

ALABAMA ACCORDIONISTS ASSOCIATION



THE SCORE

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3 • JULY 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,
Our July get-together was a lot of fun. We had new people attending and some old members that we haven't seen in a while. And, of course, y'all know how time flies when you are having fun! I was proud to demonstrate the Roland wireless accordion's capabilities during the luncheon music. It was the first time to try out the freedom of walking around with no cables holding me in one spot. The main concern is making sure that the Roland has its battery charged and that the transmitter has fresh batteries.

The Fall meeting will be Nov. 5. Hopefully this will allow our members to finish up Oktoberfest performances and still attend the meeting.

Yours Truly,
Jim Bossert
President

Next Meeting Date Nov. 5

First United Methodist
Church, Clanton, AL

10:00 - Orchestra Rehearsal

(Colonel Bogey, William Tell, Accordion Blues, Cole Porter Tribute)

11:00 Workshop by Gene Omasta (Computer Tech)

12:00 Luncheon/Music by John Seay

12:45 - Program

Get your reservations in to Jim Wadowick EARLY!

Phone: 334-566-1664

wadowick@troycable.net

\$\$\$ DUES \$\$\$

**STILL A FEW MEMBERS
WHO HAVE NOT YET
PAID! SO, PLEASE PAY
YOUR DUES FOR 2011 .
Send \$15.00 check to:**

Myra Fields

2395 Sipsey Rd.

Jasper, AL 35504

**If you are not sure if you
have paid, call Myra at:**

205-648-3440

"An Offer You Can't Refuse"

Gene Omasta will be presenting a workshop on the use of Finale NotePad software at the Fall meeting. The aim of the workshop is to encourage all our members who are computer/internet users to obtain the Finale program. With this program it will be possible to receive, open, print, AND HEAR music sent by the provider (me). The process is extremely simple and "user friendly" for both the receiver and sender. If any of you wish to receive music from Jim Wadowick (from his catalog or just orchestra parts), it will be possible to obtain it quickly. Notepad is very reasonable to purchase. Go online to www.finalemusic.com/store. Finale NotePad 2011 is \$9.95 for a download, or \$19.95 for download with CD backup. "An Offer You Can't Refuse!"

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PROJECTS

July 16 Minutes
by Gene Omasta

John W. Lawrence: Member Profile

The morning began at 10:00 am with the club orchestra practicing Colonel Bogey March, Bastille Day, William Tell Overture, and Accordion Blues. These pieces will be featured on the Cory Pesaturo concert on Feb. 4, 2012.

The business meeting was called to order at 11:30 by president Jim Bossert.

- Treasurer Myra Fields reported a balance of \$5,937.02.
- John Lawrence, new member from Pell City was introduced to the club.
- Jim Bossert reported that the election of officers will be held at the November meeting.

The thirty members and guests were entertained during lunch by Jim Bossert on his Roland digital accordion. The after lunch program was performed by the two ensembles, playing William Tell Overture, Accordion Blues, and Bastille Day, followed by a number of soloists. Jim Wadowick led a sing-along of old favorites and the club song. Gene Omasta led the Happy Birthdays for recent and forthcoming birthdays. Next club meeting is November 5 at the same location.

PLEASE!!!

**Support Our Meetings...Support Our
Feb. 4, 2012 Concert**

John was Born March 10, 1929 in Cleveland, Ohio, moved several times, and ended up residing in Toledo, Ohio. He became interested in accordion at age eleven. He played a 24, then 48, and finally 120 bass accordion. After a few lessons he won a contest which sent him to Chicago to compete further. An avid model airplane builder, John's big interest in life became aviation. His aviation career led him at age 15 to join the Civil Air Patrol, where he gained some flying time and ground school. He flew solo at age 16 on August 6, 1945, the same day the first atomic bomb was dropped! He earned his private pilot license a year later. His flying heroes were military flyers, and he entered the Marine Corps in order to get into military flight training. He completed boot camp at Parris Island, SC, and was assigned to an aviation unit at Quantico, VA, but did not get pilot training there. So, he bought an airplane of his own. He later was promoted to corporal and became a staff driver on base. He left the Marines and became an Ohio National Guard P-51 mechanic. With his GI bill he obtained more schooling at the U. of Toledo and also more pilot training, after which he became an FAA training instructor at the school. His fearless youth led him into a dangerous crop-dusting job for one year. During this time he met his future wife, Helena. Next, John enlisted as an aviation cadet in the US Air Force and became a



military rated pilot on May 16, 1955. At this time he married Helena in a military wedding. Next, John became a helicopter pilot. He flew missions in French Morocco, and then was assigned to Randolph AFB in Texas as a helicopter instructor. After this assignment he became a commercial pilot for a small airline flying a DC-3 out of St. Louis, MO. He was recalled to military duty during the Cuban missile crisis. He told me emphatically that "this country still doesn't know how close we came to atomic warfare." He was then assigned to three years flying transport aircraft in Hawaii. He then flew 75 Helicopter missions to rescue downed pilots during the Viet Nam war. For this he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, and was promoted to Major. He then was assigned to Patrick AFB in FL to support the NASA program. At that time he flew Vice President Spiro Agnew to the space center right before the first moon landing craft (Apollo 11) took off, flying around the spacecraft the night before its mission. He was then stationed at Maxwell AFB where he earned his B.S. degree at Troy State University and also became a Lt. Colonel. After leaving the military he became an FAA operations inspector for the next 12 years before retiring.

During his career John served three years as a Marine, thirty-three years with the Air Force and National Guard, and twelve years with the FAA. His accordion was always with him, but not always played much. He has recently taken a renewed interest in it and welcomes the membership in our club. We welcome John W. Lawrence, a true AMERICAN HERO, to our club!

"A New Practice Tool" by Gene Omasta

As you can tell from the several articles in this issue, Jim Wadowick and I are excited about a discovery we made that could help in preparation for our ensemble performances. We found an easy way to hear the music Jim provides for us. Additionally, we can alter (slow down) the tempo as we listen/practice it. You all know that Jim creates the scores for all the music we perform (which include ALL THE PARTS). From the score he distills the parts which he has to e-mail or give us individually. Finale NotePad has the capability for electronically playing the score with an instrument of your choice (120 instruments to select from), and at the tempo of your choosing.

The discovery we made is that a composition can be transferred from Jim's Finale program to another person's computer if it has NotePad installed on it (like mine does!). Jim's Finale is the high-priced program, but NotePad is only \$9.95, and can be downloaded from the internet instantly. With the composition imported into Finale NotePad, and wearing earphones (or your computer connected to an amplifier), you can play along with the music AT ANY TEMPO YOU SELECT

I will be giving a workshop at the November meeting to explain in detail how to obtain NotePad, how to import a composition, etc., but we urge you to go ahead NOW in ordering NotePad. To purchase and download NotePad, go to:

[Http://www.finalemusic.com/store](http://www.finalemusic.com/store). An Offer You Can't Refuse!

Harrington's "Accordion World Museum"



You may obtain information about this museum at this web-site:

accordion@sprynet.com

About 20 years ago, I made the first trip to the Texas Accordion Convention (now known as the National Accordion Convention) where I delivered a workshop on left bass patterns. At that convention I met Helmi Harrington who was also engaged by the convention to do a workshop on accordion repair. We became accordion friends from that time.

Helmi is not only an excellent repair person, but at one time ran a school for accordion repair. She is also an excellent musician who plays all the various types of free-reed instruments, including both piano and chromatic accordions and concertina. At the convention where we first met, she performed on both piano accordion and concertina.

Later, when I first obtained my Pignini bayan, I discovered two notes (middle reeds) that would not respond. Believe it or not, Helmi, at that time, was living in Burnsville, MN, the same Minneapolis suburb where my son Kurt lived. So, on a visit to Kurt, I requested that Helmi

take a look at my bayan, which she did, and successfully got the reeds to play. Also by then, Helmi had established her first accordion museum in a former church in Duluth, MN. Mary and I took the opportunity to drive up to Duluth to visit her museum where we discovered the enormous collection of antique accordions. We were amazed at the various shapes and forms that accordions had taken over the years. I cannot describe these all to you, but suggest that you visit her new museum location in Superior, Wisconsin. It is worth your while to get a sense of accordion history.

Anecdote: When visiting Helmi's home in Burnsville, and later at the museum, we had a "cat experience." Helmi is quite a cat lover, and her cats have strong hair-shedding problems. After sitting down and waiting for my accordion repair at her house, I ended up thoroughly covered with white cat hair. Also, her cat's, being quite friendly, bequeathed a large gift of cat hair on us while visiting her museum. Mary and I had to purchase Scotch tape at a nearby Seven Eleven to remove all the cat hair. Nice museum, nice cat's, but watch out for them if you see them coming!

Theory Corner: Finale NotePad 2011

In the "old days" when our club was just a "baby," yours truly began writing music for our club ensemble to perform at meetings. Although I was using Finale, I wasn't aware of the potential of this product until Gene Omasta obtained Finale NotePad and asked me to send him a Finale file. He said that he was able to see the music on screen and listen to it with accordion sounds by asking NotePad to play it back with that sound. He was also able to change the speed of the music without changing its pitch.

When I sent him a file, he played it back to me over the telephone. I was amazed at the quality of the accordion's "sampled" sound. But, I discovered that several parameters in the music had to be addressed in its appearance on the page which I had not considered before.

1. I had never used tempo settings to ensure the playback tempo would give the piece its true character. Additionally, a piece that starts and ends in the same tempo only needs one tempo setting at the beginning. I needed to learn how to set tempo changes within a piece. My test piece was "Bastille Day," which had several tempo changes. After learning this process, I had to address style characteristics (articulations).
2. Playback with no articulations was completely tasteless. In the past I had relied on my demonstrating the style either at a meeting rehearsal or by means of a CD which I had to create by recording myself on ProTools and then furnishing the CD either at the meeting or through surface mail. (All quite expensive and labor intensive!) With my penchant for a crisp/staccato bass accompaniment, the music needed lots of staccato marks for bass and chord notes in the score. This addition, by itself, made the music more accordionistic sounding.
3. I also learned how to tell the score to play accordion "sampled" sounds. Gene, tells me that his sound reproduction capability on his equipment gives an even better accordion sound. With the end-user playing back the file, he has the potential with NotePad to add any of 120 instrument sounds to the music in the music file.

THEREFORE, I am asking that all club orchestra members obtain at least the \$9.95 version of Notepad from Finale (www.finalemusic.com/store) so I can send parts quickly online. They can then SLOW DOWN the playback to any speed needed for their own practice purpose if they want to play along with it. They will see the "bar" move across the notes as they hear it, so one's eye will be at the right place as one hears the music. One can also download/print the score. I can easily and quickly send the entire score and/or parts and let Finale NotePad do the playing and teaching for me!

ADDITIONALLY, memebtrs not in the orchestra may obtain any piece from my accordion music catalog FREE OF CHARGE, and receive the music and listen/print/study it with an electronic teacher! This is truly "AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE!"

Alabama Accordionists Association Agenda

Saturday, Nov 5, 2011

10:00 - 11:00 A.M. - Club Orchestra Rehearsal (Colonel Bogey, William Tell. Accordion Blues, Cole Porter Tribute)

11:00 A.M. - Workshop by Gene Omasta: A New Practice Technique With Finale NotePad

11:30 - Business Meeting

12:00 LUNCHEON: Music BY John Seay

1:00 P.M. PROGRAM

Accordion Blues/William Tell Overture - Orchestra

Cole Porter Tribute - Glenwood Quintet

Jealousy/Malaguena - Jim Wadowick

Lord's Prayer - Craig Funderburg, Jim Wadowick

TBA - Reid Matherne

Duet TBA - Myra Fields, Martha Miller

TBA - Jim Bossert

TBA - Gene Omasta

TBA - Jake Herzog

TBA - Kay Seymour

Sing-Along • Club Song • Photo Op

GOD BLESS AMERICA

God Bless America, land that I love

Stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from above

From mountains to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam

God Bless America my home sweet home, God Bless America my home sweet home

CLUB SONG (L'Accordeon e mobile)

VERSE I: I play ac-cor-di-on. It is a lot of fun. Prac-ti-cing scales and such, my friends think it's too much - "Green-sleeves" has changed some-how, "Twelve Days" seem lon-ger now. "God Rest Ye Mer-ry Gen-tle-men" is nice on ac-cor-di-en.

CHORUS! Pia-no is so bor-ing. Gui-tar leaves me snor-ing. ev-'ry thing is twice as fun on ac-cor-di-on AC-COR-DI-ON AC-COR-DI-ON AC-COR-DI-ON A-A-A-AC-COR-DI-ON

"La-dy of Spain" was right when she said "Si-lent Night" would be a lot of fun done on ac-cor-di-on. - "An-gels who've heard on high" just clutch their harps and sigh, wish-ing that they could sound like my ac-cor-di-ound.

(back to the CHORUS)



Whole Gang July 16, 2011

COMING EVENTS

November 5th Meeting in Clanton

Feb. 4, 2012 Concert in Birmingham

Featuring Core Pesaturo

Jan.13, 2013 Concert in Birmingham

Featuring Canadian Accordionist

Sevastian Alexander (pupil of Fredrik Lips)

(Currently accordionist with the "Gelato Quartet")