

BAY AREA

ACCORDION CLUB



JULY, 1996

July General Meeting

by Denny Huff

Dominic Saso called us to order (as orderly as we seem to get) and introduced President **Bob Berta**. It seems that a year of the mantel of leadership has stood **Bob** in good stead because he was especially effective in getting the group to settle down. I was really impressed. Per **Bob**, we seem to be awash in activity. He announced the picnic, now a past and pleasant memory; reminded us of the Awards Banquet on 8/18 at the Irish Cultural Center; noted that the accordion stage for Making Waves was well received in San Francisco; and mentioned that we would be having a booth (again) at Cotati. **Bob** was followed by **Marian** who made a pitch for help with the Cotati booth.....I did it one year and can recommend it highly. It's a good chance to meet club members, promote BAAC to interested parties, and make a few bucks for the Club. Call **Marian**.

As to players, it turned out to be a Star Spangled Night, as befits the week of the 4th of July. The familiar duet of **Leon Broussal** and **Jim Firpo** led off with their usual foot tappin' good music. *Male Femina* was their first number, followed by several European selections: *Beer Barrel Polka*, *Das Hofbrauhaus*, and *Du, Du Liegst Mir Im Herzen*. We were all ready to break out



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Our July guest, Henry Doktorski

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 2nd, Friday. San Francisco Symphony Pops Concert at Davies features accordionists John Molinari, Peter Di Bono, Ron Borelli, Don Haas, Ron Sfarzo, Tony Quatrocchi in Tchaikovsky's Suite #2 in C, Scherzo Burlesque. Emil de Cou, conductor.

August 5th, Monday. BAAC General Meeting. featuring and our very special guest, **Ken Olen Dorf**. Many of us already know Ken, who has made several Cotati appearances. He is a jazz accordionist par excellence, and you won't want to miss him! Donworth Hall, 22nd & Eucalyptus, S.F., just north of Stonestown Shopping Center. 7 P.

August 7th, Wed. BAAC Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at Ed Massolo's, 612 Lassen, So. S.F. Guests welcome. Call Ed at (415)589-8409 for directions.

August 12th, Monday 7:00 PM. BAAC Fun Band Practice, House of Parties. Call Dominic, (415) 587-7557.

August 14th & 28th, Wednesdays 7:00 PM. BAAC Ensemble Practice, House of Parties. Call Joe, 510-832-6938..

August 18th, Sunday. BAAC Inauguration and Honors Dinner. Plan to attend! Reservation form on p. 6.

August 19th, Monday. Accordion Club

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BAAC's COTATI BOOTH

BAAC will, as previously, set up a booth at the Cotati Festival this year, probably in front of the Jam Tent. It serves a double purpose; to promote our Club and to turn a little profit.

We'll be selling a big variety of accordion-related items which have never before been available at Cotati or anywhere else on the West Coast, for that matter. We are contracting with SqueezinArt (who advertised in this newsletter a couple months ago) and will sell their t-shirts, caps, note paper, fanny paks, ties, mugs, jewelry and key chains. The current sales plan also includes some Year of the Accordion t-shirts a good supply of 12-bass accordions, and some toy "Hero" accordions, mostly for children. . We are *not* attempting to stock tapes and CD's this year.

It's a big job, folks, and Marian Kelly and Michael Sanossian can't do it alone. They are asking for YOUR help manning and womaning our booth. The plan is to have three BAAC members helping in the booth throughout the day (10 to 6). Overlapping shifts will be two hours each. Volunteers will be asked to sign up for a specific time slot on either Saturday or Sunday. At the booth, they will sell the items mentioned above, and they will tell people about our Club and encourage them to become members.

Call Marian if you could take one of these shifts (415 854-1896). If she isn't at home, leave a message which stipulates whether you wish to help on Saturday or Sunday.

A week or two before the Festival, she will send reminders and booth instructions to volunteers.

July Board Meeting

Synopsis

- The Board's July meeting was a dinner meeting hosted completely by Val Kieser at her lovely home. Board members brought spouses; Bob brought Henry Doktorski; after dinner everyone was treated to an hour of great playing by a variety of those present. The Board extends thanks to Val and John for their most gracious hospitality.
- Given the occasion, business was relatively brief. New officers present were Peter Adler and Herb Meier.
- Outgoing Treasurer Algis Ratnikas reported by phone. We have \$8,136 in our combined bank accounts and CD. The increase from last month comes from membership renewals.
- Marian Kelly and Michael Sanossian are handling the Cotati booth this year. The booth will sell many accordion-related items and will probably sell small accordions as well. They hope to generate a good profit from the club. They are in the process of applying for a resale license so that we can abide by the California sales tax regulations.
- Peter Adler suggests that BAAC have a Web Page, and he has volunteered to get it going. The Board has given him wholehearted approval for this idea.
- A membership list for distribution to any members who wish one will be published in October, after all (?) payments have been received.
- Upcoming event plans (Picnic, Ken Olendorf in August, Inauguration Dinner) were discussed.

MK

STAGE FRIGHT

"I get weak in the knees, my hands are sweaty and shaking, there is a hard pounding in my chest and my stomach is upset.

I'd rather not perform in public than have to go through that."

BAAC member Sev Garcia will present a free lecture on "Performance and Stage Fright" on both Saturday and Sunday, August 24th and 25th at the annual Cotati Accordion Festival. Time is 11 AM to noon each day.

Sev will open the Festival playing his acoustic accordion with MIDI accompaniment on Saturday at 10. Everyone is invited.

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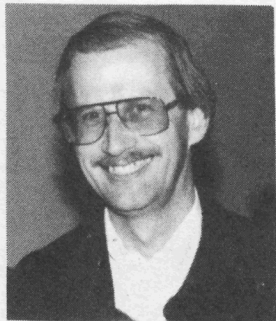
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President's Message

by Bob Berta



What a month! I am still recovering from all the great events. First...a special thanks to all who participated in the Making Waves event on June

21st. This event saw 25 stages setup along the whole length of Market St. in San Francisco. 1200 musicians entertained a crowd of 75,000 people. The stage at 655 Market near New Montgomery was the official BAAC stage. Our banner hung proudly from the stage and we had a card table setup to handout information about our club and answer questions. Several club members gave us a hand but a special thanks to Peter Adler, Marian Kelly and my daughter Kristine for handling the booth throughout the day. Rather than have just accordion playing at our stage we arranged to have accordions at each stage at various times throughout the day. Some of our members played at 2 or 3 locations. A wide variety of accordion music was heard throughout the day. I am sorry I don't have a complete list of accordion participants but just a few of the participants included Joe Smiell and the BAAC accordion orchestra, The Gospel Accordion to Women, Mike Zampiceni, Dominic Palmisano,

Polkacide, Zydeco Flames, Odile Levault, Lou Soper, Rick Bez and Steven Shen. We handed out a lot of informational flyers about our club and it seems that we picked up a few new members as a result. I was surprised that after playing at three different locations I didn't have one tomato spot on my shirt to show for it!

Fresh from this success I met our July featured artist, Henry Doktorski at the airport. I couldn't miss him....he had his accordion wrapped in a sleeping bag as carry on luggage! The only casualty of the travel was a stuck chord button that I was able to repair. A special thanks to Vince Cirelli for showing me the basics of accordion repair so I could do the repair on short notice.

On the day of the club meeting, several members of Joe's ensemble got together to work up a couple of pieces for the nights concert as an ensemble after Henry's solo concert. In particular I wanted to thank Bart Benico for joining us even though two days after the concert he was slated for major open heart surgery! Talk about a trooper! The concert had to be one of the best ever at BAAC.

Henry was my guest for 10 days to give him time play tourist and get a little bike riding in with me (he and I are both bicycle afficiandos). During that time we visited the Petaluma club and were treated to a first class dinner and treatment at Volpi's restaurant (if you play accordion Volpi's is THE place to go in Petaluma). A very special thanks to Mark Jordan for setting all of this up and giving Henry a trip to remember.

The next stop was Marian Kelly's house where I recorded a variety of chamber music played by Henry, Marian Kelly, John Molinari and Ron Borelli. Henry is taking the rough tape we cut back to Pittsburg to see if he can edit it and polish it up to include on a future CD release.

The final big event was the annual picnic at Swiss Park in Fremont. Lovely

weather and the company of wonderful people made it a day to remember. Once Henry left I finally had a chance to sit down and listen to some of the music I bought from him. His collection of Christmas music was spectacular! Henry on accordion is joined by members of the Pittsburg Symphony orchestra on violin, harp, cello and percussion in an unusual recording that was selected a couple of years ago as the BEST Christmas recording of the year. I can see why....if you didn't get a copy yet you might get a second chance around the holidays as the BAAC makes it available to members.

Since Henry left my 2 year old daughter is suffering from a broken heart. She had a real crush on "daddy's friend" and enjoyed playing lots of games with him during his visit.

Across the Editor's Desk.....

June, 1996

To the BAAC Board:

Actually the percentage turnout is REAL HIGH — compared to other personal interest clubs.

Don't feel too disappointed. Learned/productive/curious/flexible/good members — people just have so many competing interests for their time — work with the positives.

Keep up the "Happy Club" ideas.

Re newsletter: Maybe add a Youth news column or a Beginners news column (to attract and hold their interest.) For many persons, any accordion news is hard to find otherwise. Music sources? Listing of other California accordion clubs with phone numbers.

You are doing fine with musicians and a growing club. Lucky that I heard about you and joined in 1995.

Ralph Treebs

Thank you for your interest in the Bay Area Accordion Club. We hold monthly meetings and schedule various accordion-related events, and we send this monthly newsletter to all members (currently 340). We encourage your continued interest and participation. Should you care to join us, membership is \$20/year. Make check payable to BAAC and send to 31 Aliso Way, Portola Valley, CA 94028

July General Meeting, cont inued from p. 1

our beer mugs when they switched to a couple of Oldies but Goodies, *Five Foot Two* and *Yes Sir, That's My Baby* filled out their repertoire for the evening. Another great job by two fellows who obviously enjoy what they do.

Our next player was a big surprise. At least to me. **Daniel Issacsohn** is a young Swedish player currently studying at the University in Stockholm. He's touring the US playing accordion, and



Daniel Issacsohn

we were lucky to have him at our Club. He mentioned that he lives in a small town in northern Sweden, about 60 miles from the Arctic Circle. As remote as that is, he managed to receive excellent instruction on the accordion, and his playing was on the same high level with others from Northern Europe whom we have heard. His first selection was an English number arranged by Frosini and featuring a number of variations on the central theme. He followed with *Carnival of Venice*, which we applauded to the point that **Daniel** said we had "warmed his heart." (Hopefully he'll carry some of this warmth back to the Arctic Circle.) His final number was a Ukranian Folk Song, *Minka*, during which he again played different varia-

tions on the main theme. **Daniel** is a brilliant player, filled with skill, energy and enthusiasm.

The only down side of **Daniel's** performance was that (per **Peter Di Bono**) **Daniel** played all the songs which **Peter** had intended to use himself!! Well, **Peter** managed to find enough notes remaining to do his usual good job, but I'll wager that he doesn't often follow players who are quite that good. **Pete** began with a French number, written by an Italian, played by an American, etc. **Peter** seems so relaxed and "folksy" on stage that it belies the difficulty of the numbers he plays, and this was no exception. *Valse Tropical* by Andre Astier was next, and it seemed even more complex to me. Difficulty notwithstanding, **Peter** saved the best for last — the music from the film *Cinema Paradiso*, which **Pete** had arranged himself after listening to it on a CD. I really liked it. We may be pretty far from the Arctic Circle, but **Peter** seemed to have managed to get some decent accordion instruction also!

Another surprise! Big surprise. **Nikolai Prisakar**, currently living in Sacramento, and appropriately playing a Weltmeister (World Master) accordion. If there were a World Master Contest, **Nikolai** would be qualified to enter. I have no inkling of the names of his songs, but they were incredibly well played. I wasn't completely certain that his fingers were attached

to his hand during the entire performance. The music sounded Eastern European and was full of trills and runs



Peter Di Bono

and molto accelerando. I wish I could say more about our guest — but I can only applaud his obvious excellence.



Nikolai Prisakar

July General Meeting

(Editor's Note: Nikolai hails from Moldova, formerly part of the Soviet Union. He has been in the US for five months, currently in Sacramento, and therefore drove a long way to play for us. He told **Val Kieser** that he sold his car in Russia and bought an accordion, which he brought along to the US. **Val's** other comments were "Delightful guy, always smiling. He can play along with anyone and make that person sound like a pro with his elaborate fill-ins, even if he doesn't know the song." Welcome, **Nikolai**, to the US and to the Bay Area Accordion Club. We hope to see a lot of you!!)

Where are we finding people of this caliber? Whoever is doing it deserves a big hand. I know that **Mary-Alice Eldon** and **Arnie Krenn**, among others, have found some of the terrific surprise talent we've seen in the past year; thanks to all! Attending BAAC meetings is a real delight.

This was the right night for **Henry Doktorski**. Not too many players could have built on the preceding foundation. Or play everything from the Beatles to Bach...or play accordion with a major symphony orchestra...or be a Masters candidate in music....or

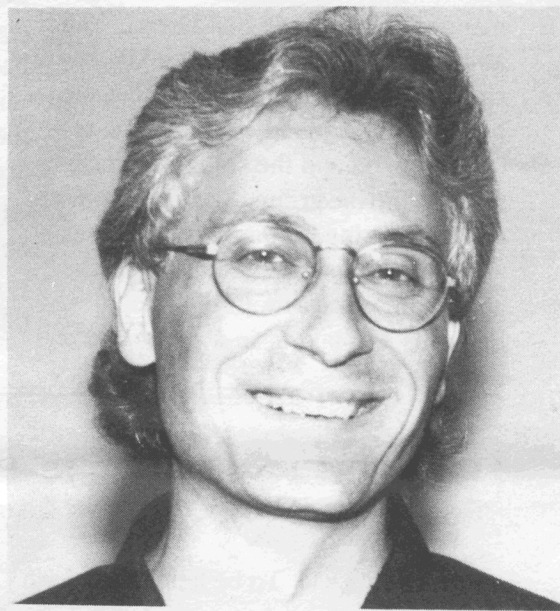
Henry (why do I want to spell that Henri?) is a player whose personality is

as strong and pleasantly impressive as his playing. He wasn't on the stage more than a few minutes when it seemed as if he was an old friend. He was full of interesting and informative anecdotes, all delivered with charm and enthusiasm. For example, doesn't everyone know that the accordion had an official audience with the Pope to determine whether it was appropriate for church music? (Luckily, we passed. Wheewww.) He was kidding, he was quizzing, he was joking, and when he picked up his accordion, he was smoking! With all the good players we hear, I have to constantly search for (new) superlatives. None really does the job in this case. But **Henry Doktorski**, along with two or three others, belongs to the group of the very best we have heard, in my opinion.

What did he play? He began with a Handel *Prelude* — one of his favorite composers. And he couldn't have looked more relaxed playing it. He followed with a Bach *Prelude* and *Minuet*, interspersed with a story of the traveling salesman who got him started on accordion lessons. Romanian Folk Dances were next, as was Brahms' *Hungarian Dance #5*, which is also featured on one of his tapes.

He lightened up (and easy switch for **Henry**) with the *Paulumbo Polka* which he wrote for a friend's 90th birthday. Among the remaining pieces were *Czardas* by Monti (he quizzed us on the composer), Frosini's *Olive Blossoms*, a waltz serenade, and a dedication to Bill Palmer.

Henry is a very unique talent. I'm



Henry Doktorski



l to r: Peter Di Bono, Sharon Walters, Henry Doktorski, Bart Beninco, Marian Kelly, Joe Smiell

never sure whether I should be encouraged or discouraged after hearing such great playing.

Henry then played several numbers with a "rushed" (a couple hours) version of the Ensemble. The group responded to the challenge with fine arrangements of Pachelbel's *Canon* and a rousing Polka by JS Bach (who perhaps had not been thinking polka when he composed it.) It must have been a pleasure and a bit of an honor to have played with such an outstanding musician as **Henry**.

Thanks, **Henry**, for visiting us and letting us share your talent. Please return soon.

Getting to Know....*Lynn Ewing*



L y n n , who lives in San Carlos, says that her father initiated her accordion lessons when she was 7

because he wanted to avoid having a piano in the house in San Diego. She adds that the accordion quickly became the center of her life and that she particularly enjoyed her studio's accordion band and the solos which she played with the group. She spent summers practicing for the Western States Accordion Contests, from which she has accumulated a roomful of trophies. She tells of playing in a quartet as a

teenager, then at 17, being asked to give lessons and lead the studio's accordion band.

Then, as with many of us, her life changed. She moved to Minnesota, stopped playing the accordion, took up dance and the recorder. Later, she moved again to the Bay Area, looked for groups to play with (that seems to be her real love), and found a recorder group, the SF Early Music Society. Too bad BAAC wasn't around at that point, because she had trouble locating accordionists here. She says she never would have taken up the recorder had she been able to find an accordion group to play with!

Lynn is married and the mother of two children still at home. One of her goals is to explore other types of accordion music (she suggests ethnic, cajun, zydeco); her

other oft-stated goal is to play with groups as much as she can. She is not a stranger to our stage, having played at Ladies' Night, in May with the Chamber Quintete Plus One. She sounds quite willing to become increasingly active in BAAC activities (are you listening, Bob??). Welcome, Lynn!



Contact Phone #s for Officers and Board Members:

- Pres: Bob Berta (415) 756-8309
 - V.P. Frank Panacci(415) 731-1039
 - Treas. Peter Adler (510) 845-4936
 - Record.Sect. Val Kieser (510) 531-4836
 - Finan. Sect. Bob Smith(415) 856-9321
 - Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
 - Ed Massolo (415) 589-8409
 - Herb Meier (415) 364-5398
 - Frank Schlotter(510) 339-8657
 - B. B. Simmons (510) 841-7960
- Please use these numbers to give ideas, reactions, suggestions to our Board.

RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL BAAC Inauguration of Officers and Presentation of Awards

on Sunday, August 18th.

To be held at the Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco (near the Zoo)

Plenty of nearby parking

Doors open at 5:00; Dinner about 6:30

Choose from the following meals: Breast of Chicken Jerusalem, Roast Cross Ribs of Beef with Bordelaise Sauce, or Grillet Filet of Sole Almondine. Dinners include salad, potato or rice, vegetables, rolls, dessert. No host bar.

Don't forget to bring your dancing shoes for a post-dinner party.

Reserve now: our limit is 100 persons.

Mail your reservation to: **Bob Smith 2300 St. Francis Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303**

YES, sign me up for the BAAC celebration at the Irish Cultural Center on Sunday, August 18th.

	# of meals	Cost including 15% tip + 8 1/2% Gratuity	
Chicken	_____	\$19.40	_____
Beef	_____	\$20.75	_____
Fish	_____	\$19.05	_____
	<i>Total Enclosed</i>		_____

(Signed) _____

(Phone) _____

Boggio Article Featured in Keyboard

The July issue of Keyboard Magazine features a fine article called "Cajun and Zydeco for Keyboards" by Jim Boggio, beginning on page 51 and running through page 59. Those pages feature lots of pictures of people playing accordions including, of course, Jim. They also include eight musical examples of Cajun and Zydeco styles, written in a multi-instrument arrangement which shows right hand as you would expect and left hand with either full accordion-style chords or single note piano accompaniment. These examples include a Cajun two-step, *Mama Rosin*, a traditional waltz, *Sweet Susanna*, a Zydeco mambo, a Zydeco boogie, and several Zydeco "grooves" including *mojo*, *boogie*, *swing* and "Bo Diddley".

Quite a spread with great pictures and graphics. Congratulations, Jim! That article is a real coup for you. Keep it up!

MK

Calendar, Cont.

of the Redwoods monthly meeting at Volpi's Restaurant in Petaluma. Call Steve Balich for time or directions (707) 874-3494.

August 20 - 25th. AFNA (Accordion Federation of North America) Music Festival in Long Beach. Phone Sylvia Prior (818) 994-1249.

August 24th and 25th, 10 A to 7P. Cotati Accordion Festival, downtown Cotati, 40 miles north of San Francisco on 101. Honorary (non-performing) Director is Art Van Damme. Featuring the popular Celtic group, Golden Bough (if you haven't heard them, you have a big surprise coming). Gate fee; no coolers. For more info, Festival phone # is (707) 664-0444.

August 25th, Sunday. Squeeze-In for Bay Area concertina players. Call Daniel Hersh at (510) 370-0844 for details.

September 9th (2nd Monday). BAAC General Meeting featuring Stas Venglevski.

September 7-13 Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp. Call Joe at (510) 832-6938.

September 20, 21, 22. Northeast Squeeze-in.. "a wonderful free-reed getaway in the heart of the Berkshires" (western MA). Meals, workshops, and spontaneous squeezings. Traditional concert and contra dance on Sat. A variety of accommodations are available. Call The Button Box, (413) 549-0171 for more info.

November 4th, Monday. BAAC General Meeting with very special guest artist, world-known accordionist Frederic Lips.

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Slide B: How High the Moon; You Stopped Out of a Dream; Big Noise; Hawaiian Wedding Song; Cant Your Car to the Trade Wind; A Out Ya (That's It); Hawaiian War Chant; Train; Jean Me Blues; Polka Waltz; Dancing Under the Stars; Perdido; Where or When;

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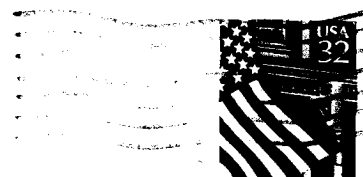
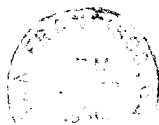
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**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY
AUGUST 5, 1996
7:00 PM**

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SAN FRANCISCO

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