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## MAS Awards Music Scholarships to Tri-County Students



**RECIPIENTS:** Shown above are (back row, from left): Natalia Lacki, 16; Arianna Hosinski, 17; Morgan Ross, 13; Vanessa Carr, 22; Sabrina Carr, 18; Serafim Mazurs, 11; Johnathan Oestringer, 13; Mario Simone, 16; Anthony Wiederhold, 13; John Orischak, 17; Joey McLennan, 18; Bernadette Kathryn, 14; Andrew Oughton, 16; Emma Burgin, 18; Michael Galbenski, 13; Justina Gaynor, 12; Delaney Garron, 12 and Tara Cicillian, age 12; and (front row, from left): Jaixai Reineke, 9; Karter Wells, 7; Lukas Stachurski, 9; Maria Magnoli, 10; and Jessica Fligger, 9.

The Michigan Accordion Society (MAS) awarded \$2,700 in music scholarship to music students at their monthly music event held Tuesday, June 17, at the Forestre Banquet Center in Rochester Hills to a packed audience.

The evening was wonderful as many students participated playing a variety of instruments: accordions, guitar, trumpet, piano and voice. Students ranged from 7 years to 22 years of age. Tri-county music studios that participated in the program were Evola Music, Shelby Township; Gus Zoppi Music Center, Troy; EDB Studios, Warren and The Music Authority School, Dearborn, as well as private instructors Bob George and Yakov Todromovich.

"The event was a big success and we are very pleased that the scholarship money was paid out directly to the students' teachers so that the money will be used for future music lessons for these talented kids," said Joe Recchia, MAS president.

Recchia also mentioned that "as a 501c3 tax deductible nonprofit Music Society we have been awarded significant funding from families in our community that have lost loved ones, and in lieu of flowers they wanted memorial funds to be set up so that these funds can be used to promote accordions and music education programs for local area children.

"The proceeds that were paid out came from the Ray Battani, Jerry May and Tony Dannon Memorial Scholarship funds that the Michigan Accordion Society manages. This is a win/win for both the families of the deceased and the music students in our community."

The funds that were awarded are only the beginning as the MAS also unveiled a brand new "Accordion for Kids Program" and signed up several students immediately after the announcement. The program is great because MAS will supply the instrument and music educational books. Then the student's family is provided with several MAS accordion teachers that they can choose from. The student is then off to the races learning the instrument and all that is asked in return is for the student's commitment to learn the instrument.

"We have seen a very interesting resurgence in folks wanting to be around accordionists and that is great for not only the instrument but for the music students in our community as well. It's something great for the students to do that will keep their mind sharp and stay out of trouble," said Recchia.

MAS was founded in 1996 and has grown from a small handful of members to nearly 280 members today. Their

members range in age from 4 to 100 which include guitarists, singers, accordionists, wind instrumentalists, bass players, drummers and accordion fans and enthusiasts. MAS holds monthly music events that are always open to the public and always with an interesting line up of featured musicians.

"The key to our success has been building a positive, enthusiastic and visionary membership base along with embracing the right people that want to see the instrument and music benefit our community in positive ways," said Recchia.

The next event for MAS will be held on Tuesday, July 15 and will feature three-time World Champion and White House accordionist Cory Pesaturo from Rhode Island. Cory

is in his 20's and works full time performing all over the globe. He recently performed on the David Letterman show alongside "Bill Carter and the Blame," which also featured actor Johnny Depp on guitar. He works with many of the American Idol finalists and is featured as the main performer at many jazz festivals all over the world.

"Besides being Italian, a great guy and one cool performer, Cory is very interesting to watch and listen to. His versatility is endless ranging from Chick Corea jazz tunes to rap to international music and the best part he is also a member of the MAS," said Recchia.

This year MAS will be a sponsor at the Festa Italiana at Freedom Hill in Sterling Heights, and on Friday, July 18, Cory Pesaturo will open the music entertainment program at this year's festival. For more information on MAS visit [www.michiganaccordion.org](http://www.michiganaccordion.org)



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