
The 2014 Accordion Seminars

Dr. William Schimmel





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ON CREDIBILITY

AND WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND
THE SEMINARS

AN E-BOOK

BY

DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL

STUDIO-MUSE PRESS - NY



What we're not!

DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL
THE SEMINARS
AUGUST 1, 2 , 3 AT TENRI
43 A WEST 13TH –
BETWEEN 5 + 6 AVE
FOR FURTHER INFO:
www.billschimmel.com -
click 2014 Seminars

We're not an accordion festival

we love festivals – we're not one – we are - The Seminars -

we're non- competitive

don't come to keep score – you will be disappointed

we don't believe that bigger is better

the Seminars are rather intimate – can you handle that?

It's not a talent showcase

it's the presentation of ideas – about and around the accor-
dion

it's not a series of student workshops and recitals

we're all there to learn - me included

we don't work around the star system

everyone allows the accordion to be center stage



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we don't cover everything or pretend to (we've tried)

there's so much to learn and – that's why we look forward
to the 20th year – we look forward to 20 more.

We don't look for easy solutions

efficiency yes – easy no – we bask in the complexity of our
instrument with all of its cultural baggage

We're not a world music organization

We love them – but we are more concerned with the fact
that the accordion can play “anything” “anywhere” regard-
less of where he or she is from

We're not a classical accordion organization

Many of us are “classical accordionists” but our vision is to-
tally pluralistic, embracing all aspects of classical as well as
vernacular art forms

We're not a new music organization

yet, our new music roster is staggering in all possible angles,



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from “hard core” modernism to all of the posts, neo, late
and indi sensibilities.

THE SEMINARS ARE WAITING FOR YOU

TO FIND OUT

WHAT YOU'RE NOT

AND IN THE UNFOLDING OF THE NOT

YOU MAY FIND OUT WHAT YOU ARE



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20th Anniversary

THE 2014 ACCORDION SEMINARS – 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The American Accordionists' Association Master Class and Concert Series will celebrate its 20th Anniversary season on August 1, 2 and 3 at the Tenri Cultural Institute of New York.

The Title is: THE EVERYDAY ACCORDION: ORDINARY X PROPER = RADIANT.

The moderator/curator, Dr. William Schimmel states that it will be one of the best ones yet: intriguing workshops, stellar performances and, most of all, a collegial attitude in its presentation.

What makes the Seminars different than any other event concerning the accordion? THE THIRTEEN POINTS:



1. The weekend is totally about the accordion and its culture. No stars – only the accordion.

2. The weekend is entirely non-competitive.

3. We present ideas and we are always learning.

4. We provide an intimate atmosphere which empowers anyone who chooses to attend.

5. We listen to every idea that is presented to us and we take it seriously. No one is ridiculed or put down over an idea that doesn't seem to “fly” at the moment.

6. Everything is presented in a clear cut fashion. Everyone who attends will understand what we are saying or doing. There is no esoteric shop talk.

7. There is something for everyone. If you attend, we urge you to “stick it out” and suspend your judgment. There will be inevitably something for you in it.

8. We present innovative information and yet we always present too much of it. Our concerts are a bit too long and our workshops make one's head spin. One participant said that her head spun for over a year due to all of the information that was presented in a short span of time.

9. Many of the spectators become actual participants in time. We are interested in everyone who attends. We are interested in helping you realize your goals. Anyone may attend – at any level. All we ask of you is to come with an open mind and most of all, a warm heart.



10. There is a certain “humility” to those who attend and participate at the Seminars. Ironically, many of the participants and presenters come from the greatest universities and conservatories in the world. We span the horizon: Juilliard, Peabody, Mannes, Oberlin, New England Conservatory, Columbia, NYU, Harvard, Yale – yet there is a certain “humility” in those who are there to serve the accordion in the best light that they can. They consider it to be a privilege and, yes, it can be humbling at times. Although we believe that there is something for everyone in the Seminars, we also realize that they may not be for everyone. This may sound like a contradiction.

11. We raise the bar extremely high yet we also present ideas that show the accordion in new and unusual manners as well as new

takes on old ideas. This may be at times startling, due to the fact that our ideas about technique and process in general may differ greatly from conservatories and academic institutions – yet still maintain a “schooled” philosophy due to the “rub” and friction between the two. This is part of what we call “The built in ironic duality”. We revel in the “rub”. We don't look for the easy way out.

12. We believe that the accordion is in a better place since the Seminars. And we say that proudly and we also say it with humility. Time out New York has called the Seminars “The Apotheosis of the Accordion” - the laboratory where ideas are bred. Accordions Worldwide has stated: “Once again, Dr. Schimmel, aided and abetted by his dancer wife Micki Goodman, has unstintingly and imaginatively



produced and event that appears to be unlike any other in its scope and imaginativeness.”

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13. If you feel that the Seminars are for you – join us next year for our 20th Anniversary!

Deiro delights – Ettore elaborates – Frosini Fascillitates – Ellegaard is elegant – Magnante magnifies – Palmer is pedagogy – John Gart grabs you **WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DO? FIND OUT – AT THE SEMINARS!**

Participants come from the local New York area, across the United States as well as China, Japan, Argentina, Croatia and Norway.

Featured participants and performers include:

Micki Goodman, Paul Stein, Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan, Will Holshouser, Art Bailey, Doug Makofka, Ingrid Kvale, Brian Dewan, Martini Li, Yoichi Fukui, Melissa Elledge, Mark Nathanson, Benjamin Ickies, Godfrey Nelson, Lorraine Nelson Wolf, Dragica Banic-Curcic, Peter Flint, Erica Mancini, Dr. Ronald Sarno, Dave Soldier, Mayumi Miyaoka, Tomoko Sugawara, Hu Jianbing, Rachel Swaner, Genevieve Leloup, Joy Betchler, Robert Haulfrecht, Dan Simon, Di J Noizepunk, Jed Distler, Patrick Grant, Joseph Pehrson, Dejan Bosovic, Mary Tokarski, Julie Cardona, Michael Dames, Dr. Rocco Jerry, David Stoler, Peter Jarvis, David First, Dr. Hugo Goldenzweig, Lee Mc Clure, Ken Laufer, John Foti, Kathleen Tipton, Marni Rice, Bob Goldberg, Corn Mo, Di J Noizepunk (Gene Pritsker), Dan Cooper, Patrick Grant, Joe Pehrson, Milica Paranosic, Demetrius Spaneas, Dr. William Schimmel and many more to be announced

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Credibility

ON CREDIBILITY AND THE LONG HAUL

WHEN AN ARTIST STARTS TO WORK IN THE
REAL WORLD – HIS OR HER CREDIBILITY WITH
HIS OR HER COMMUNITY SOMETIMES GOES
OUT THE WINDOW – HE/SHE IS/ARE NO LONGER
RELEVANT.

WHY?

NO MORE NEED FOR IDEOLOGIES

NO MORE NEED FOR PREACHING

no hip hip hooray for the accordion

no need to convince others

NO

THEY'RE ACTUALLY OUT THERE

THEY'RE ACTUALLY DOING IT

ON A DAILY BASIS

SOMETIMES VISIBLE

SOMETIMES INVISIBLE

BUT THEY'RE OUT THERE

AND THEIR ENERGY

IS THE ENERGY THAT SPARKS US

WHETHER WE'D LIKE TO ADMIT
IT OR NOT

IT'S THE VERY REASON THAT
MANY PEOPLE WERE LED TO ME
TO BEGIN WITH

WHY? I WAS ALWAYS OUT THE PIC-
TURE in some form or another – yet busy
working in the music world.

I SUPPLIED AND STILL DO, A SAFE,
NON POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
WHERE ONE CAN NURTURE IDEAS
AND EVEN REVEAL SECRETS THAT
WOULD GO NO FURTHER THAN
THE STUDIO SPACE – AND THAT
STILL EXISTS.

IDEAS CAN SUCCEED – IDEAS CAN
FAIL – IT'S ALL STUFF WE LEARN
FROM – WE WELCOME IT.

THIS CONCEPT SPILLED OVER
INTO THE SEMINARS.

IT HAS BECOME AND IS A PLACE
WHERE MAGIC HAPPENS –

and

WE'RE IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL
NOW – AS THE ACCORDION HAS
DEVELOPED A SEEMING CREDIBIL-
ITY – ONE WANTS TO BE PART OF
THAT particular CREDIBILITY

BUT HERE'S THE SKINNY

I WAS NEVER PART OF IT TO BEGIN
WITH

THE LONG HAUL - YES

BUT PART OF THE HERD INSTINCT
A SPECK IN THE CROWD

NO

I NEVER WAS

and here's why

THE ACCORDION IS THE THING
THAT

GETS YOU THERE

NOT THE ACCORDION ITSELF

OF COURSE IT REPRESENTS A LOT
OF THINGS

CULTURAL BAGGAGE

ETHNIC ROOTS

EASTERN EUROPE

VAUDEVILLE

ETC – ETC – ETC -

BUT IT'S THE oracle THAT TAKES
YOU THERE

to that indescribable place in the realm of
art

AND HERE'S MORE SKINNY

AS THE INVISIBLE ONE – THE MAN
IN BLACK – – 68 YEARS ON - YET
STILL BEGINNING – STILL LEARN-
ING - THERE MIGHT BE SOME-
THING IN THIS FOR YOU.

SOMETHING BIGGER

AND IN MY MIND

SOMETHING BETTER

SOMETHING THAT WILL BE WITH
YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

FOR ME THE ACCORDION WAS AL-
WAYS MORE THAN WHAT PEOPLE
ARE MAKING IT OUT TODAY

YES, YOU CAN DANCE

YES, YOU CAN SING

YES YOU CAN TAP DANCE

YES YOU CAN CELEBRATE

TILL THE COWS COME IN

BUT REMEMBER WHO'S TAKING
YOU HOME

AND IN OUR ARMS YOU'LL ALWAYS
BE

SO DARLINGS!

SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR US

AT THE SEMINARS

THE METAPHOR FOR REALITY

OR

A KIND OF REALITY ITSELF

A HEIGHTEND SENSE

AND AN AWARENESS

THAT LETS EVERYTHING EXIST

ON AN EVERYDAY BASIS

IN THE ORDINARY

IN THE PROPER

IN THE RADIANT

SO

IN THIS DIMENSION

ONE CAN FORGE A LIFE – A REAL
LIFE – IN MUSIC

IN THE MUSIC WORLD

A LIFE

OF EXTREME CARE

AND COMPASSION

FOR OTHERS

AND YET

MAINTAINING AN EDGE

FOR ONESELF

WHOEVER AND WHATEVER YOU
ARE

A NEW LIFE FORCE

MINUS THE HALLELUIA CHORUS

YES

IS THE NEW CREDIBILITY

YES

YOU KNOW

THE EVERYDAY ACCORDION

THE LONG HAUL

THE LONG HAUL

THE CREDIBILITY THAT ACTUALLY MATTERS

CAN YOU HANDLE IT?

AND

WHEW!!

THE MORAL IS:

IT'S THE ACCORDION THAT TAKES YOU THERE

TO THE STORY ITSELF - *amazing*

AND THE ENLIGHTENED LIFE FORCE

IT BRINGS TO YOU

AND YOUR MIND

HEART AND SOUL

THE ORDINARY, PROPER AND RADIANT

IT'S THE ACCORDION THAT TAKES YOU THERE

NOT THE ACCORDION ITSELF

IT'S THE MUSIC YOU MAKE

IT'S THE ART THAT YOU PRODUCE

THAT MATTERS

YES



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Jimmy

Jimmy came to me EYES, EARS AND LEGS a-swellin'
a hurtin' from head to toe

could it be, I SAID, that thou experienced
SNAKE BITE while swimming without actually realizing it
I DON'T KNOW, Jimmy said, for I didn't feel a sharp pain
TIS' NOT NECESSARY, I said, for the MIGHTY RAT-
TLER strikes FAST AND CLEAN in water

We went to the lake and as I fetched our the SERP(F)ENT
–JIMMY SHRIEKED

and after that he still went SWIMMING and DRINK-
ING in NEW YORK CITY WATERING HOLES

WHAT is the LESSON HERE?

Be careful where you swim

Be careful where you drink

if you swim with snakes, sharks, sting
rays – expect the obvious

if you drink with snakes, sharks and sting
rays – buy the first round – lead everyone
in a chorus of WALTZING MATILDA
and make like a shepherd and GET THE
FLOCK OUT.

And head for
THE SEMINARS

YES – no snakes – if one shows up we de-
fang them

no sting rays – unless you drive one

no sharks – unless you're willing to break
into a chorus of AMERICA

This year we celebrate

THE EVERYDAY ACCORDION

Ordinary x Proper = Radiant
and

it's our 20th Anniversary smash year

Will the Seminars immune you to the
snakes, sharks and sting rays?

not really – but there are other lakes

and other drinking establishments

We're not here to take care of you

I couldn't take care of Jimmy

You're on your own

but

we can show you

the everyday ACCORDION path

that leads to multiple new paths

and roads you never knew existed

doors that you have passed but never
opened

yes – you can become RADIANT
at the Seminars

August 1, 2 and 3 2014

Tenri Cultural Institute

43 A West 13 St – between 5 and 6 ave

master classes at 3 – concerts at 7

for more details visit:

billschimmel.com and click: The 2014 Ac-
cordion Seminars

see you then – and if you run into Jimmy –
give him a good hiss and a rattle for me



Chair

THEY BROUGHT IN A WOMAN – TURNED THE
CHAIR ON AND LET IT DO ITS THING:

CHAIR SHAKES BACK AND FORTH – RIGHT AND LEFT

THE WOMAN LOOKED AMUSED – DIDN'T BAT AN EYELASH

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Calvinist

A CALVINIST FRIEND TOLD ME THE FOLLOW-
ING TALE:

A YOUNG GAL WAS RESCUED FROM BEING SOLD
INTO WHITE SLAVERY

IT must have been THE HAND OF GOD, I SAID

THE CALVINIST FRIEND SAID:

O YES – AND MONEY – LOTS OF IT

WHAT'S THE MORAL OF THIS STORY?

MONEY TALKS

AND

SURE ENOUGH

THE SEMINARS WILL RESCUE YOU

NOT FROM SLAVERY (any kind)

BUT FROM THE NOTION THAT YOU ARE GOING
TO THE HIGHEST POINT OF ARTISTIC HEIGHTS

YOU ARE, OF COURSE, no doubt - yes

THREE DAYS

BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT OF
THE SEMINARS

AUGUST 1, 2 AND 3

AT TENRI

THE POINT IS

TO FIND WHAT YOU DO BEST – your
best

AND LEARN FROM THE REST

IT'S QUITE A QUEST

AND IT REQUIRES

YOU

AND YOUR MONEY

AND WHATEVER YOU BELIEVE IN

GOD

HIGHER FORCE

ULTIMATE GOOD

ULTIMATE BADASS

SO GET THERE

AND AS MY CALVINIST FRIEND
STATED:

GOD AND MONEY TALKS

SEE YOU THERE

WITH TIME TO SPARE