



LVAC TIMES



Cory Pesaturo



Grayson Masefield



Stas Venglevski



Bruce Gassman

COME JOIN US! October 23-26 The SHOW of SHOWS!

Yes, the accordion stars will be shining brighter than ever this October 23, 2017. We are so honored to have a vast and varied program this year that will include music for everyone. The lineup starts with visionary accordionist and friend to all, Cory Pesaturo, and bookends with a grand finale starring Grayson Masefield and the International Accordion Orchestra under the direction of Professor Joan Sommers. Make sure to read on and see why you should join us for the BEST EVENT YET!

Cory is an American musician from Cumberland, Rhode Island. He was accepted on 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 became the first American to win a World Accordion Championship since Peter Soave 25 years earlier. He has studied and plays a variety of musical styles including jazz, folk, and classical music. Come help us celebrate Cory's Las Vegas debut.

Grayson debuted at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention in 2015 and was an immediate sensation. Those who were in attendance are still talking about the amazing young man from New Zealand! In 2009 he became the first person ever to win the prestigious Coupe Mondiale Virtuoso Classical and the Coupe Mondiale Virtuoso Entertainment awards back to back in the same year. Grayson has become a sought-after musician and has performed all over the world. We are thrilled to have Grayson and his energetic world-class performance return this year at our 18th Annual Convention.

Stas has a warm, positive personality and is both a popular performer and clinician. An acclaimed virtuoso and a native of the Republic of Moldova, he has become a highly respected accordionist. Stas is now an American accordion cheerleader, promoting musical excellence on the bayan/accordion to varied audiences around the world. We welcome our friend and accordionist extraordinaire back to Las Vegas!

Bruce enjoys playing rock and roll accordion and excels with a wonderful rock bass accompaniment. Since 2009, he's presented workshops and performed at numerous venues including the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention. Bruce has shared the stage with many musical legends. Currently Bruce is featured with the "Hot Takeout Zydeco/Rock/Blues Band" and is the accordionist of choice for many top Jersey artists' recording sessions. *(Continued on page 2)*



Joan Sommers



Mary Tokarski



Gina Brannelli



Gordon Kohl



Kim & Dan Christian



Pete Barbutti



Tatiana Semichastnaya & Steve Albini

June 1, 2017

Dear Friends,

Summer is coming and before you know it October will be here. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Harvest Moon Serenade! Now is the time to register for the 18th Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention! Also you will save \$50 off your registration when you book your hotel room with the Gold Coast on our room block.



Oh what a fun time we will have come October 23-26, 2017 – we have lots of great music so please accept my invitation to come join the BEST Accordion FUN & Entertainment event ever – in Las Vegas! By popular demand we are back to the fall – a great time of the year to come to Las Vegas.

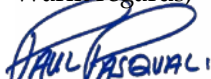
If you have never been to one of our conventions– expect not only to be entertained and to eat well – but also to be educated with wonderful classes each day. The hotspot after each evening concert is Club Concerto, a place where you get to be the Star on stage in a wonderful cabaret setting.

Join us as we celebrate life, great friendships, and the magical music of the accordion. Personally, I am very excited to announce this year's artists! Often people say, "Paul, every year is better than the last." I am sure 2017 will be our most exciting year yet! Look over this newsletter and color flyer and check www.AccordionStars for updates as we get closer to the event!

If you have not looked at airfares – do so today – they are lower to Las Vegas than I have seen them in several years. Plus the hotel rate is now at \$39 (\$47 premium room) a night (midweek) in addition to our reduced resort fee of \$9.99 saving you an additional \$8 per night. Don't forget we will take \$50 off your registration when you book on our block (ACCORD7).

If you have any questions or concerns or just need some help finding an airfare to Las Vegas, give me a call toll free 1-800-472-1695. I would love to hear from you. So register, make your reservations, mark your calendar, and come celebrate Harvest Moon Serenade with us!

Warm regards,


Paul Pasquali

Accordion Stars – Show of Shows!

(Continued from page 1)

Mary is a treasured performer, beloved instructor, author, and friend to all. Mary has set the bar high for decades. She performs both nationally and internationally, has released two solo CDs, and is a published author who has done much to promote music in early childhood – carrying the accordion forward to new generations! She is not only extremely knowledgeable but she has a genuine willingness to share, both through her excellent classes and her concert performances. We are excited to have her return.

Professor 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. Though now retired, Joan continues to teach, conduct & arrange – things she loves to do. Joan will be conducting the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra for the tenth year. Thanks, Joan, for your wonderful contributions!

Kim & Dan grew up together performing and teaching the accordion and established themselves among the premier accordionists in the world. Their unique ability to play together with exact precision is unparalleled. They have excellent technique and mastery of the accordion. Their performances are charged with vibrant energy and a passion and love that create an experience that will be cherished. Due to overwhelming demand at last year's convention, the Christians are happily returning.

Steve & Tatiana are back. The Italian phrase "passione e fuoco," (passion and fire), truly describes the music of singer/musician Steve Albini and musician Tatiana Semichastnaya. Their performances of Italian music fused with jazz and world rhythms have brought them international acclaim. Steve Albini is a multi-instrumentalist and singer. He has performed throughout the U.S. and Europe. Tatiana, the winner of many prestigious competitions, has also performed all over the world. She currently performs in the Las Vegas Cirque Du Soleil show.

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. Gordon is a treasured performer who has supported and contributed to every convention since the beginning. We gladly welcome Gordon back!

Pete Barbutti is an American comedian and musician (playing piano, "cordeen" and trumpet), who went on to become one of the most famous stand-up comedians in history. 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 many musical legends. Pete contributes greatly to our annual event and is a favorite celebrity. We look forward to seeing and laughing aloud with Pete!

Gina, a big thank-you for your inspiration in 1998, for the inception of this wonderful annual event. Gina toured for 12 years with Cunard Lines on the QE II during which time she composed music and sold many of her works. Today she teaches accordion, voice and piano. She has said, "I am proud to present the accordion, as it has been part of my family for three generations!" Thank you Gina for being a friend and a part of the convention for all these years – you inspire us all!

Why Las Vegas? – MORE FUN & It Really Does Cost Less!

Compare the true cost of attending any accordion hotel event in North America! Add up the following: event fees, travel costs, hotel rooms and meals - these total your true cost. Yes, many say our event fee seems high, but remember it includes 6 wonderful meals and concerts for four phenomenal days, including over 40 workshops, plus after-hours entertainment at Club Concerto!



resort fee per night. Add in the meal costs in these hotels for two people for four nights and your expenses can be well over \$1200 even before event fees and travel costs.

Las Vegas, at \$39/47 a night for four nights, plus the resort fee of \$10, plus the cost of breakfast at \$7each, comes to about \$56/64 a night - so the answer is very clear - LVAC is a BARGAIN no matter how you add it up.

All this - plus the largest lineup of world class entertainment - including invaluable workshops, and you will see why the LVAC is by far the least expensive event with the most to offer for your dollar! AND FUN Dress Up Contests too!

OUR PROMISE TO YOU: Attend just once, and you'll discover why people come back year after year saying, "Paul, I don't know how you do it - this event is really first class. What a wonderful week - what a bargain!"

Come join us at the best kept secret in the accordion world!

FYI - costs of rooms and meals in a Marriott, Hyatt, Ramada or other event hotels average \$179 plus tax &



**Lots of Great Seats
Enroll Now & Save!**



If you are considering attending, then please **register today**.

We strongly recommend that you make your hotel and travel reservations early. If you wait until the last minute you might be caught paying much higher airfare and room rates. The \$39 rate goes away September 23 or as soon as the rooms are gone!

Enclosed is a color flyer with a registration form. Simply fill it out and return it to convention headquarters at LVAC, 1760 South 450 West, SLC, UT 84115. Or you may go online to AccordionStars.com and follow the links to register and pay online.

Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra Needs YOU!

Professor Sommers, our very own Maestro Extraordinaire, is now preparing the 2017 program - so if you want to be a part of this exciting orchestra, NOW is the time to let us know so there is time to get your music!

The Orchestra's past performances have been very exciting. Anyone who has heard this magnificent orchestra would have to say the sound was nothing less than glorious under Maestro Sommer's Baton!

If you are interested in joining this prestigious group and in being a part of accordion musical history, then the steps are simple:

1. Register today and tell us you want to be in the orchestra.
2. Fill out the orchestra questionnaire form online at AccordionStars.com (or call us for a form).
3. Practice your assigned parts and learn them before coming to Las Vegas.
4. Bring your music, your accordion, and a music stand to Las Vegas. Portable music stands will be available for purchase at the Convention store.
5. Rehearse each day from 3 to 5 PM with our illustrious conductor, Joan Cochran-Sommers.
6. Wear black and white to the Thursday GRAND FINALE performance!

**NEWS 2017 Exciting Lineup of Stars INSIDE
Plus how to save \$50!**

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP!



Promoting young accordion players!

Scholarships are available to all accordion players under the age of 18, who are accompanied by a paying full time adult parent or guardian attendee.

If you know a youth accordion player, please have them contact us about a scholarship.

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Harvest Moon Serenade!

October 23-26, 2017

STARRING

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Grayson Masefield
Stas Venglevski
Mary Tokarski
Bruce Gassman

Kim & Dan Christian
Steve Albini & Tatiana
Gordon Kohl

Gina Brannelli - Pete Barbutti
AND MORE!

FEATURING

Professor Joan Sommers
Conducting "The Las Vegas
International Accordion Orchestra"

www.AccordionStars.com

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