

WHAT'S SHAKIN'

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Delaware Accordion Club Newsletter
WHAT'S SHAKIN'

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www.delawareaccordionclub.com



EDITOR'S SOLO

- **IMPORTANT NEWS! WE'RE MOVING TO A NEW OPEN MIC LOCATION!** We've had a very successful run at the Bear Diner for the past year and a half. The manager, Jeff, has been very accomodating to us. However, with success comes growing pains. Our mailing list is up to 60 people and, eventhough you don't all show up all the time, we simply have outgrown the space available to us at the Bear Diner. Consequently, Joe Oberly and I have made arrangements with the First State Diner in Newark, Delaware, to hold open mic sessions there beginning on August 20, 2006. The room we will be using is much larger, so if you bring your friends and relatives you shouldn't have a problem getting a seat. The location couldn't be easier to get to: it's right at I-95 Exit 1B, Route 896 North for Newark. See enclosed map. The menu is extensive, so please come and **have a late lunch or early dinner to support the restaurant** (they're supporting us!) and have some fun.
- Jack Chrustowski sent the following quotation he saw printed on the program of a U.S. Army Band concert: "Music regulates the soldier's waking and sleeping, spurs him on in marching and fighting, and accompanies on occasions of joy and sadness." Jack is a former 101st Airborne

paratrooper, having made 38 jumps. Yikes! For some of us our scariest experience has been listening to me play!



PAST EVENTS

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

April 29, 2006 TLB IDOL Competition

Several DAC members were in the audience to cheer on Richard DiBlassio, who participated in the variety show held at the Three Little Bakers Dinner Theatre near Newark, Delaware. Although he didn't win the competition he enjoyed the experience. At the DAC open mic in May, Richard, with his customary good humor, played and sang the tune that "lost me the competition: Let's Fall In Love".

May 7, 2006 Richard DiBlassio on Radio Station WVUD (FM 91.3)

Brian Lee, a disc jockey at WVUD, invited Richard DiBlassio to perform on his "Scratchy Grooves" radio program after having heard Richard at a recent DAC open mic session. He told his listeners all about the DAC, Richard and Joe Oberly, who was also in the studio. Following is a special report created from excerpts from a letter sent to the editor by Charles Mariani, an enthusiastic supporter of the DAC.



SPECIAL REPORT

Then!!! He put Richard on-the-air! His listeners immediately began phoning the station. When Richard had finished playing this first number, Brian put down the phone and explained how well received Richard's playing had been. He asked him if he would play maybe two more numbers. Richard played George Gershwin's "But Not For

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Me" and "Somewhere My Love".

The phones rang off the hooks! Calls from DE, PA, NJ & MD - Brian said he couldn't remember getting such enthusiastic calls! He stated that both he and his audience were mesmerized!! And - could Richard play a couple more? Then Richard sang and played "Taking A Chance On Love" and "Let's Fall In Love".

The phones didn't quit ringing. Brian said he hated to ask Richard to "play his butt off - but WVUD is an audience oriented station that likes to give listeners what they want." Brian said, "We can call this the 'Richard DiBlassio Show' " and asked if he could play through to the hour's end. So, Richard played four more tunes, thanked everyone for listening and put in another good plug for the Delaware Accordion Club.

Lisa Cristofich's Accordicats Series

May 23, 2006 Don Lipovac

A good crowd turned out to hear Don Lipovac at the Charcoal Pit & Sports Bar, just west of Wilmington. Don was the 1958 American Accordion Association National Champion, has appeared on the Lawrence Welk Show, has degrees in music theory and education, and has been an outstanding contributor to the preservation of Tamburitza music.

June 11 - 18, 2006 St. Anthony's Italian Festival

Several bands that played during the week long event featured accordion music within some of their sets.

Richard DiBlassio was spotted playing his accordion on Lincoln Street to help celebrate the opening of the new restaurant there, called "Mangia! Mangia!". Photos are on the DAC website.

Past DAC Open Mic Sessions

May 21, 2006

(Editor's Note: I was unable to attend this session and want to thank Marji Matyniak for taking notes during the day. I'm going to list some of the tunes (there were many more) played by the performers just to give you a sampling of the great variety of music that is played when we get together.)

This open mic session featured a number of new participants who traveled a couple of hours to perform. Matt Hedson came from Philadelphia and played "Wish Upon a Star" and "I'm Confessing that I Love You". Sonny Donchez drove down from Barto, PA and played "How Great Thou Art", "You Are My Sunshine" and "Paddy's Oberek". Then the duo of Carol (accordion) and Len Wolek (banjo) came from Frankford, DE and played "Alabama Bound", "Marie", "Ma, He's Makin' Eyes at Me" and "The Clarinet Polka".

Others performing were: John Maiorano ("Spanish Eyes", "Begin the Beguine"), Jack Chrustowski ("Lady Be Good", "Santa Lucia"), Richard DiBlassio ("Let's Fall In Love", "Pennsylvania Polka"), Bob Shoemaker ("12th Street Rag", "Moonlight Serenade"), Sue Shertok and Eric Rangell ("Hava Nagila", "Tzena Tzena").

It was another great "variety show" at the DAC open mic.

July 16, 2006

We had a first time appearance by Carmen Vitanza, a professional accordionist from Drexel Hill, PA. Carmen has had a wonderful "second vocation" as a musician and recently wrote and published a book titled "My Accordion, the Music of My Life". He played a variety of swing and jazz pieces for us. *(Editor's note: to me, this is what makes our open mics so interesting - we just never know who will show up! Please see enclosed handouts for info about Carmen and his book.)*

Another first time visitor was Marjorie Vance-

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George, her daughter and grandchildren. Marjorie hasn't played much recently but by the sound of the tunes she played you wouldn't know it.

Other performers were Darlene Laird, Susan Shertok, Eric Rangell, Dave Kupsis, Bob Shoemaker, Joe Ragan and Joe Oberly.

FUTURE EVENTS



If anyone knows of an accordion event coming up, please let the editor know.

Wilmington Accordion Festival (produced by Lisa Cristofich)

September 16, 2006 (Saturday)

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
2313 Concord Pike (Route 202)
Fairfax
Wilmington, Delaware

Advance registration required: call Joshua & Lisa at 302 -993-0374

Registration (12:30 PM)

Workshops (1:00 - 5:00 PM):

1:00 PM Alex Mexiner - European/American Polkas

2:00 PM Richard DiBlassio - Master Class

3:00 PM Shirley Johnson - Rhythms and Styling

OR

Stanley Darrow & Joanna Arnold-Darrow - Accordion

Kaleidoscope

Edamatsu - Ragtime

4:00 PM Phyllis Favorites

OR

Henry Doktorski - Guido and Pietro Diero: Piano Accordion Pioneers

Dinner (5:00 - 6:30 PM)

Concert (6:30 - 8:15 PM): Westmont Philharmonia Accordion Orchestra and

Solo Performance by Henry Doktorski

Costs: Workshops (total for all workshops, all afternoon) - \$20 (\$25 at door)

Dinner and Concert - \$30

Concert Only - \$20

Oktoberfest at Stoudt's Brewery Hall

Fri. Sep. 29 6:30-10:30 PM Joe Kroboth

Sat. Sep. 30 5:00-10:00 PM Kapelle Fellas

Sun. Oct. 1 2:00- 6:00 PM Al Meixner

Sun. Oct. 8 2:00- 6:00 PM Kapelle Fellas

Sun. Oct. 15 2:00- 6:00 PM Joe Weber

Sun. Oct. 22 2:00- 6:00 PM Joe Kroboth

Sun. Oct. 29 2:00- 6:00 PM Walt Groller

Stoudt's Brewing Company

Route 272

Adamstown, PA 19501

717-484-4386 www.stoudtsbeer.com

(Editor's note: Stoudt's Brewery will be holding its October Fest every Sunday in October. It's a great place for food, music and dancing. Adjacent to it is a complex of approximately one bazillion antique/collectibles dealers. And also nearby is the unusual Stoudtburg Village, a group of owner occupied buildings featuring retail stores on the first floor and living quarters upstairs. Of course, this is the way stores were many years ago. These are unusual because they are not in a city and they are new construction.)

Jimmy Sturr

October 15, 2006 7:00 PM

Grand Opera House

818 North Market Street

Wilmington, Delaware 19801-3080

5577 800-37-GRAND

302-652-

www.grandopera.org

Future DAC Open Mic Sessions

Open to the public:

First State Diner & Restaurant
at I-95 Exit 1B, Route 896 North
Newark, Delaware 19713

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302-733-0442 302-733-0429 (fax)
www.firststatediner.com

08-20-2006 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm 09-17-
2006 Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm 10-15-2006
Sunday 2:00 - 5:00 pm 11-19-2006 Sunday
2:00 - 5:00 pm 12-17-2006 Sunday 2:00 -
5:00 pm 01-21-2007 Sunday 2:00 -
5:00 pm

Bill Kuklewicz Wilkes-Barre,
Pennsylvania Marji Matyniak New Castle,
Delaware Rodney Meilinger
Hellertown, Pennsylvania Charles Nunzio
Basking Ridge, New Jersey Art and Pat Olsen
Newark, Delaware Marjorie Vance-George
Smyrna, Delaware Carmen Vitanza Drexel
Hill, Pennsylvania Len and Carol Wolek
Frankford, Delaware

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.

For Sale: Antique Tanzbaer 28-key player concertina (Germany ca.1920); plays from paper roll - one original roll included (info on where to obtain more); fair playing condition -would be improved with additional restoration; \$575.00; contact Paul W. Harris at 302-731-2502 or JoPaHarris@aol.com for questions and details of condition.

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 weeweeks for delivery); 610-626-3644 Carmaccord@aol.com

Accordion repairs: Bill Kuklewicz in Wilkes-Barre, PA; 570-823-4957.

SHOW OVER - LATCH THE BELLOWS



NEW MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES



The club welcomes the following members and supporters:

Sonny Donchez Barto, Pennsylvania