



**Bob Berta, President**  
Michigan Accordion Society  
5955 Cobb Creek Road  
Rochester, Michigan 48305  
biker123@att.net



August 23, 2012

Mr. Paul Pasquali  
The Frosini Awards  
1760 South, 450 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Dear Mr. Pasquali,

I received confirmation from our Vice President Mr. Joseph Recchia that our registration has been confirmed for this year's Frosini Award for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention.

On behalf of the Michigan Accordion Society our Members, Board of Directors and Officers, I am very honored to officially submit to you our enclosed "Entry Documentation" that was proudly and personally signed by our members.

We have worked diligently to embrace this project and have worked very hard to improve the overall quality of the our society by promoting the Instrument, encouraging others to perform and as a result had many great success stories. The Michigan Accordion Society is a great success story in itself as we have had 40% increase in membership this year alone. We have also included several significant success stories that our members are very proud to share with you and your committee.

I know first hand that a few of our members are looking forward in attending your upcoming convention. We will continue to promote your event through our Facebook page, Website, Newsletter as well as our monthly meetings in hopes to help increase attendance at your event.

In closing and on behalf of the entire family of the Michigan Accordion Society, we thank you for your consideration and remain hopeful in being selected as this year's "Frosini's Award" recipient.

Accordionly Yours,

Bob Berta  
MAS President

Attached, "Entry Documentation" Booklet





Margie Wells - Martha Prose -

Mary M. Rechia

Santina Martino



2012 Las Vegas International Accordion Convention

# "Frosini Award"

## "Michigan Accordion Society"

### Entry Documentation



*Joyce Hibbard* Buacina Martino  
**Proudly Submitted by the Officers, Board and Members**

**of the Michigan Accordion Society (MAS)**

*Just Thorne  
Paul Thorne*

*Carl Essary* *Giuseppe Rotellini*

*Anthony*  
*Norma Drajak*  
*Antonia Recchia*  
*Estel Emmel*

*Eddie Adamia*  
*Robert Beato*

*Rodger Wells*

*Seomardo Martino*

*Tony M. de Tomo*  
*Silver Hollyk*  
*Mike usenza*  
*Maria Emmel*



*Judy Grijab*

*Gayle Kody*  
*Stephen Kody*  
*Marguerite Kraus*

*Grady May*  
*Rosemary Kandy*  
*Anthony*

*Wiederhold*  
*Erica*  
*Wiederhold*

*Herbie Somogyi*  
*John Gabalis*

*Debra Fisher*

*Carolyn Gabalis*  
*Bill Schmitt-Halen*  
*Joe Gubek*  
*Larry Malott*  
*Sandra Martino*

*Ed Podgorn*  
*Stefanek*  
*Stefanek*  
*Stefanek*  
*Stefanek*  
*Stefanek*

*Pat O'Rourke*

*Marilyn*  
*Paul Vadoro*  
*Erin Wiederhold*





**2012 Las Vegas International Accordion Convention**

**“Frosini Award”**

**“Michigan Accordion Society”**

***Entry Documentation***



## **The 13th Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention**

September 24 - September 27, 2012

***It's NOT TOO LATE! - REGISTER TODAY!***

### **ACCORDION CLUB FROSINI AWARD**

Does your club or organization have some success stories to tell?

Has anyone joined your club and taken up playing the accordion because of your club's activities?

**Your Club Could WIN This Year's Frosini Award**  
**But do hurry—we need to hear about your successes!**  
*It's as easy as One, Two, Three!*

First, you'll need to tell us, on paper, exactly what your group did to promote the accordion in the year 2011—up to the present time—and what the response was, including success stories about people who have joined your club and now play the accordion because of your efforts. Be as specific and as complete as you can. Fliers, programs or supporting articles and information from newspapers, magazines, or the net will all make your case more effectively, so send them all!

Second, your club must be registered to be eligible to win. You'll want to register anyway, because registration provides great visibility for your club. Space for your literature will be provided at the Convention, plus recognition in our Souvenir Program. So complete your Club Registration Form and submit it today along with the description of your club's promotional activities.

Third, email or mail your entry with supporting documentation **no later than August 31, 2012.**

Mail to: **THE FROSINI AWARDS**, 1760 South 450 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84115.

This year's Frosini Award-winning club will be able to offer 25 of their members a \$40.00 rebate off the 2013 Las Vegas International Accordion Convention registration fee! This can be a great tool to increase your club's membership! Maximum savings of \$1,000.00 per club per year!





**"Advancing the Accordion  
in Michigan & Beyond....."**

#### Officers

President: Bob Berta  
Vice President: Joe Recchia  
Secretary: Linda Marshall  
Treasurer: Jerry May

#### Directors

Silven Koltyk  
Marguerite Krau  
Lorraine Lozovoj  
Jim Rand  
Sam Randazzo  
Mike Zawojsky

#### Address/Phone

1248 Lakepointe  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI  
49230  
Phone: 313-822-4722  
linda1music@yahoo.com

#### Web Page

Robert Stead, Web Master  
steadrw@gmail.com

#### Newsletter Committee

Bob Berta, Bob Stead  
Phillip Ma, Joe Recchia,  
Tony La Tona

#### Photographer:

Tony La Tona

#### Music Editors:

Bob Berta & Joe Recchia

#### Office Hours

For information, music from the Library, or tickets to MAS events, call Linda Marshall at 313-822-4722 or Marguerite Krau at 248-589-3296.

For Accordion Teachers or Accordionists for hire, please visit our website at [www.michiganaccordion.org](http://www.michiganaccordion.org)

#### Past Presidents

Steve Stolaruk: 1996-2005  
Lana Gore: 2006  
Ray Battani: 2007-2010  
Stephen Kaye: 2011



The 13th Annual Las Vegas  
International Accordion  
Convention  
**"2012 Frosini Award"**  
**"Michigan Accordion  
Society" (MAS)**  
**Entry Documentation**



### Who We Are:

**MAS seeks to advance the knowledge and status of the accordion in our communities. We hold 2 monthly meetings, each month, a Board & Membership meeting. We sponsor concerts, workshops and provide a network for accordionists to promote their music.**

**MAS was established in June 1996, which is an association for promoting and sharing the music of the Accordion. Currently there are nearly 140 members and we are growing monthly. Our first**



Many MAS Members enjoying great music!

**purpose is to promote the Accordion as a beautiful and versatile instrument which is capable of accompanying music of all types, from classical, jazz, and rock to the more traditional polkas and folk songs. We teach & encourage young people to learn how to play and appreciate the Accordion. Our second purpose is sharing Accordion Music within our communities.**



MAS members performing at our Meetings

**Our monthly membership meetings include professional artists and amateurs playing a wide variety of music. All members are encouraged to participate in the "ACCORDION JAM". In addition we help advertise where and when our members are playing. We also have small ensembles playing at local malls, schools, and churches to share Accordion music with the public.**





## 2012 Frosini Award

### “Michigan Accordion Society”

### *Entry Documentation*



#### **MAS Enhancements for 2012:**

**Over the past year we have worked very hard to increase membership. We are pleased to announce that we have had the largest membership increase in our clubs history and as of August 2012 our membership has increased by 40% This has been accomplished through a wide variety of new programs:**

- **Added Monthly Meetings (previously we had meetings every other month)**
- **Increased number of Board of Directors to help with the additional work load**
- **Created a positive atmosphere, encouraging all members to perform**
- **Establishing a membership perk program, by working with local and national retailers. We are now able to provide discounts for our MAS Members**

#### **MAS Members Please Support the Business that support MAS!**



**Accordions International** offer MAS members: 20% discount on Accordion straps, cases and **special member pricing** on the lineup of Roland V Accordions Mention “Michigan” Sales Code

Address: 1760 South 450 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115  
Phone: (800) 935-0013  
Website: [www.accordionfactory.com](http://www.accordionfactory.com)



**EDB Studios** offers MAS Members:  
20% off all in stock items, including lessons, instruments and Recordings

**Address:** 30640 Dequindre Rd  
Warren, MI 48092  
Phone: 586 751-8616  
Website: [www.edbstudios.com](http://www.edbstudios.com)



**Gus Zoppi Music Center** offers MAS Members:  
20% off all in stock items & lessons

Address: 38944 Dequindre Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48310  
Phone: (586) 978-1816  
Website: [www.guszoppimusic.com](http://www.guszoppimusic.com)



**Music Authority** offers MAS members:  
Buy four lessons & get two free!

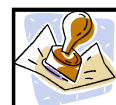
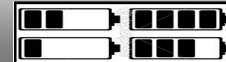
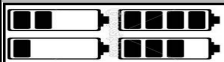
Address: 24736 W. Warren St.  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127  
Phone: (313) 551-5420  
Website: [www.musicauthoritieschool.com](http://www.musicauthoritieschool.com)



**ConCorde Inn** offers MAS members:  
20% discount on Rooms at both locations  
  
[www.concordeinn.com](http://www.concordeinn.com)

1919 Star Batt Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309,  
Phone: 248-299-1210  
  
44315 Gratiot, Clinton Township, MI 49036

**A Portable Charger is now available for your Roland FR7/FR7x V Accordion which is specifically engineered and designed for your BP 24-45 Battery pack. Stop carrying around your bulky Roland Charger and upgrade with this very small and portable (less than 1 pound) very high quality Micro processor based charger. Retail price \$249.00. MAS Members will receive a 25% discount.**



**Free notarizing services for all MAS Members through Linda Marshall , Notary Public**  
1248 Lakepointe, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 49230 Phone: 313-822-4722, [linda1music@yahoo.com](mailto:linda1music@yahoo.com)





# 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



## MAS Enhancements for 2012 Continued:

- **Launched several incentive program "Finders Fee" to obtain new members & "Complimentary Membership" for performers who perform at our meetings**

### **Membership Incentive**

**FREE 1 YEAR COMPLIMENTARY MAS MEMBERSHIP!**  
In order to qualify, the following must apply:

- Solo Music performance during one of our Membership Meetings
- Placed on our playing roster by the Clubs Music Editors

**\$5.00 Finders Fee Details:**

- You must be a current and paid in full MAS member
- The new member you refer must have never been a MAS member
- The new member must also be paid in full

- **Opened up our membership to include singers, guitarist as well as a variety of folk instruments, all of which supports the "Accordion" as a wonderful musical instrument**



- **Our increased Membership required us to move our meetings into a larger facility. MAS member and past MAS President and Accordion Promoter Steve Stolaruk and wife Darlene extended their beautiful brand new Forestre Banquet center to MAS for us all to enjoy!**



MAS meetings now held in the Beautiful Forestre Banquet Facility in Rochester Hills, MI



Our Members are now dancing at our meetings!







# 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



## MAS Enhancements for 2012 Continued:

- We have made significant Marketing improvements with our Society this year
- Introduced a brand new website at ([www.michiganaccordion.org](http://www.michiganaccordion.org))
- Brand new Full color newsletter that was designed by our Student MAS member and very fine accordionist "Phillip Ma"

MAS Brand New Web Site Launched 2012

All New MAS Newsletter August 2012

- MAS launched a new Facebook page in 2012 to help promote MAS, our members and the Accordion at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Michigan-Accordion-Society/>



- MAS has a newly designed Banner that we proudly display at each of our meetings and events







## 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



### MAS Enhancements for 2012 Continued:

- **We instated a no compete venue at all future meetings so that all accordion performers are encouraged to perform as each player has their own style, skill level and technique ("MAS ACCORDION JAM" photo below)**



- **We have collaborated with several music clubs in the area such as the "Shelby Township Music Society" the "Greater Detroit Jazz Society" and the "Polish American Cultural Society" to assist us in promoting the Accordion, MAS as well as our performers in our community**
- **We have opened up our club to accordionists outside the Michigan Area and now have members from Arizona, Canada, Florida, Nevada and Ohio**
- **We are very proud to highlight that legendary Accordionist, Mr. Dick Contino is a member of MAS! Mr. Contino has had a great impact with the MAS moral and we are now seeing more players perform at our meetings and taking more interest in our society!**
- **We have scheduled a Tony Dannon Tribute Scholarship Benefit Concert on Nov 4, 2012**
- **We are also planning a Roland V Accordion workshop in Detroit with Roland V Accordion Representatives Alicia Baker and Steve Albini**



Roland Representative Alicia Baker with MAS Joe Recchia planning a MAS workshop



- **We have not stopped....we are working on other great incentives that we plan to launch later this year and into next year.....**



Dick Contino with his wife Tonia





# 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



## MAS Members Charity Events:

MAS members have been actively participating in a wide variety of charity events.

- **MAS Members Lisa Agazzi, Greg Stryker, Gary Zack and Joe Recchia held several concerts this year to raise money for Cancer research as well as Cancer patients, and not just in Michigan. Joe Recchia traveled to Indiana to support cancer patients by helping to put on several concerts with "The Gene Van Accordion Orchestra" that helped raise thousands of dollars.**



The Gene Van Accordion Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Gene Van, will be performing on Friday evening, July 27, at the 72nd Annual ATG Competition & Festival to be held in Lisle, Illinois. The orchestra is comprised of musicians from various states including Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Texas, South Carolina, Missouri, and Florida. Members of the group have individually, and collectively, achieved countless prestigious honors in state, regional, national, and international competitions. Mr.

Joseph Natoli, performer/composer/arranger and 1972 AAA U.S. Virtuoso Solo Champion, from central Ohio, along with Amy Jo Sawyer, performer/composer and 1956 ATG U.S. Virtuoso Solo Champion, from O'Fallon, Illinois, will once again be guest performers with the orchestra. In addition, performing with the group for the first time will be Joe Recchia and Lou Le Brun. Joe is a highly sought after performer in the Detroit area, as well as being the nephew of the late, renowned accordionist/teacher, Mr. Tony Dannon. He also serves as the Vice President for the Michigan Accordion Society. Lou is an avid performer and entertains on a regular basis in the Springfield, Missouri, area and has performed with various groups over the years. [From www.accordionusa.com](http://www.accordionusa.com)

PAGE EIGHT The Italian Tribune - La Tribuna del Popolo Friday, June 8 - June 21, 2012

Forestré Banquet Center Presents  
**Summer Music Series**  
Featuring **OUR LOCAL STARS**

Lisa Agazzi, Greg Stryker, Gary Zack, Joe Recchia

Mezzo-soprano Lisa Agazzi has performed with open companies in venues all over the U.S. and in Italy and is an accomplished singer of all styles of music including everything from Italian favorites to Genovese to Passion arias all the way to famous pop-rock songs.

Agazzi has performed numerous opera roles with Michigan Opera Theatre, San Diego Opera, South Florida Opera, Utah Opera, Indianapolis Opera and the Music Riva Festival in Italy. Even though she is a trained classical singer, she loves all styles of music. She gave up singing and playing the piano in Sterling Heights, performing lead roles in De La Salle High School productions of "Anything Goes" and "Guys and Dolls." Right out of high school, she joined "The Three Tenors" on a cassette and fell in love with the classic Italian songs, especially Luciano Pavarotti's interpretations of "Nessun Dorma" and "Ferra Sursum."

Lisa says, "I went over to the piano and tried our 'Torna Sursum' and I thought 'I think I can sing this!' My voice seemed to want to sing this music." This led her to study of voice and becoming a music major at Oakland University and her eventual career as an open singer. She has a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Oakland University and currently teaches voice at Macomb Community College.

"No matter what you accomplish in life, you can never forget your roots," she said. "This concert is a tribute to both my musical and Italian roots. Both of my parents were born in Italy and from humble beginnings, here in Detroit, they have been able to use me and my abilities accomplish a great deal, thanks to their work ethic."

Joseph Recchia (whose family hails from Ciccare, Italy) is the vice president of the Michigan Accordion Society. He comes from a long lineage of Italian accordion players. His grandfather, Augustine D'Agostino, was Henry Ford's accordion player. "He lived all of his mission parties," says Recchia. "I recently have been performing for Ford as well," says Recchia, "and played

**'Our Local Stars' to benefit Swan for Life Cancer Foundation**

"Our Local Stars," a benefit concert for the Swan for Life Cancer Foundation, will be held on Thursday, June 21, at 7 p.m. at the Forestré Banquet Center at the Concordia Inn of Rochester Hills.

The concert will feature singer Lisa Agazzi, accordionist Joseph Recchia, Greg Stryker, guitarist for Eddie Money, and accordionist Gary Zack, all performing a variety of musical styles including classic Italian and Neapolitan songs, soft rock, pop, jazz and opera.

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Benefiting: Performing at the Grosseto Point Yacht Club Oct. 20, 2011 for a Beaumont Hospital function are Lisa Agazzi and Joseph Recchia. The two will perform for a benefit in Rochester for the Swan for Life Cancer Foundation Thursday, June 21, in his grandparent's mansion in Grosseto Pointe a couple of weeks ago.

Joseph Recchia was just 5 when he started playing accordion. He took lessons from his uncle, Tony Dannon, a founder of the Michigan Accordion Society.

The benefit concert is a way of giving back to the community for Recchia. "I'm just honored in giving my gift of music to other people," he says. "What better way to do it but through a benefit concert."

The evening will include a look at the wonderful new banquet center, an array of hot hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and most of all great music!

Tickets are \$14 per person and are available by calling (248) 299-1210 or at the door. The theatre is located at 1919 Star-Bart Drive in Rochester Hills.

The Swan for Life Cancer Foundation is a non-profit cancer support organization, which aids those newly diagnosed with cancer, patients with recurrences, friends and family and survivors throughout Northern Oakland County.

"The Foundation's mission is to offer coaching and support for those affected by cancer," said Lisa DiPillo, program coordinator. "We want to help people develop and implement a plan to navigate their journey with cancer so that they will be inspired to live a life that is dignified, hopeful and positive. We take pride in the concert our programs provide."

Support in our Community  
Rochester Hills, Michigan  
[www.swanforlife.org](http://www.swanforlife.org)

Swan for Life Cancer Foundation  
Support in our Community  
Rochester Hills, Michigan  
[www.swanforlife.org](http://www.swanforlife.org)

Enjoy live performances in an elegant setting  
Hours of delicious served  
Cash bar

248 299-1210  
Forestré Banquet Center  
1919 Star-Bart Drive Rochester Hills, MI 48309



Gene Van Orchestra fundraiser July

## SouthBendTribune.com | ARTICLE COLLECTION

YOU ARE HERE: SouthBendTribune Home → Collections → Breast Cancer

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**Beginner Piano Lessons**  
Discover Beginner Piano

### Cause sits close to their hearts

Accordion orchestra benefit concert to honor two women with ties to group.

July 15, 2012 | By BRIANA BARNER | South Bend Tribune



South Bend Tribune/JAMES BROSHER

SOUTH BEND -- For Gene Van, it's not just about the music, although he's been in the business for more than a half-century. It's about what he does with his talent, which includes serving those in need.

"There's no ending need for a worthy cause," Van says.

As founder of the Gene Van Accordion Orchestra and Chorus, he made service an integral part of the orchestra's character.

The orchestra makes it a point to host annual benefit concerts, and while deciding on a cause for this year's concert, two accordionists with close ties to the orchestra came to mind.

Recommend 11

0

Tweet Submit

Michiana Performing Arts Association presents

**"ACCORDIONS UNITED" BENEFIT CONCERTS**

Featuring the  
**GENE VAN ACCORDION ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS**

Sunday, July 22, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, July 23, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

Kern Road Memorial Church  
South Bend, Indiana







# 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



## MAS Member Senior Charity Work:

- **Pat O'Rourke and Ed Podgorny play regularly and donate their accordion music at senior centers as musical therapists. As well as Church Luncheons, and various Senior events in our community.**



MAS Members Pat O'Rourke & Ed Podgorny perform at a local community Senior Center for a resident that turned 104 years old!

*Dear Pat,*  
 Just a note to thank you so much for entertaining our residents last week. They loved you! Yabine said she could not remember the last time they enjoyed a performance as much as they did yours! Please thank your sister, too! If you ever want to come back, we would love to have you perform.  
 Thank again!  
 Jane Ramsden  
 x x x x

### Line up

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Harry Glover   | Song      |
| 2. Madelyn Preece (Requested no judge comments)                         | Piano     |
| 3. Patsy Matyas   | Song      |
| 4. Brooke & Paige Trousdale   | Comedy    |
| 5. Eric Halstead with Richard   | Song      |
| 6. Bill Moralee (Sally Clegghorn)                                       | Poem      |
| 7. Sandy Halstead & Peggy Leduc   | Skit      |
| 8. Jack Young   | Song      |
| 9. Joey Weipert   | Song      |
| 10. Molly Poe & Leah Dammann  | Skit      |
| 11. Richard Halstead, Eric, April Sawyers, Cameron LeDuc & Karen Thomas | Song      |
| 12. Terry Smith   | Song      |
| 13. Mandy Bush & Jennifer Edwards                                       | Song      |
| 14. Maygan Toohy  | Bells     |
| 15. Karen Thomas  | Song      |
| 16. Terry Smith & Harry Glover  | Song      |
| 17. Becky Glover  | Skit      |
| 18. Pat O'Rourke  | Accordion |

### Special Thanks to our...

Judges: Craig Fulton, Hilda Fisher and Peter Morphy  
 Emcee: Russ Weipert Sound: Billy Weipert  
 Performers: To our talented members here at Royal Oak. Thanks for bringing us an evening of great Christian entertainment.  
 And last but not least, the best audience around!!!!



Jane Ramsden  
 Activities and Volunteer  
 Coordinator

Sunrise Assisted Living of Troy  
 6870 Crooks Road  
 Troy, MI 48068  
 main (248) 293-1200  
 fax (248) 293-1201  
 direct (248) 293-6446  
 troy@sunriseseniorliving.com

2251 W. Auburn Rd • Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
 248-852-1980 • Fax: (248) 852-8393  
 www.americanhouse.com • TDD 800-649-3777



DIANNE CAMERON  
 Assistant Director

Thanks for All You Do!

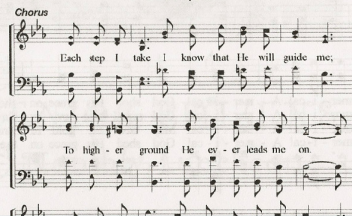
You deserve to feel special for the great work you do. Your heartfelt dedication always comes through. We thank you sincerely for all that you share—your attitude, efforts, commitment and care!

*Dear Pat,*  
 Thanks again for a fun time at our Carol's 104 yrs party. You always come through for us. Hope you enjoy your gift card.  
 My best regards  
 Dianne

## Senior Luncheon Program

- Noon..... Welcome  
**Peter Morphy**  
 12:05 ..... Songs  
**Tim Vancil**  
 12:20 ..... LET'S EAT  
 1:00 . . . **Pat O'Rourke & Ed Podgorny**  
 1:15. . . Dawn Neely (Seniors Helping Seniors)  
 1:25. . . Birthdays  
 1:30 . . . Nominations for 2011 King & Queen  
 1:35 . . . Door Prizes

### Each Step I Take







# 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation

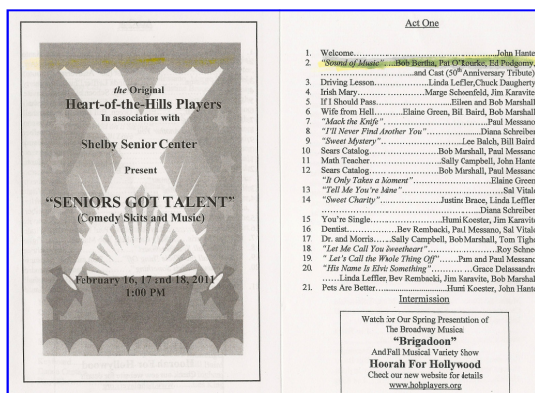


## MAS Member Senior Charity Work:

- MAS Member Jim Rand donates his time at a many events this one below is at a recent senior birthday party**



- MAS President Bob Berta & MAS Members Pat O'Rourke & Ed Podgorny donates their time to help raise money for the Heart of the Hills Acting club—Performed a medley from "The Sound of Music". Heart of the Hills was celebrating its 50th anniversary**



- Joe Recchia at the local Italian Cultural Society provides accordion music to help raise money for the community Center senior fund as well as other charity events in the community.**







# 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



## MAS Cultural Events Participation:

- MAS Member performing at Il Volo Concert in Detroit 2012 as well as other Great Cultural Venues



MAS Member Eric DeBarado with Il Volo at Detroit Opera House



MAS Members Eric DeBerado and Dave Passalague performing for Il Volo



Il Volo enters Detroit Opera House after their concert at the Fox Theatre



MAS Member keeping the culture alive at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, NV



MAS Member Linda Lee promoting Culture and Youth Talent at the Bavarian Inn Frankenmuth, MI







## 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



### MAS Member Children Events:

- **Several MAS members and MAS Business supporters teach accordion to nearly 2 dozen youth students in the Metro Detroit area.**
- **MAS sponsors an annual "Musical Youth Night" and asks local Music stores to provide their students so that they can be featured at our meetings. We issue award Ribbons and Certificates as well.**
- **Our members have brought Accordions to local Elementary schools to teach young students about the instrument.**



MAS Youth night performers June of 2012



Pat O'Rourke introduces local elementary students to the  
"Wonderful World of the Accordion"



- **We also support and promote our out of state friends that help with Accordion for Kids programs.**

**ACCORDION FOR KIDS PROGRAM (MAS friends from VA)**  
50 + family members, school officials, Bob Kenyton and John Norbury, Accordion Revolution members had a celebration dinner with the young accordionists at Victor Restaurant in Williamsburg, Va. Monday 11 June to celebrate the success of the Accordion for Kids, USA Program, hosted this spring by Waller Mill Elementary School, York County, Va. Bob and John shared their accordion stories and we were entertained by Miss Luba Pak who performed two stunning Russian selections. The Young Masters Of The Accordion, played, as bellow buddies, their signature song which culminated in us all singing and squeezing to: "On Top of Spaghetti." Each young accordionist received an accordion pin and a signed Squeezin at the Accordy-Inn CD. This final picture was taken outside the restaurant upon completion of the celebration dinner.







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### “Michigan Accordion Society”

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#### **MAS Youth Great Success:**

**We have several MAS student members that are very active with the Accordion.**

- **MAS Member Phillip Ma who is winning a vast majority of accordion competitions and recently won first place at the AGM National Competition!**

**Philip Ma won first place at the AGM National Competition.** He was also asked to perform at the Concert at the event that started off the entertainment. He played flawlessly performing a Russian jazz version of "Mack the Knife".



MAS Member Phillip Ma with his instructor & MAS member Yakov Todromovich



Philip also volunteered time over the 3-day competition as a Room Monitor. The 36th Annual American Guild of Music (AGM) Great Lakes Regional Contest will be held April 26-28, 2013 at the Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

The 112th Annual AGM National Convention and Contest will be held July 18-21, 2013 at the Delta Meadowdale Hotel in Toronto.



- **Very Proud MAS Member Zoe VanDerburg - uses her accordion as her main talent when competing in her as a Beauty pageant contestant!**

**MAS Member Zoe VanderBurg, perform Accordion as part of her Pageant competition** but unfortunately received no crown this round. Zoe remained focused at her July 2012 National American Miss Pageant in



Dearborn Michigan and looks forward to sharing her Accordion talent in the next pageant! Of 50 competitors she was the ONLY accordion performer there. Her playing was perfect! The Judges placed a singer(1st), a baton twirler (2nd) and a dancer (3rd). Many people came up to her afterward & said she should have had a placing. We felt very good coming to such a HUGE pageant. She still had a smile on her face. VERY Proud to be a MAS member and shared the fact she was a MAS member with her other young competitors, HOW exciting is that!





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#### **MAS Youth Great Success Continued:**

#### **MAS Members support past Student Members that have achieved great Musical success.**

**June 17, 2012 Andrea Caruso former MAS member and daughter of MAS Member Andy Caruso receives Master in Music and celebrated her Accomplishment in style with several of our MAS members.**

Andrea Caruso, began studying the accordion at the age of five under the direction of Lana L. Gore at the Music Centre in Dearborn Heights, MI. Andrea showed great talent at an early age winning regional competitions hosted by the American Guild of Music, and national competitions hosted by the American Accordionists' Association as well as the American Teacher's Guild.

At the age of 13, Andrea competed in her first international competition in Castelfidardo, Italy. That year, she was also invited to perform as a guest artist with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra. She returned to Europe a second time at the age of 15 to compete at Le Grand Prix in Geneva, Switzerland where she received second place in her division. At 16, Andrea became the U.S. champion at the annual American Accordionists' Association convention and shortly after she traveled to Budapest, Hungary to compete in the Coupe Mondiale.

Andrea continued to develop as a musician at the university level. In 2005, she began pursuing an undergraduate degree at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, IL. There, she studied piano and voice and as early as her first year was invited to perform in the university's Honors Recital. Although Andrea says she's an instrumentalist at heart, in the end vocal performance won her over. She studied with Dr. Jan Bickel at Saint Xavier, and received her bachelors of fine arts in Vocal Performance in 2009.

A year later, Andrea began a Masters program in Vocal Performance at the Chicago College of Performing Arts. There she studied under the direction of Mark Crayton and performed in works such as The Magic Flute and Biardot's Cinderella. She was also selected to perform in a master class

with the renowned coach Martin Katz. She was so well received by Katz that he invited her to coach with him personally at the University of Michigan. Although Andrea recently graduated, currently, she is preparing to travel to Viterbo, Italy where she will be singing the roles of Dorabella, Cosi fan putte, Velatrice, and Suor Angelica. She is also the alto soloist in Pergolesi's Stabat mater and Mozart's coronation mass. Andrea's parents are very proud of their daughters achievements!

MAS members wish Andrea a great trip and safe travels!



**Pictured Left to right MAS Member Joe Recchia, MAS Friends Bill Cario & Andrea Caruso, MAS Member 's Andy Caruso, John Schollak & Walt Lipiec all performed for the festivities**



**Andrea Caruso at ATG in the Junior Coupe Mondiale Competition**





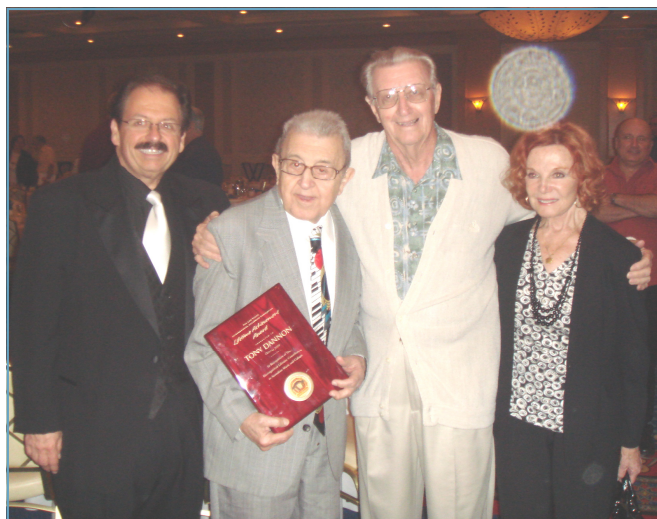
## 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



### MAS Member 2011—2012 Great Success Story:

**Tony Dannon (October 2009 recipient of the Life time Achievement award at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention) was one of the founders and long standing Vice Presidents and Honorary Members of MAS. He was very instrumental in encouraging people to play the instrument and left a great legacy with MAS, as well as many Accordionists throughout the world.**

**In 2011—2012 Joe Recchia the nephew of Tony Dannon accordion career was about to launch and Joe will find himself reliving a great family legacy and a dream.....**



LVIAC Paul Pasquali with Honorary MAS Member & former Vice President Tony Dannon along with Tony's great friend Art Van Damme and MAS Members Elma Santa & Joe Cario back right



Tony Dannon looking on and sharpens Joe's skill level, even at the dinner table!

**Accordion Jazz Legend Tony Dannon who was sadly diagnosed with Dementia moved into Joe's home in 2008 and he and his wife Antonella helped care for their Uncle for the last 3 ½ years of his life. Joe who had not played the accordion regularly for well over 30 years picked up the accordion again and began to entertain his Uncle daily and in return his Uncle would provide assistance to sharpen his skill level.**

**Then in 2011 Joe's playing ability and confidence level reached the point that he started booking jobs as a strolling Accordionist primarily at private mansion parties in affluent Grosse Pointe Michigan**



Continental Motors Estate in Grosse Pointe, MI





# 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



## MAS Member 2011—2012 Great Success Story Continued:

His performance escalated and began performing for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, Grosse Pointe's Beaumont Hospital and the Grosse Pointe Yacht club as well as performing on private yachts. To compliment Joe's performances he began working with Detroit's famous opera singer [www.LisaAgazzi.com](http://www.LisaAgazzi.com) who is also a MAS member. Lisa was influenced by Tony Dannon to continue her career in singing at a very early age, also another success story!



Mezzo Soprano Lisa Agazzi and Joe Recchia with Accordion Promoter Steve Stolaruk

Joe Recchia's Grandfather Agostino D'Annunzio (Tony Dannon's Father) was also a great and famous accordionist of the Ford Motor Company and was Henry Ford's personal accordionist as well as his music director. Agostino performed at all of Mr. Ford's home parties for many years. Joe Recchia then had a life changing event in 2011 when he was asked to perform for Henry Ford's great grandson Edsel and Cynthia Ford. He had the opportunity to speak to the Ford's about his grandfather. Interesting to note that Edsel and Cynthia Ford knew about Joe's grandfather and also knew about the International Accordion that Henry Ford had custom built for Joe's Grandfather many years ago. This great Accordion is still in Joe's family today.

**Ford D'Annunzio Model**

Especially built for Mr. Agostino D'Annunzio, well-known accordion player of the Ford Motor Car Co. and radio stations WMBC and WEXL.

**International Accordion specially built in Detroit, MI for Joe's grandfather at the request of Mr. Henry Ford!**





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### **MAS Member 2011—2012 Great Success Story Continued:**

**Edsel and Cynthia were just amazed that Joe Recchia was the grandson of their great grandfather's Accordionist and they said what a great legacy that we meet through the Accordion. Edsel Ford and Joe Recchia took photos together and Mr. Ford asked for Joe's business card and later in 2012 Joe was asked to perform at Edsel Ford's grandparent's home for his out of town guests.**



Joe Recchia with Henry Ford's Great Grandson  
Mr. Edsel Ford



**Joe spent that afternoon performing in and around this great home including the dining room just as is grandfather had done well over a half century ago. Joe found himself reliving his grandfather's legacy and had turned his dream into "an accordion reality"**



Waiting for Guests to arrive in Edsel Ford Dining Room



Front of Edsel Ford Home in  
Grosse Pointe, Michigan





## 2012 Frosini Award "Michigan Accordion Society" Entry Documentation



### **MAS Member 2011—2012 Great Success Story Continued:**

In January of 2012 Joe was appointed as the Vice President of MAS which was his Uncle Tony's previous position. He has also grown to perform throughout the US and Europe for some very famous people such as, Accordion Legend Dick Contino, famous Detroit attorney Jeff Fieger, TLC's TV network Buddy Valestro aka "The Cake Boss", Opera Mezzo Soprano Lisa Agazzi, and has been able to use his accordion at his full time Job in the Automotive field by performing for the President of his current employer

**"Delphi Corporation" Jim Spencer, as well as his customers Vice Presidents of "Chrysler & Fiat", Mr. Bill Mattingly, Mr. Massimo Risi and Mr. Alan Amici who is a former student of Tony Dannon.**

**DELPHI**  
Automotive Systems



Prominent Michigan Attorney Mr. Jeff Fieger & his wife Kennie



MAS Member Eric Debarado with TLC Network Buddy Valestro aka "The Cake Boss" & Joe



Joe Recchia with Accordion Legend and MAS Member Dick Contino



Performing at "Cliff Bells" a famous Jazz Club in Detroit, MI with studio drummer John Yurtin!

**Joe has also gone onto join "The Gene Van National Accordion Orchestra" and has also performed in "The Joann Cochran Sommers Accordion Orchestra". Joe has been very proactive increasing MAS membership as well as being very busy promoting the instrument as both his Grandfather and Uncle had done, going on to 3 generations, for nearly a century! "A Great Success story indeed"**





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The entire MAS family thanks you for your consideration

