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**News from Spain...**

**Competitions:** The Basque Confederation of Accordionists was formed in 1974 and in 1999 became the HAUSPOZ, Euskal Herriko Akordeoi Elkarte. A member of the Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA) member of the International Music Council (IMC) – UNESCO, it also has partners of all Euskal Herria as well as partners throughout the rest of Spain.

HAUSPOZ was formed with the goals of promoting the study of accordion, elevating improvisational studies, interpretation and the elevation of teaching standards as much as possible in Spain.

The first Competition for Accordion Soloists was held in Tolosa, the 20 April 1975. In 1993 in elevating the standard of the competition, the Villa de Arrasate inaugurated an International Competition with an age category of 32 years.

Today, this prestigious competition called 'Arrasate Hiria' and does not have age limit. With an outstanding jury panel and high level of contestants, this competition is recognized as one of the worlds most respected competitions.

**2004 Arrasate Competition:** "HAUSPOZ" Euskal Herriko Akordeoi Elkarte, the Town Hall of Arrasate and The County Council of Gipuzkoa call the "Arrasate Hiria" Nazioarteko XII. Akordeoi Lehiaketa (XII "Arrasate Hiria" International Accordion Competition), that will take place in Arrasate-Mondragón (Basque Country) between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, 2004.

For full details, or information about entering the Arrasate competition in 2005, please visit the internet site: [www.hauspoz.org](http://www.hauspoz.org)

**Hauspoz Celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** "Hauspoz" Euskal Herriko Akordeoi Elkarte celebrated its 30th year anniversary, first as (Confederación Guipuzcoana de Acordeón) and after that as (Hauspoz Euskal Herriko Akordeoi Elkarte).

In order to celebrate it, we organised the first International Accordion Congress in Zarautz between 29<sup>th</sup> of June and 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2004. The Town Hall of Zarautz and the Cultural Department of the Basque Government supported the congress which was surrounded with different activities such as:

- Master class about Francisco Escudero and his work "Fantasía Geosinfónica" touch by Joxan Goikoetxea.
- "The Accordion inside the Contemporary Music" titled master class touch by Luciano Biondini.
- A speech titled "The Accordion inside the Popular Music" touch by Juan Mari Beltran and Enrike Zelaia.
- A speech about "The law of Intellectual Property" touch by Sonia Fernandez. It was also possible to have a look to an exposition called "The History of Accordion" and also an exposition that covered the last 30 years of the Association.

During all the days the Congress took place, we had the chance to go to different concerts such as the ones given by Luciano Biondini, Iñaki Dieguez & Ghatuain, Gorka Hermosa & Germán Díaz, Enrike Zelaia, Angel Luis Castaño, Amaia Iraola, Aitor Furundarena, Fran Idareta, Miguel Sagastume and Alain Musichini.

We had the opportunity during the Congress to congratulate Felix Aranzabal, Miguel Sagastume, Manuel Yaben and Enrike Zelaia for their work to improve the accordion in the Basque Country.

**Annual Accordion Seminars:** In 1987 HAUSPOZ organized a week of accordion Seminars in Tolosa, later moving to Irún and then finally settling in Zarautz. Now this seminar takes place annually in July as part of the 'Cultural Week' of the Accordion in Spain.