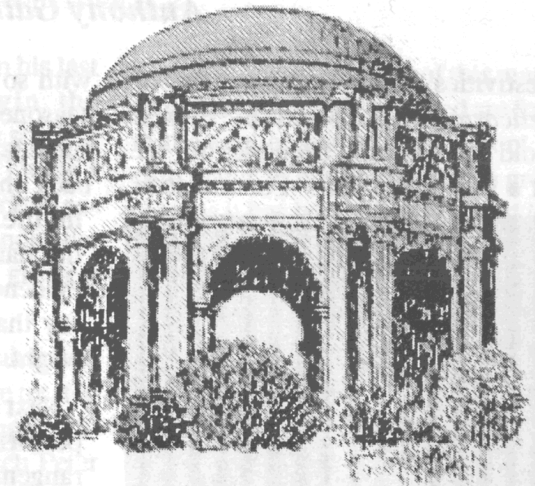


NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO
**BAY AREA
ACCORDION CLUB**



EDITORS: Marian Kelly
Dominic Palmisano

August, 1993

Maestro Galla-Rini Honored

Some 36 years ago I started playing accordion. Over the years since then, I have been exposed to all types of music and arrangements. It seemed though that whenever I found a selection that really stood out it always had the name Galla-Rini on it. Over the years I learned more about this remarkable personality and have collected a few recordings of his in addition to a lot of his arrangements. For those who would like to know just how important Galla-Rini is to the accordion, I would recommend picking up a copy of "The Golden Age of the Accordion".

When the BAAC decided to sponsor an appreciation eve for the Maestro, I was thrilled. So I joined my wife and some 250+ accordion aficionados on Monday, August 2 for what I felt was a chance to pay back the Maestro for all that he has given accordionists over the years.

When Marian Kelly asked me to write this article for the BAAC newsletter I was elated.

In fact, I was so "up" for the event that I had a hard time concentrating on anything else the last couple of days!

The Belmont Community Center worked well for this concert. In spite of the large turnout, everyone had good seats and the sound system complimented the performers. Parking was easy, the building is spacious and attractive, allowing us to sell tapes in a separate area. And we made good use of the kitchen.

In the spirit of a traditional BAAC meeting, young Jan Schellenberger started out



Anthony Galla-Rini, Peter DiBono

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 28, 29, Cotati Accordion Festival, 11 to 6 each day. Bring accordions! Please call Marian, 415-854-1896, if you are attending and can help staff our booth for a couple hours either day. We really need you, and must schedule people in before the Event.

August 30, Monday. BAAC September meeting, House of Parties.. Date changed to avoid Labor Day holiday. Featuring **Sev Garcia** of Porterville with a midi demonstration and concert.

September, third week. Button Box Accordion Camp. Lake Tahoe. Call Joe Smiell, 510-832-6938.

September 17-19. Northeast Squeeze-In, Washington, MA. Workshops, jam sessions, concert and contra dance. Call Accordion Connection, 603-224-5227.

September 19th, Sunday. BAAC members are invited to play at Jack London Square in Oakland from 11AM to 4PM. BAAC's fee goes into our Performance Fund. Call Andy Pagano at 510-522-1397 or Dominic P. at 415-587-4495 if you can join us!

Anthony Galla-Rini's Evening, cont from p. 1

the festivities with an arrangement of *El Relicario* by the Maestro. Eleven year old Jan has only been playing for about a year and a half. For someone



Jan Schellenberger

with so little experience he plays like a seasoned professional. I am sure that someday when he is grown he will look back on this special day as a highlight in his life. The future of the accordion is in the hands of youngsters like Jan. As evidenced from his talent I think it safe to say that the future of the accordion is bright.

Next up was Marian Kelly with a great performance of Galla-Rini's arrangement of *Fascination*. Marian never fails to deliver an inspired performance. In particular, I enjoy her musical interpretations.

Marian was next joined by Peter DiBono for a duet of *Caprice Viennois* (arranged by Mr. G R). That piece was always a particular favorite of mine. Peter informed us (tongue in cheek) that the composer F. Kreisler also made a pretty good car!

Barbara Ann Martindale from Vancouver was brought on stage for Tchaikovsky's *Waltz of the Flowers*, Brahms' *Hungarian Dance #5*, and Ponchielli's *Dance of the Hours*, all arranged, of course, by the evening's special guest. Barbara Ann had appeared at a previous club meeting, so we knew that her performance would be a highlight of the evening. Prior to her performance she offered remembrances of past meetings with the Maestro. It was obvious from her kind remarks just how much of an influence Galla-Rini has had on her life. While she didn't sing at this performance, it should be noted that Barbara Ann is quite an accomplished opera singer also. She is one talented lady! Here is hoping that we can entice her back for future performances for our club.



Barbara Ann Martindale

Lou Fanucchi, who brought his parents from San Diego, was next up. I always enjoy Lou's performances, and I knew that Lou would dazzle us with technical virtuosity. He played Smetana's *Dance of the Comedians*, Astor Piazzola's *Revirado* and Wurthner's *La Campanella*. Watching Lou play is a treat. He performs technically demanding pieces like it was nothing. Like Barbara Ann, Lou related



Lou Fanucchi

stories of his days as a student under Maestro Galla-Rini. He spoke of Galla-Rini's method of going directly to the musical scores to adapt a selection to the accordion. I have heard this before, and I too have done this finding that one can often get a better feel for the composition than playing directly from a "condensed" version written for piano, etc.

After a brief intermission Jorgen Sundeqvist from Sweden came up to entertain us. Galla-Rini considers Jorgen his protegé and now we all understand why Tony is so proud of him. I personally had never heard Jorgen until that night. After listening to him I decided

Anthony Galla-Rini's Evening , cont from p. 2

that I will have to add to my music tape library. He knocked my socks off! Jorgen's expressive interpretations of a wide variety of musical types kept everyone on the edge of their seats. He brought forth from his accordion, a specially made Petosa, a glorious sound the like of which few of us had ever heard. If you wish to know more about Jorgen, you might want to check out last month's issue of the BAAC newsletter. His musical choices ranged from a Galla-Rini arrangement of an Italian love song, *Dicitincello Vuie* to an ethnic Bulgarian piece and a Russian version of an Italian polka (played by a Swede). The audience especially enjoyed Jorgen's renditions of Chabrier's *España Rhapsody* and Richard Rogers' *Sound of Music*, both arrangements by Mr. G.R., of course. Jorgen mentioned that a Swedish Viking doesn't do too well in warmer climates...this was obvious as the audience watched the perspiration pouring

from him as he played. Finally on his last number, Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine", his soaked Petosa keys stuck at the last couple of notes. Frankly, I wasn't convinced that the poor overworked accordion wasn't sweating itself under the fierce workout under one of the greatest accordionists alive today!

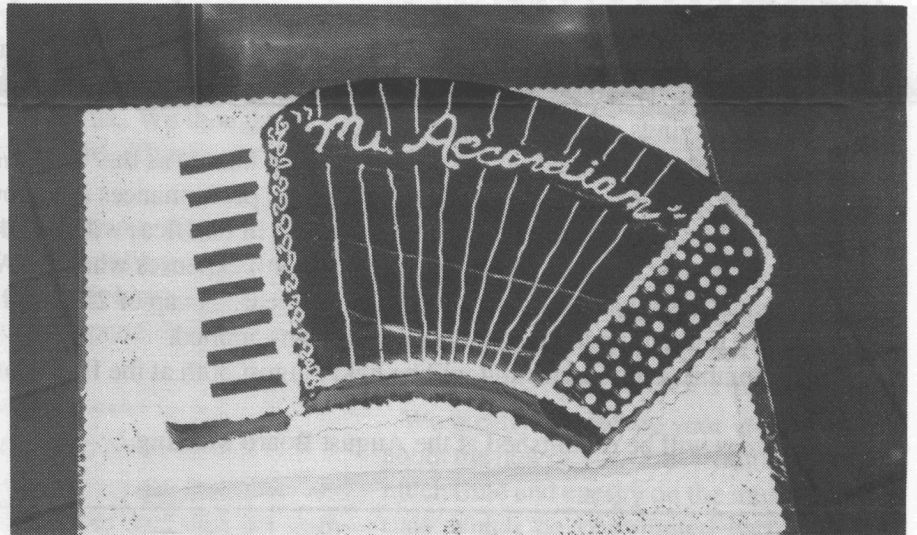
Besides the outstanding entertainment, the audience and the Maestro were treated to a reading of many letters of congratulations from around the world which Peter DiBono had solicited and assembled into a lovely bound book. The fact that Maestro Galla-Rini had given so much pleasure over the years to others was noted by both accordionists and appreciative listeners. Even Ronald Reagan and some fellow named Bill Clinton wrote letters of congratulations.

Often times in an event of this magnitude all of the people who assisted are forgotten in the excitement of the moment. If the club wants to continue on with great success, as it has had so far, we need to thank all of those individuals who volunteered their time. Peter Di Bono is first in line for thanks. He has been thinking through all of the pieces of this concert for several months and has carried out a great many of them single handedly. He delegated a few things, though: the thankless job of admissions was ably handled by Frank Montoro and Rusty Bartoli; Jim Firpo helped setting up the stage which looked very professional; a special thanks goes to Bob Delgado and Reno DiBono for their tweaking of the sound system; the selling of performers' tapes was handled by Jim

cont on p. 4



Jorgen Sundeqvist



Ed Massolo, Anthony Galla-Rini, Frank Panacci

COTATI FESTIVAL

A couple of last minute items regarding the Cotati Festival:

I. The BAAC booth will feature more than 50 titles of cassette tapes and 20 CD titles featuring a great variety of accordions and of musical styles. Here is your opportunity to add gems to your collection! We'll be demonstrating some of the titles to help your choices. We will also have t-shirts for sale and some videos. Please check us out!

The booth has so much more merchandise this year as compared to last year that *we need your help to run it*. Several of you

have offered, but we are far short of the manpower we need. Marian (415-854-1896) will schedule you in the booth for two hours either Sat. or Sun, according to your choice. Thanks, everybody!

II. A **Third Stage** is being added this year to accommodate everyone who is not performing on the main or side stage but who nevertheless would like to play before a Cotati audience. Bob Delgado is coordinating this stage and encourages you to call him if you would like to be included on his program. He's at 510-656-5125.

Synopsis, July Board Meeting

- President Dominic Palmisano announced that Barbara (Hartley) Truax has resigned her position as secretary. The Board unanimously elected Josephine Hornbrook to be BAAC's new secretary. Josephine kindly attended and took minutes of the meeting.
- Frank Montoro, Treasurer, reports bank balances of \$5850 and \$1214 in the checking and savings accounts, respectively.
- It was decided that the savings account, otherwise known as the "performance fund", will be activated. Monies earned from group performances at various events around the Bay (such as the recent gathering in Pacifica) will be added to the fund. The same account will be used to help with expenses when BAAC puts on concerts, of which two are scheduled this year. A cap of 25% of the total amount in the fund to be spent per concert was applied.
- The September general meeting will be held August 30th at the House of Parties.
- Committees will be established at the August Board Meeting.

Across the Editor's Desk.....

July 5, 1993

Dear Members:

It's 3:00 A.M. and my suitcase still is not packed. In just a few short hours I leave for a 15 day business trip in Italy and then it is on to Oregon to teach a few class at the Accordion World Camp. My thoughts of BAAC and of each of you have been in my heart ever since I left the Bay Area.

The past nine months have been very busy with the development of several new products for the accordionist, in-

cluding a new Electronic (MIDI) Accordion. This project has taken most all of my time. Little did I know that the development of a new instrument would be so intense. I have been meaning to write but time has escaped me. I do want you to know how much I miss you all and how much joy the BAAC newsletter brings me each month. You are in my thoughts and until Cotati, take care and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Paul Pasquali

Aug. meeting, from p.3..

Holliday and Don Nurisso. Since I never had a chance to eat my dinner, I for one was VERY thankful for the efforts of the refreshment crew, Rae Lembi, Carol Benetti, and Evelyn Baulch. A special thanks goes to the artistic talent of Elna Stoscher for the "accordion" cake. It almost seemed criminal to have to cut into it! Dennis and Elna Stoscher and Marian Kelly provided hotel space for our guests. I am sure I probably missed someone in my attempt to thank those volunteers. If so, I accept 40 lashes with a wet noodle!

All in all, the night was a huge success thanks to a lot of hard work by a lot of people.

Bob Berta

Who's Playing??

Reno Di Bono and the **Crescendo Om Pah Pah Band**, featuring Joe Di Vitorio on Clarinet will appear at Cupertino Village (1/2 mile E. of 280 at the Wolfe Rd. exit) Sat/Sun, **October 2 & 3** from 12 noon to 4 PM. Sponsored by the Cupertino Rotary Club.

Reno, Joe, and Steve Hanson can also be seen Saturday, November 14th, noon to 4 PM, strolling up and down Castro Street in Mountain View at the annual Mountain View Street Fair. For this event, they dress in horizontally striped shirts and straw hats and become Italian!

Send Letters to the Editor, news of where you are playing, or any other message, picture, or news item to: Marian Kelly

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Deadline for each issue is the *second* Monday of the month. We welcome your ideas!!!

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