June Meeting Features Clifton Goodale

This month we will have a special guest performing for us, Clifton Goodale from Kerrville, Texas. Clifton is currently teaching accordion at Alamo Music Center on Main Avenue on Saturdays. In addition, the Music Department Director of Alamo Music, Gary Smith will be joining us to bring the latest information about accordion happenings, instruments, and music from this local music shop.

Those who know Clifton, know that he has an enthusiastic approach to teaching the accordion. He loves accordion music and enjoys showing off his skills, challenging his right hand to keep up with his left hand! Yes, Clifton loves bass work. One of his novel talents is playing one tune on his left hand and a totally different one on the right hand... yet they meld beautifully! I guess you might say he is a bit of a show off, but I think he enjoys it too!

Come early and order your meals so that we can begin promptly with our business meeting. We will have ample time to perform so bring your accordion and practice up on the latest tunes. We may need to limit the number of songs to two pieces so that everyone can play, but be ready with your performance specials!

See you at the meeting on Tuesday, June 29 at 6PM Chester’s Hamburgers on NE Loop 410 between Nacogdoches and Broadway.

June Meeting had LOADS of music, fun: Thanks go to Shelia Lee and Dr. Daniel Kott and our performers

Many thanks to Shelia Lee of Houston and Dr. Kott of Killeen for bringing us some great music. Shelia brought us several Tex-Mex tunes and many of us played along with her including: Laura Niland, Benno Real, Sharon Setera, Beverley Garcia, Stephen Koehler, and Richard Naujoks. WOW, we sounded great especially with the background music CDs created by Mario Pedone of Sugarland, TX. Some of the tunes included: Cielito Lindo, Mucara, DeColores, and more.

In addition, Marty Sealy and Laura Niland played a duet, New York, New York. Later Marty showed off some more of her musical skills with jazz arrangements of Stormy Weather and other tunes. Bravo Marty! Our soloists included Joe Sepko with great music from Tony Bennett era, and the music duo Sharon and Benno, Richard Naujoks, Marty Sealy, Laura Niland and Stephen Koehler. It was a great evening for music. Shelia Lee showed off her skills on the accordion as well, and the audience was thrilled to hear all the great musical talents.

Shelia Lee and Dr. Kott brought us information about the Accordion Kings & Queens Festival in Houston.

The Accordion Kings & Queens Festival in Houston at the Miller Outdoor Theatre at 6000 Herman Park Drive was held on Saturday June 5th from 5:30-11:30 PM. There was an ac-

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**President’s Message: Laura Niland**

WOW we had a lot of great music at our last meeting. Our attendance was low, but we had lots of great music thanks to Shelia Lee and Dr. Kott. It was great playing along with the background CD and jamming with other accordionists. I think we sounded GREAT! Congratulations to all of you for doing so well. Some of you sight-read the music for the first time that night! I hope some of you were able to attend the Houston Festival.

It was also great to hear Marty Sealy play her accordion again. BRAVO! It helps when you have others around to assist with all the electronics. Thank you Joe and Dr. Kott was the electronic assistance!

Meanwhile, May attendance was really low, but accordion music was abundant. In May, many of us are off on vacation, going to graduations or entertaining relatives. I hope that June will have a better attendance. At least the accordionists were there in abundance!

Clifton Goodale will be here from Kerrville and he will play some special tunes and tell us about Alamo Music Center and what is new there. Gary Smith from Alamo Music will also be attending. Clifton teaches accordion at Alamo Music on Saturdays. He will bring us up-to-date on his latest endeavors.

Hope to see all of you at the meeting and bring your accordions!

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**Officers’ Reports**

Irene Szurgot is still recovering from a back injury but she is getting much better. She has been out of the house and doing her usual chores, better than a month ago. Hopefully she will be at our next club meeting.

Plans are in the works for our Summer Beach Party. As soon as we have the final date locked in, we will let you know. Are you guys okay with having Hot Dogs instead of BBQ perhaps? We will be asking you about that in June. Meanwhile, keep cool and practice your accordion.

Laura Niland played for the Central Texas Accordion Association “Free for All Concert” in Austin on June 15th. The yearly event has been extremely popular and features many accordionists from Austin and across the state. It was lots of fun!

June is Accordion Awareness Month. Do your best to practice for your next performance.

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**May 2010 Meeting Highlights**

(Continued from page 1)

Shelia Lee was a big part of that festival since she organized the accordion music jam for the accordionists from all across the state! Dr. Kott brought his young accordionists from Killeen to participate as well.

The winner of the Accordion Competition at the Accordion Kings & Queens Festival was Keyun Dickson of Houston playing energetic zydeco music. Congratulations to all the contestants.
Flexibility with Arpeggios

Practicing arpeggios can give your fingers a bit of a twist, but in the long run, they teach your hands flexibility. Start off slow and methodically execute each note effectively. Repeat the procedure many times so that your mind and hands begin to act as one with fluid motion and perfect execution.

Yes, arpeggios seems like a medieval torture test, but don’t worry. When you practice you will see wonderful results. One of the added benefits is getting to know your keyboard. By that, I mean knowing exactly where every note is located without looking at your keyboard.

To learn where the keys are located on your keyboard, play arpeggios. Their systematic, rhythmic repetitions reinforce the brain’s signals. Eventually, you will know exactly where the notes are located and your playing will improve dramatically. Be flexible and play arpeggios.

Accordian Festivals Across the US continue

Houston: Accordion Kings & Queens Festival on June 5th

Leavenworth WA: Leavenworth National Accordion Festival on June 17-20

Anthony Galla-Rini International Competition for Classical Accordion held during the ATG Annual Festival in Santa Clara, CA on July 21-25. See www.accordions.com/atg

The American Accordionists’ Association (AAA) Competition and Festival in Harrisburg, PA July 14-18 see details at the website www.ameraccord.com

Rocky Mountain Accordion Celebration July 30-31. Www.accordions.com/RMAC

Cotati California: Cotati Festival Aug 21-22 is the 20th anniversary Festival see www.cotatifest.com for details

Roland US National V-Accordion Festival in Sept 18 in Los Angeles, CA. For more information about competition and the festival please contact Steven Albini email: steven.albini@rolandus.com

Guido Deiro Popularized Accordion Music

Did you know that Guido Deiro popularized piano accordion music in the US and started his career in 1909 during the Vaudeville era? Some of you may even play his music today. The incredible Guido Deiro Collection is still available and can be purchased online at www.sheetmusicplus.com. I recall learning at least one of his pieces, My Florence Waltz, many years ago when Tony Rozance had his studio on N. St. Mary’s Street. Although Deiro pushed the accordion into the public eye, there were many other great accordionists at that time:

Galla-Rini, Nunzio and many many more.

Today the music continues to evolve and we see the accordion keeping up with changing musical tastes. Each accordionist influences others and so it goes from one generation to the next. Take time to reflect on the past and include some of historically popular accordion music in your repertoire. After all, June is Accordion Awareness Month.
Who can even think of a better way to celebrate the history of our great nation than playing a patriotic tune on your accordion for July 4th. Let’s hear a great march, play the Marine’s Hymn or any other great patriotic medley that keeps our flags waving and our hands clapping to the rhythms.

Dig out your favorite tunes, dust them off, and let’s celebrate! We can even play: Name that Tune with a few of the numbers you might select. It’s time for hot dogs and hamburgers (you can get those at Chester’s, by the way).

Come on to our June 29th meeting prepared to eat, play music, listen to great music and have fun.

Bring a friend and enjoy the night out. We will have a guest accordionist, Clifton Goodale, and then there will be ample time for our performers to knock down the walls with patriotic tunes and more. Bring in the accordion and we will be ready for you!

Celebrate July 4th with Accordion Music Fireworks!

San Antonio Accordion Association Application for Membership/Renewal

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Home Phone | Business Phone | Email Address

Do you play the accordion? □ Piano □ Button

New Member □ Renewal □

Make Check payable to SAAA for dues ($20.00 per member/yr) and mail to:

Maggie Bowker
4203 Big Meadows
San Antonio, TX 78230

CTAA Free for All Performers on June 15th in Austin included: J.W. Klaus, Chris Rybak, Jim Bayliss, Ponty Bone, Texas Bar Ditch Band (Patti Burke, Paulette Magnuson, Larry Magnuson), Bess Sullivan and Willard Dyer, Leland Lundgren, Rudy Mungia, Mike Sullivan, Pat Sullivan, Laura Niland, Debra Peters, Harold Siemens, Ralph Milek.

Celebrate July 4th with Patriotic Music. See you at the SAAA meeting on June 29th at 6 PM at Chester’s Hamburgers on NE Loop 410 between Nacogdoches and Broadway. Bring your accordion and a friend.