

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

# ACCORDION REVIEW



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## *AN EVENING WITH RICHARD NOEL ASA SYDNEY CONCERT*

On Monday 11th January the Accordion Society of Australia (NSW) hosted a special evening featuring the renowned U.S. digital accordionist, Richard Noel. Jan Jurus, on behalf of the ASA, introduced Richard to a large and enthusiastic audience at the All Hallows Church Hall, Five-dock. Some of the audience came from as far afield as Canberra. Richard entertained the audience with his enthralling virtuosity on the Roland FR7x V-Accordion. During his performance, lasting almost an hour, Richard played over 30 well-known songs, including:



*Ashokan Farewell  
Under Paris Skies  
Funiculi, Funicula  
Turkey in the Straw  
Waltzing Matilda  
New York, New York  
Kalinka  
El Choclo  
Czardas  
España Cani  
Don't Get Around Much Anymore  
Sound of Music Medley (Fiddler on the Roof, If I Were a Rich Man)  
Phantom of the Opera  
In the Mood  
Thus Spake Zarathustra  
La Vie en Rose  
That's Amore*



Following Richard's performance, *Accordions Alfresco* added to the enjoyment of the evening by playing several songs, including some from their recently released CD, "Accordions Alfresco - On Air".



At the end of the evening, the president of the Accordion Society of Australia (NSW), Ben Pattinson, thanked Richard on behalf of all present for a memorable performance and presented Richard with a gift to mark his visit to Australia and to the Australian Accordion Society (NSW).



Richard and his wife, Mary, who live in Bakersfield CA, USA, spent about 10 days in Sydney, en route to Melbourne, to spend a further week or so catching up with friends and accordionists and, in between time, watching the Australian Tennis Open.

While in Sydney, Richard and Mary stayed with Willy Stader. Willy (at 97 years young!) is a very keen Roland 3x accordionist. Willy featured in last year's June edition of the Accordion Review.



On his return to the USA, Richard posted a Youtube video, featuring photos he took around Sydney Harbour. The music is "Sunrise, Sunset" from the great musical and movie "Fiddler on the Roof." In the video Richard is playing the song with a Roland FR-7x v accordion using his "Strings" set.

The link to the Youtube video is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=In7C1X-jIAM>

**Richard Noel's Website:** <http://noelaccordion.com/>

Again, we thank Richard for giving his time so generously to play for the Accordion Society of Australia (NSW) and wish him and his wife, Mary, the very best for the future.

*Regards,*

*Jan Jurus*

### ***ABOUT RICHARD NOEL***

*Most of us need more than a lifetime to leave a significant mark in our chosen field of endeavour. Well, Richard Noel has and continues to leave his own mark in a number of diverse areas.*

### ***In Music:***

- *He started playing the accordion at the age of 9 at the urgings of his mother;*
- *He is the winner of numerous State accordion contests in Oregon & Washington;*
- *He was successful in the US National Titles in New York in solo, duet, quintet, and orchestra divisions;*
- *He has 20 years of playing experience in dance and combo bands;*
- *He has been a soloist for 10+ years, playing in community events and functions, restaurants, and concerts;*
- *He is an active supporter and consultant for the worldwide Roland v-accordion community, and an active participant in internet forums;*
- *He continues to be involved in the development of popular programming for all v accordion models;*
- *He is a strong advocate and expert exponent of the “customised linked pre-set system” of programming v accordions;*
- *His Youtube channel, which is entirely dedicated to the digital accordion, has nearly 3 million views.*

### ***In Education/Teaching:***

*He has a BA Degree, University of Portland*

*He has both MA and PhD Degrees, University of Colorado*

*He is a former Professor of Psychology, California State*

*University, Bakersfield (now Emeritus Professor) with 30 years of teaching behind him.*

### ***In the Sport of Tennis:***

*(One of Richard's lifelong passions and one of the reasons for his trip to Australia was to see the 2016 Australian Open).*

- *He won a tennis scholarship to the University of Portland.*
- *He was a men's tennis coach, California State University, Bakersfield.*
- *He was a weekly tennis writer for the Bakersfield Californian.*

## *Richard visits Melbourne - Music Junction*



Local accordionist Gary Lechte together with Palmi Snorrason organised for Richard to visit Music Junction on January 19th, during his Australian trip. I and many other accordion followers were privileged to listen to and watch Richard Noel from the USA play and demonstrate the Roland FR-7X virtual accordion. Richard had his first lessons from Charles Magnante, and went off in his teen years to win various competitions. On retirement, he resumed his interest in accordion playing and found the Roland digital accordion most interesting in that it had the ability to emulate orchestral instruments, was programmable, and could record within. He set about becoming a demonstrator and has written programs that can be loaded into the memory of the instrument that can bring into play treble and bass sounds he finds appropriate to any style of music or individual piece of music which can be recalled when playing. This instrument has lifted the accordion to another level, and will widen the appeal to people who previously disliked the instrument. On show that night were four models, the FR-1x, FR-3x, FR-7x and the FR-8x, Richard played the older model FR-7x which has 14 'voices' standard, but can produce over 30 sounds of other orchestral instruments. Included is a battery which can play for eight hours, without additional amplification or can be plugged into an amplifier if extra volume is needed. Richard produces accompaniments and instrument selection for many styles of music playing from classical to modern jazz and folk and sells them from his web site.

*Lee Puccini*