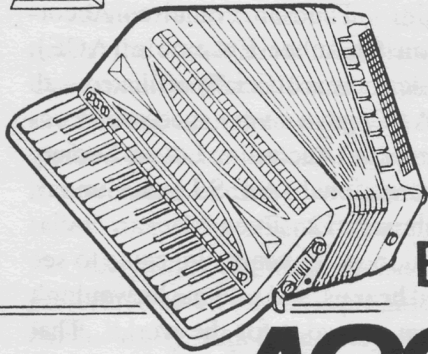


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB

March, 2000

FIRST MEETING IN OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW HOME

Hello everyone! Our Bay Area Accordion Club has found a wonderful place to call home, a facility that we can be proud of. It has everything that was on our wish list....secure parking, one level access, a beautiful performance room with good acoustics, and large enough to host workshops and major events, good food if desired, and a price that's right! Lucky us, and now let everyone come and enjoy.

The first to experience our new digs were the 100 or so brave souls who battled a severe rainstorm to come to our March meeting, and they

were richly rewarded for their loyalty with some fine accordion music. Kris Nelson was our master of ceremonies and did a masterful job with his friendly and homey touch. Prez Lou did the welcoming and started off by paying tribute to the South Bay Jam on Sunday previous, which he attended along with other BAAC members. "Lots of fun". Lou also reemphasized the need for all of us to provide information regarding our respective government officials so that our club can get the ball rolling to spread the word about our great instrument throughout the Bay Area and beyond. The members were also treated to a big box of free music donated by Ed Massolo, an unexpected treat.

Tonight's program opened with a performer that is very active in bringing the accordion sound to the public in many different venues, Big Lou and her Polka Casserole. Playing a nice sounding Petosa accordion, Lou led her charges both named Dave, on bass guitar and drums. Both sidemen were very ani-

mated, adding to the enjoyment of the performance, and providing solid rhythm backup to the songs and vocals of Lou Seekins. They took us through *Norma My Love*, *Go Man Go*, had us joining in on *Happy Wanderer*, and the beautiful *Mon Amant De St Jean*. A new and exciting group within our membership and a very fitting way to christen our new meeting place....Thank you Big Lou and Group!



Big Lou's Polka Casserole



Greg Callaghan, Val Kieser

Here's Prez. Lou!

What a wonderful meeting we had on our first appearance at our new meeting place. The weather was quite stormy and very wet but that did not discourage our wonderful membership. The Patio Espanol is really super.



The music was great, the snacks were tasty and the cold cuts at 10 P M were delicious. When you see our new meeting place, you are in for a marvelous treat. You're gonna like it, I guarantee it. This sounds like somebody else.

The executive board has approved 2 free workshops for all members who paid the \$25 annual dues. We will notify you in the newsletter as to where and when.

We also sold 12 of the T shirts that were leftover from last year as the bargain price of \$5 really appealed to the members. If you would like one of these T shirts, we will have them at our next meeting. Many exciting things are in the process of being approved by the executive board.

We have a great show set for April 4. Hope to see you there.

Lou Soper

BAAC Feb. Board Meeting .

Synopsis

- < The Secretary is writing a thank you note to the Verdi Club for allowing us to hold the past year's meetings there.
- < The Board OK'd some quick fundraising ideas: they are selling CD's, polka books and t-shirts at meetings.
- < Lou's student, John Seckman has offered to help with our web site and is our new webmaster.
- < The Board OK'd an additional \$80 monthly expense to add a sheet promoting upcoming events to the newsletter.
- < Treasurer Mike distributed copies of BAAC's proposed budget for fiscal year 10/99 to 9/00.
- < The Scholarship Committee will award a \$300 scholarship to Peter Di Bono's student Gregory Callaghan at our March meeting.

Day of the Accordion San Francisco

In celebration of National Accordion Awareness Month (June), San Francisco will be celebrating its Day of the Accordion on Sunday, June 18, 2000.

This afternoon-long event will be held at the historic Cannery which is located at Fisherman's Wharf (1801 Leavenworth St.) and will feature many of the Bay Area's favorite soloists and bands. Rock, jazz, zydeco and of course, polkas. Best of all, Day of the Accordion is free.

For more information about Day of the Accordion or if you would like to help out, contact All Things Accordions' Tom Torriglia at 415 440 0800 or at the web site bellows@ladyofspain.com. Please check the Day of the Accordion link at www.ladyofspain.com for all the latest information about this exciting event.

Tom Torriglia
415 440 0800
www.ladyofspain.com

ACE A HIT IN SAN DIEGO

By Valerie Kieser

The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE), which now is officially affiliated with BAAC, gave a very successful concert at the Accordion Lovers Society International (A.L.S.I.) on Sunday, February 13. Even Maestro Galla-Rini, now 96 years old, came to see and hear us, and told me he wouldn't have missed it for the world! That was a great effort on his part, and we were both moved and flattered.

The nine of us (Aldo Argenti, Mary-Alice Eldon, Lynn Ewing, Ron Harris, Val Kieser, Nora Mazzara, Frank Montoro, Bob Smith, Sharon Walters) and Joe Smiell, our director/arranger and conductor, arrived on Saturday from all directions, in time to have a dress rehearsal at the church hall.

Also rehearsing was San Diego's own ACE ensemble (theirs is called Accordion *Concert* Ensemble) under the capable direction of Joanne Pilgrim, a wonderful musician who also is a student of Maestro Galla-Rini. Their group is just getting underway with serious music and rehearsals, using much of Maestro Galla-Rini's arrangements and some of Joe's arrangements. We enjoyed their performance very much, and realized how far we have come since we were just starting out as a serious group. Joe had some excellent pointers for the new group, which

OOPS! In February's issue Lou Casalnuovo's fine arrangement of "Exactly Like You" should be used when you do have a bass player! instead of "don't".

they soaked up like sponges. Their group gained renewed enthusiasm, and I know we're going to be hearing more about them in the future!

The meeting on Sunday had a few individual performers besides the ensembles, but the ensembles were by far the larger part of the show. Both ensembles actually played better than they had played at Saturday's rehearsal! The San Diego group played five numbers before our group played, and then both our groups played one number together—excerpts from Handel's *Fireworks*, with Joe conducting. Then, after intermission, our ACE group put on its full concert, and brought the house down! The audience was very attentive and quiet, which was much appreciated. I was told that it was the largest attendance they ever had. I forget the exact number, but it was well over 100 people. It seems everyone wanted to talk to us afterward. We felt like celebrities!

Following the concert, several of us, including Joe, went out to dinner with a group of A.L.S.I. members before leaving San Diego. The weekend was a great experience, and I'm sure we'll be doing it again!



Mark Your Calendars

April 2nd (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.

April 4th (Tuesday). Bay Area Accordion Club General Meeting. featuring special Scandinavian guests Jorgen Sundeqvist and Oivind Farmen. At Patio Espanol, 2850 Alemany Blvd., S.F. 7:15 PM.

April 13th (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.

April 10th (Monday). (and every second Monday). *The Good Time Accordion Club.* At Cocina Michoacana, 2253 Jackson Ave., Escalon. Info (209) 545-3603

April 11th (Tuesday). Meeting of the Golden State Accordion-Aires. 6:00PM. Veterans' Hall 549 Merchant St. Vacaville. Info: (707) 864-2359.

April 17th Monday. (and every third Monday). Meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. 7:00pm. Volpi's in Petaluma, 122 W. Washington St.

April 24th, Monday. Party at the Moose Lodge for the Vasterfarnebo Accordion Club of Sweden, sponsored by BAAC! **Y'all come! 7:00 PM, 7535 Mission St., Colma.**

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 18th, Sunday. Day of the Accordion at the Cannery. See article on p. 2.

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 Val Kieser (510) 531-4836.

Next up was another Peter DiBono protégé and scholarship award winner Greg Callaghan. One thing Peter does very well and that is to provide his students with crowd-pleasing songs to learn and tonight was no exception. Greg treated us to very nice arrangements of *Edelweiss*, *My Favorite Things*, and *Finiculi-Finicula*. He showed why he earned the Scholarship award of \$300, with a technique that showed he's been practicing hard. Good job Greg! Val Keiser then made the presentation to Greg, a win-win situation for both Greg and our club.

Dennis Stoscher came on next, preferring to present his offerings down in front of the stage. Spinning lots of anecdotes about personal ex-



Dennis Stoscher

periences, and putting the seed of an idea in our heads about a BAAC CD, recording a Christmas album in August to be sold at Paul Pasquali's Las Vegas Convention in October! He intermixed songs with his hilarious comments, playing *Love Letters In the Sand* complete with accordion wave sounds, *The Christmas Song*, and such favorites as *How To Fleece Your Dad*, and a original work in

progress, *Santa Was A Day Trader*. You got us going Dennis...Thanks.

After the intermission we got to the serious part of the night's program with members Mike Zampiceni and Bart Beninco. Mike led off by showing off his spectacular technique with

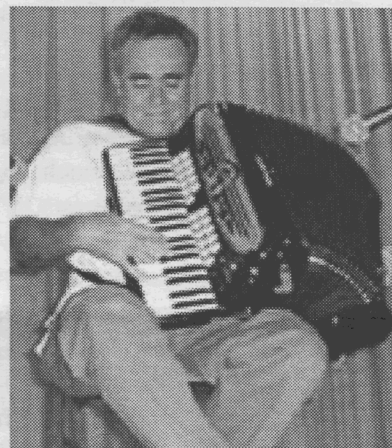


Mike Zampiceni

a variety of songs that showcased what the classic accordion should sound like. *Espana Cana*, *I Got Rhythm*, *Take The A Train*, a medley of Irish tunes, *La Cumparsita*, and two of my favorites *Blue Tango*, and *Flight Of The Angels*. In addition to dazzling the audience with his technique, Mike played requests from the audience, no easy job not knowing what might be asked for, like *Granada* and *Tico Tico*, but Mike took it in stride and showed why he is an artist of the highest caliber. Thank you Mike!

Our final performer of this momentous evening was introduced by an avid admirer who also happened to be his student, Kris Nelson. Paying a very nice tribute to his teacher, Kris brought Bart Beninco to the stage to give us an emotional performance that will not soon be forgotten. Playing challenging numbers one

after another, Bart sported his Giulietti with the fabulous sound legendary of quality accordions made in the 50's. *Syncopated Clock*, *Ferryboat Serenade*, *Chitarra Romana*, *Dark Eyes*, *Peanut Vendor*, and *Polka For Dorothy*. But the one that took us all by surprise was his fantastic rendition of *The Lost Chord*! I had not heard of this piece, but it is one that I'll never forget. Playing with such emotion and feeling Bart turned his Giulietti into a venerable church organ sending shivers through the audience with his majestic presenta-



Bart Beninco

tion. Bart is a very animated performer showing the emotion that comes from within, moving back and forth with full use of bellows capacity. Needless to say, a standing ovation was the obvious result of his stirring offering, a most lovely gift to our opening night festivities...

Boy am I glad I didn't miss this evening! and the great music will keep coming folks....Jorgen Sundeqvist and Oivind Farmen in April, Tony Lovello in May, and our birthday bash in June! Don't miss any of these or...you'll be s o r r y! DS

**HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY to the GRAND MAN
of the JAZZ ACCORDION**



April 9 and the "Living Legend," which I call him, will turn a young 80. How about that. Art and I have been close friends for many years and we have been through some very happy times and very sad times. As we both are in the golden years of life, we still love to play swingin' jazz. His favorite slogan is "keep swingin'." Art is a very rabid golf nut and that is why he is in such great physical shape. He plays golf every Tuesday and Friday. One of the great thrills of his life was on the golf course when he looked Jack Nicholas eyeball to eyeball and Jack just smiled at Art. You are not allowed to talk to professional golfers on the golf course but Jack knew how thrilled this guy was being so close to him. Art has a wonderful sweetheart now and he is very happy. Couldn't happen to two nicer people. We wish him and Laurie many more years of happiness!

Lou Soper

Dick Contino in Lodi...March 19th

What does one think of when considering a trip to hear the virtuoso of the classic Italian accordion, Dick Contino? Well, to enjoy to the fullest, great renditions of the accordion classics, Italian love songs, the vocals, the comments about history and philosophy, all with unique stylings from one of the most superlative accordionists of all time. A treat at any time to see and hear, and for me to experience as often as I can.

And so I took the 2 hour pilgrimage to Lodi with my daughter to hear the Great One! And it was all there.....in bits and pieces that is. The tender "Mama" and "You'll Never Walk Alone". "Yours" with such unique phrasing that it catches one by surprise that an artist can be so creative with an oft played standard. The great dynamics of taking songs from the whisper of "Twilight Time", to the grandiose playing of "Sunrise, Sunset" and "Glory Hallelujah". Songs embellished by such Contino creations as triple bellow shakes, finger rolls combined with melody an octave higher, octave and chord glissando explosions, pushing the dynamics to unparalleled heights! So many great renditions of favorites being played that we Contino trekies hunger for....and travel miles to hear. And come we did, 250-300 fans crowding the hall, women going to the stage to hug, kiss, and adore him...Wow, why didn't I keep up my practice! Who else in our accordion world engenders such excitement and praise....

But today, the Contino magic was in trouble...a lack of a defined program, inexperienced side men unrehearsed for the performance, wrong rhythms, errant backup chording, songs being stopped for adjustment, and....a sound mix not only too loud overall, but distorting the sound of Dick's Petosa along with his having to compete in volume with the sound of the electronic keyboard. Midway through the second performance we beat a hasty retreat to save our ear drums and sensibilities. Not a pretty sound, or experience; small wonder half the audience left before the second show. Hopefully Dick will realize that his enormous following of faithful fans deserves better, and he is the only one that can give it to them! 53 years of belting out the same tunes can be mighty trying...but as the adoration to him must be incredibly satisfying.... He needs to return the same measure of respect!

And Kudos to the Good Time Accordion Club, including our own Steve Balich, who provided some very nice dance music for the event..... D. S.

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**BOAZ
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Tango Moods

Peter Soave & The Rucner String Quartet

(Jazzette Records BPCD 042)

Review by Paul A. Magistretti



The proliferation of performers attempting Piazzolla these days is endemic, so new additions aren't always a cause for celebration. However, *Tango Moods* is authentic and deeply moving. Peter Soave has all the firepower and passion necessary.

While the maestro's music is never less than intriguing he has in recent years become a commercial force. So whatever has been composed and/or recorded by him—even if flawed—appears. Various artists are coming out of the woodwork doing his stuff. Some good—Yo Yo Ma (*Soul of the Tango*)—but most of them: forgetaboutit. Forays into Piazzolla can be exercises in avarice, hubris or aesthetic amnesia, like opera singers doing pop or Ho-wood actors diddling Hamlet. In the case of *Tango Moods* don't forgetaboutit; it's genuine and rocks.

The first cut, *Adios Nonino*, is poignant. Soave and the Rucner Quartet give it a plaintiff performance—it's only the opening act.

The heart of this CD is Piazzolla's evocative tango suite, *Five Tango Sensations*. This performance of the work is stunning. The suite is comprised of five distinct moods: *Asleep*, *Loving*, *Anxiety*, *Despertar* (awakening, reviving) and *Fear*. The work was originally written for the Kronos Quartet and recorded with Piazzolla playing the bandoneon in 1990. While the Kronos version is interesting, it always left me unmoved. It seemed cool, aloof, academic—as if Kronos was giving a fine reading, but nothing heartfelt. I hypothesized that Kronos' previous success with Piazzolla, *Four for Tango*, had committed everyone to a sequel. Whatever the reason, I felt surprisingly distanced by Piazzolla's playing. He was technically good, but somehow stiff, detached and cool. The lack of heat made me think his performance was dubbed—Kronos did its thing and sent the tapes to Astor who put on a headset and did his. True or not, the record has a disembodied effect—and Piazzolla was always his best in real time where everyone is right there bouncing off each other.

So, having addressed the initial performance of *Five Tango Sensations* let me say that Peter Soave and the

Rucner Quartet have delivered a definitive, heated and live rendering. Peter exceeds Piazzolla in feeling and passion. If you doubt, comparisons can be made by listening to the solo moments of *Asleep* and *Despertar*. While Piazzolla has precision in all the right places, his runs and staccati seem cold and abrupt; Soave's playing is fluid, warm and filled with emotion. Maybe Piazzolla's concept was to intrude stops and tears in the fabric—a quality of intellectual alienation. There is neither intentional nor unintentional alienation in Soave's playing or the Rucner Quartet's interplay. Each time I listen I feel involved in the various movements as if I was ingesting them in my soul—furthermore, complex and ever changing stories unfold in my imagination. I can't help but believe Piazzolla wanted to create exactly the kind of riveting experience that the Soave/Rucner performance delivers. By itself the Rucner Quartet is more intense, passionate and unbridled than Kronos.

This CD by Peter Soave is an amazing beginning. He has reinvented himself as a world-class bandoneon player without qualification—living proof that a choice of instruments is less important than the soul of an artist. Editor's note: This CD is available for purchase for \$15 + shipping. (650) 854-1896 or mkelly@best.com.

Notes from South Bay:

Despite the dreary, overcast sky, the day turned out great for the South Bay Jam.

Our new starting time of 2:30 PM gets things moving faster toward the ultimate goal of group playing. Again, we were at no loss for performers; every accordionist likes to share his music. John Marquette, with his jazz stylings,, accompanied by drummer, Ted. Then Carolyn Anderson and Darwyn Patz entertained us with their button boxes. Mike Zampicini dazzled us with dizzy digits....lots of fast fingering.

The treat of the day was Dan Diaz, originally from Argentina, playing the bandoneon. He is a master of the instrument, with great interpretation, expression, and technique. With him were dancers Donna & Richard, who delighted the audience by performing the seductive Tango with style and finesse (even though they were dancing on a rug!) to Diaz' bandoneon music.

Our group was pleased to see so many BAAC members from San Francisco present. Though time was running short, we managed to have a tune or two from Lou Soper, Val Kieser, and Bob Smith. Thanks to all.....Hope to see you all Sunday, April 2nd....

Norma Parsons

**NORMAN SEATON AND THE TEXAS ACCORDION ASSOC.
PUT ON ANOTHER GREAT SHOW!**

I just returned from my third time at the TAA National Accordion Convention in Plano, Texas. I must say, Norm Seaton knows how to organize a great convention! Each year it gets more exciting, with more knock-your-socks-off entertainment!

On Friday night the orchestra performed an all-patriotic program, conducted by Maj. Lois Tilley, who is wonderful to work with. Veterans were allowed in free. Saturday night's program featured, in addition to the orchestra conducted by Gary Daverne (see below): Jason Stephen of Kansas City, who is the 1999/200 U.S. accordion Entertainment Champion and winner of numerous other awards; Tony Lovello, fabulous entertainer whom we will hear at our BAAC meeting in May; Lidia Kaminska, a Polish accordion virtuoso, and other top-notch entertainers.

Even with my years of experience with the SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble, I found it an invigorating challenge to play with 40 accordionists, arranged like a symphony orchestra, under Gary Daverne, who is conductor of the Auckland, N.Z. symphony! We played some dynamite great semi-classical stuff, including the *William Tell Overture* (yes, VERY fast!), *Radetzky March*, a *Rhapsody* written by Gary Daverne in the 1980's especially for a symphony orchestra with an accordion soloist. In our case the soloist was Kevin Friedrich, originally from New Zealand himself, who plays both piano and chromatic with equal facility. He used the chromatic in our orchestra. Although this piece has been performed many,

many times over the years, I believe I heard that this was the first time that the orchestra also was made up of accordions!

Kevin Friedrich was also a solo performer on one of the evenings, and was specially honored in a 20-minute ceremony on Saturday night, for all he does to promote the accordion. He is an incredible player and a real asset to the accordion world. The honor was well deserved, as anyone who knows Kevin will agree.

Needless to say, the house was packed both nights, and Norm Seaton was a star MC, as always!

Workshops were also a main part of the convention, covering every possible aspect of accordion playing, by very well qualified teachers from all over the country, some of whom were also among our star performers (Kevin Friedrich, Tony Lovello, Jim Rommel, Jane Cristison and others). Our own Valarie Morris gave an excellent workshop on "Surviving Without a Teacher," that was very well attended.

Add to all that the many, many rooms used solely for accordion dealers, of both new and used accordions, both MIDI and acoustic, button boxes, chromatics, every type of accordion imaginable.

The TAA has already reserved the Holiday Inn in Plano for next year's convention, so mark your calendar now and try to go if you can: you won't be sorry! Next year's dates: March 15-17, 2001.

Valerie Kieser

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Richard Schiller, Editor
2827 Richmond Ave.
Oakland, CA, 94611
(510) 832-3002
richards38@aol.com

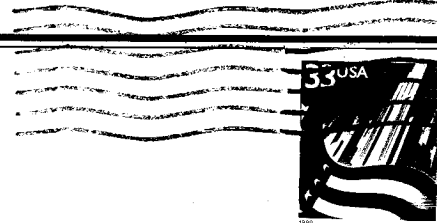
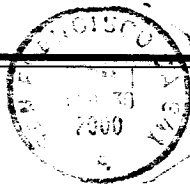


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Jorgen Sundeqvist

- > Studied with Anthony GallaRini in the USA
- > Played with GallaRini on a World Tour
- > Concerts with Russian Accordionist Yuri Kazakov & Oleg Sharov of Sweden
- > Adjudicator in many International Accordion Competitions

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7:15PM

.....

BAAC WELCOMES the VASTERFARNEBO ACCORDION CLUB OF SWEDEN!

Hey everyone, mark your calenders for Monday, April 24. BAAC will host a social gathering to celebrate this fine group's tour of the United States, at Moose HallMission St. in Daly City with pizza & beer and of course accordion music. If you'd like to play, bring your favorite squeezer and contact Prez Lou @ 510-792-8765. Remember the date, Monday April 24, at 7:00 PM...\$ 2 at the door!

PRESENTING

Tony Lovello



TONY LOVELLO, Formerly with "THE THREE SUNS"
(of *Twilight Time*, *Peg Of My Heart* fame)

From start to finish you will be delightfully entertained and will experience a new dimension in the accordion. He razzle-dazzles you with fancy glissandos, bellow shakes, embellishments and the showman ship of a truly great performer. This dynamic musician is someone you do not want to miss.

Tony Lovello can be found on the web at
www.accordionmusic.com

After being in the hotel business for the past 31 years, Tony has returned to performing his magical arrangements better than ever before. This dynamic musician, sometimes called the Liberace of the accordion, is no stranger in the field of show business. Lovello's talents have led him to appear with Frank Sinatra, Debbie Reynolds, Dinah Shore, Eddie Cantor, Pat Boone, Jimmy Durante, Kate Smith and his latest appearance with Roy Clark on the T.V. show *Hee Haw*. He has performed in every major city in the United States and half way around the world.

