

NO. 13 MAY 1991

NEWSLETTER BAY AREA ACCORDIAN CLUB

ART VAN DAMME CONCERT

WOW!! He Came—We Saw—He Conquered!!!

Indeed, conqueror is the only word to describe how he captivated the thrilled audience. The adjectives used to describe his performance were, incredible, unbelievable, fantastic, phenomenal, exciting, thrilling, and inspiring.

When Art Van Damme straps on an accordion, he can be described in just three words, "Genius at Work." The only losers for the Sunday, May 19th concert were those who missed it.

Art and his wife Dorothy experienced some very frustrating circumstances during the weekend. Upon arriving at the Oakland airport on Saturday, they found that the airline had somehow lost their luggage, so that they had no change of clothing. That evening, a high school graduation party occupied the penthouse immediately above their hotel room. End result? Two hours of sleep. Next day, Art spent 45 minutes in the Presidio trying to locate the NCO Club. Who wouldn't be frustrated?

However, once Art started playing with the other four gifted musicians to an appreciative audience in excess of 300, a total transition occurred. You could actually feel, see, and hear a moulding of creative musical expressions not only from Art but from each soloist in the group, who were John Rae on vibes, Steve Cardenas on guitar, Mario Suraci on bass, and Paul Yonemura on drums. Here was an enthralled audience witnessing a historic performance by a superlative, talented artist. Yes, Indeed, Art Van Damme is the "Benny Goodman of the Accordion." This memorable performance will stay with that audience for the rest of their lives.

The Bay Area Accordion Club can be extremely proud in sponsoring this concert. In our efforts to give the accordion a re-birth of respectability, pride, and dignity, we started at the very top with

Art Van Damme. With this marvelous exposure, we have introduced ourselves to many new people who are now interested in our objectives and our future concerts.

Art requested a small get together after the concert so that he could meet personally the members who helped organize this event. We then decided to honor Art and his wife Dorothy and also show our appreciation for his appearance on our behalf. For those who had never met this gentle musical giant in person, they discovered he is very low-keyed, friendly, and extremely interested in other accordionists.

When dinner was finished, we gave a musical tribute to Art. Peter Di Bono and Jim Boggio played a jazz duet followed by a solo by Jim and one by Peter. Then Lou Soper performed a medley of songs and finished with a vocal rendition, a la Mel Torme, of Dorothy's favorite song, "Here's that Rainy Day." Art and Dorothy really appreciated the three accordionists.

Art then informed us that we were the first accordion club to sponsor him and he was impressed with the admiration and respect we have for each other in BAAC.

Yes indeed. He came, We saw, He conquered!

—Lou Soper

Next Meeting:
Monday, June 3, 1991

7:00 P.M.

House of Parties
22 Hillcrest Drive
Daly City

EVENTS AT MAY MEETING

The meeting opened with our President, LOU SOPER, leading the group with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the introduction of new members and guests. MARIAN KELLY read the minutes of the April meeting in the absence of RAE LEMBI. RAE and LEO were in Vancouver and were missed. The President then made an announcement that new membership cards will be issued to the members at the July meeting.

DOMINIC SASO took over and introduced the entertainment for the evening.

DAN COOPER played and sang a French song entitled "Dans Avec Moi" and followed with a touching saga about "Floppy." Way to go, DAN! ALGIS RATNIKUS then entertained us with two Scott Joplin tunes, "Easy Winners" and "Heliotrope Bouquet," and did a great job. RENO DI BONO played and sang "Tico Ti Tico Ta" and "New York," in his inimitable style.

VAL BALLARINI and RENO PUCCI played a duet, "Beer Barrel Polka," "Tea for Two," and "Oy Marie." Great!!! Loved those gyrations, VAL.

Back to business. LOU SOPER reminded the members of the ART VANDAMME concert on May 19, 1991 at the NCO Club at the Presidio, announcing that tickets were still available and would also be sold on the date of the concert.

There followed a discussion concerning the fact that some members were uncomfortable with the procedures for the nomination and election of new officers. FRANK MONTORO gave an explanation of how the officers were selected. PETER DI BONO raised the issue that the members had had no part in the selection of nominees. It was agreed that additional nominations be accepted at the June meeting, and the election itself postponed until the July meeting. (See letter on Page 7)

WALTER TRAVERSO then took the floor to remind us of our first picnic to take place on June 16, 1991 at the Elks Club facilities on El Camino in Palo Alto. Some of the items to be raffled off were on display. There will also be door prizes. Swimming is available at the picnic site for \$2.00 per person.

LOU SOPER thanked PETER DI BONO for his efforts in promoting and advertising the ART VAN DAMME concert.

JIM BOGGIO brought up the subject of the First Annual Accordion Festival, to be held in Cotati on August 24th and 25th. He urged all musicians, playing any type of instrument, to join in the festivities. Participants will be compensated.

A short break followed.

To encourage greater participation from beginners, music instructor RENO DI BONO then asked everyone to take accordions and to form four separate groups. Each group was headed by a professional musician. The volume of the groups' enthusiasm caused one group to relocate to the kitchen. That particular group experienced great success, as three beginners played. The listeners enjoyed the experience as much as the players. However, we've made a decision: at the June third meeting, we will use only two larger groups.

BOB SMITH played "La Cumparsita" and "Dark Eyes," followed by CLYDE FORSMAN playing a Swedish polka, "Kaster Vols," and a Mexican Norteno polka, "Jesusita en Chihuahua." Well done, gentlemen!

We closed the evening with JIM BOGGIO playing "Sweet Georgia Brown." Then JIM and PETER DIBONO together played some blues for squeeze box tunes and, wouldn't you know, BROUGHT DOWN THE HOUSE!

by Carol Benetti

BAAC PICNIC

Walter Traverso, Picnic Chairman, hopes everyone is planning to attend our Father's Day Picnic on June 16. The raffle items were displayed at our last meeting, and everyone was enthusiastic. Now we need additional items to use as door prizes. If you have any "white elephants" or other items to donate in good condition, please bring them to the June meeting.

TEACHER'S COLUMN

by Reno DiBono

Important!! You must bring your accordion to the June BAAC meeting, especially if you are a beginner. If no accordion, you will be sent to the Principal's office.

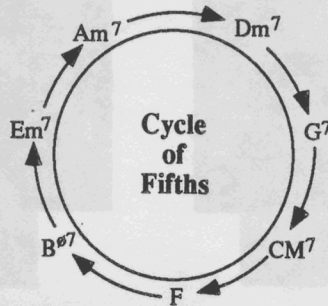
1) How do you finger a four-note chord in the key of C?

CM7	Dm7	Em7	Fm7	G7	Am7	Bm7b5	etc.
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	I

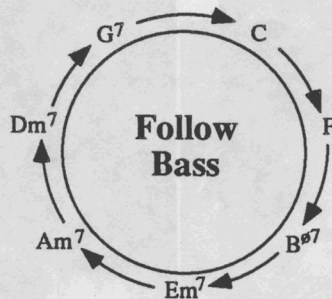
A musical staff in treble clef showing the fingerings for eight chords in the key of C. The chords are: CM7 (I), Dm7 (II), Em7 (III), Fm7 (IV), G7 (V), Am7 (VI), Bm7b5 (VII), and etc. (I). Each chord is represented by a vertical line with a spiral indicating the finger placement on the strings.

2) Now play these eight chords as a waltz. Start at any step, following your bass, and play around the cycle. If you cannot yet play all the chords, make sure your bass completes the cycle. Follow your left hand.

Example: Begin bass and chord at step VI (chord 6, Am7). Proceed to Dm, G7, C, F, then jump left hand up to B diminished 7, then Em7, finishing at Am7.



Example: Begin at step I (chord 1, CMaj 7). Proceed to F, then jump to B dim.7th, Em7, Am7, Dm7, G7, and finally C, or step I.



Congratulations!! You are playing J.S. Bach's cycle of fifths. You little rascal, you!!



Arriving at the Oakland Airport
Dorothy & Art Van Damme

P
H
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R
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Mary
Casey



The Great One & Two Admirers
Art Van Damme, Mary Casey & Lou Soper



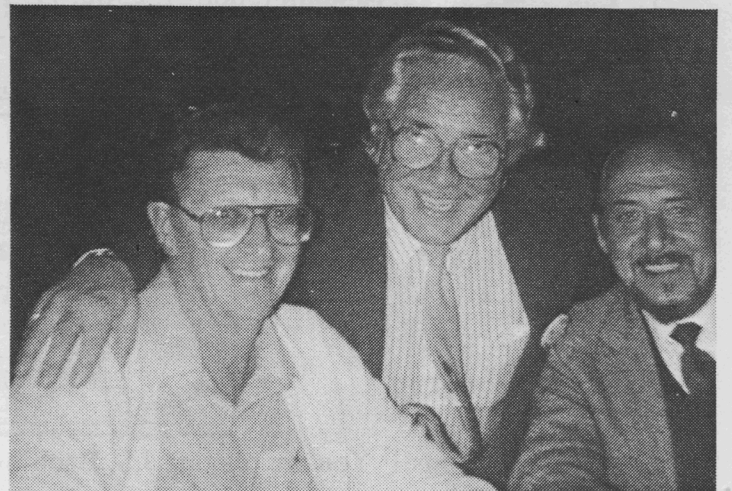
Audience at the Van Damme Concert
5-19-91



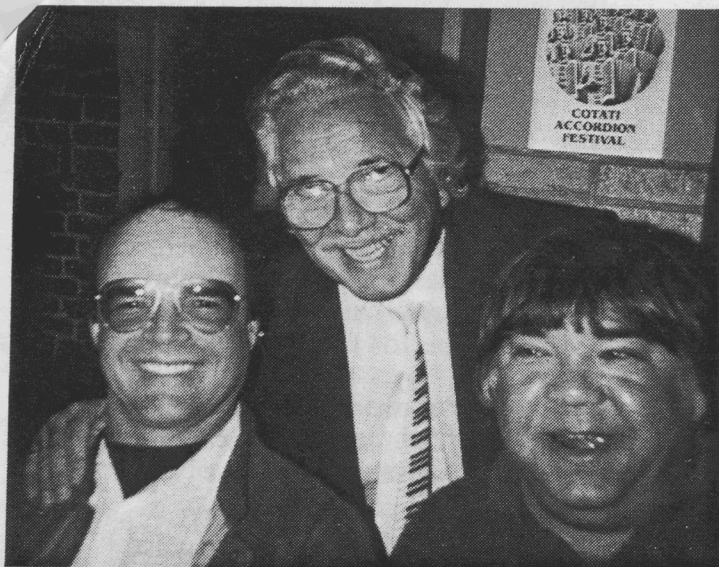
Look—Who's On First Bass
Mario Suraci



The Beauties
Mary Casey, Rae Lembi & Dorothy Van Damme



Here's ALL: Art-Lou-Leo
Art Van Damme, Lou Soper & Leo Lembi



The Cotati Conspirators
Clifton Buck-Kauffman and Jim Boggio with Lou Soper



Picnic Raffle Items
 Sunday, June 16, 1991



Ah one, ah two, ah three!
Reno DiBono, Instructor



Group Squeezin'
Jim Boggio, Teacher



One Shooter - Two Collectors
Mary Casey, Marian Kelly & Carol Benetti



One Hundred Forty Years of Squeezin'

PROFILE OF DOMENIC SASO

When it comes to the top of the line in accordionists, Domenic Saso ranks right up with the very best. Listening to Domenic's flowing musical style, you know you're in the company of a truly gifted musician. His knowledge of harmony, improvisation, and technique along with over fifty-five years of performance distinguishes him as one of the most outstanding accordionists around.

He began playing when he was thirteen years old. At fifteen he began to take overflow students from his teacher, Phillip Sunseri. His teaching load grew to sixty students while still in his teens.

He joined the Navy during WWII and achieved the rating of Radioman First Class. In addition to his regular duties, Domenic also led the ship's band.

Upon his discharge, he returned to music full time. He is one of those rare accordionists who has never had to have a day job to augment his playing. Domenic has played everywhere and done everything there was to do in music. He has played all the major hotels and best restaurants. His list of credits

Continued on Next Page + ➡

PROFILE OF DON HAAS

Bay Area Accordion Club members can anticipate the distinct pleasure of hearing one of the Bay Area's most superlative and prolific musicians when Mr. Don Haas performs as Guest Artist at our June 3rd meeting.

Don's early days were spent in Aberdeen, Washington. His extraordinary musical talent began to manifest itself at age seven when he started playing the accordion. By the time he was thirteen he was a union musician playing professional engagements and had nine accordion students as a sideline.

To further enhance his accordion abilities, Don studied with virtuosos Anthony Galla-Rini and later with Mort Herold of Chicago. His last teacher was Frank Iacalucci. Intent on making music his life's work, Don had aspirations of winning a musical scholarship and university music credentials. Since the accordion had failed to achieve recognition in American colleges as a valid instrument for a music major, it was difficult for Don to obtain an audition. His persistence eventually paid off, however, and an impressive accordion performance before fifteen faculty members of the University of Washington music department won him a scholarship.

At the University of Washington Don majored in composition and conducting. He learned to play pipe organ, harpsichord, clarinet, and French horn. He also taught himself to play piano at a very high level. Incidentally, accordion is now a fully accredited instrument at the U. of Washington. World War II found Don as a member of the U.S. Army Band and after his service discharge, he

became very active as a Bay Area "on call" pianist, orchestrator and conductor working with top quality entertainers and theatrical productions. He was staff pianist with the Circle Star Theatre in San Carlos for ten years.

He has worked with Sammy Davis, Jr., Benny Goodman, Willie Nelson, the Hi-Lo's, and Chris Conner—vocalist with Stan Kenton, and also worked with orchestras in the theatrical productions of "Les Miserables," "Cats," "Jesus Christ, Superstar," "Chorus Line," "My One and Only," and "The King and I," to list but a few of his credits. While most of Don's performing is on piano, he recently played an accordion piece titled "Camera Music," Opus #24, #1 by Paul Hindemith with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra. In this composition, the accordion is featured as both a lead and an ensemble instrument. He has also recently contributed some of his outstanding musical skills to the Elka accordion manufacturers as a factory clinician and in performing numerous demonstrations of its capabilities.

Don presently teaches at DeAnza College and at a music camp of the University of the Pacific in Stockton. He also teaches privately in his home studio in Foster City and is recognized as an outstanding teacher to help further your musical studies regardless of what your proficiency level may be now.

Don will perform on accordion and also conduct a question and answer Jazz Clinic at the June 3rd meeting. **DON'T MISS THIS!**

Please give a big "Thank You" to Gordon Piatanesi of Columbo and Sons Accordion Company for providing the instrument Don Haas will play.

by Jim Holliday

Domenic Saso, continued from Page 6

includes playing with Ernie Heckscher and Jack Fisher. He was under contract to MCA and played on radio and TV. Remember the KGO-TV program "Hoffman Hayride"? He was a regular member of the house band. Kaiser Corporation kept him busy for many years playing their doings and he has played for many well known movie stars and other celebrities, too.

In addition to his playing, Domenic has maintained a steady student clientele over the years teaching accordion, piano, and organ. He still teaches at Sherman Clay where he has been for thirty years.

Eight years ago, he decided to retire, but the lure of electronic music and perhaps too much leisure time convinced him to return on a part time basis. He's back to playing a few gigs and has eight or nine students as well. He says he is available for a few more beginners and advanced students.

He is a happily married man. He and his wife, Tina, will be celebrating their fiftieth anniversary next year. Their daughter is a very successful business woman and also a talented musician.

Recently, Domenic played a gig at the Geneva-Excelsior Lion's Club. In lieu of a fee, he accepted a \$100 raffle ticket. Wouldn't you know!! He won the grand prize, \$12,500. It helped to pay off the new Elka Midi Accordion with something left over.

Another of his interests is that of playing games on his home computer. He loves to challenge the computer to a game of five card draw poker. Typical of all gamblers, he only brags about his high scores. He is practicing to beat the odds at Vegas where he hopes to win that big jackpot someday.

by Frank Montoro

22 May, 1991

Dear Fellow BAAC Members:

A lot of confusion existed after the May 6th election. Many of the members have called voicing their regret that other favored candidates were not put up for nomination, and still others were not even aware that an election had taken place. Many clubs have been in existence for years using the same election format as we used, with no ill consequence. In this case, however, it appears that a minor controversy has occurred, and in the interest of quashing that controversy, it has been decided that the election should be done over.

Therefore, contrary to the decision made at our May meeting, both nominations and election will be conducted at our June meeting. Everyone is urged to nominate whomever they wish, or to affirm those that were elected at the May meeting.

Please give this issue your thoughtful consideration, vote your choice, and let's then get on with the more important business of hearing and playing accordion. A list of the nominees follows.

Notefully,
Peter DiBono
Walter Traverso
Leo Lembi

Executive

- PresidentLou Soper
- Vice PresidentJoe Smiell
- SecretaryRae Lembi
- Financial SectyCarol Benetti
- TreasurerMarian Kelly

Directors

- Algis Ratnikus
- Evelyn Baulch
- Peter DiBono
- Frank Montoro
- Reno Pucci

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Accordion Players:

Those Darn Accordions! are looking for stand-ins and substitutes for their band.

Call Tom Torriglia for details
(415) 346-5862

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Club has purchased "The Golden Age of the Accordion," written by charter member Ron Flynn. We have also purchased Anthony Galla-Rini's Workshop & Concert video package. Both selections will be available to our members on a sign-up basis. Please contact the club librarian, Don Rowlands (415-792-1632), for details. Sheet music and other literature are also available.

A big thank you to our photographer, *Mary Casey*, and to our video technician, *Ed Zaro!*

BAAC CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Contact BAAC through
Walter Traverso

48 Pope Street
San Francisco, CA 94112
(415) 585-0144

REMINDER:

BAAC Meeting
Monday, June 3, 1991
House of Parties, 7:00 P.M.

BAAC T-SHIRTS
will be available at our picnic

COMMITTEES

Entertainment:
Joe Smiell (415) 832-6938
Domenic Saso (415) 587-7557

Picnic:
Walter Traverso
(415) 585-0144

By-Laws:
Reno Pucci
Glenn Cohen
Frank Montoro

Set-up:
Rusty Bartoli
Tony Addiego
James Firpo
Walter Traverso

Bartenders:
Albert Enos
Wenzel Rasmussen