



# THE COSMIC ACCORDION

## E-BOOK

Dr. William Schimmel







**SOME OBSERVATIONS  
I HOPE THEY'RE HUMOROUS**

PLAYED A CONCERT IN PHILADELPHIA  
THE BERIO SEQUENZA FOR ACCORDION  
I WAS PUT UP FOR THE NIGHT  
IN SOCIETY HILL  
IN A TOWNHOUSE  
OWNED BY A POLISH WOMAN  
FROM PORT RICHMOND  
A WORKING CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD  
BACK WHEN I KNEW IT  
AFTER THE CONCERT SHE SERVED ME  
PINEAPPLE AND PRETZELS  
SHE THREW IT ON A PLATE  
AND SLID IT OVER TO ME  
I MARRIED WELL, SHE SAID  
AND STARTED A CONVERSATION  
ABOUT PARTIES, POLKAS AND PIROGIES  
I SMELLED THE PLATE AND REALIZED  
THAT IT HADN'T BEEN WASHED  
THE NEXT MORNING THE REVIEW STATED  
THAT I PLAYED WITH SUCH RICHNESS  
ONE DESIRED REPEATED PERFORMANCES  
(paraphrase)

SHE STARTED SERVING ME REPEATED CUPS OF COFFEE  
AND THE MUFFINS WERE PLENTIFUL AND WARM  
CHOFF CHOFF - THE SOUND OF MUFFINS BEING EATEN  
THIS WAS NOT AN ACCORDION ISSUE  
BELIEVE IT OR NOT  
IT WAS A CLASS ISSUE  
THE REASON WHY I LEFT PHILLY  
I FOUGHT MY WAY OUT OF THE HOOD  
THROUGH BRAWN AND ZEN  
AND BEFRIENDING THE UKRAINIAN KIDS  
WHEN I WAS BULLIED  
I LIVE IN YORKVILLE  
I DIDN'T LEAVE THE HOOD  
I JUST FOUND A BETTER ONE  
PORT RICHMOND IN PHILLY IS NOW HIPSTER  
MUCH LIKE GREENPOINT HERE  
YORKVILLE ISN'T  
AND PROBABLY NEVER WILL BE  
NO PINEAPPLE AND PRETZELS  
IT USED TO BE ALL GERMAN  
MORE THAN GERMANY  
IT NOW SEEMS  
TOTALLY WITHOUT KARMA  
BUT RECENTLY  
MY STUDENT DENISE BROUGHT ME SOME  
SOFT PRETZELS - MADE IN BROOKLYN  
AND YES - TOTALLY PHILLY  
AND MY WIFE, MICKI AND I  
MAKE OUR OWN HOAGIES  
AND CHEESE STEAKS MADE WITH  
VEGETARIAN MEAT  
YES  
I'M STILL IN THE HOOD  
BUT  
IF I HAVE TO STAY INSIDE  
AND AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
WHAT A HOOD IT IS!





OK THE WAY IT IS

SOMETIMES THERE ARE THINGS THAT NEED NO IMPROVEMENT.

A CLASSIC TANGO

A SHUBERT SONG

A BEATLE TUNE

A BASIC SCREW DRIVER

A JAZZ SOLO

A DIET COKE

AN ACCORDION

A BASIC ONE

ONE THAT DOES THE JOB

AND

ONE THAT SEEMS TO MUTATE WELL

IN OTHER COUNTRIES

ARE THE SUPER MODELS BETTER

PROBABLY

ARE THE OTHER ONES GOOD ENOUGH

PROBABLY

THE ORIGINAL GOAL OF THE AAA

WAS TO AVOID CHAOS

ACCORDING TO PIETRO DEIRO JR

AT ONE OF MY SEMINARS

I FEEL THAT

MY ROLE WAS TO PROVIDE CHAOS

CHAOS HAS ITS RICHNESS

IT HAS ENERGY

IT CAN BE LIVELY

IT CAN BE PUTRID

IT CAN BE FUN

IT'S ALWAYS IN PERMANENT TRANSITION

AND SO IS THE ACCORDION

DO WE NEED TO MAKE IT BETTER?

WE HAVE THE ARTISTS

AND

THEY WILL HAPPEN WHEN THEY HAPPEN

OR THEY ALREADY HAVE AND WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM

OR

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD OF

SEEING WHAT'S IN FRONT OF US

IN ANY CASE

THERE IS A CULTURE

MINE IS CHAOS

DIVERSITY

OTHERS ARE

ORDER

SINGULARITY

OTHERS ARE IN BETWEEN

SOME ARE AMERICAN

SOME NOT

NO ONE IS INFERIOR

JUST DIFFERENT

WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS ESSAY

LEAVE THE ACCORDION ALONE

IF ANYTHING HAS TO IMPROVE

IT'S NOT THE ACCORDION

IT'S THE ART

IMPROVE THE ART

MAKE IT BETTER

REMEMBER

BACH SOUNDS GREAT ON A KAZOO

I HEARD A MELODICA QUARTET PLAY THE RITE OF SPRING

MY 12 BASS 1930 HOHNER STILL GETS A WORKOUT

IT LOVES GERSHWIN

THE EXPRESSION

THAT SOME LISTENERS SAY:

I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT THE ACCORDION CAN DO

IS TRICKY

IT'S A COMPLIMENT

AND ALSO A PATRONIZING REMARK

NOT UNLIKE

I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT YOUR PARROT CAN WHISTLE

THE ENTIRE WAGNER RING CYCLE

improve the art

NOT THAT IT'S BAD NOW

improve the art

FOR THE SAKE OF IT

sometimes we move forward

sometimes in reverse

sometimes both

sometimes sideways

IN ANY CASE





## IN THE STEW

WHEN I WAS ABOUT 12  
I WAS RIDING HOME FROM SOMEWHERE  
IN OUR CAR WITH MY PARENTS  
AND MY COUSIN SPANKIE  
HE WAS ABOUT 7

IN FRONT OF US  
WAS A CAR WITH A DEER  
ON TOP - TIED TO THE CAR  
DEAD OF COURSE  
FROM A HUNTING TRIP  
MY COUSIN GETS QUITE UPSET  
MY MOTHER COMFORTS HIM  
HE'S ONLY SLEEPING, SHE SAID  
TOMORROW HE'LL BE IN THE ZOO  
AND  
I SAY  
TOMORROW HE'LL BE IN THE STEW  
EVERY ONE FREAKED OUT  
AND I OF COURSE WAS THE BAD KID  
AND I WAS  
AT THAT MOMENT

ANOTHER MOMENT

I SHOWED MY COUSIN  
A DOLL THAT BELONG TO ALEEN  
MY OTHER COUSIN  
I LIFTED UP HER DRESS  
AND SHOWED HER BARE BUNS - THE DOLL THAT IS  
SPANKIE WENT CRAZY AND SHOWED THE DOLL TO EVERYONE  
AT A FAMILY GATHERING  
IN THE SAME MANNER  
HE THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY  
AND IT WAS  
MY MOM AND RELATIVES DID NOT  
EXCEPT FOR MY GRANDMOTHER  
WHO HAD A TWINKLE IN HER EYES  
AND GAVE MY TWO PIECES OF  
PROVOLONE CHEESE  
AND YOU KNOW THE REST

IT CAME CAME BACK TO BITE ME YEARS LATER  
IN MY BARE ASS  
AND NOW I BITE THE PROVOLONE  
AND  
I AM NOW A WORKING MAN  
PROVOLONE IS THE WORKING MAN'S CHEESE  
AND IT WAS MY GRANDMOTHER

WHO HELPED MY PARENTS OUT  
WHEN THEY BOUGHT ME MY NEW EXCELSIOR  
BACK IN 1959

MY ACTIONS SENTENCED ME TO WHAT I DO TODAY  
THEY SENT ME TO PRISON  
WITH GOLDEN RUBBER BARS  
RUBBER RUBBER RUBBER RUBBER RUBBER RUBBER RUBBER RUBBER BARS  
AND MY HUMAN ACTIONS  
IN A RUBBER SORT OF WAY  
ALLOW ME TO BOUNCE BACK TO YOU  
AS A COMPOSER  
AS A PERFORMER  
AS A TEACHER  
AS A PRACTITIONER OF MUSICAL REALITY  
AS A CURATOR  
AND  
AS A HUMAN BEING  
COMPLETE WITH FLAWS





cosmic meditations - book 1 - 1973 - revised 2020

GIVE YOURSELF AN ENEMA  
CLEAN YOURSELF OUT COMPLETELY  
THEN REPENT

2

VISIT A CHURCH LATE AT NIGHT  
LIE DOWN ON A PEW AND LISTEN  
FOR THE ORGAN TO PLAY  
IT MANY STARTLE YOU A BIT  
BUT EVENTUALLY YOU’LL GET  
USED TO IT

3

PURCHASE A PACKAGE OF PROPHYLACTICS  
AND DESTROY THEM

4

PURCHASE A PACKAGE OF PROPHYLACTICS  
AND DESTROY THEM  
NOT BIRTH CONTROL  
SELF CONTROL

5

PURCHASE A PACKAGE OF PROPHYLACTICS  
AND DESTROY THEM  
NOT BIRTH CONTROL  
SELF CONTROL  
SELF RESPECT

6

WATCH AN OLD MAN WALK DOWN THE STREET  
WITH HIS DOG  
HIS DOG IS HIS ONLY FRIEND

DR SCHIMMEL’S ACCORDION NEWSLETTER # 603  
cosmic meditations - book 1 - 1973 - revised 2020

(PREDATES THE FILM: HARRY AND TONTO)

7

WATCH AN OLD DOG WALK DOWN THE STREET  
WITH HIS MASTER  
HIS ONLY FRIEND

8

LISTEN TO A LAWRENCE WELK ALBUM  
IMAGINE WHAT IT’S LIKE TO BE  
FROM NORTH DAKOTA

9

PLAY ANY PIECE IN G MAJOR  
AS WELL AS POSSIBLE

10

LISTEN TO A LAWRENCE WELK ALBUM  
IMAGINE WHAT IT’S LIKE TO BE  
LAWRENCE WELK

11

LISTEN TO A CONTINUOS MEDLEY  
OF POLKAS FOR ONE FULL DAY  
NO STOPPING

12

COOK SOME PASTA IN A NICE GREY POT  
LET I SIT FOR DAYS TILL IT GETS GOOD AND HARD  
NOW TRY TO EAT IT

13

WHAT GOES WELL WITH BANANA?  
CHIMP

14

cosmic meditations - book 1 - 1973 - revised 2020  
WHAT GOES GOOD WITH MEATBALLS?  
SPEGHETTI

15

WHAT GOES GOOD WITH EGGS?  
EGGIES

16

WHAT GOES GOOD WITH BACON?  
EGGIES







It's time for 2020

Many of my colleagues – some friends, some not – seem to deliver all of the wonderful things that they will do for 2020, and what they have done in 2019: The insurmountable commissions, the globetrotting, performances, honors, etc. – with the absolute assurance that their lives are better than mine or yours. Existentially, they're not – of course they're not.

I see many a Facebook page of grinning artists and composers eating – oysters, caviar, some of them gloating and saying: "Life is good". And, by the way, my life is good – of course it is.

But no photos of caviar, champagne, stuffing my face or sloshing down booze and getting fat – in the head.

Does that make me better than you? Not really. But it sends a message. What is it?

Not humility or false modesty

Not judging anyone's choices

Not envy – why would anyone envy all that?

The Message is:

Don't become the very thing you hate

or the person that we all despise

who deserves to be hated

Don't allow a plate of oysters to resemble a plate of big macs

Don't allow a case of champagne to resemble a case of diet coke

Don't allow a fat head to resemble a fat head

and last of all

Show some compassion – for those who are suffering



EXHAUST

when I was about 17  
a family moved in next door to us  
9 people in a row house built for 3  
Mother - Father - Grandfather -  
Sister - new husband - two sons  
young daughter and a baby

they had four cars - old ones  
lined up on the street  
making it difficult for many  
of the neighbors to park their cars

the two sons used to complain about  
me and my practicing  
they were close to my age  
i don't think they went to school  
it was that kind of family  
they would say:  
all he does is qweqw43r  
asdasdsfwrew  
wervergfgrfg  
all day on his cordeen  
he doesn't go out with girls  
he just goes  
wa waw wa wa w a w waa  
on his cordeen

the baby looked like a puppet  
and the neighbors next door  
from the other side  
would get quite disturbed  
because they couldn't  
park their car next to  
their house  
finally when they got a parking space  
the man starting pumping the exhaust pipe  
to the direction of family who were  
hanging out on the front steps  
carbon monoxide  
the grandfather said  
WE HAVE A BABY HERE!  
the neighbor said  
baby - eh.....  
and the grandfather  
chased him down the street  
screaming  
BLAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

They also had a german shepherd dog  
who turned out to be an attack dog  
they finally had to take hime away muzzled  
the mother cried and cried as the ASPCA  
marched him out of the house with his head hung low  
I think they gassed him

I left the neighborhood to go to Juilliard  
but when i visited my folks  
the baby had grown up a bit  
he was walking and talking  
when he misbehaved outside  
the grandfather would  
whack him on the head  
we should have called the police  
they wouldn't have come then  
everybody knew it  
and looked the other way  
the kid began to look punch drunk  
i hope he's okay today

what the accordion story here  
in the midst of all of this :

i found myself  
practicing saint saens  
introduction and rondo capriccioso  
till i got it right  
with all of the disturbing stuff  
around me  
we can do the same today  
the situation isn't the same  
but the intent to continue on is

today we can look out for our neighbors  
in a way that we didn't way back in my younger years  
what's happening today has made us a more enlightened society  
we can choose to care for people

our president is much like the people next door  
brutal, selfish, combative with one difference  
they were poor  
but poor with ironically a lot of possessions  
the president is poor in his soul  
with a lot of possessions

let us as accordionists make great art  
in our isolation  
and send it out

it will and already has made a difference  
as John Foti, one of my former students stated recently  
"Home is where the Art is"  
and  
HEART



ON PIAZZOLLA AND KITSCH

SOME PEOPLE THINK A PIAZZOLLA IS A TANGO  
OK  
TOM WAITS THINKS I AM AN ACCORDION  
OK  
PIAZZOLLA WAS A COMPOSER OF TANGOS  
THE MODERN TANGO  
I PLAY THE ACCORDION  
THE CLASSIC OLDER TANGOS WERE NOT BY PIAZZOLLA  
HE ACTUALLY DIDN'T LIKE THEM  
AND ENCOURAGED YOUNGER PEOPLE TO IGNORE THEM

YES HE WAS GREAT

BUT SOMETIMES

I FELT LIKE HE MAY HAVE HAD ONE TOO MANY LESSONS WITH NADIA B

I WAS ONCE ASKED BY A FELLOW MUSICIAN:  
WHEN YOU DID SCENT OF A WOMAN  
DID THEY ASSIGN YOU TO DO THAT PIAZZOLLA?  
I SAID, NO

IT WAS POR UNA CABEZA BY CARLOS GARDEL  
IT WAS ON OUR FIRST RECORDING - ALREADY A BIG HIT  
GARDEL HE DIED IN 1937 - IT'S A CLASSIC TANGO  
ABOUT AS CLASSIC AS IT GETS  
NOOOO, MY MUSICIAN FRIEND SAID  
I'M SURE IT WAS A PIAZZOLLA

I PLAYED POR UNA CABEZA WITH THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC  
WHEN IT WAS TIME TO PLAY IT  
ONE OF THE MUSICIANS SAID WITH GUSTO  
AND NOW - PIAZZOLLA!!!  
I SAID TO HIM  
IT'S GARDEL!!!

I DID IT IN THE MOVIE - SCENT OF A WOMAN  
HE ASKED  
DID YOU MEET JOHN WILLIAMS?  
HE ARRANGED IT FOR SCHINDLER'S LIST  
ACTUALLY OUR MOVIE AND RENDITION OF  
POR UNA CABEZA CAME MUCH BEFORE SCHINDLER'S LIST  
I COULDN'T CONVINCE HIM OTHERWISE ON ALL COUNTS

PIAZZOLLA WAS NOT A FAN OF MY BAND THE TANGO PROJECT  
I FEEL THAT WE PAVED THE WAY FOR HIS SECOND COMING IN 1985  
AN AUTHOR, IN HER ARTICLE ON MY "REALITIES"  
URGED THE READER TO TAKE MY STATEMENT AS "A GRAIN OF SALT"  
THAT PART I VEHEMENTLY DON'T AGREE - AND I'M ALLOWED  
AFTER ALL - I AM AN ACCORDION

OR BETTER STILL  
I PLAY THE ACCORDION  
AND

PEOPLE GOT A CHANCE TO HEAR THE CLASSIC TANGO LEADING UP TO THE MODERN  
ONE - YES I PLAYED THEM - ON MY ACCORDION

WE WERE GOING TO DO PIAZZOLLA WITH THE MIAMI BALLET  
WHEN AP (OR PROBABLY HIS PEOPLE) HEARD ABOUT IT  
THERE WERE THREATS  
THE HEAD OF MIAMI BALLET CALLED ME  
AND SAID THAT HE COULDN'T REPEAT WHAT WAS SAID  
TOO BAD

BUT  
I LOVE THE CLASSIC TANGO  
LA CUMPARSITA  
JEALOUSY  
CHALITA ETC ETC ETC  
WHY?

IT CAN'T BE IMPROVED ON  
IT'S GREAT THE WAY IT IS  
NO NEED FOR TANGO JAZZ  
OR TANGO BLUES  
NUEVO

OR TANGO ANYTHING  
THE CLASSIC TANGO USES A ROUNDED BINARY FORM  
IT'S CLASSICAL MUSIC  
LIKE

RAGIME IS CLASSICAL MUSIC  
WHETHER IT COMES FROM THE BROTHELS OF NEW ORLEANS



OR THE BROTHELS OF BUENOS AIRES  
PEOPLE SOMETIMES ACCUSE IT AS KITSCH  
OVER THE TOP  
KITSCH CAN BE A BAD THING  
OR NOT

THERE ARE VARIOUS DEGREES OF KITSCH  
BEETHOVENS WELLINGTON'S VICTORY - AWFUL  
IRONIC - BEETHOVEN!  
LIZST ON MANY OCCASIONS - BEAUTIFUL  
GRIEG PIANO CONCERTO - FIRST MOVEMENT ONLY  
BORODIN - I LOVE IT  
PEOPLE STILL ASK ME  
IS PIAZZOLLA KITSCH?  
ACUTALLY, NO

I'M SURE THE NADIA B STEERED HIM AWAY FROM IT  
(IRONICALLY - AS CLOSE TO IT CULTURALLY AS SHE WAS: MASSENET, FAURE,  
THOMAS ETC - MUCH OF IT KITSCH)  
POULENC WAS HER FRIEND AND SHE ENCOURAGED HIS FLIPPANCY - SAYING THAT IT  
WAS HIS GENIUS - HE AVOIDED THE OVER THE TOP KITSCH QUALITY - ENDING UP  
WITH  
THE KISS MY ASS NEO NEO SCHOOL WITH THE DESCENDING MINOR THIRD

IS PIAZZOLLA GREATER BECAUSE HE ISN'T KITSCH?  
I DON'T THINK SO  
I SOMETIMES FEEL THAT HE COULD HAVE USED SOME OF IT  
SOMETHING THAT WOULD DISPEL THE ILLUSION OF GREAT TASTE  
ARGENTINE AND EUROPEAN  
THAT MAKES IT OK TO BE PLAYED BY CONSERVATORY STUDENTS  
AND CLASSICAL MUSICIANS ON THEIR RECITAL PROGRAMS

KITSCH IS MAKING A COMEBACK  
IN EUROPEAN CIRCLES  
ONCE AGAIN  
FINDING IT IN WAGNER, MAHLER AND STRAUSS  
AND AS IRONIC STATEMENTS IN NEW MODERN COMPOSERS FOM VIENNA  
AS  
AN ANTI NAZI STATMENT

WHICH LEAVES  
THE CLASSIC TANGO ALL TO ME  
AND I LOVE IT - SO DOES MY ACCORDION  
AND REMEMBER  
I AM AN ACCORDION  
BETTER STILL  
I PLAY THE ACCORDION  
AND STILL FOR SOME FOLKS  
ALL TANGOS ARE PIAZZOLLAS  
THERE'S EVEN A PIZZERIA NAMED AFTER HIM  
NOTHING MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT IT

BUT I CAN STILL TAP INTO THE PLEASURE ZONE  
THAT KITSCH CAN SUPPLY  
TRY IT  
AND  
I MAKE ONE HELL OF PIZZA



**NOT PERFECT**

DOES THE ACCORDION MAKE YOU A BETTER HUMAN BEING?  
CHANGING THE WORLD ONE PERSON AT A TIME  
OR DOES IT MAKE YOU WORSE?

A THUG  
A BASTARD  
A TYRANT  
A RAT  
A FINK  
OR BOTH:  
A RAT FINK

OR

DOES IT MAKE YOU BOTH?  
THE THUG WHO CHANGES THE WORLD  
THE RAT FINK THAT SAVES HUMANITY  
THE BASTARD WITH A HEART OF GOLD  
I'D GO WITH THE LATTER  
WHY?

THE BUILT IN IRONIC DUALITY  
HIP AND SQUARE  
BEAUTIFUL AND UGLY  
ELEGANT AND VULGAR  
I THINK BY NOW  
YOU KNOW THE REST  
IS IT GOOD FOR YOU TO PLAY THE ACCORDION?

DR. SCHIMMEL'S ACCORDION NEWSLETTER #544

WILL IT SPILT YOUR GENES INTO DUALITIES  
COMPLETE WITH IRONIES?

YES IT WILL

AND YOU WILL NEVER RETURN

TO THAT ONE THING

YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT

WHY?

BECAUSE

YOU'LL NEVER BE REALLY GOOD

YOU'LL NEVER BE REALLY BAD

YOU'LL BE A VARYING DEGREE OF GOOD/BAD

WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS DO FOR YOU?

WELL.....

IT GIVES YOU A SENSE OF REALITY

IT GIVES YOUR PLAYING A SHIMMER

OR A SCHIMMER

NEVER PERFECT

YET BEAUTIFULLY IMPERFECT

NEVER QUITE THERE YET

YET ALWAYS REACHING

LEARNING

BUT

REFUSING TO BE TAUGHT

OR AT LEAST

REFUSING TO BE TAUGHT

WHAT MATTERS LITTLE



**GETTING CAUGHT**

HO HO HO

ONE WORD

3 TIMES

TO DESCRIBE

THE HOLIDAYS

BACK IN 65

IN PHILADELPHIA

AN ACCORDION STUDIO

{NOT GETTING STUDENTS}

DECIDED TO GO ROGUE

AT NIGHT

IT TURNED INTO A

HOUSE OF ILL REPUTE

TWO GALS

ONE BLACK

ONE WHITE

THE OWNER

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

EMPLOYER

NO WONDER

EVERYONE HEARD HIM SAY

HO HO HO

DURING THE HOLIDAYS

HE WAS FINED

AND HE STAYED OPEN

BUT NOBODY SHOWED

UP FOR LESSONS

ACCORDION LESSONS

I MEAN

EVENTUALLY IT CLOSED

ALL BY ITSELF

WHAT'S THE MORAL HERE?

NOTHING MORAL AT ALL

ADVICE? YOU BET!

DON'T TURN YOUR

ACCORDION STUDIO

INTO A HOUSE OF

ILL REPUTE!

AND IF YOU DO

TEACH ALL OF

YOUR STUDENTS

TO PLAY EL CHOCLO

AND OTHER TANGOS

EL CHOCLO WAS

PREMIERED AT THE

CAFE AMERICANO

IN BUENOS AIRES

IN 1902

UPSTAIRS

AND YOU KNOW

WHAT I MEAN

{HO HO HO}

AND, FINALLY, IF YOU DO

DON'T GET CAUGHT

BEST OF THE HOLIDAYS

to you and you and you

and mark THE SEMINARS

on your calendar:

JULY 29, 30 AND 31 AT TENRI

THEME: NO PLACE LIKE HOME

WE'LL BE REVIVING OLD IDEALS:

INNOCENCE, SINCERETY,

PURITY OF PURPOSE - AND

NOT GETTING CAUGHT!

especially now

DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL

MICKI GOODMAN SCHIMMEL

MICHAEL SCHIMMEL

CHECK OUT NPR'S LIST OF

FAVORITE SONGS

MAHLER 9 IS ON IT

BUY THE ALBUM:

THEATER OF THE ACCORDION

WILLIAM SCHIMMEL

AT AMAZON

STILL ON THE BEST SELLER

LIST



## EMPATHY

ACCORDIONISTS  
IT'S NOT AN EASY TIME  
BUT IT CAN BE  
A TIME  
THAT  
YOU CAN GET DEEPER INTO  
YOUR ACCORDION  
YOU CAN SEND SOME OF YOU CDS  
TO A FEW FRIENDS  
AS WELL AS  
PLAYING YOUR ACCORDION OVER SKYPE  
TO A PERSON THAT NEEDS YOUR COMFORT  
OR  
(WITHOUT GETTING SOPPY)  
ENTERTAINMENT AND DIVERSION  
AND  
PLAINLY SPEAKING  
YOU CAN PRACTICE  
THE KINDNESS  
THAT I'VE GOTTON  
TO KNOW  
IN THE ACCORDION  
ARTS COMMUNITY

AT THIS TIME  
SOME OF YOUR EVENTS

WILL BE POSTPONED  
OR EVEN CANCELLED  
TAKE SOME TIME  
TO LEARN SOMETHING  
THAT YOU HAVEN'T  
LEARNED BEFORE  
TO WOODSHED ABIT  
TO THINK ABOUT YOUR ART  
HOW TO IMPROVE IT  
AND OF COURSE  
SEND GOOD VIBES  
OR PRAYERS  
OR WHATEVER YOU DO  
TO YOUR LOVED ONES  
TO THE AFFLICTED  
THE VULNERABLE  
AND TO THE  
WORLD IN GENERAL  
SEND THEM WITH  
YOUR MIND  
YOUR HEART  
AND  
YOUR ACCORDION  
GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF US  
AND  
IT WILL PASS



MURKY

WHAT KEEPS MANKIND ALIVE?  
WHY IS MOTHER COURAGE’S SON NAMED SWISS CHEESE?  
WHY DOES THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN SPREAD OPIUM?  
WHY DO CHICAGO GANGSTERS BECOME THE SALVATION ARMY?

THERE’S AN EASY ANSWER AND A HARD ONE  
EASY  
BRECHT WANTS US ALL TO JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY  
HARD  
WHAT THE F... IS IT ALL ABOUT?  
THE MURKY PLOTS  
THE CONTRADICTIONS  
THE RUN ON SENTENCES  
AND  
BTW  
BRECHT WAS NEVER A CARD CARRYING COMMUNIST  
HE LOVED LUTHER’S TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE  
HE CALLED FOR A PRIEST ON HIS DEATHBED  
HIS COLLABORATOR HANS EISLER WAS A COMMUNIST  
HE WAS THE FIRST ONE TO BE DEPORTED IN 1948  
WHEN THE MC CARTHY THING STARTED TO HAPPEN  
LET’S GO BACK TO THE FIRST SENTENCE  
WHAT KEEPS MANKIND ALIVE?  
THE ANSWER IN THE SHOW - THREE PENNY OPERA IS

BESTIAL ACTS  
OUR PRESIDENT ACTS OUT IN A BESTIAL MANNER  
IS PRESIDENTIAL? PUNISHMENT? EXECUTION? DETAINMENT? DISDAIN FOR THE  
POOR AND DISABLED? AND FOR PEOPLE WHO FALL ON HARD TIMES?  
OUR PRESIDENT RALLIES  
A CROWD REMINISCENT OF A HITLER EVENT  
NOW WE HAVE A RAMPID RISE OF ANTI SEMITISM  
AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT ISN’T WHITE AMERICA  
AND  
NOT ALL WHITE AMERICANS ARE BAD PEOPLE  
DUH  
I’M WHITE - GERMAN AND LATINO  
AND I LOVE SOUTHERN GOTHIC ROCK  
AT MY WEEK LONG RESIDENCY AT LINCOLN CENTER LAST YEAR  
I GOT INTO A SERIOUS ACCORDION CONVERSATION WITH A GENTLEMAN  
TURNING TO THE ACCORDION AFTER MANY YEARS - HE WAS A REALLY NICE GUY  
WHAT WAS BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION WHEN HE LEFT  
WAS  
THAT HE WAS WEARING A TRUMP 2020 HAT - AT LINCOLN CENTER  
I DIDN’T NOTICE - IT WAS OUT OF CONTEXT FOR ME  
AND YOU SEE NOW  
IT’S GETTING MURKIER AND MURKIER  
AND MURKIER  
WHAT THE F... IS HAPPENING HERE  
AND  
WHERE’S THE ACCORDION IN ALL OF THIS?

THE ACCORDION SEEMS TO UNITE BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT  
MY UNCLES WHO ARE STILL LIVING ARE FAR RIGHT  
THEY WERE ACCORDION PLAYERS WHO INFLUENCED  
ME WITH THE DESIRE TO PLAY IT  
I AM OF COURSE A FAR LEFT NEW YORKER  
ALTHOUGH I WAS RAISED IN PHILADELPHIA  
AS AN EISENHOWER DEMOCRAT - SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE  
NEITHER CONSERVATIVE OR LIBERAL  
MY ACCORDION WAS MY ORACLE  
THAT COULD DEAL WITH CONTRADICTION  
IT WAS MY BRECHTIAN MACHINE  
STILL IS  
I WEAR IT AS A COSTUME  
MY NAME ISN’T SWISS CHEESE  
BUT I EAT PROVOLONE  
THE CHEESE OF THE WORKING MAN  
MY ACCORDION HAS JUST ENOUGH  
DE CLASSE FOR ALIENATION  
THE RIGHT KIND OF ALIENATION  
THAT CAN SHOW COMPASSION  
AND EMPATHY TO THOSE FOLKS  
WHO ARE GETTING A BAD DEAL  
I FEEL LUCKY TO PLAY THE ACCORDION  
IT IS THE BUILT IN IRONIC DUALITY  
THAT’S HELPED ME NAVIGATE THE WORLD

WHAT IF WE STAGED AN ACCORDION ORCHESTRA OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE  
PLAYING NON - STOP (PEOPLE COULD TAKE TURNS).  
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE FOR TRUMP TO LEAVE THE WHITE HOUSE?  
FOR GOOD!

DR SCHIMMEL PERFORMED IN - AND CONDUCTED - ON BROADWAY  
THE THREEPENNY OPERA - KURT WEILL/BERTOLT BRECHT  
1976 STARRING RAUL JULIA - AVAILABLE ON COLUMBIA RECORDS  
1989 STARRING STING  
HAPPY END - KURT WEILL/BERTOLT BRECHT - 1977 - STARRING MERYL STREEP - HE  
ALSO CONDUCTED  
HE DID A VERSION OF: WHAT KEEPS MANKIND ALIVE WITH TOM WAITS IN 1984  
AVAILABLE ON A AND M RECORDS

HE DID A VERSION OF THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN IN 2011 - MUSIC BY ERIC  
SALZMAN  
AT GALAPAGOS IN DUMBO - THE THEATER WAS DARK AND HAD LITTLE  
POOLS OF WATER  
HE WAS TOLD IN A VERY INDIGNANT MANNER WHERE TO SIT - OVER AND OVER  
IN DIFFERENT PLACES - AND WORRIED ABOUT FALLING INTO A POOL  
HE EVENTUALLY SAID: I’LL SIT WHEREVER THE F... I WANT  
HE TOLD ERIC SALZMAN ABOUT HIS AUTHORITY PROBLEM - ERIC DIDN’T  
UNDERSTAND  
NOW, AS AN OLDER ARTIST - DR. SCHIMMEL’S NOTION OF SUFFERING FOR ART AND  
HUMILIATION  
IS GONE FOREVER  
THE ACCORDION TAUGHT HIM THAT



**REV. SCUMBAG**

FATHER MURPHY AND LIVERWURST  
A PERVERSE ESSAY  
WHEN I WAS A YOUNG SQUIRT  
MY AUNT AND UNCLE MOVED TO A NEW HOUSE  
IN LANGHORN PA  
IT WAS A BIG HOUSE  
AND  
THEY WERE HAVING A HOUSEWARMING PARTY  
THE WHOLE FAMILY  
FOOD  
DRINK  
HAPPY ACCORDION MUSIC  
ETC  
AND  
IT WAS MANDATORY  
THAT THE LOCAL CATHOLIC PRIEST  
WOULD STOP BY  
AND BLESS THE HOUSE  
THE FOOD WAS ON THE TABLE  
FATHER MURPHY ARRIVED  
AND WENT FROM ROOM TO ROOM  
AND BLESSED EACH ROOM WITH HOLY WATER  
THEN.....  
HE WENT OVER TO A PLATE OF LIVERWURST  
AND TOOK A SLICE WITH HIS RICHT HAND  
ATE HALF OF IT  
AND PUT THE REST BACK WITH HIS TEETH MARKS ON IT

DR SCHIMMEL’S ACCORDION NEWSLETTER #597  
FATHER MURPHY AND LIVERWURST  
A PERVERSE ESSAY  
AS I SAID - I WAS A YOUNG KID  
I ASKED MY MOTHER  
WHAT’S HE DOING?  
MY MOM REPLIED:  
HE’S SAMPLING  
AND I ASSUMED  
IT WAS PART OF THE RITUAL  
UP TO A POINT  
I ALSO KNEW  
THAT HE WAS A DISGUSTING PROLL  
REV. SCUMBAG  
ALTHOUGH  
I DIDN’T KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS IT  
HAPPY ACCORDION MUSIC FOLLOWED  
AND THE PRIEST LEFT  
PROBABLY TO ANOTHER HOUSE  
FOR MORE LIVERWURST - OR BOLOGNA OR WHATEVER  
MANY YEARS LATER  
I BROUGHT THE INCIDENT UP AGAIN TO MY MOTHER  
AND SHE SAID  
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE LOOK ON YOUR AUNT’S FACE  
WHEN HE BIT INTO THAT LIVERWURST  
SHE WAS HORRIFIED  
WHAT IS THE MESSAGE HERE?

OF COURSE  
HAPPY ACCORDION MUSIC  
PLAYED BY MY UNCLES  
HAPPY ACCORDION MUSIC ALWAYS  
SAVES THE DAY  
SO.....  
IF YOU ARE HAVING YOUR HOUSE BLESSED

REMEMBER  
ACCORDION PLAYERS LOVE PROVOLONE  
I LOVE IT  
AND I PROMISE  
WE WILL EAT THE ENTIRE SLICE  
DURING A BREAK  
WE WILL NOT PUT IT BACK WITH TEETH MARKS

YOU SEE  
PROVOLONE IS THE CHEESE OF THE WORKING MAN  
LIVERWURST AH -WELL UNFORTUNATELY TAINTED FOR ME FOREVER BY FATHER  
MURPHY

FINALLY  
WATCH OUT FOR THE PRIEST  
WHO WANTS TO HEAR YOUR CONFESSION  
(AS HE EATS LIVERWURST)  
NO ABSOLUTION HERE

FATHER MURPHY AND LIVERWURST  
A PERVERSE ESSAY  
AT LEAST FOR THE PRIEST



## **THE CHRISTDENTIST**

The ChristDentist lived with his old mother  
He had a wooden ear grained like the front door

I never saw any one go in  
I played a happy polka for him  
When my father invited him in  
We had a glass of chocolate milk  
Whee!! He clapped his hands

Old Mr Knoll next door said:  
The ChristDentist used old equipment  
He heard your confession if you were Catholic  
And then served you butter bread  
He was a gentle soul