

The BAAC Page



The Joint was Jumpin'

It was a special tonight, not only with the return of master accordionist Tony Lovello, but especially because of the fine exhibition of accordion expertise by our own members. It started out when I walked in the door to the strains of solid accordion classics coming from the accordion of Rino Pucci who was warming up the audience. Rino was my first accordion teacher, and well versed in the art of playing the accordion standards. We don't hear these gems very often, but to me they are the backbone of our accordion heritage. Arrangements that feature solid bass lines from the old masters, making us appreciate how our accordion forefathers dazzled their audiences. Rino belted out such classics as *Repasz March* and *La Campagnola* and showed a hand vibrato technique that is second to none! I have to say that Rino is one of our own hidden talents, and we're really fortunate when he comes to entertain. That's my ole teacher!

In the absence of Val, our globe-trotting leader, Frank Schlotter, our Vice Prez brought his easy-going

style to chair the meeting, welcoming guests, and providing newsy tidbits. Frank "wants people to feel at home and look forward to coming here." Well, Frank, you accomplished your goal! Domenic Benedetto briefed the group on his and Frances' production of our upcoming picnic, and boy, are we in for a treat.

Herb Meier did double duty acting as MC and also accordion man during the break, doing a very nice job.

First up was Valarie Morris and her ensemble group, the **Mellow Bellows**, who gave us a solid performance of a variety of music. The trio, composed of, Valerie Wade, Lone Coleman and Burt Kaufman showed that we have yet another up-and-coming group dedicated to playing fine accordion music. Their offerings included: *The Alphabet* by Mozart (a Galla-Rini arrangement); *Beautiful Dreamer*; *Caminito*; *The Merry Widow*; *The Triumvirate* (composed by Valarie Morris); Ballet Scene from *Faust*; and *Carnival of Venice*. A very nice program that showed off what a smaller accordion ensemble can do. Thank you, Valarie and the **Mellow Bellows**.



Valarie Morris and the Mellow Bellows

Next Lynn Ewing and Peter Di Bono performed Joe Smiell's arrangements of Swiss Ländlers Numbers 1 and 2, Utilitarian titles of two very technical and beautiful pieces. Lynn and Peter traded leading roles with their duets and brought the pieces to life with dazzling runs and counterpoint--a fitting tribute to Joe whose composing and arranging gifts just seem to be endless. Great job, Lynn and Peter!

The next duo certainly needed no introduction. Ed Massolo and Frank Panacci, already known for their interpretations of our great accordion classics. They burst out of the barn with



Lynn Ewing and Peter Di Bono

Harry Gay's arrangement of *Flight of the Angels*, following with *Beautiful Days*, and *Light and Shadows Waltz*. After a rousing encore of *Pennsylvania Polka*, Frank played the very challenging classic *Dance of the Hours*. It just doesn't get any better than this, acoustic accordion classics played by artists who know how to bring out the best in "our" music. Thanks Ed, and Frank!



Ed Massolo and Frank Panacci

At the break we were treated once again to the food expertise of Frances and Domenic Benedetto. The evening's fare included hors d'oeuvre and various deli delights. (How do you feel about roast beef, swiss cheese, salami and deviled eggs along with pies and cheese cakes? Yum!!) And George Alves won the raffle of 55 bucks.

In the second half of the evening, Tony Lovello took over and marched in from the back of the room with *God Bless America*, having us standing, singing and clapping. With that rousing start, Tony followed up with, *Bye Bye Blackbird*, *Finiculi*, *Finicula* Italian medley, *Phantom of the Opera* medley, *For Once in My Life*, *Malafemmena*, *Nola*, *Dizzy Fingers*, and of course, his trademark, an unequalled arrangement of *Malagueña*. Tony does it all. Bellows shake, finger rolls, instruction on "how to," slipping



*Tony Lovello at BAAC
Photo by Rosemary Armanino*

and sliding and even singing, all with perfect execution. Tony is certainly a living legend for his command of this majestic instrument. He just has to be seen to be believed--and all of this with only 40% hearing in his right ear!

Even though the meeting ended, lots of folks stayed to enjoy the food and the impromptu playing of Roberto Rosa with Ed and Frank on stage, and Herb Meier and Dennis Stoscher's squeezin' in the back of the hall. Yep, it's a good feeling! R.S.

Watch for ...


... Announcement of upcoming performance by **Henry Doktorski** July 27, sponsored by **M.A.P.** This will be another very special event featuring a well known accordion virtuoso, and is not to be missed!

* * * * *

OK! The ad shown below arrived just in time to include in this newsletter!

M A P
Major Accordion Performers

Henry Doktorski



July 27th 8:00-10:00 PM
Moose Lodge
7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma

Henry Doktorski is a performer of rare achievement

Real musical depth—The Washington Post • Nothing short of unbelievable—Montreal Hour • A real find—Detroit Free-Press • Doktorski will make a believer out of all who are fortunate enough to listen—Pittsburgh Catholic • A fresh surprise—CBC Radio, Canada • Imaginative and original—Public Radio Music Source • An absolute delight—Quartermass Music, London • An outstanding performer—New Music Connoisseur, New York • One of America's top-call concert accordianists—Paul Johnston, WQED-FM • Truly a master musician in the traditional sense of the term—Jim Cunningham, WQED-FM • A magnificent player—David Del Tredici, composer.

and demonstrates incredible range & taste in his repertoire.

Admission \$10 at the door





President's Message

I was very sorry to have to miss the June meeting but hear it was fabulous and well attended. All our BAAC performers did a great job, I'm told, and Ed and Frank brought the house down, as did Tony Lovello. Both Dick Schiller and Lou Soper took numerous photos of Tony Lovello and the

other performers, but their cameras both were broken and all the photos were ruined! Bob Berta, on seeing that Dick Schiller had a camera, stopped taking photos after the break – so it appeared that we would get NO photos of Tony's BAAC appearance! Well, Rosemary Armanino to the rescue: she had taken a few and let me use one of them for the newsletter, and I thank her so much! And I thank Bob Berta for the photos of the first half of the meeting.

I did get to see and hear Tony at the Accordion Club of the Redwoods meeting this past Monday, and he graciously consented to having a photo taken of him and me. Also at that ACR meeting, Jim Firpo was the winner of a free CD, which Tony autographed for him.

Our visit to the Trapp Family Lodge in Vermont was as wonderful as it always is, and again, John and I were able to spend about an hour and a half with Maria von Trapp (third daughter of the first marriage of the Baron Georg von Trapp). Maria and I each played a couple of pieces, and then she wrote out for me a Ländler that she likes to play (since it is a folk piece that had never been written down on paper that we know of). She played it and wrote it down at the same time, with her accordion on, and then asked me to play it from the music, to see if she had written it down correctly. She had, but was not satisfied with how it looked, so she sat down at a table and re-wrote the whole Ländler for me! It is an absolutely delightful piece, and works on button box too, if you change the key.

I also played a couple of pieces at the twice-weekly Trapp Family singalong. On Fridays Rosmarie von Trapp, one of the daughters from the second marriage of the Baron, helps conduct the singalong. That day they asked me to play "America the Beautiful," and everyone sang along. Afterward I played some button box pieces for the group and they seemed to love it. One lady inquired about how to learn button box, so I had a chance to plug Joe's camp.

For July we have the picnic and no regular meeting. NOTE: OUR AUGUST MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AGAIN AT MOOSE LODGE DALY CITY ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7!!! (see item elsewhere in this newsletter).

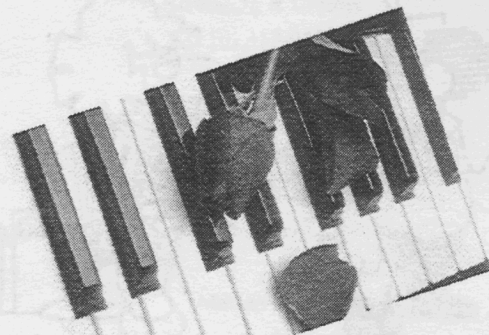
As for the newsletter: We are grateful to have people offering to help with the newsletter in various ways—such as Michael Sanossian and Frank Schlotter who fold, stamp and apply address labels, and do the mailing. We still need you to send us items of interest and articles, preferably by e-mail so they don't have to be re-typed. Another way you could help: Volunteer to do the writeup of the meetings! It needn't be long or detailed, it's not that difficult, and it's even fun. Unfortunately, our new formatter found our newsletter to be more work than she anticipated, so Dick and I are producing the newsletter again, at least for the time being.

See you at the picnic July 6! By now surely you all have sent in your \$\$ to the Benedettos and received your tickets in the mail!

Val



Jim Firpo and Tony Lovello
Petaluma (ACR Meeting)



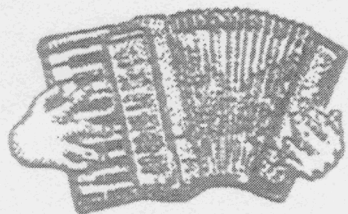
Come and join in ...

Scholarships Available ...

... Ask Val for an application. Teachers, have your qualified students apply for a scholarship. What better way to build enthusiasm and encourage them to improve their playing! Donations to the Scholarship Fund are welcome anytime.

The BAAC Executive Board ...

... met on Tuesday, June 11. We discussed the search for a permanent venue for BAAC meetings. We have several places on our list to check out (more news on this subject elsewhere in this newsletter). The Treasurer reported that we have just under \$7,000 in all our accounts. We are now \$940 within our budget, but there are some bills that haven't come in yet that will need to be paid. Some insurance questions came up that the Treasurer is going to check out for us (such as ACE concerts and riding on the float in the upcoming Columbus Day parade). The board agreed that we will sell nothing at Cotati, so that we can set up a card table with umbrella at no cost. We will give away T-shirts, patches, or pins for new memberships. We will have a short raffle at the picnic; also a swap area for those who have something they'd like to sell. **The next board meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 3 at 7:00 p.m. Please call Val (510) 531-4836 if you'd like to attend.**



IMPORTANT!!!

Re our Monthly Meetings!

It appears that we will stay at **Moose as a permanent venue**, as it has a warm atmosphere, we have a good relationship with the people there, our members seem to really like it, and everyone knows how to get there. However, for parking reasons (they have their "hamburger night" on Wednesdays), we will have to **change the day of our meeting**, and hope it is not too disruptive. The only days Moose has available (other than Wed. when they have their "Hamburger Night") is the **second Thursday of each month or maybe a Monday**.

We don't like having our meeting day shifted around, so if we must make a change, we want to be able to consider it permanent. I'll keep you informed via the newsletter, or else *you can call me anytime to ask about the status*. I wanted to have the matter all settled in time for this newsletter, but last-minute changes over at Moose have made it impossible to secure a permanent arrangement.

Meanwhile: The AUGUST MEETING IS SECURED FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7!!!



The cartoon above may be the earliest surviving example of an accordionist joke. It appeared in *Études Académiques* by the French artist and social satirist Honoré Daumier (1800-1879) and was published in *Le Journal Amusant* (Paris, 1866).

Translation: Accordion says bellows to music. We do not yet have the right to kill the people who play this instrument, but let us hope the day will come.

*The oldest anti-accordion joke?
(from the Internet)*

Coming Events

Saturday, July 6

BAAC Annual Picnic

From 10:00 a.m. on, Nature Friends Park, Oakland

Call Val (510) 531-4836 or

Frances or Domenic Benedetto (650) 368-6477

July 10-14

American Accordionists' Association

Charles Magnante Tribute Festival

Holiday Inn Minneapolis West

Call (201) 991-2233 or FAX (201) 991-1944

July 8-14

Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships

Phone/FAX 1888-4 KIOTAC

July 13-20

Joe Smiell's beginning Button Box Camp

Heidelmann Lodge at Norden/Soda Springs

For info call Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

July 21-26

Galla-Rini Accordion Music Camp, San Diego, CA

For info call Val (510) 531-4836; vtkacc@value.net

Sunday, August 4

Fairfax

The **BAAC Fun Band** will be playing

1:00 p.m. Fairfax Park

August 24 and 25

Cotati Accordion Festival

For info call (707) 664-8444

September 7-14

Joe Smiell's intermediate/advanced Button Box Camp

Heidelmann Lodge at Norden/Soda Springs

For info call Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

BAAC Officers

President: Valerie T. Kieser

(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net

Vice Pres.: Frank Schlotter

(510) 339-1163

Treasurer: Bob Pisani

(650) 347-2559 grnduster@aol.com

Secretary: Richard Schiller

(510) 832-3002 richards38@aol.com

Directors

Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707

Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208

James Firpo (415) 648-3674

Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

The following is reprinted from an "Accordion Glossary" printed in the BAAC newsletter in August 1996, permission of the author, Bob Godfried, having been obtained in advance.

The Organetto

The organetto is a diatonic button accordion found in central and southern Italy. It can have one or two rows of melody buttons and have from 2 to 12 bass buttons. The most common version, known as a "due botte," has 2 bass buttons (hence the name) and a single row of ten melody buttons. It is often made with 3 or 4 extra buttons in a short second row to provide alternate fingerings. The organetto usually has 3 reeds per note: 2 middle sets tremolo-turned with a third set tuned an octave lower and controlled by a pull stop.



*Val and Tony Lovello at ACR Meeting
in Petaluma*

Come and join in ...

Bay Area Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month
Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma
For information call (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

Third Wednesday of the Month at 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

Sacramento
Mike Zampiceni
Beginner to advanced
BA and MA in Music
(916) 966-8384

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

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Email: garydahl@webtv.net (253)7709492 FAX/PHONE

www.accordions.com/garydahl

Don't forget the BAAC Picnic!!!

Saturday, July 6

at Nature Friends Park in Oakland

Time is running out!

Send your check for \$12 immediately,

made out to "BAAC," to

Domenic and Frances Benedetto

2604 Brewster Avenue

Redwood City, Ca 94062

Phone (650) 368-6477

Who Is Playing Where ...

Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio

Play for dancing every second Friday of each month

At Montaville in Scotts Valley, CA

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

Call Reno (408) 252-3808 for more info

Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA

Will be playing June 16, July 21 and Aug. 18 (all

Sundays)

at Tyrolean Inn on highway 9 in Ben Lomond.

For reservations call (831) 336-5188

Mike Zampiceni

Plays on Saturday nights at Di Cicco's Italian

Restaurant

2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose

For reservations call (408) 377-5850

BAAC Advertising Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue.

The charge for a business-card-size ad is \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; for a quarter-page ad, \$10.00 per issue; for a half-page ad, \$20.00 per issue; and for a full-page ad, \$35.00 per issue. The cost for ads placed by non-members is twice the above quoted prices.

BAAC Membership ...

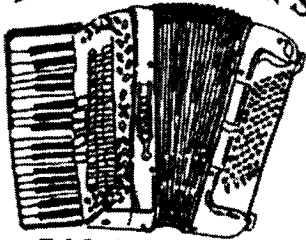
Dues are \$25 per year, \$30 for a family

Send check to BAAC

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San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

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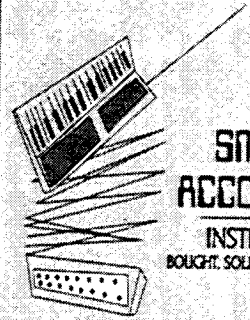
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-BAAC-



SMYTHE ACCORDIONS

INSTRUMENTS

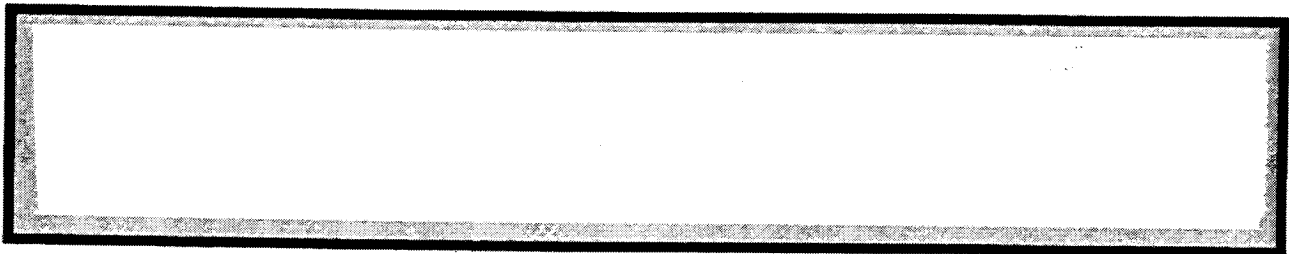
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smythek@ix.netcom.com



(Submissions to BAAC PAGE are due 2 weeks after the 1st Wednesday of the month)

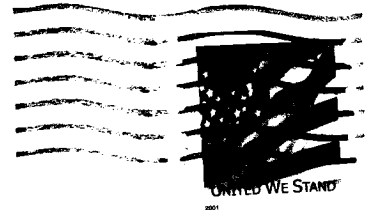
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