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Rediscovering The Wonders Of Accordions

By Jason Murphy

There seems to be fewer and fewer bands which include accordion in the list of instruments they

play. Typical modern bands use drums, electric guitar, bass guitar, and keyboards but accordions? No. It is no wonder Generations X and Y generally regard accordion as a thing of the past. Although there are still one or two modern bands which proudly incorporate accordions in their music, it would still take a lot of convincing before several people buy the idea of listening to accordion-accompanied music on a regular basis. But those who are interested to discover the wonders of accordion can listen to bands like Those Darn Accordions (TDA), a rock-and-roll band with an exciting twist. In their website, TDA members Susan Garramone and Susie Davis assure listeners that the band would try its best to revolutionize people's view of the said instrument.

Wait, what exactly are people's understanding of the squeezeboxes (another term for accordion) that needs to be rearranged in the first place? Well, for one, accordions are bulky and lack the sleek sophistication of modern instruments. Squeezeboxes look like a much more complicated, 'pleated' version of keyboards. Though dating back from the eighteenth century, squeezeboxes have newer models which are more refined in appearance but somehow, accordion is still seemingly outdated in today's band standards. As a matter of fact, squeezeboxes are often the subject of ridicule in cartoons and sitcoms. On the brighter side, though, squeezeboxes are the choice instrument of famous musicians John Linnell, Boozoo Chavis and Beau Jocques.

Music-wise, the sound produced by accordions is incomparable. To be specific, music is derived when the 'pleats' of the squeezeboxes are alternately compressed and expanded. Button accordion, an older version of keyboard-like squeezebox, have buttons that a musician press to create distinct and pleasant melody, especially when appropriately accompanied by other instruments such as guitar and drums. For instance, four members of TDA play accordions while the other two play drums and bass guitar. The result? Well, let's just say that people love it. Long before TDA, the Ulster-Scots have already discovered the wonders of squeezeboxes, whether played alone or as an accompaniment to flute or harp. Accordion, indeed, has a niche in the rich musical culture of the Scots. But Scots or no Scots, many can appreciate squeezeboxes only if they give these underrated instruments a much-deserved chance. The younger generation, adventurous as they are, should make it a point to listen to modern accordion-playing bands to enrich their musical senses and add variety to their

playlists.

For more valuable information on Accordions, please visit

<http://www.accordion-store.com>

Rediscovering Childhood: An Exercise for Childhood Sexual Abuse or Rape Survivors

By Candace Cook

I believe that, while it may not be possible to recreate childhood, it is possible to rediscover childhood. As older teens or adult prevailers over childhood sexual abuse or rape, we may feel we were cheated out of our childhood. Our innocence was torn apart as we were introduced to lewd, dishonorable, irresponsible, corrupt, manipulative behavior by child abusers, molesters, and rapists. This cannot be undone.. but, we can re-introduce ourselves to the youthful innocence of play, genuine honesty, and light heartedness. For some, it's easier to do than for others.. but, in this forum, we're going to work on being kids – because that's one of the most important parts of growing up!

I will periodically be posting new, innovative methods of rediscovering childhood – while, not allowing that to interfere with the adult world in which we must function! I hope others will join me in this experiment, exercise or whatever you wish to call it! To participate, just visit the Prevailers Community: <http://prevailer.true.ws>

24 year old mother/guardian of 5 children. Founder of internet support community for sexual abuse & rape survivors. <http://prevailer.true.ws>



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