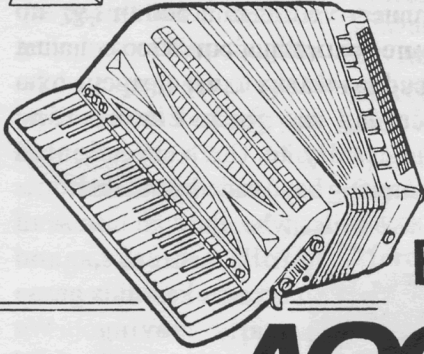


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB

February, 2000



COME CHECK OUT OUR NEW DIGS!

BAAC's March meeting will take place at the new home of the Bay Area Accordion Club at Patio Espanol, 2850 Alemany Blvd., In San Francisco near Daly City.

Driving Directions:

From the Peninsula via 280 North: Take 280 North to Daly City. **Stay left on freeway and merge onto Junipero Serra Blvd.** Highway 1.(280 veers off to the right). Go approximately ~ mile and turn **right onto Alemany Blvd.**, and follow it past San Jose Ave.(under the freeway), Sickles, Laura, Lawrence, and turn **left at Farragut** directly into the Patio Espanol parking lot.

From the Peninsula via 101 North: Drive north of 3 Com Park and take the **280 Daly City overpass** which veers to the left. Drive **south on 280** to one turnoff past Geneva Ave. which will say **Mission Street-Daly City 82-1**. You will come off the freeway onto **San Jose Ave**. Stay



in left lane to take an immediate **left onto Sickles Ave.**, and another immediate **left onto Alemany Blvd.** Then it's Laura, Lawrence, and turn **left at Farragut** directly into the Patio Espanol parking lot.

From the Bay Bridge: Take **101 South** staying in the right lanes so you can take the **Daly City 280 South exit**. Drive south on 280 to one **turnoff past Geneva Ave.** which will say **Mission Street-Daly City 82-1**. You will come off the freeway **onto San Jose Ave**. Stay in left lane to take an **immediate left onto Sickles Ave.**, and another **immediate left onto Alemany Blvd.** Then it's Laura, Lawrence, and turn **left at Farragut**

directly into the Patio Espanol parking lot.

From the Golden Gate Bridge: After the bridge, turn **onto Park Presidio Blvd** which becomes 19th Ave. after the Park. **Follow 19th Ave.** all the way past the Stonestown

Shopping Center and S.F. StateUniversity,, bending around to the left (get into right lane) to where it **meets Junipero Serra Blvd**. Turn **right onto Junipero Serra** and go approximately ~ mile taking the 2nd right turn at **Alemany Blvd. East/Cow Palace** which loops around onto **Brotherhood Way**. Traveling east for ~ mile take a left onto Alemany Blvd. Follow it past San Jose Ave.(under the freeway), Sickles, Laura, Lawrence, and **turn left at Farragut** directly into the Patio Espanol parking lot.

SEE YOU THERE TO CELEBRATE OUR NEW HOME!

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

The meeting opened with our new Vice President Steve Albini welcoming a full turn out at Club Verdi. Steve acknowledged visitors and special guests Steve Balich and wife Jenny (who later whooped it up winning this night's raffle).

Prez Lou took it from there giving a heartfelt tribute to Val Kieser for her continued unselfish devotion to our club. Lou also gave out ticket information for the upcoming Peter Soave concert with the Napa Valley Symphony, Sun 2/6. It was announced that members are allowed to sell accordion related items at the meetings to add interest for the members, and showed a check from Tom Torriglia for 10% of his sales of music. Lou also announced that in June it will be Party Time! It will be the 10th anniversary of our club and Lou said, "Be prepared for a blowout!" OK Lou, we can't wait!

Frank Montoro took the mic and gave an energetic pitch for people to consider joining the February start up of the BAAC Ensemble under the direction of our legendary Joe Smiell. The Ensemble meets the first and third Wednesdays at Moose Lodge, 7:00 PM. Bring a music stand.

Steve Albini then discussed the balloting for the move of our meetings to Patio Espanol, and together with Prez. Lou answered questions from the audience citing improved parking, easy access, spacious rooms to support the decision to move. It is at the board's discretion to make such a move, but the input from the members was requested "to make sure we are doing what the members want" (Prez. Lou). The ballots were counted at the break with a 3 to 1 majority in favor of making the move.

On to the music. Starting in

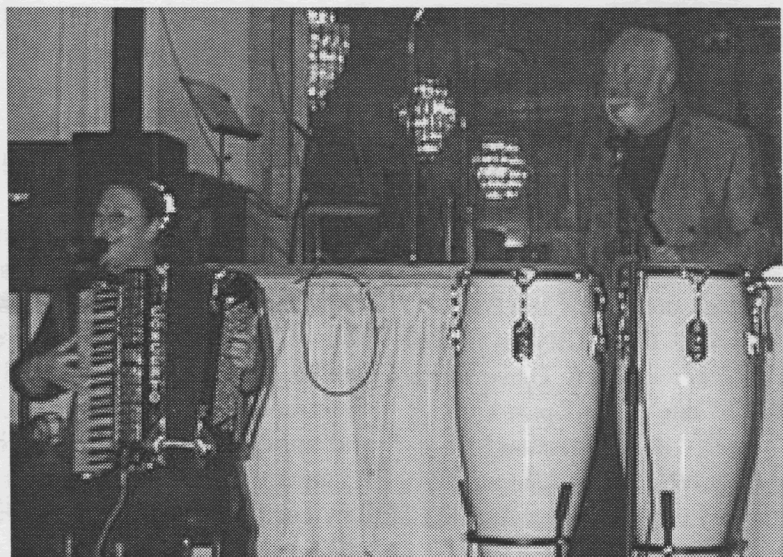
January, Steve Albini took on the duties of music coordinator for our club and has many great ideas for our upcoming meetings. This month he brought in the big guns from his Redwood Club, the Squeejees! Tom Torriglia, Ruth Peckham on accordion; Dave Miles on drums;



Rick Ellmore on tuba; and Carole Borelli, lead vocals and tambourine. Well, this colorfully dressed group got us going with polka melodies to which only accordions can do justice. The group took us through some great familiar melodies with: *We Want Polkas/Tic Toc Polka*, *Tu Hi Polka*, *Polka Jamboree* (Tom's creation), and *Livin' La Vida Polka*, a spin-off

of the Rickie Martin hit. The impressive things about this group were their enthusiasm, strong moving rhythms thanks to the energetic tuba playing by Rick Elmore, and especially to the very talented marching band cadences of drummer Dave Miles who, through his use of rolls, breaks, and accents kept this group really moving. We enjoyed it a lot, Tom and group. Please come back!

Steve then introduced Paul Pasquali who plugged his upcoming accordion convention in Las Vegas, which includes a very impressive lineup of accordion artists and workshops, including tonight's headline entertainers and world renowned artists, Gina and Romany Rye. Gina took the stage to first demonstrate Paul's creation, the Concerto MIDI accordion and its many unique features. Then Gina, joined by her husband, Romany, took over to provide us with a most



Gina and Romany Rye

pleasant Valentine's Day treat! They proceeded to mesmerize us not only with the incredible accordion technique of Gina, but also with expressive vocal stylings from Romany. His soft expressive voice supplemented with the delicate rhythm of his conga drums, wafted sensuous love songs for us to enjoy – can you picture it? Included were, *Amour*, *Besame Mucho*, *Forever and Ever*, *Love Letters*, *Spanish Eyes*, *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*, the hall was filled with wonderful music. After the third song I just had to get up and dance, as did others. How can someone not feel love when hearing the offerings like this from such a fine duo? Couple this with the accordion virtuoso displays of Gina, a past World Cup winner and you get an idea of the enjoyment we had this evening. Some of her offerings were; *Bel Viso* (Frosini), *Tosselli's Serenade*, *Luci e Ombre* (Pizzigoni), *Bel Fiore* (Frosini), *Carnival of Venice* along with many others. It was our treat to see such a distinguished artist play the music that we want to hear, accordion music, some of the finest around! It's been awhile since I've seen such fast action on the keyboard. Thank you, Gina and Romany, for tugging at our hearts and for giving us such beautiful music.

Mark Your Calendars

February 28, Monday. BAAC Board Meeting, 7:00 P. M. Moose Lodge, Daly City. Guests welcome. Call Lou Soper if you need directions.

March 5th (Sunday) (and every first Sunday). BAAC San Jose meeting. now being held at the 7th Day Adventist Church, on Carter, near Kooser & Camden in S.J. 3P to 6P. Admission \$3.00. Call Dick Cruickshank for more information. (408) 258-1258.

March 7th (Tuesday). Bay Area Accordion Club General Meeting. At Patio Espanol, 2850 Alemany Blvd., S.F. 7:15 PM.

March 9th (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.

March 13th (Monday). (and every second Monday). *The Good Time Accordion Club*. At Cocina Michoacana, 2253 Jackson Ave., Escalon. Info (209) 545-3603

March 14th (Tuesday). Meeting of the Golden State Accordion-Aires. 6:00PM. Veterans' Hall 549 Merchant St. Vacaville. Info: (707) 864-2359.

March 16 - 19th. The Texas Accordion Association National Accordion Convention. At the Holiday inn in Plano (Dallas), Texas. Motto this year is "Texas is setting the standard for the millennium!" Call Norman Seaton (head organizer) at (972) 270-3791, or email him at NSeaton1@IBM.Net.

March 18th, Saturday. The Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band. At Ashkenaz, Berkeley. (510) 525-5054.

March 19th, Sunday. Dick Contino at the Grape Festival in Lodi.

March 20 Monday. (and every third Monday). Meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. 7:00pm. Volpi's in Petaluma, 122 W. Washington St.

April 4th, Tuesday BAAC General Meeting featuring guests Jorgen Sundeqvist and Oivind Farmen. Save the Date!

April 26th. At the Swedish Club of San Francisco, the Vasterfarnebo Accordion Club. Call George at (650) 368-4764.

May 2nd, Tuesday BAAC General Meeting featuring special guest Tony Lovello.

JUNE is National Accordion Awareness Month! .

June 22 - 24th. Leavenworth Accordion Celebration, Leavenworth, WA.(509) 548-5807

July 3 - 9th Kimberley Int'l Old Time Accordion Championships, Kimberley, BC Canada. Info: (888) 4KIOTAC. E-mail, kiotac@cyberlink.bc.ca..

July 12 - 16th. American Accordionists Association annual celebration. Wyndham Hotel, Washington, D.C. www.ameraccord.com; ameracc@aol.com.

July 20-23, 2000. ATG Festival (Accordion Teachers' Guild) in Chicago. Info: Joan Cochran Sommers, 2312 W. 71 Terrace, Prairie Village, KS 66208 or jcsommers@umkc.edu.

July 23 - 28th. Galla-Rini Accordion Camp at Mission San Luis Rey near San Diego. Info from Kjell Holmes, 4779 Cather Ave., San Diego 92122. (858) 453-5486.

August 6 - 10, 2000 National Accordion Convention in Las Vegas . Workshops, master classes (taught by Art Van Damme), exhibits, gala dinner each evening. Rooms are \$35/night at the Plaza Hotel and Convention Center. Call them at 800-634-6575. For info, (801) 486-1695 or www.Accordion-Info.com/convention.

August 26th and 27th. Cotati Accordion Festival. Cotati, CA. (707) 664-0444.

BAAC Ensemble: Meets at Moose Lodge, Daly City the 1st and 3rd. Wed. of the month. Contact Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757 for info.

BAAC Fun Band Meets at Moose Lodge the 4th Wed. of the month. Contact Tom Cordonni (415) 333-5625.

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

PIETRO DEIRO ACCORDION

The restoration process is proceeding rapidly on Pietro Deiro's 1917 accordion by master builder Vince Cirelli of San Francisco.

The accordion being restored was bought from Guerrini (dated June 6, 1917) in San Francisco.

A bit of incorrect accordion lore is that Pietro had a crooked 3rd and 4th fingers. To accommodate this his keyboard was supposedly cut differently than the standard of the day. Actually this is not correct. His fingers were perfectly normal., but his accordion keys were cut out slightly near the E,



PIETRO DEIRO 1868 - 1954 (Class 1920)
(Classed with the kind permission of Pietro Deiro's)

F, B, and C keys. This was done not to allow for crooked fingers but instead to allow him for instance, to depress an F while his fingers were located between the black keys. This modification allowed him to do arpeggios in that position more effectively. Prior to Pietro, the keyboards had much shorter keys and were narrower. The modifications he developed have seen their way onto all modern piano accordion keyboards. Thanks to Pietro your modern accordion is a better playing instrument,

CLEAN SWEEP for FRANCE at COUPE MONDIALE

The 52nd Coupe Mondiale International Competition for Accordion Soloists was held from November 3rd to 7th in Trossingen, Germany with contestants from France winning each of the competition categories. Jerome Richard student of Frederic Deschamps, was crowned the 1999 C.I.A. World Accordion Champion, after an exciting competition, which saw Dragan Vasilievic (Yugoslavia) in second place.

This was the first time in many years that an American entered this prestigious competition. Cathy Sommers, daughter of Joan Cochran Summers, who heads the US's only college-level accordion program in Kansas, practiced for months and did herself proud, placing 7th. Cathy reports that the competition is really tough, as many of the European entrants cut their competition teeth at a very young age and then go to several competitions annually right through young adulthood.

So, congratulations, Cathy!

The 2000 Coupe Mondial, will be held in Kragujovac, Yugoslavia from October 25th to 30th.

CONTEST RESULTS

Coupe Mondial

- 1st Jerome Richard (France)
- 2nd Dragan Vasilievic (Yugoslavia)
- 3rd Dominique Emorine (France)

Junior Coupe Mondiale

- 1st Magali Boissier (France)

NEWS FROM SOUTH BAY JAM

It gets better and better! Our February 6th meeting had a record attendance....lots of new faces to enjoy the fun. Of interest were many that attended who don't play the accordion, but love to listen to the world's greatest instrument.

Lots of socializing started things off, shifting into high gear with 7 accordionists and groups including tunes from one of our favorites, Roberto Rosa. A raffle was introduced for the first time and everyone had some fun while raising a little money for our "kitty". The big event of the day was having Jim Hillman and his group entertain us with some of the old classic jazz songs. They have such a great sound and enthusiasm, the group included trumpet, bass, drums along with Ron Borelli. We hope they know how much we enjoyed them all. George Alves deserves a special thank you for bringing such a class group. We hope you'll join us March 5th for another great meeting, and.....bring your accordion! *Norma Parsons*

- 2nd Miroslav Grahovac (Yugoslav)
- 3rd Vilma Miliute (Lithuania)

Virtuoso Entertainment Category

- 1st Noel Aurelien (France)
- 2nd Marielle Roy (France)
- 3rd Mickael Richard (France)

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MESSAGE FROM PREZ LOU



Our new meeting place has been overwhelmingly approved by the membership! The executive board would like to thank you for your support. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 7th at the Patio Espanol. Starting at 7:15 PM.

We are just beginning to organize the club's promotional material and need your assistance. Each city in the Bay Area will receive an inventory packet describing who we are and what we do. To accomplish this objective we need to know your city officials and their addresses. This is where you can help us. Please call or write us with this information and we will do the rest.

We are also in the process of celebrating our 10 year anniversary in the month of June with a blowout party! Details will follow when decisions are made by your Board of Directors. Hope to see you at the March 7th meeting. Sincerely, Lou Soper

Vince Cirelli on the mend

Vince, who back in January underwent angioplasty procedures for his heart condition, is resting comfortably and looking forward to his return to his shop and being with us once again. Vince wants to thank all of his kind friends for the thoughtful cards and phone calls making his convalescence easier. He plans to return in April to finish restoring Pietro Diero's accordion to its former elegance and to present it to our club before it journeys to a place of honor in Castelfidardo, Italy. We miss you Vince!

Peter Soave and the Napa Valley Symphony, February 6,8

Against a back drop of rolling hills and manicured lawns settled among the fabled grape vineyards of Yountville, Peter Soave joined with the Napa Valley Symphony of over 50 musicians to present a stunning interpretation of Astor Piazzolla's *Acancagua Concerto for Bandoneon*. Peter, introducing the audience to a new experience in music by the legendary pioneer of Argentine tango music, presented Piazzolla's Concerto to a most appreciative audience, most of whom were clearly hearing Piazzolla's music and this unusual accordion for the first time. As we all know, Peter makes a world class presentation with whatever accordion he chooses, showing why he is the best. It was a must see concert and several BAAC members were in attendance both Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening to witness yet another Soave masterpiece.

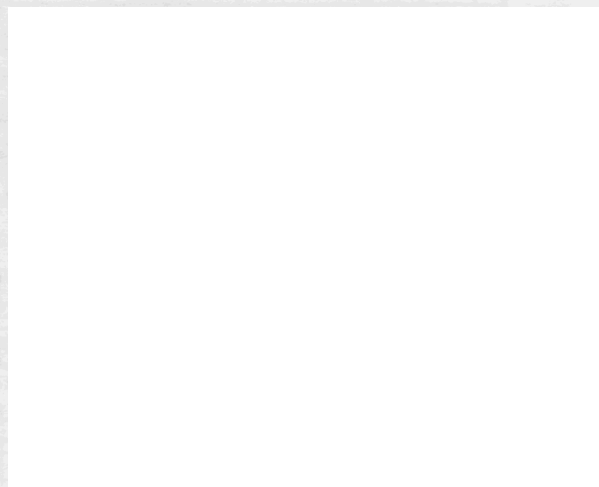
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arrangement by Lou Casaluovo

Use this arrangement when you DON'T have a bass player. (See "bass player" arrangement in November newsletter.)

The musical score is written on five systems of staves. Each system consists of a treble clef staff with a melody line and a bass clef staff with chords and fingerings. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various guitar chords such as C, Dmi, Emi, Dmi, Ami, D7, Fmi, Bb7, C, E7, F, and Ab7. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 on the bass clef staff. There are also some handwritten annotations like 'I' and 'II' above the first system, and a 'C DIM' above the second system. The score ends with a double bar line and a question mark.

MULTISENSORY LEARNING AND YOUR ACCORDION

(cont.)

by Sev Garcia

FEELINGS (Emotions)

Experience the “feeling “ the music is intended to express that you are playing. Experience the “feelings” that you yourself have come up with...whatever they happen to be. Experiment with Love, Anger, Excitement, Peace, Happiness, and Sadness....as you play.

Where in your body do you feel the higher pitches and the lower vibrations? Usually, the higher vibrations are felt in the head and the middle and low vibrations are felt in the throat, chest and stomach. (this is not true for everyone). The way we feel as we practice or perform is as important as having clear performance goals. “As we practice so we perform.” Make having fun a goal to be experienced. Other goals to experience are: relaxation, comfort,, being focused and staying focused, being concentrated. “Lose” yourself in the experience of playing your accordion. BECOME the music.

If your life is precious to you, you will want your practice time to be both enjoyable and musically rewarding. Life like Music contains its times of discord and tension and its moments of relaxation and repose. Practice involves discipline & repetition but also includes: experimentation, creativity, playing for fun, exploration, and delight. If you are tired, play the music in a “tired” manner and thus you are being true to how you are feeling right now. Once you get started, you’ll find yourself in the mood for a productive practice.

MENTAL & PHYSICAL

Mastery of the keyboard utilizes your auditory skills (melodic & harmonic memory), technical skills (dexterity & muscle memory), theoretical skills (knowledge of chord forms-the form and analysis of the notes in each key, and interval relationships, knowing where you are at all times), practice techniques (do not lift your fingers off the keyboard until you know exactly where you are going, how far, how fast, what dynamics, etc.) “Slow enough to think of what you are changing TO and what you are changing FROM.” Daniel Abrams, pianist-educator.

GOOD TONE AND RELAXED HANDS

EXPERIMENT playing it too soft, too loud, the way it feels most comfortable, too fast, too slow, with strong rhythmic emphasis, romantically, sadly, formally, as a carefree spirit, aggressively, gingerly, religiously (like a hymn), in an improvised manner, as you would rearrange it. Swaying, dancing, singing, foot tapping, conducting.

This concludes this series on Multisensory Learning and Your Accordion.....thank you Sev Garcia

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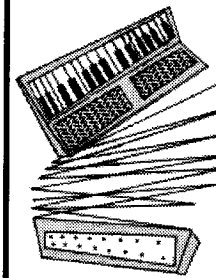
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