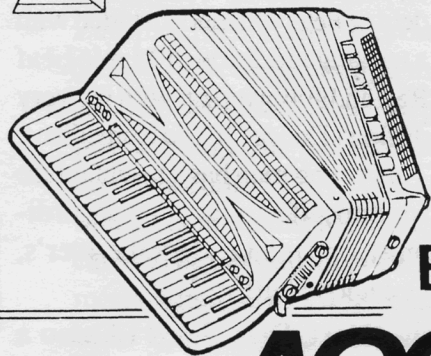


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA U.S.A.



BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB

October, 1999



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Dear BAAC members. First, a very special thank you to all who voted in the September election. It shows you take interest in our accordion club and that is very encouraging. The welcoming committee has an urgent need for volunteers for the monthly meetings. We need 4 teams of 4 people. Each team would welcome members and guests once every 4 months. That is only 3 times a year! Please help and volunteer!

November Dinner and Dance:

Here is your opportunity to welcome the new Millenium Executive Board and Officers of BAAC. An elegant evening awaits you with a **great prime rib dinner with all the trimmings**. Live accordion music in the lounge for pleasant listening., then romantic dancing to an excellent dance band.

6:30 no host cocktails (with lounge music)

7:00 Dinner

8:00 Introducing new Board & Officers

8:30 Dancing

See box to right for more information.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT: Loe Soper has successfully recruited Steve Albini to be our new Vice President. Steve, a member of our club is also president of the popular Redwood Accordion Club, and is looking forward to working with us. Welcome Steve!

NEW BOARD MEMBER: Rita D'Amico has graciously responded to Lou Soper's gentle persuasion and agreed to fill the board member vacancy created by the recent resignation of Kymric Smythe. Nice to have you Rita!

NEW POST OFFICE BOX #: Jim Firpo checks in with our new P.O. Box Number: BAAC, P.O. Box 318175, San Francisco, Ca. 94131-8175.

ATTENTION PLEASE, EVERYBODY!!

You won't be able to just wander into our November general meeting, because it's very special. You'll need to plan ahead. It will be a **DINNER MEETING**, our **ANNUAL DINNER**, in fact, to honor both outgoing and incoming Officers and Board. It will be in the usual place at the usual time, but you'll enjoy a memorable **PRIME RIB** dinner with all the fixins. The Verdi Club will provide all the food; BAAC will provide all the music for listening and for dancing.

We'll need to know ahead of time whether you're coming, because Verdi must know how much food to prepare. **Deadline for reservations is October 28.** Because of the short time remaining, reservations can be made by contacting the following people:

Jim Firpo: 415-648-3674

Lou Soper: 510-792-8765

Mike Zampiceni: 408-734-1565

Verdi Club, Jim Hillman: 415-861-9199

October Meeting Review

by *Richard Schiller*

October's meeting would have to be described as a really fun meeting! Bob Berta welcomed us all and introduced our new president Lou Soper. Now Lou not only IS the "pres", but he looks the part. Nattally dressed in blue blazer and tie he started by thanking the members for electing him to the top spot. He then had us all meet the person next to us which got the place humming! Lou loves this club and it's his stated intention to put us "on the map". He has many ideas and the energy to back them up, so we are in for a real treat for the future. Lou quickly put to rest a rumor circulating that our meeting location was going to be moved, stating emphatically that any change would have to be initiated by the board of directors and approved by the membership, adding that there isn't any intention that he knows of to do so. The issue of concern for Lou at this meeting was the upcoming dinner in November which he is striving to make a success. A banner across the bottom of the stage reminded us throughout the evening of its importance. Jim Hillman described the meal he was planning which includes prime rib and he really had our mouths "watering". Lou then paid tribute to our long time videographer Ed Zarro and his dedication to recording on videotape all the meetings in our 9 year history. That is quite a feat! Bob Berta was cited for his unselfish devotion in many areas including the newsletter, entertainment

committee, sound systems and anything asked of him! This is in addition to his (must be frantic) outside life of family, full time job, and a new baby! Val Keiser also got kudos for the time spent wearing many "hats" to help make our club function smoothly. And finally Marian Kelly for the great amount of time and effort during her tenure as president.

So on to the entertainment. Our MC for the evening was Arnie Kren, and I have to say we couldn't have had a better choice! Dressed in liederhosen in honor of Octoberfest month, Arnie conducted a smooth performance adjenda mixed with anecdotes, warm comments regarding the performers, and humorous stories. Opening the program was the duo of Renate Bixby and Richard Yaus, playing a variety of German songs, none of which I could pronounce! Bauernmadl, Bauernkirmess, Zillertaler, Kofstein plus others, I wish I could name them all (and spell them correctly!). Lovely waltzes and toe tapping polkas, and it was clearly evident the great enjoyment they were having in presenting this music. Renate playing her button box and totally immersed in her music, was rocking back and forth with a smile on her face, with Richard providing expert accompaniment and counter melodies. The audience was swept up in the mood created by these two fine performers by joining in singing on several songs. A very pleasant experience for all of us, and a great start to the evening. Thank you Renate and Richard.

Neil Walgren was next, and the first thing that came to my mind was, "What are they feeding this

guy? He must be 7 feet tall, and he's only 15? I'll bet no one tells him accordion jokes and gets away with it!" Neil, another talented student of Peter DiBono's, started with a rousing rendition of Maple Leaf Rag and followed up with the very difficult Dance Of The Comedians. This young man has a bright future for himself as a talented accordionist, or... tight end for the 49er's, Great job Neil!

Next, Ezra Gales 13, also a student with Peter Dibono, playing his nice sounding Titano, treated us to a not so often heard Waltz Into Mongolia from the movie Close To Eden. A very nice rendition, followed by one of my favorites, Ca Sera Sera. Keep up the practice Ezra, you're making us all proud! And congrats to Peter Dibono who certainly has a knack for developing young talent. Both Neil and Ezra then received BAAC scholarship awards presented by Val Keiser. Well deserved! By the way, BAAC scholarship awards are now open to new applicants, so all teachers please take advantage of this opportunity to reward your "promising" students. And members can help out by making tax deductible contributions to the noble cause of making accordions and lessons available to the younger generation.

Next on stage, Val Keiser continued on where Renate Bixby and Richard Yaust left off. Also wearing a pretty Octoberfest dress, Val too, had us all singing and humming with a variety of familiar songs. Now Val plays everything; button box, piano accordion and chromatic accordion, a very versatile

Continued on Page 4

BOARD MINUTES OF

SEPTEMBER 15 MEETING:

Treasurer's Report (Mike Zampiceini): Bank Accounts \$12,301.09. Scholarship Fund - \$283.38. Mike will present a proposed budget at next month's board meeting.

Membership Cards: Membership cards to be passed out at the next meeting and mailed to rest of members. Details to be worked out later.

Programs: Lou displayed BAAC "pyramid" showing 10% of membership doing 90% of the work. Our club needs committees with willing members. Sheets to be made showing the pyramid and handed out at December meeting.

A Welcoming Committee of 16 people working in rotation, four each month with separate name tag table to discussed at next month's board meeting.

Scholarship and Performance Funds: The President feels that the Scholarship Fund and the Performance fund need to be separate funds in the club, not budget items. Moved, seconded, & passed. (m/s/p)

BAAC Dinner: Tuesday, November 2, 1999 to honor outgoing officers and board members and welcoming incoming ones. Motion m/s/p to hire 3-4 piece band within BAAC membership & pay scale with \$500 maximum. Lou to call various bands in keeping with the motion.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, November 8, 1999 at Moose Lodge on Mission Street in Daly City.

Mark Your Calendars

November 2 (Tuesday) BAAC Annual Dinner being held this year at the Verdi Club during our regular meeting. For \$25, you receive a prime rib dinner including salad, pasta, vegetables, dessert, and wine. Plus accordion entertainment and dancing. Plan to attend!

November 7 (Sunday). (and every first Sunday) BAAC San Jose Meeting, Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave. San Jose, 3:00pm - 6:00pm Admission \$300. Bring your accordion.

November 8 (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".

November 9 Meeting of Golden State Accordion-Aires. 7:00pm Pietro's No.2. 679 Merchant St. Vacaville.

November 11 (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.

November 15 (Monday). (and every third Monday). Meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods. 7:00pm. Volpi's in Petaluma.

November 16 (Tuesday). (and every third Tuesday). Accordion Circle Band in East Bay. Call 510-548-2822 for location and more info.

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

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. Final pmt due Nov 19th. Call Michelle Nicola (in Pleasant Hill) 800-889-4795.

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

BAAC Ensemble: Contact Frank Montoro (650)574-4757 for additional information.

BAAC Fun Band Contact Tom Cordoni (415) 333-5625.

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



FRENCH IMPOSTERS?

We have a report that three Italian BAAC accordionists dressed up in French attire (complete with berets), appeared at Menlo Park Atherton Foundation Charitable Dinner & Auction. The event held on not 1 but 2 estates in a closed off neighborhood was attended by Peninsula elite. Well, our boys showed that talented accordionists are in demand anywhere, playing a variety of French tunes and impressing everyone. Take a bow, Ed Massolo, Frank Montero & Don Nurisso!

October Meeting Review continued from page 2.

performer and a very impressive repertoire. Tonight she started out on her button box with a medley of, Ein Heller und Ein Batzen; Bier Her; Nach Hause Geh'n Wir Nicht; Im Hummel Es Gibt Kein Bier; Lustig Ist Das Zigeunerleben. Switching to her piano accordion, Val continued with another medley of, Freut Euch Des Lebens, Drinking Song From The Student Price, Kornblumenblau and Du Kannst Nicht Treu Sein. (Phew) Then a finale of the traditional Octoberfest toast, Ein Prosit der Gemutlichkeit with the audience joining in. Thank you Val for your very enjoyable presentation. Certainly Val and Renate are a big plus for our club with their European music renditions.

After the break we were startled by machine gun fire, explosions and car crashes! Not to worry though....it wasn't WWII....it was Arnie and his Concerto MIDI accordion summoning us back to the meeting! (is there anything his squeezebox can't do?) Now we were treated to the sound of a theater organ and orchestral sounds integrated with accordion as only Arnie can do. His performance included, The Skaters Waltz, Lights Ball, Sound Of Music, and Tinker Polka. Arnie is very self effacing, but his musical expertise speaks for itself and was certainly acknowledged by an admiring audience. Thanks Arnie for not only this musical treat, but also for your most enjoyable MC performance!.

This evenings enjoyment for all of us continued with Alex Yaskin, a popular performer at the club with his chromatic accordion and

"drum box". The thing I realized about Alex is that his great talent is overshadowed by his easy going nature, but it comes very apparent by listening and watching closely what he is doing. His first piece The Russian Bear, was a slow pondering song that actually gave the feeling of a lumbering bear. It included a fine bass chord solo and had us really paying attention to the "feeling" being created. Next were In The Navy, Prelude For Fisharmonica Solo, and Alex finished this great performance with Youth Waltz, a Russian tune. I'm continually amazed at the level of talent that we have here. Many thanks Alex!

Our final performance was by Henri Ducharme and his new Bugari accordion. Henri presented some very complicated themes using his free bass that showed the level of accomplishment he has attained. His offerings included Russian Theme; Mad Rush, a contemporary theme with 5 variations; Fracanapa by Astor Piazzola, in which Henri duplicated the masterful sharp accents that Piazzola was noted for; Then, a well deserved encore, the partial score of Our Town. Henri Ducharme is certainly a unique accordionist with the wide variety of music that he has adapted to the accordion in his performance library. And to see the intensity of his approach to playing makes his offerings very much appreciated.

A very fun evening, thanks to all our performers who took the time to prepare the music to entertain us. Next month it will be dining and dancing, so lets ALL be there to make it another enjoyable evening.

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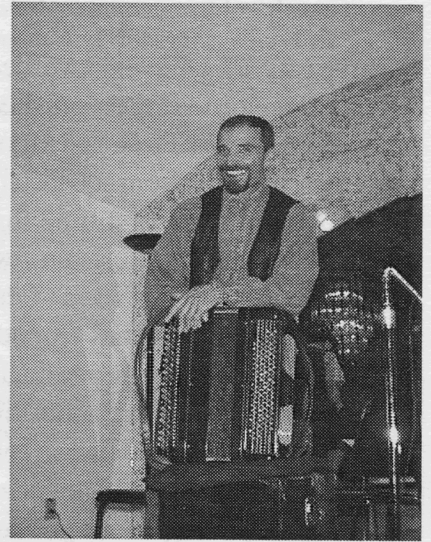
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October Meeting Performers



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Alex Yaskin



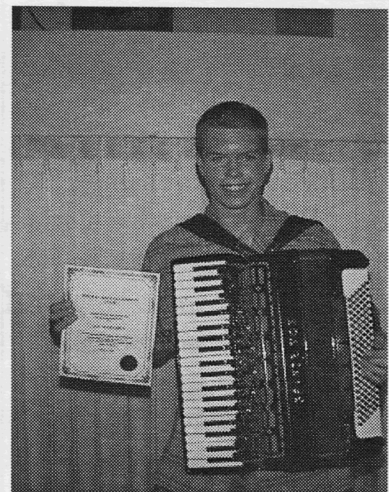
Renata and Richard



Arnie and Val



Ezra Gale



Neil Walgren

Robert Davine Recognized

University of Denver Awarded Robert Davine the **Distinguished Teaching Award**. Presented to one professor annually from 600 faculty members, it is the first time this award has gone to a music professor. Robert Davine is head of the accordion program and teaches music theory. We thought you might like to know a little more about this most remarkable musician so following is our attempt to familiarize you with a true "hero" of the accordion.

Ask Robert Davine to play the well known tune, "Lady of Spain," and you will not receive a favorable response. Talk to him about the accordion's ability to take to the stage with other chamber music instruments, however, and Davine is transformed.

For almost 50 years, Davine has been spreading the word among musicians and students about this underrated instrument's range and capabilities. He is professor of accordion and theory at the Lamont School of Music. "Even though the accordion was invented in 1820, it wasn't until recently, the last 25 or 30 years, that the accordion has been used in chamber ensembles. But it sounds wonderful with many instruments," says Davine.

Davine has been on the forefront of bringing the accordion to the classical stage. Considered one of the few virtuoso classical accordionists, he has performed with

the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, London's Montovani Orchestra and the Paganini String Quartet. For many years, Davine was also staff accordionist for NBC and he has performed and taught master classes in China (the accordion is the most popular instrument in China currently).

Here in the United States most people don't count it among the usual classical instruments, so they are often surprised when they hear it - and are won over. Glenn Giffen, music and dance critic for *The Denver Post*, observes that "the accordion blends better with winds and strings than does piano, making the accordion an excellent chamber music instrument."

Being a virtuoso classical accordionist has its challenges, though. Despite the accordion's versatility, not much music has been written for it, as Davine has learned while working on a bibliography of music for the accordion and other instruments.

Davine also discovered that the accordion is used frequently in movie scores because of its ability to blend with other instrument. "It can sound like an entire church organ so you can't even talk in the same room, or it can give you just one thin note that sounds like a piccolo," he says. These accordion attributes seem to be helping to spark a big increase in interest in accordions. Accordions seem to be everywhere....in various traditional ethnic music of course....but also in movies, TV programs and in TV and Radio advertisements. Davine

points out that the 1987 Academy-Award winning film *Moonstruck* used the accordion, and that Henry Mancini included the instrument in many of his scores.

The unique talent and dedication to the accordion led Roger Fee director of Lamont from 1953 to 1978, to establish an accordion program in 1954 with Davine at its head. Fee says that when he attended one of Davine's concerts, he was "highly impressed" by Davine's artistic approach. "He had a very complete preparation as a musician," Fee says. "I saw he was beginning to apply it towards creating new music for the accordion, something I had not seen anywhere else.

One of Davine's proteges, Robert Yekovich, BM '78, MA '80 and now dean of the North Carolina School of the Arts at the University of North Carolina, remembers his former teacher's performance skills with awe, saying he finds it difficult "to imagine anything surpassing the perfection of execution that I vividly recall."

Although Lamont is now one of two schools in the United States in which students can earn a bachelor's degree in accordion performance, Davine is still the only full professor of accordion in the country.

In part because of that unique distinction, Lamont's accordion program has attracted students from 26 states and five foreign countries. Included among his past students is fellow BAAC club member Sev Garcia.

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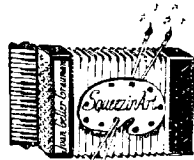
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Hey everyone! Do you have suggestions, and interesting information regarding the accordion that would be of interest to all of us? All it takes is a 33 cent stamp to help mold our newsletter the way we want it. Send your comments toDick Schiller, 2827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

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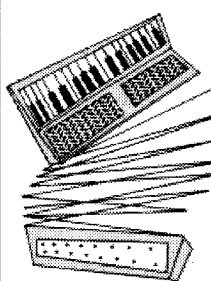
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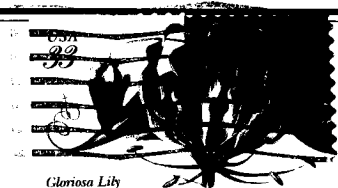
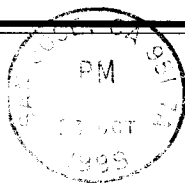


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If you would like to play at a meeting contact Bob Berta at (510) 450-5766