

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 to 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.

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 already 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.

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 accordions.

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.

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.

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, while also 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 injuries like brain damage, 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.

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!