



MILTON COMMUNITY CONCERTS at First Parish
presents

“Record Setter: A
Triumphant Return to Milton
By Jazz Accordionist Cory
Pesaturo”

Assisted by Champion
Fiddler Mari Black

Saturday, December 2, 2017, 7:00pm
First Parish of Milton, 535 Canton Avenue,
Milton, MA

Tonight's program selections will be announced by the performers during the concert.

Cory Pesaturo is a professional accordion player from Cumberland, Rhode Island, who also plays piano, clarinet, and saxophone. He began playing at the age of nine, and in 2002 became the youngest person to win the National Accordion Championship. Most recently he won the 2011 Primus Ikaalinen World Championship as the first American contestant. In addition, he won the Coupe Mondiale World Digital Accordion Championship in Auckland, New Zealand, becoming the first American to win a world accordion title since Peter Soave 25 years earlier. In June 2009 he won the Leavenworth International Championship and the International Jazz Championship. Pesaturo performed on five different continents during 2009. Cory is one of only four accordionists in history to win a world championship on both acoustic and electronic accordion, and is the only person to **also** win a world championship in jazz. This past August in Graz, Austria, he set an official Guinness World Record for continuous accordion playing for 32 hours, 14 minutes!

As a student of accordion at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, he studied contemporary improvisation and a variety of music styles including Italian and French folk music, Bulgarian and Jewish music, classical music, and jazz. He became the second person to major in, and graduate as, an accordionist at the New England Conservatory.

Pesaturo performs live, playing the accordion, piano, clarinet and saxophone. His past performances have included filling in at the age of 12 for an ill Myron Floren, the accordionist on *The Lawrence Welk Show*, performing on four occasions at the White House, and playing at six other public events and private functions for President Bill and Hillary Clinton. In 1999 he played at a State Dinner held for the President of Hungary. Cory has performed with different symphony orchestras around the country, including the Brockton Symphony Orchestra in 2003.

Cory's music has been played for various Formula 1 races on SPEED TV, on NBC Sports starting in 2007, on the Velocity program "Chasing Classic Cars", and also at various Concours around the US, such as the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. He has combined his interest in statistics and sports with his appearance on the "100 Year Anniversary of Fenway Park" album in 2012 with current and past Red Sox players and journalists.

Multi style violinist and champion fiddler **Mari Black** is rapidly building a reputation as one of the most dynamic young artists of her generation. Her energetic playing, engaging stage presence, and commitment to bringing people together through music have made her a favorite with audiences across the country and around the world. Equally at home in a wide variety of musical traditions, Mari is the 2015/2013 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, 2014 Glenfiddich Scottish Fiddle Champion, 2014/2012 Canadian Maritime Fiddle Champion, 2011 Canadian Novelty Fiddle Champion, 1st Prize Winner at the 2010 American Protégé International String Competition, and 2-time laureate at the American String Teachers' Association Alternative Styles Awards. On stage, she creates shows that draw on elements from many different styles including jazz, tango, folk, Western classical, as well as Celtic, American, and Canadian fiddling. Her performances take listeners on a musical journey exploring the diversity and celebrating commonalities in the dance-driven folk music of the world.

An internationally recognized performer, Mari can be seen playing in all corners of the musical world. She has been featured at Scottish Highland Games, Celtic festivals, celebrated folk venues, jazz concert series, Argentine tango festivals, and world famous classical concert venues including Carnegie Hall. Mari has appeared with such diverse artists as Irish fiddle champion Liz Carroll, Americana master Mark O'Connor, and jazzman Willie Ruff. Her music has been heard on the BBC Radio Scotland's "Take the Floor", Fox and CBS morning news, NPR's "Here and Now", WGBH Radio's "A Celtic Sojourn", and on dozens of other Celtic and folk radio shows across the country. Mari has been a featured performer at the Blackstone River Theater's Solstice Fest in Rhode Island, the Austin Celtic Festival in Texas, the Saltwater Celtic Festival in Maine, the Yachats Celtic Festival in Oregon, the Boston Celtic Music Festival, the Fire in the Kitchen concert series in Connecticut, the Sam Hinton Folk Festival and the San Diego Folk Heritage Society in southern California, Brian O'Donovan's "Burren Backroom" series in Boston, and a sold-out northeast tour with New England Celtic Arts.

Dedicated to education, Mari presents frequent outreach concerts and workshops at schools, conferences, festivals, fiddle camps, and universities. She has taught at the renowned Jink and Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling and the Mark O'Connor fiddle camp, among others. Guest workshops include sessions at the Yale School of Music, Boston University School of Fine Arts, "Make Music Day" San Diego, New York City's School for Strings, and the American String Teachers' Association national conference. Recently, Mari served as Professor of Music at Bunker Hill Community College and currently coaches privately in her hometown of Boston.

Upcoming Milton Community Concerts:

--Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 7pm -- (Snow date, Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 7pm) 4th Annual "**Sing For Their Supper**", featuring ten local opera singers in this free benefit concert, with all proceeds from a free-will offering going to support the Milton Food Pantry and the Milton Residents Fund.

--Sunday, March 18th, 2018 at 3pm -- "**A Glimpse into the Future**", a rare opportunity outside of Boston to hear this talented group of future opera stars in an entertaining program of scenes and arias, featuring graduate students from the New England Conservatory Opera.

--Sunday, May 13th at 3pm -- "**Women's Voices: A Rally for Rosie's**", celebrating Mother's Day in this free benefit concert, with all proceeds from a free-will offering going to support Rosie's Place, a women's shelter in Boston. Performers include members of Dance Complex in Cambridge, MA and soprano Jennifer Sgroe.

MCC Producer: Timothy Steele

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For more information about the Milton Community Concerts Series join our email list, like us on Facebook, or visit www.miltoncommunityconcerts.com.