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December 1, 2011

Dear Friends of the Accordion,

It is official! Yo-Yo Ma, the acclaimed cello player, has declared the accordion a difficult instrument. He indicated in the Sunday Parade Magazine that in addition to the cello, he also learned the piano. However, for his birthday, his wife purchased him an accordion. Mr. Ma (I guess that's how one would refer to him in a formal sense) stated "I've always been a fan. It's a challenging instrument so I'll have to get some lessons." The juries are still out regarding the difficulties of the bagpipes and the sackbut (yes, that is a bona fide instrument).

The Las Vegas International Accordion Convention has finished for another year. On a personal note, I cannot say enough about the magnitude of the event, the number of performers, the quality of the performers, the amount of education and instruction imparted on all who partook. The entire event showcased the accordion as a versatile instrument in all genres of music. Big names such as Archibald, Paslay, Whall, Benevidez, Pinarelli, Sagers, Patterson, Pino, and Moores earned their stars on the "Pasquali Walk of Fame." Accordion stars including Frank Marocco, Mario Tacca, Alex Sevastian, Angelo DiPippo, Peter & Mady Soave, Joan Cochran Sommers, and Gordon Kohl contributed immensely to the quality of performance and instruction. There is no other opportunity to experience under a single roof the grandeur of the greatest of the elite accordionists (jazz, classical, and entertainment) than at this convention. If anyone is interested in some musical information picked up at the convention, see me at the Christmas gathering, or if you would like to see pictures from the event, go to [AccordionStars.com](http://AccordionStars.com).

Our Christmas party will be held on Monday, December 12, 2011, at 6:30pm at Accordions International. Doors will open at 6:15 to enable the participants to set up for the potluck dinner. For those interested in playing, please have one or two short Christmas pieces ready to play following dinner. Dinner will be served and eaten in the back room. As a courtesy to Accordions International, no food will be permitted in the showroom where we will share our music.

The next Wasatch Accordion Club meeting will be held on January 9, 2012, at Kowloon Café. Stay tuned for a list of performers at that meeting.

Lastly, we would encourage each of you or anyone you know to play for our club. It is a great venue to try your wings as a performer before a friendly and understanding audience.

We look forward to seeing you on December 12th at 6:15pm at Accordions International for our annual Christmas party.

Keep Squeezin'

Dave Marasco

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