



Volume No. II Issue No. 0011 Date January 2007

Delaware Accordion Club Newsletter
WHAT'S SHAKIN'

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www.delawareaccordionclub.com



EDITOR'S SOLO

- Some of you will notice a red mark at the top of your paper copy of this newsletter. This is simply a reminder that this will be the last issue of the newsletter (or other written communications) you will receive unless I receive \$6.00. Please send a check made out to me or cash (see return address on envelope) and I will send you a receipt. The \$6.00 is only to pay for the expense of the paper newsletters and communications, not to be a "member", since we are not really a formal "club" with "members". If you no longer want a paper copy please remember that the newsletters are posted on our website. And more importantly, you're still more than welcome to the DAC open mic sessions as a participant or observer.
- Frank Stanitski sent a note regarding Lidia Kaminska. She was born in Poland, but at the age of 25 became the first (and only) person in the United States to receive a doctorate degree in Accordion Performance, which was awarded by the University of Missouri. Lidia lives near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she released her first CD album titled "Breaking Boundaries". On December 17, 2006 Lidia performed a concert at the Montrose Mansion at the Villanova

Conference Center in Radnor, Pennsylvania, accompanied by violinist Saeka Matsuyama. For further info, check out www.lidiakaminska.com.

- Joe Oberly found an interesting photograph in a 1953 issue of "Accordion World" magazine. Dick Contino is shown playing his accordion for a group of soldiers in Korea. He was playing a Matussek King Accordion, which held up very well in the rugged, extreme hot and cold conditions of Korea.
- Lisa Cristofich sent info about a bellows pad that can be attached without tools and no drill holes. Different sizes are available at a cost of \$17.95 + \$4.50 shipping. Check out www.greataccordions.com for photos or contact rgmint@telus.net for info.
- Darlene Laird found the following website which has a large selection of music: www.concertinamusic.com . This is the Chemnitzer Concertina website.
- Tony Lovello sent Joe Oberly info about his video release (VHS or DVD) called "Secrets from the Concert Stage". Tony can be contacted at Lovello Music, P.O.Box 4433, Lexington, KY 40504 or email at tlovello@alltel.net . Check out www.accordionmusic.com .
- My wife, manager of neuroscience drug studies at a large pharmaceutical company with a funny name (I know..I know... like they don't all have funny names!), came across an article in the June/July 2006 issue of "American Laboratory" magazine that may interest some of you. Among articles such as, "The Impact of Chiral Supercritical Fluid Chromatography in Drug Discovery: From Analytical to Multigram Scale", there was an article about music! It's a scientific explanation of why music is the way it is. The article is "Fa... Sol...La (Or, the Cycle of Fifths)". The writer is Dr. Daniel J. Schneck, Professor Emeritus of Engineering Science and Mechanics at Virginia Tech. See



www.americanlaboratory.com. Take notes, there may be a pop quiz!

- I also am involved in drug research. Occasionally I donate my body to science by ingesting the ingredients of alcohol based beverages. Other people, both real and imagined, observe my reactions and make reports (to who I don't know). But, really, if I remember correctly, there hasn't been anything notable since 1967.....or maybe it was 1958.....oh, nuts, here it goes.....I hate it when I get like this.....anybody else hear the pears in the refrigerator whistling "Funiculi, Funicula"?
- Did you ever wonder.....if birds ate beans, would they fly faster?



PAST EVENTS

If anyone attends an accordion event and would like to report it, please let the editor know.

October 29, 2006 Lenny Feldmann at Benefit Concert

Matt Hedson went to see Lenny Feldmann perform at Caldwell College in Caldwell, New Jersey. This was a benefit concert for two children with Muscular Dystrophy. He put on an excellent show and Matt encourages everyone to try to see Lenny in concert. Among other pieces, the program included "Rhapsody in Blue", "Samba Italiano", "Tribute to Astor Piazzolla" and "Three Coins in The Fountain".

Per cordeen.man@cordeenman.com, Dr. Lou Persic told Lenny, "Of all your performances that I have had the privilege to hear, this was truly most memorable....your featured piece (3 Coins In a Fountain) with the Montovani Orchestra should be your signature piece or trademark - it was marvelous...."

If you would like to be on Lenny's e-mail list contact him at cordeenman@cordeenman.com. Check out his website at www.cordeenman.com.

November 11, 2006 Florida Accordion Smash

Per cordeenman@cordeenman.com, Karen Adam, President of FAA, told Lenny Feldmann, "Everyone Loved your performance!!!! Thanks also for playing Rhapsody in Blue."

November 12, 2006 Richard DiBlassio on WVUD

Richard DiBlassio made a return live appearance on radio station WVUD, FM 91.3. He played a wide variety of tunes throughout the one hour program hosted by Brian Lee. Some pieces played were "Ave Maria", "Ballad of Jesse James", a snippet from "The William Tell Overture" and "The Nearness of You" (played for his wife Naomi).

Numerous complimentary live phone calls were made to the show, including one from a member of the National (Texas) Accordion Association, who was listening in Austin, Texas via www.wvud.org.

December, 2006 Richard DiBlassio Events

Richard played at several events including a class/town reunion in Annville, Pennsylvania (thanks to Charles and Jeanne Mariani, enthusiastic DAC supporters). There was plenty of food, wine, beer and music for the gathering.

On New Year's Eve Richard performed at Madeline's Restaurant in Wilmington, Delaware. Joe Oberly was there to help get things set up, as was Richard's wife, Naomi. The restaurant was crowded all night and everyone enjoyed Richard's Italian tunes, holiday songs, swing tunes and more.

January 24 -27, 2007 Lenny Feldmann in Mesa, Arizona



As part of the Marocco-Ballarini Accordion Camp Lenny was scheduled to perform several times and present a workshop: "Introduction to Jazz Improvisation - the Musical Basics of Getting Started". The event is being held at the Best Western Dobson Ranch Inn & Resort.

For info on the event: www.frankmarocco.com

Editor's note: this event is supposed to be happening even as I'm putting this newsletter together; hopefully, by the time you read this, these events, in fact, happened.

Past DAC Open Mic Sessions

November 19, 2006

A number of new people were at the session today to observe; Lester Rittle made the eighty mile trip from Lewes, Delaware and from Wilmington were Sue Bryson and Richard Toto. Richard wants to learn to play the accordion and mentioned that he had been trying to buy an accordion by checking the 'for sale' ads in the Wilmington News-Journal. When he called about a particular ad, he was told the accordion had just been sold to DAC supporter Bob Shoemaker. Richard contacted Bob and explained how hard it was for him to get started because he couldn't get an affordable accordion in good condition. Bob sold the accordion to him, told him about the club and recommended Ed Tafelski for lessons.

Editor's note: applause, please, for Bob being so accommodating and encouraging.

Joe Alexander began the session, followed by Susan Shertok. Carole Wolek then followed with a number of difficult pieces. She was then joined by Darlene Laird for a duet version of "The Jolly Caballero". Last month they discussed doing this when Carole heard Darlene do her solo version. Today was remarkable because they hadn't rehearsed it together and it sounded great!

Frankie Gray, from Elkton, Maryland, stopped in. He sings and accompanies himself on ukelele.

Editor's note: the only similarity between

Frankie, Arthur Godfrey and Tiny Tim is the ukelele; Frankie can actually sing and knows how to play the instrument.

Bob Shoemaker finished the day with some solo selections and then was joined by Joe Ragan (on accordion, not guitar) and Gary Robinson for a little bit of a jam session.

December 17, 2006

There was a good turnout of players and observers today, with over thirty people attending. Just about all the players did at least one holiday tune.

Performers included Jack Chrustowski, Jeff Anderson and Dave Kupsis (duets), Susan Shertok and Dave (duets), and Bob Shoemaker. Bob said he recently had been deer hunting, for which he spent seven hours a day for about a week alone in the woods. Someone asked him how he coped with the isolation/boredom. He said he had a walkman radio with him, but he couldn't believe some of the crazy stuff he heard on "talk radio". He also has a floater in one eye that passed by about every fifteen minutes. He found this to be exciting, in its own way, and broke up the monotony! *Editor's note: this probably kept Bob busy honing his stalking skills!* This story was followed by a great medley of Christmas classics.

Charles Mariani (with Richard on accordion) led everyone in singing "Frosty the Snow Man", "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer", and "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus".

Charles later won the 50/50 drawing and donated most of his share to the club treasury.

Members of Joe Oberly's family did a number of tunes. His daughter Tangie sang "Jingle Bells" with her sons Luke (playing bells) and Jack (playing guitar). Luke had gotten some pointers on the guitar from Ed Tafelski. Richard DiBlassio then accompanied Tangie, who sang "Santa Baby". Tangie was also joined by Joe's sisters, Patsy and Marylou, for a couple of tunes.



The afternoon ended with Phyllis Edamatsu, who came up from Dover, and Joe Alexander.

January 21, 2007

The open-mic got started early with a "stealth" performance by Jerry Jacoby. He snuck in "under the radar" and played before most customers had arrived. *Editor's note: well, he was in the Air Force, after all!*

Susan Shertok, Dave Kupsis (using his Roland), and Joe Alexander then played individually, although accompanied occasionally by Joe Ragan on guitar.

Ed Tafelski then performed several tunes, including a couple of beautiful original pieces. He also performed the classic, "Nola".

Joe Oberly performed several Irish tunes on a newly acquired, but very old RIO accordion. This 120 bass, "student size" instrument is in good condition and sounded great.

Joe was followed by John Maiorano playing his very versatile Excelsior midi.

Two members of the folk group Ashling Ah'lyn (Ash-ling Ah-len, Gaelic for "beautiful fantasy") appeared today. Dorothy (flute) and Davy (guitar) did several numbers. Their full band has a repertoire ranging from Irish, folk, rock, country, blues and originals. See the "want" ads below for more info.

Richard DiBlassio finished the day with a variety of tunes. He introduced the "Delaware Accordion Club Theme", original lyrics put to music similar to "Just Because". Many know that Richard usually includes a novelty or two during his sets. Besides the "DAC Theme" he also performed a humorous, slightly bawdy, version of "The Sheik of Araby".

coming up, please let the editor know.

John Collins at Shady Maple Smorgasbord

John contacted Joe Alexander to say he plays every Friday and Saturday night, from 5 - 8 pm.

Shady Maple Smorgasbord

129 Toddy Drive

East Earl, PA 17519

717-354-

8222 800-238-7363

www.shady-maple.com

AAMS - 20th Annual Festival and Symposium

March 2 - 4, 2007

The Inn at Valley Forge (formerly - Valley Forge Hilton)

251 West DeKalb Pike

King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

610-337-1200 610-337-1959 (fax)

Special room rate - \$94.00 + tax (mention

American Accordion Musicological Society by

February 8, 2007)

The festival will be honoring Lenn Feldmann and Stan Darrow this year. Numerous workshops, competitions and concerts will be held throughout the weekend. Featured artists will be Tony

Lovello and Vitaliy Pirog.

Editor's note: Tony Lovello and Vitaliy appeared in Delaware as part of Lisa Cristofich's Accordicats Concert series a couple of years ago.

Many of us remember Tony doing his "patented" bellows shake.

A couple years prior to that, Vitaliy came from Philadelphia one Sunday afternoon and just blew us away at the DAC open mic session. Last summer at the American Accordionist Association Festival in Buffalo, New York, he walked away with the \$10,000 first prize. These musicians are top notch!

For more info and registration forms:

www.aamsaccordionfestival.com

or

FUTURE EVENTS



If anyone knows of an accordion event



Joanna Arnold-Darrow
ACME Accordion School
322 Haddon Avenue
Westmont, New Jersey 18108
856-854-6628

radio program from 7:00 to 8:00 PM every Sunday and listen for an announcement. The station can be heard at FM 91.3 or www.wvud.org.

National Accordion Convention

March 7 - 11, 2007
Richardson Hotel
701 E. Campbell Road at Highway 75
Richardson, Texas
\$69.00/night plus tax
972-231-9600
866-593-6300 (toll free)

National Button Accordion Festival

May 25 - 27, 2007
Sponsored by the Yukon Czech Hall and the National Accordion Association.
“Come and play your music! YOU ARE THE ENTERTAINMENT!” : music, dancing, food, jamming , concerts, performances.

Contact:
National Accordion Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 57-0533
Dallas, TX 75357
972-270-0770
www.accordions.com/naa
NatlAccordion@SBCGlobal.net

Yukon Czech Hall
205 N. Czech Hall Road
P.O. Box 850456
Yukon, Oklahoma 73058
405-324-8073 www.czechhall.com

Formerly called the Texas Accordion Association, Norman Seaton states the NAA convention welcomes all levels of accordion expertise on all types of accordions. The convention is very busy but fun. They don't feature competitions or championships, preferring to leave those to the various teaching organizations.

For info contact:
Dick Albreski at 405-721-0564
Ron Pivovar at rpivovar@verizon.net

“The nations most musically diverse accordion convention!”

KIOTAC (Kimberly Old Time Accordion Championships)

July 9 - 14, 2007
Contact:
KIOTAC
PO Box 473
Kimberley, BC V1A 3B9
Canada

Editor's note: Jerry Jacoby has attended a couple of times and has had a great time. Tony Cristofich and his daughter, Lisa, also attended last year.

888-454-6822 (toll free)
250-427-4547 www.kiotac.ca *Editor's note: as of this issue, the website was not yet listing participants or schedule.*

Dick Contino on WVUD

DJ Brian Lee, Richard DiBlassio and Joe Oberly have been interviewing Dick Contino. Brian is putting a show together that will include music and interview segments. There's no date yet for the airing. Tune in to Brian's "Scratchy Grooves"

Future DAC Open Mic Sessions

Open to the public:
First State Diner & Restaurant
at I-95 Exit 1, Route 896 North
Newark, Delaware 19713
302-733-0442 302-733-0429 (fax)



WHAT'S SHAKIN'



www.firststatediner.com

02-18-2007 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm 03-18-2007 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm 04-15-2007 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm 05-20-2007 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm 06-17-2007 Sunday ***** (No Session)

07-15-2007 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm



FOR SALE OR WANTED

Looking for a particular piece of music or instrument repair? Found an old instrument you want to sell or give away? Tell the editor and it will go in the next newsletter.

Wanted: accordionist. Ashling Ah'lyn (a Cecil County, Maryland, folk music group, very close to Newark, Delaware) is looking for an accordion player (as well as a bassist, violinist, vocalist); part time for fun and profit (hope to increase the profit part); lots of Irish music with oldies, blues, bluegrass, country and more mixed in; check out www.pagerealm.com/ashlingahlyn and contact Davy at 410-398-8171 or skydancer@comcast.net.

For Sale: new book by Carmen Vitanza titled "My Accordion, the Music of My Life"; send \$23.95 (\$26.95 in Canada) to Carmen Vitanza, 3842 Berkley Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026; price includes postage (allow 4-6 weeks for delivery); 610-626-3644 Carmaccord@aol.com



ACCORDION REPAIRS

New/used instruments/equipment may be available, as well.

ACCORDION CONNECTION LLC Arthur and Sue Welch 136 Route 106, Unit 1 Gilmanton, New Hampshire 03237 603-267-8600 800-328-5227

FAX 603-267-8667 www.accordionconnection.com

ACME ACCORDION SCHOOL Stanley Darrow 322 Haddon Avenue Westmont, New Jersey 18108 856-854-6628

CINTIOLI'S MUSIC CENTER 5359 Oxford Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19124 215-533-2050 215-533-2053 www.cintiolimusic.com

KUKLEWICZ, BILL Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18706-3006 823-4957 570-

SORCSEK, MARTIN R. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042-9032 717-273-5944

TAFELSKI, ED New Castle, Delaware 19720 302-655-3529

WELL-TEMPERED MUSIC David Cottrell 293 Lewisville Road Elkton, Maryland 21921 410-392-2279



NEW DAC SUPPORTERS

The club welcomes the following supporters:

Sue Bryson Wilmington, Delaware Lester Rittle Lewes, Delaware Richard Toto Wilmington, Delaware



SHOW OVER - LATCH THE BELLOWS