



International
Digital
Electronic
Accordion
Society

Symposium Souvenir Book—FREE to registrants

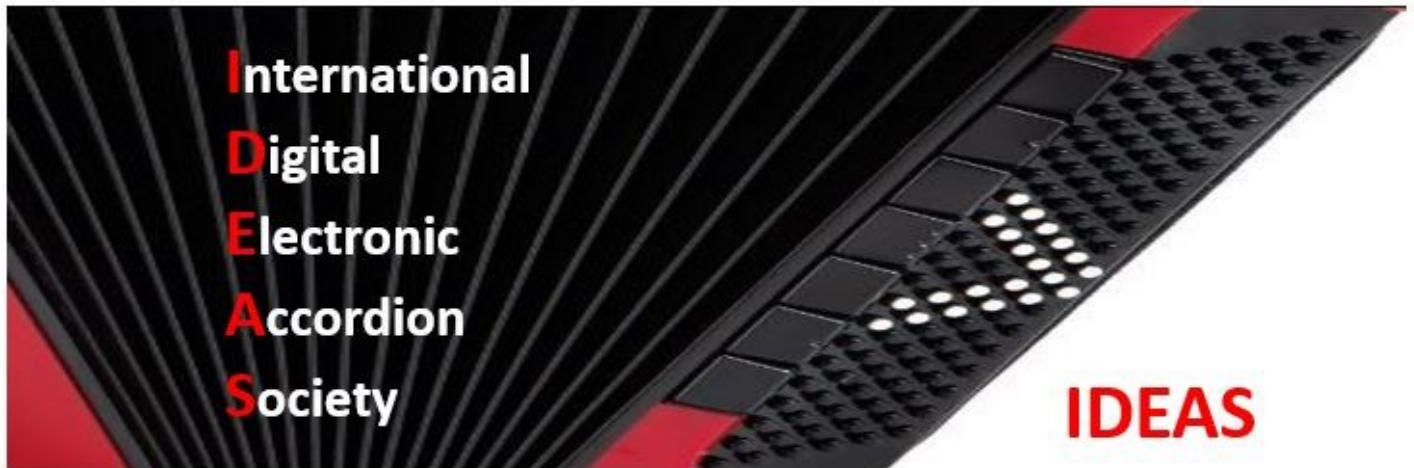
IDEAS

Symposium 3.0

Completely Virtual

2020 3rd Annual **IDEAS** Symposium

Supporting and Celebrating
Digital and Electronic Accordion through
Music . Art . Technology . Sharing



Welcome Message from IDEAS Co-Founders & Co-Directors

Michael Soloway & Joseph Natoli



Dear **IDEAS** Members & Attendees,

This year we have decided to provide our own Welcome message rather than soliciting a local mayor or someone else in the digital accordion universe.

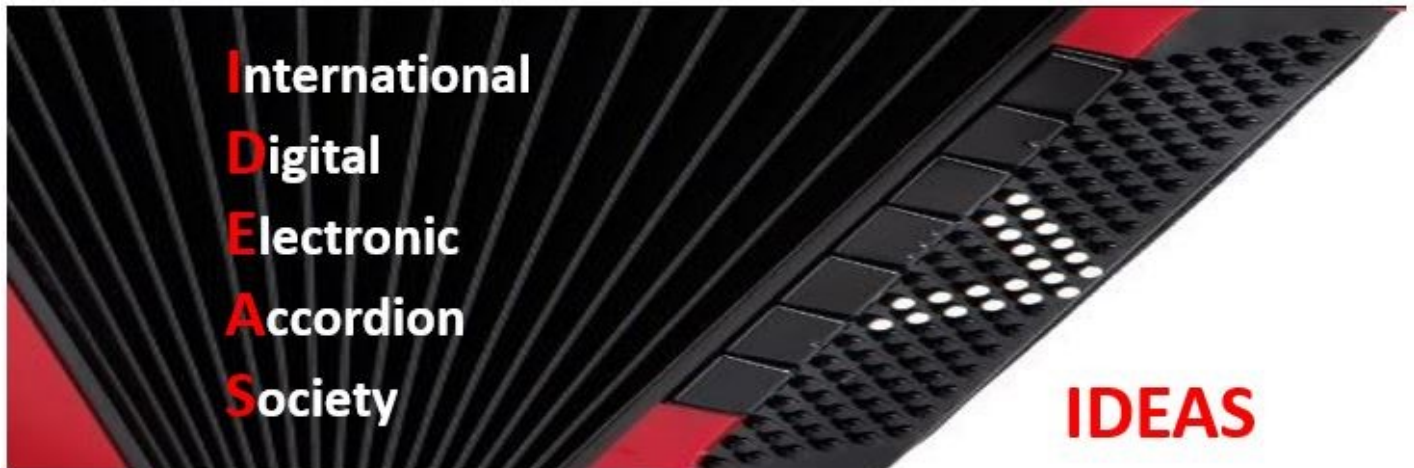
The year 2020 has been like no other in our lifetimes, and those of us who are still here can thank God for taking care of us and giving us the strength and good health to prevail during such an amazing and challenging year. With that in mind, we thank you for your support and officially welcome you to our Symposium 3.0 Event!

Because of Covid-19, we of course, like so many other organizations, had a choice to cancel or go completely virtual. Since we could not bear to let the momentum built in 2018 and 2019 dissipate, we certainly did not want to let our members and supporters down, so we made the second choice and decided to make this year's Symposium a completely virtual online event.

That decision was not without its challenges and hardships however. We both have easily put twice as much work into this event as compared to the two previous Symposiums. That's because there are so many technical issues to work out well ahead of time to make certain this is as pleasing, or an even better experience than you would have enjoyed during a live event. Of course we all miss the live networking, concerts, and interaction with our fellow digital accordionists, but we still feel that we have delivered in terms of content and pure musical fun, as a great alternative to a live event.

As Marco Cinaglia acknowledged last year in his welcome message, we truly have been "pioneers" with these Symposiums—and now we are breaking new ground again by meeting the challenges head on for producing a professional and meaningful musical event completely in the virtual world! When all is said and done at the end of these 16 days (a timespan which in itself is groundbreaking), we hope you will agree with us that the extraordinary amount of time and effort Michael and I have spent, as well as all of the Faculty, the Technical Team, and the Performing Artists, were WELL WORTH IT!

This year we are bringing you many premiers and firsts. **Marco Cinaglia** recently started his new company called **Proxima Digital Accordion** and only those people who have registered and are attending this Symposium will see the world premiere of his first instrument to roll off the assembly line. You will see the instrument detailed and demonstrated in one great session and that will be followed by one (possibly two if there is demand) interactive teaching sessions on the instrument from history to execution. All of your questions will be answered live. No one else in the digital accordion universe is getting this privileged first hand look at the instrument!



Welcome Message (cont'd)



Then **Michael Bridge** is giving a world premier look at his new sound sets structured around the Roland FR8X and Bugari Evo. I can tell you I have reviewed these sounds myself in detail and they are spectacular. A must have collection of some of the finest UPGs and sets available anywhere.

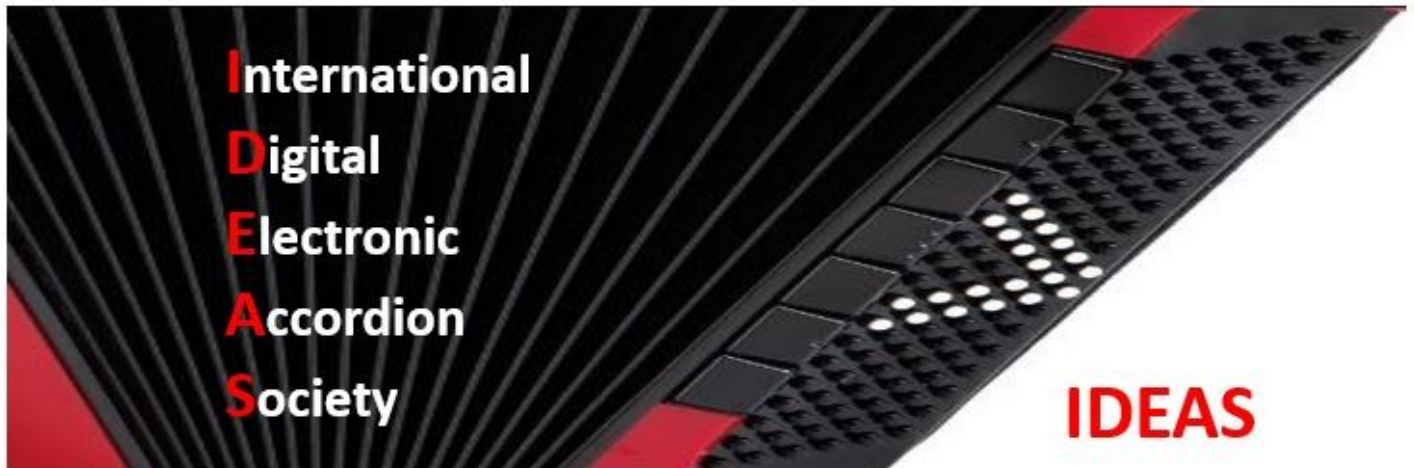
Additionally, **Tris Gour** will be breaking new ground by broadcasting live episodes of his **Whole Note** series which is dedicated to both acoustic and digital accordions and how to get optimal use out of them. Likewise **Cory Pesaturo** will be providing two sessions of his highly successful **CPEZ Academy** from within the context of our Symposium. So both of these gentlemen will be broadcasting from **IDEAS**, a program within a program, which to our knowledge has never been done before in the accordion community. It will be much like a special corporation broadcasting their products from a highly visible sporting event, like the Super Bowl!

products from a highly visible sporting event, like the Super Bowl!

Additionally, I (**Joe Natoli**) will be heading a session on the **Future of Digital Accordion** which will be an in depth discussion and presentation on where we will be going next. Marco Cinaglia (of Proxima Digital Accordion) and Uwe Steger will be taking part in this discussion and there will be time for some interaction with the audience.

There is so much more being offered, it's hard to catch it all in this short space, but let me highlight a few more:

- **Uwe Steger's** discussions on Effects and Master Effects usage on digital accordion in his first session, and in his second session, just the title alone should peak your interest: "Foray through unique sounds, adapting programs to personal style and other weird stuff!" Needless to say, you will experience what Uwe does to sound so incredible with his digital instruments.
- **Bob Donovan** getting into the specifics of the Ketron SD90 arranger as well as helping get to the basics of the FR-8X and the Bugari Evo.
- **Markus Baggio** demonstrating the incredible capabilities of the Roland BK-7M arranger as well as making forScore music display software for the iPad easy and understandable.
- **Michael Soloway, Kevin Solecki, & Alex Chudolij** will be taking beginners through the basics of the Roland FR-4X and accompanying editor, as well as an advanced class where you will be imbued with even greater skill level.
- **Tris Gour & Michael Soloway** will be teaching and demonstrating the use of the Roland Editor for both the FR-4X and FR-8X
- **Joe Natoli & Kenn Baert** will be teaching the FR-8X Bugari Evo advanced Level 2 class "Programming like a Pro" so that those users can learn all the best tricks for making the FR-8X and Bugari Evo sound great.
- **Eddie Monteiro** will take you deep into his special jazz genius and the many stories along the way that helped shape his incredible talent.
- **Lenny Feldmann** has a special treat for all of your BK-7M users with his customized playlists from which you can benefit from his hundreds of hours of work.



Welcome Message (cont'd)



To add to your enjoyment there will be **TWO BIG CONCERTS**, repeated for different time zones, so that as many attendees as possible will be able to catch them live. But even if you can't catch everything live, you will be very interested in the next paragraph!

Regarding the structure of the Symposium itself, our biggest challenge was making sure everything is available to all attendees regardless of geographical location and/or time zones around the earth. That was a huge challenge but we think we've got it covered properly for everyone's benefit. Where necessary, some workshops and both concerts are being repeated to cover multiple time zones. But even if your personal schedule will not permit live viewing of the broadcast, including concerts, we will be recording everything and making it available to all paid attendees on our website

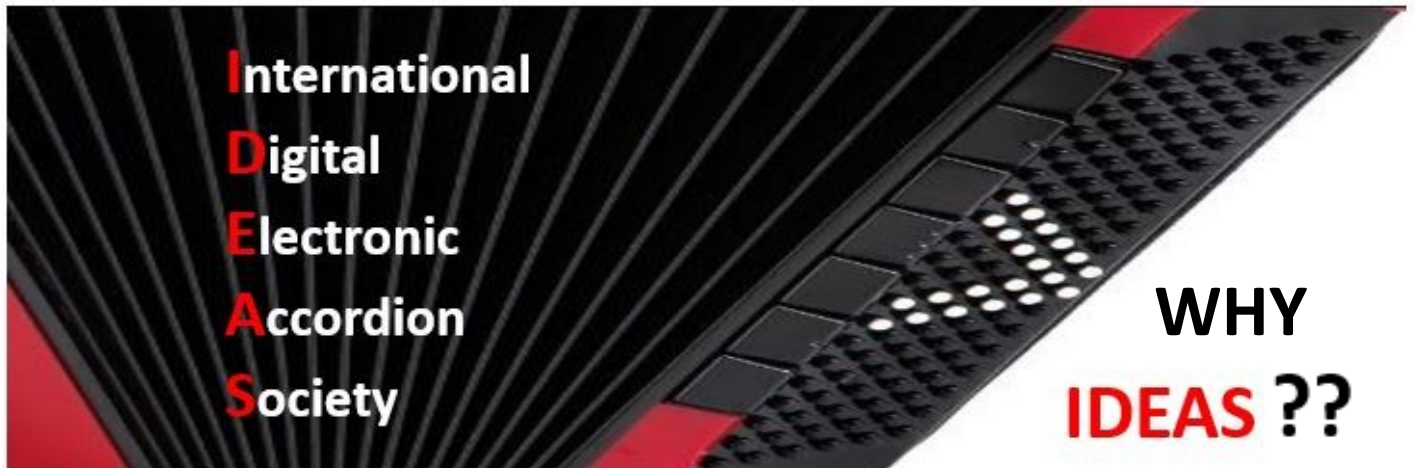
(www.gr8ideas.org) "**Members Only**" Symposium Attendees section so that you can view and review at your leisure at anytime into the future!

This approach most importantly of all, will allow everyone to attend each and every class or concert. In our live Symposium, in order for us to fit everything in successfully in a 4-day time period, you each had to make some trade-off decisions on what you most wanted to attend. But spread out over a 16-day period in this virtual environment, you will not have to miss a thing and you can even attend some classes more than once!

Obviously this Covid pandemic has given us lemons, but we did our best to make a tasty lemonade out of it for your optimum benefit! We are thrilled to have you with us. So let's enjoy the fun and learn!

SEE YOU THERE!!

Joe Natoli & Michael Soloway
Co-directors of **IDEAS**



THE “IDEAS” FACEBOOK GROUP

This has become the primary *online* sharing and **IDEAS** exchange forum via the more mainstream venue of a Facebook group. Share ideas, creations, questions, knowledge, upcoming gigs, and events. Get answers, make friends and allies. This is **THE** instant and online community for *all* our shared needs. It's there for you—just search “GR8 IDEAS” in the Facebook search.

If you have any questions at all about your digital instruments or your peripheral devices, this Facebook group is certainly the right place to be. Any inquiry for assistance is usually answered quickly by 5-10 people who all want to help. This year our membership in Facebook has quickly grown substantially, so that's a lot of firepower when you need help quickly, need IDEAS on how to unlock the secrets of your instrument, or just want to network with other like-minded digital enthusiasts!

GR8 IDEAS

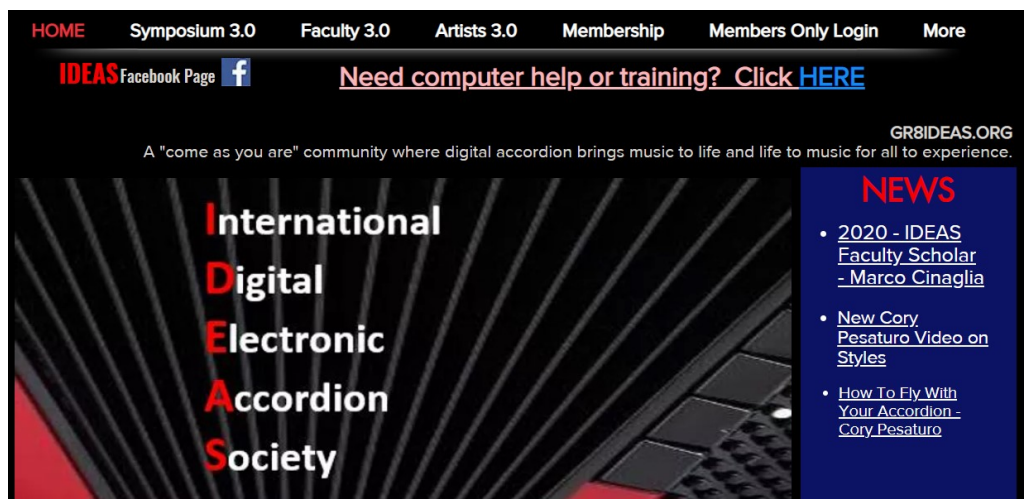
Public group · 866 members



THE “IDEAS” WEB SITE

Our web site www.gr8ideas.org is for the general public as well as paid subscription members who will have access to the ever growing library of content in the **Members Only** section that contains previous Symposium training, pictures, concert and workshop videos as a great reference tool for your Symposium investment, and sound files (UPGs, Sets, etc) for your instruments. Come back often as content is constantly growing.

It's like having a mini Symposium available to you each and every day!



Looking forward to our IDEAS Symposium 4.0!!

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Our 2nd **IDEAS** FACULTY SCHOLAR Award

Second IDEAS Faculty Scholar Award goes to

Mr. Marco Cinaglia



What is the **IDEAS** Faculty Scholar Award Program?

Starting with 2019 at Symposium 2.0, Joe Natoli and Michael Soloway, as the co-founders and co-directors of IDEAS (International Digital Electronic Accordion Society) have decided to distinguish those members whose activities and history are stellar and involved—and who have supported the project since its inception, working with us to build the community all over the world, and who are deeply involved in the playing, performing, creation, and teaching of digital/electronic accordions.

The position is a lifetime honorary appointment to the Symposium Faculty, and as IDEAS grows and continues to expand, our IDEAS SCHOLARS will form an impressive gallery; and will begin to become an increasing part of the history of an already historic organization and society. Because we are virtual this year, the award will be presented at our Thursday evening Welcome Session 11/5/20 at 4:30pm EST. **IDEAS** is thrilled to continue this program by honoring Marco Cinaglia, since Marco was the driving force behind all three of the world's most recognized digital accordions — the Roland V-accordion series, the Bugari Evo series, and now the eagerly anticipated Proxima Digital Accordion! We are certainly looking forward to many more years of Marco's participation with **IDEAS** and our growing Symposiums. For more information on Marco, see his bio later in this book.

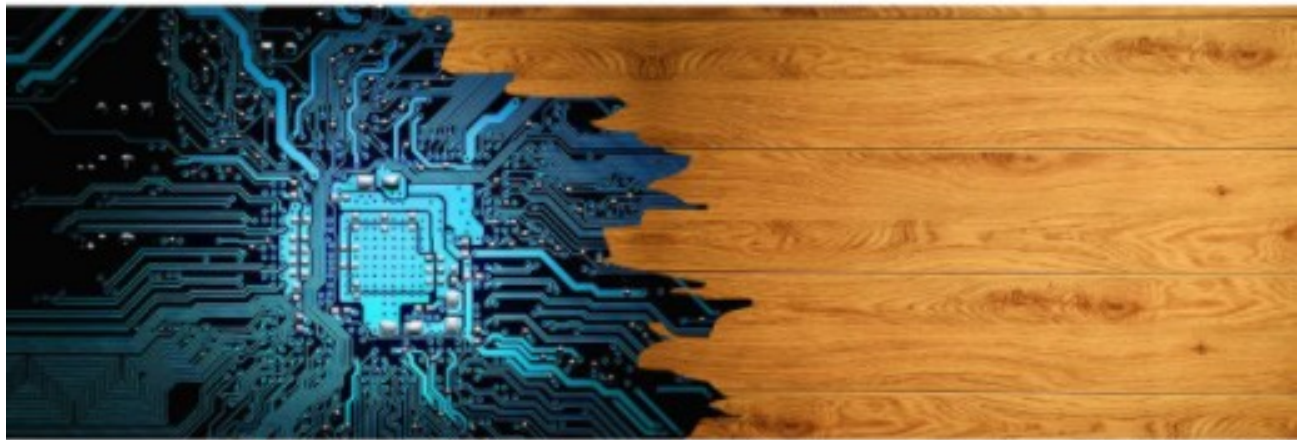
**Many Congratulations
Marco!!**



Proxima Digital Accordion



READY TO SATISFY YOUR WISHES



PROXIMA

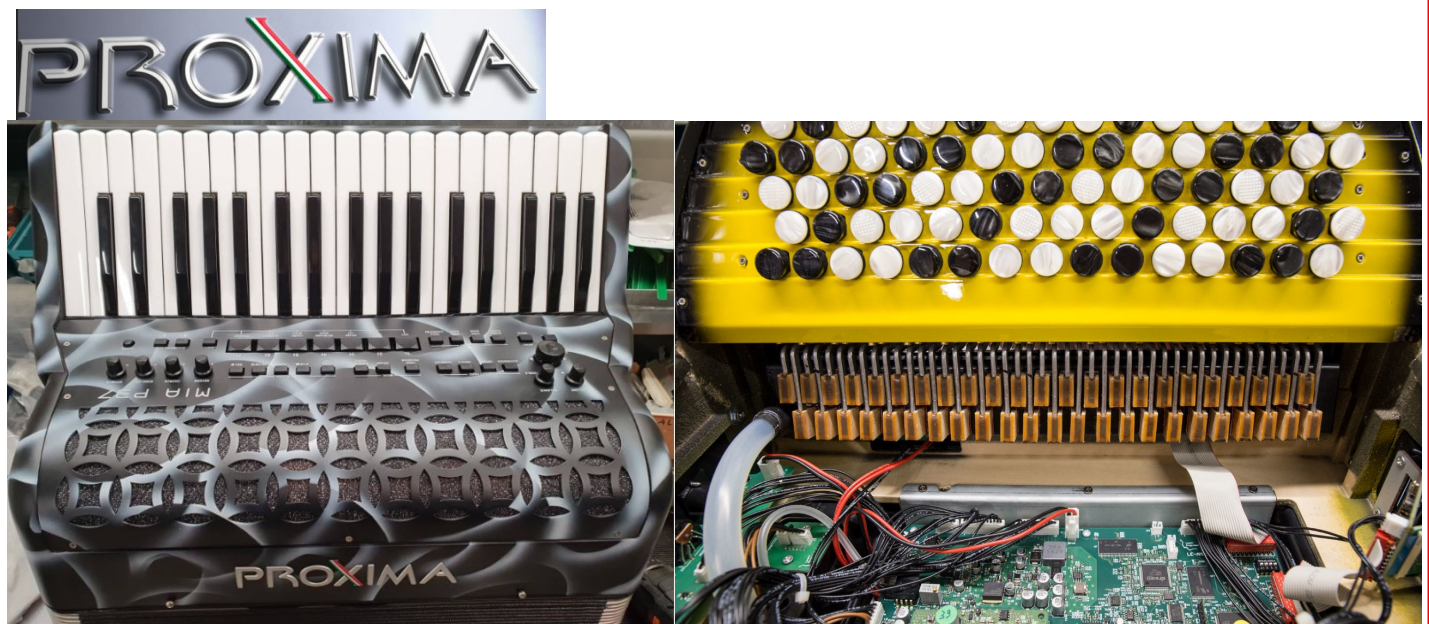
Proxima Digital Accordion — Combining beauty and brains !!



Proxima is a company dedicated to the world of digital accordion.

What will PROXIMA S.r.l do?

- Design, production, development and research of electronic parts dedicated to the world of digital accordion.
- Our production, products, materials are "MADE IN ITALY."
- We have a dedicated team for electronic technological development so our new products will have a new "digital heart" born from our experience gained over the years.
- The purpose of this new company will be to concentrate all our projects on the digital accordion and its accessories.
- We will listen carefully to the suggestions and what accordionists want to guarantee a product "for accordionists who love the digital accordion."



COMING

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PROXIMA

DIGITAL ACCORDION



We Look Forward to Welcoming Proxima Digital Accordions in 2021

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accordion world, supporting GR8 IDEAS
and the future of the digital accordion.



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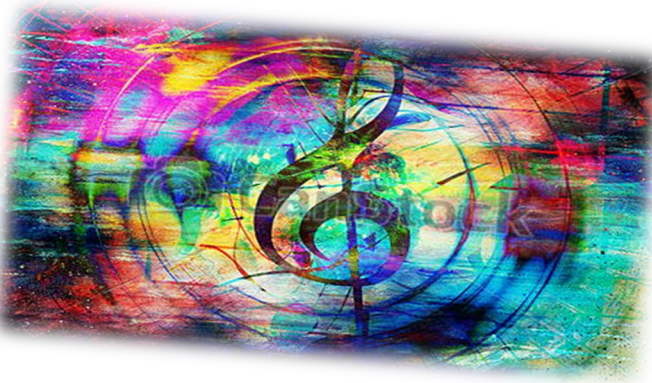


Sam Falcetti (1st **IDEAS** Scholar)

Teacher-Conductor-Sales

413-204-5522

samfalcetti@gmail.com



Our Faculty



Uwe Steger

uwe@uwe-steger.de

- Several prizes in German competitions
- 1987-1993 studying at College of Music Hanns Eisler in Berlin
- 1985 - 1993 participation in international competitions
- 1990 finalist in the Hugo Hermann competition and 1. Bayan Festival in Moskau
- 1990 special prize of Mogens Ellegaard
- 1993 -1997 extended international concert tour with his wife Heidi Steger and teaching at a state school of music in Leipzig
- Some pieces - among them the test piece of the Internationaler Akkordeonwettbewerb Klingenthal 1998 - are dedicated to him.
- Scholarship of the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation
- Since 1997 as free lancer in cooperation with practically all major theaters and orchestras in Germany
- Artists with whom he has performed are Montserrat Caballe, Ute Lemper, Klaus Hoffmann, Maria Bill, Ina Deter, Christina Lux, Manfred Maurenbrecher und Katherine Mehrling and many more.
- He played soundtracks for TV series, movies and worked as an actor in the film „Marlene“ mit Katja Flint und Heino Ferch.
- He is a permanent member of three bands:
- Schnafl Ufftschik (World Music Brass),
- Rachelina und die Maccheronies (Neapolitan singer)
- Leschenko Orchester (Russian tangos)
- 2007 second Place at the 1. international V-Accordion Festival
- Since 2008 lecturer at the College of Music Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy in Leipzig.



Our Faculty



Eddie Monteiro

chordean.changes@gmail.com

Eddie Monteiro is an internationally recognized musician and educator with 30 years of musical performance in classical, jazz, dance, theater, cabaret and choral ensembles. He won several accordion championships as a youth and was also the youngest honoree elected to the American Accordionist's Hall of Fame. Eddie has performed at major jazz festivals around the world (Holland, Finland, Norway, Japan, Indonesia) and has performed with Paquito d'Rivera in Punta del Este, Uruguay. He has tutored and taught Musicians from Europe and South America on numerous visits there.

Monteiro explains that the instrument itself has often been misrepresented. "The accordion has been maligned far too often in the numerous jokes and cartoons," he said. "The Lawrence Welk image with Myron Floren showed the accordion but in a somewhat 'corny' musical idiom. In addition, I think there are many accordionists who have continued to play at less than professional level. Others are just so outlandish in their presentations that people take note and think they're great. The accordion, far too often, isn't played for the public in a very positive way."

Well IDEAS is glad to know that in the hands of Eddie Monteiro, who easily can be referred to as one of the greatest jazz accordionists of all time anywhere in the world, the accordion and especially the digital accordion, will always be presented in the most positive musical light possible! We think you will agree when you are mesmerized by Eddie's performances on the Friday and Saturday night concerts.

Our Faculty



Matthias Matzke

info@matthias-matzke.de

Matthias lives in Gingen an der Fils, Germany and was one of the first Jazz Accordion Bachelors in Hans-Günther Kölz's class at the Hohner Conservatory Trossingen and the Institute of Music at the University Osnabrück. Versed in many musical styles his repertoire reaches from classical music and original works to jazz, pop and rock. Besides solo projects on classical and digital accordion Matthias works as an arranger, composer and songwriter; among other disciplines for his Crossover Band

"Synthonic Rock" and different duo projects with Leonie Kratz featuring classical soprano and movement.

Milestones of his career are first prizes of numerous national and international contests such as "Deutscher Akkordeon Musikpreis," "Jugend musiziert," "Roland V-Accordion Festival" and "CoupeMondiale." His musical activity also includes journalism, education and lectureships.

As a soloist, Matthias played works for accordion and symphony orchestra and is a member of Germany's federal accordion orchestra.

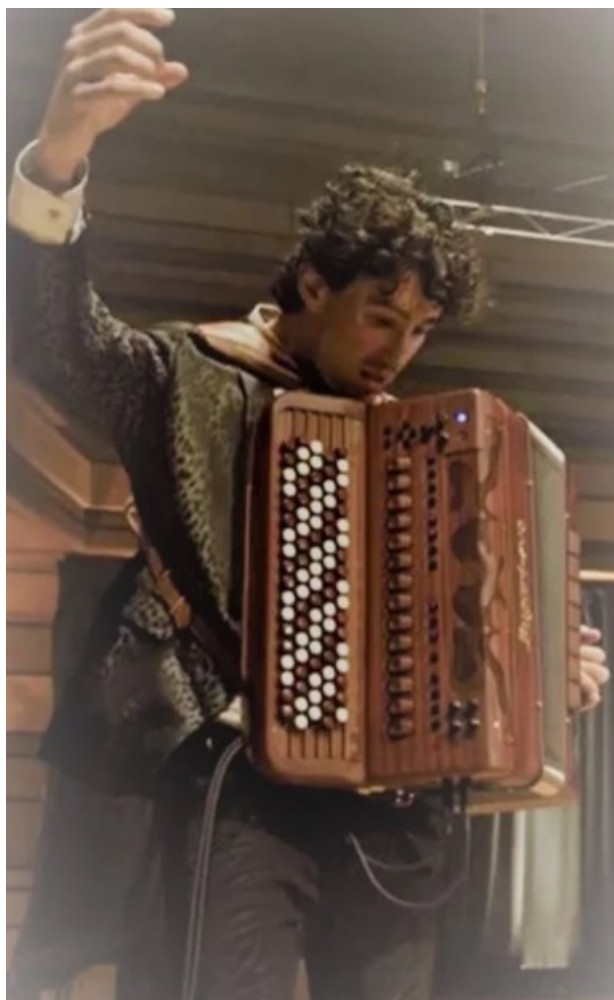
He gained experience in radio and TV shows and played concerts all over the world (Shanghai, Peking, Seoul, Tokyo, Ankara, St. Petersburg, Costa Rica, the USA and Europe).

Matthias Matzke is known as a pioneer for the digital accordion and also studied electronic music at the Hohner Conservatory.

Finding modern ways to express music on his instrument has always been his vision. The accordion may sometimes be underestimated - this, however, makes the instrument all the more promising in his eyes.

Be prepared to be mesmerized by what Matthias is able to accomplish with his digital instrument. The best word to describe it is "breathtaking."

Our Faculty



Michael Bridge

Mus. Bach. Mus. Masters,
 Doctoral Candidate
 University of Toronto

michael@michaelbridgemusic.com

www.michaelbridgemusic.com

“A wizard of the accordion” (CBC), Michael Bridge is a unique fusion of a modern concert artist and captivating entertainer. He gives over 100 concerts a year in Europe and the Americas as a soloist, with orchestra, and with his two groups of unique instrumentation — Bridge & Wolak and Lodom Ensemble.

A world leader on digital accordion, Bridge is renowned for creating the sounds of a full orchestra 100% live on stage; including his signature solo performance of Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture. He often teaches lectures on Digital Accordion Orchestration and 12 Types of Bel-lows Shakes at festivals and conservatories, including residencies at the Tchaikovsky Con-

servatory in Kiev and the Krakow and Lodz Music Academies in Poland.

Off-stage, Bridge is the first Canadian to pursue a doctorate in accordion performance at the University of Toronto, with Joseph Macerollo, where his work on new music with Canadian composers has led to over 50 world premieres. He is a frequent jurist at international competitions and teaches accordion, digital accordion, and music theory.



Our Faculty



Cory Pesaturo

3-time World Champion

Bachelor of Music

New England Conservatory Of Music

cory.pesaturo@gmail.com

Cory Pesaturo is a graduate of the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, where he was the first musician ever to major in the accordion. Pesaturo is the only accordionist to win World Championships on the Acoustic, Jazz, and Digital accordion. Cory also broke the Guinness World Record for the Longest Ac-

cordion Performance in 2017, sponsored by the RedBull Formula 1 team.

His extensive resume includes appearances at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton on four different occasions, starting at age 12. On one of those occasions, he became the youngest person ever to perform at a State Dinner, performing with the Marine Strolling Strings for the President of Hungary. He has since performed at seven other events for the Clintons and continues to keep in touch as proved by his 14 letters from the First family. He has judged accordion competitions all over the world, in addition to general music competitions.

On the Classical side, which is less known, a win at 16 years old in a Concerto competition at the New England Conservatory of Music, gave Cory the rare opportunity to perform with the Brockton Symphony Orchestra as a featured soloist and on the Jazz side, Cory recorded two CDs with saxophone legend George Garzone and his famous band "The Fringe" at age 19, and has performed / become friends with Jazz and Music legends Quincy Jones and Wynton Marsalis.

Cory has modified his own electric accordion, creating the first ever skinned accordion which includes a symmetric midi lighting system attached to the keys. IDEAS is delighted to have Cory participating in all our Symposiums.



Our Faculty



Joseph Natoli

Music Bachelor, Music Masters

University of Toronto

MBA—Franklin University

josephnatoli@ymail.com

janpressmusic@yahoo.com

www.janpressmusic.com

Joseph Natoli makes his home in Northeast Ohio, and has been a performer and advocate of the accordion since the age of seven (inspired to play the instrument by his grandfather -- also Joe Natoli, and his father, Frank Natoli). Joe started his studies with prominent Ohio accordion teacher, the late Mickey Bisilia of Youngstown, Ohio, and won the 1972 AAA US Virtuoso Accordion Championship under Mr. Bisilia's tutelage, while placing first runner-up several months later in the Coupe Mondiale world accordion competition in Caracas, Venezuela. More recently, Joe won the grand prize for the first Roland US V-Accordion competition held in Los Angeles, California, in 2008.

Joe's education includes Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in music theory and composition from the University of Toronto Faculty Of Music in Toronto, Canada, where he was the first student accepted there to use the free bass accordion as an applied major instrument, studying with renowned Canadian accordionist, Joseph Macerollo. Joe Natoli started his musical career mostly as a performer, but had always been interested in composition, and has focused on his compositional craft even more in recent years. Joe has written many original pieces in all musical styles and genres for standard and free bass accordion, all of which are available by inquiries to janpressmusic@yahoo.com, including his latest pieces, **Children's Suite** for accordion solo, and **Smooth** (a Latin jazz piece for solo or accordion quintet), a 2018 commission for the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) 80th anniversary entitled **Sonata in F Major (in the Classical Style)**, and another 2019 AAA commission for 2 accordions, cello, and percussion call **Child's Play**, which was premiered last year at the 2019 Symposium.

Some of his most recent recordings include an all-acoustic accordion CD called **Omaggio**, which is dedicated to the many musical influences in Joe's life from various composers, musical friends and family members. Joe has also released an all-digital Roland V-Accordion CD entitled, **Waltz for Ron**, which contains a bevy of original compositions and arrangements of classical, light classical, ethnic and jazz pieces fully exploiting the orchestral possibilities of the Roland virtual accordions. Both CDs are available on the JANPress website. A new CD was released in 2018 called **Chameleon (Vol 1)** which focuses on the widely diverse styles of Joe's original compositional output (much of which has been heard at these Symposiums). **Chameleon (Vol 2)** was released in 2019 and includes a the new AAA commission **Child's Play** mentioned above. Chameleon (Vol 3) is set to be released in 2021.

Joseph, along with Michael Soloway, is the co-founder and co-director of IDEAS.

www.janpressmusic.com

Our Faculty



Michael Soloway

m@msoloway.com

Michael Soloway was born in Winnipeg, Canada where studied classical piano. His mother was a professional classical pianist with a passion for Broadway music and the American Songbook. As a teenager he began bringing that music to the piano. In Canada, he studied Jazz piano with Bob Erlandson and jazz guitarist Lennie Breau, playing in a trio with bassist Ron Halldorson and drummer Reg Kelln.

Michael's father was a dentist, and following that lead, he graduated from Dental School in 1973. Un-

able to ignore the music, 4 years later, he left Canada and attended Berklee School of Music. There he founded the jazz fusion group Orpheus, played electronic 'keyboards'; touring Canada and the USA and recorded several albums for Polygram records. Ultimately settling in New York City, in mid-life he focused mainly on his dental career practicing and living in Manhattan becoming a renowned cosmetic dentist, teaching his original techniques and methods all over the world.

At the same time, he was enjoying the city, and playing jazz and cabaret piano. He was the musical director and accompanist for Lesley Corne, playing all the New York cabaret venues, but for twenty years, his dental career was predominant.

Towards the latter part of his career, at the recommendation of a professional accordionist, he bought an acoustic accordion and studied initially with Gene DeBellis in New Jersey. Alex Chudolij introduced him to renowned jazz great Eddie Monteiro where he experienced an entirely unique approach to the instrument and to music, and learned with Peter Soave at his Music Academy in Italy. Having been a "keyboard" player, he was drawn to the digital world with all new possibilities. Joe Natoli, his most profound and leading influence, through a number of years of intensive work, drew him deeply into programming the orchestrations that he was hearing. Michael worked with the Roland V-accordions, centering currently on the FR-4X. Now retired, he is continuing to play, perform and teach in his own right. He opens the Queens World Film Festival annually, and through this has developed a passion for orchestrated film scores in his performances.

As their friendship evolved and, as Joe Natoli's student, Michael joined him in co-founding and co-directing IDEAS.

Our Faculty



Tris Gour

Company: Gary Dahl – The Legacy Continues, LLC

Website: www.accordionmusicandlessons.com

Email: tris.gour@accordionmusicandlessons.com

Tris Gour makes his home in Northern Indiana with his wife Gloria. He has been a musician, performer, and accordionist from a very young age. Tris began his studies at the age of 8 with the prestigious Gene Van Accordion Conservatory of Northern Indiana where he embraced the instrument for 11 years. Tris won numerous state accordion championships in several divisions and went on to receive the first runner-up in the AAA US Open Pop Solo division and winning the US Open Jazz Combo division. More recently, Tris was featured in the March 2020 Petosa Artist Spotlight.

Tris started playing professionally at the age of 13 and by age 15 was playing 50 weeks per year. During his later teen years, Tris lead a top tier band that performed throughout the Midwest at popular hotel chains and night clubs in addition to being featured as a guest act for various famous entertainers. More recently, Tris performed with a prominent R&B Tribute Band that included musicians who toured with Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, Curtis Mayfield, Junior Walker, George Michael, and Aretha Franklin.

Tris currently owns and operates August Dream Studios LLC, through which he has provided music for award-winning film scores, worked with the technology divisions of Kurzweil and Yamaha while aiding in the development of software sample libraries. Tris is also a noted studio Mix and Mastering Engineer and has attended some of the finest learning institutions in the United States.

In December of 2013, Tris furthered his study with the late Gary Dahl to enhance his accordion arranging skills. Tris remained with Gary until his unexpected passing at which time he began managing Gary Dahl - The Legacy Continues. Tris teaches accordion to an ever-expanding group of students located all over the globe.

By day, Tris is the Principal Senior Scientist of Industrial Safety and Environmental Services, Inc., which he founded in July 1986. Tris and the team at ISES provide environmental and occupational safety and health solutions for their national and global industrial regulatory compliance clients.

Our Faculty



Kenn Baert

kenbaert@gmail.com

Kenn Baert began his accordion studies in the second grade through a music program at St. Bavo School in Mishawaka, Indiana conducted by Gene Van. Kenn enrolled in private lessons, studying with Laura Van, and progressed very quickly winning numerous state and national awards. In 1983, under the tutelage of Mary Ann Van Paelmel, he won the Indiana Virtuoso Solo Championship. Kenn performed at Carnegie Hall in New York as a member of the Gene Van Virtuoso Ensemble, after the group won the American Accordionists' Association (AAA) U.S. Virtuoso Championship. In 1984, Kenn was first runner-up in the AAA Midwest Cup Regional Championship and second runner-up in the 1984 AAA United States Virtuoso Championship.

Kenn is a 1989 graduate of Marquette University, in Milwaukee, WI, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He married his wife, Susan in 1993 and they have 3 children, Andrew, Kathleen and Kristin. Kenn and Sue currently reside in Barrington Hills, IL. In 2014, Kenn retired from his Principal Technical Architect position in Information Technology at AT&T.

After graduating from High School, Kenn left his accordion virtually untouched until he received a phone call from Gene Van asking him to participate in a reunion concert. After 20 years of leaving his accordion in the closet, Kenn began playing again in 2008. At this reunion concert, Kenn was introduced to the Roland Digital V-Accordion by Joe Natoli. He went on to win the 2009 Roland United States Digital Accordion championship in Los Angeles, CA.

Kenn currently serves as the Treasurer of the Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International (ATG) and has a small number of accordion students that he teaches from his home in Barrington Hills, IL.

Our Faculty



Markus Baggio

markus.baggio@gmail.com

Markus has been playing acoustic accordion since the age of seven. He played mainly in accordion orchestras all over Germany. He was one of the founding members of the "State Youth Accordion Orchestra Rhineland-Palatinate."

Inspired by some YouTube videos from Richard Noel he started in 2013 with an Roland FR-3x and the BK7m module and replaced the FR-3x with

and FR-8x shortly after its release in 2014.

For the past years Markus has conducted several training sessions covering features, tips & tricks of the BK7m at the National Accordion Convention (NAA) in Dallas. As Markus is still working full time he doesn't have much time to perform in public, but when he does, he shows how to bring the digital accordion and the arranger to their full potential, playing many genres from North and South America and Europe, Polkas and Waltzes to Latin, Country and Big Band.

Markus has perfected his use of the BK7M and brings to those using this module a wealth of knowledge on extracting the most from it with its wide array of fully functional arranger capabilities. You will be amazed at what Markus can do with this module and what he in turn can teach you to extract from it. IDEAS welcomes Markus on our faculty.



Our Faculty

Bob Donovan

bob.donovan22@yahoo.com



Bob Donovan is a product manager for Siemens and performs with the accordion as a hobby. Bob grew up in northern Kentucky and recently moved to Nashville TN in 2018. Bob plays multiple instruments such as drums, guitar and piano, however his favorite instrument is the accordion. While Bob has only been playing the accordion for 10 years, he has quickly grown his skills to compete in the Rocky Mountain Accordion Society competition.

Bob then focused his efforts on becoming a professional performer. Bob both sings and plays as a performer and performs both as a solo performer and in bands and ensembles. Bob has performed at the Hofbräuhaus Newport KY, Cincinnati Oktoberfest, Covington Oktoberfest, Louisville Oktoberfest, Wilmington Oktoberfest, and Nashville Oktoberfest, and Wilmington Celtic Festival. Bob enjoys finding ways to bring the accordion to more contemporary music, venues, and audiences. Bob has performed in several bands featuring the accordion with various genres such as Rock, Pop, Country, Zydeco, Blues, and TexMex.

Bob's performances feature either a Roland FR-8X or a Siwa & Figli Grand Musette with a Limex MIDI system. Bob's solo performances also included the use of an arranger to enhance the audience experience with more instruments to make the experience more authentic. Currently Bob is using the Ketron SD-90 and has also used the V3 Desktop and Roland BK-7m. Bob has experiences in recording in his home studio, writing music, creating backing tracks using Studio One DAW, and creating sheet music scores for his performances using Notion.

Bob will be teaching the **Tech Level 1 class for the Roland FR-8x** as well as the **Ketron SD90 arranger class**. IDEAS welcomes back Bob as part of our Faculty this year and we are thankful for his many contributions throughout the year to help us get ready for this fabulous Symposium.



Our Faculty



Kevin Solecki

Kevin Solecki

Address: 1208 Pennsbury Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Phone: (412) 278-1921

Website: kevinsolecki.com

Email: kevin@kevinsolecki.com

Carnegie Accordion Company

Address: 115 East Main St.
Carnegie, PA 15106

Phone: (412) 278-1921

Web-site: www.carnegieaccordion.com

Email: info@carnegieaccordion.com

GRAMMY Nominated Accordionist, Owner of Carnegie Accordion Company

Kevin was born and raised in Warren, Michigan. He started taking accordion lessons at the age of 6. At the early age of 10, Kevin started playing solo accordion performances. A few of Solecki's earlier highlights include performances on some of Detroit's radio and television stations.

At the age of 17, he joined a nationally known polka band from Pennsylvania, the Polka Family Band. After several extensive months of traveling the country with this band, Kevin decided to relocate to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he currently resides. Solecki was a full time member of the Polka Family Band for a total of 10 years while maintaining an active solo career before deciding to end his tenure with the band and focus solely on his solo endeavors.

Over the past two and a half decades, Kevin has performed all over the United States as well as internationally. He has also done numerous radio and television shows, and had the opportunity to perform at some of the country's top polka festivals, state fairs, county fairs, hotels, and cruise ships.

In 2005 Kevin recorded and released "Solecktions", an album consisting of different styles of polka and waltz from around the world. "Solecktions" was nominated for a Grammy Award during the 2005-2006 season. His follow-up recording is a project called "Solecktive Sounds" which was released in September 2007. It once again features different styles of music which includes polka, waltz, tango, and accordion novelty favorites. Kevin's latest release "Romantic Melodies" debuted in 2010 and continues to be a favorite among the elderly demographic.

Some of Solecki's numerous career highlights include performances on some of the world's top cruise ships, a PBS Television documentary on the polka, a GRAMMY nomination for his debut album "Solecktions" followed by multiple visits to the GRAMMY Awards since, performances at some of the nation's top Accordion Conventions, a personal invitation from Harry Connick Jr. to help him perform at Pittsburgh's historic Heinz Hall in June 2013, and an upcoming appearance on a December 2020 episode of Emmy Award Winning "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood". This #1 rated children's PBS Television show is viewed by over 65 million children and adults in the United States and hundreds of millions worldwide.

Kevin is also the owner and operator of a Pittsburgh, PA based accordion repair and sales shop, Carnegie Accordion Company, where he is an Authorized Roland accordion dealer.

Our Faculty



Mitchell White

qualitydr@gmail.com

Newly retired from a 40+ year career in science, industry and business, Mitch White lives in central Texas. His work took him to forty countries on five continents, and included training over 10,000 folks in science and technology in various fields.

Mitch began learning the accordion at age 10, taking lessons at the Southwest School of Music (now defunct) in San Antonio, Texas. When the family

moved, he lost connection to instruction and the accordion was set aside for other interests, including math and science competitions, electronics & amateur radio, and running. College, graduate school, and life generally occupied his full attention thereafter, though he never forgot about his student accordion.

About five years ago, with his career winding down and an empty nest, Mitch connected with the Central Texas Accordion Association (CTAA) and rekindled his interest in music. A newly refurbished La Scala and a Weltmeister became his learning tools, while activities with the CTAA and other central Texas groups helped him grow as a musician. Three years ago, his wife Paula Jo gifted him a **Roland FR-8X**, and new areas of learning and play opened up for him.

Mitch continues to study and practice, while developing sounds of personal interest via the FR-8X Editor. He also played an FR-4X for several months, and naturally investigated that instrument's Editor. Mitch has been a clinician during the first two IDEAS Symposiums, mainly supporting Michael Soloway's FR-4X course tracks. He takes great pleasure from helping others enter the exciting world of sound editing for their virtual accordions. He is also experimenting with the BK-7m arranger. Recent musical interests include picking up the ukulele, and starting piano study.

Mitch is part of the Symposium 3.0 Technical Team, assisting with preparations for Zoom virtual attendance by everyone, as well as supporting the V-Accordion Set Editor operations.



Our Faculty



Chris Theis

chris_theis929@hotmail.com

Two time Grammy Award winning Audio Engineer with 25+ years experience recording and mixing music in studios and live venues. Former Instructor at his alma mater The Institute of Audio Research NYC. Producer of indie album projects and electronic music remixes. Ten+ years experience in Audio Post production for TV, Radio & Film.

Originally from Minneapolis Chris moved to NY to attend IAR. After graduating he started out at Quad Studios in Times Square and then to Sony Music Studios where he worked as a senior engineer until going freelance in 2004. He continues to work at his private studio www.ticemix.com and other facilities in the NY area.



Lenny Feldmann

lennfeldmann@gmail.com

- ◆ Professional Accordionist since January, 1959
- ◆ Virtuoso Accordion Champion in New Jersey and Illinois 1960-62 representing those states in AAA Olympics
- ◆ BM Education degree from VanderCook College of Music in 1964 as an accordion major
- ◆ Public school music teacher
- ◆ Teacher to hundreds of private accordion lesson students
- ◆ Studied accordion with Cot Haynes, Stephen Harer, Mort Herold, and Mario Moschino
- ◆ Personal coaching with Myron Floren, Dan Desiderio, Charles Nunzio, Carmen Carrozza, Tony Dannon, and Frank Marocco
- ◆ Featured performer at numerous Accordion Festivals including AAA, ATG, AAMS, SMASH, FMAE, NAA, ATANJ, MAMTG, and many Accordion Clubs
- ◆ Adjudicator at many State and National Accordion Competitions
- ◆ Presenter of dozens of Accordion Workshops
- ◆ Lifetime Achievement Award from AAMS in 2007
- ◆ Member governing board of AAA and AAMS
- ◆ Accordionist on tour with the Mantovani Orchestra
- ◆ Solo performer at Yokohama, Japan World's Fair in 1989
- ◆ MIDI Accordionist 1995 – 2012
- ◆ Plays Roland Digital Accordions exclusively since 2012
- ◆ Faculty member at First Annual IDEAS Digital Accordion Symposium (2018)

Our Faculty



Alex Chudolij

<http://www.musicmagicusa.com>

Alex Chudolij started his musical career on October 8, 1964 at the age of six. As a teenager Alex was already making numerous concert and festival appearances, pleasing the crowds with classic showpieces as well as and his own concert arrangements of Ukrainian folk melodies.

As a student of Tufts University, his performance at the Student Union playing his arrangement of a Ukrainian Folk Song Fantasy won him first prize in a university-wide talent competition - beating out competing rock groups, folk singer/guitarists and other more typical types of college entertainment. For many years, Alex was a frequent accompanist for a number of Ukrainian folk dance ensembles and dance workshops, having worked with well known Ukrainian choreographers such as New York's Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, Elaine Oprysko, Daria Genza, Pittsburgh's Markian Komichak and Peter Marunczak from Canada.

At the age of 16, Alex became the summer bandleader and Assistant Social Director of the Ukrainian National Association's resort, Soyuzivka, located in upstate New York's Catskill Mountain. It was there that Alex teamed up with the resort's new drummer, Theodore (Dorko) Senchyshyn, and formed the Alex and Dorko Band, which was unique as a Ukrainian 2-piece ensemble known for its big sound, thanks to the band's musical virtuosity, energy and the use of electronics which added to the acoustic accordion and drum sounds. After the duo recorded their first LP, "Ukrayinochka", the band added two new members - Leon Strockyj and Alex Soyfer. Their next collaboration was a live recording entitled, "At the Zabava". Over the next twenty years, The Alex and Dorko Band performed up and down the Eastern United States for dances, weddings and festivals including the National Polka Festival at Hunter Mountain, NY and the Ukrainian Festival USA at the Garden State Performing Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ.

In 1991, Alex recorded a unique one man band instrumental album, "Electric Kozak". This solo recording made its debut at the Garden State Arts Center, where it sold over 200 copies in its first day of sales and proceeded to become the best selling Ukrainian instrumental album of the year. For the next four years Alex's Electric Kozak Band had been providing entertainment for crowds of all sizes and for all occasions, including a gala reception for then Olympic gold medalists Oksana Baiul and Victor Petrenko. In addition to being a composer, having composed several of the songs on his popular Electric Kozak album, throughout the years, Alex has been instrumental in promoting the accordion with library lectures, grade school appearances, community affairs and other club appearances where he has showcased the beauty and uniqueness of the accordion to audiences of all types and backgrounds. Alex retired from regular band engagements in 1996 and subsequently founded one of North America's first and largest internet based accordion dealerships and product showroom – **Music Magic USA**.

Our Faculty



Jerry Jacoby

jerryjacoby@verizon.net

Jerry was born and raised in southern Minnesota farm country. He grew up listening to and dancing to polka bands with their fancy concertinas and piano accordions. After traveling the world in the military and business world, Jerry now lives in northern Minnesota surrounded by lakes and forests. Jerry didn't take up playing the accordion until later in life.

He has always been fascinated by the beauty and mystery of western music. In college he was surprised to discover his favorite class was a music appreciation class. When he finally decided to quit sit-

ting on the sidelines, and start playing an instrument, he chose the accordion. He now plays a Roland FR-4X. When he started attending accordion club meetings and conventions around the country, he noticed a lot of players sitting on the sidelines. He had discovered a role he could play. He has been encouraging accordion players of all levels to play and have fun performing with others ever since. It does help that he isn't exactly shy!

So Jerry has been an obvious talent and pick for the IDEAS jam sessions in both 2018 and 2019, and for 2020 in our new virtual world, that will translate to the **Jerry Jacoby Happy Hour**, promising to be a hit and a lot of fun for all involved! DON'T MISS IT!!



Our Faculty



Garrett Tatano

Tatanoturtle@gmail.com

Garrett Tatano began taking accordion lessons at the age of seven. He was inspired by his grandfathers while growing up, who both played accordion and instilled a love for the instrument in him. By the time he was ten, he was making regular appearances at countless jam sessions in and around the city of Pittsburgh, PA, his hometown area. Soon after, he joined a local button-box group, the SNPJ International Button Box Club. Garrett fell in love with the Cleveland-Style polka music that the group played. He appeared with them at many local and tri-state events, festivals, and picnics.

Once Garrett made it to high school, he caught the eye of a popular Cleveland-Style polka band leader, Jack Tady. Garrett joined Jack's band, Jack Tady and his JTB, when he was 15, and by age 16, he was Jack's full time accordionist. While Garrett was playing with the JTB, he won two awards from the United Musicians Polka Association of Pennsylvania and was nominated for multiple other awards by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame.

Mr. Tatano is currently in his final semester at the University of Maryland where he is studying electrical engineering, with a concentration in power systems. At school, Garrett proudly serves as the Drum Major for the University of Maryland's marching band, the ***Mighty Sound of Maryland***. Upon his graduation, he will return to the Pittsburgh area to start his career with the Duquesne Light Company, Pittsburgh's electric utility provider.

Being a proud owner of a Roland FR-4x, Garrett is excited and honored to have been asked to join the IDEAS faculty. He is looking forward to working with many of you at this year's symposium.



Our 2020 IDEAS Scholar Faculty



Marco Cinaglia

marco.proxima@gmail.com

www.proximaccordion.com

Marco, born in Italy (Ascoli Piceno) in 1961, studied accordion and electronic organ in his early years which would both prove to beneficial later in life when he combined those two thought processes to help Roland develop some of its flagship Roland arrangers and ultimately the FR series of virtual accordions.

Marco worked at Roland Europe factory in Acquaviva Picena, Italy starting in January 1990.

During his first years of employment in Roland Europe, he collaborated to develop the Roland arranger series, including the E-96, G-800, G-1000, VA-7, VA-76, E-50, E-60, G-70, E-80, all well-known pieces of Roland vintage gear.

However, it was in 2003 that Marco fully dedicated himself to the development of Roland V-Accordion products, starting the FR1, FR2, FR3, FR5 and FR7 series, then later the FR1X, FR3X, FR7X, and FR8X

Since Marco had always firmly believed in the value of the V-Accordion products, he has continually worked hard among and with the other Roland staff members who conceived and promoted the organization of the V-Accordion Festival, a competition for digital accordionists sponsored each year from 2007 to 2013. Marco has also actively worked in the promotional activities of Roland's V-Accordion instruments aimed at unconditionally spreading the value of this digital accordion instrument worldwide.

Marco also worked as the V-Accordion Product Manager in the Marketing Division in Roland Europe.

He received the award "CIA Honored Friend of the Accordion" from the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) for the year 2014 as a person who has made a significant contribution to the accordion movement in the world.

In 2017 he was teacher in the 1st level Master of "Digital Accordion" at the conservatory Giuseppe Verdi in Milan teaching the techniques and application MIDI through the digital accordion.

From 2016 to 2019 he worked at the Armando Bugari accordion company in Castelfidardo in the Bugari EVO digital division as Product Manager.

Apart from accordion world, he plays in a band and has written music for small theater companies.

Since 2020 he has developed the new company called PROXIMA Digital Accordions. This new company is dedicated to the development, design, production and sale of digital accordions and is following new research and developments in the area of digital accordion.

Because of Marco's undying love for the digital accordion, and being the impetus and key contributors in this industry culminating in starting a completely new company for digital accordion.

IDEAS is proud to welcome **Mr. Marco Cinaglia** as our **2020 IDEAS FACULTY SCHOLAR** and look forward to many more years, now, of his participation with our Society and his participation at these growing and highly valued annual Symposiums.

Our 2019 IDEAS Scholar Faculty



Anselmo (Sam) Falcetti

CEO Falcetti Music

samfalcetti@gmail.com

www.falcettimusic.com

In 2019, IDEAS was proud to name Same Falcetti as our very first “**IDEAS** Faculty Scholar.”

Anselmo (Sam) Falcetti, from Westfield, MA, started on the accordion at the age of 10 and began home teaching at the age of 16. Before graduating from the University of Hartford with a bachelor's degree in Theory & Composition, he opened his first accordion teaching studio in Westfield, MA.

As the years progressed, Mr. Falcetti, a musical entrepreneur, became President and CEO of Falcetti Music, a 50-year eight store music chain in both Massachusetts and Connecticut. Over the years he has graced the cover of Music Trades, Music, and MMR, the national music industry trade magazine, and also appeared on the front cover of the 50th Anniversary University of Hartford Alumni Magazine to honor him for his accomplishments.

In the 1970's and 1980's he was an adjunct professor at both Holyoke Community College and Westfield State University where over 20 of his students graduated with a major on the accordion. During this period his accordion college ensemble performed twice at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Sam has adjudicated and presented his workshops all over the USA. Throughout his career many of his students became professional educators and performers and in 2011 he was selected to represent the USA as a judge at the 5th Roland International Festival in Rome, Italy.

Mr. Falcetti was the founder and conductor of the Springfield Accordion Orchestra, a group who performed at the 1970 World's Fair in Osaka, Japan and appeared in 1971 on National TV's David Frost show along with the vocalist Roberta Flack. The Orchestra also toured Italy in 1973, performed at Disney World in 1975 and was also invited to perform at the 1980 Coupe Mondiale in Auckland, New Zealand.

Since his retirement 10 years ago from Falcetti Music, Sam returned to his 1st love of teaching and currently teaches 25 students on the Roland Digital Accordion. As New England's Roland Digital Accordion distributor he provides sales and service throughout the USA.

He also formed the only Digital Accordion Orchestra in the USA who have performed many concerts throughout New England. In 2015 the 20-piece Orchestra opened for Deanna Martin, (Dean's daughter), and Bobby Rydell, in Enfield, CT.

Sam resides in Wilbraham, MA with his wife Peggy who continues to assist him with his after-retirement projects. He is on the Board of Directors of the AAA, ATAM, and a member of the MAAA.

Our Performing ARTISTS

2020 IDEAS Performing Artists

Uwe Steger (Germany)



Annie Gong (New Zealand)



Matthias Matzke (Germany)



Cory Pesaturo (RI)



Michael Bridge (Canada)



Eddie Monteiro (NJ)



Tris Gour (IN)



Kevin Solecki (PA)



Julie Wisniewski (Australia)



Joseph Natoli (OH)



Michael Soloway (NJ)



Our Performing ARTISTS

Following are bios for our **2020 Performing Artists** who are not listed as part of the Faculty in earlier pages.



Our Performing ARTISTS

Bridge & Wolak

Michael Bridge, accordions & piano
Kornel Wolak, clarinet & piano

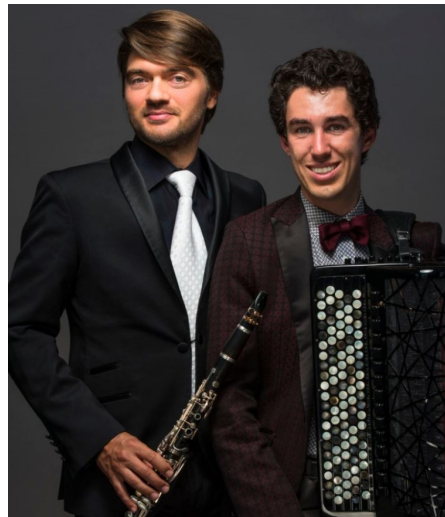
SHORT BIO

Updated: October 2019

Please note: Bios must be printed without alterations, unless by prior written permission.

Michael Bridge (accordions & piano) and Kornel Wolak (clarinet & piano) are an internationally-acclaimed music & comedy duo, integrating traditional acoustic instruments with 21st century digital technology. They perform their own uniquely re-imagined repertoire of classical, world and jazz fusion. With deft virtuosity and endless wit, Bridge & Wolak have been called the “Victor Borges of the 21st Century.” Fun-loving gentlemen (with seven degrees in music), they are both globe-trotting musicians and educators. They were nominated for the BC Touring Artist of the Year award in 2019. “Watch and be amazed!” —CBC

www.BridgeWolak.com
Facebook: /BridgeWolak
Instagram: @BridgeWolak



Press Quotes

“Watch and be amazed!”
- CBC

“Remarkable subtlety in Bridge’s production of sound. [...] Control and a smooth expressivity are what make Wolak shine.”
- Toronto Star

“Fresh, exciting and fun, dispelling any of the old preconceptions about classical music...”
- Barrie Examiner

Our Performing ARTISTS

Annie Gong

www.annieaccordion.com

Auckland New Zealand



Originally from China, now based in Auckland New Zealand for the past 15 years and performing worldwide with extensive repertoire from the Classics to Rock and Pop.

Annie has performed and thrilled audiences from Beijing to New York and has appeared on Beijing television as well as PBS television in New York as a solo artist with her incredible virtual Symphony orchestra.

She astounds both Cruise Ship and Land Based audiences with her beautiful repertoire of music from Classical fusion, to movie themes and Broadway, and to some of the biggest rock and pop music on the planet.

When live on stage, Annie has a delightful cheeky sense of humor which comes through with her natural personality and banter winning audiences and fans all over the world. ***Accordion Stars Magazine New York voted Annie Entertainer-Musician Of the Year .***

In 2019 Annie had the honor of being voted Musician of The Year, By the Federation Of American Musicians Singers And Performing Artists (FAMSPA)

When at home in Auckland, Annie is always busy arranging and recording her unique symphony orchestral repertoire of classical music, movie scores, rock classics and Chinese fusion music. Annie has been playing since she was five years old and completed a BA in music and studied Jazz at the Auckland University School of Music. Her passion is to bring the accordion into the twenty-first century as she believes it is a very underrated and powerful instrument.

IDEAS is thrilled to bring Annie's talent to our Symposium 3.0 this year!



Our Performing ARTISTS



Julie Wisniewski

Australia

info@julieaccordion.com

www.julieaccordion.com

+61 2 8011 3818

The major influence in Julie's life was her Ukrainian born father, who played the accordion in Ukraine and Poland, during World War II, entertaining military personnel.

When Julie was 13, her father brought home a small black 80 bass Settimio Soprani Piano Accordion, from his old War friend, and handed it to her, hoping that his musical daughter would be interested. This changed the course of her life almost instantly and became her ultimate passion. Julie's love of the accordion turned into an obsession. The desire to learn and excel on the accordion was evident from the outset. There was no limitation to her musical dream, and Julie sought a professional teacher.

Within a year, Julie was performing in the Under Age Solo Championships organized by the ASA (Accordion Society of Australia), studying under Catherine Day, performing in the Accordion ASA orchestra under the influence of Ross Maio, and within 3 years, competed in various age solo/duet sections, in Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland, and ultimately the Australian Nationals/Australasian Championships in New Zealand where she was awarded 2nd place. Julie also led a 5 piece accordion ensemble that also performed in New Zealand.

Constantly gaining in skill level and confidence, Julie quickly matured into a polished musician and a lead player in numerous ensembles.

Julie progressed from playing the piano accordion in various bands and in Ukrainian/Youth Centre Halls at age 14 to playing in various musicals such as Fiddler on the Roof and Zorba.

From age 15, Julie worked professionally with a Polish/Ukrainian band, then started the club scene at age 16, playing in a Russian/Ukrainian band.



Our Performing ARTISTS

Julie Wisniewski (Cont'd)



Julie then branched out from her acoustic accordion to play an electronic accordion, with the latest sound modules, to play solo at Italian restaurants, with a 3 piece band at Russian/Ukrainian weddings/clubs, then joined a Czechoslovakian band at age 17, and in 1993 played for the Czechoslovakian president on his visit to Sydney.

Julie's musical career blossomed, and she joined various other bands that catered for the wider European musical taste and began playing at major Festivals, including Oktoberfests. Julie was the lead instrument with 3- to 6-piece bands and headlined major festivals in Sydney, Canberra and various Australian regional festivals, and regularly performed in 5-star hotels and the Bavarian

Beer Cafes.

This rapid increase in exposure, led to Julie playing solo and ensemble functions for corporate events, weddings, funerals, Christmas functions, nursing homes, food festivals, exclusive Charity functions, Italian/German Festivals and ships around Sydney Harbor.

Julie is well known for her versatile repertoire with her fingers moving at lightning speed (described intimately as a mysterious spider weaving a web!) captivating audiences around Australia with her many improvisations and arrangements, performing Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Ukrainian, German, Austrian, Slovenian, Spanish, French, Irish melodies and much more including well known dance rhythms such as the Waltz, Polka, Samba, Rumba, Cha cha, Rock, Pop, Swing, Foxtrot, Latin, Australian, songs for children/movie themes and classical melodies with a techno/rock rhythm that will entrance you into her musical nostalgic adventure.

Julie performs from small intimate gatherings through to restaurants, functions and large state events. Her musical arrangements will inspire, and your entertainment is assured when Julie is on stage.

Her artistic goal is to improve the awareness of the accordion amongst her various audiences and to revive the accordion.



Our Special Guest

Bruce Triggs

AccordionRevolution.com

<http://accordionnoir.org>



BIO

Accordion historian Bruce Triggs is the author of

Accordion Revolution: A People's History of the Accordion in North America from the Industrial Revolution to Rock 'n' Roll.

For over a decade he has hosted the weekly **Accordi-**

on Noir radio program and podcast in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. After meeting many fabulous accordion players, Bruce decided to write about the instrument rather than trying to play it. Most recently he successfully proposed the new Accordion Emoji that is being released internationally on cell-phones and computers all over the world.



Schedule Of Events

Timing & Transitions

We all have some great flexibility this year with timing of our Symposium events and workshops since we are operating completely in the digital virtual universe. Unlike our live event, which out of necessity needs to be limited to four (4) days because of travel, hotel stays, etc., in the virtual world we have more freedom to span our event over 15 days so that:

1. Everyone can attend any and all sessions as their schedules permit
2. Nobody has to miss work or jeopardize other high priority events in their lives
3. We can accommodate all time zones around the globe
4. We can eliminate all course and concert overlaps for high availability of all courses

So on the next several pages you will see a schedule comfortably laid out over 16 days (Nov 5—Nov 21, 2020) where everyone can attend everything and no one has to make decisions on trade-offs regarding certain classes, as would be necessary at our live event. It is all there for your enjoyment and your benefit.

Notice, too, that we will be having four (4) pre-symposium sessions on Fri (10/23/20) and Sat (10/24/20). These are solely for technical training to be sure that everyone can be as prepared as possible to get the best possible experience from their Symposium sessions. Two are devoted to using Zoom to your best advantage (they are identical but repeated for time zone reasons), and two more sessions (also identical but repeated for time zones) devoted to getting the Roland Editor installed on your computer well in advance of those related sessions. If you are not familiar with Zoom or do not have the Editor installed, please be sure to take advantage of these preparatory sessions.

Finally, we are recording ALL of our workshop sessions and concerts so that they can be placed on our Members Only portion of our website, which can then be accessed well into the future. This is a great benefit, since you will be able to go back and review sessions to further solidify your knowledge or to catch up on any sessions you had to miss because of personal scheduling.



[illegible][illegible]

Note: Symposium Sessions may be "live" the next morning/day in some countries (Europe, Israel, Australia, New Zealand), depending on how late in the day they are shown.

Schedule of Events

Tue 10/23/20—Sun 11/8/20

	= Live Session		
	= Pre-recorded Session		
	= Live presentation of recorded videos		

NOTE: All sessions will be recorded and posted to the **Members Only** section of www.gr8ideas.org

	Fri	Sat	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
EST (NYC)	10/23/2020	10/24/2020	11/5/2020	11/6/2020	11/7/2020	11/8/2020
9:00am						
9:30am						
10:00am						
10:30am						
11:00am						
11:30am						FR-4X Editor
12:00pm	Roland Editor Tech Prep	Zoom Tech Prep			FR-8X Level I Session 1	
12:30pm						8X Lvl II Session 1
1:00pm						
1:30pm						
2:00pm					Future of Digital Accordion	4X Lvl II Session 1
2:30pm						
3:00pm				History of Digital Accordion		
3:30pm						
4:00pm					Proxima Grand Premier!	
4:30pm			Welcome Session & IDEAS MarketPlace			Symposium Concert #1
5:00pm				FR-4X Level I Session 1		
5:30pm						
6:00pm	Zoom Tech Prep	Roland Editor Tech Prep				
6:30pm					Cpez Academy Session 1	Michael Bridge Sounds Premier
7:00pm				FR-8X Editor		
7:30pm			World of Eddie Monteiro			
8:00pm						
8:30pm				Jerry Jacoby Happy Hour	Mobile Sheets Session 1	Arrangers Survey
9:00pm						
9:30pm						
10:00pm					Symposium Concert #1	
10:30pm						
11:00pm						

Schedule of Events

Tue 11/10/20—Sun 11/15/20

	= Live Session		
	= Pre-recorded Session		
	= Live presentation of recorded videos		

NOTE: All sessions will be recorded and posted to the **Members Only** section of www.gr8ideas.org

	Tue	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
EST (NYC)	11/10/2020	11/12/2020	11/13/2020	11/14/2020	11/15/2020
9:00am					
9:30am					
10:00am					
10:30am					
11:00am					
11:30am					
12:00pm				BK-7M Session 1	Dr. Angela Natoli
12:30pm					
1:00pm					
1:30pm					
2:00pm				8X Lvl II Session 2	BK-7M Session 2
2:30pm					
3:00pm					
3:30pm	Musik Academy & other topics Session 1	Uwe Steger Tech Discussion Session 1	Mobile Sheets Session 2		Michael Bridge Sounds Premier
4:00pm				Proxima Premier Interactive	
4:30pm					
5:00pm			4X Lvl I Session 2		Symposium Concert #2
5:30pm	Ketron SD-90 Session 1				
6:00pm		Ketron SD-90 Session 2		BK-7M Session 2	
6:30pm			BK-7M Session 1		
7:00pm					CPEz Academy Session 2
7:30pm	World of Eddie Monteiro				
8:00pm		Whole Note Show #1		ForScore Session 2	
8:30pm			ForScore Session 1		Whole Note Session 2
9:00pm					
9:30pm					
10:00pm				Symposium Concert #2	
10:30pm					
11:00pm					

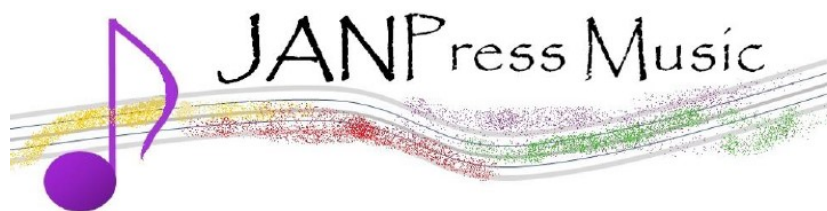
Schedule of Events

Tue 11/17/20—Fri 11/21/20

	= Live Session		
	= Pre-recorded Session		
	= Live presentation of recorded videos		

NOTE: All sessions will be recorded and posted to the **Members Only** section of www.gr8ideas.org

	Tue	Thu	Fri	Sat
EST (NYC)	11/17/2020	11/19/2020	11/20/2020	11/21/2020
9:00am				
9:30am				
10:00am				
10:30am				
11:00am				
11:30am				
12:00pm				
12:30pm				
1:00pm				
1:30pm				
2:00pm				Wrap Up & Dialog
2:30pm				
3:00pm				
3:30pm		Uwe Steger		
4:00pm		Tech Discussion		
4:30pm	8X Lvl I	Session 2		
5:00pm	Session 2		Digital Bellows Shake	
5:30pm		4X Lvl II		
6:00pm	Michael Bridge	Session 2	Musik Academy	
6:30pm	Sounds Premier		& other topics	
7:00pm			Session 2	
7:30pm	Securing Gigs	Lenny Feldmann		
8:00pm	(hobbyist or pro)	BK-7M Playlists		
8:30pm			Jerry Jacoby	
9:00pm			Happy Hour	
9:30pm				
10:00pm				
10:30pm				
11:00pm				

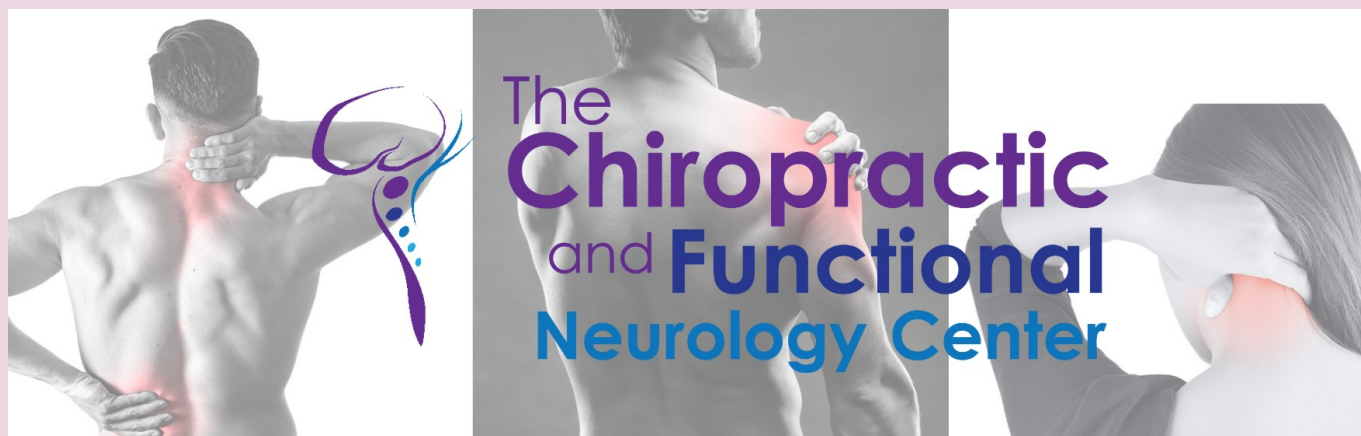


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The Chiropractic and Functional Neurology Center provides advanced **chiropractic care** and neurological rehabilitation as well as a variety of holistic healthcare options to Trumbull County, Mahoning County, and the surrounding areas. **Dr. Angela Natoli** is trained and specializes in chiropractic neurology. Dr. Natoli focuses on non-drug, non-surgical care for those who have neurology based health problems. There are numerous conditions that people suffer from that force many to live through moderate to immense pain. We work with each and every one of our patients to create a personalized health care plan that works specifically for them. We're the only neurology rehab practice in the surrounding areas.

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- Arm Pain/Leg Pain/Numbness
- Sciatica
- Dementia
- Bell's Palsy
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Tarsal Tunnel Syndrome
- Stroke
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Disc Problems
- Work Injuries
- Auto Injuries
- Parkinson's
- RLS (Restless Leg Syndrome)
- Vertigo
- Thoracic Outlet Syndrome
- Autism
- ADD/ADHD



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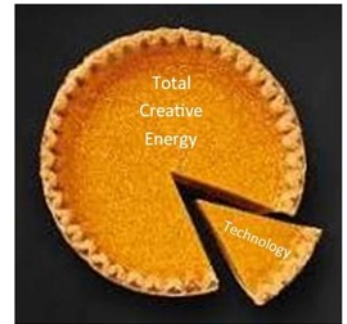
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NAVIGATING, UNDERSTANDING, AND PLANNING YOUR SCHEDULE

Our **Technology Department** continues to evolve based upon the principle that, if you have chosen to play and study a digital accordion, then, by necessity, for us a certain portion of our whole creative energy “pie” will have to be devoted to technical matters; and getting to understand how and why our instrument works so that you can create the best and most interesting of the music that you love and want to share. The **IDEAS Symposium** is the central and unique location/event where this subject is presented and discussed in detail. Along with building a universal community for all of the world’s players of these instruments, it is our intention to continue to acknowledge this “Energy Pie” technical requirement and to provide as much of the solution as possible. Of all of the feedback that we receive, this is always the strongest request. There is also a lot of non-technical sessions to explore and enjoy. We want to help you get the most out of it all. In the schedule there is a lot happening for you – so here is much of what will help you navigate and understand that schedule and plan how to make it work best for you personally.



WHAT ARE THE TECH PREP SESSIONS A WEEK IN ADVANCE?

This new virtual world that we are living in is actually and possibly one of the truly good and beneficial outcomes of the 2020 Pandemic. It is opening up a world of new at-home possibilities and experimentation all over the world, and in every possible field – and that includes music, accordions, and **IDEAS**. Much of what we are assembling is experimental. It is a challenge to get it before you, but it is a primary value for us that the participants in this R/Evolutionary event get as much out of it as possible. That will require more this year than travelling to Ohio with your accordion, renting a hotel room, and attending a lot of wonderful courses – for all of us.

To that end, **IDEAS** actually formed a *Tech Support Committee* this year for the Symposium to constantly consult and plan. The members are *Markus Baggio, Bob Donovan, Mitchell White, Garret Tatano and Chris Theis*. Their mandate was to pass those powers on to our participants and to give maximum support to everyone’s ability to fully utilize all of these new virtual tools and environments. So special sessions have been placed out in advance of the Symposium to help you be as ready and able as possible.

Two subjects will be addressed. The first, of course (has it become an “of course” already in the new world?), is **ZOOM** itself. A special session will be presented for all involved wherein our Tech Support Committee will fill you in on ZOOM technique and all of the methods, tips and tricks that will get you and your computing devices ready for the incredible two weeks that will follow in November.

NAVIGATING, UNDERSTANDING, AND PLANNING YOUR SCHEDULE

The second Tech Prep session relates to the Roland Editor program. Because of the reliance on computers this year, there will be two courses on the Editor itself divided by 4X and 8X. Furthermore, it is likely that a lot of the programming teaching for the 8x and 4x may well be presented through the editor since it works so well in a virtual environment. To get the most out of this tool, it needs to be previously installed on your computer and linked to your instrument. That is what the EDITOR Tech Prep sessions are about – to get you up and running and connected.

Please note that installation will not be addressed in the actual Editor sessions during the Symposium so make this your chance to get that accomplished and out of the way.

The two sessions for each are identical repeats for time zone reasons.

IDEAS MOTTO – COME AS YOU ARE

From the very inception of **IDEAS** – this has been our motto – “*come as you are*” - and we have maintained this with religious fervor.

What does it mean?

Well, it means that you are welcome to **IDEAS** in any part of it – Facebook group, Symposium, web site – at any level of skill or technique or age or ability. You are welcome to come exactly as you are and will always be an equal and respected part of everything that **IDEAS** is and has. Beyond the mere words, it represents **IDEAS** commitment to harmony and peace and mutual growth, learning and sharing – no matter what. There is no tolerance here for posturing or intimidation. If this world needs anything, it is places where participants are welcome and most importantly, safe – safe to be who they are, what they are and at any level. **IDEAS** is proud to have maintained this motto with all of its meaning from the inception of the organization.

WHAT IS MEANT BY “LEVELS”?

Last year, the technology department started dividing the instrumental tech sessions into **LEVELS**. This is not intended as judgement and that would contradict our well accepted motto discussed above. They are meant to simply help participants to find the information that they seek; and to keep the material presented to you at a level more comparable with your needs and desires. Dividing it into levels helps to keep it from being too basic for some or too advanced for others.

The most popular sessions in a Symposium are always Level I because, again, in keeping with our motto, they are directed, and always will be, to newcomers, or wannabes or even acoustic players wanting to see the basics of the digital accordion. Even if you just acquired your instrument this month, or this week, or this year, Level I is intended for you with the direction of supplying the basics in a two session track to help you get comfortable with navigating and learning your way around. It says nothing of your ability to play the accordion or make music – it is concerned with the basic elements of understanding either the 4x or the 8x/EVO instruments and will be kept at your level.

NAVIGATING, UNDERSTANDING, AND PLANNING YOUR SCHEDULE

Level II is the next logical step for those that are comfortable with the basics and want to explore more personalized programming techniques and incorporate that into their playing. That is just a loose overview meant to explain “levels”, not necessarily the exact content of the courses.

On the other hand, we have people who take Level I over and over again every year because it is a great reminder, and is always filled with many basic tips and tricks and ways to set up your instrument in a personal way. We have members who have vowed to take Level I every year as long as it is offered. There is also no reason that that player could not take a Level II course as well, even as an observer, because there will always be something to learn – and it will always draw out for a newer player what possibilities lie ahead.

So that is Levels – but most importantly, Level I exists for anyone who owns a 4X or an 8X/EVO and wants the comfort of knowing that it will begin at the very beginning – no matter what, and that our motto is most carefully applied to these programs. Ever wonder what that button does? Well now you will know.

WHY DO SOME COURSES HAVE MORE THAN ONE SESSION?

There are a number of reasons for this.

The simplest is that the separate occurrences are identical but placed for different time zones. [The World of Eddie Monteiro](#) occurs twice but is the same presentation. [Symposium Concert #1](#), [Symposium Concert #2](#), [BK-7M Session 1 and 2](#) – these are all happening twice to serve different time zones as much as possible.

The next reason is that there are courses being delivered by certain presenters with lots of GR8 IDEAS (there is that insistent pun again!), and they will be addressing different topics in the several sessions pretty independently so that the main connection is the presenter, their knowledge and their style. You can work their multiple sessions independently. [The Muzik Academy](#) (know that this is the wonderful [Matthias Matzke](#), and the Academy is his online school) addresses topics of his choosing over two different sessions – session 1 and session 2. [Michael Bridge UPG's](#) has 3 sessions that can be treated independently on the subject of his custom programs so you can join in anytime. The material is not sequential, but each session will contribute to part of a cohesive whole understanding about how Michael programs if you wish to approach it that way.

[Uwe Steger](#), also from Germany, is utilizing two sessions to present two different and independent topics for your enlightenment. The common element will be his vivacious talent and creative use of digital accords.

[Cory Pesaturo](#) will be presenting two independent episodes of his famous [CPEZ Academy](#) – something very special for you because this Academy is normally by subscription only. Cory is presenting these exclusively for the IDEAS Symposium just for our participants. Take either one or, preferably both – as it suits your musical interest and curiosity. This will be solely about music and not technology at all.

NAVIGATING, UNDERSTANDING, AND PLANNING YOUR SCHEDULE

Tris Gour will also be presenting two independent episodes of his new cyber show *The Whole Note*. They are prepared especially for **IDEAS** and are to be enjoyed, with his new custom UPG programs, independently as well, in any order as you see fit.

Markus Baggio will be presenting two sessions on *ForScore* which can also be viewed independently. You can attend one or the other or both. Markus has structured them so that you can join whenever you want.

This year the *4x Tech Sessions for Level II* – there are three sessions here – will also be independent and not necessarily sequential. You do not need one to understand the other – but, of course, this is the main tech information for the 4x this year, so the more you take, the more you will “get it”. Michael Soloway will present session 1, and Kevin Solecki will present session 2 and Alex Chudolij will do a special presentation on bellows shakes for digital accordion. All three will be present as clinicians through them all.

And now for Symposium Concert #1 and #2. Know that there are two concerts and each will be repeated once exactly the same – for time zone reasons, and for your plain enjoyment. Now that we have seen the material as this is being written – it is phenomenal – varied, exciting, over-the-top skills and talent, and totally unique just for these concerts. The best suggestion is, no matter what the hour for you, no matter where on the planet you are at the moment – find a really comfortable place, relax, sit back and get these concerts onto the best equipment that you can – and soak it all in! Please organize yourselves in advance to get the best sound that you can – headphones is always a reliable way to insure quality quickly and easily – but, if you choose to watch these events on a phone, or listen with poor computer sound, you will be missing out on something very special. The Zoom Tech prep sessions will address this as well.

WHAT IS A TRACK COURSE AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

As we have developed last year, a track course is a course with a number of sessions that build upon each other sequentially to enable the most information to be delivered – like a college course in miniature, if you will. They are prepared to be heard in sequence and are continuous from one to the next.

The *4X Tech Course Level I* is a track course and it is recommended that you take session 1 and then session 2 in sequence to understand what comes along as it proceeds. The *8X Tech course Level I* by *Bob Donovan* is the same and so is *Mobile Sheets* with *Kenn Baert*. The *8X Tech Course Level II* led by *Joe Natoli* is also a Track Course, meaning that Joe will be building continuously from session 1 through session 2 to communicate all of the information and techniques that he wishes to teach in this course.

With Track courses it is best to try to be certain to do them both and to do them in order to be in synch with the teacher and the material. It only puts you at a disadvantage to be trying to participate in session 2 without being in session 1, or having access to that material. Remember that all of these sessions will be up on the website not too long after they are done, so you can catch up if you miss the first session of a track, or review it if you missed some key points.

NAVIGATING, UNDERSTANDING, AND PLANNING YOUR SCHEDULE

The [SD-90](#) with Bob Donovan is also a Track course as is the [BK-7M](#) (see below for more detail on the different and interesting way that Markus Baggio has developed this program this year). Know that Bob and Markus have expanded the whole presentation on Arrangers this year by adding in a joint session prior to their track courses called [Survey of Arrangers](#) where they will, together, introduce the whole topic of arrangers with all kinds of interesting and preparatory detail for all camps. Be sure to take that course first if you own an arranger, are a wannabe, or are just curious. It will set up the two main tracks beautifully for you.

As a special mention, Markus Baggio has approached the [BK-7M](#) program in a really innovative way and you should be aware of it if this is a direction that interests you or has attracted you here. He has prepared a number of amazing videos and posted them on the web site for your advance consumption. He will be proceeding in his track with the assumption that you have seen his videos already because they are available well in advance. He will build upon the information already delivered in those videos and with the expectation that the participants have already utilized them – and he will be there in the track sessions – live - to interact on the information provided. So, if the BK-7M is your thing in any way, go out to the web site and watch those videos.

SINGLE SESSION SPECIALS

[Joe Natoli](#) did an international article this year on [The Future of the Digital Accordion](#) that was well received everywhere, and that was going to be the overwhelming theme of our live Symposium this year if that had been possible. At the very least we will be presenting him and his informed overview of the subject as a single session this year.

As a program to set up Joe's futuristic session above, we have [Bruce Triggs](#) from [Accordion Noir](#), [CFRO](#), [Co-op Radio](#) in Vancouver doing a fascinating session the day before. It will be a history of the electronic accordion from the 1940s to the present - an audio-visual presentation based on the research from Bruce's *Accordion Revolution: A People's History of the Accordion* book (2019).

[Dr. Angela Natoli](#) will be presenting a fascinating single session where she will discuss many relevant topics (advantages and disadvantages) related to what accordionists experience as a result of performing with such a heavy instrument. She will also be focusing on capitalizing on the positive elements of music, but counteracting the negative effects of having such a heavy instrument on the body for many hours at a time. Dr. Natoli is a Doctor of Chiropractic with a specialty in neurology, renowned for her work with patients having more serious concerns like brain trauma, Parkinson's Disease, Lyme Disease, and other serious brain/spinal cord related issues.

Also [Lenny Feldmann](#), who is traditionally our live troubadour and wandering player at the Symposiums, has developed some very interesting [BK-7M Playlists](#) while under pandemic lockdown this year and has graciously offered to present them and share them with any/all interested participants. This is also a GR8 single session.

NAVIGATING, UNDERSTANDING, AND PLANNING YOUR SCHEDULE

THE JERRY JACOBY JAM SESSIONS

Well, what would an **IDEAS** Symposium be without the infamous late night jam sessions – based upon the live fun of just being there personally and our “come as you are” motto. So, we have included two special sessions to make up for the lack of personal feel and touch that we thought could only be achieved in a live environment. They are **THE JERRY JACOBY HAPPY HOUR** and will occur twice.

What will happen?

Who knows exactly!

There are a few givens here. One is that it would not be the same without Jerry and his Jams. The other is that many, many of us come for the social contact beyond all - the personal interaction and sharing. So we have turned these sessions over to our faculty member Jerry Jacoby (with super help and support from Mitchell White, as always) to surprise us all and bring back to this virtual space the social shared activity and contact that we are so spoiled to have every other time. Know that they have their own **IDEAS** and methods and Jerry has skills in this area second to none.

So – to fully have an **IDEAS** Symposium experience, you cannot miss the Jerry Jacoby Happy Hours. Come along to share in the warmth and partake in what Jerry and Mitchell will create in this infamous 2020 world!

THE PROXIMA GRAND PREMIERE – sponsored by Joe Petosa

This is the final two session event and had to be separated out into its own universe and addressed on its own here! This is **Marco Cinaglia**, in person, premiering the new **Proxima** digital accordion for the very first time. Where else should a possible future of the digital accordion emerge but at an **IDEAS** Symposium! We have met continuously with Marco for months now to follow this evolution and to plan this event.

The first session will be a carefully prepared video by Marco and Proxima revealing and premiering the new company and the new instrument. It should be nothing less than spectacular and is guaranteed to be completely captivating.

The second session, a week later, is Marco live and interactive (virtually, of course) from Italy for an extended session with, on, and about the instrument. Marco will be personally presenting the workshop from Proxima and is wide open for questions and comments. He is actively seeking input from our community on what we see, what we think and feel, what we want ultimately, and what we like. He will be going inside the story and personally demo'ing the new instrument and sharing all there is to be shared about this new venture with **IDEAS** and its members. These two events are graciously being sponsored for our Symposium by Joe Petosa and Petosa Accordions of Seattle.

These two sessions, like so many others, are worthy of the entire Symposium in their uniqueness and excitement and are not to be missed by anyone.

And now, as we are liking to say to the whole digital accordion world – **WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!**

WORKSHOPS

USING THE ROLAND FR 4X EDITOR

An Introduction and Overview

Instructor - Michael Soloway



**Clinicians - Mitchell White
Alex Chudolij**

Do you get tired of looking at this tiny little screen on the FR-4X accordion? Have you tried to type in a name—one letter at a time and a hundred button presses?

Have you tried to create special acoustic accordion sounds on that screen in your 4X accordion? The fact is that you cannot on the 4X—that can only be done through the editor—a computer program provided by Roland that allows you to create sounds, refine them, save them, and many, many other exciting and useful things directly, and in real time. Many are inhibited by this program, but once you get the hang of it, it becomes very routine, easy, and fun to do your personalization and work on the 4X using this excellent Editor program installed on your computer. This is a participative interactive live course designed to get you there.



We will create and design five orchestral sounds directly from a piece from Concert #1 the night before—re-creating the 5 User Programs from the piece, explore the technique together, and save them to your accordion and computer. The goal is to get you into and comfortable with the Editor.

PLEASE NOTE: *This is participative and interactive*—therefore you need to have the Editor installed on your computer and communicating with your 4X! There is a course on October 23, and 24 to have you accomplish that well in advance. BE THERE! *We will NOT be discussing program installation.*

To get the most out of this, if possible, take the time to have your accordion ready, connected and available to you during this course.

WORKSHOPS

ROLAND FR-4X TECH LEVEL I TRACK - Sessions 1 and 2 Introduction, Overview, Navigation, Set-up



Instructor - Michael Soloway



**Clinicians - Alex Chudolij
Kevin Solecki**



COME AS YOU ARE....

This is a live introductory level track course for getting familiar with the operation and characteristics of the Roland FR-4X - getting you comfortable with how it works, and opening the door to the inside functions to personalize your instrument. Because it is a **track course**, there are two sessions that build on each other and it is recom-

mended that you take both sessions in sequence.

These are amazing instruments, but can be somewhat daunting to use comfortably - no matter what your level, particularly in the beginning, but even as time goes on. Even if you just acquired your instrument— don't worry—every effort is made for this information, and these methods to be understandable and accessible to you *one step at a time*. We will focus on navigating the buttons, the digital display and menus, and all of the digital/electrical connections.

DO YOU HAVE TO OWN AN FR-4X? Not necessarily. If you are just curious, or interested in these instruments at all, this is a great place to start and feel it out. You will see all of the basics and meet a lot of interesting people who are already committed to the 4X at a basic level, or even more.

WHAT DO YOU REQUIRE? You will need your FR-4X with fully charged batteries and your power supply just in case. Also a USB thumb drive. 8 GB is more than enough. Have an amplifier? Have it on and ready so we can try it out together.



Does any of this confuse you? Then you are in the right place!

WORKSHOPS



This is the USB Drive you need. 8 GB is more than enough!

will get comfortable with the menus and displays and shortcuts, and how to access SETS and USER PROGRAMS and what they are.

We will learn to **back up and restore**. This is critical to your comfort so you can relax and never lose any work that you perform. This is especially important if you have purchased programs that occupy much or all of your accordion User Programs section so that you can protect these and still make room for your own explorations!

We will physically customize the accordion to your own personal style and preferences - touch, levels, convenience choices, and especially the bellows on several fronts.



We will work through this little puzzle together.



NAVIGATION - We will go over all of these connections together

We will look over the instrument and understand the controls. We



WORKSHOPS

ROLAND FR-4X TECH LEVEL II

Session 1

Customizing Acoustic Accordion Sounds and Sets

Instructor - Michael Soloway



**Clinicians - Alex Chudolij
Kevin Solecki**

While Level II, Session 2 will deal with Performance UPG's, this live, interactive Session 1 will deal with creating your own personalized, ideal accordion sets. Have you ever felt that the accordion sounds in the 4X were a little weak or unrealistic for you? You would not be alone.

The accordion digital "reeds" in the 4X can be magnificently manipulated, but they cannot be accessed through the accordion screen - only through the Roland Editor. To guide you into the best possible accordion sounds for your 4X, we will, by necessity, be using the Editor in this particular session.

Playing and creating GR8 accordion sounds is a very important part of your growth with the 4x, so it is worthwhile to be prepared for the work here.

Bring your accordion and, if possible, have it connected to the Editor in your computer. To get the most out of the course, the Editor Tech Prep Course and the Editor Technique Course are perfect preparations for this



Carlo Borsini creating those sounds the old way in Castelfidardo, Italy

Beautiful, fun, and complete accordions can be created with the 4X, and after all, it is the acoustic that got us all involved to begin with. In this course you will learn about reed customization, understanding the set structure, and creating complete accordion sets to have your own individual accordions as you have come to love them.

WORKSHOPS

ROLAND FR-4X TECH LEVEL II Session 2

Instructor – Kevin Solecki



This class will focus on combining orchestral and percussion sounds together and maximize a “band” setting as well as saving material into a User Program.

AGENDA

- Choosing sounds and changing parameters for right hand treble
- Choosing sounds for left hand bass
- Choosing sounds for left hand chords
- Choosing and layering sounds for left hand percussion
- Saving our sound selection into a User Program
- Utilizing the most sound out of a “band” setting

WHAT TO BRING

Roland FR4X

This session includes step by step instructions on how to choose orchestral sounds for both the treble and bass along with layering percussion sounds for an accompanying drum beat. There will be time for interactive questions.





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or phone: 412-278-1921

WORKSHOPS

ROLAND FR-4X – SHAKING IT UP WITH YOUR V-ACCORDION!

Bellows Shakes - Secrets Revealed! Theory, Settings & Technique



Instructor – Alex Chudolij

As a digital accordion aficionado, belonging to a unique subset of accordionists that is not satisfied with merely "playing the notes", you strive to create a multi-timbral musical meme that will showcase your musical abilities in the widest variety of ways – regardless of your level as an accordionist. There are certain techniques available (and, in fact, unique) to the accordionist that can be learned by most and, with a degree of practice, can be incorporated into numerous playing situations to "snazz up" your performance with

musical milestones, memorable moments, and virtual virtuosity – regardless of whether your content is classical, jazz, folk or hybrid. They can be employed effectively whether you are a single finger melody maker, or a five fingered penta-chordionist.

This performance enhancing intoxicating "*accordion-only*" effect is both legal and has no age limit. It is, in fact, the very well-known but rarely implemented *Bellows Shake*!

In this short session, we will review what makes a bellows shake, what makes it different (and more difficult to execute) on a V-Accordion, ponder its origins, and briefly answer the age-old question of whether it was discovered by an extremely nervous accordionist just prior to playing "Lady of Spain" at a competition. We will then unlock the key points to successfully preparing the V-Accordion for bellows shaking, including why the FR-4x is actually the best V-Accordion for successful low-effort bellows shaking – emphasizing that it is only if you have it set up in a particular manner. Some accordionists have much better "luck" at bellows shaking a V-Accordion than others – even though they all claim to be good acoustic accordion shakers. You will understand why this is so. Bellows technique is the crowning key to success. Air has most everything to do with the sounding of an acoustic accordion's reeds during a bellows shake; but it is actually the lack of a normal amount of air in the bellows that is at least half responsible for what makes a V-Accordion bellows shake sound like it should.

Having attended this session, you will be less "shaky" about honing your bellows shaking skills.

Time and the new virtual technology allowing – if possible – we will try to end the session with a few volunteers demonstrating what they learned regarding bellows shaking technique, at which time they will receive a couple of pointers from the instructor based on further improving their technique.

A fun time for all - a whole lot of shaking goin'on !!

WORKSHOPS

Electronic Accordion: From Vacuum-Tubes to YouTube

Presenter: Bruce Triggs

The future of the electronic accordion has a past. The development of the digital MIDI-capable accordion was preceded by more than seventy years of experiments combining electronics and accordions. In this presentation Bruce Triggs will begin with the first analog vacuum-tube synthesizers and organs, and move on through the development of transistors and the electronic accordion's first attempt at global success.



PREREQUISITES

None

OPENING HISTORY:

- Accordions were connected to the very first uses of electrical media in the 1800s
- What antecedents later led to the first electronic accordions?
- Why did anybody want to make electric accordions in the first place?
- A word about amplification of acoustic accordions.

MANUFACTURERS AND INSTRUMENTS:

- The Hohner accordion company prepared to release their first synthesizers in the 1940s.
- The Farfisa Organs of the 1960s garage bands were a product of the “Fabbriche Riunite de Fisarmoniche,” or “United Accordion Factories” founded in 1946.
- Well-known jazz accordionists like Tommy Gumina pioneered electronics in accordions and went on to influence amplification for most other jazz instruments.
- The Cordovox organ accordions (and its many copycats) were played by top hit-making artists, but then almost entirely replaced by other keyboards.

THE FALL AND RISE OF THE ELECTRONIC ACCORDION:

- Why did the accordion fail as electronics took over popular music?
- What needs still face the accordion in today's world of electronics?

WORKSHOPS

The Future Of Digital Accordion

Joseph Natoli, with Marco Cinaglia & Uwe Steger

IDEAS was started and we are all here because of our love of digital accordion (DA) and the promise that it instills in us for a hopeful future for these instruments. So this workshop was imagined because of the international article Joe was asked to write for PIF Castelfidardo in September by maestro Renzo Ruggieri. It will take an in depth look at what are the wins in the current marketplace, and where we might find opportunities for improvement and longevity in the future to keep this platform viable for many years to come.

Prerequisites

- None

Discussion Points:

- CURRENT
 - ⇒ Joe will review what is happening in the current landscape of DA's and some of the things on DA's that have been engineered very well, and should be retained on any-future instruments.
- FUTURE
 - ⇒ A very detailed look into some of the technologies that are viable today that have not yet been included in recent well-known DA's from various companies, and therefore should be at the forefront of what DA companies should be looking to adopt and integrate
 - ⇒ Looking at where hardware advances in memory capacity, wireless technology, programmability, open platforms usage of tablet controllers, internet speeds, subscription services for sampled sounds and/or software updates and the like will all contribute to viable and less costly platforms.
 - ⇒ Pricing that will include low barrier to entry for families so that they can afford lower end instruments but still get all the benefits of what DA platforms offer.
 - ⇒ More specifically, these are the subjects that will be reviewed:
 - ◇ Sounds and samples
 - ◇ Layering and sound mapping
 - ◇ Sequencing
 - ◇ Modularization
 - ◇ Configuration Flexibility (CRITICAL)
 - ◇ MIDI controller vs. self-contained unit
 - ◇ Internet updating (via subscription service)
 - ◇ Reasonable pricing



We will also hear from **Marco Cinaglia** (and his new Proxima Digital Accordion company) and **Uwe Steger**, the person who actually inspired me to get involved with digital accordion. Marco and Uwe also contributed to Joe's article for PIF Castelfidardo and have some very interesting concepts to share with you. The entire article is available at [Members Only/SympWorkshopMaterial](#) webpage.

WORKSHOPS

Proxima Digital Accordion Grand Premier and Interactive Session

marco.proxima@gmail.com

www.proximaccordion.com



What do you get when you combine a fine musician and wonderful human being, with lifetime of passion for the accordion and especially digital accordion, the genius to develop a hugely successful line of Roland and Bugari digital accordions, and an intelligent market and need-driven set of entrepreneurial sensibilities, all wrapped up in one person? MARCO CINAGLIA is who you get.

Marco has taken all those incredible characteristics and used them as the foundation for starting what we hope will truly be the future of digital accordion in Proxima Digital Accordion, based in Italy.

Marco has worked hand-in-hand with IDEAS to bring this monumental world premier event to our IDEAS attendees first, before anyone else on the planet gets to see and discuss this anticipated wonderful new line of instruments.

As you can see in Marco's bio, he has received many accolades for his vision and his contribution. But this instrument you are about to see, we are sure is about to set the digital accordion world on fire. We can't thank Marco enough for granting IDEAS the honor of being the first to unveil this new accordion company and its product line to follow. IDEAS has seen this instrument and all of its new capabilities, and we can tell you for certain—WE ARE EXCITED!

Once Marco unveils the instrument in the initial Grand Premier session, **Sat. 11/7/20 at 4pm EST**, then a very critical second interactive session will follow on **Sat 11/14/20 at 4pm EST** where everyone in the session will have a chance to explore and ask as many detailed questions as we can fit in that 90 minutes. Welcome to all and be prepared to enjoy something very special. Welcome Marco!!



WORKSHOPS

FR-7X Individual Lessons

Instructor – Cory Pesaturo



So what came first, the chicken or the egg? An age-old question that has never been answered to everyone's complete satisfaction!

However in the digital accordion world, and more specifically, the Roland digital accordion world, we all know what came first, the FR-7X before the FR-8X! Which is why we have listed this learning experience first in our workshop series. There are still many of you who prefer the FR-7X over the FR-8X and that's because the FR-7X has some really great features that make it attractive to many, including the incomparable Cory Pesaturo!

So there is no one better with whom you can set up some **individual FR-7X lessons**, since Cory still very actively performs on his FR-7X even though he has had the FR8X and Bugari Evo accordions in his possession for extended amounts of time. Cory will give those other FR-7X fans a few tricks and ideas for how to better use this still underappreciated instrument, along with showing how he creates most of his concerts with straight out-of-the-box patches and sets from the FR-7X.

If you are an FR-7X owner, do not miss this opportunity to dig deeply into the instrument to learn best how to play it right out of the box with existing sets and sounds, just like Cory has so successfully proven is possible!



WORKSHOPS

Most Recent Roland FR-8X System Update

(from our friend Greg V-Accordion)

We all marvel at Greg's occasional journeys into Geekdome!!!



WORKSHOPS

The Roland FR 8X Editor - *An In Depth Experience*

Roland FR-8X

Instructor - Tris Gour

garydahl
The Legacy Continues



During this Live Demonstration Workshop, we'll be taking a look at the Power of the Roland 8X Computer Editor. If you're tired of looking at the small but informative screen included on the Roland 8X, you'll definitely appreciate this workshop. Once installed and running on your personal computer, you'll be able to accomplish tasks that previously took hours for you to complete. All while sitting behind your computer monitor. We'll be covering all the menu's and their functions while applying what we learn to streamline our workflow. This is a must attend workshop for the user who wishes to gain complete control of their instrument.

What We'll Cover

- ⇒ The Menu Structure and How to Navigate the Deeper Content Editing Features
- ⇒ Modifying Settings and Saving Your Finished Product
- ⇒ Creating User Programs (UPGs) and Sets that Include Your Preferences
- ⇒ Creating Banks of Your UPGs.
- ⇒ The Power of the Effects

What's Needed

- ⇒ You **Must Have the Editor Installed** and Communicating with Your Roland 8X.
- ⇒ Headphones or Earbuds Are Highly Encouraged but Not Required.
- ⇒ Your Questions!



Training Style

This workshop will be largely computer screen based. The audio commentary will provide explanations of what's being accomplished with emphasis placed on each of the discussed editor sections. An extended Q/A Session will be included that accounts for approximately 20-minutes of the total presentation. Questions will be answered in the order in which they are received.

WORKSHOPS

Roland FR-8X LEVEL I

Instructor – Bob Donovan



This class is an introductory level lecture and demonstration of the Roland FR-8x. The class will focus on getting you familiar with the operation of the 8x so that you feel comfortable with using the instrument for practice or a performance. In this class we will focus on using the buttons, digital display and menu system for performing functions on the 8x. By the end of the sessions you will feel confident with operating the 8x to enjoy playing your favorite piece with your favorite sounds.

Agenda

- 8x Overview
- Getting comfortable with menus
- Backup and restore
- Configuring basic settings
- Basic operation
- Sets
- User Programs
- How to create user programs

What to bring

- Roland FR-8x
- USB stick for 8x

Training Style

Sessions will be taught as lectures with demonstrations. Lectures will be divided into approximately 10-minute segments followed by interactive questions and answers between each segment. During each demonstration you should follow along with your FR8x so that you are practicing what you learn from the demonstrations.

Can I attend if I do not have an FR8x?

If you do not have an FR8x and are curious about purchasing one, these classes are a great approach to experience the instrument without having to purchase one. You will get an opportunity to hear the realistic audio quality of some of the available voices.



WORKSHOPS

Roland FR-8X/Bugari Evo LEVEL II Sessions 1 & 2

Program Like A Pro

Joseph Natoli (& Kenn Baert)



This workshop anticipates giving you the freedom to program your FR-8X with easily accessible programming techniques that will set you apart from the typical accordionist who approaches the FR-8X

Prerequisites

- The Zoom Tech Prep sessions
- The session from Tris Gour on the FR-8X Editor (as the editor will be used extensively)
- Your Roland FR-8X
- Connection to a computer and FR-8X Editor

if you can. Not mandatory but will help you immensely.

Discussion Points:

- First things First—How to program a really great accordion set and keep it for all your acoustic accordion needs. After all this is an accordion (looks, sounds, and acts like an accordion in every respect.
- Is it better to use the on-screen LED to edit or the Roland Editor?
- Finding the Real Juice
 - ⇒ Approaches towards orchestral sounds:
 - Program orchestral sounds alone?
 - ◇ If so, what are the best techniques for getting great orchestral sounds?
 - ◇ Real-time vs. programmed effects, panning
 - Program accordion and orchestra together?
 - ◇ Pros & cons of combining accordion & orchestra (what works and what does not work as well)
 - ◇ How about using accordion sounds to give the impression of adding another French Horn, or woodwind, or to fatten the sounds
- Better to use Sets or UPGs?
 - ⇒ Both have pros and cons so let's discuss them.
 - ⇒ Which one optimal for which kinds of performances?
- Using a real example of a piece orchestrated from beginning to end to illustrate everything discussed in the workshop.
 - ⇒ We'll take the piece section by section so I can show you how I approach a piece.
 - ⇒ Most important thing is that you have a great tool in your FR-8X/Bugari, so use sounds & effects judiciously but organically.
 - Avoid the temptation to change to non-related sounds every 8 measures.
 - Truly "Orchestrate" like a professional composer/arranger would. It's easier than you would think!

WORKSHOPS



Tech Discussions 1 & 2

Instructor – Uwe Steger

Uwe lives a little Village in the area of Leipzig in Germany. He was one of the first digital accordion users in Germany, because he has already started his digital experiences 1998 with the Cavagnolo Odyssey and presented many models of the Roland series for the first time at the Frankfurt Music Fair.

Uwe studied music at the music academy in

Berlin with the German-Russian lecturer Eduard Wall.

Versed in many musical styles his repertoire reaches from classical music and original works to jazz, folk and pop.

Besides Solo Performances on both digital and acoustic accordion Uwe works as arranger, studio - and theater musician. He is lecturer at the college of music Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy in Leipzig since 2010.

He played in numerous Bands and Orchestras, Schnaftl Ufftschik, Rachelina and the Maccheronies, Klaus Hoffmann, Ina Deter, Montserat Caballee, Maria Bill, Ute Lemper, Leschenko Orchestra, Deutsches Sinfonieorchester and almost all other Berlin-Orchestras. Berliner Ensemble, Deutsches Theater, Kudamm Theater, Gewandhaus Leipzig are some of his workplaces. Currently, he plays at Theater Rudolstadt and in duo with his wife Heidi and with the soprano Teresa Hoerl. In German TV shows you could see him playing with Shakin Stevens, Ross Anthony, Stefanie Hertel and others.

Uwe has also won some competitions like "Deutscher Akkordeon Musikpreis" or national Competition Klingenthal, second price at Roland V-Accordion Festival, and was Finalist at the Moscow Bayan Festival. He was a scholarship holder of the foundation of Yehudi Menuhin.

Programming and practice go hand in hand in Uwe's quest for expression. For that, taste and creativity is the most important thing. Some works are composed for him, recently a cycle "4 Seasons" by Rene Moeckel from which Uwe will perform the 2. movement Summer at Gr8 Idea Symposium Concert. Let him entertain you :-). If you do not have an FR8x and are curious about purchasing one, these classes are a great approach to experience the instrument without having to purchase one. You will get an opportunity to hear the realistic audio quality of some of the available voices.

WORKSHOPS

Tech Discussions 1 & 2 (cont'd)

Instructor – Uwe Steger



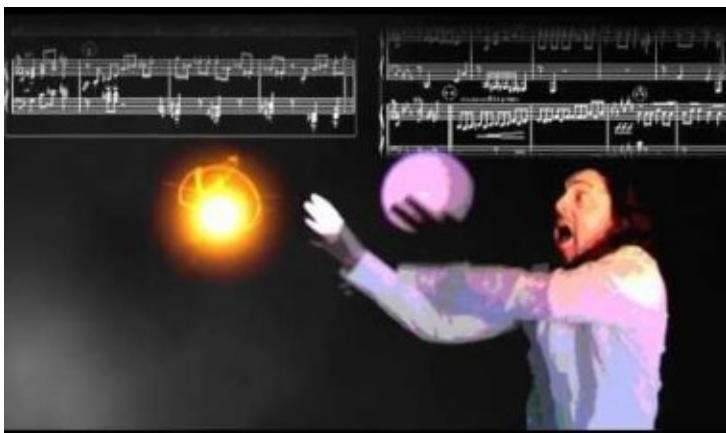
In **Session 1**, Uwe will discuss in detail the FX and MFX Sections of the 8X / Evo.

Session 2, is entitled “Foray through unique sounds, adapting programs to personal style of play and other weird stuff” :O)

Uwe will demonstrate to you the useful Chorder Tool of a DAW which is essential for Live Notation and creating all kinds of Button Systems in Treble and Bass including free programmable Chords, Single Note Charts or complete individual Splits.

Furthermore you can learn some things about Tunings, from Quartertone system to useful User Scales and funny Nonsense wich could be inspiring. He will give hints for using Pitchbend or talks about Adaption from Acoustic to Digital in terms of dynamics, Chord Repetitions and Bellows temolo.

You will hear something about relative und absolute transposing and how the way you play determines the perception of sound recognition.



WORKSHOPS

Michael Bridge Artist Suite User Programs (For the Roland FR-8X/Bugari Evo)

Instructor – Michael Bridge



Exclusive to the IDEAS 2020 Virtual Symposium: Michael Bridge will offer 3 behind-the-scenes classes on his brand new Suite of User Program Banks for Bugari Evo and Roland 8X accordions — including his complete PIPE ORGAN, GALAXY, ORCHESTRAL, ACCORDION, BANDS, and VARIETY banks.

Artistry on digital accordion is a product of innovative programming AND knowledge of how to play it — a constant interaction of Technology and Performer. Over 3 hours of interactive sessions, Michael will teach you *how* to use his programs — from the most effective drumming techniques, to the secrets of how to get the most out of his orchestral and accordion sounds.

Some techniques that Michael will teach include drumming reversals, fingering patterns for drum fills, adjusting the length of bass notes for the styles you play, and

combining multiple User Programs within one song for maximum impact. He will also talk about the orchestration process — how he chooses sounds for a song, and how to improve your process for making those choices yourself. Refined over hundreds of concerts, Michael's favourite personal UPGs will take your digital accordion playing to the next level!

Michael Bridge Artist Suite

User Programs



Ready to take your digital accordion to the next level?

Whether you are brand new to digital accordion, playing locally, or touring the world, the **Michael Bridge Artist Suite User Programs** are here to support and inspire your creativity.

- What**
- You**
- Get**
- 84 unique Stradella Bass multi-layered User Programs (UPGs)
 - 24 variations for Free-Bass, and variations without drums
 - Pristinely-orchestrated sound combinations
 - Michael's personal most-used UPGs, refined over hundreds of concerts
 - BIG ORGAN PIPES, the world's first pipe organ UPG bank
 - Banks of ACCORDIONS, SYMPHONY, GALAXY, VARIETY, & BANDS
 - High Quality video instruction (on YouTube) with tips and demonstrations

Buy at: www.MichaelBridgeMusic.com/UPGs

WORKSHOPS

Ketron SD90

Instructor – Bob Donovan



The Ketron SD90 is the latest sound module and arranger that can be your “back up” band and enhance your music experience. The SD90 has a choice of 400 factory styles, 140 live styles with drums, live guitars and grooves. The AjamSonic upgrade kit offers over 200 more styles with audio elements and over 140 more sounds with voice articulation. These function as automatic accompaniment, in which chords can be triggered with the left hand, so that the accompaniment always follows the chords and at the same time, sounds of the SD90 can be played with the right hand. The styles each have 4 or 8 variations, 4 fills and 4 breaks and 3 intros and endings. The live audio drums, guitars and bass make this sound as a live band.

For the right hand of your accordion, the SD90 has 368 preset voices that can be used as a palette to choose the right sound for the right part of a song. This makes it ideal for expanding your sound spectrum without having to bring another keyboard into the studio or on stage.

In addition to the above styles and sounds, the Ketron SD90 delivers an impressive list of capabilities:

- Create your own voices
- Sample Editor that provides the means for you to utilize your own sample files
- Tools for creating your own styles
- Ability to play Wav, Midi, Mp3, Mp4, Avi, Mov, Flv, Cd, Jpg, Txt, Pdf
- Launch pad supports stitching together various styles, midi files, and audio files
- Audio and Midi recording, loop function
- Touch color screen
- Ability to project the touch screen to a monitor or TV
- Display of lyrics within midi files for karaoke
- Vocal harmonizer



Workshop Goals

This list of features is impressive and too much to teach in the two available sessions. The reason I listed these features was to show you the SD90’s potential and to convey that the SD90 can be very complex. One could easily spend days, weeks, and months learning to use the SD90 to its fullest potential. This can be intimidating to the learner who is trying to get started with enjoying the instrument and using it for performances.

WORKSHOPS

Ketron SD90 (cont'd)

Instructor – Bob Donovan

Session 1

This session will focus on using the SD90 out of the box. How to start using the instrument without having to configure it. The three most important things to start learning to perform with the instrument are:

1. How to choose voices for the right hand of the accordion. While in this area we will also sample various voices for those interested in hearing the quality of the audio generated by the SD90.
2. Styles for the backing band, arranger A, B, C, D, start and stop functions.
3. Preset registrations. Registrations save (1) Voices and (2) Styles together so that they can be easily recalled during a performance.



Session 2

This will take you to the next level. How do I start configuring the SD90 to tailor the instrument to the way I want it to perform:

- First, we go back to the voices and show how to create your own voice. How to configure the effects of the voice, how to add additional sound layers and choose the “2nd” voice.
- Then we will show how to edit a style so that it is tailored to the way you would like the band to sound when you play your song.
- Then we will demonstrate how to create your own user registration where you save your style and a set of voices to be used for Arranger A, B, C, and D.

Training Style

Sessions will be taught as lectures with demonstrations. Lectures will be divided into approximately 10-minute segments followed by interactive questions and answers between each segment. During each demonstration you should follow along with your SD90 so that you are practicing what you learn from the demonstrations.

WORKSHOPS

Ketron SD90 (cont'd)

Instructor – Bob Donovan

Can I attend if I do not have an SD90?

If you do not have an SD90 and are curious about purchasing one, these classes are a great approach to experience the instrument without having to purchase one. You will get an opportunity to hear the realistic audio quality of some of the available voices. Furthermore, you hear the audio quality of the styles and registrations and learn how to use and configure the instrument.

Be prepared before the workshop

If you have an SD90 and would like to follow along in the workshop, then you should be prepared ahead of time by having your accordion connected to your SD90. Session 1 and Session 2 will not teach how to connect your accordion to the SD90. Nor will these sessions cover troubleshooting issues for each individual. The focus of “Session 1” and “Session 2” is for the whole group to learn about the use the SD90.



Help with connecting your accordion to your SD90

If you need help with connecting your MIDI accordion to the SD90, please contact me by email before the symposium to setup a time to meet on zoom

Bob Donovan bob.donovan22@yahoo.com



WORKSHOPS

Mobile Sheets — Basics to Advanced

Kenn Baert



In this wonderful 21st century world of technology, no one has to carry along binders and binders of sheet music any longer in order to perform for gigs, family gatherings, concerts, or any other performance venue. Now you can condense your whole library down to the small form factor of a digital tablet.

For this functionality, “Mobile Sheets” is both Joe Natoli and Kenn Baert’s preferred App for the Android and Windows platform. (Note: for Apple products, see the “FORSCORE” class taught by Markus Baggio).

This 2 hour (2 session) course will take you from the point of knowing zero about how Mobile Sheets works to being able to comfortably use the software to replace all of your numerous binders of sheet music. It will also teach you about some advanced features of Mobile Sheets that go far beyond simply replacing a piece of paper.

This will be a “hands on” class and we would like it if people come with tablets in hand.

Session 1 will focus on the basics of getting started with Mobile Sheets:

- Purchasing and Installing the APP
- Numerous options for getting that piece of paper into the tablet
- Organizing songs within Mobile Sheets via Set Lists, Collections, and Genres etc.....
- Pedal options and how to connect them
- Page turning options
- Backing up your data
- Cropping
- Writing on sheet music
- Highlighting

Session 2 will focus on more advanced editing capabilities as well as using Mobile sheets as a Midi Controller

- Links, Bookmarks
- Options for Dealing with Repeats
- System settings and options
- Metronome
- Audio Tracks
- MIDI commands
- Smart Buttons
- Controlling backing tracks through Mobile Sheets



WORKSHOPS



Roland BK-7M

Markus Baggio

General

The following curriculum outlines the training sessions for the BK7m for the Gr8ideas Symposium 3.0 I will provide several video recordings which you should watch prior to the actual Symposium sessions. Be aware that I cannot spend individual times during the live sessions with major issues if you haven't watched the videos and followed the instructions. Though you can reach out to me with individual questions via email at markus.baggio@gmail.com. Within the videos I often refer to the Roland FR-8x as this is my instrument, but for the most part this applies also to the FR-4x or other digital / MIDI accordions.

Video recordings

The following recordings will be shared via the Gr8ideas member site for those attending the Symposium. Supporting documents and files will be provided at the release of the recordings.

Video #1: Connections - Connect your Roland / Midi Accordion and peripherals to your BK7m and to your speaker system.

Video #2: Basic Controls - Although you may have used the BK7m before I will explain all the basic controls on the BK7m unit.

Video #3: Settings – Verify that you have the latest firmware version of the BK7m. Once you have run the Wizard you need to update several MIDI and Global settings on your BK7m to make it work properly. After the configuration you can run a basic test that your setup is working. You need to watch the recording, get familiar and verify the settings – if your set doesn't work as expected, this is most likely where you made a mistake.

Video #4: Settings Accordion – Review and verify your MIDI parameter and other settings on your digital accordion. This really depends on your instrument. I will show the setup of my FR-8x. You have to adapt to your instrument.



WORKSHOPS

Roland BK-7M (cont'd)

Markus Baggio



Video #5: Playing your Arranger module - After you have configured your instrument it is time to get a basic understanding of how to play with an arranger module. It may require some changes in your current playstyle.

Video #6: Music Assistant Performance list - The BK7m comes with a predefined performance list. This is a great starting point for new users and helps experienced once to find examples for styles and sounds for 999 songs.

Video #7: Working with performance lists – Now that you learned how to use the Music Assistant it is time to create and manage your own performance list. A performance list can be compared to a playlist of songs on your computer or phone.

Video #8: iPad and BK Manager – Roland had released many years ago an app for iOS which allows you some control over the BK7m. I will show you how this app can be used to find sounds and styles and how you can use this for data entry of test instead of the “wheel”.

Live sessions

We will have two distinct live sessions. They will be repeated once to cater to different time zones. Within each session I will play a recording to showcase the individual capabilities. Followed by an interactive discussion between all attendees for questions and answers, but more importantly to share experience related to the topic.

Using Styles

Styles are the main feature of any arranger. They are basically your “band-in-a-box” accompanying your music. I will showcase examples of how to use the different variations, intros, endings and fill-ins. A performance list with songs and corresponding sheet music will be provided separately to practice.

Using Sounds

Why stop with the sounds and voices from your Accordion? The BK7m provides a wide range of additional sounds, which can elevate your performance. The recording will provide examples how to enrich your existing sounds and voices and will cover also a specific feature called Melody Intelligent. A performance list with songs and corresponding sheet music will be provided separately to practice.

WORKSHOPS



forScore – Basics to Advanced

Markus Baggio

General

The following curriculum outlines the training sessions for ForScore on iOS for the Gr8ideas Symposium 3.0 I will provide several video recordings which you should watch prior to the actual Symposium sessions.

Be aware that I cannot spend individual times during the live sessions with major issues if you haven't watched the videos and followed the instructions. Though you can reach out to me with individual questions via email at markus.baggio@gmail.com.

Video Recordings

The following recordings will be shared via the Gr8ideas member site for those attending the Symposium. Supporting documents and files will be provided at the release of the recordings.

Video #1: Stay updated – update your iPad and forScore to the latest version and keep them updated.

Video #2: Upload Sheet music - I will provide some example sheet music to work within ForScore for one of the live sessions. This video will cover how to load sheet music into forScore.

Video #3: Peripherals - A foot pedal is essential to turn pages. I will show how to connect mine via Bluetooth to my iPad and how to use it. Using an apple pencil is optional, but helpful.

Live Sessions

To be actively involved in the live sessions, you will need:

- iPad and forScore updated to latest version
- Optional: Foot pedal to turn pages
- Optional: Apple Pencil to highlight and mark-up
- Example sheet music loaded into ForScore (example files will be provided)

You can attend the session if you have don't have the equipment if you want to know if the solution is the right for you.

WORKSHOPS

Two CPez Academy Sessions

with Cory Pesaturo



- **CPez Academy** is a Private Subscription based Group which provides 2 master classes per month with Cory Pesaturo on the video conference app "Zoom" which can be accessed through any device (phone, computer, tablet).
- In addition to the master classes, documents and homework-like assignments are provided to the group to continue your learning.
- Through Private YouTube videos which only members can access, these master classes will be archived, so if you cannot be there for the live master class, you can watch it whenever is good for you!
- Master classes will cover aspects of improvisation for both non-improvisors and more pro-improvisors, music theory for all levels, chord changes, substitutions, how to think about theory at a quicker pace, how to utilize it, how to learn songs on the fly, etc.

- You will be able to interact / ask questions / write on-screen during the masterclasses, so it will feel like you are there with Cory **in person** vs. just watching a video.
- CPez Academy is \$19.99 a month and can be paid through PayPal at the Subscribe Button on CPezMusic.com . Promo Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6rQ8LbbLqA&feature=emb_logo

The 2 classes Cory will present at IDEAS Symposium 3.0 event will give a snapshot of what CPez Academy reviews twice a month. This shall be a mix of ear training, the all-powerful Number System of Chord Changes, chordal identity (both hearing it in music, and hearing it inside your head), and a beginner's guide to improvisation.



WORKSHOPS

Musik Academy

Instructor – Matthias Matzke



Session 1: Sound Design & Sound Aesthetics

WHICH POSSIBILITIES DO YOU HAVE TO FIND “YOUR” SOUND? WHAT MAKES DIGITAL ACCORDION UNIQUE? HOW TO DEVELOP A FEELING FOR SETTINGS AND EFFECTS?

Get exclusive insights into elaborate arrangements and the digital journey I have been on for 12 years now. Analyzing practical examples of music and summarizing hundreds of hours of experimenting you will find out how to make the most out of:

- The difference between playing and mixing with **headphones**, **PA** or **built-in speakers**
- Using **panning** effectively
- Approaching effects like **reverb**, **chorus**, **delay** and lots of **multi effects**

Session 2: Transcription & Arrangement HOW DO YOU APPROACH A SONG THAT YOU WANT TO PLAY ON DIGITAL ACCORDION? HOW DO YOU MAKE DECISIONS ACCORDING TO YOUR SKILLSET, TIME AND POSSIBILITIES OF YOUR INSTRUMENT?

You heard that amazing song and you want to play it. Now there is a full band or orchestra playing on the recording and you struggle with the fact that you just have two hands and (even the best of us) restrictions of what your fingers can coordinate once at a time. We'll take a look at Nightwish's "Sleeping Sun" and other songs and you will learn strategies to:

- Figure out the most important and interesting **layers** of the arrangement that you can adapt
- Think about **loop-recording** parts or recording and using **backing tracks**
- Imitate and foreshadow structures in the **background** using effects and special playing techniques
- Start simple and improve the arrangement according to your **skill set**
- Use multiple **UserPrograms** to keep the arrangement interesting
- Work with a **DAW** (Logic) to support your workflow (just a little excursion)

WORKSHOPS

Episode 2 - The Whole Note

“Getting Comfortable - The Deep Dive”

Roland FR-8X and Bugari Evo

Instructor - Tris Gour



Episode 2 of **“The Whole Note”** will provide participants with a “Deep Dive” into the world of getting comfortable with their instruments. Special emphasis will be placed on attaining the highest level of satisfaction when turning on your digital accordion. We all know the frustrations encountered when learning something new and with this being said, I invite you to take this opportunity to learn what only a few adjustments can do to enhance your playing experience. If you don’t feel inspired by your instrument this is a great workshop for you!

What We’ll Cover

- ⇒ The Overlooked “System Menu”
- ⇒ Dynamic Bellows Behavior
- ⇒ Bellows Resistance
- ⇒ Bellows Curve
- ⇒ Strap Positioning
- ⇒ Audio and Power Settings
- ⇒ Function Switches
- ⇒ Setting Your Favorite Startup Set
- ⇒ Optimizing Your Reverb Settings
- ⇒ And More...

What’s Needed

- ⇒ Have Your Instrument Handy or On For Workshop and Our Q/A Session.
- ⇒ Headphones or Earbuds Are Highly Encouraged but Not Required.
- ⇒ Your Questions!

garydahl
The Legacy Continues

Training Style

Episodes 2 and 3 of the **“Whole Note”** will be prerecorded using a lecture style format with multiple camera’s allowing participants to experience a “hands-on” demonstration with visible menu screens provided as a reference. Where appropriate, changes will be compared enabling the results to be heard when applied. An approximate 15-minute Q/A Session will be included to answer questions based on the order in which they’re received.

WORKSHOPS

Episode 3 - The Whole Note

“Introducing the GDTLC Essential Collection” - Creating YOUR Own Sets and User Programs (UPGs)

Roland FR-8X and Bugari Evo



Episode 3 of “**The Whole Note**” is an **IDEAS Exclusive** introduction to the GDTLC “Essential Collection” (EC). But, we’ll be providing much more than a demonstration! This workshop will also give you ideas for creating your own Sets and UPGs! The EC was built using an industry standard approach allowing users to benefit from a lower “buy-in” cost while picking and choosing from additional “**Expansion Packs**” that will be released in the near future. This workshop also includes tips and tricks for editing and maximizing collections that you’ve already purchased or created.

What We’ll Cover

- ⇒ Building the Borsini Based Hybrid Acoustic Accordion Sets
- ⇒ How We Simulate an Acoustic Accordion With the Tools We Have to Use in the Roland Sound Engine
- ⇒ Assembling UPGs vs. True Sampling of an Instrument
- ⇒ An Introduction to the Tools Included with the Roland Sound Engine and Their Use
- ⇒ About the Expansion Packs

What’s Needed

- ⇒ Have Your Instrument Handy or Strapped On For This Workshop and Our Q/A Session.
- ⇒ Headphones or Earbuds Are Highly Encouraged but Not Required.
- ⇒ Your Questions!

garydahl
The Legacy Continues

Training Style

Episode 3 of the “**Whole Note**” will be prerecorded using a lecture style format with multiple camera’s allowing participants to experience a “hands-on” demonstration with visible menu screens provided as a reference. Where appropriate, changes will be compared enabling the results to be heard when applied. An approximate 15-minute Q/A Session will be included to answer questions based on the order in which they’re received.

WORKSHOPS

Eddie Monteiro

The Musical World of Eddie Monteiro



How many of you would ever get the chance to sit down with accordion jazz icon, Eddie Monteiro, to discuss and see “up close and personal” his deep understanding of harmony, jazz, and music, while also listening to his captivating stories about the giants he has known in the industry? This is your chance!

Come learn and enjoy these captivating sessions as Eddie takes you on a tour of his incredible musical experience and knowledge of harmony and understanding how to use the American song book, a view into vocal accompaniment, and his use of the digital accordion in jazz. In short, get a close-up view of

Eddie’s genius. Having this much dedicated time with such a jazz icon has never occurred before, and IDEAS is proud to be the first to accomplish this offering. Sit back, take notes, and enjoy, but most of all be ready to absorb and become a part of the greatness of Eddie Monteiro. Also, don’t worry if you can’t take notes fast enough. This will all be recorded for

Lenny Feldmann

Roland BK-7M Playlists

Lenny is an avid BK-7M user who has spent hundreds of hours on developing dozens of playlists for the BK-7M, which some would argue might be one of the most powerful features of that famous arranger.

In this workshop Lenny will explore how/why he created these playlists, how they function and how to get the most out of your BK-7M by properly applying them.

As an added B-O-N-U-S, Lenny is providing this incredible collection gratis to all our Symposium attendees! What an incredible deal and a great way to learn more about your BK-7M in addition to the wonderful workshops being offered. This is something you can apply immediately to what you have learned from

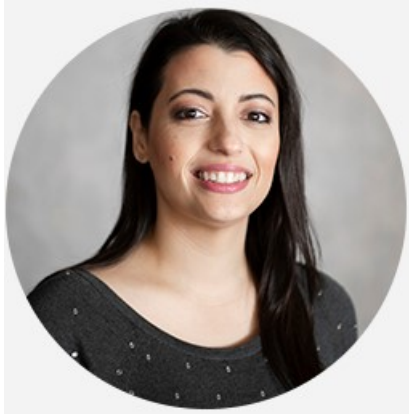
Markus Baggio’s great workshops on the BK-7M. THANKS LENNY!!



WORKSHOPS

Dr. Angela Natoli DC, DACNB

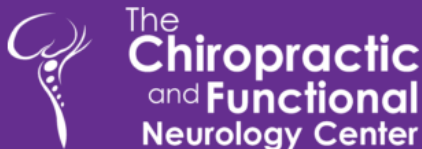
<https://drangelanatoli.com/>



Dr. Angela's compassion for helping people get back to their optimal level of function is the reason she fell in love with the chiropractic profession and its unique approach to wellness. Specializing in functional neurology, Dr. Angela completed her postdoctoral work through the Carrick Institute for Graduate Studies. She is currently a board-certified diplomate of the American Chiropractic Neurology Board.

We are delighted that Dr. Angela was able to take time out of her incredibly busy schedule to record a very deep and meaningful video on the wonderful benefits for the brain from music, but also the potentially negative effects on the body and ultimately the brain from holding a heavy instrument on one's body like the accordion. In Dr. Angela's workshop she will provide some outstanding insight and tools to use to keep your body healthy and well by counteracting any potential negative impacts of the heaviness of the accordion (digital or acoustic). We are certain you will find this talk both entertaining and deeply rewarding.

Don't miss it!



Providing Advanced Chiropractic Care and Neurological Rehabilitation for Trumbull, Mahoning and surrounding areas



8345 E Market St, Suite C
Warren, OH 44484



(330) 647-7373



info@drangelanatoli.com



Keep up with us on Facebook!

WORKSHOPS

Jerry Jacoby H-A-P-P-Y Hour! (with Mitchell White co-hosting)

Anyone who knows or who has met Jerry Jacoby, knows one thing. Jerry is full of life, enthusiasm, and joy. That's why Jerry was such an obvious pick to head our Happy Hour, which is really an extension in the virtual world of the wonderfully successful jam sessions that Jerry has held at our Symposiums in 2018 and 2019 respectively.



Jerry and Mitch invite you to bring your accordion and have some jamming fun !

This session will give you a GR8 opportunity to get to know many of the other symposium attendees, hear some of the music they love, and for all of us to hear a tune or two from you !! Just like with every IDEAS Symposium, all levels of musicianship are welcome. Missed notes won't even be noticed. (Even faculty members are encouraged to attend, if they don't show off too much!). Even if you choose not to play, you are encouraged to attend, renew some old friendships, make some new ones, and listen to some fun music.

So no matter where you are geographically, it must be 5pm somewhere and TIME TO PLAY THE ACCORDION in **Jerry Jacoby's Happy Hour!**



CLASSIFIEDS



Joseph T. Woitowicz

NNA Certified Signing Agent / State of Ohio Notary

State of Ohio Authorized Online Notary

4496 Mahoning Ave #274 | Austintown, OH 44515-1601

(O) 234.200.7470 | (D) 330.544.5865 (M) 330.219.1423 | (F) 216.803.0216

Email: info@online-notary4U.com

Website: www.online-notary4U.com



SIGNiX

FR-EX (Greg V-Accordion) Pedal

- Full range expression pedal - controls orchestral Volume.
- Add up to six(6) standard contact pedals for discrete control.
- USB/DIN/BLUETOOTH(BT) connectivity. (BT requires optional dongles)
- Rechargeable - 24Hrs of continual use.



IDEAS CONCERT #1

Sat 11/7/20 10:00pm EST

Sun 11/8/20 4:30pm EST

Artist(s)		Title	Composer	Timing
Kevin	Solecki	Tantalizing	Charles Magnante	2:48
Kevin	Solecki	Cornaline	André Astier	2:39
Kevin	Solecki	Czardas	Monti	5:36
Tris	Gour	Georgia On My Mind	Hoagy Carmichael	7:04
Tris	Gour	Oblivion	Astor Piazzolla	6:40
Cory	Pesaturo	Eastern European Medley	Arr. C. Pesaturo	5:57
Matthias	Matzke	The Prayer	D. Foster/C. B Sager	4:30
Annie	Gong	Perfect	Ed Sheeran	4:57
Annie	Gong	Die Fledermaus	Johann Strauss II	3:34
Michael Kornel	Bridge Wolak	Polka In Blue	Jaromír Vejvoda/George Gershwin	4:59
Joseph Michael	Natoli Soloway	Surprise Composition	Composer to be an- nounced	3:49
Uwe	Steger	Por Una Cabeza	Carlos Gardel	3:58
Eddie	Monteiro	Shadow Of Your Smile	Johnny Mandel	3:47
Eddie	Monteiro	One Note Samba	Antônio Carlos Jobim	4:32



IDEAS CONCERT #2

Sat 11/14/20 10:00pm EST

Sun 11/15/20 5:00pm EST

Artist(s)		Title	Composer	Timing
Julie	Wisniewski	Puttin' On the Ritz	Irving Berlin	3:34
Julie	Wisniewski	Cavaquinho	Ernesto Nazareth	2:22
Julie	Wisniewski	Julie's Gypsy Phantom Medley	Andrew Lloyd Weber	5:16
Eddie	Monteiro	Girl From Ipanema	Antônio Carlos Jobim	2:34
Eddie	Monteiro	September In the Rain	Harry Warren/Al Dubin	5:15
Joseph Michael	Natoli Soloway	Lullaby Of Peace	Joseph Natoli	3:52
Cory	Pesaturo	Jazz Medley	Arr. C. Pesaturo	2:56
Cory	Pesaturo	Chopin Fantaisie Impromptu	Frédéric Chopin	4:49
Annie	Gong	Voices of Spring	Johann Strauss II	6:46
Matthias	Matzke	Il Postino (In Bicicleta)	Luis Bacalov	2:46
Matthias	Matzke	Albert's Garden	Matthias Matzke	3:50
Uwe	Steger	Verana En El Campo	Rene Moekel	4:35
Tris	Gour	Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?	Robert Lamm (Chicago)	5:12
Michael Kornel	Bridge Wolak	Rock Bach & Tattletale	J. Bach/B. Goodman	9:47



SURVEY

Please help us. We need your input. This was our first complete virtual event—Symposium 3.0. This was a breakthrough event as it expanded the entire IDEA of a Symposium to a 16 day model, something never attempted before. The incredible response we got with this Symposium truly shows the viability and interest in an annual IDEAS Event, whether it is live or virtual. We would love to get your feedback on how we did in this new and uncharted territory, and what we can do to make this event better for next year and subsequent years. So we ask some questions below and give you an opportunity to express your opinions. You can print this sheet out and return it to us before the end of the Symposium if you'd like but we will also be sending you a Survey-Monkey survey that can all be done online and should make it easier for your to complete. Thanks for your support and for helping us to make this event even better in the future. You can sign it or stay anonymous.

1. Did this Symposium exceed, meet, or not meet, your expectations? Circle one

2. Would you come again in 2021 to a live event for Symposium 4.0? (Y / N)

Comments:

3. Would you be interested in a hybrid live and virtual event in 2021? (Y / N)

Comments:

4. Would you recommend this event to other digital accordionists? (Y / N)

Comments:

5. Was the number of days too few, just right, or too many considering it was virtual?

6. Any final thoughts on this Symposium?

Your Own Notes and “IDEAS”

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