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 Kevin Christensen
 Wayne & Julie Eckman

January 31, 2013

Dear Friends of the Accordion,

On January 7, the Wasatch Accordion Club experienced the sounds of four club members. First, Jaqui Patterson masterfully played another piece by John Gart. Her performance of Scherzo, which she played in concert with the Jordan High School Orchestra, continues to demonstrate her skillful control of the keyboard, basses, bellows, and dynamics of the accordion. Second on stage were instructor and student, Paul Pasquali and Molly Creel. Molly demonstrated she could both follow Paul's lead and guide Paul when she has the lead. Molly's finger dexterity and bellows control were well displayed, as well. She then played a familiar tune to those of us older than a "lot of decades," Lawrence Welk's theme song Bubbles in the Wine. This piece has more syncopation than I have when I try to walk and chew gum. Molly played this song without missing a beat and brought back some memories of days gone past.

Third to perform was yours truly. I played two pieces in memory of two big stars, both of whom passed away within the past year: Andy Williams and Frank Marocco. My first song was Moon River, the song that not only made Andy Williams famous, but also became the theme song for his television show during the 1960's. My second song was a mellow tune of Frank Marocco whose musical skills enabled him to think of this song while he was walking on a summer's morn to his local grocery store a few blocks away. Frank's Groove likely required two fingers on Mr. Marocco's left hand, and one finger on his right. It took all ten of mine plus three toes to accomplish this piece---but it was worth it. To culminate the evening, Paul Pasquali played a dozen or so pieces on his Concerto. We were truly graced to watch the master play his invention. I, for one, look forward to my days ahead when I will be using my Concerto in meaningful fashion--stay tuned!!!

At our February meeting, we will once again hear the mellow sounds of Wayne and Julie Eckman. The accordion/violin, husband /wife duet will once again entertain us with standard, classical, and popular songs. Julie claims she has been practicing on her latest violin---she said it has its makings from on high. It's called a Stratacyberus. The sounds that emanate from this instrument are soft, vibrant, airy; almost heavenly, she says. I also understand she arrives dressed in a beautiful mother-of-pearl cloud outfit. Wayne will arrive in his usual insurance-gray, rain cloud colored attire. Umbrellas may be necessary.

In addition to our husband and wife duet, word on the street has it that a club member ran into a vagrant playing his accordion on a street corner in South Jordan. The club member gave him our meeting address and time, and voila, wouldn't you know it, Ron Pinarelli said he would be here faster than minced garlic doing the tarantella in hot olive oil. He said it might take him a while because he has to play from corner to corner to get here. For Ron, it's worth the wait!

As part of the Wasatch Accordion Club bylaws, we must hold elections for two positions: president and secretary. Our search for new leadership continues as I write this newsletter. The dues renewal drive has been very successful, to date. Most member families have paid up.

Our next club meeting will be held at Kowloon Café at 6:30pm on February 4th. We look forward to your presence and pleasure, and any other quality that may follow you to the meeting.

"Keep Squeezin"

Dave Marasco

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