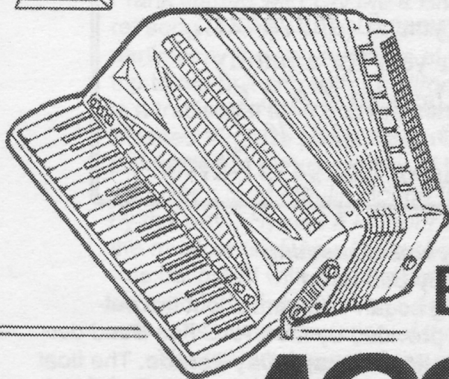


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB

December 2002



**NOTICE: THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE BAAC PAGE
IF WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED YOUR RENEWAL!**

(Unless you are an honorary or a lifetime member)

President's Message



If anyone was watching Channel 5 on Friday, Nov. 29, CBS **Evening Magazine** (channel 5) used the accordion as its background theme, filmed at **Kimric Smythe's Accordion Center** in Oakland. I was flattered to be invited to participate. I played a polka on button box for my piece. Also playing were the *Conjunto Romero*, André Thierry and his Cajun group (who have played for BAAC before), Lou Soper's student Salane Schultz, and Irish button box player Lew Milligan who also plays Irish fiddle.

These include some great possibilities for entertainers at future BAAC meetings. They were all delightful people and we had a grand time! I thank Kimric for inviting me to be a part of it.

It was gratifying to award BAAC **scholarships** at the November meeting. These enthusiastic students will come back and play for us after they complete their scholarship lessons, and we can witness the improvement. Congratulations to **Salane Schultz** (student of Lou Soper), **Thor Miao** (student of Lou Jacklich) and—in absentia—**Julia Farrugia** (student of Peter Di Bono). We also thank **Frank Montoro**, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, for all the behind-the-scenes work involved in the awarding of these scholarships.

Get ready for a super Holiday Party at the **December meeting**. As you know, four groups will be playing. Any time left over we'll fill with holiday music we can all play together, so **bring your accordion!**

The **Fun Band** and the **ACE Ensemble** are so happy to have **Sharon Walters** back with us again, looking great! Which reminds, me, **ACE** gave an excellent concert to a most appreciative audience at Rossmoor retirement center in Walnut Creek on Nov. 18. We especially thank **Valerie Morris** for filling in for ailing Bob Smith at the last minute! Val

BAAC Workshops . . .

The workshop given by **Peter Di Bono** on November 16 was a huge success, with 27 participants! Peter got people to thinking about *elements of playing music* that hadn't really occurred to them before, in spite of all the education and experience that many have had. There was unanimous support for having Peter continue the session as soon as we can set up a date for it. Stay tuned . . .

We are currently working on setting up a date for another workshop by **Ron Borelli**. Many of us have attended Ron's workshops before, both at BAAC and at accordion conventions.

In April 2003 we will have a workshop on *How to Memorize*, with **Sev Garcia**. The workshop will take place on Saturday, April 12 and will cover memory systems useful in memorizing music, and how to apply them. You will be invited to bring your accordion but won't be asked to play unless you volunteer. (Sev will also be our featured "star" at the April 10, 2003 BAAC meeting.)

Our program of four workshops per year at nominal cost to BAAC members (starting in 2003) is based on the premise that *everyone* would like to become a better player, and BAAC has tremendous resources among its members willing to share their knowledge and experience, to the benefit of all. Your input about the Workshop Program is invited.

How Can You Help?

I sometimes wonder if people really read *The BAAC Page*! We have asked for, and still need, input for articles, news tidbits for "Word Has It," photos, and news items. Where are you playing? How often? Do you have any **music stores** in your area? Pick up a couple of extra copies of *The BAAC Page* and leave them at the music stores. Invite them to run an ad at a very reasonable rate in *the BAAC Page*. The **Program Committee** could use some help contacting players. We need volunteers to write up meetings. It's fun and not difficult and adds interest and variety to the newsletter. I (Val) just don't have the time to do all these little tasks, that could be done so easily by individual members. "Many hands make light work!" Thanks. Val

NEXT MEETING 7 PM THURSDAY DEC. 12, 2002 MOOSE LODGE DALY CITY

Word Has It ...

... that **Sharon Walters** is definitely on the mend and back directing the BAAC Fun Band and playing with ACE, much to the relief and appreciation of both groups!

... that the **Chicago Accordion Club** has produced its second CD. "If you liked Volume 1, you'll LOVE volume 2!" Vol. 2 features many of the most notable members of the Chicago Accordion Club. \$15 each plus \$1.00 postage; 2 to 5 copies, \$12 each plus \$2.00 postage. Send your order with a check or money order to Don White, CAC CD Project; 7938 S. Kilbourn Ave., Chicago IL 60652 or phone (773) 585-5178.

... that **Tom Cordoni** has sent us a letter of thanks for supporting his effort to have the accordion declared the first official musical instrument of the City of Petaluma. Other clubs also have supported his effort. At last report, the campaign had received good local press and TV coverage, and the prospect was looking good.

... that **Arnie Krenn** has successfully launched a brand new accordion club in Victoria, B.C. They had 21 players at their very first meeting! They are still seeking just the right name for their club. Any and all accordionists are invited to play at the new club. Membership is \$30 per year, which includes the club's use of several rooms at the Edelweiss Club in Victoria.

... that **Art Van Damme and his Quintet** will be playing on Friday, January 17 at the Arts & Culture Center in Lodi. For info call Bob Foppiano (209) 931-3472.

Walshe Guide Provides Insight into Accordion and Harmonica Events Worldwide

Walshe Essential Guide to Accordion and Harmonica Events: Festivals and Competitions Worldwide, by former **BAAC member Willoughby Walshe**, now residing in Europe. The book covers 350 accordion/harmonica events including festivals, competitions, accordion cruises, accordion gatherings of all kinds in 45 countries on 5 continents, and also includes a brief history and summary of activities.

For many years, Willoughby Ann Walshe, American journalist, passionate accordionist, and technical book author collected all kinds of information pertaining to harmonica instrument events worldwide. She worked closely with publisher Ulrich Schmülling (publisher of the periodical *Inter Musik*) at Karthause-Schmülling Internationale Musikverlage to present a maximum amount of information into a clearly organized and easy-to-use format. The book has been exceptionally well received since its appearance on bookstands.

The book is available through Ernest Deffner Publications, (516) 746-3100; FAX (516) 746-7085. Web address www.accordions.com/ErnestDeffner, e-mail FDeffner@aol.com. Price \$23.95 plus \$5.45 shipping/handling.

BAAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual;

\$30 per year for a family

Mail check to B.A.A.C.

P.O. Box 318175

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

November meeting

By Bob Berta

The November meeting began with chat about the outstanding float and music provided by the BAAC Fun Band during the **San Francisco Italian Heritage Day Parade**. The float proved to be a crowd favorite, and we hope that the Fun Band will participate again in 2003. While the actual event was spectacular and the crowd was extra appreciative, we were a little upset at the TV coverage: just as our float was coming on screen they elected to cut to an advertisement. When coverage resumed, there was the Loni Anderson float which was just behind our float. Can you imagine choosing to show Loni Anderson over accordion players?? (See still another photo elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Val announced that **Gordon Piatanesi** was selected by the BAAC board for a special honorary membership in BAAC. Gordon is the past owner of **Colombo Accordions**, and a major figure in the history of the accordion in San Francisco. We are hoping to get Gordon to attend a meeting to "officially" accept the honorary membership.

Impromptu pre-meeting, intermission, and end-of-the-evening music was provided by **Rino Pucci, Rusty Bartoli, Reno Di Bono, Harry Gay, John Marquette, Jim Hillman, Peter Di Bono and Lou Soper**.

Starting the music part of the meeting, two of the three **BAAC Scholarship winners** were featured. **Salane Schultz** (student of Lou Soper) and **Thor Miao** (student of Lou Jacklich) were present to accept their awards—but they didn't get those awards without a "demonstration" of their musical prowess. (The third Scholarship was awarded to **Peter Di Bono's student Julia Farrugia**, who could not come to this meeting—but we will hear from her in the future!)

First up was Salane playing *Indifférence*, *Give My Regards To Broadway* (with a great bit of singing too), and *Carnival of Venice*. Teacher Lou Soper then joined Salane in a lively duet of *The Down Home Rag*. The audience was astounded to learn that she has been playing for only five months. Wow...what a fast learner! She exhibited very fine playing along with a delightful stage presence. We will be looking forward to return visits.

Thor Miao was next up, and while we have heard him a couple of times before, it became very evident that he is progressing rapidly. He chose a very ambitious program which included a Finnish Polka, *Hungarian Dance # 6*, and *Flight of the Bumblebee*. I and others were surprised at the choice of the last two numbers which are very difficult to perform, but Thor played them with aplomb and kept those "bees" flying in check.

The intermission was next and offered a wonderful opportunity to partake of yet another delicious repast prepared by **Frances and Domenic Benedetto**. How do they do it?

Next, past BAAC President **Frank Montoro** performed

some very nice arrangements of well-known tunes. Frank started with *Cry Me a River*, a lovely, sultry cabaret song I always enjoy listening to, and Frank did a particularly moving rendition of it. He then took us on a trip to the bull ring with *La Virgen de la Macarena*. This is a traditional tune that the matadors use to implore the Blessed Virgin to protect them from the bull. He then proceeded to play a medley of French tunes starting with *Song from Moulin Rouge* (one of my favorite tunes by the way), *Hymne à l'Amour* and the theme song from the musical *Gigi*. As a lover of stage and movie music, I was delighted with Frank's fine performance which showed lots of emotion and demonstrated an artistic and sensual interpretation of the music played.

The featured event of the night was a special performance and story telling by **Vince Cirelli**. Vince enthralled us as his conversation covered the early history of the accordion in San Francisco sprinkled with various tips on how to "wear" your accordion, how to take care of it, and of course how to play it. He used his Petosa Millennium Reedless Accordion to demonstrate a wide variety of musical interpretations utilizing creative arrangements aided by a selection of different sounds that the electronic accordion could apply to the music to complement the tune. As a human store house of a huge amount of accordion history, Vince is truly a treasure that the BAAC club can be proud of, and of course his ability to repair and rebuild accordions is legendary. Heck, he is also one fine accordionist to boot!

RKB

BAAC Officers

President: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net
Vice President: Frank Schlotter
(510) 339-1163

Treasurer: Bob Pisani
(650) 347-2559 grnduster@aol.com
Secretary: Richard Schiller
(510) 832-3002 richards38@aol.com

Directors

Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208
James Firpo (415) 648-3674
Ed Massolo (650) 589-8409
Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

Ad Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$10.00; a half-page ad will cost \$20.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$35.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$10. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

Your Executive Board met . . .

. . . on Tuesday, November 12, 2002. The board by unanimous vote declared Gordon Piatanesi an honorary member of BAAC for life. The total cost to BAAC of our participation in the Italian Heritage Day parade was \$195.86. The total in all our bank accounts is \$10,227.44 as of 11/11/02. (Later note: There will be no board meeting in December. The next board meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 7.) Any BAAC member is welcome at board meetings. Call Val (510) 531-4836 for details.

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Church Bulletin Bloopers

"This evening at 7 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin."

"At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice."

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."

"The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon."

"Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door."

Coming Events

Sunday, December 8, 2002

noon-5:00

Boaz Accordions Holiday Open House

Featuring Eastern European
and Klezmer music by accordion duo Max & Minka
and Celtic music by Mitch and Roz Gordon, and more!
1041 Folger Ave., Berkeley (510) 845-1429

Friday, December 6, 2002

Accordion Club Of the Redwoods

Holiday dinner-dance

Call Harry Cannata

(707) 838-2859

Tuesday, December 10, 2002

Golden State Accordion Club

Holiday party (Vacaville)

Call Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Friday, December 20, 2002

From 11:00 a.m. on

Joe Smiell and the Smiell Band

Schroeder's Café
240 Front Street, San Francisco
(415) 421-4778

January 17-18, 2003

Galla-Rini 99th Birthday Bash

San Diego

Info: Joan Sommers sommersJ@umkc.edu
(913) 722-5625

March 6-9, 2003

National Accordion Convention

Plano, Texas

Norman Seaton nns5522-@dccc.edu
11240 Drummond Drive, Dallas, TX 75228-1950
www.accordions.com/taa

June 1-5, 2003

Silver Falls Accordion Camp, Sublimity, Oregon

Call Geoff Levear (503) 452-4517

gleavear@aol.com

June 17-21, 2003

Leavenworth International

Accordion Celebration

Leavenworth, WA

Info: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 327, Leavenworth, WA 98826
(509) 548-5807; e-mail info@leavenworth.org

June 22-25, 2003

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention
Starring Myron Floren, Dick Contino, Art Van Damme,
and Anthony Galla-Rini appearing for the first time
together on one stage!

And featuring Frank Marocco, Peter and Mady Soave,
Tony Lovello, Gina & Romany Rye, Julien Labro, Les
Accordionistes de Grenoble (France), Steve Albini,
Ron Borelli, Gordon Kohl and more!
Call (800) 472-1695 or (801) 486-1695

Or visit www.accordionstars.com

E-mail Vegas@accordioninfo.com

(Val also has some flyers/forms)

June 25-29, 2003

ATG Competition and Festival

Info: Joan C. Sommers, 2312 W. 71 Terrace

Prairie Village, KS (913) 722-5625

E-mail: sommersJ@umkc.edu

NEWS ITEM OF NOTE!

Maestro Galla-Rini has gone to live with his son Ron and his wife. **His new address:** Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini, C/O Ron and Jan Galla-Rini, 9185 Stone Canyon Road, Corona, CA 92885; phone (909) 277-2105.

Who Is Playing Where

Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio

play for dancing every second Friday of the month

at Montaville in Scotts Valley, CA

8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

For info call Reno (408) 252-3808

Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA

Playing **Sunday, December 15**, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

At Tyrolean Inn, 9600 Highway 9 in Ben Lomond

Phone (831) 336-5188

Playing **New Year's Eve** 8:00 p.m. to Midnight

Germania Verein, 261 N. 2nd Street, San Jose

For reservations (required) call (408) 448-5084

Mike Zampiceni plays on Friday and Saturday nights

At Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant

2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose

For reservations call (408) 377-5850

The Internationals playing Nw Year's Eve

At Teske's Germania, 255 N. First St., San Jose

(408) 292-0291

A Hearty Welcome . . .

. . . to new member **Nick Quattrociocche**

who is on a quest to locate original sheet music

of his grandfather, R. B. Quattrociocche

If you have any such sheet music hiding in your closet
and can help in Nick's search, call Nick at (510) 614-3450.

. . . and also to **Victor Amenta**

Vic has been playing mandolin with the BAAC Fun Band for

some months now, and he is a valuable addition!

We're happy to have him on board!

For Sale

**Philharmonic professional model
accordion—1982**

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Right and left-hand microphones

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Joe Domitrowich (408) 255-1259

Photos of the November meeting . . .



**The much-appreciated people who provide our great food
Domenic and Frances Benedetto**



**The Ernst Angsts
(there's a mouthfull!)**



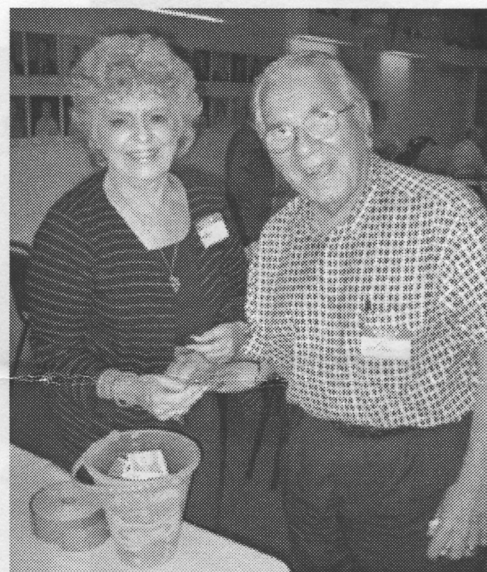
Frank Schlotter and Sharon Walters



**Dennis Stoscher
(Never shy about playing!)**



**Eddie Zaro
Our intrepid videographer
(What would we do without him?)**



**Evelyn Baulch and Lou Soper
Doing raffle duty**



**Frank Montoro
Always a favorite**



"Are we having fun yet?"

Still more November meeting photos . . .



**The welcome table
Vince Cirelli, Rosemary Armanino, Jim Firpo**



**"Rino & Reno" (Pucci and Di Bono)
Before the meeting**



Our great MC Bob Berta



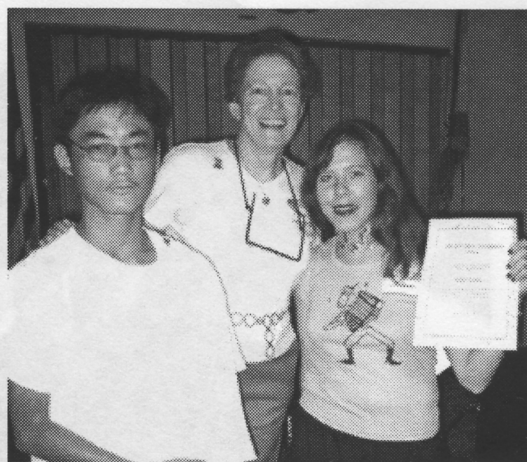
Thor Miao (Student of Lou Jacklich)



Salane Schultz (Student of Lou Soper)



Salane and Lou



**Congratulations to Thor and Salane
who were awarded BAAC scholarships**

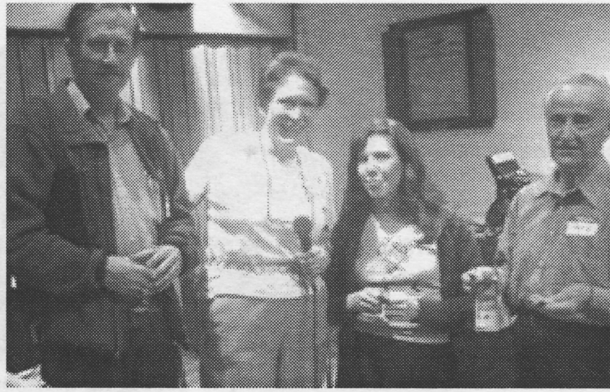


**Nick Quattrocioche
New BAAC member**

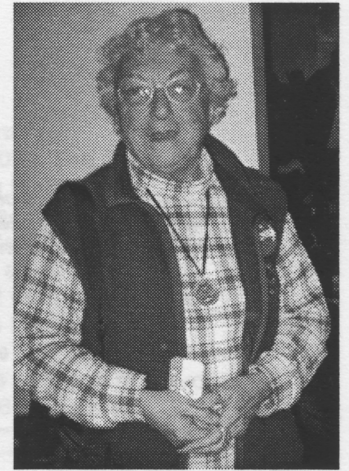
And still more photos . . .



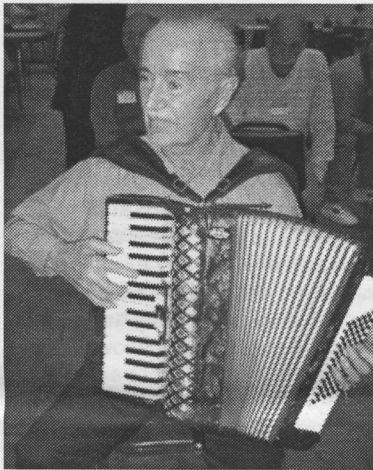
The best goodies anywhere!



The drawing: Bob Berta, Val Kieser, Salane Schultz, Rusty Bartoli



Rita D'Amico



Rusty



The Harry Gays came all the way From Stockton



Peter Di Bono's Workshop



More of Peter's Workshop



... And one more photo of the SF Italian Heritage Day Parade (photo not available in time for the Nov. issue) →



Exchange of Recordings

Are you interested in exchanging recordings with someone who is both a collector and organizer of recordings? Contact **Greg Durst**, 3824 S. 58th St., Milwaukee, WI 53220; (414) 543-9948. He has everything from Ernie Felice to Art Van Damme to Alice Hall.

The Emotional Component of Music Practice

By Bob Barnes

Reprinted with permission from the newsletter of the Tualatin Valley Accordionists (very slightly edited)

I want to make clear that the opinions expressed are only mine and may in no way be attributed to my valued friends.

People are complex and no more so than when they are making the decision about whether or not to spend precious time practicing on their instrument. Further decisions will follow about what they want to accomplish in their practice time and how they will go about doing it. The strength of their decisions will determine how disciplined they will be during the practice time. The ensemble practice at the end of our last meeting caused me to reflect on this. If you were there, you will recall how long and hard Doris (Osgood) worked us in learning how to play the music. There is a lesson there for all of us.

For five years in the middle of the 1990s, I was heavily involved in preparing for and playing in the competitions at Kimberley and Leavenworth. I played in both the solo and duet categories at the time. Each one required the performance of three pieces. I practiced very hard all year on those six pieces. The majority of my practice time was spent in perfecting those six numbers. It was a high-intensity life, this accordion playing — even stressful. At the end of four years of this, I made the ultimate decision about practice. I put the instrument away and didn't touch it for 8 months. When I picked it up and started to play again, I was so conditioned to competitive practicing that I once again began preparing to compete and did so again. The goals for competing were met once again, but the stress was more than I would endure any longer.

After that I made another major decision about practicing. I put the instrument away for 3 years and began learning to play the button box. The Joe Smiell camps were wonderful. They rejuvenated my spirit, taught me some wonderful new things about music and gave me a whole new set of friends.

I have picked up the piano accordion again and have begun to become reacquainted with it. But I have thought a lot about why I practice in the first place and what I really want

to accomplish. It is a lot of hard work. It takes valuable time away from important matters. If Irene (author's wife) hadn't taken up the instrument to play with me, it would have meant taking a lot more time away from her. May I share a few thoughts with you on these issues ...

It is important to have someone to play for. It may be only for someone close to you, but sharing our music is a major reason for me to practice properly. When large accordion studios were in business, they immediately recognized that performance is a key element in the training of a musician. If all you are going to do is play for yourself at home, there is not much motivation to work hard at practice. So, while I do not actively plan to compete any longer, we do have opportunities now and then to play for others. It is important to us to play well when those chances come. So, we choose numbers within our level of ability and practice to play them as tastefully as that ability will allow.

The motivation is great to play music that you personally enjoy. Select pieces that you like. Be sure that you like them as well on the accordion as you do when they are performed by that large orchestra you heard play it on the CD. The accordion is a versatile instrument, but it cannot duplicate the efforts of 25 or more instrumentalists.

Recognize that practice time is generally not a time to be performing. You need to isolate passages that you do not play up to your standards and work, work, work on them. I find that even after I have slowly worked through the parts that I do poorly, I can continue to play the whole piece slowly enough to be accurate, and quickly bring it up to speed when a performance is imminent. Did you notice how Doris had us play a few measures slowly over and over again? That reflects the wisdom of a good teacher. She focused on small details, on correct phrasing, and repeatedly took us through it ever so slowly. The speed will come easily after the fingering and bellows techniques are carefully worked out.

Play some numbers that are a change of pace now and then. Some old numbers that are easy for you to play are always fun. Some new music that is at or below your ability level is refreshing to play. Then try some new music that is difficult and regularly work on a few measures at a time—**slowly**. Treat this as an exercise and enjoy a lovely tune while you work on your technique. Keep a pencil handy to write in fingering, dynamics and other things that are important to you. If it is really difficult, forget the basses for a while and just play the top note of each chord. When you get around to the basses, write in the fingering and the counter-basses and just play those for a while.

* * * * *

Come and join in ...

Bay Area Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Thursday of the month
Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma
For information call Val (510) 531-4836
Website: www.baaccordionclub.org

East Bay Accordion Circle

Meets the second Thursday of the month
1517 - 5th St., Berkeley. Bring your accordion!
For information call (510) 548-2822

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

Golden State Accordion Club

Meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month
At Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St. in Vacaville
For information call (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday
of the month
Community Center
1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon
For information call (209) 545-3603

South Bay Accordion Jam

Meets 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month
Seventh Day Adventist Church
5265 Carter Ave., near Camden & Kooser

BAAC Ensemble Practice

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Moose Lodge
7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City
For information call Frank (650) 574-4757

BAAC "Fun Band" Practice

First and Third Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Moose Lodge
7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City
For information call Frank (510) 339-1163

* * * * *

Accordion Teacher Listings
San Francisco/North Peninsula

Peter Di Bono
Theory/Technique/Performance
(415) 753-1502

Lou Soper
Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m.
Moose Club, Colma/Daly City
(510) 841-6745

Sharon Walters
All levels (415) 621-8284

North Bay

Steve Albini
Marin/Sonoma
Private (415) 897-4131

Bart Beninco

Accordion and Piano
Petaluma (707) 769-8744

Marjorie Konrad

Button Box, Piano Accordion
& Chromatic
Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

East Bay

Valarie Morris
Group & Private; Theory, Technique,
Composition; all levels/ages
(510) 222-8442

Lou Jacklich

Private Lessons; Technique,
Arranging & Chords
(510) 317-9510

Peninsula & South Bay

Lynn Ewing
All levels/ages
(650) 365-1700

Marian Kelly

Lessons structured to your
Individual need
(650) 854-1896

Ron Borelli

Theory, Technique, and Performance
(650) 574-5707

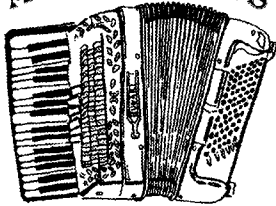
Mike Zampiceni

Beginner to Advanced
BA and MA in music
(408) 734-1565
(Newly returned to the South Bay)

Correspondence

Gary Dahl
Technique/Musicianship
Mel Bay Arranger/Author
Phone/FAX (253) 770-9492
www.accordions.com/garydahl

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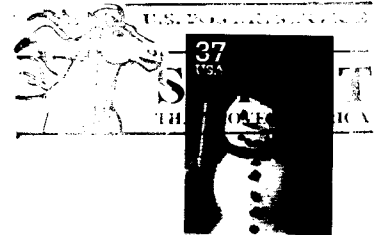
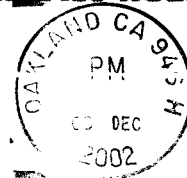
*Are you upgrading your Concerto to the new
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(Submissions to BAAC PAGE are due 2 weeks after the 1st Wednesday of the month)

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