

Editors: Marian Kelly
Dominic Palmisano

THE BAY AREA PAGE

Bay Area Accordion Club

August Meeting 1991

Who would think that we would have a full house during the middle of Summer. It was good to see members like **Tony Addiego**, **Jim Firpo**, **Lee Woodall**, **Jean Pagola**, **Leo Lembi** among the other regulars, enjoying what turned out to be a very spontaneous evening!

Business first.... **Marian Kelly** gave the Treasurer's report, announcing a bank balance of just under \$2,700. Member signups for the current year totaled 126 before the meeting, but that number would increase with all the sign-ups during the meeting. The Club has paid \$310 for 1000 "I Love Accordion" pins and is selling them for \$1. each. Other recent profitable fund raisers include the picnic and the Art Van Damme concert, each of which netted close to \$900.

Tom Torriglia encouraged us all to participate in Bread and Roses, a group which brings music to shut-ins and others who do not have access to live music or entertainment. He then read the press release for the Cotati Festival, describing many of the events taking place there. He brought postcards of the Cotati Cabaret and informed us of the Friday, August 24th program from Silverado in Napa to be aired on KABK from 6 to 9 A.M. Also, there will be an accordion festival at the Anchorage Shopping Center at Fisherman's Wharf on Oct. 5 and 6. He is in search of additional participants, so anyone interested in either of these events

should contact Tom at 346-5862.

Lou Soper informed us that since the first Monday of September is Labor Day, our usual first Monday meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10th. Everyone please take note!!

Jim Holliday then described the fabulous 1-hour programs being aired each Friday in August from 9 to 10PM on KALW, 91.7 FM. Our good friend, **Peter Di Bono** has worked tirelessly with the DJ, **A.J. Gallardo**, to compile an impressive collection of jazz accordion tapes featuring the likes of Leon Sash and Art Van Damme and accompanying historical comment. And wait till you hear the live portions!

Music, please.... **Joe Smeill** started by asking for volunteers to perform. Joe was able to drag out of the audience that dynamic duo, **Dominic Palmisano** and **Clyde Forsman**, who played a spirited version of "Gay Ranchero" and "Oh, Marie." Then Bob Smith did a nice job with "Two Guitars" and "Tico Tico." After Bob, Joe urged all beginners to come forward and play because they play from the heart, a characteristic with is easily lost, and because they need the practice and the exposure which this club provides.

Aljis Ratnikas changed the tempo with a fine rendition of the Lithuanian tune "Little Legs" and one of his own compositions "When Will I See You Again?"

A little more business... **Lou** told the group about music and tapes recorded by accordion greats which are available, and **Frank Montoro**

volunteered to handle this library. **Lou** said that Galla-Rini arrangements will be available for purchase in Cotati. Also available to us are tapes collected by Joe Petosa in Seattle.


Music, music, music.... Joe then introduced **Cosmo Antista** and **Don Nurisso**, violin and accordion duo, whose wonderfully jazzy performances of "Bluesette," a Sicilian polka, "Sweet Georgia Brown," and "Waltzing Matilda" had everyone buzzing with pleasure.

Then, another duo. **Lou Soper** and keyboard artist **Dennis Kalfas** whose renditions of "Blues in C," "Shiny Stockings," "The Nearness of Your," and a medley of "Meditation", "Wave," and "Girl from Ipanema" brought home to us the amazing versatility of our favorite instrument.

Marian Kelly was next, and dazzled us with "Accordionizin' on the Swanee" and a Galla-Rini arrangement of "Brazil."

Peter DiBono and **Cindy Tuculet** played "She's Too Smart for Me" (I don't want her..you can have her..) with lyrics rewritten and sung by **Tom Torriglia**. Then **Peter**, **Cindy**, and **Dominic** closed the evening with, what else, "Beer Barrel Polka."

After the meeting.... Many of us got together at Lyons and, to our surprise, were treated to a terrific musical session with **Don Nurisso** and **Peter DiBono**. You had to be there to witness these extraordinarily talented guys!

Rae Lembi 

PROFILE OF TOM TORRIGLIA

Meet Tom Torriglia, the driving force behind "Those Darned Accordions!" Tom, who was a charter member when Big Lou founded the group about two and a half years ago, has become its leader, spokesman, and main publicist. He has done a first class job of finding opportunities for the group to perform before sizeable audiences.

Tom began playing accordion at age seven, studying with Theodore Pezzolo. He played at school functions throughout high school and college, and earned a degree in English from St. Mary's. Tom played in a wedding band for ten years, until he picked up the guitar, keyboard, and synthesizer and began playing in rock bands.

He set music aside for a while to try his hand at writing. Tom's first book was "The Night Time Good Time Guide to San Francisco and the Bay Area." His next effort, to be released in September, is titled "Beyond Fido: The Definitive Guide to Naming Your Pet."

In February, 1989, Big Lou, Tom, and their friends got together and formed Those Darned Accordions! Tom explains the purpose of the group is simply "—to have fun by spreading the music of the accordion".

Their future plans include

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| Aug. 24, 25 | The Cotati Accordion Festival |
| Oct. 4-6 | San Francisco International Accordion Festival at the Anchor Center, Fisherman's Wharf |
| Oct. 11-14 | El Dorado Hotel, Reno |
| Oct. 1992 | A triumphant return to the International Accordion Festival in Castelfidardo, Italy |

But wait, there's more. Those Darned Accordions! will release their first record album under the Globe label in August. Further, believing that we were experiencing a resurgence of the accordion, Tom began writing to the media across the country to develop an education program a few years ago. Ultimately his efforts were noted in a publication which is used by the media called "Chase's Book of Facts". And so—June became "Accordion Awareness Month" now in its fourth year.

So, there he is. Musician, author, marketing guru, promoter. That Darned Tom! is one diverse, dedicated fellow, and we're Darned glad he's part of BAAC, too!

Franki Montoro

MEET RENÉ SEVIERI

Who's René Sevieri?? If you missed our July meeting, you may not know. He's a fine accordionist who dazzled everyone present with his renditions of "Speranze Dutto" and "España Cani." René followed that impressive instrumental debut with a demonstration of his singing ability—a great swing version of "Gypsy".

René grew up in San Francisco attending St. Peter and Paul, St. Ignatius, and Cañada College. He chose the construction business with his father's encouragement and has subsequently specialized in the area of industrial safety. Currently, he is the Safety Coordinator for Pacific Coast Building Products.

That position keeps him on the road quite a bit, but he still finds time to entertain at Italian social clubs and private parties in San Francisco and on the Peninsula. He particularly enjoys playing at weddings because the wide range of music he performs appeals to both young and old. His new Elka Midi 2 helps him and his five piece band handle rock music with ease.

There are two more interesting things you should know about René and his music. One is that he studied ballroom dancing as a youngster, and he believes that those lessons gave him an intuitive sense of the appropriate rhythm for each piece he plays. Or, putting it another way, he thinks like a dancer rather than like a musician. As he says, "No one ever complains about my rhythms."

Secondly, he has a fantastic ear. After listening only briefly to recordings of rather complex German, Italian, or French music, he can reproduce those melodies on the accordion. His "Speranze Dutto" was an example of a piece he learned by listening to a recording.

René lives in Castro Valley with his wife Janet and their three sons, ages 6, 7, and 8. Young and talented, René has a promising future ahead.

Franki Montoro



Where's Cotati??

Well, folks, the weekend Accordion Festival at Cotati on Sat., August 24th and Sun Aug. 25th will put that town on everybody's map! Cotati is right off 101, just north of Petaluma. Take the West Sierra Avenue exit. You will find the Festival about three blocks east of 101 on West Sierra.

The town is small, shaped rather like a hexagon, and most of the action will be in the central open park area, featuring the bandstand and a side performing area. You will find a spot nearby where you can drop off passengers and/or accordion while you park your car. There are several parking areas, some nearby, and some requiring a little walk. Arrive early, because the planning committee is anticipating 2,000 visitors and guests each day. You may wish to bring folding chairs.

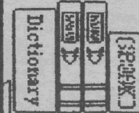
On going music is scheduled on those bandstands from 11 to 7 daily, and features a wide variety of soloists and groups. Some of your favorite BAAC members will be there —Peter Di Bono, Lou Soper, Joe Smeill, Marian Kelly, Dominic Palmisano and Stas Wesniach on Saturday; Jim Boggio and Gina Avola on Sunday. Those Darn Accordions! will play both days. A Lady-of-Spainathon featuring all of us is scheduled for 3:40 both days. Concurrently, you can choose instead to attend dance parties, movies, Markey's restaurant for open mike performances, or Anthony Galla-Rini's mini-seminar, all of which will be held close to the bandstand. A variety of booths will showcase instruments, music, accordion memorabilia, and food.

You are especially encouraged to play spontaneously during the open mike times. So...everyone please bring those accordion!!

The highlights of the affair will be guest accordionists Anthony Galla-Rini and Leo Aquino on Saturday at 5:30 and 6 P.M. respectively, and Lou Fanucci and Art Van Damme on Sunday at 5 and 6 P.M. Sounds like accordion heaven, doesn't it???

The fun doesn't stop with darkness, either, but it does go indoors. Please plan to join us particularly for the reception Sunday evening for our four Superstar accordionists.

BAAC extends its most hearty thanks to Clifton Buck-Kaufman, Chairman of the Cotati Community Services Commission and Board Member of the Cotati Chamber of Commerce. It was his idea, with Jim Boggio's encouragement, to use the vehicle of an accordion festival to call attention to and thereby promote Cotati as a dynamic, progressive community. Funding has been mainly local, from business and individuals. The committee's intention is to make the event an annual one, building on the wisdom gained from this year's fledgling experiences. To that end, we hope the festival is an unqualified success, and since the event is so much in our own interests, we guarantee our encouragement, support, and attendance!



For Your Information

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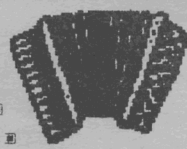
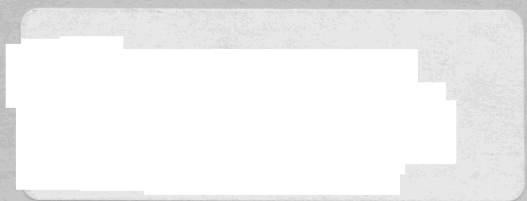
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