

ACCORDIONAIRES

Sharps 'N' Flats
Monthly Newsletter Since 1996

Volume 2009, Issue 3

March, 2009

It's that Time of Year--Again!

\$\$ Your Dues are Due! \$\$



Articles appearing in the Sharps 'n' Flats newsletter may not necessarily represent the official policies of the ACCORDIONAIRES CLUB. The CLUB and its officers are not responsible for statements by the editor or contributors. All contributions are accepted in good faith regardless if they are funny or true.



**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE
TUESDAY, March 17, 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

Karen Lee, Secretary (562) 597-7491

Roland Anderson, Treasurer (661) 255-6100

Janet Hane, Orchestra Director (818) 889-1565

● ACCORDIONAIRES MONTHLY MEETING

Would you like to see the newsletter in color? Simply send an email to Ron Schwarz at ronkfb@yahoo.com and you will receive your full color version shortly.

Our pre-meeting music was provided by Joe Digiacinto and Paul Tripodi. Thanks fellas, we hope you can make it again next month.

● ANNOUNCEMENTS

Woody Tracy has informed the club that he is resigning as President due to legal matters occupying all of his free time. He is looking forward to a quick resolution but at present he knows it requires his full attention. Bill Centonze will take over as President until our usual election in April.

Bill Centonze is asking for 2, or even better, 3 club members to volunteer as our audio techs. Bill has been handling this task for years and he is looking forward to some travel time this summer. Our volunteer techs will be shown the ropes (and wires) so they can set up the amps and mics. Having two or three volunteers will assure someone is always available on meeting nights. Bill will be at our March meeting early so interested folks should see him then. Of course you can also call Bill (his number is listed above).

Tom Bruno's mother sent the club a thank you note for the flowers and cards the family received after Tom's death. At this point they have not made a final decision regarding the business and hope to find someone who wants to buy it.

● REQUEST

The Accordionaires Orchestra needs a bass amp. Anyone with one to sell, or donate, is asked to call Janet Hane, Orchestra Dir., (818) 889-1565

LIVE AND ON STAGE OUR PERFORMERS TONIGHT...

All performers, please remember to LIMIT SONGS SO WE HAVE TIME FOR EVERYONE TO PLAY.



Our first performer of the night was **Smiln' Jack** and his 1919 Hohner. Jack had the Hohner humming with: Shanty in Old Shanty Town, Stumbling, and Slovia Polka Time

Storma Edlebrock and Bill Centonze came up next and provide us with two wonderful

duets: Superstar, and How Important Can It Be?

Bill remained on stage and sang: My Funny Valentine, and Sunny Side of the Street

Great job—How Important Can It Be was really outstanding.



It's the Sardo Brothers, Phil and Tony. These guys are always full of fun and enthusiasm, and tonight was no different. They performed: Best Things in Life Are Free, Al Di La, and You Belong To Me



Heinz Trilck, master of the big smile, was our next guest on the Accordionaires stage. With his usual style he three different types of songs, which were: Sabor a Mi, Fly Me to the Moon, and Addio Donna Grazia



Charles Kalamanchy brought his red Scandalli tonight because he was ready to go with: Hungarian Dances, Blue Danube, and Autumn Leaves



After working the opener Joe Digiacinto (left) had some dinner, rested up, and was recharged ready to play:
 Sharpshooters March (Cordovox style)
 Bella Notte
 Gay Ranchero, and
 El Recarrio



All the way from Canada Gunther Bluschke (right) was back for a visit in somewhat warmer Los Angeles. And as he does when he is visiting, he included the Accordionaires in his schedule. With his distinctive style we heard:
 Cheer Up Sweetheart
 Cuckoo Waltz, and
 Tiroler Woodchopper



Fortified with a few meatballs and some vino our Paul (Dangerous When Amplified) Tripodi (left) was back with us. Paul always takes us on a familiar trip with the big names of song, and tonight he was doing great with:
 Somewhere In My Heart
 Night and Day, and
 Perfidia

Peter Robuffo (right) was next on the scene with a borrowed LoDuca Duke accordion you had to love.

Peter's fine selection of songs were:

Marsala Mia
 Sabre Dance (this was a "WORLD CLASS" performance)
 Latin Medley, and
 On a Clear Day



Father Miletello was inspired by Peter's performance and the great sound of the LoDuca. He was next, and he too borrowed the LoDuca. Father played three of his favorites:
 Czardas
 Dark Eyes, and
 Rapaz March

We were on quite a roll and it got even better with Norm Panto as our next accordionist. Norm brought his Italo-American accordion—a great box with outstanding tone quality. Match that with his fine talent and you heard these great songs:

That's Amore
Tango of the Roses
Oh Parie
River Seine
Cest Ci Bon, and
Old Man River



TO OUR PERFORMERS: thank you for another wonderful evening of music. **To All Accordionaires:** See you next month, March 17, 2009



CALLING ALL ACCORDIONAIRES

Yes it's time to Re-Up and pay your 2009 ACCORDIONAIRES MEMBERSHIP DUES. **\$22 for a Single Membership or \$37 for a Couples Membership.** You can bring you membership fee to the next meeting.

Or, you can trust the United Postal Service of this Great United States of America, and mail your dues to: **Mr. Roland Anderson, Treasurer, 21215 Jimpson Way, Santa Clarita, Ca. 91351**

ACCORDIONS FOR SALE

Walt Nycz is selling his entire collection of accordions. What does he have? Just give Walt a call and he can tell you about the entire collection. 818-886-1256

Sam Costabile has a great Sonola SS-7 model ready for you to play. In good condition with that one-of-a-kind Sonola sound, 4/5 dry tuned \$800. Sam is also selling all of his sheet music and records. Thinking of a title? I bet Sam has it. Check with Sam to learn more about all the unique accordion items that can move from his collection to yours. (626) 330-7015

Azad Haghverdian has a NEW Excelsior with built in midi, and a double tone chamber. \$9,000, negotiable. Also, beautiful 4/5 Polverini with double tone chamber, \$2,200 Call Azad at (818) 243-2052

Gordon Kohl has a gorgeous rosewood Concerto, Model 250 ready for your playing pleasure. Have the convenience of a complete rig, accordion plus module in one unit--\$9,000. Gordon can give you all the details (619) 427-4344

Paul Tripodi is selling a full size Titano accordion equipped with midi. Also included are hard-cover case, Roland RA60 Arranger, and a Cintaur 15" amp. 100% complete performance rig ready to go; asking \$3,000. Call Paul for details at (626) 309-2858



ON THE CALENDAR

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

May 31, 2009, 3:00 p.m., ACCORDIONAIRES ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE at The Civic Arts Plaza, Thousand Oaks, Ca., in the Fred Kalvi Theater. Our Accordionaires Orchestra has been invited by Conductor Bill Benson of the CONJEO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA to perform with the Symphony and also to perform a solo. Tickets can be purchased at the Thousand Oaks Civics Arts Plaza box office.

APRIL—Ap 5-11 Pedone-Ballarini Accordion Cruise Contact: accordion_Mario@aol.com

APRIL—Ap 12-24 Polka to Hawaii with the Little Bohemian Band, contact dk@kroostravel.com

May—May 30, 31, 2nd Ann. Los Angeles Accordion Festival, See: <http://www.myspace.com/losangelesaccordionfest>

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 Rocky Mountain Accordion Celebration, Victoria, British Columba, Canada. Contact: midimary@shaw.ca or formanpm@shaw.ca or (250) 360-2085

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

Return of the Accordion, The Sequel

Chapter Three: **VISION BECOMES REALITY**

By Ron Schwarz, Editor, *Sharps and Flats* (ronkfb@yahoo.com)

Monthly Newsletter of the ACCORDIONAIRES, Accordion Club of Los Angeles



As you have read previously the Roland "V" accordion line is, in this author's opinion, the backbone of "the return of the accordion." In our original article we discussed the meaning of "the return of the accordion." This phrase refers to the accordion regaining the widespread acceptance and use it enjoyed until the 1960's. As many of you can remember, virtually every large band included an accordion; there were dozens of "accordion" bands in the US and many more in Europe; there were thousands of music schools that taught accordion and thousands of local groups involved in accordion competitions. Concurrent with the momentum of rock music in the 1960's the electric guitar took the spotlight formerly enjoyed by the accordion. However the technology developed for electronic and digital instruments since the 60's has actually played a part in the realization of the Roland "V" (virtual) accordion. Roland has embraced the digital revolution and built an accordion that rivals any digital instrument in existence today.



The goal of this article is to understand how, and why, Roland dedicated millions of man-hours and dollars to the success of the "V" accordion. Additionally we'll review technical aspects of this project that have made the musical abilities of this instrument so realistic and adaptable to any type of music presentation. We are grateful to Mr. Ikutaro Kakehashi (left), founder of Roland; Mr. Luigi Bruti (right), Roland Europe, and Mr. Ron Lankford (left), "V" Accordion

Coordinator for their generous input and sharing of information. Let's start by going back to the 1960's and learn how at a time when the accordion's popularity was waning in the US, in Japan a love affair with the accordion was just beginning.



Ikutaro Kakehashi, as a young man, had a dream: build an accordion, an electronic accordion, one with more features and less weight than its acoustic counterparts. It's 1964, the venue--the NAMM show Los Angeles, Ca. Mr. Kakehashi presents his first electronic creations to the music industry. While at the show he meets various Italian accordion manufacturers and tells them about his dream of a completely electronic accordion. At that time the Italian folks were skewed towards the traditional acoustic accordion, and could not imagine why an electronic version would, or could, be a commercial success. Three years later Mr. Kakehashi's travels take him to Italy and the holy grail of accordions, Castelfidardo. He visits various factories and

distributors hoping to find a way to incorporate common parts of acoustic instruments with his electronic vision. He, however, leaves Italy with two accordions that caught his eye and ear, but without any success finding a partner to his vision.



Mr. Kakehashi establishes The Roland Corporation in 1972, and the growing Roland product line keeps him fully occupied leaving his accordion dreams resigned to a project for some day in the future. Years later the dawn of that day arrived in 1988 when the SIEL company, a manufacturer of electronic musical instruments, located in Acquaviva Picena, Italy, became Roland Europe (left). Chief engineer, Francesco Rauchi, and Luigi Bruti lead the technical staff in Roland Europe's production of the "KR" digital piano and arranger keyboards titled the "E", "G" and "VA" series. Mr. Bruti while a technician by occupation is also a virtuoso accordionist (1977 World Champion, 1976 Italian National Champion). Luigi envisions a future for the accordion that goes beyond adding midi to the acoustic instrument. He and Francesco Rauchi share their futuristic ideas with Roland Japan to estimate the feasibility of such a project. Mr. Kakehashi tells them about his own plans, and as they discuss their theories and goals it becomes apparent their dreams are about to take the first step towards reality.

The reality was closer than ever before because of technological advances such as Physical Behaviour Modelling that had already been applied to other instruments such as the V-Guitar module. They felt certain the sound engine from previous Roland projects could be modified to mimic the nuances of traditional accordions. A traditional acoustic accordion uses the principle of free reeds vibrating from the air flow generated by the bellows. The action of the bellows is therefore a core feature of this instrument. The Chinese created the first instruments to use this principle about 4,500 years ago, and the accordion known today was developed in the 1850's. Most acoustic accordions provide a pair of metal reeds for each note (one reed vibrates from the bellows as they open, and the other as the bellows close—each motion causing the airflow to reverse). A series of reeds makes up a voice (such as the clarinet) and are placed on a frame called a "wind chest". The Roland Virtual Accordion would produce these effects by digitally reproducing the sounds. Using miniaturized electronics the Roland unit would be designed to have all the features, but weigh less and cost less than a standard accordion with a fraction of the same abilities.

On 5th December 1995 the project received official corporate sanction. Roland spent the next nine (yes, 9) years studying the sounds of the acoustic accordions to be emulated, and choosing the mechanical and electronic parts needed to create the "V" accordion. The first step consisted of collecting all sorts of accordions from the world over, followed by detailed study of their features and digitally reproducing their operation using Physical Behaviour Modelling technology. This new kind of sound generation made it possible to reproduce all the physical sounds the accordion created

as it moved as well as the tones produced by the vibrating reeds driven by air modulation in response to the motion of the bellows. Moreover this technology further made it possible to group multiple accordion types into a single instrument. The accordion player was immediately in control of a French accordion, or an Italian accordion, or a traditional (old time) accordion, or a jazz accordion, and many more—each available by simply pushing a button.

Thus the vision of the “V” accordion was an instrument that had the voices of many different accordions in one unit and to use its digital, music oriented technology to link the “V” accordion to music that appealed to generations of music lovers. The goal was to attract people of all ages and backgrounds to the new, versatile “V” accordion.



Dark Gray

Outwardly the result, the Roland FR-7 (at a first glance) looks like a traditional instrument with function switches, grill, keys and body familiar to everyone. But years of study by Roland engineers have resulted in bellows movements and key sensitivities such as velocity and after-touch feeling “normal” although the mechanical parts of the “V” no longer physically create those sensations. Additionally unlike a traditional accordion the “V” player commands synthesized voices such as a sax, clarinet, guitar, piano, organ and the ability to arrange them with accordion sounds. With hundreds of combinations of live, sampled, digitally recorded sounds the FR provides any musician with the tools necessary to present a performance that will delight and intrigue the audience.

You may be wondering why the “V” accordion uses the “FR” designation. “F” and “R” are Francesco Rauchi’s initials, and shown as homage by Roland to one of their beloved developers. Sadly Mr. Rauchi passed away without seeing the project reach its final implementation. It was 40 years after Mr. Kakehashi’s first vision of a fully electronic accordion that the Roland FR7 was introduced at the 2004 Frankfurt Music Fair. Roland’s competitors were stunned by its portability enabling the musician to move about freely playing multi-timbre parts enhanced by the expressiveness of its bellows and physical behaviour modelling technology.

The new world of the “V” accordion is indeed international with performers using Roland accordions on all continents. At the same time the Roland Europe team continues to improve and expand the model line up. This vision, a dream that took 40 years to come to fruition, is testament to the attraction of the accordion. Any accordion player you ask will tell you they love the sound—there is something that draws one closer to hear more. The “V” accordion offers a huge array of traditional sounds along with true orchestral sounds melded into a single instrument that meets the challenges of both professional and hobby musicians. The accordion is back, and its middle initial is “V”.



Check ROLANDUS.COM to see the entire “V” Accordion Family



Coming for the Accordionaires April Meeting April 21, 2008, Tuesday

The Roland Corporation is sending **Mr. Ron Lankford, U.S. V-Accordion Coordinator**, to demonstrate all the Roland piano keyboard accordion models.



You will have an opportunity to try out each model for yourself. An example of the top of line FR7, the FR5, FR3, FR2 and FR1 will all be here for you to see, hear, and play.

Roland has designed their entire line to accommodate both professional and hobbist players. The smallest unit is reduced only in size—it contains many new features and abilities—and sounds just like the big guys.

Each model utilizes standard size keys, so it's easy to move from unit to unit because the "feel" is the same.

If your back has been demanding a light-weight accordion, you should try out the new FR1. You'll have more capability than many accordions three times its size. No aspirin required—just have fun.



Whatever your needs there is a Roland accordion perfect for you. April 21st—find out for yourself!



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/

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 (ALSJ), 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

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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