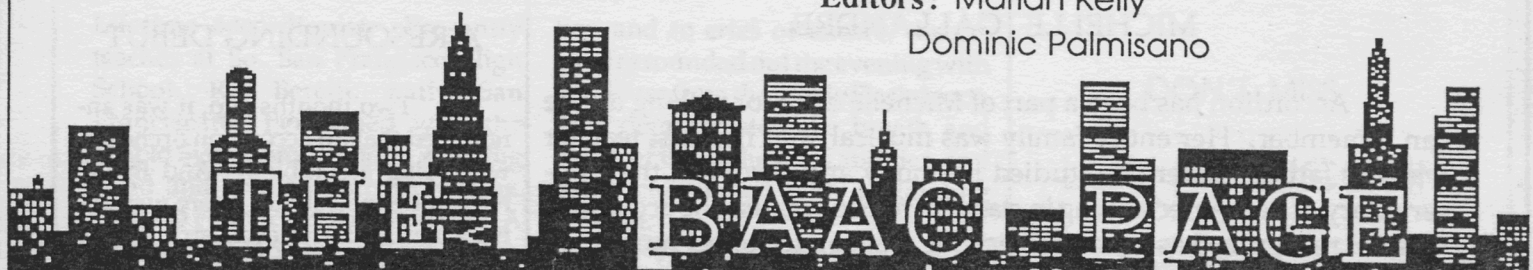


Editors: Marian Kelly

Dominic Palmisano



DECEMBER MEETING

Our President, Lou Soper, opened the December 2nd meeting by greeting us all with a cheery "Merry Christmas," then welcomed the many guests. He noted the date of the next Board meeting on January 15th at Frank Montoro's home, inviting any interested members to attend (but please phone first because of space considerations).

Domenic Saso, with his usual panache, came to the podium to present the musical performers. He first introduced Reno Pucci who, with his competent style, set the Christmas theme with the nostalgic tunes "Winter Wonderland" and "Skaters' Waltz", then "Colonel Bogey March". Gina Avola, our glamorous lady of the accordion, played and strolled in her beguiling style, "La Bakina," "Oh, Marie," "O Solo Mio," "Tarantella Siciliana," and "Vurria Bacciare."

Gerry Downs, whom we have not previously heard at our meetings, wowed us with two beautiful numbers, "Once in a While," and the gorgeous "Canzone Amoro". We hope to see you again soon, Gerry.

"Santa" Lou Soper surprised us by strapping on his accordion to accompany our singing of the seasonal tunes, "Winter Wonderland," "Silver Bells," "Christmas Song," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "White Christmas," and "Jingle Bells", putting us in a truly mushy Christmas mood.

We observed a minute's silence for the passing of member Frank Arbues.

Intermission gave us a chance to sample all the Christmas goodies attractively displayed by Barbara Hartley and Nancy Mardesich. Domenic trundled in the enormous cake, and the ladies provided chips, dip, cookies and coffee.

Next, the BAAC entertainment took a giant leap forward with the presentation of the newly formed San Francisco Symphonic Accordion Ensemble, under the direction of Paul Pasquali. A hushed ripple of excitement ran through the crowd as seven musicians and their conductor, attired in black and white, filed onto the stage. First, tho, Stas Wisniach, one of the Ensemble, thrilled us with his solo performance of a Russian Gypsy melody, then (since there were a few Italians present) "Cesarine." He followed with the themes from "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Zorba the Greek." His brilliant playing is a joy to watch and hear -- truly, he is a man who is one with his instrument. Thanks, Stas!

Now for the coup de gras -- Paul Pasquali and the San Francisco Squeeze (stage name for the ensemble) first in "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik" by Mozart, beauti-

fully transcribed by Donald Balestrieri, PhD, for the accordions, making it easy to distinguish the different instruments they represented. Then, after much applause, they followed with a musical tribute to the great American composer, Henry Mancini, which included many of his best known pieces. The arrangement, by Renato Bui, is so gorgeous that I noted many a tear trickling down. After a standing ovation, the Ensemble pleased with two encores, the theme from "Phantom of the Opera" and "What a Feeling" from Flashdance. The lavish and diverse program succeeded in pleasing all tastes.

After so much inspiring music, many of us gathered at Lyons to reminisce, as usual. See you all again on January 6th. Merry Christmas!!!!

Rae Lembi



CONDUCTOR'S COLUMN

Seasons' greetings to all our wonderful members! While 1991 has been a rewarding year for the accordion, we are gearing ourselves up for an exciting and entertaining 1992. Already several schools have accepted our offer to perform for the students and we are pleased with the progress, thanks to Frank Montoro.

Our musical library is getting larger, and it is gratifying that we can help most members find musical selections which have been difficult to find. The Monday night meetings are getting larger and we are growing, thanks to the help of all members. So, 1992 looks exciting.

A very special thanks to the ladies who donated all the homemade cookies and goodies at our December meeting. They were Barbara Hartley, Nancy Mardesich, and Joan Traverso.

So, Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukkah, and Happy New Year.

Lou Soper

MICHELLE GALLANDRE

Accordion has been a part of Michelle's life for as long as she can remember. Her entire family was musical, and her first teacher was her father. Later she studied harmony and theory at the Conservatory of Paris specializing in classical music because the accordion was not recognized as a major. Michelle went on to collect numerous awards and trophies for her musicianship. She joined her father's eight piece band along with her sister on guitar, brother on drums, and her father who played trumpet. They toured all over Europe playing club dates, dances, and shows.

Michelle left Paris in 1960 to accompany her husband who had been offered a position with the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra. After a tour of South America and her subsequent divorce in 1962, she took up residence for twelve years in Mexico City, where she found plenty of work playing in restaurants and clubs until she moved to Los Angeles in 1974. Four years later she decided that she had enough of the southland and came to San Francisco.

Arriving here at a time when the accordion had lost its popularity, Michelle did a smart thing. She changed her line of work and became a French gourmet cook for a private family in Belvedere. Thus, she saved her weekends for her first love, the accordion. She is much in demand, and keeps quite busy playing solos or with various combos.

Listening to Michelle play some of her French musette tunes, you would think you were in Paris. She has a special light and playful touch that is unique. Her fingers glide over the chromatic keyboard as she goes from one tune to another. A gifted musician, Michelle plays all kinds of music from popular to light classics with a style of the professional that she is.

Frank Montoro

Synopsis of our BOARD MEETING, NOV 20th

- The Treasurer reported a balance of \$4099 in the checking account and \$1157 in the Performance Fund
- We discussed the advantages of locating another site for our general meetings, among them better acoustics and possible resolution of the alcohol dilemma. Several members will investigate possibilities.
- One hundred dollars was allotted for the purchase of cake and cookies for the Christmas meeting.
- When the ad hoc alcohol committee presents its findings, they will be printed in the BAAC Page.
- The school program will be in full swing by January. The format: history of the accordion, then a demonstration of both the acoustic and electronic instrument.

Rae Lembi

A RESOUNDING DEBUT

Two months ago, it was announced that an accordion orchestra was being assembled. And in the November newsletter, there was notification that the orchestra would play at the December meeting. The result was a packed house waiting in anticipation since they did not know who comprised the orchestra.

The suspense deepened when the orchestra took the stage, since there were several members that the audience did not recognize. Conducted by Paul Pasquali, the San Francisco Symphonic Ensemble debuted with Bach's Eine Kleine Nacht Music. A risky movement to open with; it is very technically demanding, and because of its popularity, well known to an audience who knows how it should be played. To put it mildly, the orchestra aced it. Commandingly gliding through this work, the result was a resounding ovation.

The conductor proceeded to introduce those who had pulled off this masterpiece. Marie Meredith, native Californian, who has studied the accordion since age eight, and who studied under Anthony Aretta. Presently, she is the Senior City Planner for the City of Santa Rosa. Stas Wisniach, who moved to California from Detroit. Graduate of the Detroit Institute of Musical Arts and two time president of the Accordion Teachers Guild. Don Nurisso, native San Franciscan. Played the accordion professionally for 20 years. Has played with Ernie Hecksher Orchestra and with Ray Hackett. Presently an Engineer for PG&E. Peter DiBono. native San Franciscan. Graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Has played with the Oakland Symphony and studies with Ernest Gloe. Marian Kelly, from Massachusetts. Graduated from the University of Massachusetts. Excellent accordionist who presently holds positions in BAAC. Dominic Palmisano, native Californian. Graduate of San Francisco State.



Lifetime accordionist. Presently teaches at So. San Francisco High School. Ron Berelli, native San Franciscan. Performed with the Diablo Symphony, Waldo Carter Big Band and studied with Don Haas. And the conductor, Paul Pasquali. A graduate of Brigham Young University and partner in Colombo and Sons Accordion Corporation. Studied classical accordion since age eight. Also studied with Larry Pino and John Langhurst. Obviously the orchestra is an organization of accomplished musicians.

Next on the program was a medley of Henry Mancini works. Again the orchestra burst through these demanding pieces with the result being a standing ovation. To cries of encore, Paul and the orchestra began the main theme to Phantom Of The Opera. To the audiences' delight and glee, they were treated to a performance of Weber's greatest accomplishment in a manner which would have made Weber himself proud. Again to a resounding ova-

tion and to cries of encore, the orchestra rounded out the evening with Footloose from the movie Flashdance. This demonstrated the breath and depth of the orchestra's abilities, and again culminated with a standing ovation.

The first appearance of the San Francisco Symphonic Accordion Ensemble was an accordion success which has not been seen in the San Francisco Bay Area in years. The ability of the conductor and the members themselves, ensures that this is just the first of many. The crowd that went home that night had pride in its eyes; it had seen the sophistication of the accordion demonstrated in a manner which was irrefutable. In fact this debut has rekindled the heavenly debate among the angels whether the accordion should replace the harp. A debut worthy of the individuals who participated.

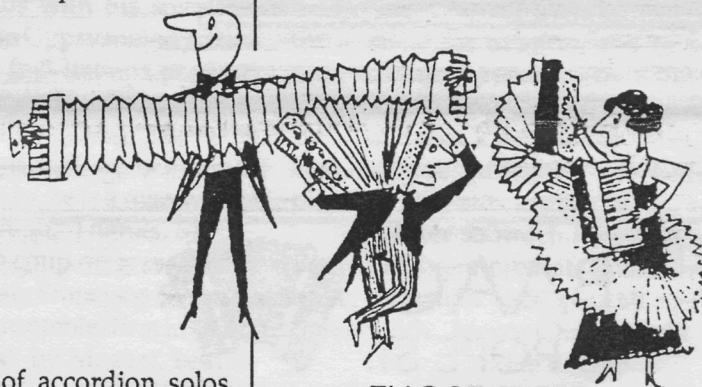
Adam White

MUSIC LENDING LIBRARY

These are the items in our music library as of December 1, 1991. To borrow any items, contact Frank Montoro at 415-574-4757, and I will bring them to the next BAAC meeting.

1. TUNE DEX. Two 3 x 5" index boxes containing 1233 tunes of the 40's and mid 50's. Alphabetized. Separate listing for easy reference.
2. Anthony Galla-Rini Master Workshop Videos (also available for sale at \$44.95.)
3. "The Golden Age of the Accordion" by Ronald Flynn, Edwin Davison, and Edward Chavez.
4. Catalog of selections for piano, accordion, or organ. Barbara Hartley will make copies of these upon request. Contact her at Box 5054, Napa, CA 94581. Phone: 707-882-4647.

5. List of accordion solos. Copies available through Bill and Elizabeth Tintics.
 6. Catalog of original compositions for accordion by Joe Morelli. Through Key Publications, 2692 Lauralynn Dr., North Vancouver, B.C., V7J 2Y5 Canada. Courtesy of Leo Aquino.
 7. Catalog of accordion solos by Anthony Galla-Rini. Available through Music Graphics Press, San Diego CA.
 8. "Chamarita" Portuguese Dance. Sheet music. Courtesy of Clyde Forsman.
- We welcome your ideas and your contributions.



THOSE DARN ACCORDIONS!

with
JIM BOGGIO and the
SONOMA SWAMP DOGS

Wednesday, January 8th
9 PM to ???
at
THE LAST DOG SALOON
406 Clement St.
San Francisco

For info call:
415-387-6344

DON'T MISS LOU FANUCCHI

for your listening
and dancing pleasure

Monday, January 20th
7:30 to 10:30
MOOSE LODGE,
CASTRO VALLEY
\$10/person; \$15/couple

Ticket Info: 510-537-0830

BAAC Classified



COLOMBO & SONS
ACCORDION
1201 ANDERSEN DR. SUITE O
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901
(415-457-2222)
HOURS:
TUESDAY - FRIDAY
8:30AM - 4:30PM
SATURDAY
9:00AM - 2:00PM
SALES & REPAIRS



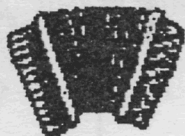
petosa accordions
CUSTOMCRAFTED - Since 1922

313 N.E. 45th St. Seattle, WA 98105 (206) 632-2700

AD POLICY: MEMBERS PAY \$5/ISSUE
FOR SMALL ADS, \$10 FOR LARGE.
NON-MEMBERS PAY TWICE THE
MEMBER'S RATE. SEND COPY AND
CHECK TO 321 ALISO, PORTOLA VALLEY, 94028

WE'RE

BAAC



48 POPE ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
94112



NEXT MEETING: MONDAY
JANUARY 6TH, 1992
7:00PM

HOUSE OF PARTIES
22 HILLCREST DR.
DALY CITY

CALL DOMENIC SASO IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT THE
NEXT MEETING..415-587-7557

Conductor
Lou Soper

Co-Conductor
Peter DiBono

Scribe
Rae Lembi

Banker
Marian Kelly

Teller
Carol Benetti