

WAC Officers

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July 26, 2011

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Dear Friends of the Accordion,

For those members who took advantage of Accordions International's invitation on June 27th to experience the all Concerto Orchestra, the expertise of individual camp attendees, and the Concerto sounds of Gordon Kohl, it was an exciting night of music. The orchestra performed four numbers and there were solos from several individual members. Mr. Kohl eloquently performed music from virtually all genres. Polkas, waltzes, jitterbugs, boogies, beguines, foxtrots, pasodobles, and on and on virtually streamed from his instrument. Gordon brilliantly controlled a variety of instruments from his Concerto. Saxophones, clarinets, guitars, and basses were all summoned at his fingertips to make a complete dance band surround his acoustic accordion sound. Truly, Gordon is a master of the Concerto and the Commanders House at Fort Douglas was a lovely setting for this evening of fine music.

On July 11th at Kowloon Cafe, the WAC witnessed the ascent of a relatively new class of accordion music. This accordion music consisted of a "racy and raucous" mixture combined with folk, punk, innuendo, and ethnic qualities intertwined with bellows, and spread out on a foot-stomp board. For those of you who missed this incredible opportunity to observe the sensual side of the accordion, you obviously missed "The Accordion Babes". Yes, indeed, that is what they call themselves. In regular social life, they are known as Renee de la Prade and Amber Lee Baker, both hailing from Northern California. They were passing through Salt Lake City on our club meeting night and asked to entertain us. Those of us who remember Perry Como singing *Temptation*, or Gene Kelly singing *Singing In The Rain*, or Donald O'Connor singing *Make 'Em Laugh* may not know that those singers owe their successes with those songs to Renee's grandfather, songwriter Nacio Herb Brown.

Come August 1st, we will have the great honor of listening to the "bard of the bellows", "boss of the buttons", "king of the keys", "sultan of switches", "rector of accordion repair", not to mention a very, very, good accordionist. Once again the "Sentient Superior of Sweet & Sour Pork Balls" will grace us with his renditions of accordion classics. Our very own Lou Fornoff, a true accordioniste, will return to our stage with, no doubt, incredible renditions from the Golden Age of the Accordion.

Also performing on August 1st will be Brian Hubrich, son of Ralph Hubrich (the "bus-thieving" accordionist) who played quite a repertoire of pieces for us last year. Brian has toured Japan with his accordion, is very well known throughout the Wasatch Front with his accordion expertise and wit, and has been a JetBlue flight attendant for some years. With his skill and wit, he may be the person who rides the beverage cart back and forth at the whims of pilot's altitude stick playing all sorts of songs for the passengers. Between Lou and Brian, the evening will be filled with surprises.

Lastly, we would like to encourage everyone to volunteer to play a few songs, as we love to hear from our members and friends. We look forward to seeing you on August 1st at 6:30pm at Kowloon Café.

Keep Squeezin'

Dave Marasco

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