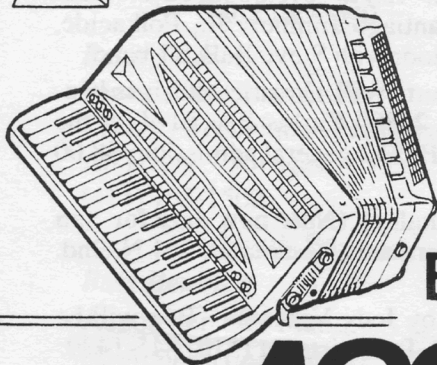


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB

AUGUST, 1999

Our September Guest, Peter Soave

www.petersoave.com

BAAC is celebrating summer's departure with the arrival of an American accordion artist par excellence! Plan to take advantage of this unusual opportunity to see and hear the great Peter Soave at our September meeting.

Peter was born in Detroit in 1964, to parents recently arrived from Italy. His earliest memories are of Italian music played on an accordion, and he insists that by age three, he was certain of his life's work. He began lessons at age 5 on a piano accordion.

By age 16 Peter began to enter international accordion competitions and quickly learned the limitations of his instrument. The all-button accordion called by its Russian name, bayan, played by so many Europeans and virtually required in those competitions, had a much larger range than his accordion. Peter made up his mind that if he needed to learn the bayan in order to win

those competitions, that's exactly what he would do. And, as they say, the rest is history. A few years later he returned to Europe and took first place in each of the four major accordion competitions, an unheard-of feat for a virtuoso of any instrument.

Soave has long been fascinated and inspired by the innovative compositions of Argentinean Astor Piazzolla. He arranged Piazzolla's music for his bayan, performed it at every opportunity and included two

Piazzolla selections on his first CD, Pride and Passion. More recently, though, he has decided that he must interpret Piazzolla as authentically as possible, and therefore he is now performing with the tango accordion called the bandoneón, the instrument which Piazzolla used.

Adding the bandoneón to his bag of tricks is proving to be a good move! Peter's cal-

to p. 2



Soave in September, cont.

endar, which shows orchestral concerts and recitals in the US and Europe, has suddenly and thankfully become a lot harder to manage! Additionally, he has recently completed a recording of the Piazzolla "Tango Sensations" with the Klima String Quartet of Zagreb and a recording of the Piazzolla "Concerto for Bandoneón and Orchestra" with the Moscow Philharmonic.

The list of young American accordion artists is very short. Please come on Sept. 7th and welcome the fellow at the top of that list.

PARTY
ANNOUNCEMENT

Denny and Elna Stoscher are very generously issuing an invitation to everybody to attend an Open House/Barbecue in honor of Peter Soave on Saturday, September 11th from 2-6. Accordions welcome.

If you want to come, you need to RSVP by Sept. 7th, as they are planning to provide food and drink, so they obviously need an accurate count. To do that, call (510) 483-2323, ask for one of them, and say that it's a personal call. Or email erbs@concentric.net. They live at 1720 Valley View, Belmont.

**To join BAAC send check for \$25 (thru Sept. 30, '00) to:
Bay Area Accordion Club
31 Aliso Way
Portola Valley, CA 94028**

Mark Your Calendars

August 28-29th Cotati Accordion Festival. Ten to seven both days. Non-stop accordion entertainment featuring Santiago Jiminez, Jr., Polkacide, Roberto Rosa, TDA!, etc, etc, plus dance floor with Steve Balich's band.

August 27 - 29th Threepenny Opera by Kurt Weill. Valarie Morris is handling the accordion part! CSU Hayward, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd. at the University Theater. Fri/Sat at 8P; Sun at 2P. \$12 general admission; \$8.00 for seniors. (510) 222-8442.

September 5 (Sunday) (and every first Sunday). (Note new date for San Jose meeting) BAAC San Jose meeting. Germania Restaurant, 261 N. 2nd. St. 3:00 pm to ? Bring your accordion!

September 5 Introduction to Button Box by Jody Veahman. Box will be supplied free. At Boaz Accordions, 2-4 PM. Preregister at (510) 845-1429

September 7 (Tuesday) BAAC General Membership Meeting at *Verdi Club in San Francisco*, 2424 Mariposa at Potrero. 7:00 - 9:30pm+. Our guest is Peter Soave, playing bayan and bandoneon. **Door Fee is \$10.**

September 9 (Thursday) (and every second Thursday). Accordion Circle of the East Bay Music Meeting. 7:30pm, 1542 Grant St., Berkeley, in the cottage behind the main house.

September 11 Party in honor of Peter Soave given by Denny and Elna Stoscher 1720 Valley View, Belmont, 2 to 6 PM.

September 13 (Monday). (and every second Monday). *The Good Time Accordion Club*. At the Escalon Methodist Church 7:00pm. Info about joining from Jana Maas at 8001 Beckwith Rd., Modesto. \$15 membership fee includes newsletter called "Accordion News".

September 14 (Tuesday). (and every second Tuesday). Meeting of the Golden State Accordion-Aires. 7:00pm. Pietro's No.2. 679 Merchant St. Vacaville.

September 15 (Wednesday) BAAC Board Meeting to be held at Ed Massolo's, 612 Lassen, So. San Francisco, 7:30 PM. (650) 589-8409.

September 18 (Saturday). BAAC annual picnic at Nature Friends picnic area in Oakland.

September 18 Accordion Fest at Viking Faire featuring the Kil Accordion Band of Sweden. First United Methodist Church, 250 California St., Santa Cruz. Ten AM to 7:30 PM. Admission \$2. Food available. For info, contact Herb Lundin (831) 464-2960.

September 19 (Sunday). **Jack London Square needs accordionists!!!!** From 12 - 4 you are invited to play at Jack London Square in Oakland, either singly or with others, for their Italian Festival. They will pay BAAC \$300, and BAAC will divide the money among the day's performers, so let us know who you are ((415) 974-9210). Meet at the Main Stage in front of Barnes and Noble at noon.

September 20 (Monday). (and every third Monday). Meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. 7:00pm. Volpi's in Petaluma.

September 21 (Tuesday). (and every third Tuesday). Accordion Circle Band in East Bay. Call 510-548-2822 for location and more info.

November 2 BAAC Annual Dinner being held this year at the Verdi Club during our regular meeting. For \$25, you receive a prime rib dinner including salad, pasta, vegetables, dessert, and wine. Plus accordion entertainment and dancing. Plan to attend!

August 6 - 10, 2000 National Accordion Convention in Las Vegas being organized by Paul Pasquali. See p. 7.

BAAC Ensemble: Contact Frank Montoro (650)574-4757 for additional information.

BAAC Fun Band Contact Tom Cordoni (415) 333-5625.

Please send Calendar Information to your Editor, using the address on the last page.

BAAC Annual Picnic

Saturday, September 18 - 11 AM - 5PM

Oakland Nature Friends
3115 Butters Drive, Oakland

\$10.00 includes full meal....

barbecued chicken
roast corn
rolls
beans
salad
beer/soda
dessert

Complimentary
hot dog and soda
for each child
(full charge for additional food)

Directions:

Take 580 (N or S) or 24 (W) to Hwy 13
Take Lincoln Way/Joaquin Miller Rd. exit from 13
Go East (up) on Joaquin Miller
Turn right (second right) on Butters
Note: Look for sign on right (in about ¼ mi.)
Parking at bottom of driveway

large wood dance floor

Spectacular bay views!

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strolling, dancing, music, food

come join the fun!

Sounds terrific...I'm looking forward to BAAC's '99 Picnic!

I'm enclosing a check for \$_____ to cover meals for _____ adults and _____ children.

Names: _____, _____, _____

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August General Meeting

by Marian Kelly

After July's big party for Art Van Damme, most members seemed to expect a relatively unexciting August gathering - - after all, what in the world could we do for an encore? But by the end of the evening, folks were singing loud praises for the San Francisco Chamber Ensemble, a group which hasn't played for the Club in a long time, and which has improved considerably during that period.

President Marian Kelly opened the evening with announcements about the upcoming BAAC picnic on September 18th, the guest appearance by Peter Soave on September 7th for our September meeting, the fact that we have for the moment scrubbed plans to man the phones at KQED in August, and she asked for help at our Cotati booth on August 28th and 29th.

She also announced the Nominating Committee's recommendations for BAAC officers and board members and took additional nominations from the floor (after intermission). The Committee has suggested two teams for President/Vice President - Lou Soper/Lou Jacklich and Peter DiBono/Jim Hillman. Mike Zampiceni has volunteered to become our Keeper of the Funds, and Val Kieser has a bit reluctantly agreed to continue as the Club Scribe. With two board positions open, the Committee suggested Rita d'Amico and Jim Firpo. Vince Cirelli was nominated for the board from the floor, and he accepted.

Since we have contested positions, the voting will happen by mail. And since we need input from members on several other items, we will put together a non-newsletter mailing this month. Each member will receive (1) a ballot (2) a request for dues payment (3) a picnic signup sheet and (4) a stamped envelope addressed to BAAC. We will also include a request from the scholarship committee for donations and a reminder of the Soave evening. All members are strongly urged to return ballots promptly along with dues.

Ballots will be counted before and during the September 7th meeting; any ballots not mailed early enough to be received by then or handed in at the meeting will not be counted. No blank ballots will be available at the September meeting.

Enough business.... Now to the events of the meeting! Arnie Krenn was our first performer, playing a Concerto, the instrument developed by Paul Pasquali. Arnie was in a German mood, and so we heard *Vienna, City of My Dreams*, Johann Strauss' *Southern Roses*, the *Song from Moulin Rouge*, and *Happy Wanderer*. Arnie's very pleasant, easy-listening musical technique makes one want to just sit and listen without regard for the passage of time. Arnie has been playing at the Elbe restaurant in Palo Alto for many moons; it's easy to see why they like him so much!

Alex Yaskin was next. Do you remember Alex? He's the guy who plays at several different venues daily, making him probably San Francisco's busiest accordionist. When we first heard him, perhaps 1 1/2 years ago, he had arrived from Russia (Belarus) 3 years prior, was working hard on his English, and played a repertoire that was about 50% Russian. Tonight his English was terrific, and all his music reflected a lot of thought. He's been listening to people's



Arnie Krenn



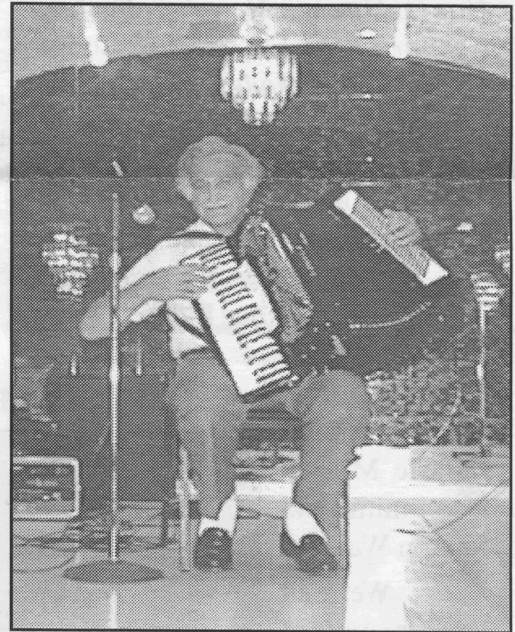
Alex Yaskin

requests, and working a lot on arrangements. He played *Smoke on the Water*, *YMCA*, the

theme from *Phantom of the Opera*, *Satisfaction* (Rolling Stones), and the Beatles' *I Saw Her Standing There*. 'Way to go, Alex! What well-chosen, crowd-pleasing numbers! If you were one of the unlucky ones who missed Alex's performance, you can catch him at the Cotati Festival. He's scheduled to play there on Saturday the 28th, around noon.

Then we heard a real treat. Everybody's friend, Vince Cirelli, borrowed Lynn Ewing's Sonola accordion and just kinda tossed off many old time pieces. He played *For*

Me and My Gal, then *Ain't She Sweet?*, and *O Sole Mio*. Then he really got going and set the Club record for the longest medley ever played on BAAC's stage. Not long in time, but very long in number of titles. He'd play at the most a chorus of a familiar piece and at the least about four measures, and then he'd swing into something else. Soon, folks were just sitting there with mouths somewhat open, trying to anticipate what might come next! Vince is so impressive because he plays with so much love and affection... if we didn't



Vince Cirelli

already know how he feels about the accordion and the wonderful sounds it makes, we'd have no doubt after hearing and watching him for a few minutes.

The second half of the program was all the San Fran-

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August meeting, cont.

cisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble conducted by Joe Smiell. These folks have very obviously spent a great deal of time perfecting their performance, because, as indicated above, they sound like a well-rehearsed group of musicians who are enjoying working as a team. It's easy to understand why they have had several performance successes recently both in the Bay Area and at an accordion festival in Washington state. By the end of the evening, many folks jumped to their feet to applaud the group's excellent performance.

Their program included *Coal Miners' March*, *Ballet Egyptien*, the English folk song *Gathering Peascods*, a Scotch folk song, the theme from Brahms' *Symphony #1*, Haydn's *Overture Militaire*, and *Spanish March*. In addition to conductor and arranger Joe, ensemble members are Aldo Argenti, Mary-Alice Eldon, Lynn Ewing, Ron Harris, Val Kieser, Nora Mazzara, Frank Montoro, Valarie Morris, Bob Smith, and Sharon Walters.

We're all very proud of you. Kudos to each of you for the obvious time and energy you've put into evolving into such an excellent accordion ensemble!

Valarie Morris and Skyblue Productions

announce the availability of

- *Scaling the Accordion*, Books 1 and 2. Each book covers all major scales and features exercises and tunes for each scale. Joe Smiell's Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) says "Book 1 fulfills an important need in the study of the accordion, a need that has been largely overlooked in prior accordion courses. This study, with its focused exercises and accompanying tunes that are fun to play, will facilitate learning the major scales. Book 2 is an excellent follow-up, bringing the student pleasantly to the next level of proficiency." For each book, \$17, shipping included.
- *reeding between the lines*. CD featuring local accordionists Steve Albini, Ron Borelli, Sharon Walters and Valarie Morris. Also saxes, voice, piano, and percussionist Ward Spangler, who played at our July meeting. All compositions by Valarie Morris and her arrangement of Charles Mingus' "Goodbye Pork Pie Hat". \$17.45, shipping included.
- *Accordion and Other Music Lessons and Catalogs*. Valarie offers a comprehensive approach to her lessons to give her students a strong foundation for developing their playing. To obtain catalogs of accordion and other music, call (510) 222-8442 or (510) 222-6672 or email Valarie at valarie@skyblueproductions.com. To place an order, send check for desired items to: Sandscape Publications, 5779 Nottingham Dr., El Sobrante, CA 94803

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The San Francisco Chamber Ensemble. 1 to r: Joe Smiell, Sharon Walters, Bob Smith, Frank Montoro, Aldo Argenti Jr., Lynn Ewing, Ron Harris, Nora Mazzara, Valarie Morris, Val Kieser, Mary-Alice Eldon

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ADVANCE PRESS RELEASE

Announcing the accordion bash of the Millenium!!! The Las Vegas International Accordion Convention will take place August 6 thru 10th, 2000 at the Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Number One Main Street, Las Vegas.

Art Van Damme will be the Honorary Director, the Guest Conductor, and will give master classes. The Convention will feature an ALL STAR lineup of accordion entertainment, workshops and exhibits. There'll be plenty of good food; a full Las Vegas style buffet lunch will be served each day and every night will feature a Gala Dinner Banquet with top notch entertainment.

The special room rate for attendees is \$35 per night per room. (Read that again!) For reservations call 1-800-634-6575 and say you are with the "Las Vegas International Accordion Convention."

Our long-time friend, Paul Pasquali, is the Convention Coordinator. You can obtain more information and/or a registration packet from him by calling the INFO LINE at (801) 486-1695 or by writing to:

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention
 2330 South Main Street #15
 Salt Lake City, UT 84115

www.AccordionInfo.com

And we wonder if the Chamber Accordion Ensemble has seen this notice: "Newworld Discovery Programs invites your Accordion Orchestra to a very exciting event and a chance to meet with Accordion players from all around the world.


The First European Festival of Accordion Orchestras, Prague, Czech Republic, begins Thursday, June 22, 2000. Concerts, competitions and sightseeing will last until Sunday, June 25th, when trophies and awards will be presented. There will be other opportunities for performances in Prague, one of Europe's most beautiful cities, and in the Czech Republic.

For more details, call Pavlik Travel in Vancouver toll free at 1-800 665-9501 or email them at pavlik@infomatch.com."

Did you see the notice for September 19th in the Calendar (p. 2)? Jack London Square in Oakland needs accordionists on that day. They've worked successfully with us before... let's show our stuff again! BAAC will divide the \$300 among those who play. So call your friends, let us know, and just go!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM U
 Have you sent us your ballot yet? How about the dues renewal slip and payment? Or the coupon for picnic attendees? As a member, you should have received all these in the mail within the last couple weeks, along with a stamped envelope addressed to BAAC.
 So please don't lose it.... use it instead! Return it today.
 New officers and board will be announced at the September meeting, so it's important that you send in your ballot ASAP.

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The **Bay Area Accordion Club** Newsletter is published monthly.
Substutue Editor.....Marian Kelly
Contributors.....Peter Adler
Distribution.....Glenn McClelland

Send all newsletter-related communications to:
Bob Berta -Editor
4 Park Manor Dr.
Daly City, Calif. 94015
(510)450-5766

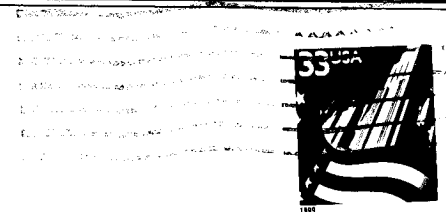
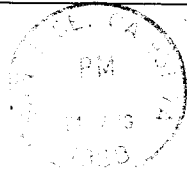
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If you would like to play at a meeting contact Bob Berta at (510) 450-5766