

Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



ACCORDION CLUB

December 2003



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

12/11/03

Happy Holidays

Thanksgiving is in the books ("Game ovuh" as our new Governor is wont to say). I hope everyone took a minute to re-

flect on the bounteous good fortune we possess. After all, we live in the greatest country in the history of civilization, and we all love the accordion. What is not to be thankful for? The biggest holiday of the year, Christmas, is just around the corner. It's time to bring out the ornaments and tinsel, and get the tree up before New Year's Eve (I am sure that divorce lawyers invented Christmas tree lights).

I want to take a moment here to offer a special thank you to our outgoing President, Val Kieser. She is a dynamo of limitless energy, always up for everything, and somehow, is able to manage so much at the same time, and, without a flaw. Thanks Val, we all appreciate you very much.

The **Frank Marocco** concert: "The best concert I have ever been to"; "What an amazing player"; "What a great trio"; "This was a great night." These are a few of the many comments heard since the concert. You can read elsewhere about the concert, it's really a shame if you missed it. Positioning the stage on the

north wall, and professional stage lighting, transformed the clubhouse into an intimate nightclub atmosphere that was befitting such a great artist. The musicians backing up were the best, and Frank's playing was, well, spectacular. If you weren't able to get his new album, "Appassionato", before they sold out, let me know.

The concert was the direct result of some great planning by our Board, and the able-bodied assistance of our members: Jim Holliday, Evelyn Baulch, Don Nurisso, Jim Firpo, Rosemary Armanino, Vince Cirelli, Scott Williamson, Tony Di Bono, Bob Berta, Tom Orzechowski. And what Club evening would stand a chance of succeeding without the help of Dominic and Frances Benedetto? The Club would cease to exist but for people like these. I hope I mentioned everyone. If I missed you, I apologize, but know that I appreciate your help.

Scholarship Notes. The scholarship fund received a boost from a good friend from Monterey, **Mike Marotta**, the swingin'est accordionist in Monterey County, and The Monterey Jazz Festival's "Jazz Accordionist of the Year." Mike demonstrated his endorsement of our scholarship program →

December Meeting

This is our annual Christmas Party and "Groups Night" where our club groups will each play a program of approx. a half hour: The club Fun Band and the ACE Ensemble. We might have some surprise entertainment too! We will have audience participation for part of the program, so bring your accordion!

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2003 7:00 P.M.
MOOSE LODGE DALY CITY**

with a very generous donation. The San Francisco Accordion Club is very grateful for the generosity of our special friends like Mike.

The December meeting will feature the music of the Holidays to get you in the spirit, and there are always some surprises, planned or not.

I wish you all a healthy, happy holiday season, and the very best wishes for the New Year.

Cheers!

Peter Di Bono

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!

... And an Apology

At the October meeting I mentioned that Albert Bartolotti had passed away, and announced that he so loved his accordion that it was buried with him. This was a mistake. Dilva Bartolotti was kind enough to call me and tell me that the accordion was *displayed* at the funeral home, but was not buried with Albert. I am sorry for this mistake.

Peter

Our Sincere Thanks to the Following People for their Generous Donations to the SFAC

Kris Nelson to the Scholarship Fund
Lynn and Gail Ewing to the Scholarship Fund
Carley Koliha of Billings, Montana
for the ACE Ensemble
Mike Marotta to the Scholarship Fund

ATTENTION ACCORDION TEACHERS !!

The purpose of the San Francisco Accordion Club's Scholarship Program is to encourage accordion students to continue their study by assisting them financially. The amount of the scholarship money available is limited and depends largely on private donations to the Scholarship Fund. Therefore, financial need on the part of the applicant, in addition to other criteria (ability, ambition, desire, resolve, etc.), should be described in the application form in order to qualify for consideration by the Scholarship Committee. Forms are available to accordion teachers by contacting Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757.

Frank Montoro

Chairman, SFAC Scholarship Committee

If you would like to play at a meeting

Please contact Don Nurisso (650) 359-3549

Nurisso@mindspring.com

NOTICE

THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER YOU WILL RECEIVE IF YOU HAVE NOT RE-NEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

!!!

!!!

!!!

Your Executive Board Met...

... On Tuesday, Nov. 11. Tony Lovello will be returning in April to play for us. George Cerrutti will play for us in January. The club has a total of \$15,677 in all accounts, including the business money-market account for ACE. We will make Frank Marocco a lifetime honorary member in November (which was done). A date for the 2004 picnic, at Nature Friends Park in Oakland, will be set soon.

Don't Forget the

GALLA-RINI

HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY GALA!!

Saturday, January 24, 2004

Radisson Hotel at LAX (Airport)

Maestro Galla-Rini will conduct three of his arrangements for the ensemble. If you wish to participate in the ensemble, a practice will be held Friday evening, Jan. 23 at 7:00 p.m. and again Saturday noon, January 24. If you are playing, you *must* attend both rehearsals as well as the banquet. Playing parts will be decided by the Maestro and mailed to you by January 2.

The Banquet menu offers a choice of New York strip steak, grilled halibut, or vegetarian menu. All include salad, veggies, rice pilaf, dessert, coffee/tea, wine and champagne.

The hotel offers a special rate of \$89 plus tax and fees, for participants in the Galla-Rini Birthday Party. For room reservations call (866) 244-6005.

See Val for further information and for the forms to sign up!!

Welcome New Members

Mike Marotta of Monterey, very popular accordion enthusiast and player
Hans Bakke of Menlo Park
Welcome aboard!

A note from the Massolos

"We were sorry not to be able to attend the October meeting. Eddie had not been feeling well. He just started to feel better yesterday.

"We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the club. Since we enjoy the club and all its endeavors we were happy to contribute something needed (a place for board meetings—*Ed.*) We did no more than Valerie who accepted for two years a great responsibility.... We thank you and the Board and all the club members for the great treat of a very special dinner.
Eddie and Isabelle

An Honor Well Deserved

Outgoing president Val Kieser was feted by her board of directors and friends at a gala dinner held at Bucca di Beppo restaurant, December 2 in San Francisco. For the past two years, Val devoted countless hours leading our club to an honored place in our accordion world and achieving a solvency that will allow us to better promote the cause of the accordion in the future. Her ambassadorship to other clubs and events in this country and abroad has made our name known to many, and has attracted noted artists to our club including the recent visit of Frank Marocco. Val is continuing as club secretary, where her tireless efforts on our behalf can only continue to benefit us greatly.
Dick Schiller



A few of the people at the dinner party, from Val's board of directors: Dick Schiller, Vince Cirelli, Bob Pisani, Ed Massolo, Val, Frank Schlotter, Joe Smiell, Jim Firpo

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And a note from Val

... To thank Dick Schiller and those wonderful club members who planned and carried out a fabulous dinner party for me in San Francisco. (You know who you are!) I was bowled over! You are the most terrific bunch of people I know!
Val

Our apologies ...

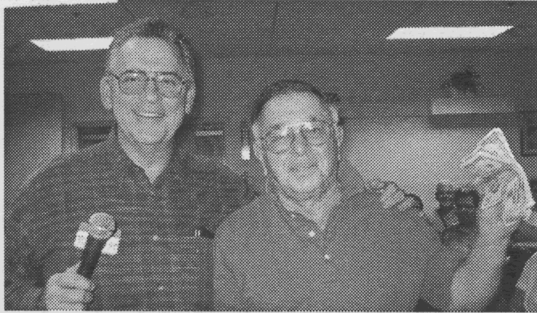
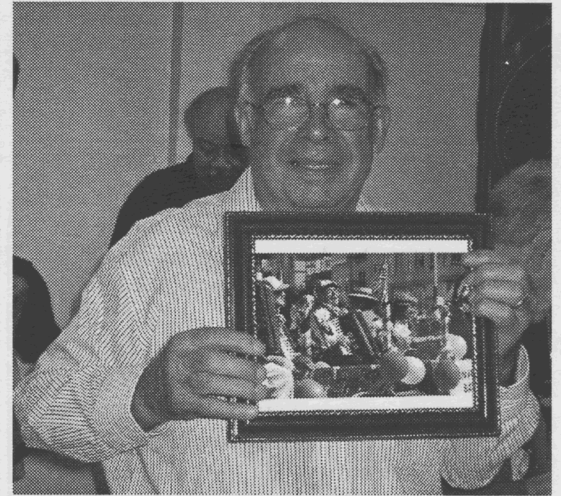
... For the tardiness of the newsletter this month. Due to a major crisis in my life (the loss of my husband and the consequent urgent matters following it), I was unable to prepare a full newsletter and get it out in time. Dick Schiller stepped in to help with great enthusiasm and energy—and then his computer broke down! So, please bear with us and watch next month for the writeup of the fabulous Frank Marocco concert! In the meantime, I'll include a few photos of the grand event.
Val

**Photos from November Meeting
Featuring Frank Marocco**



*Val with Reno Di Bono and
Pandoris /South Bay
contingent*

*A well deserved honor for Jim
Firpo: the original color photo
from Chronicle article*



*Michael Sanossian winning the
drawing*

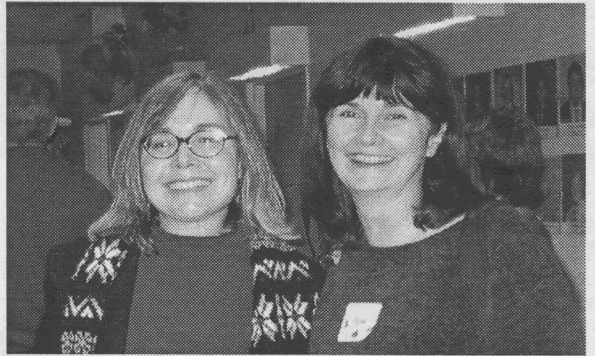


*Were Reno Di Bono and George
Chavez having fun yet??*

*Buffet Table—
Yummy!*



*Valarie Morris and
Lynn Ewing*



*Vince Cirelli, Frank Ma-
rocco, Rosemary Armanino*

*Johnny Fiore and Lou
Casalnuovo (below, left)*

*Steve Cannata, Bart
Beninco, Jim Holliday,
Evelyn Baulch, Frank
Marocco, Bob Smith, Val
Kieser, Rita D'Amico,
Peter Di Bono*

*Mike Marotta and
Lou Soper*



*(More photos with next month's writeup of Frank
Marocco's concert*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 7

Open House at Boaz Accordions

1041 Folger Ave., Berkeley

(510) 845-1429 www.boazaccordions.com

Boaz Accordions will be open every day December 1-24; closed Dec. 25-Jan. 1.

Boaz offers many classes and workshops and an extensive teacher listing.

Visit Website given above.

Friday, December 19

11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and

4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Joe Smiell's band playing at

Schroeder's Café in San Francisco

Friday, December 19

Accordion Club of the Redwoods Xmas Party

Call Kris Nelson (707) 795-4860

Tuesday, December 9

Golden State Accordion Club Xmas Party

Call Carole or Don Enneking (707) 864-2359

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

BAAC Honorary Members

Vince Cirelli
Dick Contino
Myron Floren
Anthony Galla-Rini
Frank Marocco
Gordon Piatanesi
Art Van Damme
Joe Smiell

BAAC Past Presidents

Lou Soper
Dominic Palmisano
Peter di Bono
Frank Montoro
Bob Berta
Marian Kelly
Valerie Kieser



THE POWER OF MUSIC IS SO GREAT THAT IN THE LEGENDS OF ALL NATIONS, THE INVENTION OF THE ART IS ASCRIBED TO THE GODS.

Karl Merz

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 \$20. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

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BAAC Officers

President: Peter Di Bono

(415) 753-1502 pdibono@hotmail.com

Vice President: Don Nurisso

(650) 359-3549 nurisso@sirius.com

Treasurer: Mike Zampiceni

(408) 734-1565 eclecticguy@earthlink.net

Secretary: Valerie Kieser

(510) 531-4836 vtacc@value.net

Directors for 2003-2004

Ron Borelli

(650) 574-5707 rborelli@aol.com

Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208

James Firpo (415) 648-3674

Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

Scott Williamson (408) 553-7519

Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser

(510) 531-4836 vtacc@value.net

Tips for Accordion Health by Boaz Rubin

- TUNING is needed about every 3-5 years for frequently played accordions in good condition. Keeping yours in tune preserves your musical ear and your popularity with the rest of the band.
- A BACKPAD protects the bellows from wear. If your accordion doesn't have a backpad, get one! (A backpad costs less than \$50; a new bellows costs hundreds.)

Kids' Theology

"Dear God, Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now.

Amanda"



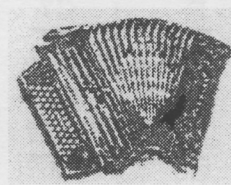
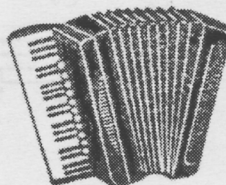
"Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother, but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. *Joyce*"

"Dear Mr. God, I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have 3 stitches and a shot. *Janet*"

"God, I read the Bible. What does begat mean? Nobody will tell me. Love, *Allison*."

"Dear God, How did you know you were God? Who told you? *Charlene*"

"Dear God, Is it true my father won't get into Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house? *Anita*"



DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE IT! \$25 single membership, \$30 for a family at one address, payable either to BAAC or San Francisco Accordion Club

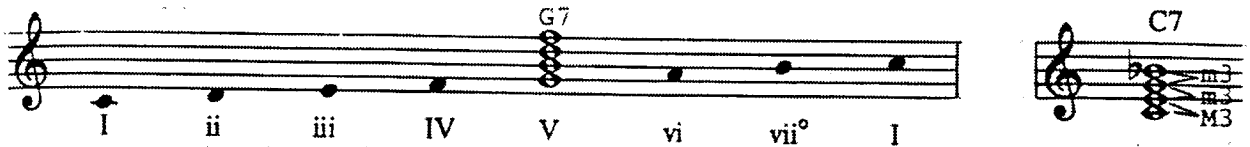
The Dominant Seventh Chord

(BASIC MUSIC 5.)

by Jim Holliday (Bay Area Accordion Club)

The most important chord in any key is the "Home Base" chord, more technically known as the Tonic, or I-Chord. It is built on the first scale note of any key, and since it conveys to the ear a feeling of rest and finality, it is often used to end a musical phrase within a tune and is almost always used as the final chord. If a song is in the key of 'C', the last chord will be a C-chord; in 'Bb', a Bb-chord; in 'D', a D-chord.

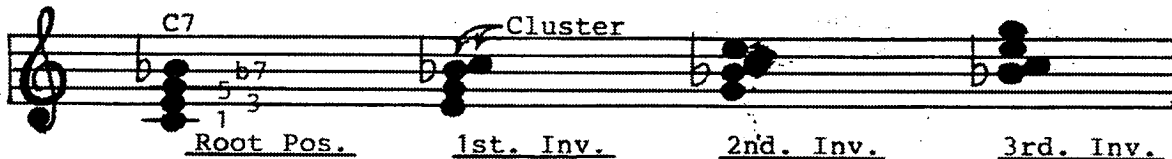
The second most important chord in any key is the Dominant Seventh, or V-Chord, a four note chord built on the fifth, or dominant tone of a major scale.



The Dominant 7 precedes the I-Chord at the end of a progression and functions as a hinge by resolving back to the I-Chord, a V-I progression. The V-I is the most frequently used progression in music.

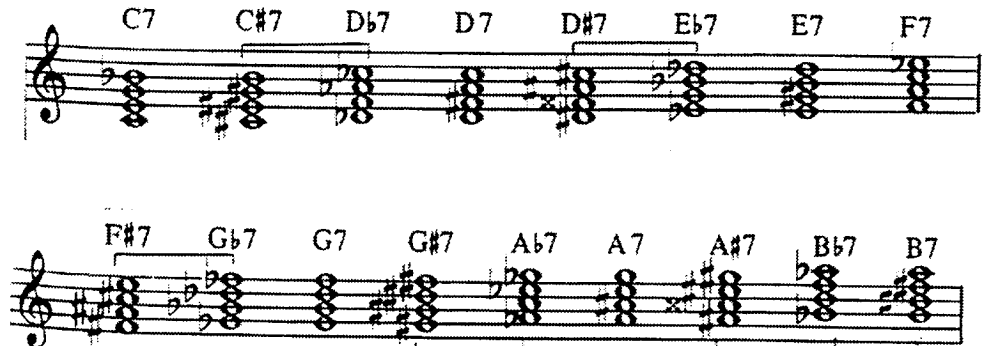
In root position the fourth note is a minor seventh (b7) above the bottom root note, so the Dom-7 formula becomes 1-3-5-b7. An easy way to think of the chord is a major triad with a minor third added on. The chord structure in thirds is M-m-m. (C-E-G-Bb, G-B-D-F, D-F#-A-C.)

When the Dominant 7 chord is played in any of its three inversions, the root and flat seventh are positioned close together and form what is known as a "cluster." In this cluster, the upper note is always the root and the flat-7 is always two half-steps below.



On sheet music, the Dominant 7 is notated as C7, Ab7, G7, etc. All '7' chords are played with a flat 7 unless labeled otherwise. For accord-ionists, playing the V-I progression on the left hand bass buttons is simple. Play any Dom 7 chord and then drop down to the next row below and play the Major chord.

Key	Dominant 7th (V7)
C	G7
F	C7
Bb	F7
Eb	Bb7
Ab	Eb7
Db	Ab7
Gb	Db7
Cb	Gb7
G	D7
D	A7
A	E7
E	B7
B	F#7
F#	C#7



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 THIRD TUESDAY of the month
beginning July 15

(Please note that this is a change)

This means that the BAAC meetings and the EBAC meetings no longer conflict—so let's support our East Bay club!

1540 Scenic Ave., 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*
And 7 PM the fourth Wednesday
at Shepherders Inn, 11275 Folsom Blvd.
in *Rancho Cordova*

For information call (707) 864-2359

Northern California Accordion Society

Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month
Polish American Community Hall
1327 Main Street, Roseville
Info: Call Vince (916) 791-3041

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

Third Sunday of the month 2:00 p.m.
Theatre Room of Sunny View Manor,
22445 Cupertino Road

(Off N. Foothill Blvd.) in Cupertino

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

Meets on the first Sunday of the Month
NEW MEETING PLACE BEGINNING OCTOBER 5!

2:00 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau Restaurant
390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

(between 280 and Stevens Creek Blvd.)

For Info Phone (408) 270-5003

Website: www.SVASociety.com

BAAC Ensemble Practice

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Moose Lodge

7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

Call first!: Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757

BAAC "Fun Band" Practice

First and Third Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge

7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

Call first!: Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

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 Alpines USA

Every Sunday evening beginning Nov. 16

5 to 9 p.m. at Tyrolean Inn

9600 Highway 9 in Ben Lomond

(831) 336-5188

For info call Joe (408) 255-1259

The Internationals

Teske's Germania,

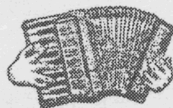
255 N. First St., San Jose

Dec. 20 and New Year's Eve

Call (408) 292-0291 for more info

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

William DeMichelis plays on
Friday and Saturday nights
At the Elbe German and European
restaurant
117 University Avenue, Palo Alto
Call (650) 321-3319
or visit www.elbe-restaurant.com



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

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Marjorie Konrad

Button Box, Piano Accordion
& Chromatic

Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

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Arranging & Chords
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Ron Borelli

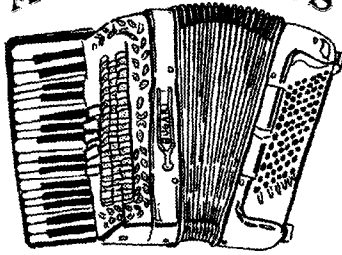
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