

2022 NOT JUST OOM-PAH! ACCORDION CONCERT & WORKSHOP

Rita Davidson Barnea & Raif Hyseni



Music of EUGENE ETTORE

Music of ALBANIA

ACCORDION WORKSHOPS on ZOOM
ALL Times are CENTRAL TIME

Workshop with Rita Davidson Barnea on Wednesday, **APRIL 27 *** 7:00 - 9:30 PM**
Workshop with Raif Hyseni on Thursday, **MAY 19 *** 7:00 - 9:30 PM**

ZOOM CONCERT with RAIF HYSENI on Friday, May 20 * 7:30 - 8:30 PM**
PAYMENT and REGISTRATION @ www.NotJustOompah.org

\$75 for Accordionists

*Includes all materials delivered by email
AND a ZOOM CONCERT with Raif Hyseni*

For More Information and Details, CONTACT:
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Laura J. Niland 210-651-4359
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For Online Registration visit:
www.NotJustOompah.org



Raif Hyseni hails from The Republic of Kosova, which has a large Albanian majority. He grew up in the town of Mitrovicë, where he studied accordion at the music school. During high school he performed in amateur ensembles, folk bands, and orchestras, and even toured in Germany, Austria and throughout the Former Yugoslavia. Before moving to Tiranë in 1992, Raif was a well-known radio and television performer in Kosova's capital city, Prishtinë, performing with well-known singers, and where he performed with the legendary violinist Isak Mucolli. While attending college during the evenings in Prishtinë he worked as a high school music teacher in the afternoons. He also started playing with a young group called Besnikët that became very successful internationally — a superstar group, comparable, he says, to the Backstreet Boys.

Through his recordings and media appearances, Raif has become known as a major innovator on the accordion, for which he has composed dozens of instrumental melodies and songs. Mr. Hyseni holds a Master's degree in music from Montclair State University. He has written music for accordion, as well as songs for theater and documentary movies. In 2014 at Montclair State, Raif founded and continues to head the Balkan-Albanian Ensemble, the first of its kind at an institute of higher education. He has received numerous national and international awards and recognitions, some of which include: 2018 "AMBASADOR FOR PEACE" Universal Peace Federation; 2007 "NATIONAL AMBASADOR" Albanian Culture TV, NY; 2006 THE ALBANIAN-AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS NY, NY; and 2001 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL, Washington D. C. Raif and his wife, internationally acclaimed Albanian singer Merita Halili, emigrated to the United States in 1995, and now make their home in New Jersey. They perform frequently around the country on numerous stages, festivals and at community weddings, as well as teach workshops. To learn more about Raif and his recent recording, visit <https://www.raifhyseni.com> and www.facebook.com/rhyseni

Rita Davidson Barnea filled glasses of water to create a musical scale and tapped out little songs with a spoon at the age of 4!! Her parents took her to Major Music in Irvington, New Jersey where Eugene Ettore became her accordion teacher at the age of 9. Rita loved the minute she was given her first little red accordion, and to this day, not a day goes by that she is either playing, listening to, writing about the accordion. After years of instruction and playing in bands, she performed in many venues with the Sano Symphony conducted by Eugene Ettore. Rita also learned to play the piano and the violin. Auditioning on the accordion for the University of Connecticut music department, she was a piano major in music education. For over 30 years she taught Pre-K to Grade 5 vocal and special education music in the West Orange, NJ public schools using the accordion every to accompany her students. On beautiful, warm days, she took her classes and accordion outside to teach lessons. Ms. Barnea is an AAA Governing Board member. For 14 years she has been and still is the National Editor of <http://www.accordionusa.com> covering accordion events, artists, concerts, etc. which take place on the North American continent. Rita welcomes accordion news, photos, and information for the USA News. Email her at: Ritabell@aol.com

She presents workshops and concerts on Klezmer music as well as on the "Life and Music of Eugene Ettore", "The Use of the Accordion in the Teaching of Music in School", and "How to Organize a Children's Birthday Party" centered around the use of the accordion. She has performed in recitals, concerts, workshops, and at accordion festivals throughout the US. Rita is the creator and curator of the Eugene Ettore Memorial Website, which contains photos, articles, and other valuable information about Eugene Ettore. http://www.accordions.com/memorials/mem/ettore_eugene/ Her "Music of Eugene Ettore" album is now a free download at: <http://www.musicforaccordion.com/eTracks/inform/davidson/index.htm>

Eugene Ettore began to study the accordion at age 5 with his father, Antonio, a Vaudeville accordionist. Truly a Renaissance man with varied interests, Eugene always excelled in any subject that he devoted himself to. He specialized in composing original accordion compositions, as well as arranging music for concert solo and ensemble accordion groups, organ, and guitar (pop and standard tunes.) Mr. Ettore has to his credit over 300 published and unpublished copyrighted works of all types. He was the author of method books for the accordion, French horn, recorder, and melodica, and the Chief Editor and Arranger for Pietro Deiro Publications from 1955 to 1965. Eugene was President and Vice President of the American Accordionists Association (AAA), and awarded as an "Outstanding Composer and Arranger" of that organization, as well as Vice President of the Accordion Teachers Association of New Jersey. He was recipient of ASCAP Standard Pane Awards for 1964 and 1965 and listed in 1955 in "Who's Who in the East". For more information about Eugene Ettore's vast achievements and accomplished life and career, please visit http://www.accordions.com/memorials/mem/ettore_eugene/