

I just returned home from Arizona where I attended the Marocco-Ballarini Accordion camp. I can tell you that it was an unqualified success!!

I had the pleasure to meet and get to know other fine accordionists from 11 different states. There were a total of 38 participants.

Frank Marocco did a magnificent job of putting together several group arrangements which everyone rehearsed beginning Wednesday night and group/sectional rehearsals on Thursday, Friday and Saturday in preparation for the Gala Concert presented to an audience of over 100 on Saturday in the LaPosada Ballroom at the Dobson Best Western Hotel and Resort in Mesa.

The sectional rehearsals were conducted by Lynn Ewing (San Carlos, CA), Janet Hane (Westlake Village, CA) and Sharon Greyhosky (San Francisco, CA). In addition to the group instruction by Frank Marocco (Lake Balboa, CA) there were several educational and entertaining workshops:

Nick Ballarini (Dallas, TX) presented a terrific workshop on "Basics and Musicianship for the Accordionist"

Stella Allison (Sykesville, MD) and Joan Grauman (Potomac, MD) teamed up to present "Duets and Don'ts - Much More Than Just Playing Together"

Frank Marocco did a wonderful workshop on "Left Hand Accompaniment Ideas for Improv Playing"

"Accordion 911 - Emergency Accordion Repair and Maintenance" was an extremely interesting workshop by Dale Wise (Burr Hill, VA)

Yours truly (Lenny Feldmann - Southfields, NY) presented a workshop entitled: "Introduction to Jazz Improvisation - the Basics to Getting Started" If you would like a copy of the Workshop Handout that I used during the workshop, just send an email to info@cordeenman.com and put Workshop Handout in the subject and I'll send you the same handout that I used at the M-B Camp.

When I arrived on Wednesday evening, I had the pleasure to visit with The Great Janet Todd who was in town where she had just recently performed for the Arizona Accordion Club. She

was staying at the same hotel and came by to greet the campers and listen in on the first rehearsal and Wednesday Night concert.

Long story short... the Saturday evening Gala Concert was a great success. The group came together and did an extremely polished performance, sounding like an Accordion Orchestra that might have been together for years. No one could believe that they had only been together for a couple of days. This is a testament to the hard work that Frank did in the rehearsals and to the effort of every participant.

Here is the Saturday Night Gala Accordion Programme

Star Spangled Banner - Frank Marocco Arr.

Chiquilin de Bachlin - Frank Marocco Arr.

Liverpool Medley - Frank Marocco Arr.

Soloists:

Dale Wise

Sharon Greyhosky and Lynn Ewing (duet)

Stella Allison and Joan Grauman (duet)

Janet Hane

Moon River - Frank Marocco Arr.

Frank's Samba - Frank Marocco Arr.

Soloists:

Nick Ballarini

John Simkus

Tatsian Lashkevich

Frank Petrilli

Lenny Feldmann

Slaughter On 10th Avenue - Frank Marocco Arr.

Stars & Stripes Forever - Galla Rini Arr.

Soloist:

Frank Marocco

The Marocco-Ballarini Accordion Camp proved to be such a great event that we have scheduled to do it again next year... same time... same place (details will be released in the near future)

Not only were the Accordion activities wonderful; but, being from the frozen NorthEast, it was a pleasure to

thaw out in high 60's - low 70's sunshine for a few days. I returned from Arizona 1/31/07, landing at Newark (NJ) airport and a balmy 26 degrees (Brrrrrrrr)

My personal thanks to Frank, Nick, Dan, Joan, and Stella for doing a fantastic job putting the entire event together and having me as an active participant. I look forward to doing it again next year... and seeing all the new Accordion friends that I made this year who will be returning.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Long Live the Accordion!

Lenny Feldmann
The CordeenMan
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PS. Don't forget, if you would like a copy of my workshop handout just send an email with "Workshop Handout" in the Subject line to: info@cordeenman.com

PPS. I, along with Stan Darrow, will be the honored guest at the AAMS this year at the March 3rd dinner.
for details: <http://www.aamsaccordionfestival.com>