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# THE RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST

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Dr. William Schimmel

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# Subway

THE SUBWAY OF MY MIND

INSANE YEAR!

BUT ....

IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD

THE 2ND AVE SUBWAY OPENS TOMORROW

BIG EVENT

ENTRANCES NEAR MY HOUSE AND STUDIO

SUBWAYS OPEN ONES SUBTURANIAN MIND

(I HOPE I AM SPELLING IT RIGHT)

SOME OF MY FRIENDS ARE SUBWAY ACCORDIONISTS

I GO TO THE SUBWAY OF MY MIND

WHERE ALL IDEAS CROSS AND CONNECT

AND

YOU CAN GET ON AN OFF WHEN YOU WISH

UP TO A POINT

LIKE THE HOTEL CALIFORNIA

WHERE YOU CAN CHECK OUT

BUT CAN'T LEAVE

THE SUBWAY ACCORDIONIST WHETHER REAL OR MIND (REAL ALSO)

PAYS A PRICE

WORKING IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND

HE OR SHE IS STILL THERE WHEN THEY LEAVE

BETTER NOT DO IT

I DON'T RECOMMEND IT  
BUT YOU MAY NOT HAVE A CHOICE

TO GRAB THE RICHES THAT ARE DOWN THERE

THE FODDER

PERFECT FOR THE ACCORDION TO SPREAD IT OUT

LIKE PEANUT BUTTER OR CREAM CHEESE OR JELLY

OR ALL OF THE ABOVE AND MORE

IDEAS ARE THERE

FOR YOU

IN THE SUBWAY OF YOUR MIND

SEE YOU ON THE SUBWAY

2ND AVE OR WHEREVER

IF YOU RUN INTO OUR FRIEND MELISSA

SEND HER SOME GOOD ENERGY

AND PUT SOME REAL MONEY DOWN

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM MYSELF, MICKI AND MICHAEL

Chapter Number

# Leonard Cohen

I DIDN'T MEET LEONARD COHEN

I WAS DOING A GIG IN TUCSON AZ  
A CANTATA ON BORDERLING ISSUES  
I COMPOSED IT  
I GET A CALL  
A GUY NAME JOHN  
CRYPTIC  
A BIT PRETENTIOUS  
AND UNCLEAR  
ABOUT  
WHETHER IT WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE  
I GUESS HE FIRST WANTED TO FIND OUT  
IF I WAS AVAILABLE  
I WAS  
I CAME HOME  
STILL NO ACTUAL CONFIRMATION  
I CALLED A VIOLINIST FRIEND  
WHO RECOMMENDED ME  
YES, SHE SAID  
IT'S ON  
GET A TRAIN OUT OF GRAND CENTRAL  
GO TO KATONAH  
AN SUV WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU  
I DID  
SURE ENOUGH  
A BLACK SUV WAS WAITING  
DARK WINDOWS ETC  
AND IT DROVE ME TO A FARM  
WITH A RECORDING STUDIO  
JOHN GREETED ME  
WITHIN MINUTES  
I REALIZED THAT HE HAD  
A BRILLIANT COMMAND  
OF THE BOARD  
HE WAS BOTH PRODUCER  
AND ENGINEER  
FOR A VIDEO  
ON PREGNANCY  
WHEN WE TOOK A BREAK  
HE GOT INTO A CONVERSATION  
WITH MY VIOLINIST FRIEND  
ABOUT LEONARD COHEN  
AND HIS MONASTERY STINT

I TOLD HIM HOW MUCH I ADMIRER HALLELUIA  
IT WAS BEGINNING TO GET AIR PLAY  
THIS WAS A WHILE BACK  
IT WASN'T A BIG HIT YET  
HE ANSWERED  
YES, I CO WROTE IT WITH HIM  
I SAID  
I'M IMPRESSED  
WE THEN FINISHED THE MUSIC FOR THE PREGNANCY  
VIDEO  
HE PAID US  
THE SUV TOOK ME TO THE TRAIN STATION  
AND I RODE BACK TO GRAND CENTRAL  
AND THEN HOME  
I LOOKED UP HIS NAME  
I FOUND THE SHEET MUSIC  
HIS NAME WAS ON IT AS CO WRITER  
I FOUND ANOTHER SHEET MUSIC  
HIS NAME WAS NOT ON IT  
BUT ON THE RECORDING CREDITS  
HE'S LISTED AS ARRANGER AND PRODUCER  
I DIDN'T MEET LEONARD COHEN THAT NIGHT  
OR ANY DAY OR NIGHT  
I DIDN'T MEET KEITH RICHARDS  
WHEN I RECORDED RAINDOGS FOR TOM WAITS  
HE LEFT TWO MINUTES BEFORE I ARRIVED  
I NEVER MET ANDY WARHOL  
HE WAS ALWAYS HALFWAY DOWN THE ELEVATOR  
WHEN I WOULD VISIT ULTRA VIOLET FOR A REHEARSAL

PERHAPS THAT'S OK  
IT'S THE ACCORDION PLAYERS PERSPECTIVE AGAIN

KEEPING ME ANONYMOUS AND GROUNDED

AND THAT'S OK

# Why?

WHY BECOME A LAWYER WHEN YOU CAN BUY ONE

WHY CREATE WHEN YOU CAN ACQUIRE

WHY BECOME A MUSICIAN WHEN YOU CAN HIRE ONE

WHY WRITE A NOVEL WHEN YOU CAN GET SOMEONE TO WRITE IT FOR YOU

WHY GO THROUGH PROCESS WHEN YOU CAN OBSERVE AND AUDIT A CLASS  
WATCH OTHERS GO THROUGH THE PROCESS AND THEN MAKE THEM WORK FOR  
YOU - -AND DRIVE THEM INTO THE GROUND

WHY WORK IF YOU CAN F\*\*\* YOUR WAY TO THE TOP - - HE, SHE OR THEY  
AND BE REGARDED AS A perfect living MASTER

A MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE

DEMANDS RESPECT

AND GETS IT

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO APPLAUD THIS

AFTER ALL

HE, SHE OR THEY FOUND THE RIGHT ANGLE

FOUND THE QUICK SOLUTION

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT WE MUST LOOK UP TO

FOR GUIDANCE

POLITICAL, MORAL EVEN ETHICAL

GUIDANCE

(THEY ARE JUST HUMAN AND WE

AT SOME POINT MAY EVEN ENVY THEM

THEIR POSITION, POWER—

MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE COMPASSION  
AFTERALL EVERYBODY HAS TO STRUGGLE  
MAYBE STEP ON A FEW TO GET WHERE THEY GOT)  
BUT UNLIKE THE REST OF US POOR SLOBS

WE DIDN'T HAVE THE  
ENTITLEMENT TO BEHAVE LIKE THEM

OR THE OPPORTUNITY OR

MAYBE WE JUST CHOOSE TO BE BETTER THAN THAT

ONE CAN RATIONALIZE ANYTHING  
IN THIS DAY AND AGE  
PUT A SPIN ON ANYTHING

OUR WHOLE POLITICAL CLIMATE IS BASED ON THIS TYPE OF THINKING

A PERSON HAS TRUE COMPASSION IF ONE ACTS LIKE A SELFISH TURD

“RUTHLESS COMPASSION”

SOME RELIGIONS ACTUALLY TEACH IT

ANOTHER RELIGION ACTUALLY BELIEVES THAT ONLY THE RULING CLASS WILL GO  
TO HEAVEN

AND THE SIMPLE, THE INNOCENT PEOPLE AND CHILDREN WILL BURN IN HELL

AFTER ALL SOME POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES TRULY BELIEVE THAT

THE RULING CLASS WORKS FOR THE GREATER GOOD

AND THE MASSES TAKE UP TIME AND SPACE

TODAY WE HAVE OURSELVES IN A FIX

OUR POLITICAL CANDIDATES SUCK

ONE IS WORSE THAN THE OTHER

AND OF COURSE WE KNOW WHO IS WORSE



BUT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO HONOR THEM

REVERE THEM

RESPECT THEM

AS OUR ROLE MODELS

THEY WILL GO TO HEAVEN

WE WILL ALL GO TO HELL

FOR NOT BEING LIKE THEM

FOR ATTEMPTING BASIC GOODNESS

OR JUST TRYING TO BE DECENT

SO GO TO HELL WITH ME AND THE ACCORDION

TO SOME FOLKS (GARY LARSON)

THE ACCORDION REPRESENTS THE HELL REALM

IF WE ARE ALREADY THERE

NO ONE CAN SEND US THERE

WE ARE OFF THE HOOK

WE'VE DONE IT TO OURSELVES

WE HAVE

EMBRACED PARADOX

EMBRACED DUALITY

TO PLAY THE ACCORDION

TO COMPOSE FOR THE ACCORDION

TO LOVE/HATE THE ACCORDION

WE MUST EMBRACE

THE BUILT IN IRONIC DUALITY

HIP/SQUARE - ELEGANT/VULGAR - CLASSY/DECLASSE - BEAUTIFUL/UGLY - HEAVEN/  
HELL - NEVER ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER

THE ACCORDION IS LIVING PROCESS  
IT IS BLUNT

THE ACCORDION - HAS YOUR NUMBER - AND EVERYBODY'S  
IT BREATHES COMPASSION AND IS ULTIMATELY DETACHED

THE ACCORDION PLAYER LIKES BEING HIRED - THE MERCENARY, THE THIRD  
BANANA HAS PRODUCED AMAZING, UNEXPECTED WORK - AND ALWAYS WILL

ENTITLEMENT DOESN'T FAIR WELL IN ACCORDION CULTURE - ALTHOUGH THERE  
ARE THOSE WHO ARE DELUSIONAL ENOUGH TO THINK THAT THEY ARE

THE ACCORDION DOESN'T NEED TO PUT A SPIN ON ANYTHING - IT IS THE SPIN

THE ACCORDION PLAYER DOESN'T NEED TO F\*\*\* THEIR WAY TO THE TOP - BECAUSE  
ACCORDION CULTURE STARTS AT THE TOP AND WORKS ITS WAY DOWN - THIS IS A  
GOOD THING -  
IT'S CALLED "GROUNDING"

THE ACCORDION ITSELF HAS ACQUIRED STUFF AND MORE STUFF AND MORE  
STUFF - IT PROVOKES, IT REVEALS CREATIVITY

ACCORDION PLAYERS ARE NOT MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE - BUT THEY DO THEIR  
BEST TO MASTER THEIR OWN TERRAIN

THE ACCORDION CAN BE A QUICK FIX OR AN ANGLE - BUT ONLY FOR A WHILE -  
WHEN THAT GETS OLD - ONE HAS TO WORK ON IT - I'M 70 AND STILL WORKING ON  
IT - AND SO CAN YOU

A JESUIT FRIEND OF MINE ONCE STATED: " I'M A JESUIT - AND CONTRARY TO PUBLIC  
OPINION, WE ACTUALLY DO BELIEVE IN GOD"

AS AN ACCORDION PLAYER I CAN SAY THAT"CONTRARY TO PUBLIC OPINION I DO  
BELIEVE IN BASIC GOODNESS - OR SIMPLY JUST TRYING TO BE A DECENT HUMAN  
BEING"

IF THIS RINGS TRUE - OR EVEN PARTIALLY TRUE - WE'RE AHEAD OF THE GAME

WHAT GAME?

- THE GAME OF LIFE - THE GAME OF DEATH - THE GAME OF THE ACCORDION

# The Rottenmeirs

THERE IS A TIME  
WHEN PEOPLE ADMIRE THEMSELVES FOR BEING AWFUL

A GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS  
CEOS, RETIRED BUSINESS PEOPLE,  
HEAVY HITTERS  
MEET ONCE A WEEK IN A BAND OR  
ORCHESTRA  
WE'RE AWFUL, THEY SAY  
TERRIBLE! - BUT WE HAVE FUN

I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHING  
REALLY WRONG WITH THAT - I SUPPOSE

A GROUP OF COLLEGE PROFESSORS,  
MUSICOLOGISTS, WRITERS, TENURED  
HEAVIES ALSO FORM SOME SORT OF  
ENSEMBLE  
WE SOUND LIKE CRAP, THEY SAY  
BUT AT LEAST WE ARE ENJOYING OURSELVES  
WE KNOW OUR MUSIC  
UNLIKE THE SCHMUCKS WHO PLAY BEAUTIFULLY  
DON'T KNOW SHIT ABOUT MUSIC  
AND HAVE TO SCRAPE TO MAKE A LIVING AT IT

A MOVIE CONTRACTOR, A GRAMMY WINNING PRODUCER,  
AN OSCAR WINNING SONG WRITER MEET ONCE A WEEK TO  
PLAY THE CLASSICS LIKE BEETHOVEN AND MOZART  
WE TOTALLY SUCK, THEY SAY  
BUT WE HAVE GRAMMIES AND OSCARS, SO BEAT THAT ALL  
YOU LITTLE NOTE SCRAPERS

WHEN I WAS 11, I FORMED A DUO WITH MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR, BUDDY  
BOWYER. HE PLAYED CLARINET - I PLAYED ACCORDION  
YES - WE WERE ROTTEN TO THE CORE  
WE CALLED OURSELVES - THE ROTTENMEIRS  
WE HAD CARDS PRINTED:

THE ROTTENMEIRS  
HAVE MUSIC - WILL PLAY - ROTTEN

NAMED AFTER THAT GREAT TV SHOW IN 1958  
HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL - PERHAPS THE GREATEST SHOW EVER ON TV

MY FRIEND, ELLIOTT SHARP STATED:

BILL, YOU PRECEDED JOHNY ROTTEN  
AND THE SEX PISTOLS

AND YES, I HAVE MORE TO SAY

BUDDY AND I WOULD DO IRONIC VERSIONS OF HIT SONGS OF THE DAY

COME DOWN - COME DOWN FORM YOU'RE IVORY TOWER BECAME  
COME UP - COME UP FROM YOUR LIFEBOUY FOXHOLE

QUE SERA SERA BECAME  
WILL I BE A HOBO - WILL I BE A BUM

HERE'S WHAT SHE SAID TO ME:

CUM SEE - CUM SA - SAY LA VIE - SAY LA VIE  
DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH CAUSE IT'S NOT WORTH THE TIME

ETC.

MY PARENTS FOUND SOME OF THESE AND SOBBED

ACTUALLY I WAS A HAPPY KID

MY WORK WAS DARK  
AS IT IS TODAY

AT 11 THAT YEAR - 1958 - I STARTED COMPOSING  
TONS AND TONS OF MUSIC  
TONS OF IT  
MY MOM DESTROYED ALL OF IT  
PEOPLE LIKE US DON'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT - SHE SAID  
I LET HER DESTROY IT - AND I STARTED OVER - NO PROBLEM AFTER THAT  
ONE PIECE I SALVAGED - THE \*ICE BOX RAID - PROBABLY WILL BE REGARDED AS  
MY OPUS 1 - IF REGARDED AT ALL.  
AND IT PROBABLY WILL CONTAIN ROTTEN FRUIT, VEGETABLES, MEAT, FISH, EGGS,  
ETC  
AFTER ALL - 1958 IS A LONG EXPIRATION DATE.

YOU CAN HEAR IT AT THE SEMINARS  
JULY 28, 29 AND 30 AT TENRI  
THE RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST - LAST PLACE WINNERS

THE THIRD BANANA - NO REFRIGERATION REQUIRED  
HIRED GUN  
HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL

DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL

\*AS FAR BACK AS THE 1950'S WE STILL CALLED A REFRIGERATOR AND ICE BOX  
IT SOON BECAME THE FRIGIDARE - A BRAND NAME USED FOR ALL REFRIGERATORS  
IT THEN BECAME THE REFRIGERATOR  
FINALLY, IT BECAME THE FRIDGE  
ALL OF THIS TOOK PLACE DURING A 20 YEAR PERIOD GIVE OR TAKE

# History in a box

here is my take:

stalin - socialism  
mussolini - fascism/nationalism  
hitler - national socialism

bernie/hillary - socialism  
gop - nationalism  
trump - national socialism

a bit simple - but.....

History repeats itself  
not always the same way  
but the patterns always return  
and the pendulum always swings

the accordion is history in a box  
it can help change the course  
it can provide warning  
it can sooth  
it can provoke  
it can challenge  
it can  
it  
it.....  
no better time to play it  
anytime

anywhere

do it

and

return home

to the SEMINARS  
JULY 29, 30 AND 31 AT TENRI  
OUR 22ND SMASH YEAR

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

AND IT'S TRUE

# Concept Reality

POT LUCK SUPPER AND BARBEQUE IN ALLEY WAY OF PALACE THEATER

ENTIRE CAST AND CREW OF AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

ALLEY WAY LOOKS AND FEELS LIKE SET FOR WEST SIDE STORY

EVERYONE HAVING DINNER - CAST, CREW AND MUSICIANS

YET

IT SEEMS THAT TONY COULD APPEAR ANY MOMENT

LOOKING FOR MARIA

OR THE ENTIRE CAST, CREW AND MUSICIANS

COULD BREAK INTO AMERICA

OR

IT WAS A KIND OF DINNER THEATER

WHERE

THE CAST, CREW AND MUSICIANS

WERE

THE CHORUS, EXTRAS AND AUDIENCE

OR THE MAIN EVENT

IF TONY

OR ANY OF THE LEADS CEASED TO APPEAR

WEST SIDE AMERICANS IN PARIS

EACH WHICH THEIR OWN STORY OR NARRATIVE

HAVING DINNER

ATTENDING DINNER THEATRE'

AND BEING THE LEAD CHARACTER

OR CHARACTERS

DEPENDING ON ONE'S POINT OF VIEW

**THE 2016 ACCORDION SEMINARS  
JULY 29, 30, 31 AT TENRI CULTURAL INSTITUTE  
43 A WEST 13TH ST  
MASTER CLASSES AT 3  
CONCERTS AT 7  
NO PLACE LIKE HOME!  
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# The Red Lantern

## THE RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST

Accordion Culture is based on Contests. Championship Contests - much like sports. Who comes in First of course is the Champion - whether its the World Champion, The U.S. Champion or the Whatever Champion.

Sometimes the term, Champeen, is used.

There are those who come in Second and Third - they get trophies - but they are not Champions - or Champeens.

WHAT ABOUT LAST PLACE?

Ever watch a marathon? - and the final runner still running while practically every one has gone home or partying? He or She just wants to make it to the end - to run the course - personal best and proud to be a part of it - as St. Paul says - "I fought the good fight. I have kept the Faith".

That's the RED LANTERN WINNER - LAST PLACE - A LAST PLACE WINNER

We have RED LANTERN ACCORDIONISTS - The backbone of the industry - in it for the long haul - signed up for the whole ride - putting other's interests first - working for the betterment of the culture.

WE DEDICATE THIS WEEKEND TO THE RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST - MAY HIS OR HER LIGHT SHINE BRIGHT!!

Are you crying yet?

OK - We got the maudlin s\*\*\* out of the way - now let's get down to the real deal of it.

THE RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST doesn't think too much about making a difference. He or She already has - by constantly showing up and working.

THE RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST doesn't think too much about His or Her relevance. Too busy helping others - including those who think they are.

THE RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST is not concerned about making history every time He or She takes a breath or makes an excrement - much too busy in the mere doing of their art, and trying to improve it - and yours as well.

THE RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST can be a bit cynical at times - He or She knows a little too much - been around a bit - knows that their days are numbered and wants to make the most of them - some quietly - some with a vengeance.

RED LANTERN ACCORDIONISTS never quite know whether they have won or lost the good fight - even at the end - and neither did St. Paul - or Don Quixote - or any warrior worth mentioning.

He or She has totally obliterated themselves - understands the value of the Third Banana - is tempered like steel - has been through the fire - and came out it wounded, vulnerable and stronger than an ox - a work horse - a mule.

RED LANTERN ACCORDIONISTS are kind - happy and a bit sad - and not to be f\*\*\*\*\* with.

THERE IS NO LOGICAL REASON TO BECOME A RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST

RED LANTERN ACCORDIONISTS ARE CALLED

BY WHO?

DON'T QUITE KNOW

BUT

THEY FEEL THE CALL

OF A DIFFERENT WINNING

OF HARD LABOR

OF DOING HARD TIME

FOR NO REASON

OTHER THAN TO DO IT

AS BEST AS THEY CAN

BECAUSE THEY CAN

IF YOU ARE ONE OF THEM

THIS IS YOUR TIME

YOUR WEEKEND

OTHERS ARE WELCOME TOO

AS LONG AS YOU BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK

BUT THE FOCUS WILL BE - RED LANTERN

SHINE AWAY - CHAMPEEN!

but  
DON'T BE A POLLYANNA! AVOID BOUNCY BOUNCY BOUNCE!!

SHINOLA!!

AMERICAN ACCORDIONISTS' ASSOCIATION MASTER CLASS AND CONCERT SERIES

DR. WILLIAM SCHIMMEL - MODERATOR AND CURATOR

THE RED LANTERN ACCORDIONIST

OUR 23RD SMASH YEAR

**JULY 28, 29, 30 AT**

**THE TENRI CULTURAL INSTITUTE**

**43A WEST 13TH STREET - BETWEEN 5 AND 6 AVES**

**MASTER CLASSES AT 3 PM - ENDING AT 5PM**

**CONCERTS AT 7 PM - ENDING AT 9 PM**

**25. PER MASTER CLASS**

**30. PER CONCERT**

**50. PER DAY - INCLUDES MASTER CLASS AND CONCERT**

**135. PER ENTIRE WEEKEND**

**RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION - 212 876 0827 - [Accordionbill@gmail.com](mailto:Accordionbill@gmail.com)**