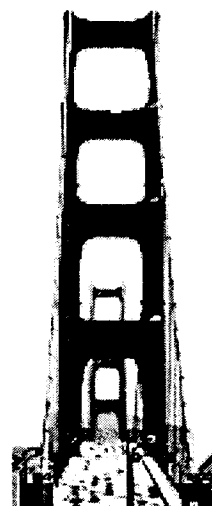


NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO
**BAY AREA
ACCORDION CLUB**



January, 1994

JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting was the first at our new location. The Park and Rec Department building proved to be a spacious spot with many pluses and a couple of minuses.

The first thing that many members noted was that parking was a little harder to find without walking a block or two. This is one good reason for the members to arrive early...giving more time for socializing. A couple members missed the opportunity to have a drink. Since this is a Park and Rec building, liquor is a no-no without a liquor license and a security person. On the other hand, this meeting proved to be one of the most "civilized" as far as objectionable noise during performances. That is about it for the minuses.

The positives were many and obvious to all. First, the acoustics were excellent. It was always a problem to hear an artist in the old location. The House of Parties had been very "boomy". It was also very cramped, making it hard to enjoy a musician when an elbow is stabbing you in the neck! The new location also has higher ceilings which allows for a more open feel.

It will require a little time to see if the new location will meet all of our needs for the near future. It looks like this may be a winner, though.

In any case, we should get to the main reason for our meeting, the meeting itself. **Peter Di Bono** was the emcee for the night. The club members were the stars of the night, with excellent performances by several members, their students, and a guest violinist.

Kelly Koehn was the first up to entertain us. **Kelly** has an excellent stage presence and appears to be quite at home performing for an audience. Her playing of the "Karjalan Polka" and Drigo's "Serenade" were fine renditions. **Kelly** and **Jan Schellenberger** (who played later), members of the BAAC young artists group, are two young people who can give us comfort that the accordion is in good hands for future generations.

Next up was **Curt Van Neck**. **Curt** has a smooth style that offered us "DaCapo" and "Dancing Fingers." **Curt's** tasty offerings made me hungry for more. Let's see you back for an encore soon, **Curt!**

Jan Schellenberger, **Peter's** student, came on stage for his turn. It doesn't seem that long ago that we saw **Jan** playing at another meeting as a featured performer at the **Galla-Rini** tribute. But it is hard to believe he can progress so rapidly in such a short time! **Jan** played with excellent feeling for the pieces and in particular impressed me with his playing of Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 1st, Tuesday. BAAC General Meeting in Daly City, 285 Abbott Avenue. Performers include the Terrific Trio of Lee Woodall, Jim Firpo, Tony Di Bono, and the Bay Area Accordion Ensemble, conducted by Joe Smiell.

February 9th, Wednesday. BAAC Board Meeting, 7:30PM. Ed Massolo's home, 612 Lassen, So. S.F. 415-589-8409.

February 27th, Sunday. Accordion Variety Show featuring Horace Lazzari, Joe Morelli, Ken Olendorf, and Chuck Berger. Shoreline Community College Little Theater, Bldg. 300, 16101 Greenwood Ave. No., Seattle. 2:00PM. Tickets \$10. at door. Sponsored by Petosa Accordions. For discounted (\$9.) tickets and map, write to them at 313 NE 45th St. Seattle, 98105.

March 5th and 6th, Saturday 2-10 and Sunday 12-6. California Spring Polka Festival. Auburn Fairgrounds, 1273 High Street, Auburn, CA. Jammers welcome. Features wooden dance floor, locally brewed beer, and home cooked food. Call Fred Doster (916) 889-1626.

May 3, Tuesday. Ladies' Night at BAAC. Calling all fair sex accordionists....please be there and play Call Ed Massolo, 415-589-8409.



CONDUCTOR'S COLUMN

We started the 1994 year at our new location in Daly City. It was great to see a large turnout even though we had to change our meeting night to the first Tuesday of the month. Most comments were favorable, especially about the improved acoustics and the increased ability to see the performer. We will continue to work to provide the best facility possible for our membership. Your comments are needed to help us achieve our task— 415 974-9210.

The board is considering allocating funds for the purchase of a sound system. We've invited a sound consultant to attend our next meeting to help us determine what audio equipment would best fit our needs. We presently stage three types of activities: monthly meetings, concerts, and our picnic. Previously, we've had to borrow and rent equipment to handle these events. In addition to cost, a major consideration is storing and transporting the equipment. Somebody has gotta come forward.

We've recently filed a request for nonprofit status with the State of California. The processing period takes 4 to 6 mos. The approval will allow us to be officially accepted as an educational organization dedicated to increasing the public's awareness of the accordion. Also, our new status will be the catalyst for our Club to move forward

with its school and scholarship programs. Among several good ideas presented I would like to see BAAC sponsor a chair for the accordion at a state university or a music conservatory.

In June we will be voting for new officers and board members for the '94- 95 year. Many of us have served the maximum time permitted by the by-laws. From our 248 current members, we must recruit a committed board of directors and some new officers. An active membership and your participation are essential for the Club to continue to advance the accordion in the Bay Area. Please call the message center and volunteer for a committee or to become an officer or a Board member.



Phone 974-9210. WE NEED YOU.
dominic palmisano

Attention, Accordionists!

Your Program Committee wishes to plan BAAC general meetings in advance, thereby reassuring themselves and all of you that every meeting will be well balanced, interesting, fun, and will make everyone want to return again and again.

A big problem in the past has been not knowing who would play (or whether anybody would play) at meetings until the last minute.

Part of the solution, they believe, is to ask each BAAC member to play *at one meeting annually*, and to sign up for that meeting in advance. If each member would comply with this format, we would have more than enough performers for each meeting.

Therefore, if you have not already signed up to play at a meeting in 1994, please do so by completing and mailing the following form:

I agree to play at BAAC's
general meeting the first Tuesday of
_____ (month), 1994.

Name _____

Telephone _____

Please return to:
Ed Massolo (or) Frank Panacci
612 Lassen St 119 Riverton Dr
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Thank you for your cooperation!



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January Board Meeting

Jan. 12, 1994

Synopsis

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Violinist would like to practice music of the '20s and '30s with accordions. Repertoire would include tangos, waltzes, Sigmund Romberg, or whatever works best with the two instruments. Goal is jobs in restaurants or clubs 2 to 4x/mo. Midpeninsula. Call Tyane at (415) 961-4119

- Frank Montoro, Treasurer, reported approximately \$8400. in our two bank accounts. He presented a semi-annual report showing comparisons of monies actually received and spent during the first six months of our year as compared to monies originally budgeted. In no expense category are the actual figures at variance with budgeted more than a few percent —pretty amazing, actually. And, as we know, revenue is greater than budgeted, most notably revenue from donations and raffles.
- Still working on stationery and envelopes. Algis and Dennis S. presented samples of logos for each. Board members will consider and choose or modify at next meeting.
- Dennis will contribute from his business a 2-drawer filing cabinet which will hold all Club papers, including historical financial info, newsletter copies, membership lists, etc. Marian can store at her home.
- The Program Committee is still having difficulties firming up the program for meetings. A sign up sheet for members to choose the meeting at which they will play is in this newsletter. They announce that our second annual Ladies' Night will be held May '94. Interested ladies please step forward!
- The Events Committee has begun planning for our Picnic, the first Sunday in June. The Program Committee will cooperate by providing a schedule of those willing to play at the Picnic. Watch for notices and updates in future newsletters.
- Membership for '93-'94 has now reached 248, according to Marian, who maintains the mailing list.
- News from Cotati. Marian, our rep to the Festival Committee, reports that the festival will include either 3 or 4 stages this year, at 3 different locations. One stage may be a drop-in. Attendees will move from site to site, across streets, since music on any one stage will not be continuous. An 1800 linear foot fence will be installed around all the stages, fencing in the main intersection in town, which will be closed for the weekend. A small admission fee will be charged this year. Additionally, the group has decided to detach itself from the Sonoma County Cultural Arts Committee and to form its own non-profit corporation.
- Dominic raised the issue of problems with our new location. He said different people had expressed unhappiness about the shortage of parking in the immediate area, the height of the risers, the absence of alcohol. The Board took no action, preferring to give the new location a little more time. The Board did decide, however, to go ahead with plans for a Sound System. Joe Smiell will bring in a sound engineer who will help us choose something appropriate without being too costly.
- The Board expressed a general willingness to help Vladamir Kallistov obtain permanent visas for himself and his family to immigrate to this country. No specific decisions were made, however.

Did you all notice Herb Caen's recent accordion snippet?...
"And my occasional swipes at accordions, also banned, bring this reminder from Don White of Lafayette: "Remember that accordions don't play 'Lady of Spain' — people play 'Lady of Spain'."

January 4, 1994

HOW ARE WE DOING???

by Bob Berta

It was a good year!

It is customary to review the previous year when entering into a new year. I thought that would be especially appropriate in the BAAC because we certainly have a lot to be thankful for!

1993 saw the BAAC gain rapid advances in its efforts to become THE accordion club. Membership increased greatly and the never ending stream of new members enthusiastically brought many interests, musical tastes and talents to the club. It seems that each meeting tries to top the previous meeting, and we often wonder what delights await us at the next meeting. Our new location will only help to move our club to ever higher levels of excellence.

There were certainly many wonderful memories provided in 1993. Of course the many excellent performers in the club offered a tasty smorgasbord of musical tastes and interests. In particular, we need to recognize the youth who are the future of the accordion. Musicians like Jan Schellenberger and Kelly Koehn secure a bright future for the accordion.

It seems that there are many members who don't have to be asked twice to entertain us. Just a few names that come to mind are Peter DiBono, Ron Borelli, Frank Panacci, Dave Baioni, Marian Kelly, Frank Montoro, and our wonderful SF Accordion Ensemble led by Joe Smiell. If I haven't mentioned your name, don't be insulted...volunteer to play at future meetings and I will be sure to remember YOUR name.

Of course the big events are those unforgettable meetings when something "special" happens. The Galla-Rini tribute certainly ranks as the biggest event of the year with wonderful performances and delightful stories by Barbara Ann Martindale, Lou Fanucchi, Jorgen Sundeqvist, Peter Di Bono, and Marian Kelly. But in my mind a few other meetings stand out as also particularly satisfying. One of the best was the night

that Ken Olendorf and a young guest performer from Spain entertained us. I still haven't figured out how to pronounce Joxan's last name, but his performance along with Ken's left me with a warm feeling for a long time. Jim Boggio is always a welcome artist, and I just can't get enough of the Zydeco beat. The most difficult meeting I attended was the night I performed and found out that non-other than Veikko Ahvenainen was going to be the guest performer. It is hard to be the "opening act" for such a virtuoso.

With my own personal interest in the Midi accordion, I really enjoyed Sev Garcia's demonstration of computer sequencing and Paul Pasquali's demo of his new instrument. The final meeting of the year was a great Christmas present for a midi accordionist like me. The young Russian performer, Vladamir, was in my book the best Midi accordionist I have ever heard. I was able to obtain one of his tapes, and it has taken a high place of honor in my music collection. If you haven't purchased your copy, do so immediately! It is outstanding. Hopefully, Vladamir will be able to get enough work to enable him to bring his family to the Bay Area. We would be lucky to have a performer like him in our club.

This last item reminds me of the best part of membership in the BAAC. I have been repeatedly impressed by the wonderful members of the club. They are certainly very supportive of each other and they all work as one to get the accordion recognized for the fine instrument it is. In Vladamir's case they recognized his great skill but also the hard times he is having to bring his life together. A blind accordionist who plays classical music, speaks limited English, and is trying to support his family certainly has his work cut out for him. The outpouring of help and concern from our members proves that our members are indeed fabulous people. I am proud to be a part of such a group!

IMPRESSIONS

by ENIO HUHTALA

The sound of music drew me like a honey bee after nectar to my elderly neighbor's home where he was pumping out quaint folk songs with his chromatic accordion. The bass buttons around the area of Fundamental 'C' and its related chords as well as the buttons in the center area of the treble keyboard were all stained to a rich brown color from years of play with tobacco stained fingers. (In those days, most working men rolled their own cigarettes.) Although he was self-taught and he played entirely by ear, his music was good enough to be in demand by various dancing groups.

After a few numbers, he remarked that there was a sticky reed in the instrument that he wished to repair, and asked if I would like to watch him. Who wouldn't want to see what was inside that box?

In short time he had disassembled the keyboard from the bellows, located the faulty reed plate, and removed it from its block after removing some bees-wax sealer.

Then, he placed the reed plate to his lips and alternately inhaled and exhaled through the plate and isolated the problem to a piece of foreign matter stuck between the reed and the plate assembly. He deftly removed the foreign matter, which eliminated the problem. The reed plate was replaced and resealed with beeswax, and the accordion was put together again.

While working, he had demonstrated how the reeds functioned and how they were tuned to pitch by adding metal to the weighted area of the reed to lower the pitch or by removing metal by filing to increase the pitch.

I had just received a lesson in accordion repair which I have never forgotten, and have made similar repairs to my own instruments.



ACCORDION REPAIR

Do you remember the announcement that Red Wing Technical college has decided to discontinue its accordion repair program, and Dave Barry's subsequent humorous piece about the necessity for ongoing accordion repair? Well, the Texas Accordion Association reports that Dr. Helmi Harrington has opened up her own accordion repair school, called A.R.T.S., in Duluth, Minnesota 55806 at 2801 West First Street. The course covers all accordion types — concertinas, piano, chromatic, and diatonic accordions, as well as electronic (MIDI) systems. A.R.T.S. also houses a museum of over 400 accordion-family instruments which serve as a resource for students. Write to A.R.T.S. for course information, or call 218-628-3441.

Enio Huhtala, cont...

Since the early history of mankind, there has been some sort of verse, song, or music in all races and nationalities, and from these beginning folk songs, folk music evolves. The process is still going on, and most of our contemporary music is strongly influenced by the music of the past. Incidents such as mine partly demonstrate how this comes about.

More than 55 years after my neighbor played folk songs for me, I purchased an album by our friend Veikko Ahvenainen, and guess what! He plays some of these same old melodies for us now.

I hope they last forever.

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Beyond San Francisco...

Some of you readers are interested in the activities of other accordion-related clubs or organizations. It has been many months since we published information about them. Here are excerpts from the information that we see:

🍏 **Closet Accordion Players of America (CAPA)** is receiving lots of press lately. Their founder, Cheri Thurston, was recently interviewed on National Public Radio, and we find references to them in numerous publications. CAPA, which now boasts 800 members nation-wide, was formed a couple years ago to improve the accordion's image and to counter accordion abuse. Cheri publishes a quarterly newsletter, CAPA Times, which is full of tidbits and stories about accordionists. One item in her most recent edition tells of a new music source, News & Notes Publishing, with a catalog detailing its offerings of pieces of varying degrees of difficulty and styles arranged for accordion. The catalog includes popular music, country and western, movie and TV themes, standards, patriotic music, religious and gospel, polkas, international, latin, classical, Christmas, and original music. Wow! Send \$1.00 for their catalog to News & Notes, P. O. Box 6507, Colorado Springs, CO 80934.

For a 1-year subscription to **CAPA Times**, send \$12.95 to Closet Accordion Players, 305 W. Magnolia, S. 398, Fort Collins, CO 80521, ph. (303) 493-1286.

🍏 The newest Club we've heard about is in **Portland**. Their first meeting was held on November 5, 1993 in the Portland Eagles Hall and was attended by 35 members. Future meetings will be the first Saturday of each month from 1 to 5 P at the same hall, 50th and Hawthorne in Portland. Our contact is Peter Kowsun, P.O. Box 19202, Portland, OR 97280. Phone is (503) 246-2124.

Jan. meeting, cont. from p. 1

Lou Soper took the stage with a lecture on the fine points of accompanying other instruments. He had a lot of good information to offer and illustrated it with some playing that made his concepts easy to comprehend for people like myself.....slowww learners.

Ron Borelli came up for his first solo performance. He and **Dave Baioni** had entertained us with jazz duets at a previous meeting, and this evening, **Ron** really showed off his skill. His solo performances of the "Italian Street Song," a really nifty arrangement of "It's a Whole New World" from Aladdin, and Miles Davis' "Nardis" were wonderful. He plays with much emotion and excellent phrasing (just how far can those bellows be extended, Ron?). I am anxious to hear more, **Ron**.

Don Nurisso introduced violinist **Cosmo Antista**. **Cosmo** has quite a performing history, and after hearing him I can see why. **Don** accompanied **Cosmo** in excellent performances of "Changing Partners," "Everything Happens to Me," "Camanito," and "À Media Luz." We don't often hear accordion and violin duets, but **Don** and **Cosmo** made this very combination sound like a marriage made in heaven. And if you think accordion/violin duets are rare...how about an accordion and a gourd! **Cosmo** "accompanied" **Don's** accordion with a gourd that had quite an interesting history. When you come to a BAAC meeting you are likely to hear just about anything!

Last up for the night was **Frank Panacci**. **Frank** has always proven to be a master of the accordion. In particular his gorgeous playing of Rossini's "Poet and Peasant Overture" and Poncielli's "Dance of the Hours" was outstanding.

See you at the next meeting. Rumor has it that a recently uncovered J.S. Bach composition written for accordion will be performed for the first time in public! Copies of the composition will be handed out to all members in attendance.

Bob Berta

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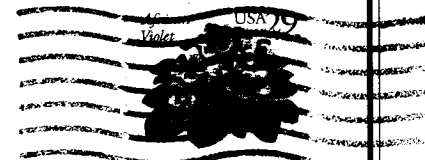
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WE'RE

BAAC



939 HARRISON ST
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415-974-9210



NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY
February 1, 1993
7:00PM

285 ABBOTT AVE
DALY CITY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AT A
MEETING, CALL JOE AT 510-832
-6938 OR ED AT 415-589-8409

Conductor Dominic Palmisano Co-Conductor Marian Kelly Banker Frank Montoro Teller Rusti Bartoli Scribe Josephine Hornbrook