
The BAAC Page

Newsletter of the Bay Area Accordion Club

January 2002

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6
AT 7:00 P.M. AT PATIO ESPANOL.

We're combining the themes of January and February into one great meeting since the January meeting had to be cancelled at the last moment (let's hope *that* doesn't happen again!). January's theme was to be "Wintry Weather," and we have Valarie Morris' quartet playing Valarie's "Storm" series; Frank Schlotter, Valarie Morris, Sharon Walters, plus a couple of other great players for that theme that still have to be confirmed.

February's theme is "Students and Their Teachers," and we have so far Lou Jacklich, Valarie Morris, Sharon Walters and Ron Borelli and their students. A full program!

Workshop Free to Members, \$15 for non-members, promised for February, will actually take place in March: **Ron Borelli** will give a workshop on **Saturday, March 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm at Moose Lodge Daly City**. Bring your accordion and some sheet music. Ron will cover jazz improvisation with demonstration and ensemble playing. You won't want to miss this one!

Galla-Rini Camp 2002

Mark your calendars now: Sunday, July 21 to Friday, July 26 in San Diego. The Maestro is writing some magnificent arrangements for the camp ensemble. Workshops given by experts will cover every imaginable subject. The maestro, who just celebrated his 98th birthday, is very excited about this camp. Val will have the camp information flyers available at meetings.



President's Message *January 2002*

This is a longer message than usual, but I feel the need this month to express **some of my feelings** to you, my accordion friends.

I love the Bay Area

Accordion Club. All of our board members and many of our members at large give selflessly of themselves to benefit our club. I think we all know who they are.

One day I stopped and thought about what BAAC has done for me personally. Before I learned about and joined BAAC in 1992, I knew almost no accordionists, and I could only slowly and painfully read music. I was afraid the club might not have me because I wasn't a good player! I knew John Fiore and had heard of Joe Smiell, and that's all. How I longed to have someone to play accordion with!

It was through **Gordon Piatanesi** that I learned about both BAAC and the Galla-Rini camp, and subsequently learned about Joe's button box camp, other accordion clubs, and all the accordion conventions that I have enjoyed over the years. Would you believe, I now belong to **16 accordion clubs?!**

This club offers us the golden opportunity to know and socialize with people with a common passion, and to play and enjoy good music on our favorite instrument, probably the most versatile instrument in the world. Our membership is made up of congenial people who all share this passion--whether they play or not--and we love getting together.

The **BAAC ensemble**, the **ACE ensemble**, and the "**Fun Band**" have enriched my musical life beyond description.

People ask me why I belong to so many playing groups, and my answer is that I love group playing,

love the people, and learn so much from it. (Please consider joining the BAAC Ensemble or the Fun Band—you'll be glad you did!)

San Francisco has played a proud and key role in the **history of the accordion** in the United States. Our club has a unique legacy in being the "reaffirmation" of the original San Francisco Accordion Club of nearly a century ago – the first accordion club anywhere, I am told.

Our board is working on plans for a special **weekend about and for the accordion**, probably in the fall--not to be confused with Tom Torriglia's "Day of the Accordion." We have several ideas on the drawing boards for inclusion in this event (we need to come up with a fitting name for it—please submit your ideas!). It will not be a convention or a festival, but will include workshops and musical entertainment. Anyone wishing to chair or be part of the committee to plan this special weekend, please let any board member know!

Members of our outstanding board (I couldn't possibly imagine a better one), and BAAC members themselves, have offered divergent visions for the **newsletter, The BAAC Page**. Some would like to have an 8-page newsletter (one ounce, which also allows one flyer to be inserted) concerning the club and its members, including teacher listings and calendars of other Bay Area accordion events and clubs, and the usual club news, plus, space permitting, other short news items, reprints of articles from other newsletters, music, techniques and tips, etc. Others prefer a larger size newsletter (12 pages or 2 oz.) including the longer articles on history, CD reviews and other subjects. Many have said they like articles on interesting subjects but would like the articles to be short. Others (myself included) would like to see some kind of compromise. The board is working on guidelines for the newsletter that we hope will be responsive to the membership's desires and within our means

(postage is increasing at an alarming rate, as you know).

So, **please send us your ideas**, on the newsletter or any other matter. We will do our best for as many as possible, and I think we can promise at least something for every taste. Anyone wishing to help with the newsletter, please e-mail me at vtkacc@value.net or phone me at (510) 531-4836. Dick Schiller and I will do our best to fill in the editor gap for the time being. Meanwhile, we will miss our excellent editor of the last 17 months, Paul Magistretti, and thank him for his dedication, long hours and hard work.

Please note that **any BAAC member is welcome at any meeting of the executive board!** Although we aim for the first Tuesday of the month, it is not always possible to follow a strict schedule, so please call or e-mail me (Val; see above) to find out when the next board meeting is, if you wish to attend.

Does anyone remember the old **Burma Shave** verse by the side of the road that says, "*If harmony / Is what you crave / Buy a tuba... / Burma Shave*"? Well, I crave harmony and do my best to maintain it. Dissenting opinion is inevitable and even essential, and the board welcomes it, especially if it is positive and helpful. And buy an accordion, not a tuba! (But it's OK to bring a tuba player to a meeting to play along with an accordion!)

For March we have a mini-workshop with Joe Smiell for the second half of the meeting. For the first half the theme is "show tunes," so let Bob Berta, Jim Firpo or me know if you'd like to play. Ron Borelli's workshop on "Improvisation" will take place March 2. Watch for details!

See you February 6!

Val

Scholarships

Teachers: Val has Scholarship applications available. Do have your qualified students apply for a scholarship, to encourage them to continue with their lessons and improve their musicianship, as well as their music appreciation and the joy that goes with it. Any one wishing to donate to the Scholarship Fund, any and all contributions are welcome.



Letter from Eddie Chavez

“In the December issue (of *the BAAC Page*) there was a short story you put in from Tom Collins and the CD his club is selling, not to make money but for a scholarship in their club. I thought you would want to know the story since it started in San Francisco.

“Years ago **John Molinari** called me (to ask) if I would lend him some Frosini records as he wanted to make a 10”, 78 (r.p.m.) record from them. I was coming to The Nut Tree to assemble a model I had just finished, and told him I would bring these records with me. My wife and I went to his home in Oakland. He played for us and we met his wife Deva. Then he and I went to a recording studio in Oakland. They put my records on a reel-to-reel tape, which he took to Finland as he was leaving to do a concert with Veikko Ahvenainen, who played

the button (chromatic) accordion. Veikko had a friend in the recording business who was a master. He took these old records, pressed in 1920 and 1935, made a 10” 78 (r.p.m.) record, took all the scratches and noise and cracks and surface noise off each record, making (it) sound like an LP. From that record a friend of Tom’s in Missoula, MT, who is a computer whiz, made the CD and enhanced the sound even more. You can hear Frosini playing his 102 single bass notes, playing a single note and then making his chords with his 4 fingers. It sounds as if he is playing on a Stradella system!

* * * * *

“I played (accordion) at the grocery store, at the Hallmark card shop, my bank, my travel shop, my flower shop, two churches and 3 rest homes. I’m doing all I can to further the accordion. (*Bravo, Eddie! – Val*)

As always,
Eddie Chavez

(Note from Val: I’ve ordered ten copies of the Frosini CD, from Tom Collins, to sell at the club and for the club. I heard parts of it in Las Vegas last year and it is incredible. Every accordionist should have one!)

Membership

Annual dues: \$25; \$30 for a family
Send check to BAAC
P.O. Box 318175
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175
Visit us at www.BAACcordionclub.org

Eternal truth ...

“Life is what happens
while you’re making other plans”

Galliano Coming to SF

Famous French jazz accordionist Richard Galliano will be performing solo on **Saturday, June 1** at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco. Tickets now on sale.

Condolences

BAAC extends its deepest sympathy to Tor Arild on the loss of his mother, and to Carole Enneking of the Golden State Accordion Club on the loss of her mother.

Michele (Mike) Corino

Attendees at the Accordion Club of the Redwoods meeting on Monday, Jan. 21 had a special treat: a tribute to Mike Corino led by Tom Cordoni and including some great playing not only by Tom, but by Ron Borelli and Don Nurisso—and Mike Carino himself! I was there, and it was just grand! Ron played Mike's "American Tango" like the pro he is, having just seen the music for the first time that afternoon! The piece contained bits of American patriotic songs cleverly embedded in it. I hope we can talk Ron into playing it for BAAC as well!

3 to 5 row diatonic "Helikon Bass" accordion Also known as "tyrolean," "Alpine" or "Steirische Harmonika" (after the region in Austria) accordions, these are found, with slight variations, in Austria, Bohemia, Bavaria, Slovakia, and Slovenia. They have from three to five diatonic rows of buttons. Each row is tuned to a key a fourth above the previous row. Named after the helikon, a type of European tuba, these instruments have the most powerful bass tone of all accordions, featuring from 11 to 19 bass buttons.

This excerpt from the August 1996 edition of the BAAC newsletter describes the button box instrument taught at Button Box Camp. It was originally printed with permission of the author, Bob Godfried, NY-based accordion builder and repairman and was originally printed in the booklet accompanying the recording Planet Squeezebox, produced by Ellipsis Arts.

BAAC Officers

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grnduster@aol.com
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Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208
James Firpo (415) 648-3674
Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938



Accordion Teacher Listings
San Francisco/North Peninsula
Peter Di Bono
Theory/Technique/Performance
(415) 753-1502

Lou Soper
Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m.
Moose Club, Colma/Daly City
(510) 841-6745

Sharon Walters
All levels (415) 621-8284

North Bay
Steve Albini
Marin/Sonoma
Private (415) 897-4131

Bart Beninco
Accordion and Piano
Petaluma (707) 769-8744

Marjorie Konrad
Button Box, Piano Accordion
& Chromatic
Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

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Group & Private; Theory, Technique,
Composition; all levels/ages
(510) 222-8442

Lou Jacklich
Private Lessons; Technique,
Arranging & Chords
(510) 317-9510

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All levels/ages
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(916) 966-8384

Correspondence
Gary Dahl
Technique/Musicianship
Mel Bay Arranger/Author
Phone/FAX (253) 770-9492
www.accordions.com/garydahl

Upcoming at BAAC ...

In March: Bring your accordion!

The second half of the meeting will be a "Scale Study" workshop by Joe Smiell. You will receive the music in advance. Although everyone plays the same scale study, you will be playing it ensemble style, with different parts coming in at different times. Sound simple? Well, it contains a challenge but you will be able to play it and will experience a real sense of accomplishment.

In April, in the second half of the meeting Vince Cirelli will give a workshop on handling, care and maintenance of your accordion.

And, of course, don't forget Ron Borelli's Jazz Improvisation & Practice workshop on Saturday, March 2 (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Ron's workshop will be a separate event, not part of a regular meeting.

BAAC's ACE Ensemble

ACE will be giving a concert Friday evening, March 15 at 8:30 at the San Francisco Slavonic Cultural Center, 16 Onondaga, SF. ACE is also planning two spring concerts in April, one in Piedmont and one in San Mateo. Details will follow in a later edition.

From Tony Galla-Rini...

Tony had us all laughing last summer with these two gems: "What did Tennessee?" "Same as Arkansas!"

"Did you see May?" "May who?"
"Mayonnaise." "You can't see her."
"Why?" "Because she's dressing!"

*BAAC Logo as designed by Alvaro Restrepo
With "The BAAC Page" added in*

The BAAC Page



Question: would you like to return to this logo, designed by Alvaro Restrepo of Marin County, with "The BAAC Page" added in just above it? Let us have your ideas.
Val vtacc@value.net (510) 531-4836

Bay Area Accordion Club
Meets 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month
At Patio Español, 2850 Alemany Blvd.
San Francisco
For information call (510) 531-4836
Website: www.baaccordionclub.org

East Bay Accordion Circle
Meets the second Thursday of the month
1517 - 5th St., Berkeley. Bring your accordion!
For information call (510) 548-2822

Accordion Club of the Redwoods
Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

Golden State Accordion Club
Meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month
At Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St. in Vacaville
For information call (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club
Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month
Community Center, 1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon
For information call (209) 545-3603

South Bay Accordion Jam
Meets 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month
Seventh Day Adventist Church
5265 Carter Ave., near Camden & Kooser

BAAC Ensemble Practice
Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City
For information call Frank (650) 574-4757

BAAC "Fun Band" Practice
Third Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.
Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City
For information call Frank (510) 339-1163



Pietro Deiro

We have all seen and read various writings about the life of Pietro Deiro. The following is taken from a book written in the early 1900's, in Italian, with the English translation to the right. This was faxed to me () by a good friend but we are not sure which book it is taken from. You might have read this before, but I find it fascinating, especially in light of San Francisco's role in the history of the accordion. (Val)

"Pietro Deiro was born in 1888 at Salto (Italy) and came to America in 1907. From his youth he showed an exceptional love for music and a special inclination for the accordion. At the age of 15 he was already an accomplished player.

"Arrived in this country he undertook the study of the piano, but persevered in that of the accordion and

music under the guide of the most able teachers.

To Pietro Deiro is due the perfection of the accordion, as it was by his suggestion that it was fitted with a piano keyboard of the modern type, which led him to call the instrument the piano-accordion.

"The first instrument of the kind was made specially for him in accordance with his own design, and it was presented to the public for the first time by himself in the year 1909 at the Washington Square Theatre, San Francisco, California.

"In 1912 he secured an engagement at the Winter Garden in New York, one of the most important variety theatres in the United States. So pronounced was the success attained that his contract, from ten weeks, was extended for forty-two weeks.

"While playing in said theatre he was invited by a representative of the Victor Co. to play for his company, and he was subsequently selected from amongst many competitors and signed up to reproduce his own and other compositions on Victor records. After the first; year of this engagement he was acknowledged by the said company as the greatest player of the piano-accordion and accordingly signed up for an indefinite number of years.

"From that time on his popularity and success have always increased so much that the name of Pietro is the attraction on the programs of the best vaudeville theatres in the United States. During a series of concerts given at the San Francisco Panama Exposition, he became the idol of that great cosmopolitan public.

"In that city, as a remembrance of his stay, he directed and played in several concerts given by the San

Francisco Accordion Club, the only one of its kind in the world and composed of numerous fine accordion players.

“What more can be said?

“Pietro’s success in theatres and on Victor records continues undisputed.

“To that success he today adds that of genial composer and arranger, and it is for this reason that our firm has published and will continue to publish compositions and arrangements for the piano-accordion.”

Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio
Play for dancing every second Friday of each month at Montavalle in Scotts Valley, CA, 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Call Reno (408) 252-3808 for more info

BAAC meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Patio Español, 2850 Alemany Blvd., San Francisco. For info call Val at (510) 531-4836.



The Accordionist

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Join Us June 23-26, 2002



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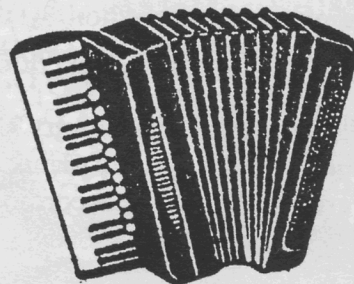
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January Board Meeting

Your Board met on January 8. With dues coming in, we had a net gain (after expenditures) of \$497.73 between Oct. 1 and Jan. 7. As of Jan. 7, our bank accounts totaled \$6,759.84. The board voted to accept Paul Magistretti's resignation and take over *The BAAC Page* right away, and begin the search for a new editor. Val Kieser and Dick Schiller will be interim editors and will split the \$100 fee. Future programs were discussed, including another possible "exchange" with the Northwest Accordion Society, wherein Bonnie Birch would come and play for us, and we would send Ed Massolo and Frank Panacci to play for them. We are investigating the possibility of a big weekend accordion event this coming fall, sponsored by BAAC, probably end of Oct. or early November (see President's Message elsewhere in this newsletter). Various venues are being considered for this event.

GET READY! HERE COMES TONY— AGAIN!

Tony Lovello, master accordionist with the big band sound, is heading our way once again for an appearance at our June meeting. He wowed us at our May 2000 meeting with his thrilling interpretations of hit songs including his incomparable arrangement of Malegüeña. The door fee will be \$8.00 for that meeting to help with Tony's expenses, and at which he will also be selling his brand new CD. So mark your calendar for a super evening with one of our greats!

Coming Events

Friday, Feb. 8

Accordion Club of the Redwoods
Valentine Dinner-Dance
Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma
Replaces February general meeting
For information call (707) 795-4860

March 7-10

Texas Accordion Association
International Accordion Convention
Holiday Inn Convention Center, Plano,
Texas (Dallas suburb)
For information e-mail Norman Seaton at
nns5522@dcccd.edu
Or Val Kieser at vtkacc@value.net,
phone (510) 531-4836

May 24-26

Far West Button Box Jamboree
Fontana, CA (east of L.A.)
For info call Val (510) 531-4836, e-mail
vtkacc@value.net

June 23-26

Las Vegas International Accordion
Convention
Plaza hotel, Las Vegas, NV
For info e-mail
lasvegas@accordioninfo.com
www.accordioninfo.com, or call (801)
486-1695

Saturday, July 6

BAAC Picnic—save the date!

July 13-20

Joe Smiell's beginning button box camp
Heidelmann Lodge, Norden/Soda Springs
For info call Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

July 21-26

Galla-Rini Accordion Music Camp, San
Diego, CA
For info call Val (510) 531-4836;
vtkacc@value.net

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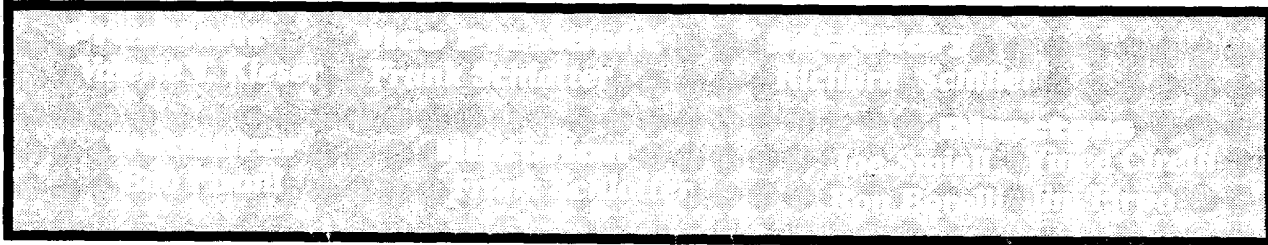
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—BAAC—
Meets the First Weds.
of the Month
@7:00 PM. Come see &
hear us for a good
—TIME—



(Submissions to BAAC PAGE are due 2 weeks after the 1st Wednesday of the month)

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