

October Meeting
1990

editor: Dominic Palmisano

What an evening! The success of the club was bouncing throughout the room. We had several members performing with their own personal instruments. In attendance were 63 members and 8 guests. One of the guests was the Lembi's very pretty granddaughter, Lisa...

We opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the passing of club member Joe Grado..... Mr. Reliable, Clyde Forsman, began the musical night by playing two exquisite Scandinavian tunes, Johan Basnippin and a tune that had no name. I've come to know Clyde, and it's always a pleasure to be in his company... Val Ballarini followed with a very entertaining and funny interpretation of Eh Compari and That's Amore. What a great new member we have in Val... Frank Montoro followed with a medley of great tunes which included Angel Eyes and the Lambada played on an Elka Midi. His performance was very impressive...

Time for a little business... Reno Pucci and Glen Cohen reported on the status of the By-Laws committee. Glen stated that the By-Laws will be completed by the next meeting. We also discussed the performance fund headed by Lou Soper. Lou has been out playing for \$ in order to bring the world's best performing accordionists to the Bay Area schools. Also, we intend to have these super stars in concert for the club's enjoyment. So at last count \$400 has been placed

in the fund, along with Clyde Forsman's \$50 contribution (part of a fee earned for repairing an accordion). *"You guys are the best!"* When the fund reaches about \$1500, we can start to make plans for our first presentation (That sounds exciting!).

Back to music... Jim Boggio gently stood up and knocked our socks off with Sweet Georgia Brown, Out of Nowhere and Honeysuckle Rose. Jim is the perfect example of a top notch accordionist living in the Bay Area. What a great jazz sound he has... Reno DiBono serenaded us on his Elka Midi with a extraordinary medley of standards which included How High the Moon, Somewhere My Love and Twilight Time. This guy is another great accordionist in our area. Then his brother, Peter, and his dad, Tony, joined in with their accordions with a terrific rendition of From Milano to Turino, Beer Barrel Polka and The Sheik of Araby. This brought back wonderful memories of the past when Dino Benetti had his accordion picnics. Those who have lived here for the past 40 years recognize Dino as one of the great accordion artist ever to come out of San Francisco. His wife, Carol Benetti, is a charter member of our club...

Talking about picnics... The club has definitely decided on having one. A committee will be formed to handle the arrangements. If you are interested in participating please call Walter Traverso (585-0144)...

On to the complaints...

Some members expressed their concern about the poor acoustics at our new facilities. I agree. If you have any input to improve the situation, please let us know...The other complaint was the pricing of our beverages. We've decided to make everything a dollar. Also, we've decided to close the bar while the meeting is going on.

Time to close...Lou Soper finished the meeting with a delightful arrangement of Satin Doll and Over the Rainbow...

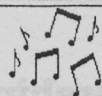
After the meeting...We had our usual "stay after the meeting players" doing their great speciality songs. Joe Catalano was doing his wonderful "heart tugs" from the past when he started to feel sick. After carefully looking at his condition we decided to call for emergency services. Joe is at Seton Hospital recovering from a cardiac condition. He is in good spirits and sends his thanks to everyone who helped him that evening...

A special thanks... To Rusti Bartoli, Walter Traverso, Wenzel Rasmussen and Albert Enos for making the evening possible. Your efforts made it a success...Also, the club wants to thank Kitty Piiwaa for arranging the donation of 9 cases of coke made by the Coca Cola Co...

Finally... A music library is in the works for the club. Algis Ratnickas (587-9910) and Glen Cohen (573-1624) will be coordinating the effort... → → → → ②



Musical Review
by
Jim Holliday

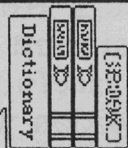


Dick Contino, performing at the Eighth Annual Festa Italiano on Fisherman's Wharf, was the **Main Event** for Bay Area Accordionists on September 30th..

A consummate, hard-driving showman, he totally mesmerized the large crowd with an electrifying performance on the accordion which featured dazzling keyboard work.

Accompanied by bass guitar, keyboards and drums, he played a beautifully diverse selection of numbers resulting in several standing ovations. One unique number was "Peg Of My Heart" performed entirely on left hand bass and chord buttons only, producing a sound similar to the great Harmonicats recording of that tune in the 50's. Several difficult selections were presented, but it was a virtuoso medley performance combining "Malagueña" and "Granada", and featuring a triple-bellows shake that completely stopped the show.

It was a great day for the accordion in San Francisco, and I heartily recommend all BAAC members make a special effort to attend next year's Festa Italiano!



For Your
Information

The Club has purchased The Golden Age of the Accordion written by charter member, Ron Flynn. Also, we have purchased (honorary member) Anthony Galla-Rini's Workshop & Concert Video package. Both selections will be available to our members on a sign up basis. Please contact Don Rowlands (415-792-1632) for the details....

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Seven Swithes / 3 Base
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For Sale

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With hand made reeds
List price \$695
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The Golden Age Of The Accordion

By Ron Flynn

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4 Rocker Switch Amplified
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A Profile Of
Reno Pucci

If anyone can talk about the history of the accordion in San Francisco, you can bet Reno Pucci is one of the authorities on the subject. Get him started on the subject and Reno will throw more names at you in a few minutes that you'll wonder where you've been. You'll go away impressed with how much the instrument has meant to him as he takes you back through the years. "Accordions were made right here in San Francisco," he tells you.

Reno, a product of S.F.'s North Beach, started playing accordion when he was ten from the great master, Galla-Rini. Later, he went on to study with Henry Amaro and Caesar Pezzolo. He graduated from Balboa High and went on to get his B.A. from San Francisco State College majoring in Education. He decided that public education was not for him, preferring instead to devote his life to playing and teaching accordion. In 1963, he took over the Accordion Center from John Pezzolo, which was located on Mission and saw the decline of the accordion and sadly closed his Accordion Center in 1983. Scores of accordionists have to thank Reno for getting them started in music. Othmar Studler, Walter Traverso, Jim Cooper and Tom Serafini were former students of his, to mention a few.

His own career included playing in such places as the Carnelian Room and the Fior D'Italia. Reno still plays casuals specializing in "background music." No one plays Italian songs better than Reno, who takes pride in his culture through his music. And yes, he still teaches accordion in his Millbrae home. Does he ever plan to give it up? He looks at you with a smile and proclaims, "never." **by Frank Montoro**

next meeting: **Nov. 5**

**HOUSE OF PARTIES
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DALY CITY
8 PM**

[Free Municipal Parking 1/2 block west]

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