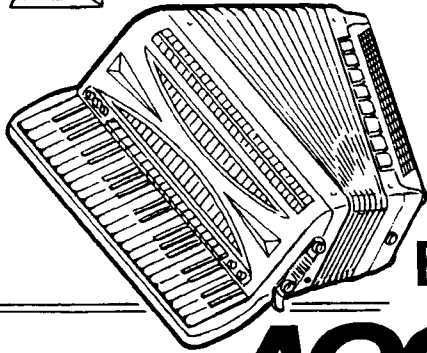


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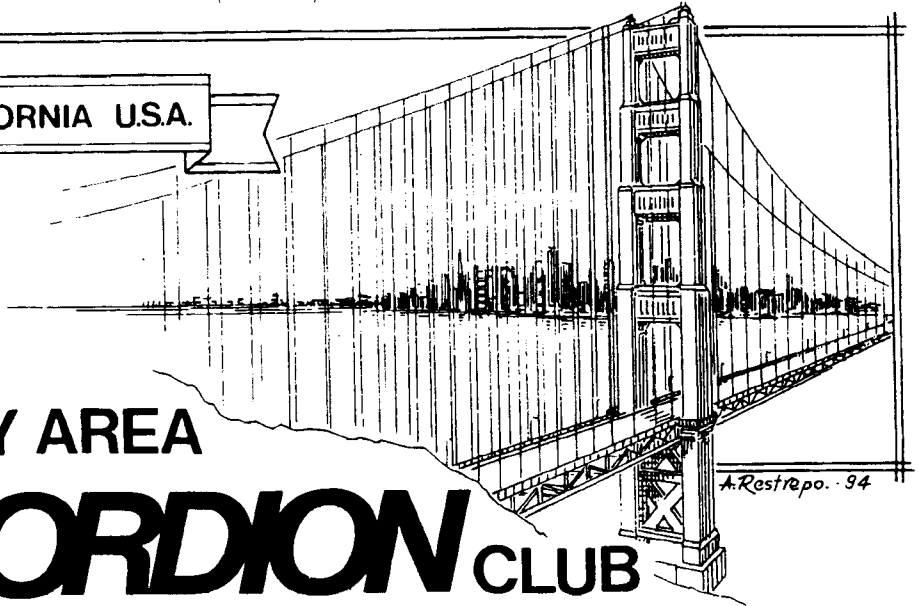
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BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB

December, 1997



President's Message

by *Marian Kelly*

One hundred forty-six thousand dollars! Thanks to YOU, that's the amount that KQED raised on Dec. 4th, the evening that BAACers took over the pledge phones at our local public TV station. And that money was from the people who were able to get through on the phones! Towards the end of the evening, we were all taking pledges from people who said they had been on hold for half an hour. Consider 14,000 pledges that evening, averaging \$100 each. Then add in the potential pledgees who couldn't get through. And, multiply that by, let's see, perhaps 100 - 500 representing the number of people watching who did NOT call in to pledge. That's a lot of people who watched folks wearing Bay Area Accordion Club shirts answer phones. And who watched Richard Yaus, Ron Borelli, and Mike Zampiceni ably play 30-second spots in front of the cameras for each of the six breaks!

It was a fantastic opportunity for us, and YOU made the most of it. We promoted the Bay Area Accordion Club, we made a strong statement to the general public about the appeal of accordions, we raised a huge amount for KQED, we worked our tails off in the process, and we had a marvelous time doing it.

I can't recall when I've heard so many rave reviews. Three people from KQED phoned me the following day to thank us and tell us how appreciative they were of what we had done in such a short time. Average weekday pledges, they said, total about \$50,000. And lots of participants have told me what a great time they had, how the evening drew all of us together in a very positive way, and how tired they were when they got home!

It all happened very quickly. Two weeks previously BAAC member Dick Schiller, who works at KQED, told me the group of 65 they had lined up for that evening had canceled, and would BAAC perhaps consider

Cont. page 5

Mark Your Calendars

BAAC Ensemble practice first and third Wednesday of each month at Moose Lodge in Daly City from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Contact Frank Montoro (650)574-4757 for additional information.

BAAC Fun Band 4th Wednesday of each month at Moose Lodge in Daly City from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Contact Domenic Saso at (415)587-7557 for more information.

Jan. 5, 1998 BAAC General Meeting. Student night. See page 6, COMING ATTRACTIONS column for more details.

Jan.14. BAAC Board Meeting 7:30pm at Ed Massolo's, 612 Lassen. So. San Francisco. Guests welcome. Call Ed at (650)589-8409 for directions.

Jan. 24, 1998. Baguette Quartette concert. 8:30pm at Freight & Salvage in Berkley @ 1111 Addison St. Featuring Odile Lavault and her quartet playing music in the tradition of the Parisian Cafe music from 1920-1940. Tickets \$13.50. Call (510)548-1761.

Feb. 2, 1998. General membership meeting. The program is a concert featuring the exiting French performer Jean-Louis Noton, who plays popular French/International music. See p. 7. Note...the door fee for this meeting will be \$5.

Cont. page 2

NEXT MEETING DATE
Monday, January 5th, 1998
7:00pm - 9:00pm
featuring Our Very Own
STUDENT-TEACHER NIGHT
22nd. Ave. & Eucalyptus
San Francisco

February 3, 1998 (Tuesday). Peter Soave technic workshop and demonstration of Odyssey reedless accordion. See page 4.

March 2, 1998. General membership meeting. Celtic Night of song, dance and refreshments.

March 20-22, 1998. Texas Accordion Association Convention, Plano, Texas. Call Norman Seaton, (972)-270-3791

March 28-April 4, 1998. Caribbean cruise. Visit San Juan Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, and the beautiful St. Maarten Dancing and music by the Steve Balich band featuring Steve on accordion. Contact Steve at (707)874-3494 prior to Jan.7.

April 6, 1998. General membership meeting. An "Evening in Paris" is the theme.

May 4, 1998. General membership meeting. Ladies night.

June 1, 1998. BAAC General Meeting. Family night. If you have other family members (in-laws, kids, grandkids, etc.) who play along with you or by themselves (on accordion) we want to hear them. Call Ed Massolo (650)589-8409 to get on the program.

June 19-21, 1998. CAPA (Closet Accordion Players of America) convention in Denver. Organizer Cheri Thurston is encouraging early registration of \$30. Send to CAPA, 305 W. Magnolia, S. 398, Fort Collins, Co 80525.

July 20-24, 1998. Galla Rini Camp Oceanside, California. More details to follow.

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

Thank you.

December Meeting

by Bob Berta

The December meeting commenced with an exciting announcement of an event. President Marian Kelly told us of the request by KQED TV for a bunch of our members to handle the phones during a membership pledge night. Since this was a last minute request we only had about 1 1/2 weeks to prepare for this event. We madly setup volunteer lists and recruited members and their families. The event was scheduled for a Thursday night, Dec. 4th. The event is covered in the President's Message in this issue but suffice to say that we had an enormous turnout and the night resulted in some wonderful exposure for the accordion.

The first entertainment for the night was the BAAC Fun Band. The group is getting so large that we may have to look for a larger stage to hold them all! Conductor Domenic Saso and co-conductor Tom Cordoni did an excellent job of keeping the group playing to-



FUN BAND



HOLIDAY JAM FEST ALA BAAC

gether and it was obvious they had a great time as they proceeded through their selections which included *Oh Marie, Piemontessina, Pennsylvania Polka, La Piccinina, White Christmas, The Object of My Affection* and that politically incorrect (but fun to play) polka, *Too Fat Polka*.

Next on stage was a newcomer to our stage, Jana Maas. This fine accordionist hails from the town of Modesto and proved to be quite a fine performer. We enjoyed her selections which included a *Rumba* by Pietro Frosini and a really neat Polka called *Crazy Accordion* arranged



JANA MAAS

by Joe Zampiceni (now where did I hear that last name before). Hopefully she will return soon to play some more tunes for us.

It seems that the next "group" up was the largest ever seen at a club's meeting. Virtually the entire audience

brought their own accordion and came up to play a series of holiday numbers. This is the second time we have done this and it has proven to be really popular. *Jingle Bells, Deck the Halls, We Wish You a*



SANTA

Merry Christmas and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer evidently were too much for Santa because he decided to come down from the North Pole and see what all the noise was about. Santa took the opportunity to say hello and get his shopping list updated from the members during the break.



FRANK MONTORO

After the break Frank Montoro brought his MIDI accordion on stage to delight us. Whenever we hear Frank it is very obvious why he is so much in demand professionally. He certainly knows how to play numbers that make your dancing feet want to dance.

After an extended break we heard another newcomer to the club. Alex Yaskin is an immigrant from Russia and he brought his 3 row Bayan to play a series of num-



ALEX YASKIN

bers which included *Dark Eyes, Two Spanish Eyes* and *Laura's Theme* from Doctor Zhivago. Russian musicians always prove to be excellent artists and Alex proved this to be true as he displayed some very fine playing. He vowed that he will be back soon to play for us again.

Final artist of the night was Bart Beninco. Bart is certainly one of the most entertaining artists...first because of his extraordinary ability, and second because he is so much fun to watch perform...he really gets into the music and is very stylish in his playing. His selections included *Medaluz Tango, Ferry Boat Serenade,* and *Piemontessina.*



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Accordions



Peter Soave Workshop/Demo on Accordion Technique

The finest accordionist in the US and probably the greatest in the world, will be in town on Feb. 2nd and 3rd, so we decided to ask him to share a few of his secrets with us. Peter Soave has agreed to conduct a workshop/demonstration on Tuesday evening, February 3rd, from 6:15 until 8:00.PM.

The general subject, Peter says, is "All Aspects of Finer Accordion Playing." Topics will be applicable and relevant to all ability levels. He plans to demonstrate and discuss:

- ◆ various keyboard touches and their differentiation (articulation), which can be used in all styles of music, but which are often underutilized by accordionists.
- ◆ sound production and how to optimize bellows action.
- ◆ presenting a better accordion image; playing and representing the accordion in good taste.

Peter asks that you bring both your accordion and any questions that you have about difficulties or challenges you have encountered in your playing.

The workshop will be held in San Francisco, location to be announced in the January newsletter. Workshop fee is \$20. Since attendance may be limited, please call BAAC's voicemail number if you would like to attend. (415)974-9210. Check out Peter's new WEB site and listen to a sound clip of his recording at [HTTP://WWW.PeterSoave.com](http://WWW.PeterSoave.com).

Odyssey Demonstration

After Peter Soave's workshop on February 3rd, we will welcome anyone interested in the reedless accordion, the Odyssey, which Jean-Louis Noton will play at the Feb 2nd meeting to drop by for a better look at the instrument, to hear it played again, and to have any questions about it answered by either Jean-Louis or Peter. The Odyssey demo will begin at 8:00 PM; please don't come before then, as the workshop will still be in progress. Wine and cheese will be served. San Francisco location to be announced.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by Frank Montoro

There are no more appreciative audiences anywhere than those who reside in community convalescent hospitals. Those of you who give your time and talent entertaining ailing seniors know what a great pleasure you receive when you become part of their lives through your sharing.

And there are other such audiences in the community who want your services such as the folks at senior centers and youngsters in schools. Some children may have never heard the sound of an accordion and they too can be great audiences.

If you are among those of us who donate time playing at convalescent hospitals, senior centers, schools and other such agencies, we want to hear from you. Starting this month and continuing through 1998, we want you to let us know of your activities either by a sign-up sheet at our meetings or by note or phone. (Call Frank at (650)574-4757).

If you would like to play at these places, let us know and we will put you in contact with the right people. Remember, you can make a difference!

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POEM

by Cheryl Thurston of CAPA

You've heard about his reindeer,
and you know he's on the go.
You've seen his Bag of presents,
and you've heard his "Ho! Ho! Ho!"

You know he works with elves
and lives up north, so far away.
You know he's fond of cookies,
and he drives a flying sleigh.

But Santa has another side
that's not so widely known.
He e-mails with a laptop,
and his sleigh now has a phone.

Yes, Santa's always up-to-date.
He's hip - nobody's fool.
And there's another thing he does
that really shows he's cool.

He plays a red accordion
with "Santa" lettered on it.
(They say his marriage failed
because his first wife tried to pawn
it.)

The man's a real accordionist.
He practices each day.
(The second Mrs. Santa
is supportive, so they say.)

He plays with great abandon,
and his fingers fairly fly.
There's rapture on his face
as he goes sailing through the sky.

So if you hear some reindeer
on your roof on Christmas Eve,
be sure to pay attention.
Listen closely as they leave.

You may hear something lovely,
something quite beyond compare -
the notes of Santa's music
jouncing lightly through the air.

*Printed with permission of Cheryl
Thurston and CAPA.*

taking their place. It sounded like a wonderful opportunity for fun, for accordion promotion, and for a good deed, so I swallowed hard and told them we'd somehow find 65 willing people in two weeks. And then I had to make it happen. I had only 40 going into the meeting Dec. 1, and the crowd that night was smaller than usual. I was really worried, folks. But you were absolutely wonderful, and I want to give each of you a monstrous hug. We told you how we needed your help, and you came forward in numbers more than sufficient for us to keep our part of the bargain. Thank you so very, very much!

Expect to hear about a return visit. Probably next December. We'll do a few things differently then, such as requesting more and better organized on-camera coverage for our accordions. And we'll see to it that they offer any hearing-challenged members a quiet room in the back where they won't be bothered by the high level of ambient noise in the big room. Meantime, we'll be on the alert for other opportunities to tell the world about BAAC and about our favorite instrument. Stay tuned!

I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your families a joyful, peaceful Christmas season, made even more wonderful, of course, by lots of spontaneous squeezein'.

December Board Meeting Synopsis

- Our voice-mail number, (415) 974-9210, which has previously not been listed in any phone books, will now be in the San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose and Marin white pages under the listing Accordion Club, Bay Area.
- A thank-you note to all Club members from Donna Panacci was read. The Club sent her a Thanksgiving floral bouquet.
- The KQED event was a huge success. We have been asked to return next year.
- Since Peter Adler had resigned his Treasurer's job at the previous meeting, the position has been vacant. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Josephine Hornbrook as Treasurer, and she has accepted the position.
- Treasurer's Report (given by M. Kelly): Expenses for the month total \$863.26; revenue totals \$1099. Current bank balances total \$10,293.
- The Program Committee has been hard at work and has planned meetings for the next six months. The Board agreed to pay our February performer, Jean-Louis Noton, \$500 and to charge \$5.00 at the door that evening to cover his stipend.
- Marian is planning a workshop to be given by Peter Soave, who will be traveling with Mr. Noton, for the night after our February meeting. Proceeds will be given to Peter (this won't be a fund raiser for BAAC).
- Guest Bob Berta, our Newsletter Editor, discussed various aspects of newsletter format and production with the Board.
- The Board is considering the Nature Friends site on Butters Drive in Oakland as a strong possible location for our picnic this year. We will schedule it sometime in September.
- Publicity Chairperson Sharon Walters is recruiting three helpers, and will begin by assisting the Program Committee in promoting the February meeting.
- Next month Peter Adler will discuss BAAC's proposed web site in detail. Any interested parties are welcome.

by Marian Kelly

Accordion to Boaz

by Boaz Rubin

Beginning with this issue, Accordion to Boaz will be a regular feature of the BAAC newsletter. This column is intended to help you keep your instruments in top condition, looking and sounding first-rate. Accordion answer man Boaz Rubin is a professional repairman based in Oakland.

Frequently Asked Accordion Questions

Q: I have some sticky bass buttons - can I use a lubricant to free them up?

A: Sticky bass buttons are usually the result of binding parts within the bass machine, and require mechanical repairs. Lubrication is NOT the answer. While it may temporarily free up the sticky buttons, in the long term lubrication tends to make the problem worse. Oily lubricants attract dust and dirt; dry lubricants such as graphite work their way into the reeds. Either way, you'll gum up the works and that will require a costly dismantling and thorough cleaning of the bass machine, in addition to the mechanical repairs you should have gotten in the first place to free the sticky buttons.

Q: I have a reed that sounds in the out direction but not the in (or vice versa). What is causing this?

A: Most of the time a reed that doesn't sound is stuck on a piece of dirt that has invaded your accordion. This is one reason why it is important to keep your accordion clean. An experienced repairperson can easily remedy this problem. Another common reason for a reed to refuse to sound is a broken reed tongue. A broken reed tongue can often be identified by listening for a rush of air past the reed tongue when you attempt to make it sound. To keep your accordion clean but breathing, wipe it down with a soft cloth after each use and store it out of the case with a cloth laid over the grill.

Q: My accordion is dry (or wet) tuned and I would like it to have more (or less) of a musette, can this be done?

A: If the accordion hasn't been tuned too many times it is possible to repitch the reeds to change the musette. However, every time a reed is tuned, some metal is removed from that reed. When a reed is repitched, even more metal may have to be removed. If too much metal is taken off, the reed may weaken and lose its ability to hold a pitch. Generally, good quality accordion reeds can be safely repitched once in their lifetime but the opinion of an expert should be sought first.

An Elephant Sat on My Accordion....Send your funny and tragic accordion disaster stories and accordion jokes to Boaz by e-mail to schmatte@well.com or mail it to 1043 54th.St. in Oakland, 94608. We will print (and moralize about) the best stories in this space.

BAAC PROGRAM SCHEDULE (the first 6 months of 1998)

by Mary-Alice Eldon

To make it easier to know what is going on at the monthly meetings at BAAC we will be including several months of events in the calendar column. The following will lay out our plans for the first 6 months of the year.

January 5th is STUDENTS-TEACHERS NIGHT, showcasing some of the accordionists studying with BAAC teachers. If there are other teachers not contacted who would be interested in bringing students, please contact Ed Massolo at 650-589-8409. All students under eighteen, will receive honorary membership in BAAC.

February 2 features a special performance by Jean-Louis Noton, who plays a new reedless accordion which produces sounds electronically yet has full bellows dynamics and is very light weight. This may be the answer to many an aging accordionist's prayer.

February 3. Peter Soave workshop and demo of the reedless accordion used by Jean-Louis Noton in the Feb. 2 meeting.

March 2 Celtic Night of song, dance and refreshments. Come to celebrate this rich musical heritage.

April 6 is an evening in France. "April in Paris" is the theme.

May 4 highlights the time-honored event LADIES NIGHT featuring our very own women musicians.

June 1 is the much awaited FAMILY NIGHT. Who is the special someone in your family that shares your musical delights? Is it your spouse, child, grandchild, cousin, in-law, out-law? As long as one of you is playing an accordion, put together a duet, trio, quartet, etc. Now is the time to start practicing.

When you perform, please remember to present as soon as possible a typed or printed list of the music titles you will be playing, as well as your name and the names of any other members if you have a group. This is an enormous help to those who publish the Newsletter and wish to accurately acknowledge you and your music. Remember our guidelines requesting that individuals and duos limit their performance to 15 minutes or less. Larger groups, may on occasion be given extra time depending on the scheduled events. To perform contact Program Chariman, Ed Massolo, at 650-589-8409. We welcome your comments, your programming ideas. We want you. We need you. Come to play, to sing, to applaud, to meet others with a love of music, especially the accordion.

.....

Special Flash

The Chicago newsletter mentioned that James Galla-Rini (Anthony's brother) passed away recently after a long illness.

**February General Meeting
Featuring Exciting French
Performer
Jean-Louis Noton**

Plan to attend our February meeting on Monday the second, because you won't want to miss our very special guest for the evening, French accordionist/entertainer Jean-Louis Noton. Let us introduce you to a very unusual performer! Some call Jean-Louis the Evel Knievel of the accordion. Don't expect any motorcycles; nor will he leap from our stage. (He did, however, celebrate his 45th birthday last year by climbing, with his accordion, Switzerland's Dente Blanche (White Tooth), and playing it at the top! In so doing he set a Guinness World Record taking 3 days to do so.

Jean-Louis has been playing the accordion since age nine, and studied for five years at the conservatory of Lyon, France. He has received the O.R.T.F. Pinder trophy in Paris and the Cup of the President of the French Republic. He has been the demonstrator and MIDI consultant for Cavagnolo accordions since 1991, and has traveled the world in that capacity.

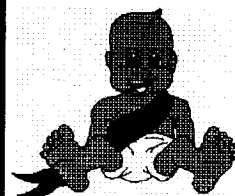
He will be presented by Peter Soave, who will travel here with Jean-Louis. Since Jean-Louis' English is limited, Peter will introduce his numbers and will talk about the accordion on which Jean-Louis will perform his beautiful French music. The Odyssey, developed by Cavagnolo Accordions, is an electronic instrument with more than one hundred accordion sounds, with expression controlled by the bellows. It is reedless and therefore very lightweight. Many call it the "Accordion of the Future". It is being very successfully marketed and sold mainly in Europe; for most of us, this will be our first chance to see and hear one.

**Contact Phone #s for
Officers :**

Pres. Marian Kelly (650)854-1896
Vice Pres. Joe Smiell (510)832-6938
Treasurer Josephine Hornbrook(650)591-3009
Record. Sect. Val Kieser (510)531-4836

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Happy New Year!

.....
**CALLING ALL BEGINNERS AND
CLOSET ACCORDIONISTS**

As announced in last months newsletter there are now two beginner groups.

If you are in the East Bay you might wish to check out this group (The Beginners Accordion Group) which meets the 2nd Thursday of each moth at 8:00pm. Call 510-843-9958 for more info.

The group on the San Francisco side is called the Bay Area Beginners Accordion Support Group. Call Jane the Cat at 415-673-8835 or Email her at CAT@prolific.com. for meeting dates and times.

And here is yet another beginning group in the South Bay! Call Dick Cruickshank who lives close to the Eastridge Mall. For more info call him at (408)258-1258.

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Editor.....Bob Berta

Contributors.....Mary-Alice Eldon, Frank Montoro and Boaz Rubin

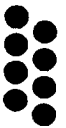
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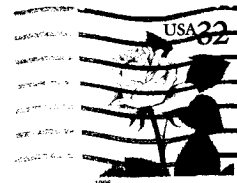
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If you would like to play at a meeting contact Ed Massolo at (650)589-8409