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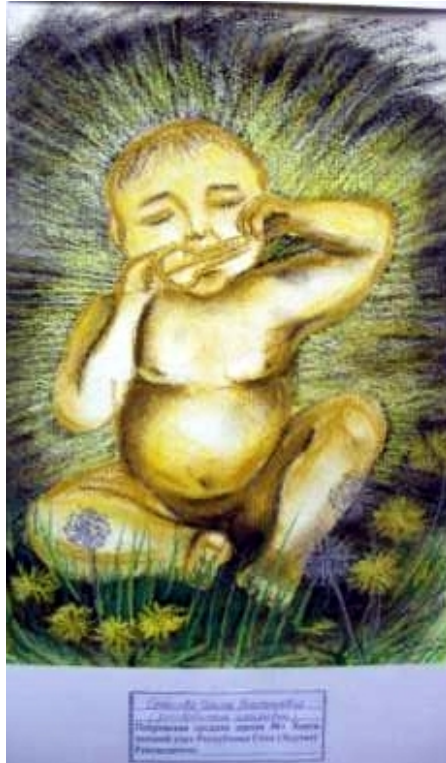


Photo from Spiridon Schischigin - *THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE AND THE KHOMUS (TRUMP) MUSEUM OF THE WORLD PEOPLES* Painting: see <http://www.ilkhomus.ru/>

## Jew's Harp International

This issue contains an abundance of news, photos and articles contributed by Jew's Harp enthusiasts from around the world. While many of the words I received got lost in translation, the music, art, spirit and love of this wonderful instrument, and the folks that hold it dear, did not. Our numbers may be small relative to other genre but our passion is great.

As the festival season approaches, I urge you to play ambassador for our interest; share with others our sites and newsletters, CDs and YouTube videos... and our passion.

I wish to thank Walter Maioli, Spiridon Shishigin, Bernhard Folkestad, Michael Wright and many others for their contributions to this and other newsletters.

Have fun this summer and keep on harpin'!

Mark D. Poss - editor / webmaster - The Jew's Harp Guild



**Norsk Jew's Harp Festival 2009**

**will be 18th – 20th Sept. in Gjøvik**

[http://www.munnharpe.no/  
Norsk\\_Munnharpeforum\\_eng.html](http://www.munnharpe.no/Norsk_Munnharpeforum_eng.html)



**2009 North American  
Jew's Harp Festival  
July 31 to August 2  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
Bay City, Oregon**

[www.jewsharpguild.org/festindx.html](http://www.jewsharpguild.org/festindx.html)

# A Word From the Executive Director

## Guild News

### Hello Harpers!

I hope this finds each of you enjoying a wonderful spring time and that you continue to send your vibrational "twangs" throughout the universe!

Plans are just starting to "sprout" for the 17th annual North America Jew's Harp Festival to be held again at the Bay City Arts Center in Bay City, Oregon on July 31 and August 1. Check the Guild's website ([www.jewsharpguild.org](http://www.jewsharpguild.org)) for the latest updates on festival information.

Denise Harrington recently emailed and said, "The Art Center received a grant for a new sound system and Jim [her husband] went to Portland and bought it. BOSE, top of the line! Great with the acoustics..." We're very grateful to have such talented associates and to be able to work with an organization that keeps improving its amenities. It's likely the sound system this year will be the best ever! Thank you!

Another recent email was from Michael Wright (England), General Secretary of the International Jew's Harp Society. Fred Crane will be stepping down as Journal Editor, they are working to find a replacement Editor. Future newsletter articles will include: copyright, the Balinese gong-gong, a re-visit of John Wright's 1970's article on Organology, the Jew's harp in the Law, the Crozier of William of Wykeham, at least one article on the Qua-Zulu Natal players,

hopefully an article on the morchang tradition in Rajasthan and one on recent Argentinean research, plus the long-awaited final part of Fred Crane's catalogue. Other ideas are in the pipeline and they hope to bring them to the fore, if not in the next issue, then by the time the IJHS meets in Hungary in 2010. They are also working on a newsletter and getting their website up and running.

If you're interested in membership or submitting an article to the newsletter, contact Michael at [michael.wright@wiley.com](mailto:michael.wright@wiley.com)

I'd like to thank all our current members who renewed their 2009 membership ... and especially thank the many of you who have chosen to "go green" with an electronic subscription to "Pluck 'n' Post". In these troubled environmental and financial times, each and every conscious effort to conserve helps tremendously ... not only to insure the Guild's website and newsletter will continue ... but also to honor and preserve Mother Earth and all her inhabitants.

I'm continually amazed at all the cool Jew's Harp related videos there are on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com). It's interesting to find many of our international JH friends there and to see what new things they are doing with the Jew's harp. I especially enjoyed the clips from last year's NAJHF and I'm very grateful to the folks who took the time to post them there.

Until next time ... keep twangin' !!  
Janet Gohring  
Executive Directory

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."  
Gandhi

## 2009 Jew's Harp Guild Officers:

Janet Gohring, Executive Director  
Ingrid Berkhout, Board Member at Large,  
Coordinator NAJHF Collective Committee  
Ralph Christensen, Board Member at Large

### Welcome to our newest Guild Members: Grass Roots Membership:

Gary Nunokawa Washington State  
Hank Plow Arizona  
Robert MacPherson Pennsylvania  
Jim Kielma Canada  
Scott Bowker Illinois

### Supporting Membership:

Walter Maioli (Sound Center "Synaulia in Stabiae, International Laboratory, Sounds Music and Dances from Roman antiquity) Naples, Italy; Ralph Christensen, California (Ralph is not a new member but many thanks to him for becoming our very first "Supporting Member".)

Top Twanger - Cliff Hunt Arizona

## PLUCK - N - POST

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[newsletter@jewsharpguild.org](mailto:newsletter@jewsharpguild.org)

Janet Gohring - Executive Director  
Mark D. Poss - Editor, Pluck-N-Post & Webmaster  
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2009 - Italy

scacciapensieri = mafia

Notes From Italy



Il presidente della Repubblica Napolitano scacciapensieri.....

on the first page

Indissolubly in Italy in the collective imaginary the Jew's Harp symbolizes the mafia. Here it's on the first page of the 2009 as soon as they speak of mafia, and not only also the "silence" it's mafioso.



"Il silenzio è mafioso"

Italian

ROMA 29 - 1 2009 - Parole dure contro il presidente della Repubblica a una manifestazione dell'Italia dei Valori. Antonio Di Pietro ha accusato Napolitano di non essere un "arbitro imparziale" e di tacere su alcuni temi come la giustizia e il Lodo Alfano. Le critiche hanno provocato subito la reazione del mondo politico. Da Montecitorio è stata espressa solidarietà al presidente e anche il Quirinale ha replicato giudicando "offensivo" contestare presunti "silenzi".

English translation

ROME 29 - 1 2009 - Hard words against the president of the Republic to a manifestation of the values of Italy. Antonio Di Peter has accused Napolitano not to be a " impartial arbitrator" and tacere [sic] on some topics like the justice and Lodo Alfano. The critics have quickly provoked the reaction of the political world. From Montecitorio it has been expressed solidarity to the president and also the Quirinale has replied judging "offensivo" to presumed contest " silenzi".

Walter Maioli appears among the 199 Jew's harp Specialists of the World (Antropodium Mouth Harp Pages) He has "traditionally" played the Mouth Harp since he was a boy He employed it with the group Aktuala, by him founded, recording in 1974 the LP "The Earth". In 1998 plays the Jew's harp with the Siberian singer of Tuva, Sainko, in the CD "Naked Spirit". From more than 20 years he shares friendship of the Dutch Phons Bakx, become an authority in the knowledge and in the relaunch of the Mouth harp. Walter experiments the instrument in the minimal music and the sound therapy.

Born in Milan in 1950, artist, researcher, paleorganologist, composer and prehistoric futurist flutist and multi-instrumentist, specialist in the Sounds of Nature - Experimental archaeology and Music - Archaic sonorous cultures - Archaeo acoustic and Ancient sonorous landscapes - Nature's electronic explorations and rediscovery of the psychoacoustic powers of the archetypal sounds. Acoustic plannings between nature and technology.Precursor - innovator, from more than thirty five years applies his researches on the sounds and the origins of the musical instruments & the music in the spectacle, in the tourism, in the didactics and in the sound therapy, realizing concerts, lectures, seminars, laboratories, expositions, Artworks, installations, CD's, books, sounds and music's for the theater, video and film. Precursor of the music of the Mediterranean and the World Music.

He has developed hundreds of concerts with the "Sounds of Prehistory" and with the group Synaulia, founded by him, presenting the musical instruments of the classical antiquity.

Author of various publications, among which: Walter Maioli, "The Origins: The Sound and the Music" - Jaca Book, Milan 91.

Contributed by Walter Maioli



Club l'Angolo dello Scacciapensieri

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The Mouth harp corner - Walter Maioli & Il Centro del Suono www.soundcenter.it

Inscribed to the  
INTERNATIONAL JEW'S HARP SOCIETY  
& the THE JEW'S HARP GUILD

**N. 1**

## The first results of *The Mouth Harp Corner*

February 10 th 2009

They are gathered Walter Maioli, Luce Maioli, Ivan Gibellini, Katello and Nino Galasso, that together with Nathalie van Ravenstein are the basic components of the **L'Angolo dello Scacciapensieri**. Audio recordings and photos are taken.

### Musicians

**Katello** aka **Catello Gargiulo**, 24 years, born in Casola, Naples, musician, besides playing the tromma (the gypsies' trumpet as it's called the mouth harp in the province of Campagna) of which is a capable continuator of the traditions, he plays the organetto, the tammorra (frame drum), the castanetes and sings.

**Nino Galasso**, 30 years, born in Castellammare di Stabia, Naples, instrumentalist, plays the tammorra, the tromma, the castanetes and sings. Builder and restorer, studious of the popular traditions of the Gulf in Naples. Researcher, among which of the elderly ones, depositaries of the ancient practices. Promoter of courses, for the search of young talents, and of demonstrations to revalue and keep alive "the festivities of once".

**Recordings** Ivan Gibellini  
**Photos** Luce Maioli  
**Coordination** Walter Maioli



*The red for the fortune and the fertility The threads are a visualization of the sounds, a synesthetic research For the tradition the ribbons and colored tassels give a magic protection against the hex.*



*"A tromma portafortuna" contro il malocchio "The lucky charm mouth harp" against the hex.  
By Domenico Bevilacqua*

Two snakes have twisted, it sprouts out a horn and a heart, and three bells tinkle as soon as you touch it. It's the wonder of a mouth harp and together with it Katello that knows how to give "the touch" and to activate it in the correct way, to give it the full voice and make it vibrate to the rhythm of the tarantela.

L' original instrument is realized by Domenico Bevilacqua, one of the last custodians of the tradition of builders of *tromma*, job typical of the gypsies. Domenico tells when with his father and 8 brothers they realized them for the festivities of country, in an angle to them assigned, a forge to produce mouth harps, even custom designed. Now to realize a furnace in the middle of the road is decidedly forbidden, only during the rare demonstrations of experimental archaeology these things are seen (as we do for experimental archaeology on the Etruscans & Romans with Angel Bartoli of Antiquitates).



*"A tromma" The neapolitan gypsies mouth harp by Domenico Bevilacqua, one of the last rare builders*

Continued



*Katello & Nino Galasso, in the shoulders the Vesuvius, on the terrace of the Campus RAS - Restoring Ancient Stabiae Foundation, Vesuvian International Institute for Archaeology and Humanities in Castellammare di Stabia in the Gulf of Naples. that houses of L'Angolo dello Scacciapensieri.*

Katello doesn't know Michael Wright and Tran Quang, he doesn't also know about the Yakutia, of the Papua and of the Ainu. He has felt, vaguely, that exist various mouth harps and that they play it quiet around the world, but he has not yet seen well YouTube, he is totally absorbed by the popular music, that here is daily matter, with festivities and recurrences, marriages and celebrations.

Therefore, Katello, represents one of the last authentic carriers of the traditions, more on the threshing floor with the farmers and the village feasts, than in front of a computer and in the discos. Result: when he plays the tarantella with the mouth harp he puts you the quicksilver in the body, that something that is on the pentagram and that all of us mouth harp players of the world we can try to imitate, but for the magic that is "the music" it will never be the tarantella of the Gulf that Katello knows how to reveal.

With YouTube, but also with Myspace, concrete symbols of the net, we have definitely entered in the global village, where quietly in own house the turn of the world can be made, seeing the most disparate things and meeting friends with which to speak beyond every filter.

All of this is bringing to a fast cultural transformation. For what regards the music, they are born some problematic, because it's without a distinction of categories: musicians professionals, semiprofessional, amatory etc. everything gets mixed up, therefore it happens that great and valid musicians are submerged and surrounded by dozens of "thoughtless" videos and pages, and nothing has a reference anymore, neither cultural, or historic...nothing, only... a trash of video.

For the traditional music, from oral transmission and above all pre-oral, we have reached the terminal, an epoch is closed, that of the involuntary stylistic contamination among people, ethnics and traditions, definitely started on wide scale in the years 30 of last century with the beginning of the radio transmissions and of the massive diffusion of the recorded music.

Therefore, It will be more and more difficult to find, a Katello, a musician that still plays a "corner" instrument as the mouth harp, in a way stylistically not contaminated, performing his own musical traditions without having received external influences.

And it's for this reason that in this historical phase, it is important to discover, to safe-guard, to encourage, to transmit, to know how to introduce and to put in the global village in appropriate way this extraordinary cultural patrimony that the mouth harp constitutes, in all of its aspects, from the tradition to the experimental music, from the professionals to the impassioned ones and why not, also the "thoughtless", provided that they doesn't invade completely the field.

*by Walter Maioli & Il Centro del Suono ©*

***Club l'Angolo dello Scacciapensieri ©***

***Club The Mouth Harp Corner ©***

*at the laboratory Synaulia in Stabiae in the RAS Campus at Castellammare di Stabia*

[www.soundcenter.it](http://www.soundcenter.it)



Continued

***With YouTube... a world that ends... But does it begin another one? Which?***

**UNDERGROUND SESSIONS**  
**1 through 4**  
**Jew's Harp Trio Aubergine**  
 reviewed by M. D. Poss

IBAN - NL36 RABO 0335 0806 69

Every so often someone undertakes a project that is audacious in both concept and execution. This is the case with "The Underground Sessions" by the Jew's Harp Trio Aubergine.

Their promotional material explains: "The Underground Sessions obtains [sic] to be the largest project on recording of the Jew's harp that is ever realized in the history of this instrument. 21 musical sessions were organized in the subterranean room of a former bread bakery in Holland. In the period of the four seasons of 2008, the Jew's harp Trio Aubergine has performed (and recorded) 301 improvisations, integrally developed into 17 hours, 14 minutes and 14 seconds of an own kind (three-voiced) Jew's harp music."

"But only the top results would be released in the series of four audio-CD's in a red, green, blue and yellow-ochre design. The main part of the sessions is dedicated to the three-voiced sound play on the Jew's harp, quite an unfamiliar ground in respect to its ancient traditions. In principle each player of the trio used the number of 13 Jew's harps that is assorted in a chromatic tone scale of one octave (from C to c)."

The Jew's Harp Trio Aubergine are: Janus Filiu, Phons Bakx, and Izz van Elk, all well known 'harpers from Northern Netherlands and all exceptional players. They used over 60 different 'harps by various makers totaled in the recordings and, to my ear, explored the many qualities of each. A few of the recordings also include other instruments, primarily a drum but the bulk are just three 'harps. The placement of each player in the stereo field is maintained across all the CDs so you can tell consistently who is playing. The recording quality is unsurpassed. Each CD includes copious liner notes.

Being improvisations, each track is something unexpected. They range from whimsical to studied; regional to worldly; somberesque to exuberant. Upon repeated listenings you will find different nuances in each instrument and sometimes unfathomable techniques employed by the players.

My only complaint is that they did not vary the mood inherent within the different keys enough and often hit the same rhythm (beats per minute) as previous tracks. But, if you're like me and wear your personal MP3 player while taking a walk, you'll find yourself tramping along at a brisk pace

**These CDs are an astute study into the infinite musical possibilities to be found in this wonderful instrument. Any and all 'harpers should covet the complete set.**

**Order information:**

1CD: 10 euro

4 CD's: 40 euro

publisher: Foundation Antropodium

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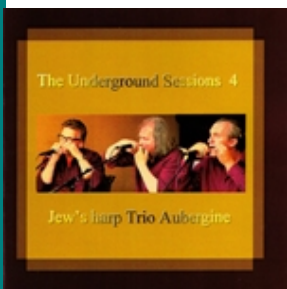
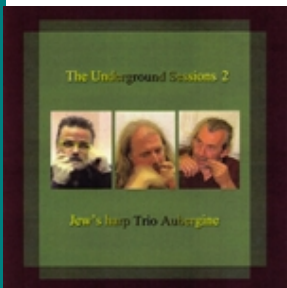
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<http://www.antropodium.nl/Souterrain%20Sessies.htm>



*The Jew's Harp Trio  
Aubergine*

**The 1000 Names of the Jew's Harp**  
**a Nomenclature by**  
**Phons Bakx**  
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## Festival Organizer **Denise Harrington** in her own words

Years ago, I met my Bodhisattva on a trailless mountain pass in the Sierra Nevada Range. In 1993 he called me out of the clear blue and suggested I meet Gordon Frazier. I called Gordon Frazier and was invited to attend the Second Annual North American Jew's Harp Festival, which was called something else at the time. Being at the festival was almost like a reoccurring dream. In each dream with the same fine musicians in attendance, I always left with a handful of beautiful harps from around the world and vibrational tones massaging my brain.

Since 1993, I have attended most of the Jew's Harp festivals, often pregnant or with a newborn. Our two children have grown up with the Jew's Harp and Martin Nelson-Harrington, our son, has a popular You Tube duet with Ingrid Berkhout. Elizabeth always entertains children of all ages at the festival and dances to the inspirational music.

I appreciate the Jew's harp for its meditative qualities, unique and diverse range of sound, small size, and presence in many cultures. The festival is about more than the harp, it is about those friendships I have developed with unique and loving people; people I would have never met if not for that funny little instrument I love so much.

Denise 

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Bulletin Board

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**Steven Stoop**, a Jew's Harp maker from The Netherlands, Now has a new website at: <http://members.tele2.nl/stevenstoop> 


# Join us At The 2009 North American Jew's Harp Festival

## Pictorial Archive

### PHONO HARP

From the Eddie Marchant collection  
Wiltshire, UK



Hi there,I have an interest in Scientific Instruments including Mechanical Music.In my collection I have a Jews Harp which might be of interest to you.It is called a "Phono-Harp" and is 5in long and with a "mouth" of 3.5in diameter.I have its original box which has illustrated labels saying "Made in England", "Patent No 11185/31" and "Brassed and Lacquered".I will send you some photos by email.Regards, Eddie Marchant. 

**July 31 to August 2  
Friday, Saturday,  
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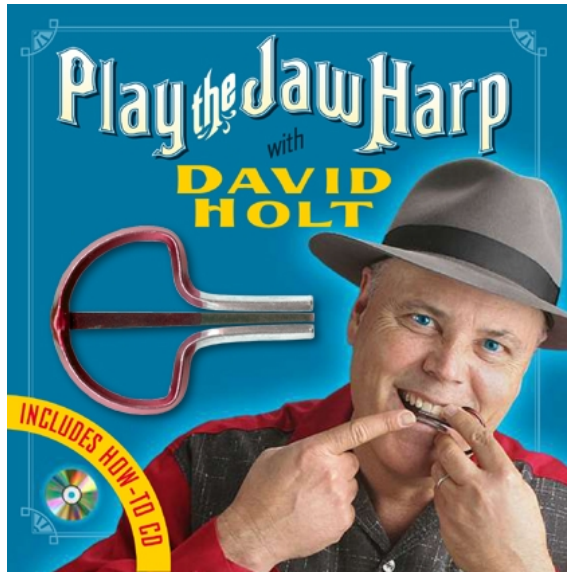
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GUIDE TO THE GUILD

**Email your  
questions,  
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other related  
items to:**

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# Tutorials



## PLAY THE JAW HARP

### With David Holt

For years I have played family concerts of mountain music. I figure I have played for over a million children in live concerts. My goal has been to entertain them with old time music...no easy task in today's hip hop world. With banjo, guitar, steel guitar, harmonica and a variety of instrumental sounds I have learned to captivate most audiences. But even with all this musical variety, young people always seem to enjoy the sound of the Jew's harp the most. There is something in the sound of this humble instrument that speaks to the child in all of us. It speaks to our inner-twang.

We debated whether we should go to the expense and trouble to create new packaging and a CD version of our Jew's harp and instructional cassette tape package. It was going to cost a lot and in this economy it didn't seem like a good time to gamble, but at one of my concerts I once again saw the kids' eyes light up when the Jew's harp started. Clearly, we needed to forge ahead and get this out in CD form. So, here it is.

**Play the Jaw Harp** is a fun and easy way to learn how to play the jaw harp. This step-by-step mini-course by Grammy winner and master jaw harp player David Holt takes you from beginning to advanced levels. You'll learn songs and melodies, how to make cartoon sounds, talk through it to your friends and play catchy, rhythmic tunes.

You'll also hear wonderful music performed by the world's best jaw harp players. Play along with them to perfect your chops.

Included with this CD is a FREE Jubilee jaw harp made for us in Austria. This high-quality instrument is crafted from the finest spring steel, has a bright, pure tone and is easy to play.

Start with step-by-step instructions on how to play the jaw harp. Then listen to this list of musical selections:

Cripple Creek – Fred Whitlow on jaw harp, David Holt on banjo  
 Rabbit in the Pea Patch – Fred Whitlow  
 Arkansas Traveler – Fred Whitlow on jaw harp, David Holt on banjo  
 Double Cripple Creek – Fred Whitlow and David Holt on jaw harp  
 Black Eyed Susie – Fred Whitlow  
 Breaking Up Christmas – Mike Seeger  
 Pap's Billy Goat Gruff – John McCutcheon  
 Turkey in the Straw – David Holt  
 March of the King of Lear - Lindsay Porteous  
 Bavarian Dance – Helmuth & Fritz Mayr  
 Jews Harp Bill – Greene Brothers  
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 Percussive Harp Solo – David Holt

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How To Play The Steel Trump



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Mouth Music Press ( [www.mouthmusic.com](http://www.mouthmusic.com) / [www.jewsharp.com](http://www.jewsharp.com)) has posted a free "low-frills" "How to Play the Steel Trump" tutorial slideshow in several different formats (HTML, OpenOffice.org, MS PowerPoint, and PDF). Check it out at:

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**The Jew's Harp Guild**

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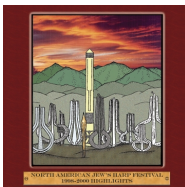
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- Fred Crane, PNP 2003



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