

AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION MASTER CLASS AND CONCERT SERIES – THE SEMINARS

OUR 15<sup>TH</sup> SMASH YEAR – DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL – MODERATOR/CURATOR

WELCOME HOME SKINNY!

(almost)not(t)here

One point of view:

The Accordion NEVER went out of favor. “Those Dark Days” NEVER HAPPENED. WHY? Accordionists were heard everywhere and everyplace – in movie soundtracks, concertos with major symphony orchestras, television, amateur talent shows, weddings, bars, bar mitzvahs, on recordings by The Beatles, The Young Rascals, The Beach Boys, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Billy Joel or if you were from Duluth Minnesota, accordions were playing polkas 24/7 and still are along with conjunto and acadian cultures. Back in the 40’s and 50’s, if you heard an accordion on the radio and it was dry tuned you’d say: that’s an EXCELSIOR! And if it were wet tuned, that’s a HOHNER! – or That’s Amore, Dean! No one ever cared WHO it was, as long as it was an accordion. What developed was an elite society of accordionists who flourished by disappearing BEHIND THE WALL – IN THE CREVISES – the forefront of “THE NEW ANONYMINITY” of today - preceding The Residents, The Blue Man Group or Peter Duchin and other service units that prided itself in its non-id/non-ego. There is no chicer dimension! - except Terminal Chic – so chic that you’re dead (ala Anna Nicole or Karen Carpenter). SO, WELCOME TO OBLITERATION – THE ULTIMATE CHOICE IN ARTISTIC PERFECTION! GIGGING IS ART! EL-BLOTTO!

Another point of view:

The Accordion went OUT OF STYLE in and around 1958. Even though Bill Haley, Joey Dee and Connie Francis used it, it was unfashionable to play it or to be seen with it. This started in about 1956. Also Lawrence Welk came on TV and the new youth group, teenagers, had difficulty claiming the accordion as an instrument of anarchy - like the SKINNY Fender Stratocaster guitar. 1958! – ACCORDION EL ZIPPO!

Still another point of view:

Teenagers were dancing to Lawrence Welk on American Bandstand in 1960 – his hit song “CALCUTTA” TOPPED THE CHARTS – complete with a Myron Floren accordion solo. NO PROBLEM with the accordion. Actually, no one brought up the subject.

Yes, another point to view

The accordion accompanied Elvis in the movie, G.I. blues: a rockin’ version of Tales of Hoffman and Wooden Heart (actually a German folk song). In the latter, Elvis actually sings in German and it was a minor hit. There are also photos of (SKINNY) Elvis wearing an accordion as well as John Lennon.

Yet another point of view

The Accordion ACTUALLY went out of style in 1956, but it took two years to kick in. Young accordionists were taking it to parties and forming bands (combos) with the notion of the accordion becoming a “CHICK MAGNET”. It wasn’t. The Stratocaster won out. It was thin, electric and phallic.

Another point of view

Ricky Nelson played and sang a duet with Laurie Kalin on guitars. It was at a teenage party on The Ozzie and Harriet Show in 1958. They played and sang "Just Because", a famous Polka in Rock and Roll Style. FAT friend Wally remarked: If I knew they were going to play this, I would have brought my accordion. A friend remarked: Why? You can't play it. - - - and more points of view -----

Dick Contino made more appearances on The Ed Sullivan Show than Elvis and The Beatles combined. The accordion was featured weekly on The Lawrence Welk Show for thirty years and still to this day in reruns. One could always find a New Music/Avant Garde album that featured an accordion someplace.

NO ACCORDION STARS – classical, Bruce S., jazz, Duran/Duran, country, Bruce H., Sheryl, cajun, Nirvana.

Sinatra would go hear Joe Mooney sing and play his accordion. An infamous four piece combo including accordion would sometimes back up Sinatra in his intimate, private appearances.

There were and still are PLENTY of stars. I can name about 100 – no Americans – maybe Pee Wee King, Phil Baker, Myron, Dick, Frank, Tony, Charlie, Danny, Carmen, Joe, Art, Will and the Brothers P and G.

Don't bother with star crap – I like the smell of the old accordion I picked up at a garage sale. It reminds me of my grandmother whom I never met. I heard that she made a mean paprika soup. This musty accordion smells like soup. Serve up Balkan/Croatian/Romany/Serbian/Franco/Russian/Ukrainian blues.

I SEE AND HEAR THE ACCORDION EVERYWHERE NOW! – even when and where there are no accordions.

Not hearing the accordion because it is contributing to another dimension making it THE RADIANT ACCORDION - Kurt Weill - Tangos - Chamame - Tom Waits - Indie Bands - Berio - New Music Groups.

WELCOME HOME SKINNY! – DISSAPEAR WITH US INTO THE WONDERFUL RADIANT ABYSS. RESURRECT WITH US INTO VISIBILITY/ INVISIBILITY. THE ACCORDION IS THE STAR! Yes, Madonna! – the \* and yes, the ultimate Chick Magnet: virtual/dry/wet/mo/hyper/fire/free/standard/giants/button/key – RADIANT!

(Micki Goodman)(Dr. Robert Young Mc Mahan)(Paul Stein)(Marni Rice)(Dr. Mark Birnbaum)(John Foti)  
(Ken Laufer)(Doug Makovka)(Cristina Speligene)(Carl Riehl)(Dot)(Mary Tokarski)(David First)(David Stoler)(Rocco Jerry)(Benjamin Ickies)(John Presnell)(Brian Dewan)(Lee Mc Clure)(Faithe Deffner)  
(Linda Reed)(Kevin Friedrich)(Will Holshouser))(Dr. Marion Jacobson)(Jerome Jolles)(Art Bailey)  
(Liam Robinson)(Ingrid Kvale)(Kathleen Tipton)(Rachid Eladlouni)(Godfrey)(Lorraine)(Dr. Ron Sarno)(others)( ) ( ) ( -AND – (DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL – MODERATOR/CURATOR)

WE'LL BE (almost)not(t)here – AT THE SEMINARS – OUR 15<sup>TH</sup> SMASH YEAR

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