

ACCORDIONAIRES

Sharps 'N' Flats
Monthly Newsletter Since 1996

Volume 2009, Issue 6

June, 2009

The ACCORDIONAIRES ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT



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**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE
TUESDAY, June 16, 7 PM**
**VICTORIO'S RISTORANTE, 10901 VICTORY BLVD.,
N. HOLLYWOOD, CA. 91606**
(818) 762-9000 or (818) 762-9951

•YOUR 2009 ACCORDIONAIRES OFFICERS•

Bill Centonze, President (661) 252-8940

Nick Pavia, Vice President Karen Lee, Secretary (562) 597-7491

Roland Anderson, Tres (661) 255-6100 Janet Hane, Orchestra Director (818) 889-1565

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pre meeting music tonight was provided Pat Striplin and the voices of her Roland FR5. Pat is an Accordionaires pioneer being the owner of the first Roland FR unit in the club.

Bill Centonze announced that we have a new membership directory which consists of those members who had paid their 2009 dues as of April. We also have new name tags so guests and friends alike know who is who. Name tags will be returned at the end of the meeting.

All Accordionaires send best wishes to Domenico Carlino who has been hospitalized.

• The Roland National "V" Accordion Championship will be held in Los Angeles on Sept. 25, 2009. The competition will consist of: **Group 1, age 17 and under, 7 finalists will be chosen from the audition cds/tapes. The 7 finalists will compete in Los Angeles. Group 2, 18 and over, 7 finalists will be chosen from the audition cds/tapes. The 7 Group 2 finalists will compete in Los Angeles.** Nov. 21, 2009, Roland 3rd International "V" Accordion Festival, Rome, Italy, Grand Prize finalists from around the world will compete.



ANY ACCORDION PLAYER CAN ENTER THE CONTEST by providing a 5 minute audition CD or tape to the review committee. Contestants are free to use any accordion they wish for their audition.

Learn more at <http://www.v-accordionfestival.com/home.php> or call:

Ron Lankford,
V Accordion
Coordinator
USA at (323)
890-3700
x2353



GUEST PERFORMER JON PERSSON

As you know from the announcement in last month's newsletter our special guest this evening was Mr. Jon Persson. Jon brought both a piano and bayan (chromatic button) accordion. There are few people talented enough to play both versions, and Jon is one of them. He was prepared with popular and classical music having a broad international theme. Jon introduced each piece explaining why it was in his collection and its musical significance. Jon has been on tour throughout the West and we were indeed lucky his schedule fit our meeting.

We'll look forward to a return performance. Or, who knows, you may see Jon next on one of the many cruise ship tours he does each year. Tonight he entertained us with these excellent songs:



Pigalle
River Seine
All I Ask of You
All the Things You Are
Polka Italien
Gammal Dalavals
Malaguena
Oh the Night
Verano Portino
Aria in G (Bach)
La donna è mobile
Paya Dora
Russian Sailor's Dance
What a diverse and exciting selection. Jon, we certainly hope to see you again.

IN MEMORY OF JOE DI GIACINTO

Sponsored by ALSI, the San Diego Accordion Club



Sunday, June 14, 2009
11 am—4:30 pm
ALSI Annual Summer Picnic
Lindo Lake Park, Lakeside, CA.

Bring your own chairs and blankets and a salad to share. Lasagna will be provided by Bell Agio's restaurant. Also provided will be hamburgers, hot dogs, sausage, condiments, cake dessert and drinks with the picnic meal at 1—2 pm. There will be a raffle and cash door prizes. We will enjoy a variety of music from our famous ALSI ensemble directed by Vicki Eriqat, and the Polka Dot Group and our wonderful group of accordion soloists & guest players.

For more information and directions call (619) 584 -4970)



The **ACCORDIONAIRES ORCHESTRA** in concert

It was Sunday, May 31, and the members of the Accordionaires Orchestra were up early and traveled to Thousand Oaks to begin their final rehearsal for the concert with the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras. Our gang had to report by nine, so almost everyone had been up since five or six that morning. At the Fred Kavli Theater in the Thousand Oaks Civic Plaza

musicians from all the orchestras were arriving and young folks with instruments large and small were getting organized for their time on stage. Rehearsal started promptly at nine and the Accordionaires were on stage from the beginning.

How did we get here? The Accordionaires Orchestra about to rehearse a concert being held in an auditorium with 1800 patrons soon to arrive—some background is required. A while back Janet Hane's daughter, Debbie (who is professional trombonist) introduced her mom to Bill Benson, conductor of the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras. Bill came to an Accordionaires Orchestra rehearsal and decided including them in the EUROFEST concert would add an unexpected and exciting aspect to this final concert of the CVYO season. This was an opportunity to perform in a fantastic venue with great musicians, and the members of the Accordionaires Orchestra were excited, intrigued, and a little worried. All the emotions turned into energy, dedication, and practice--now, the day was here.



The Accordionaires Orchestra consists of Janet Hane, Director
Joe Blasco, Mickey Birnbaum, Bass
Accordion, Gail Campanella, Domenico Carlino, Daniel Corral, Donna Douglas, Elwyn Ellis, Chris Feeney, Eric Johnson, Arlene Klein, Karen Lee, Bob Moloznik, Norm Panto, Michael Potter, Richard Selfridge, Pat Striplin, Alicia Wollerton, Paula Yankopoulos, and Tina Curtis, Drums

During the first stage of rehearsal the sound crew was hard at work strategically placing the microphones in order to provide balanced sound reproduction for the 1800 seat auditorium. When the Accordionaires played alone the other orchestra members watched intently—an accordion orchestra was something new to them. During the rehearsal with the Conejo Youth Strings the sounds of our accordions became almost like woodwinds. This sound sensation highlighted the fact that the accordion is an excellent orchestral instrument—it can enhance and work with most musical presentations.

As William Benson (Artistic Director and Conductor) and Karen Sanchez (Youth Strings Director) worked with the orchestras that were combined with the Accordionaires it was fascinating to see the rapport they had with their group as well as ours. The Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras is a wonderful venue for young musicians. The staff wants them to have fun, to enjoy music, but also to learn, and excel. Their leadership goes beyond the



podium by giving these young folks real-time, real-life examples of how to interact with people in the course of complex tasks. It didn't take much observation during the rehearsal to realize the extensive undertaking that was occurring on stage. Bill and Karen kept the show running efficiently, smoothly, and got the results they needed.



Photo courtesy of MARK DANIEL PHOTOGRAPHY

The concert began at three in the afternoon. It had already been a long day, but the excitement of the moment had everyone ready for action. The house was buzzing with the electricity that accompanies a 100% capacity crowd. The overall program was extensive with 23 pieces on the play list. The Accordionaires performed the following works:

Vienna City of My Dreams, Malaga, Sleeping Beauty (waltz), Bagatelle Overture (an Accordionaires solo presentation), Manha de Carnival (Dan Desiderio), and the Radetzky March.



Before the final two songs, Janet Hane was on stage for a solo performance with her Roland FR7. Janet's presentation was: La Vie en Rose/Tico Tico medley, and Carnival of Venice, Variations by Frosini. Bill Benson had heard the Roland during a visit with Janet and wanted the audience to experience an accordion that contained its own orchestra. Janet received a standing ovation as the audience showed their appreciation.

The final two performances of the day were a joint presentation of the CVYO and the Accordionaires. At the conclusion of the music the entire hall took to their feet as applause rang out for many minutes, and the leaders (including Janet) received flowers.



This was likely a very different performance for the audience and the young musicians since they were exposed to more accordion music this afternoon than they had been in their lives. And for the Accordionaires Orchestra this moment was greatly rewarding and a highlight never before attained. Our folks had broad smiles on their faces—they couldn't have been happier. The opportunity to perform with such talented musicians who are also great young folks (all destined to have as much musical success as they wish to pursue), and to work with the CVYO staff was an occasion that all Accordionaires will remember the rest of their lives.

Congratulations to our fine Accordionaires Orchestra! Thank you for the hours of hard work you and Janet have spent honing your talent. And THANK YOU to Bill Benson, Karen Sanchez, and everyone involved with the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestras for including the Accordionaires in your concert. Your hospitality, kindness, and leadership made this experience a pinnacle for the Accordionaires.

Live concert photos provided by MARK DANIEL PHOTOGRAPHY
Simi Valley, Ca. (805) 526-1475 or MDPHOTO.net



ON THE CALENDAR

Upcoming events that are certain to be interesting....

JUNE--Rose City Accordion Club Silver Falls Accordion Camp, Sun June 7 through Friday June 12, 2009 for more information email GLEvear@aol.com or call (503) 292-0322 or (503) 436-9909

JUNE—June 18-21 Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration Contact: (509) 548-5807 or see www.leavenworth.org or email info@leavenworth.org

JUNE—June 26-28 ACCORDIONS BY THE SEA FESTIVAL, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Contact: midimary@shaw.ca or formanpm@shaw.ca or (250) 360-2085 OR victoriaaccordionclub.com

JULY—July 6-12, Kimberly International Accordion Championships, Kimberly, B.C., Canada. Contact: info@kiotac.ca or (888) 454-0822

JULY—July 26-31, Galla-Rini Accordion Camp, San Rafael, Ca. Info: Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896 or email: tarild@gotsky.com

JULY—July 31, Aug 1 Philipsburg, Montana, Rocky Mountain Accordion Festival, Info call : 406-859-3812 or email: quigleybb@yahoo.com

AUGUST—Aug 14-16 54th Ann. AFNA Music Festival, Info: Jack Dermody (602) 237-5627 or email AZAccordion.Club@cox.net

AUGUST—Aug 22, 23 Cotati Accordion Festival, Cotati, Ca. Info: info@cotatifest.com or call (707) 664-0444

SEPTEMBER—Accordion Extravaganza Festival, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Email: accordion@geri.ca

OCTOBER—Las Vegas International Accordion Convention—Oct 19-22, Gold Coast Hotel. Phone 800-472-1695 or email vegas@accordioninfo.com

SqueezeFestLA



Presented by Los Angeles Accordion Festival

Sun. June 28 at 7:30 p.m.

ACCORDIONAIRES Discount Tickets Available Now!



Los Angeles-based Accordion bands
Vagabond Opera & Conjunto Los Pochos
 with *Feufollet from Louisiana*
 take you on a musical journey from
 1920s Paris to the streets of old Mexico
 and the bayous of Louisiana

- Students and Children are only \$12.00!
- LDLA can get 20% off the adult price with the code "AIRES09"

call 323.461.3673

• ACCORDIONAIRES MONTHLY MEETING

May 19, 2009



Jon Persson was a hard act to follow, but Larry Kwasnicki had his button box fired up and ready to go:
Let's Have a Party
It's a Small, Small World
Barking Dog Polka



Smiln' Jack (right) didn't know what he was going to play, or so he said:
In the Mood
Penthouse Serenade
Whispering



Hi to Mike Belitz who was back with three great songs:
Theme from The Godfather
Sweet Dreams Polka
The Second Time Around

Our next performers were Sheri Osen with Norm somebody doing the backup:
On a Clear Day
Somewhere Over the Rainbow
I Could Have Danced All Night



**Norm Panto, HAVE ACCORDION AND UNION CARD, aka Mr Entertainment, aka Have Accordion, Will Travel was settled in and ready to play:
La Paloma
Jealousy**



**Happy Charlie Kalamanchey was our next fine performer. Tonight he switched from the harmonica to accordion with:
Anniversary Waltz
Vienna, City of My Dreams
German Country Song
German Drinking Song
Domino**



King of Tyrol, Mr. Karl Nagele, (right) had his button box pumped up and he gave us a great medley of Tyrolean tunes.



**Pat Striplin (left) came back to demonstrate the orchestral versatility of her Roland FR5. She played:
Steel Guitar Rag
Granada
St Louis Blues**

**Our next star was Mr. Paul Tripodi who played:
Stairway to the Stars
Jealousy**



HOW DO THEY DO THAT!?! Part One

By Ron Schwarz, Editor, *Sharps and Flats*

The Accordionaires, Accordion Club of Los Angeles

Unlike the experience the Accordionaires Orchestra had at the Canejo Valley Youth Orchestra EUROFEST which involved more than 100 musicians, there is another side to stage, but no so "live," music. Today no one wonders about the sound, music and voice, we hear when we go to a movie. We accept, and expect, a vast orchestra playing music specifically written to focus our attention on the plot of the film--we don't wonder how many violins, or trumpets, or violas, or trombones, etc. were part of the orchestra. Similarly the last time you saw a show in Las Vegas you were aware of a huge orchestra supporting the cast. With no reason to believe otherwise, we assume these substantial orchestras are composed of human musicians of all types. But, in reality, probably not—the human part that is. Over the last two decades films, live Broadway shows, Las Vegas shows and productions have had their musical scores substantially presented by computer generated music.



Today, for example, it is commonplace for productions to have the complete score produced by computer software and enhanced, live, by the use of a small human orchestra. As you can imagine for stage shows the cost of having a 100 piece orchestra on site for two or three shows a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year would be astronomical. But here is the dilemma: we have all become accustomed to expect the vast, lush musical orchestration we hear in film presentations, and stage shows must be able to compete with our expectations. Using computer software any score can be committed to the

computer's memory with instrumentation as vast as the programmer and composer wish and then be replayed exactly the same way over and over. With a real orchestra members get sick, tired, and suffer from human frailties that causes the orchestra leader and stage director to develop chronic ulcers. Having the score computerized on the other hand means the entire orchestra is always there, healthy and continually exuberant. Using a limited number of key musicians on site enhances the computerized score by allowing the audience to see human musicians in the pit with their performances designed to heighten the "reality" effect. Additionally the computerized score is controlled by the stage director as he watches for timing changes that become necessary if a member of the cast is off cue or late in their execution of lines, movements, or effects. Obviously the "show must go on" and the music won't stop, but both the computerized score and the live musicians are lead by the orchestra director and the stage director keeping pace, control, and coordination of the performance as it progresses.

Live musicians often have dual roles in the 21st century orchestra. For example the advent of sound sampling (the art of recording real sounds from real instruments and then incorporating those sounds in the computer engines of keyboards and other digital instruments) means that a keyboard musician can use his digital controller to emulate the finest grand piano or a classical guitar as well as hundreds of other instruments. Additionally the same digital instruments can also be used for simultaneous control of other sound generators and stage effects. These tasks are routed wirelessly with MIDI software thus enabling the musician to move freely on stage or in other areas of the hall.

The next time you visit Las Vegas or New York and attend a musical, look around for all the musicians that sound as though they are there. You'll likely find only a few musicians with the rest out of sight, residing in a computer, in the control room. But the sound and the show will be great, and now you know why.

Next issue--computers, musicians producing an amazing result in Las Vegas. This story won't stay in Vegas because we're going to tell you about it.

U.S. ACCORDION CLUBS—More Fun When You Travel

ACCORDION CLUBS--Regular Monthly Meetings

ACCORDION CLUB OF CENTRAL OREGON, 2nd Sat, 1:30, Cougar Springs Sr Cntr, Redmond, Or

ACCORDION CLUB OF THE REDWOODS, 3rd Mon, Petaluma, Ca., info call 707-874-3494

ACCORDIONAIRES, N. Hollywood, Ca. see front page of this newsletter

ARIZONA ACC. CLUB, 3RD Mon, St Stephens Hall, 8141 N. 16th St., Phoenix, Az (480-940-1124), doors open at 5:45 pm see www.azaccordionclub.com

CENTRAL VALLEY ACC. CLUB, 2nd Tues, Madera, Ca. info call 559-673-2810

CHICAGO ACC. CLUB, 3rd Mon, Elmherst American Legion, 310 W. Butterfield Rd., Elmherst, Ill call 630-833-7800 for info

FRESNO ACCORDION CLUB, 4th Tues, Gigi's Italiana, 9447 N. Ft Washington, Rd., Fresno, Ca.

GOLDEN STATE ACC. CLUB: Vacaville, 2nd Tues, Moose Lodge, 6585 Gibson Canyon Rd., Vacaville, Ca; Sacramento, 4th Wed. Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento, Ca.

HOUSTON ACC CLUB, 16900 Lexington Blvd, Sugar Land, Tx. See www.fbc-accordion-club.org/

HOUSTON: BAY AREA ACC. CLUB, see www.bayareaaccordionclub.com

JA, JUST ACCORDIONS, 1340 S. Sanderson Ave., Anaheim, Ca. 2nd Thurs night each month; for info call Marilyn at 714-537-0711

HUMBOLT ACC CLUB, 3RD Tues, 7 p.m., Humbolt Swiss Club Hall, Loleta, Ca

MEDFORD ACC CLUB, 1ST Mon, 7 p.m., Central Pt Sr Center, 123 N. 2nd St., Central Point, Or 541-476-3209

MICHIGAN ACC SOCIETY, see www.michiganaccordion.org

MILWAUKEE ACC CLUB, 4th Mon, 6PM, 7220 W. Rawson Ave., Franklin, Wi call for info 414-543-7714

NE WISCONSIN ACC CLUB, Green Bay, Wi, 1st Sat at 9:30 AM, Brown County Aging and Resource Center, call for info 414-543-6474

NATIONAL ACCORDION ASSOC, (formerly Texas Accordion Associations), See website for all Texas clubs which are members of this association, <http://accordions.com/naa/>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ACC SOCIETY, 1st Wed, 7 p.m. Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas Blvd, Granite Bay, Ca 916-791-3041

PEORIA ACC CLUB, 3RD SUNDAY 2:30 p.m. CREVE COEUR COMMUNITY CENTER 586 GROVELAND AVE, CREVE COEUR, IL, <http://friends.peoria.lib.il.us/community/accordion.html>

ROSE CITY ACC CLUB, 3rd Saturday 1PM, City of Milwaukie Public Safety Building, Public Meeting Room, 3200 SE Harrison, Milwaukie, Oregon

SALT LAKE CITY ACC, 6876 So. Highland Dr. (2000 East), South Valley Unitarian building, 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m. (Freeway: I-215; exit 8; south 1/2 mile); <http://www.slaac.com/> (801) 272-3263

SAN FRANCISCO ACC. CLUB, 3rd Sun, 2 PM, 911 Marina Blvd., (Oyster Point Yacht Club), South San Francisco, Ca. (510-531-4836)

SAN DIEGO ACC. CLUB (ALSI), Bailey Center Hall at Mt. San Maguel Conv. Center, 325 Kempton, Spring Valley, Ca., 2nd Sun 1PM 858-453-5486

SILICON VALLEY ACC CLUB, 1ST Sun, 1 p.m., Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Av, San Jose, Ca. 408-270-5003

VICTORIA ACCORDION CLUB, www.victoriaaccordionclub.com

Club Members Who Teach Accordion Musicianship Alphabetically Listed

Donna Douglas—Orange County (714) 840-6863

Janet Hane—Westlake Village, Ca. (818) 889-1565

Rita Hemond—Lancaster, Ca. (661) 946-5151

Gordon Kohl—Chula Vista, Ca. (619) 427-4344

Larry Larson—Glendale, Ca. (818) 240-1343

Norm Panto—Thousand Oaks, Ca. (805) 446-1481

Pat Striplin—Quartz Hill, Ca. (661) 943-8004

MEMBERS, if you know someone who would like to join...or...if you are not a member of the ACCORDIONAIRES, but love the accordion and would like to meet some great folks who think the same way, then this club is for you. The ACCORDIONAIRES promotes the accordion by enjoying the music our members and guests play at each meeting. Our annual picnic, Christmas party, and celebrity appearances spice up the year. To join please complete the application you will find on this page. You will be well on your way to good times, good people, and great music.

THE ACCORDIONAIRES MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

1. Do you play the accordion (not necessary to join)? _____
What type? _____
2. May we include your name in the annual membership directory? Yes _____ No _____
3. Please complete this application and mail with your annual dues (**\$22 for a single; \$37 for a couple**) payable to the **ACCORDIONAIRES,**

**Mr. Roland Anderson, Treasurer
21215 Jimpson Way
Santa Clarita, Ca. 91351**

NAME: _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____
 TELEPHONE _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____

From:
ACCORDIONAIRES
Ron Schwarz, Editor
25285 Alta Vista Dr.
Moreno Valley, Ca. 92557



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