30	Store	Paul Pasquali	<i>20 minute presentations on the new Concerto every half hour from 10 to 11:30.</i>
11:00 - 11:50	Room A	Ginny Mac	<i>Stage Presence and Building Your Show</i>
11:00 - 11:50	Room B	Mary Tokarski	<i>Before You Play the Very First Note</i>
11:00 - 11:50	Room D	Stas Venglevski	<i>Just Duet</i>
Noon – 1:55	Ball Room Lunch served at Noon Followed by a lunch concert		Elena Fainshtein /Elijah Clements (scholarship)
2:10 - 3:00	Room A	Stas Venglevski	<i>Master Class</i>
2:10 - 3:00	Room B	Antonio Spaccarotella	<i>Master Class</i>
3:00 - 5:00	Room D	Joan Sommers	<i>Orchestra Rehearsal</i>
5:00 – 6:30	Doors Closed – rest time		
6:30	Arizona Ballroom – doors open 6:30 If you are late you might not be able to sit together – so be on time!		Mike Zampiceni strolling dinner music. Tonight our concert features Grayson Masefield plus Honorary Conductor Cory Pesaturo

** Repeated - Classes with an Asterisk are offered a second time.*



Wednesday - October 16, 2019

Day Three - We have more stimulating classes this morning, and another great lunch with music by **Gordon Kohl**. Then the Honorary Conductors Award will be presented to **Cory Pesaturo** followed by a Q/A session with **Cory** and past conductors – **Pete Barbutti, Gina Brannelli, Gordon Kohl, Grayson Masefield, Joan Sommers, Mary Tokarski, Stas Venglevski** and special guests **Judy Contino & Antonio Spaccarotella**.

After lunch it is back to more classes and rehearsals. Doors to the Arizona Ballroom open at 6:30 PM and our Roaring 20's Dinner Celebration begins at 7 PM with dinner dancing music provided by Gordon Kohl. Awards will be given for the best costumes. *Tonight's 8 PM concert will feature the delightful **Ginny Mac**, as well as our entertaining friend **Stas Venglevski**.* This is an evening not to be missed! Join us as the party continues in Club Concerto with our hosts **Ginny Mac & Cory Pesaturo**. Remember Club Concerto is your place to be a STAR!

WEDNESDAY	ROOM	NAME	CLASS
9:00 - 9:50	Room A	Gordon Kohl	<i>Orchestrating with Digital Accordion</i>
9:00 - 9:50	Room B	Mary Tokarski	<i>Adding Left Hand Rhythms and Patterns</i>
*9:00 - 9:50	Room D	Elena Fainshtein	<i>*Elena's "Passion" workshop</i>
10:00 - 10:50	Room A	Gina Brannelli	<i>Ten steps to Entertaining</i>
10:00 - 10:50	Room B	Antonio Spaccarotella	<i>Urban Contemporary Accordion</i>
10:00 - 10:50	Room D	Liz Finch	<i>Working with Notation Software</i>
11:00 - 11:50	Room A	Grayson Masefield	<i>Practicing & Playing</i>
11:00 - 11:50	Room B	Cory Pesaturo	<i>Early Improvisation</i>
11:00 - 11:50	Room D	Joan Sommers	<i>Some Important Things All of Us Should Know Besides How to Read Notes</i>
Noon – 1:55	Arizona Ball Room		Lunch music with Gordon Kohl
	Lunch served at noon Q/A session to follow		Q & A session with Honorary Conductors
2:10 – 3:00	Room B	Grayson Masefield	<i>Master Class</i>
2:10 – 3:00	Room D	Joan Sommers	<i>Master Class for Youth & Adult Soloists</i>
3:00 – 3:45	Room A	Paul Pasquali	<i>The Concerto Unleashed</i>
3:00 – 5:00	Room D	Joan Sommers	<i>Orchestra Rehearsal</i>
5:00 – 6:30	Doors Closed – rest time		
6:30	Arizona Ballroom – doors open		Roaring 20's Celebration with best costume awards. Tonight we will hear from Ginny Mac and Stas Venglevski

*** Repeated - Classes with an Asterisk are offered a second time.**



Thursday - October 17, 2019

Day Four - Enjoy this day filled with great workshops, classes and entertainment. Mingle with friends during lunch and sit back and enjoy the comedy of **Pete Barbutti**! Then, it is off to more classes. The orchestra rehearsal today is in the Ballroom in preparation for its grand performance this evening!

Dress up and join us for our famous Gala Prime Rib Dinner and Grand Finale Concert with strolling music by **Papa Joe**. Tonight we hear from our **Special Guest Artist from Italy, Antonio Spaccarotella**. THEN, under the direction of **Joan Cochran Sommers** – **The Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra** will present a grand finale that will leave you in awe! Afterwards, gather until the wee hours of the morning at Club Concerto hosted by **Gordon Kohl and Gina Brannelli**, where you will meet with friends and recall the great times you have had at the 20th Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention!

THURSDAY	ROOM	NAME	CLASS
9:00 - 9:50	Room A	Gordon Kohl	Great American standards
*9:00 - 9:50	Room B	Mike Zampiceni	*Playing expressively & musically
9:00 - 9:50	Room D	Grayson Masefield	Bellow technique & various effects
10:00 – 10:50	Room A	Gina Brannelli	Accordion technique with Gina
10:00 – 10:50	Room B	Ginny Mac	Accordions & Western Swing
*10:00 – 10:50	Room D	Liz Finch	*The Current Hollywood Scene
*11:00 – 11:50	Room A	Elena Fainshtein	*Elena's "Passion" workshop
11:00 – 11:50	Room B	Cory Pesaturo	Deep Listening
11:00 – 11:50	Room D	Stas Venglevski	Dynamics Expression and More

* Repeated - Classes with an Asterisk are offered a second time.

Noon – 1:55	Arizona Ball Room Lunch served at noon	Noon lunch followed by Pete Barbutti -with time left to make your final purchases in the store!
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2:10 - 3:00	Room A	Mary Tokarski	Master Class
2:10 - 3:00	Room B	Cory Pesaturo	Master Class
3:00 - 5:00	Ballroom	Joan Sommers	Orchestra Rehearsal
5:00 – 6:30	Doors Closed – rest time		

6:30	Arizona Ballroom – doors open	Dinner followed by Concert with Special Guest Antonio Spaccarotella ! Plus a Grand Finale performance by the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra !	
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* Repeated - Classes with an Asterisk are offered a second time.



Dining Menu



MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2019

6:30 PM Doors Open –Dinner 7 PM Arizona BR

- **Salad** – Mixed Greens with Candied Walnuts, Feta Cheese & Cranberries with Vinaigrette
- **Main Entrée** – Chicken Forestiere; Sautéed Boneless Chicken Breast with Red Wine Sauce & Forest Mushrooms
- **Vegetarian Entrée** – Portobello Mushroom with Grilled Vegetables
- **Pasta** – Italian Risotto
- **Vegetables** – Green Beans
- **Dessert** – Chocolate Truffle Cake

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

12 Noon – Lunch Arizona Ballroom

- **Salad** – Caesar Salad w/dressing on the side
- **Main Entrée** – Traditional Meat Lasagna Smothered with Fresh Marinara Sauce
- **Vegetarian Entrée** – Vegetarian Lasagna Smothered with Marinara Sauce.
- **Vegetables** – Italian Vegetable Medley
- **Dessert** – Limoncello Cake

6:30 PM Doors Open–Dinner 7 PM Arizona BR

- **Salad** – Lettuce Wedge with assorted dressings
- **Main Entrée** –Salmon Fillet w/Dill Sauce
- **Vegetarian Entrée** – Eggplant Parmesan
- **Potato** – Boursin mashed potatoes
- **Vegetables** – Grilled Asparagus
- **Dessert** – Apple Torte

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

12 Noon – Lunch Arizona Ballroom

- **Salad** – Fresh Greens with Sesame Dressing
- **Main Entrée** – Teriyaki Chicken Breast
- **Vegetarian Entrée** Asian Stir-Fry Vegetables with Noodles
- **Rice** - Steamed
- **Vegetables** – Stir Fried Vegetables
- **Dessert** – Green Tea Cheesecake

WEDNESDAY DINNER

6:30 PM Doors Open–Dinner Buffet 7 PM Arizona BR - Dance floor will be set up tonight for those wishing to dance & celebrate at our Roaring 20's party with costume parade.

- **Waldorf Salad**, Mixed Greens, Deviled Eggs
- **Baked Ham**, Chicken Newburg, Vegetarian Quiche Lorraine
- **Mashed Potato**, Brussels Sprouts
- **Bread** – Rolls and butter
- **Dessert** – Lemon Cake, Devils Food Cake, Cream Puffs

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

12 Noon – Lunch Arizona Ballroom

- **Main Entrée** – Chef's Salad with Mixed Greens and Deli Meats & Cheeses
- **Vegetarian Entrée** – Chef's Salad with no meats, extra cheese
- **Dessert** – Red Velvet Cake

6:30 PM Doors Open -Dinner 7 PM Arizona BR

- **Salad** – Mixed Green Salad with assorted dressings
- **Main Entrée** – Roast Prime Rib of Beef with au jus & horseradish cream sauce
- **Vegetarian Entrée** - Vegetables Wellington
- **Potato** – Baked Potato with sour cream & whipped butter
- **Vegetables** – Baby Carrots & Green Beans
- **Dessert** – White Chocolate Cheese Cake with Raspberry Sauce

Vegetarian option must be ordered by check-in and is not available for individual meals.



Cory Pesaturo – Honorary Conductor 2019



Cory Pesaturo is on the forefront of making the accordion cool again. He is known for playing a wide variety of genres from Classical to Techno. His performances have ranged from 4 times at the White house, to the David Letterman show with Johnny Depp. He was accepted with the accordion at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA, where he became the second person to major in and graduate as an accordionist. Cory is the first person to win World Championships in Digital, Acoustic, and Jazz Accordion. He holds the Guinness World Record for the Longest Accordion Playing.

Besides the accordion, he is also respected for his statistical work in meteorology, working on articles about hurricanes and winter weather, and also in the field of motorsports history. Speaking of motorsports, Cory has an ongoing relationship with the *Red-Bull Formula 1 Team* as well. We honor Cory, a convention favorite, as this year's Honorary Conductor. Congratulations Cory – and welcome to this exclusive family of accordion greats!

Grayson Masefield – Conductor 2018



Grayson Masefield is a world-recognized accordionist. We could say he has the accordion in his genes. Besides having two accordion-teaching parents, he grew up playing in the North Shore Accordion Orchestra and went on to begin his classical training at Auckland University - then on to France studying with Frédéric Deschamps.

Grayson, in 2009, became the first person ever to win the prestigious Coupe Mondiale Virtuoso Classical and the Coupe Mondiale Virtuoso Entertainment awards in the same year back to back. In 2010 he won the Trophée Mondial Classique World Accordion Championship and has since retired from competitions. He finished his masters at the University of Music – Lausanne, Switzerland and is now teaching at the University of Auckland. One of the things Grayson enjoys is playing golf badly. We are thrilled to have this energetic, world-class performer and 2018 Honorary Conductor return to the stage.



Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra

Directed by Joan Sommers



***2019 Orchestra Members
Representing 16 States (USA)
Plus 3 Countries***

Mary Tokarski (CT) – Concert Master

Glenna Archibald (UT)

Robert Bartels (IL)

Suzana Beites (NJ)

Carol Briante (BC) CANADA

Gail Campanella (CA)

Joyce Carey (WI)

Gay Castellano (CA)

Velma Conte (WA)

Carma Davis (UT)

Donna Douglas (CA)

Caryl Dowell (AZ)

Judy Ernst (IL)

Elena Fainshtein (TX)

Kathleen Falco (ID)

Beverley Fess (Alberta) CANADA

Liz Finch (CA) *Bass Accordion*

Kathleen Grambsch (WA)

Megumi Hada (TX)

Bruce Hunsaker (UT)

Sandy Hunsaker (UT)

Carol Jones (BC) CANADA

Ruth Judkowitz (CA)

Dean Klitgaard (CA)

Violet Knox (AB) CANADA

Bernadette Koh (NM)

Gordon Kohl (CA) *Bass Accordion*

Louise "Lou" LeBrun (MO)

Karen Lee (CA)

Gwyneth Lister (CA)

Pamela Lister (CA)

John Lister (CA)

Robert Mansfield (OK)

Heather Masefield (Auckland) New Zealand

Janice McAllister (UT)

Brian Money (BC) CANADA

Yvonne Mueller (UT)

Sundi O'Mara (OH)

Diane Paige (NV)

Elisabet Roeder (WA)

Herbert Scheibenreif (Neunkirchen) Austria

Gwen Shoemaker (UT)

Pamela Tom (CA)

Linda Warren (TN)

Eileen Webber (WA)

Joan Weitzel (UT)

Dan Wright (NM)

Mike Zampiceni (CA)

Featured Vocalists

Ginny Mac & Mike Zampiceni

Percussion

Dr. Timothy Jones, Timpani and Mallets

Rich DeLabio, Drum Set and Percussion



Professor Sommers - Lifetime 2010 - Conductor 2004

Professor Joan Sommers has become an annual favorite. What the Professor can do with just three short days of rehearsals is as miraculous as the sound she obtains from the orchestra. It is truly inspiring! Professor Emeritus Sommers has been honored numerous times by associations all over the world and we are so honored to have her perform & conduct.

Joan is a talented arranger for the accordion orchestra and says it is constantly on her mind, making it difficult for her to just listen to music as background. When she listens, she hears and analyzes the specific sounds, the techniques used and the form of the composition. In her words this is both a curse and a blessing. Although she has now retired, Joan continues to teach and conduct – things she loves to do. Joan will be conducting the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra for the twelfth year. Joan is a true inspiration; she projects an energy & enthusiasm that inspires us all! Thank you Joan – you are amazing!



Liz Finch - 2018 Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award



Elizabeth (Liz) Finch received the 2018 Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award and is eager to share her wealth of knowledge. Liz serves on the Executive Board and is a past president of the ATG (Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International) and holds Baccalaureate and Masters music degrees.

For many years she has been a respected professional music copyist and orchestrator in Los Angeles where she works with many of the best-known musicians and composers in the TV, film, and recording industries. Liz's workshops include working with music notation software as well as looking at how music is produced in Hollywood today for film and TV. Liz, in her very busy schedule, has generously created several wonderful orchestral arrangements for our International Accordion Orchestra over the years. Thanks Liz for all you do to make everyone sound so good!



Antonio Spaccarotella - Guest Artist



A big thanks to **Antonio** for accepting our last minute invitation to perform and teach classes at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention. Antonio is a vibrant artist who, when questioned about his life, said, "music is my life". Antonio has studied accordion with the famous Italian accordionist Renzo Ruggieri (some of you will remember Renzo who appeared here in Las Vegas about 15 years ago). Currently Antonio is a professor of classical and modern accordion at the P.I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music in Italy.

Antonio has studied with many of the greatest instructors in the world including Professor Friedrich Lips and Frederic Deschamps. Most recently he was awarded the title Accordion Ambassador by the C.I.A (Confederation Internationale des Accordéonistes). In September of 2016 he was awarded the MERIT AWARD Lifetime Achievement Award in Rostov on Don (Russia). Added to his long list of accomplishments, Antonio has studied conducting and has conducted several symphony

orchestras in Italy and abroad. We warmly welcome Antonio. Be sure to check out his class on preparing to play – he promises to have you laughing!

Mary Tokarski - Honorary Conductor 2015



Mary Tokarski is a concert accordionist who has performed all over the world. She represented the USA in the world championship in her youth and today serves as the President of the American Accordionists' Association. She travels extensively presenting Workshops and Master Classes on musical excellence, coaches privately, and is a sought-after adjudicator. Mary is a published author and has many CD releases.

You will find that Mary is not only extremely knowledgeable, but that she has a genuine willingness to share. Make sure to check out one of her exciting classes. We are honored to have Mary return to teach classes and as the Concertmaster of our orchestra. Mary is a true Ambassador of the Accordion and we encourage you to check out her classes, which consistently receive high marks. Thanks Mary.



Ginny Mac – Guest Artist & Clinician



Ginny Mac, with her vivacious Texas charm and undeniable talent, was discovered at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention back in 2002 when, as a young teenager, she was a Deiro Scholarship recipient. One evening with Ginny and you will have traveled to the West Texas plains, reminiscent of Bob Wills' soaring fiddle tunes, or perhaps to a sidewalk café in Paris, or to a two-step or tango under the Texas skies. Hailing from Fort Worth, TX, Ginny Mac brings a fresh and exciting twist to vocal and instrumental styling in the Country West Swing, Americana, Hot Jazz and International music genres. We welcome Ginny back to our 20th celebration!

When she is not busy with an active touring schedule, Ginny is writing and arranging new original music for an upcoming album and collaborating on multiple musical projects. Her other passions include blogging, painting, and recently - exploring the world of photography. "I find inspiration in the world around me," she says "which finds its way into my music." Ginny will be performing at our Roaring 20's Celebration Wednesday evening and will be a featured vocalist with the Orchestra – thanks Ginny!

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Stas Venglevski - Honorary Conductor 2014

We are excited to welcome Stas back to Las Vegas. His artistry, dazzling technical command, and sensitivity have brought Stas increasing acclaim as a virtuoso of the Bayan. Stanislav "Stas" Venglevski, is a native of the Republic of Moldova, part of the former Soviet Union. In 1992 he immigrated to the United States.

Stas is an accordionist, a musician, an arranger, an entertainer and a teacher. Stas' repertoire includes his original compositions as well as a broad range of classical, contemporary and ethnic music. He has toured the world extensively as a soloist and has performed with symphony orchestras throughout the USA. Stas' brilliant artistry and musical virtuosity afford an expanded dimension in music and create an innovative musical adventure for the audience. We're thrilled to have Stas, one of our favorites, here as a performer and as a teacher.



Gordon Kohl - Honorary Conductor 2017



Gordon Kohl is a treasured performer who has supported and contributed to every year of the convention since its inception. Gordon is a great ambassador for the accordion and has attended many years at his own expense to support the event. He finds the time to attend, teach, and perform at many national events including the ATG, and the NAA. Also, he finds time to serve locally as the president of "ALSI" (Accordion Lovers Society International) of San Diego, CA.

Gordon is a knowledgeable, skilled, dedicated, "multi-cultural" accordionist. His playing credentials - which include commercials, video tracks, and work with TV shows and stars - would fill an entire page. He maintains a busy schedule performing, teaching, and conducting workshops. Gordon has a great love for music and is a master of the Concerto accordion. Be sure to attend one of Gordon's valuable workshops!



Steve & Michael Trucco - Artists

Steve & Michael Trucco are a father and son duo from Stockton, CA, has been playing together for over twenty years. Steve still plays with the same four-piece group in the Stockton area from his youth. Steve's son, 42-year-old Michael, has been playing the accordion since he was 9 years old. He began playing professionally with his father's group and then later on his own.



The Truccos play waltzes and polkas including music from the forties and fifties with Michael adding vocals. Their unique style has been honed to an art. Playing together the two seem to meld into one. Maybe being father and son has something to do with that. Come hear the Trucco's performance Monday evening.

Pete Barbutti - Lifetime 2003 - Conductor 2009



Peter Barbutti is an American comedian and musician (playing piano, "cordeen" and trumpet). Born in Scranton, PA, Pete started accordion lessons at age 11 and within a year was earning money playing at weddings. Pete went on to become one of the most famous stand-up comedians in history. He has appeared over 1,000 times on national television, and over 90 times on "The Tonight Show." Pete continues to have a busy performing and traveling schedule.

In addition to being a recognized comedian, Pete is a very fine musician who has appeared and worked with such legends as Frank Sinatra, Henry Mancini, Nat King Cole and many others. He has won many prestigious nationally recognized awards. Pete, our good friend, will join our panel discussion at Wednesday's lunch and will share his comedy at Thursday's lunch. Pete we are glad to welcome you back for your eighteenth year. You are a treasured favorite at the Convention!



Elena Fainshtein – Artist @ Clinician



Elena started playing the Bayan at age five. At the age of 15 she was accepted to Musical College in Minsk, graduating with highest honors. She has been teaching bayan and accordion for over 30 years, giving lessons in three different languages. Plano, Texas is her current home and she works in her private home studio, called “Musical Expressions”, where she provides private accordion and button (bayan) accordion lessons. In 2018, and 2019 her students Peter Gresser and Elijah Clements won the Championship in the “Big Squeeze” Contest in the Polka Category in Texas.

In Music College she met her partner for life and partner for Accordion Duo “Together” - Gregory Fainshtein. They performed in many European countries and nowadays they can be found performing at various festivals, conventions, and private events. Thank you Elena and Elijah, her student, for entertaining us this year.

Michael Zampiceni – Artist @ Clinician

Mike was raised with accordions from birth. His father, Joseph Zampiceni, was a noted accordionist, teacher, & music publisher. Mike began accordion studies from his father at 8 and by 11 was playing for paid engagements. He joined his father’s orchestra at 14 and by 17 he was the leader of his own band. Mike went on to earn a music degree from San Jose State University concentrating on voice & organ.

Mike is a master of bellow phrasing and dynamics and has a great improvisational style. He’ll be offering an informative workshop on playing musically, using proper bellows technique. Thanks Mike for graciously performing as a strolling accordionist during dinner on Tuesday evening. He will also be a featured vocalist with the Orchestra along with Ginny Mac on Thursday night. Thanks Mike for returning!





Gina Brannelli – Lifetime 2014 – Honorary 2003



Gina, a big thank-you from all of us for imagining and inspiring these wonderful events back in 1998! Gina Brannelli, British accordion champion, has won many accordion awards in her lifetime. In her words, “I have played the piano from 5 years of age, but my entire stage career has always featured the accordion. I am proud to present the accordion, as it has been part of my family for three generations!”

Gina toured for 12 years with Cunard Lines on the QE II. During this period, Gina continued to compose music and sold many of her works, which include several famous pop ballads. Today she teaches accordion, voice and piano. Beyond her many talents, you will find Gina to have a heart of gold, which is reflected in her music and warm personality. Thank you Gina for inspiring us all!

Paul Pasquali – Host & Founder



At age 6, Paul began taking piano lessons but by age 8 asked his parents if he could play “that big thing” that Myron Floren played on TV. By the time he was in college, he was playing professionally. In graduate school he began importing and marketing electronic accordions. He recognized then that there was room for improvement in the midi accordions being sold. In 1993 Paul sold his shares in Colombo & Sons Accordion Corp. and spent two years developing and refining a state-of-the-art digital/acoustic instrument, which he christened the Concerto. The Concerto, now in its fourth generation, is the world’s first true digital accordion inside a quality acoustic accordion.

Two friends, Jim Duane from Salt Lake City and Gina Brannelli from the UK, both said, “Paul you should start an accordion convention!” He thought he had better listen. Paul has made the time to handle all the details of presenting a top-notch international convention! Paul says, “Nineteen wonderful years have come and gone so quickly! But I must say how great it is creating a week of fun for accordion enthusiasts the world over – it has become like a family reunion each year!”



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