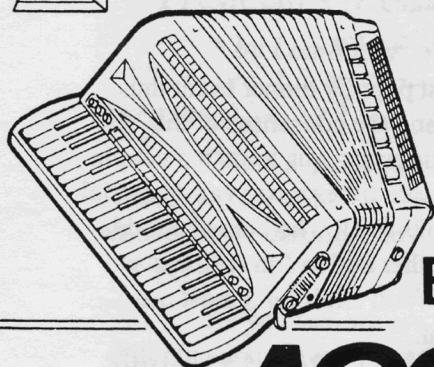


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

# ACCORDION CLUB



November, 1999

## OUR TREASURE

by Dick Schiller

This is the time of year when it's important to reflect on the blessings in our lives, with family and friends and feel how fortunate we are in many respects. I am particularly thankful for our club and all the wonderful people I've met and worked with. The San Francisco area is the center of our accordion heritage, and to have so many people who pioneered our beloved accordion, to be in our club with all their experiences and history to share with us is very profound. In the new year and beyond it will be the goal of us on the newsletter group to highlight the many people responsible for our

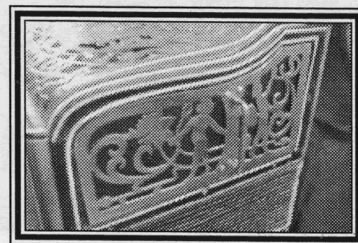
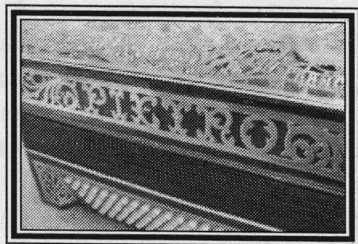


being able to enjoy our accordions today.

We are especially fortunate to have in our club a man who I could only describe as Our Treasure, Vince Cirelli. Master accordion builder, teacher, performer, and above all, a very special human being, Vince has availed himself to our club without reservation with his friendship, knowledge, and guidance to members and all players, and is working with super energy on our behalf as a board member, and head of the publicity committee.

Vince told me he is in contact with various artists that he hopes to bring to us, so we are in for some really special experiences. The pictures you see are of Vince's restoration in progress of fabled Pietro Diero's gorgeous accordion. Vince says it will be finished in the early part of the new year, and guess who gets to hear it first? Yep, it's US; - - what an honor. The accordion will then tour the country and become a museum highlight. We will be learning about Vince, his life and his incredible knowledge of the history of our accordion in the San Francisco Area in subsequent issues. How blessed we are....

Thank you Vince!



## OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

BY BOB BERTA

Departing from our normal meeting format, BAAC pulled out all the stops for our November meeting. Rather than a musical format, the meeting was a dinner with live music for dancing. In the past we have always had our annual dinner on a different day than the club meetings. The idea was to make it easy for club members to schedule the dinner on the one day a month they mark on their calendar for their accordion «fix».

Before the dinner started the old and new board members mingled



with the members and had a chance to discuss some new ideas for direction with the club. A lot of enthusiasm was noted in these discussions for some of these ideas and hopefully we can get more of these enthusiastic members to participate in these ideas. Like all big clubs it is increasingly difficult to get volunteers to help out.

While we have been taking



advantage of the Verdi Club for our meetings, many don't know that they also can provide outstanding meals. The Verdi club showed us what they could do when it comes to elegant dining. They provided close to 100 of our members with one fine prime-rib dinner complete with all the trimmings.

After the meal M.C. Kris Nelson introduced the outgoing and incoming officers. Outgoing President Marian Kelly thanked the outgoing board members and also those who provide all of the ongoing support behind the scenes. Without these people the club would not be able to go on! Next Lou Soper was introduced. Lou gave some hint of the direction of the club that the new board will promote in his short speech and also made a call to arms for those willing to help the club in its efforts to remain the top accordion club in the United States.



After the various comments it was time for Lou Casalnuovo and his "Sons of the Beach" to take the stage for some dancing music. Lou, as always, played music that made it hard to stay in your seat. This was evidenced by the large number of people hitting the dance floor.

This proved to be our

most popular dinner event thus far and the consensus of the participants was to do it a couple of more times next year. A special thanks to all who helped put this together and to Jim Hillman and the Verdi Club for a most tasty meal.

### BAAC Board Meeting November, 1999

- < The Board named Steve Albini as new Vice-Pres. and Rita d'Amico as a new Board Member.
- < Treasurer Mike Zampiceni reports \$12,886 total monies.
- < The ceiling on amounts which can be spent outside the budget and without specific Board approval was set at \$250.
- < Committee heads are: Val Kieser, Scholarship; Dominic Palmisano, Membership; Rita d'Amico, Hospitality; Steve Albini, Program; and Dick Schiller, Newsletter.
- < December meeting will be a desert night and Santa Claus will attend.
- < The drawing which used to be held at meetings is being revived. Proceeds will go 50% to the winner, 25% to our Scholarship Fund, and 25% to our newly designated Performance Fund.

#### Alert to Members

#### Meeting Fee Change Coming

Your Board of Directors has decided to change the amount which non-members pay to attend BAAC meetings effective early next year. Members will still pay \$2.00, but non-members and guests will be charged \$5.00.

## President's Message

by Lou Soper

Dear Members,

What a party we had on Tuesday, November 2. The dinner dance can be described in one word, **FUN!**

As you see, we are forming different committees to run the activities BAAC will be doing next year. There are many small details you can handle. We need YOU to volunteer your help. PLEASE HELP US! Remember, this is your club and we will only be as successful as you make us.

The December meeting will be our "yummy" event. Please bring your favorite baked "goodies" so we can have a "sweet" good time!

Art Van Damme is playing two shows at the Garden City Restaurant on Sunday November 28th. He will perform at 7 & 9 PM and there is a \$10 cover charge. Phone# is 408-244-3333. Please see the Art Van Damme article in this issue.

See ya on Tuesday, December 7th.

Honorary Lifetime Members: Anthony Galla-Rini, Myron Floren, Art Van Damme, Dick Contino, Lou Soper.

### Accordionist Needed

Folk dance band in the South Bay is looking for an accordion player. We have music for many hundreds of pieces from around the world. We practice about twice a month and usually play about one gig a month. If interested, please call Dave at (650) 604-6138 (w) or Pete at (408) 255-0297 (h).

## Mark Your Calendars

**November 28th. Art Van Damme at Garden City, Saratoga Ave., San Jose**

**December 1, Monday.** BAAC Board Meeting, 7:00 P. M. Moose Lodge, Daly City. Guests welcome. Call Lou Soper if you need directions.

**December 5th (Sunday)** (and every first Sunday). BAAC San Jose meeting. Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave. 4P to 7P. Admission \$3.00. Bring your accordion!

**December 5th, 2PM.** Christmas in Germany. Karl Leberherz Band. Oakland Nature Friends. Call (510) 836-0735

**December 7th (Tuesday)** BAAC General Membership Meeting at *Verdi Club in San Francisco*, 2424 Mariposa at Potrero. 7:00 - 9:30pm+. It's DESSERT Night....to help us celebrate Christmas! **Please bring a dessert to share.**

**December 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.

**December 13 (Monday).** (and every second Monday). *The Good Time Accordion Club*. At the Escalon Methodist Church 7:00pm. Info about joining from Jana Maas at 8001 Beckwith Rd., Modesto. \$15 membership fee includes newsletter called "Accordion News".

**December 7 (Tuesday).** Meeting of the Golden State Accordion-Aires. 6:00PM. Veterans' Hall 549 Merchant St. Vacaville.

**December 20 (Monday).** (and every third Monday). Meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. 7:00pm. Volpi's in Petaluma.

**December 21 (Tuesday).** (and every third Tuesday). Accordion Circle Band in East Bay. Call 510-548-2822 for location and more info.

**December 31st.** 8 P.M. till ? New Year's Eve Party. Karl Leberherz Band, Oakland Nature Friends. By reservation only. (510) 836-0735

**January 14-17th, 2000. Accordion workshop & jammin'cruise** to Ensenada, Mexico aboard the Carnival Fun Ship Holiday. Doubles \$345 and \$405 include 3-nights, 4-days from Port of LA, all meals, entertainment, and workshops. Call Michelle Nicola (in Pleasant Hill) 800-889-4795.

**February 6th, 3:00 PM and February 8th at 8:00 PM.** Peter Soave, bandoneon soloist, with the Napa Valley Symphony Orchestra performing Piazzolla's "Aconcagua" Concerto for Bandoneon and Orchestra. Lincoln Theater, Veterans' Home of California, Yountville.

**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.

**August 6 - 10, 2000 National Accordion Convention in Las Vegas** being organized by Paul Pasquali. (801) 486-1695.

**October 4 - 8, 2000.** City of Castelfidardo International Music Festival. Castelfidardo, Italy. Tel: 0039-071-7829349.

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

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

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

*November South Bay Jam*

If you're like me, as great as our meetings are with the fine music, once a month is just not enough to satisfy my "accordion cravings"! Sooo, I went to check out our sister group in San Jose, the South Bay Jam. Now here's a group that is "happening"! Started by BAAC members Arnie Krenn, with then president Marian Kelly providing encouragement, it had the purpose of providing accordion enjoyment for those unable to make the long trek to our Club. And boy have they succeeded! Small in numbers, they make it up in friendliness and enthusiasm, everybody knows everybody on a first name basis.



Many of our members go there too. Norma Parsons, Roberto Rosa, Glenn McClelland and wife Jeanne, Mike Zampiceni, Dick Cruickshank, Rob Capanella and family, (his son Brian is a real "comer" on



the chromatic, along with others. Norma "holds court" at the meetings with an "at home" style that just naturally brings everyone into the group. And believe me she "takes" from the audience as well as "gives"! And when they say, "bring your squeezebox", they really mean it as you can tell from the picture. Lots of fun with notable artists also contributing to the high quality of expertise there.

And if all that isn't enough, the meetings take place at a REAL Hofbrau (Harry's)! Boy what a place, with its Alpine decor, its huge with red tile floors so clean you could literally eat....., well you know, and get this, a roast beef dinner with "all the trimmings" for around 8 bucks, what a deal!

So let's go to the Christmas meeting on December 5 at 3:00 PM, and afterwards a great dinner at Harry's, OK? Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave, (not quite to San Jose). Take 280 south and then Saratoga Ave. North (just two blocks off the freeway). Please show me the way to San Jose...dum dee dum dee dum dee dum!

*Dick Schiller*

*BAAC Scholarships Bursting Out All Over!*

Many thanks to all of you who have made a personal contribution to the BAAC Scholarship Program. These wonderful people are: Michael Marotta, Sr.; Gwyn Lister; Jim Holliday; Josephine Hornbrook; Ed Zaro; Annette Wahlgren; Norma Parsons; Mike Zampiceni; Ron Harris; Janet and Dick Landauer; Valerie Kieser; Jim San Sebastian; Al Monti; Herb Meier; Ken Nimmo; Barbara Winter; Frank Montoro; Armando Quaglia; Lee Woodall; Betty Pollack; and Jim O'Connor.

We have been able to award three scholarships. The recipients are: Neil Wahlgren, Mark Church, and Harrison Dirck. We have others applying and the Scholarship Committee will be busy working on these.

Are you looking for a worthy holiday gift for a music lover? Consider giving a contribution in that person's name for Christmas, for birthdays, or in memoriam for a loved one. Spreading the love of music is truly the ultimate great gift. It is a gift which will live on and has the potential for greatness.

Make your contribution to the BAAC Scholarship Program. We will send you an attractive acknowledgement card. Thank you.

Mary-Alice Eldon,  
BAAC Scholarship Committee Member.

**FOR SALE:**

**Guerrini accordion**, 4 and 5 reeds. With MIDI controller. A module Boss DS 330 sound box is on it. All like new. **\$3750.**

**Call Ed at (209) 369-5143**

LOU CASALNOUVO, a fine jazz artist in our club who also provided the outstanding music for the Nov 2nd dinner dance, has given us two sheet music selections for our members to enjoy. This month the arrangement shows the bass stylings that can be used when playing alone. Next month we will include the same tune, but one that can be used with a bass player. A chance to learn from a fine player who "knows". Thanks Lou!

*EXACTLY LIKE YOU*  
*Left hand playing when you don't have Bass Player*

The first system of handwritten musical notation for 'Exactly Like You' consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody in the treble clef starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line in the bass clef starts with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3.

The second system of handwritten musical notation continues the piece. It features two staves. Above the first staff, there are two measures labeled 'I' and 'II'. The first staff contains the melody, and the second staff contains the bass line. Chord diagrams are written below the bass line: 'C' for the first measure, 'C DIM D mix' for the second measure, 'G7' for the third measure, and 'Gmi C7' for the fourth measure. The notation includes various rhythmic values and accidentals.

The third system of handwritten musical notation continues the piece with two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody in the treble clef continues with quarter notes and eighth notes. The bass line in the bass clef provides a steady accompaniment.

The fourth system of handwritten musical notation continues the piece with two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody in the treble clef continues with quarter notes and eighth notes. The bass line in the bass clef provides a steady accompaniment.

The fifth system of handwritten musical notation concludes the piece with two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody in the treble clef ends with a quarter note G4. The bass line in the bass clef ends with a quarter note G2. A final 'C' chord diagram is written below the bass line.

**GARY DAHL**, from Puyallup Washington, is a familiar name to many of us. He is a teacher, artist, publisher of many accordion books for Mel Bay and articles on technique. Gary has graciously agreed to be a contributor to our club's newsletter. To start with, we will be distributing one of his fine arrangements at the door of our Dec meeting, so don't miss out on this! For a catalogue of available works, we can write to him at 509 Valley Ave. N.E. #5 Puyallup Wa., 98372.

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**GREAT THINGS IN SMALL PLACES**

*by Dick Schiller*

Would you believe that tucked away in a bungalow on a tree-lined street in suburban



Martinez is one of the finest accordion collections anywhere? BAAC member Jim Spowart, an accomplished accordionist, started in the late 1950's to collect as many fine vintage (and modern) accordions as he could find. He enlisted the help of famed Colombo & Sons pioneer,

Gordon Piatanesi, who alerted him to unusual, fine instruments when they became available over the years.

As a result, Jim has a fantastic variety of instruments including such names as Guilietti, Pignini, Petosa, Excelsior, Soprani (just a

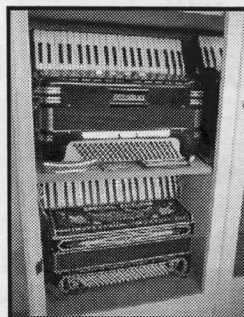


Colombo Special  
 (to die for!)

few of the names) along with a Colombo prototype (one of only two made) that he unexpectedly came across. This particular accordion, (ask Dominic Palmisano), when played is so deep and rich that the vibration can be felt in the chest.

«Jim, I want this one, please, please?».

Jim smiled and replied, «that's what they all say! Sorry, it's not for sale and will never be for sale!» Darn!



So, how would you like when going out to play a gig of having the choice of any number of fine accor-

Excelsior



Soprani waxless reeds

dions to play. Hmm, shall I take the concert Pignini, or my 1920's Excelsior? Which one will complement my outfit? My, such a dilemma.

Jim not only collects, but also repairs and restores these beauties of choice when he isn't performing, teaching or racing his new Toyota truck out on the boulevard with the kids! And get this, Jim loves visitors, especially BAAC members who would like to come to his home, play his «babies», and share accordion information. Kick back and have a great time, just call and make an appointment to go! Find Jim Spowart at (925) 228-5958.

Hey everyone! Do you have suggestions, and interesting information regarding the accordion that would be of interest to all of us? All it takes is a 33 cent stamp to help mold our newsletter the way we want it. Send your comments to .....Dick Schiller, 2827 Richmond Ave., Oakland, CA 94611!

Oh boy!! Christmas is coming to BAAC and we are looking forward to the arrival of our mystery Santa on Tuesday, December 7th at Verdi with lots of good things for us. A great time of year to get together and celebrate this wonderful season and our beloved accordion.

## THE KING RETURNS

It's kinda hard to realize the opportunity that we have before us. The rare privilege of seeing in person not only a living legend, but *The Jazz Accordion Legend of the 20th Century*, Art Van Damme.

To me, Art's attraction is that he has taken the popular standards and transformed them into beautiful listening works of «Art». All the beautiful arpeggios and phrasing and arrangements make him like no other, a benchmark by which ALL jazz and «pop» players are measured. Because he has a "lock" on this great sound, it's hard for any player to be "original" and noteworthy, because Art "owns" all the good stuff!

Don't miss this rare event. At Garden City Casino in San Jose there will be two dinner shows, 6-8, and 8-10PM. Dinners start around \$15. There is also a \$10 per person cover and a small lounge area. Not much when you get to see an event of such significance. Sunday, November 28; make reservations NOW. 408-244-3333, 360 Saratoga Ave., right next door to South Bay Jam (Harry's Hofbrau). Take 280 South to Saratoga Ave. North, just 2 blocks off the freeway.

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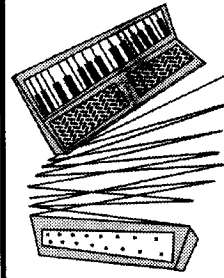
#### **Lou Soper**

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If you would like to play at a meeting contact Steve Albini at (415) 892-5381