

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



M A R C H 2 0 1 8

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 1

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Cover: ASA Master Class, Sydney Feb 2018. Refer page 7 for story.

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Hello from the Editor

Welcome to 2018 which is already panning out to be a busy year.

Sadly the accordion world has lost a great accordionist and musician, Enzo Giribaldi. Enzo was a founding member of the ASA, a tribute to Enzo is on page 11.

The ASA Master Class held in Sydney has been a highlight of the year so far with 20+ participants. I was present on the day and found it an informative and rewarding workshop and had never heard of playing 'half bass' until Cathy Days workshop! I encourage accordionists who wish to improve their skills to come along to any future workshop. Page 7 has details and photos of the day.

World Accordion Day is fast approaching with May 6th the official day. This is a great opportunity to promote the accordion and have some fun, so think about getting a group together and you may register on the official website if you would like to. Refer page 22.

Thank you to the Victorian accordionists who sent in photos and stories of where they have been playing. The Melbourne Flower Show was a lovely backdrop for Jeannette Benzing to play and well done to Cheryl Beckett who fundraised for Motor Neurone Disease. The Gran-turco sisters, Yvonne and Paul Smith and Lewis Xin Liu have also been captured out and about, see pages 19-21

I would love to receive more news and articles from our readers. I understand it may not be convenient to recall what has happened over a 3 month period when I email for articles therefore I would like to suggest that when you busk, play in a concert or read an interesting article, you send it to me at the time! Happy to just receive a photo/s with a message, "story coming later" and I will follow up with you if not received by review time. The more articles received, the more interesting our review will be. Thank you.

Happy Easter and hope you enjoy the review.

Cheryle

Presidents Report



It has been a very productive time for the Accordion Society over these last few months. We have re-evaluated the ways in which we would like to grow our membership base and how we engage with our long term members. We are looking into new projects and are currently working on and implementing existing projects.

Last year we decided to hold a full day of workshops as part of trying to engage present and future members. The workshops focused on strengthening performance abilities. Our presenters focused on the key areas of performance that less experienced performers need to develop. Our aim was to share the knowledge of our more experienced members and performers. These workshops were a great success. We are already planning the next day of workshops. We would like to thank Amelia Granturco, Catherine Day and David De Santi for their assistance in creating an educational experience that helped attendees to develop confidence in their playing ability and skills. Thank you to all who helped this event to be such a success.

The finishing touches are just being put on our new Accordion Society of Australia website and it will be made public on 6th April. To view the website, you can go to www.accordionsaustralia.com.au. The site is a step forward in providing people with access to necessary information, such as our teachers directory and a performers directory. We need to have a public platform where people can access the information we have for too long passed around to each other through informal channels. We have had great success and interest generated from our Facebook page. Our website will help to provide us with an even greater online presence.

While we are committed to improving the Society at the grass roots level and working on the local scene, we are also working on raising our playing standards so we can consider entry into international competitions. Exposure to these musical events is essential to young aspiring players who are aiming to reach their potential. To enable this to happen, we are hoping to roll out a plan over the next four years to help assist in funding players to take part in such international events. This timeframe will provide us with the time we need to work with our members and increase our playing abilities.

From June 9-10th 2018 the AATA (Australian Accordion Teachers Association) will be holding their annual competitions. I would like to see as many members as possible participate and support these competitions. The AATA has created an associate membership for the Accordion Society with a the registration fee of \$10. For more information about this festival please look at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/accordionsydney/>. The AATA and ASA have supported each other over many years. Since last year we have been organising events together along with the NZAA (New Zealand Accordion Association). After many years, it is fantastic to see all of us working together on a unified front.

PLAY IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT

Benny Pattinson



Accordion Society of Australia Masterclass a Resounding Success

In the last Accordion Review we promoted our upcoming Accordion Masterclass.

Well the Masterclass has now been and gone, but what a day we had!

The venue and catering at Canada Bay Club were great, and we cannot thank Canada Bay board and staff enough for their generosity in providing funding to run the Masterclass and waiving the venue fee as well.

We had 20 participants for the full day. Three of our attendees had travelled all the way from Canberra for the day, and one had come from the Blue Mountains. It was great to see some new faces along with some friends we had not seen for a while.

Cathy Day's wonderful workshop on using technique and dynamics to interpret rather than play a piece had everyone concentrating and thinking about consciously analysing our playing and working on improving our technical skills. Thanks to the lovely and talented student who worked with Cathy to demonstrate these techniques.



Everyone loved Amelia Granturco's session on improvising, and Amelia's clear presentation and interactive style unlocked the mysteries of how to improvise using pentatonic scales. Even the most cautious of our participants found themselves really enjoying having a jam in public.



After lunch, Ben Pattinson looked at how to overcome nerves and become a confident performer. Ben shared his experience on how to build a performance style through factors like body language, dedicated practice and embellishment. Participants had lots to learn from Ben about owning the stage, and performing rather than playing.



David De Santi then did a great job of leading accordion players, a flute player, a guitarist, and a mandolin player in a great afternoon session of jigs, reels, slides, waltzes and polkas from around the world. Being an accordion player himself, David was extremely pleased to have so many accordions in the one place.



We had some great feedback from participants. Here is an example:

Thank you so much to you and everyone who put on the class yesterday, it was fantastic! It was so uplifting to learn alongside so many other accordion players and to hear from such experienced teachers. The coffee and lunch were great too! (Kate)

Thank you again to all our wonderful presenters and participants and to the generous Canada Bay Club for supporting the Accordion Society of Australia in keeping the music playing.

We really look forward to having more workshops in the future, because building both skills and relationships could not be more important in celebrating and promoting our favourite instrument.

Hope to see lots of Accordion Review readers at the next one!

Sandra





VALE ENZO GIRIBALDI

Sadly Enzo Giribaldi passed away on March 12, 2018, after suffering with dementia.

Enzo was a prominent Accordionist in Sydney and a founding member of the ASA. A Loving husband, father, grandfather and great Accordionist. On behalf of the ASA our condolences go to his family and friends. RIP.

Tribute to Enzo Giribaldi

Enzo began learning to play the accordion from the age of five years old from the local parish priest in a small northern Italian town. He soon was introduced to formal lessons from Maestro Carlo Ferrero.

Enzo won his first competition when he was six years old. At the age of nine his family emigrated to Australia where he continued his studies with a German teacher, Otto Weiss located in Sydney. At the age of 17 he continued his studies with Maestro Dante Simonelli



who had also emigrated to Australia. Maestro Simonelli had produced Italian and World Champions and under his tutoring Enzo improved immensely, so much so that he was destined to become one of the best accordionists in Australia.

Maestro Simonelli was not only a great teacher of accordion but was himself a world class accordionist who was a close friend of the great Gervasio

Marcosignori. Enzo was fortunate to have met Marcosignori during his frequent tours of Australia and in fact was invited by Marcosignori to take part in the tour as a support artist. Aged twenty, Enzo began to teach accordion under the supervision of Maestro Simonelli. During this time Enzo had been playing in Australia's largest Italian club, Club Marconi with his quartet. Enzo also completed a Theory of Music course at the Conservatorium of Music Sydney.

Aged twenty-four Enzo opened his first music school and in a short time he had a total of four music schools with twenty-two teachers working for him, teaching about 600 students of which about half were learning the accordion. During this time Enzo produced local, state and Australian champions.

The reason for his teaching success was that Enzo invented new teaching techniques which helped his students learn quicker and at the same time making the learning experience pleasant and enjoyable. He basically broke away from traditional teaching which was too stringent and lacked the "fun" in learning an instrument. To list all his achievements would be too lengthy, but one achievement Enzo is very proud of is that his dance band was nominated for Australia's

most prestigious award, (The Australian Entertainment 'MO' Awards) in the category of "Best Accompanying Band Category" no less than SIX times in consecutive years, winning the award TWICE! What



was special about Enzo's win was that no other band before or since had won the award with an ACCORDIONIST as the band leader!

My Friendship with Enzo Giribaldi.

I, Ross Maio, first met Enzo Giribaldi in 1962 at the Parramatta Eisteddfod Accordion Competitions. At that time, I was a 13-year-old and had just moved down from North Queensland and commenced studies with Enzo Toppano.

In the late sixties we would occasionally meet at Club Marconi where he was leading the band and I was working as part of the Ross & Robyn Act.

In 1970 we were both present at the inaugural meeting of The Accordion Society at the Esperanto House, Redfern.



Enzo was a great supporter of the ASA in many ways. He donated a student accordion as well as organising many Gala Festival Concerts at Club Marconi.

One memorable event took place at Club Marconi when Enzo and I planned an Accordion Extravaganza Night in 1996. We managed to have the reporter, Tony Biancotti from The Today Show on Channel 9 do a feature story on this event.

The night featured a special guest accordionist from Italy the great Gervasio Marcognori, a 25-piece ASA Accordion Orchestra, Enzo Giribaldi, Robyn Pitt-Owen and myself.

We had such a great response that we had to find extra chairs in the club to accommodate the audience in the auditorium.

Enzo would call me frequently to talk about ideas for accordion events that

we could have at Club Marconi with the help of Vicki Fontana who lead the Ladies Auxiliary Committee.

We at the ASA are grateful for all his enthusiasm and efforts in promoting the accordion throughout the years from the inception of the Society in 1970.

I personally will miss him very much and I extend my condolences to his family and friends.

Ross Maio



Band tops 'Mo' town awards



■ STEPPIN' out... Mo Award winners The Marconi Dance Band celebrate their success.

CLUB Marconi won its first Mo award recently when its dance band took out the Registered Clubs' Association of NSW Accompanying Band of the Year award.

The club's publicist, Donna Sowry, said the Marconi Dance Band beat off strong competition to take out the award.

The Marconi Dance Band has been nominated for the award on two previous occasions.

It plays at Club Marconi every Saturday and Sunday night as well as for special functions.

"The Marconi band plays a versatile and dynamic blend of music from traditional Italian, to classic standards and Latin styles," Ms Sowry said.

After seven years together, the band is still popular with the local community and features band leader and bass guitarist Roy Ortuso, musical director and accordion player Enzo Giribaldi, keyboard player and vocalist Ralph Anetta, drummer Greg Palumbo and guitarist, flutist and vocalist Jim Zappia.

Bucklands Loved the Music

NSW orchestra 'Accordions Alfresco' headed to the Blue Mountains west of Sydney on Sunday March 11th for their annual concert at the Bucklands Retirement village. Despite the numbers being down on previous years, their appreciation of our music always inspires us to return each year.

This year we introduced a Russian Medley and Schostakowitsch's 'Walzer No 2' to the program and when speaking with the residents after the concert, we received very positive feedback.



Bucklands always provide a post concert afternoon tea, a great opportunity to speak to residents and hear about their life. Often we learn that many were musicians in their earlier years and some may still play however they all have one thing in common, they love music.

One lady explained that she once played the accordion however in 1957 she went to Thailand on a ship that took many weeks to arrive. She was a nurse working with people



with leprosy in quite a remote area of Central Thailand. She was in South East Asia until about 1963 and came back through Malaysia during some difficult political times. She could not take her accordion with her and never really played it again. However she recently purchased a piano and plays in her room and in the church—remarkable considering she was now 86 years of age.

Another lady sighted an ASA members car (Pollyannas) in the car park, a VW Beetle! She conveyed a story about her first car being a VW Beetle and how she travelled around the country and clocked up so many miles that the milometer had gone full circle 3 times, jolting happy memories!

An afternoon of music plus their desire to reminisce and convey wonderful stories makes it a pleasurable afternoon for the musicians and the residents. Bucklands, we look forward to catching up again next year

Cheryle.



The Big Squeeze Accordion Band (Victoria)

The Big Squeeze Band had a wonderful time last Christmas performing at the annual Christmas Concert. They played a medley of well known Christmas carols which can be viewed on youtube <https://youtu.be/tqoabHNJb94> . Also included in their repertoire was another piece titled - Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle (You Come Down from the Stars), a Christmas carol from Italy (written in 1732) https://youtu.be/L9h_Vl6aYEw



Tesselaar Tulip Festival

A lovely two days was spent last September at the Tesselaar Tulip Festival Dutch weekend. Many traditional Dutch pieces were included and they attracted interest from all walks of life.





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Accordionists Out and About



MELBOURNE FLOWER SHOW

On Sunday March 25th, Jeannette Benzing promoted the accordion with wonderful music in the beautiful setting of the Melbourne Flower Show. People were excited to hear accordion music and were very happy to take lots of photos. Well done Jeannette.



FUNDRAISER AT WANDIN VIC.

Cheryl Beckett, (a member of the Big Squeeze Band) played at the Wandin International Horse Trials in March. Cheryl was raising funds for Motor Neurone Disease. Good work Cheryl.

MUSIC

It has the power to make us smile,
and bring us to all types of tears.
It can carry us back in time,
and inspire us to dance in the moment.
For all our happiest days,
there is music.



XMAS CHEER FOR ARUNGA RESIDENTS

The Granturco sisters, Amelia and Dominique went along to the Arrunga Uniting Nursing home at Ermington in December to entertain the residents and bring some Christmas cheer. The residents were so impressed the girls have already been booked for their 2018 Christmas party! Well done Amelia and Dominique.



S.A. TOURISM PROMOTION

Yvonne Smith (and Julie) were seen on March 25th playing at “The Haus” restaurant for a SA Tourism function in Hahndorf, so all German music of course.



HAHNDORF VILLAGE SHOP

Paul and Yvonne Smith played some wonderful german accordion music at the front of the German Village Shop in Handorf. Well done.



ASA (VIC) XMAS EVENT



Victorias Lewis Xin Liu is seen here playing at one of the ASA Xmas events.

SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS



WORLD ACCORDION DAY

Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes (CIA) invitation

Please join us for this annual celebration, as accordionists from around the world pay homage to our wonderful instrument. This global event will serve as an exciting means of bringing accordionists together in an effort to promote and elevate the awareness and status of the accordion!

What: World Accordion Day

When: 6th May (Concerts and events during the month of May, may be dedicated to May 6th)

Why: a unified global effort to celebrate and promote the Accordion

Where: World Wide!

Register: [Register your event today](#)

World Accordion Day Contact: Harley Jones, CIA Public Relations Officer: harleyaccordion@yahoo.com

Everyone can register their World Accordion Day activity on the website and send a report of their event after for the website. [Register](#)

[Check their website for full details.](#)

Thank you Canada Bay Club

On behalf of the Accordion Society of Australia we would like to thank Canada Bay Club for supporting our recent Masterclass. It was a great opportunity to spread Music throughout the community and we wouldn't be able to do it without the support of the Club.



Thank you to the many ASA members for their kind words of sympathy and condolences on the sudden passing of my 95yo mother-in-law, Sylvia Mills.

*Sylvia attended many ASA concerts and even went to China with the ASA contingent in 2011. Sylvia is pictured here at the recent NSW Xmas Party. We will miss her.
Cheryle Mills*

NSW ASA changes

1. **Committee meeting venue**—the Canada Bay Club, Five Dock, a few kms from the NSW orchestras practice hall, was the location for the last NSW ASA committee meeting. Everyone was able to grab a bite to eat and conduct the meeting at the same location which made for a nice change. They will continue to hold ASA meetings at this location until further notice.
2. **NSW Orchestra (Accordions Alfresco)** have a change of format to their Monday night practice. New pieces will be issued and these will be practiced each week for a few months to perfect, with some revision of old tunes from their repertoire.

The final 30 minutes will be dedicated to a workshop for members that have a tune they're working on and would like one of the tutors to give them some feedback.

Please remember everyone is welcome to the Monday night practice which is currently held 7pm—9pm at the Russell Lea School, Lithgow St, Russell Lea.

World Accordion Day

May 6th—refer page 22 for details.

NZAA Competitions

2018 South Pacific and NZ Championships and Festival
Auckland NZ. Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd June 2018

AA TA Competitions

2018 Australian International Accordion Championships and Festival

Club Marconi, Bossley Park (Sydney)

Competitions Saturday 9th June

Gala Concert Sunday 10th June

Coupe Mondiale

71st Coupe Mondiale is being held in Kaunas Lithuania. 24 to 30 September

Ross Maio

Please check Ross Maio Facebook page for his gigs and venues.

Ben Pattinson with Medusa's Wake

Headline act at Tasmanias, Huon Valley mid 2018 Winter Festival.

Please check Medusa's Wake Facebook page for details and gig guide.

John Kalkbrenner

Every Thursday and Friday nights

Sam Rauza

Every Saturday and Sunday nights

'Hofbräuhaus' German restaurant

18-24 Market Lane, Melbourne. Phone 9663 3361

Heinz Dabernig

Every Friday and Saturday night and Sunday lunch.

Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenongs, Victoria



'IT WOULD SEEM WE'RE
APPLYING TOO MUCH
ENERGY AND NOT ENOUGH
THOUGHT INTO LEARNING
THE BELLOWSHAKE
-EH LAD!'



i hate the key of
e minor. it gives me
the e-b-g-bs.

@marchingbandpuns / ig



Problem?

When your head forgets how to
play something but your fingers
scare you by remembering.



I JUST CAN'T
UNDERSTAND HIM
WITH THAT ACCENT!



© J. C. GIBBS 2015



100th Year Celebration of the Death of Paolo Soprani - Italy

by Holda Paoletti-Kamp
(accordions worldwide website)



(In the presence of the niece of Paolo Soprani, Mrs. Elena Soprani, major celebrations took place in Castelfidardo on the 20th of February at the Auditorium San Francesco. Castelfidardo City Hall in collaboration with the Circolo Culturale Filatelico Numismatico "F. Matassoli" with its compere Pigni hosted a unique event to honour Castelfidardo's historically most important citizen, Paolo Soprani, the man who gave birth to the production of accordions in the small city of Castelfidardo

All authorities of Castelfidardo City were present and everyone received a warm welcome by the Mayor Roberto Ascani and the director of the Museum Castelfidardo, Christian Riganelli.

Castelfidardo's Historian, Beniamino Bugiolacchi (Chronology of Italian Accordions and many other publications), gave a very interesting view of the history and life of this unforgettable personality, not only for Castelfidardo, but the entire world of the accordion.

For this special occasion, a personalized stamp was put into circulation by the Luxembourg Post Office (picture above).



The students of the local Music School Paolo Soprani made a lively animated event with their music.

To complete this day of remembering – an evening concert took place in the Theatre Astra with Luigi Presta, who won this concert during the PIF 2017 and Manuel Marchegiani, winner of the Varieté PIF 2017 category who is a student of [Renzo Ruggieri](#), Artistic Director of the PIF 2018.



Celebrities playing Paolo Soprani Accordions (below)

 <p>EDITH PIAF Edith Piaf, soprano francese (1915-1963), fu una cantante francese di successo. Una grande interprete del blues e della musica. Nel 1963 cantò in un'occasione in teatro il melodico "Non je me repense rien". "Honneur à l'artiste", "La vie est rose", "Cocoricochou".</p> <p>... anche lei con una <i>Paolo Soprani</i></p>	 <p>RINGO STARR Sir Richard Henry Starkey, in arte Ringo Starr è batterista, cantante, compositore, autore e pianista britannico. Dal 1962 al 1970 è stato batterista e solista cantante dei BEATLES. Nel 2013 è entrato nella Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.</p> <p>... anche lui con una <i>Paolo Soprani</i></p>	 <p>MICK JAGGER Sir Michael Philip Jagger è un cantante, musicista e attore britannico. Compositore e storico frontman dei ROLLING STONES, è considerato uno delle più grandi personalità della musica di questi ultimi cinquant'anni.</p> <p>... anche lui con una <i>Paolo Soprani</i></p>
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NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION



MANDOLINATA REQUEST FOR AN ACCORDIONIST

The Auckland Mandolinata Orchestra is in need of an accordionist. We play from music so you will need to be able to read and play to a reasonable standard of competence - but the music is not that difficult (except occasionally!) so an intermediate level player would be able to cope without much difficulty. It would be nice to find somebody who would like to join the Mandolinata family for the long haul. The orchestra has been around for a long time (40 years or more) and we hope for that to continue, so if we could find somebody who might like to be with us and enjoy the music and also the fellowship that would be great.

This is an opportunity to play some really interesting music - like nothing else since we are the only group like this in the country. The accordion is an important role but it is just one of the instruments that make up the full orchestra - currently around 20 players. The orchestra's web site with some great pics and our story is here: <http://www.mandolinata.net/>

We rehearse regularly on a Monday evening at the Leys Institute in Ponsonby: 7:30 to 9:30. Playouts are most often on a Sunday afternoon - usually between 2-3 or thereabouts depending on the client. If anybody is interested they would be most welcome to come along and have a listen and perhaps a chat with me and also could sit alongside Rikki (our present accordionist) and check out the music – no commitment necessary.

Please contact the Musical Director Bryan Holden on email:

sgzbox@outlook.co.nz or phone 021 955637

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Mob. 0417 361980
video@vision.net.au

APPLICATION/RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION



ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)

I,
(full name of applicant)

of
(address)

Phone Email

hereby apply to become a member **OR RENEW** my membership of the abovementioned association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

.....
Signature of applicant Date

All memberships are renewable on 1st August each year.
A once only joining fee of \$5.00 is payable on all new memberships.

General Member	\$ 40.00
Teacher Member	\$ 50.00
Family Member	\$ 55.00

Bank Transfer **Accordion Society of Australia Inc**
BSB: **062 349**
Account Number: **10030067**
Please email a payment advice to **granvs@bigpond.com**

Cheque payable to the **Accordion Society of Australia Inc.**

Please forward to:
Treasurer/Secretary
Accordion Society of Australia (Inc.NSW)
51 Bogalara Road,
OLD TOONGABBIE NSW 2146

Victorian Members only send to
Accordion Society of Australia (inc VIC)
67 Doveton Ave.
DOVETON VIC 3177

ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)

Accordion Review Subscription Form.

The Accordion Review is published 4 times per year by the Accordion Society of Australia Inc for distribution to its members. Subscription rate for non members is \$18.00 per year (within Australia). **Note:** *Full Members automatically receive the Accordion Review.*

NAME _____

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PAYMENT \$18.00 (Four Quarterly issues)

ASA Accordion Review is published 4 times per year. Advertising and Editorial Deadlines:

March	15th
June	15th
September	15th
December	15th

Distribution date approx. 30th of due month.

ADVERTISING IN ACCORDION REVIEW

ADVERTISING RATES.

Full Page	\$50.00
Half Page	\$25.00
Advertorial	\$15.00

Cheques & Transfers to be made payable to **Accordion Society of Australia Inc.** via:

Mail: _____ -or- _____

Treasurer/Secretary

51 Bogalara Road,

OLD TOONGABBIE

NSW 2146

AUSTRALIA.

Bank Transfer:

BSB: **062 349**

Account Number: **10030067**

Email payment advice to **granvs@bigpond.com**

Please include your name in transfer descrip

All materials, advertisements etc. should be sent to the Editor:

Cheryle Mills

Email: cherylemills66@gmail.com

19 Campbell Street, Ramsgate. NSW 2217

Mob. 0414 915154

It is very helpful if stories and photos are emailed to Cheryle to avoid the need to retype and scan. Thank you.

Repairers & Retailers Directory

SYDNEY – NSW

Accordion Repairs Sydney

Sue and Louie Masalkovski

Phone 0424 157 480

Accordion Advisory & Repairs.

Rocco Zappia

12 Auckland Street,

Engadine NSW 2233

Email: accordionsrepairs@hotmail.com

Mobile: 0411 372 044

MARYBOROUGH – QLD

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