



CONCERTINA WORLD

newsletter of the **International Concertina Association**

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Anybody who has listened to certain types of music, or read certain types of poetry, or heard certain kinds of performance on the concertina, will admit that there are some lives which ought not to be continued, and that even suicide has its brighter aspects."

*From 'Sunshine Sketches of a little Town' published by Bodley Head
[thanks to Colin and Rosalie Dipper for drawing my attention to the above scurrilous little piece]*

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear All,

I'm really sorry the newsletter's late again, all I can do is apologise profusely. As must be clear, I am getting overwhelmed by life/work/gigs/training nowadays and can't carry on doing the newsletter any longer, so this is a plea for a new editor to take over A.S.A.P, or at least from the next A.G.M. in October94.

Happy

playing!

Charlotte



Here's an interesting little greeting card produced by 'graffiti'

EMMA DYER DID LOTS of interviewing whilst she was at the last 'Witney' weekend, the result of which was a programme on the World Service no less. I thought it was really informative and it certainly did the trick for me. I put on a plea for squash box players to get in touch and one has - to find out about learning the duet!

PAOLO COLUZZI HAS MOVED to London to start a degree course as a mature student. He sent me copy of 'La Concertina Diatonica' a handbook he's written for the 20 key anglo. OK, it's in Italian, but that shouldn't prevent you from having fun with it; there's lots of clear diagrams and some pretty traditional tunes from Northern Italy. If you want to know more contact Paolo on 081-521-8447.

STILL ON THE SUBJECT OF anglo tutors, J Leo has also written a smashing little book [in German this time]. Again, you'll get a lot out of it even if you have no German at all, it's crammed full of tunes and gorgeous cartoons. If you want to know more, try Rainer Schwarz, Kopnicker Str. 48, D-24111, Kiel, Germany.

RUMOUR HAS IT that Phil Hopkins is just finishing a book on the history of the concertina. Apparently it will include photos and music, so even if you don't play the duet yourself, give it serious consideration. It's being published by Dragonfly Music and is their first venture into things concertina. Let's hope it goes well for Phil and Dragonfly.

DAVID CORNELL has produced a lovely little book of his own duet arrangements. He was giving away copies at 'Kilve' which was jolly decent of him to put it mildly. I'm sure that was a 'one off special, but if you want to find out about price contact him at 335 Parkstone Road, Harrington Park, New Jersey, NJ 07640 U.S.A.

MANUALE DI CONCERTINA DIATONICA

di
Paolo Coluzzi



WHAT A BOER

I'VE HAD A PHONE CALL or two about Neil Wayne, who is apparently selling several concertinas at auction this Autumn. Does anyone have details or comments about this? I'll pass all information on to our dear readers of course.

JOHN KIRKPATRICK turned out a splendid radio programme on August 11th to celebrate 150 years since the patenting of the concertina by Charles Wheatstone 'The Musical Three penny Bit'. I'd certainly never heard William Kimber or Tommy Williams being interviewed before. Well done old chap.



JOHN ENTERACT SENT IN THIS EXTRACT from the Newsletter of the Friends of the National Army Museum:

"Some of the items have never been exhibited before and there are many unusual exhibits, including manacles used to restrain British prisoners in Abyssinia, 1868, a concertina played by a British surgeon during the Indian mutiny, and a pair of breeches with a hole in the seat made by a Boer bullet."

[The mind boggles; was the surgeon trying to ignore the noise outside, or maybe he thought music had a calming effect on the amputees in his care ?]

GLADYS THORP must have started more would be players on the path to happy years of playing (or is it eternal musical frustration and poverty) than anyone else, so I thought I'd ask her to contribute some ideas.

1] Enjoy finding the right buttons, but keep MUSIC to the front of the mind at all times.

2] Practice of scales need not be monotonous - play them in different rhythms.

3] Practice of exercise 2 for learning to control the monster and for fluency in playing.

4] Practice of exercise 3 - double pegging is extremely useful, because it helps later with chords and also because the lower note can often come in as an implied harmony when playing tunes.

GIFT OR GRAFT?

ARE MUSICIANS 'GIFTED' OR GRAFTERS? Leading psychologist Professor John Sloboda thinks the latter is the case. He studied 120 children learning a musical instrument in a Manchester school, and he found that those who made progress practised three or four times as much as those who did not. Other useful contributions were made by parents who praised the child even for amateurish efforts and teachers who instilled enthusiasm rather than worry about technical skills.

According to Professor Sloboda, it takes 5,000 hours of practice to achieve entry to music school, and the best students had done 10,000, but for 'private enjoyment' [does this include 'Speed the Plough' in a back bar at a Saturday knees up?] you need only 1,000 to 2,000 hours of practice. I.C.A. inspectors will be calling on you shortly to make sure you don't have any 'private enjoyment' before you've put in at least three years scales practice.

5] Exercise 4 is not as difficult as it looks - first play for accuracy in fingering, and for playing in 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8

6] Practise Exercises 3 and 4 in other keys.

I find that beginner players soon find that they know the notes and the rhythm and get them right but still they do not hear the music that others get with the same material and this is because the brain has accepted the learning but is not yet completely confident - suddenly one day it is. Singing or humming the tune before and as you play will help with this.

Remember that the bellows of your concertina will produce subtleties of

sound as varied as a good violin if you will allow it! Give them a chance to make music for your joy.

A set of tunes suitable for beginners which I use at workshops and a practise tape with each tune played fairly slowly as a friend to practise with can be got direct from:

Glad-(0634) 405281

Does anyone have ideas for beginners' exercises; what exercise or piece of advice has been most helpful to you? For me I think it's been practising scales in sixths and particular tenths, it's very frustrating and slow but what a gorgeous interval is a tenth, magic!-Ed

EXERCISES

1. See how many scales you can play on the **OUT** **IN**

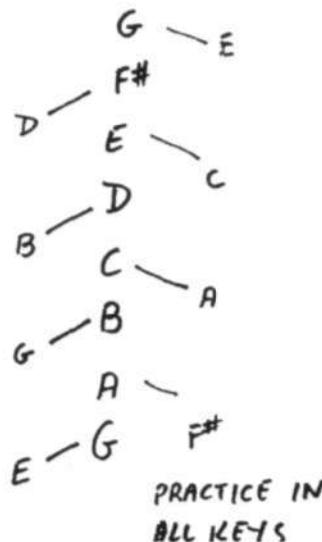
2. Run up and down the scale, first Legato, then Staccato.

G scale G A B C D E F# G

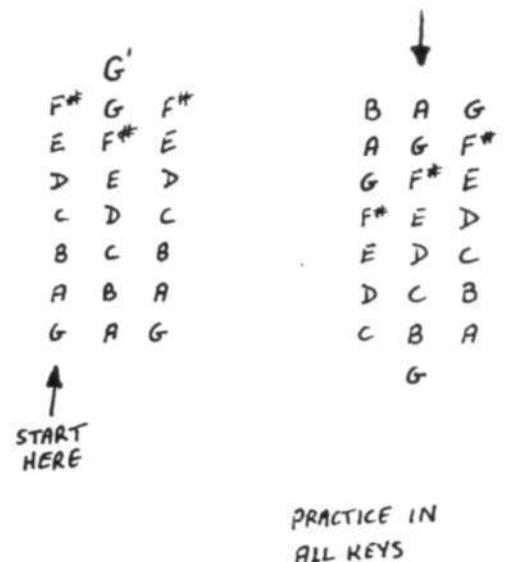
D scale D E F# G A B C# D

A scale A B C# D E F# G# A

3. Double Pegging



4. Flexibility



MEXBOROUGH DAY *the first annual gathering?*

ABOUT 40 OF US met at the Concertina Band, the aptly named club in Mexborough, to enjoy a day put on by the Yorks. Concertina Club and Midlands Concertina Group. The Mexborough Band were famous in the first half of the century and we met on their home ground. Many thanks to Jane and Harry for arranging such a happy event.

We had been sent our music in advance so we went straight into playing.

About halfway through the morning Elsie and I, who had wondered why all the men coming over to see us went

straight past, realised we were sitting outside the Gents. So much for popularity!

Lunch was taken at the nearby Electric Light Theatre, a public house, and I thank the gentleman who played ever so quietly during this time. You never know who is listening to you.

After lunch Nigel Pickles gave us the history of the Mexborough Band, in whose venue we were playing and on the walls of which are old photos of austere looking men [no women!] in band uniform and 'civvies'. We were very fortunate to have with us the last

remaining band member, Archie Watson, who lives in Walton-le-Dale. He added to Nigel's talk when recalling various incidents and associations. Archie still plays the concertina and although he could not be persuaded to do so on this occasion he promised to do so next year.

The day lasted from 10.30am to 5.30pm and was a musical and social success which it is hoped will become an annual event.

Elizabeth Scott

[So say all of us who had to miss it this time round - Ed]

AMPLIFYING *yer box!*

ABOUT 40 OF US met at the Concertina Band, the aptly named club in Mexborough, to enjoy a day put on by the Yorks. Concertina Club and Midlands Concertina Group. The Mexborough Band were famous in the first half of the century and we met on their home ground. Many thanks to Jane and Harry for arranging such a happy event.

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SIMPLIFYING *yer ooxi*

WHERE TWO OR THREE PLAYERS GATHER, the topic of conversation often turns to "how do you amplify the blighters?" If like me you're fed up with some men asking "which end does the sound come out of luv?" then you'll be looking for ways to make yourself a bit more independent and thinking about reviewers and sometimes neither the review nor the tape/CD comes back again. I'm afraid everything we've given has to go into the archive as we just don't have the money to splash out on new CDs.

Diff with the sending a record. Four book for as have please do on the if you possibly can and if you and I afford to, perhaps you ought to ask four of my, don't Affe, you'd like your of the box play at it. Remember, it's tax deductible!

Does anyone else have thoughts on the matter; what set up do you use? Do write in and share your thoughts with us all.



RETROSPECTION.

SCENE—*Esthetic Neighbourhood.*

Converted Betting Man (plays First Concertina in Salvation Army Band). "POOTY 'OUSES THEY BUILDS IN THESE SUBU'DS, MR. SWAGGET."

Mr. S. (Reformed Burylar and Banner-Bearer in the same). "AH! AND HOW 'ANDY THEM LITTLE BAL-CO-NIES WOULD 'A' BEEN IN FORMER—"

[A warning flourish on the Concertina, and Mr. S. drops the subject!]

8-25-83

Charles Keene

Diary

Sept 3rd [Saturday]

Fyrle Folk Day

Dont forget there are special cheap tickets available for this special day in the Sussex countryside. Dont expect it to be an action packed event [it' s a really tiny festival based around the village pub], but in the afternoon there's a talk by Reg Hall on Scan Tester [A traditional anglo player from Sussex]. Tony Dunn will be running a 'meet the concertina' session and Tim Laycock will be heading the evening concert. Up to two tickets per member are available at a special rate of £3.50 instead of the usual price of £7.00 from George Wagstaff, 71 Telscombe Road, Peacehaven East Sussex BN10 7UB.

Sept 4th

Ruishton Village Hall

[Taunton] 12-6pm.

Meeting of the West Country Concertina Players Details-0823 673021

Sept 24th-25th

Concertinas at Witney with Alistair Anderson, Andy Turner, Iris Bishop, Harry Scurfield and Dave Townsend.

Details-Jenny Cox 0272 629931. If you want to go, get in quick!

Wanted

38 key Jeffries Bb/F

anglo.

Paul Hurst [0892] 723376

Layouts

Robin Madge spotted my plea for information about the layout of concertina buttons. He has kindly donated copies of his layout diagrams for 48 button English, 30 and 40 button Anglos in G/D, various anglos in C/G, Bb/F and a couple of Jeffries for good measure. The diagrams are very clear and relate the buttons to the piano keyboard.

Robin says" I am willing to produce more diagrams if I am presented with the music to do so [I use EasyCard 2 on a PC]" Isn't it good to hear about someone just getting on and quietly achieving something. I'm sure many beginners in years to come will be grateful for Robins' hard work

For Sale

Wheatstone 43 key

English Tenor £800

Wheatstone 56 key

English Tenor/treble £950

Wheatstone 36 key C/G

anglo £1,200

Wheatstone40 key C/G

anglo £1,300

Contact Peter Trimming

081 689 555

Jenny Cox sent me this piece a while ago now, I haven't had a chance to include it. For me it captures the incredible excitement of total involvement with music.

Concertina

In September, I started to learn the concertina. It was one of the best days of my life. Ever since June when our teacher asked who would like the chance to learn. I had been hoping and hoping she would choose me. I've now been learning for six months. ...I was going to be in the village pantomime and. J had to play the Teddy Bears Picnic. ...I had to dress in a teddy bear suit and go onto the stage on my own. Then I had to play my solo before all the other bears came on and danced. The first night I was very nervous but on the second night I played really well. I was very pleased with myself and also very pleased that I went to a school where I had the chance to learn the concertina. I'll never forget that day!

Joe Reed age 9

INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 22nd OCTOBER 1994 at 2.00 p.m.

WORKING MENS' COLLEGE
CROWDALE ROAD
LONDON N1

(nearest underground stations: Euston, King's Cross, Camden Town)

AGENDA

- 1: Election of Chairperson
- 2: Apologies for absence
- 3: Minutes of the 1993 A.G.M.
- 4: Matters arising
- 5: Officers Reports - Secretary
 - Membership Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Librarian
- 6: Election of Officers -Secretary
 - Membership Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Newsletter Editor

 - Librarian
- 7: Election of Other Committee Members
- 8: Future Expenditure
- 9: 1995 Subscription Rates
- 10: Any Other Business

N.B. Charlotte Oliver has indicated that she will not be available for re-election as newsletter editor. This role is vital to the running of the Association, and Charlotte has done an excellent job. We know this may be a difficult act to follow, but so far, no one else has indicated sufficient availability + commitment to take on the task. Members who may wish to consider this task are particularly encouraged to attend the AGM, and to contact committee members in advance to find out more if required.