



CONCERTINA WORLD

newsletter of the International Concertina Association

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A wave of vulgar, filthy
and suggestive music
has inundated the land:
nothing but ragtime
prevails"

Musical Courier
(1899)

Dear All

Sorry I'm terribly late with this issue, my New years resolution has to be something about reading a time management book or three.

Well, we certainly had a year with plenty of opportunity to play and hear other concertinists at work, but 1994 promises even more! There hardly seems to be a weekend free of workshops, area meetings or (my favourite) A.G.M.s.

I'm certainly seeing a trickle of CD's, tapes and books for review so you 've got no excuses really, it looks as if we'll just have to enjoy ourselves a bit in 1994

Happy playing!

CHARLOTTE

P.S. I'm just off on an unexpected trip to New York, so the next newsletter should come out at the end of February. I hope to meet up with Joel Cowan of Concertina and Squeezebox' fame — watch this space.



"Bashful playing an
accordion, from Snow White
and the Seven Dwarfs, 1937,
framed, 6in (15cm) wide.
£700-£1,200 CSK"

GOSSIP

THERE'S BEEN A FAIR old bit of concertina in the media recently. Noel Hill was featured on Radio 1 interviewed by Andy Kershaw — mainstream or what? Apart from that, 'Folk on Two,' featured Dave Townsend on concertina accompanied by a serpent. I was a trifle apprehensive about that one but it sounded fine (Boris was jealous of course, but I told him this was progress!). A concertina group called "The International Concertina Association Band" played on 'Children in Need' in November. I certainly had a few phone

calls about that one. One reference to the concertina popped up on the back of 'Classical Collection' magazine. I learned that "the concertina is strictly a melody instrument, the buttons on each side sound single notes only." The new folk magazine "Living Tradition" has a concertina player on its editorial team (Peter Heywood) and has already featured an article on Brian Peters and a review of the last "Concertinas at Witney" (Tel and Fax 0563 44855). Meanwhie "Folk Roots" has a well written article on squeezeboxes in Scotland this issue (Tel 081 340 9651).

Tim Laycock has moved and is now to be found at:

7 St Rumbolds Road, Shaftesbury,
Dorset, SP7 8NE
(Tel. 0747- 55284).

I've had a bit of criticism that I don't put everyones' change of address / marital status / concertina fingering system in the newsletter. The answer is that there's too many of you and you won't sit still! I've put Tims' in because I've already had a few phone calls from people trying to track him down, so they might all leave me alone now.

Tina Smith has sent in a review from The Guardian Listening Brief that is more than a little controversial:

"Someone somewhere seems to have a museum devoted to almost any human artifact. InBelper, Derbyshire, there's one devoted to that extremely unlovely instrument, the concertina. It's run by Neil Wayne, who seems to have dedicated his life to propagating the beast. He used to run a record company for it and in 'Squeezing Round The World' [Radio 2, 8.30pm] recalls the welcome decline of the instrument and its recent uncalled for revival by folk singers. "

Thanks Tina for that edifying contribution.

Could I have some details of any media exposure outside the U.K. for our beloved folding goat? Thanks.



New Member, Bram Taylor

REVIEWS

I'VE RECEIVED A SELECTION of tapes, books and CD's for review recently.

I'll start with English Concertina Melodist book 2 which has been reproduced in facsimile by those innovative people Jenny Cox and Dave Townsend.

This publication is great and fills a big gap between the *'this is a picture of the playing position and no, we don't press the buttons with our ears do we'*, type of publication on the one hand, and the *'We're now going to present you with dots so tiny and put so many of them in each bar that you 'll never play it right, and if you do ever manage to get it right, it 'll sound so horrible*

you 'll be put off playing concertinas for life type of publication on the other. (I'm sure the latter type of book is sponsored by concertina dealers.) They'll probably keep your name on file, leave it a couple of weeks and then hang round under your window one evening. If they're really lucky, a Wheatstone aeola will come flying out of the house accompanied only by expletives deleted, if not a ring of the doorbell and a kindly offer to take the offending item away especially if made to the players partner / children / dog will probably guarantee a purchase price of 10p per concertina. In extreme cases, they may even be paid for their services.)

This, however, is not the case with "English Concertina Melodist." The dots are

NOTTINGHAM

Jolly fun was had by almost all I understand, but as we've got a lot of the 'what we did on our hols' stuff to tell you about in this issue, I'll tell you more about it next time.

clear, there aren't fistfuls in each bar, and you end up with some jolly tunes for your efforts. None of them will shake the world (although there's a pretty good version of the Liberty Bell March), but they'll provide hours of harmless pleasure at a cost of only nine pence (whoops, that's the facsimiled price!) I mean £6.50, including postage and packaging.

Well done all round, Charlotte.

The "English Concertina Melodist" is available from:

Jenny Cox,
26, Hill Grove,
Henleaze,
Bristol BS9 4RJ

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS?

Here's a new feature; in each issue a new problem to sort out.

Q] David Palmer wants some information on song accompaniment. "How do I go about using the concertina to accompany a singer," he asks. "What about using guitar chords, are they any use?" He suggests that 'Wild Rover' and/or 'Leaving of Liverpool' be used as examples.

A] *I think this would be a really useful problem to start with as there is so little written about song accompaniment per-se, let alone on concertina. Please folks, write in and help this poor man. Whatever your chosen system, however little you know, throw in your twopenn'orth.*

Q] I'd like to get hold of a copy of the Primrose Polka. The only person I've ever heard play it is Dick Miles" - Bernard Pilgrim.

A] *I haven't got a clue Bernard, sorry. I'm one of those annoying people who says oh you know it goes sort of dah dah daaahhh. 'Does anybody out there know this tune? Hello Dick...help!*

Q] "Does anyone know where I might find a tutor book for the Jeffries Duet? Also, will Charlotte ever spell my name correctly?" asks Mike Dixon.

A] *Statistically speaking the probability is 'No' to both questions, although Mike Hebbert has recently joined our illustrious organisation, so maybe he can tell us about duet tutors. As for my spelling, it's creative and inventive and 'wrong' is a subjective word. I do spell check each issue you know. Interestingly enough, the computer helpfully suggested that instead of putting 'Jeffries tutor,' I write 'Duffers Tutor!'*

YORKSHIRE DALES WORKSHOPS IN FOLK ARTS The Great Northern Concertina

Residential Weekend. Giggleswick Field Centre,
Settle accessible by rail

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th February 94

DAVE TOWNSEND & HARRY SCURFIELD

Dave Townsend and Harry Scurfield are widely recognised as two of Britain's top concertina players. Dave is a master of the English concertina and Harry a wizard on the Anglo concertina. The focus this weekend is on northern music. Using different keys, chords and accompaniment, Harry will give help with solo playing, playing with other instruments, and playing tunes from the Brass Band and Music Hall repertoire of the Concertina Traditions.

Dave will be concentrating on music from traditional players from Yorkshire and the Lake District and also looking at traditions of classical and band music on English concertina. Full residential cost £75, concessionary rate £68.50. Day tickets also available.

Write or phone: Liz Bowen. Yorkshire Dales Workshops in Folk Arts
14 Oakburn Rd. Ilkley LS29 9NN. 0943-609393

YOUNG PLAYERS

Exams

Jenny Cox reports that Kirsty Coombe has just gained a 'B' grade in G.C.S.E. music in 1993 - her sight reading test was taken on concertina. Kirsty had asked in advance for suitable music to be provided, yet on the day she was presented with accordian music. Luckily she had the confidence to refuse it and use flute instead. Well done my dear, not easy under exam conditions.

Does anyone reading this have the ear of an examiner involved with G.C.S.E. music? If so, can the I.C.A help in any way? There are few enough young players and they need all the encouragement we can give them.

Fact Sheet

The first one went down very well. Peter Trimming had some feedback about various people who'd been 'left off, but there was no plot. If they didn't reply to his letter, they didn't get included. The 1994 version will hopefully be included with the April/May newsletter. If you want to be included as a maker / player / teacher / repairer / purveyor of the concertina, please get in touch with Steve Goodyear (0902-742937). It costs nothing and may get you work as some of our members can testify.



COMMITTEE BITS

UNFORTUNATELY THE A.G.M. wasn't quorate, (5% of the membership were needed) so we couldn't decide a lot.

The main news is that after 40 years as president, Father Kenneth has announced his decision to retire. I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking him for all that he has done on behalf of the society. It has been very helpful for us to have someone committed to the I.C.A who actually learned to play from the late William Kimber, (the very anglo concertina player from whom Cecil Sharp collected so many traditional tunes).

CHARITY

We're still trying to get charity status for the I.C.A. although we will have to change the constitution in order to achieve it. One thing they're not terribly thrilled about is that we have no permanent premises. I'm sure one of our dear members can come up with the odd suite of palatial rooms? Let's see, we could probably get away with a library, international conference room with simultaneous translation facilities, a few soundproof practise rooms, emergency operating theatre (one for each system!) and an editors office with en-suite Jacuzzi (ready for when someone invents a waterproof concertina).

The committee stayed pretty much on the same old faithfuls; Steve Goodyear stood and was duly elected. Brian Bibby resigned from the committee due to his

busy family life, and at the January committee meeting Peter Trimming also resigned [Steve agreed to take over as secretary]. Thanks to both Brian and Peter for all the hard work that they have put in over the years.

NEW LOGO

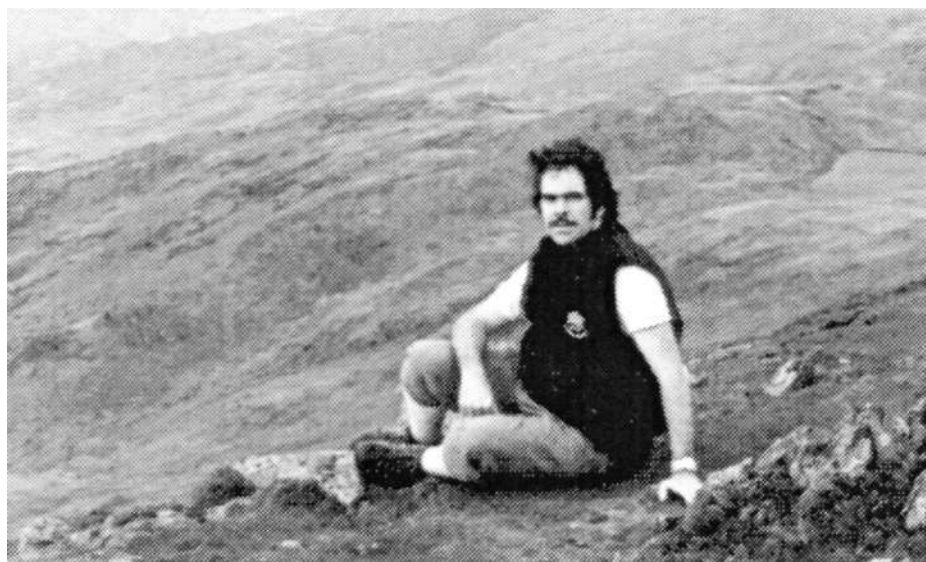
I now have T-shirts available with the new association logo on. Yours for not-a-lot (see separate flier). Thank you to Mike Dixon who spotted that I didn't include the ad last time. The rest of you obviously realised that this was a sophisticated piece of marketing psychology on my part. I knew that I'd work you into a frenzy of anticipation desperate to have sight of the said T-shirt. Of course you realised that I wouldn't just forget to enclose the ad in the envelope - huh!

GRANTS

If you are 21 or under, you can still apply for a small grant to help you develop as a concertina player. Robert Habron has done so successfully, well done sir!

So far we have agreed to sponsor:

*Kilve
Sidmouth concertina drop-in
Witney beginners course
Witney not-beginners course
Firle Folk Day [details elsewhere]*



Peter Trimming: happy and concertina free!

If you haven't applied for a spot of sponsorship for your squeezerpleaser event, write in and grovel quickly.

CUP RETURN

PLEASE RETURN your cups and trophies to any member of the committee as soon as possible. We don't intend to have a competitive festival as such in 1994, but need to gather in all the silverware so that it doesn't get forgotten. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.



BEGINNERS' WEEKEND

for beginners on all systems of concertina; led by

DAVE TOWNSEND

JENNY COX

HARRY SCURFIELD

BRIAN HAYDEN

to be held at

HENRY BOX SCHOOL Church Green,
Witney, Oxon.

7th. - 8th. May 1994

Concertinas at Witney presents a special weekend for people new to the concertina - all you need is a concertina! The course will cover everything you need to get you started, and to develop and work on your playing afterwards. The fee is £30, which covers all workshops, copies of music, and admission to a special Ceilidh on the Saturday night.

(Participants will need to arrange their own accommodation and meals, which are not included in the price. We will send you a list of accommodation addresses when you book.)

The main CONCERTINAS AT WITNEY WEEKEND for more experienced players will take place as usual on September 24th. - 25th. 1994.

For bookings and further information, please contact:

Jenny Cox, 26 Hill Grove, Henleaze
Bristol BS9 4RJ.
tel: 0272 - 629931



DIARY

February

6th Ruishton[W.C.C.P.]

0823-673021

7th - 9th Yorkshire Dales

Concertina Weekend Geoff and Liz Bowen are running a concertina 'do' in Giggleswick, Settle with Harry Scurfield [anglo] and Dave Townsend [English] the focus of the weekend is on Northern music .[Cost is £75 full board]

Details 0943 609393

20th Yorkshire Concertina Club Meeting. Details-Jane Edwards [0943-463804]

March

18th-20th Kilve weekend

with Alistair Anderson - tickets are nearly sold out, but try giving Pauline a ring, there might be some day places left

0823-673021

April

22nd- 24th The National

Festival features John Kirkpatrick, Eddie Upton, Luke Daniels and Junior Crehan [from County Clare] [0296-415333]

May

1st Ruishton A.G.M.

No details sent, but my spies tell me there's another *North London Music Festival*, including a class for Solo Concertina, own choice, time limit 5 mins. The Arthur Clements cup will be

awarded. Details 0494 752646. Closing Date for entries will be mid February.

May

7th-8th Concertinas at

Witney for ' people new to concertina playing "with tutors -Dave Townsend, Harry Scurfield, Peter Trimming and Brian Hayden details from Jenny-[0272-629931]

27th-30th -Chippenham

Festival includes workshops

run by W.C.C.P. Contact

Pauline 0823-673021

I think there's a German Concertina get- together in May, will someone let me know please ?

July

3rd Ruishton

29th July 5th August

Sidmouth festival, including

concertina workshops run by

W.C.C.P.Details from

Pauline-0823-673021.

August 16th -24th

Naturist Folk Week

An international folk event held at a campsite in the French Pyrenees, with workshops and dance sessions Cost [for example] a self catering bungalow for 4\5 persons =2100ff for the week, details from Huw Francis 0962- 854775

In France-Pauline Xatart

-68 39 5168

September

3rd Folk at Firle[Sussex] A

Concertina special sponsored by your good selves .Reg Hall will be giving a talk on Scan Tester [a traditional musician who played anglo concertina] There will be a concertina workshop and the evening concert will feature Tim Laycock. More details of discounts for I.C.A. members - *'once they're finalised'*.

General info available by sending an s.a.e. to - George Wagstaff, 71, Telscombe Road, Peacehaven . Sussex BN10 7UB

If however you happen to be in France that weekend Ed is booked at the Hondschoote festival and would be happy to arrange an informal concertina gathering-0273-603633 [U.K.]

24th-25th Concertinas at

Witney, with Alistair

Anderson, Andy Turner,

Iris Bishop, Harry Scurfield

and Dave Townsend. Details -

-Jenny 0272 629931.Tickets are already selling well, so be warned!

Wanted

Gilbert Carrere seeks a 58

button McCann Duet

[Wheatstone aeola, with

metal ends if possible]

Contact Gilbert at 52110

Charmes la Grande, France

[Gilbert will also be at 'Kilve

'in March]

Wanted in any condition, any

Henry Harley, also unusual

and early 20 key Anglos.-

Andrew Norman - 0825

713551

Wanted

Good Quality metal ended

Wheatstone English

Concertina, fast action, 6 or 7

fold bellows Contact Robert

Habron [0768 898533]

For Sale

-Nothing!

Jürgen Suttner Concertinas

(Manufacturers & Exporters)

Industriestr. 17, 57234 Wilnsdorf, Germany

Tel.: 0271/399769 and 8706939, Fax 0271/399235

Price List 1993/94

Anglo Concertinas

- 30-key, in C/G, 6-fold leather bellows in black,
flat mahogany ends. Price: £ 990,--
- 31-key, in C/G, 7-fold leather bellows in black,
German silver or ebonized raised ends,
the reed pan is made of sycamore.
Jeffries type. Price: £ 1100,--
- 31-key in C#/G#, 7-fold leather bellows in black,
German silver or ebonized raised ends,
the reed pan is made of sycamore. Price: £ 1120,--
- 31-key, in Bb/F, 7-fold leather bellows in black,
German silver or ebonized raised ends,
the reed pan is made of sycamore. Price: £ 1140,--
- 31-key, in C/G, 7-fold leather bellows in black,
flat ebony ends, the reed pan is made of
sycamore. Wheatstone Linota type. Price: £ 1200,--
- 38-key, in C/G, 7-fold leather bellows in black,
German Silver or ebonized raised ends,
the reed pan is made of sycamore,
Jeffries type. Price: £ 1360,--

English Concertin

- 48-key, treble, New Model type, 6-fold leather
bellows in black, ebonized raised ends,
the reed pan is made of sycamore. Price: £ 1540,--

All are hexagonal, and come with hand-cut ends. The buttons are made of German Silver. All instruments have steel reeds mounted in individual brass frames and are tuned to A 440Hz.

Terms of payment: 10% deposit on ordering, the rest before delivery.

Delivery probably within . . . months.
Plus £ 25,-- for posting and packing.