



DICK CONTINO SPECIAL MUSICAL TRIBUTE LADY OF SPAIN

Tolchard Evans (1901 – 1978)
Dick Contino (Jan. 17, 1930 – April 19, 2017)

Accordion Ensemble Arrangement by Joan Cochran Sommers
Based on the Solo Arrangement by Charles Magnante
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LADY OF SPAIN, written by the English bandleader and composer, Tolchard Evans was made extremely popular by the legendary American accordionist Dick Contino. The handsome young heartthrob played it as a solo on the Horace Heidt Radio Show and kept winning week after week after week. Although he played many other pieces, *Lady of Spain* became his most recognizable and most popular one, even more so after his 1950 appearance on the Ed Sullivan TV Show.

Dick Contino performed almost every year from the very beginning of the Las Vegas Accordion Convention (founded by Paul Pasquali). His last appearance at the Convention was in 2014 when he stood up as usual and played a very long set of pieces with his back-up guys as well as singing. Dick brought the audience to tears with his inspirational and poignant commentary.

It has been the tradition ever since the founding of the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra for it to close the Convention on Thursday Evening and many times Dick was in the audience with his family and his many friends. This year will be different. It will be the first Convention after Dick's death. Joan Cochran Sommers thought it would be a touching tribute to Dick for the Orchestra to play **LADY OF SPAIN** as the closing piece on its program. Maestro Sommers thought it would be even more inspiring and exciting to have Cory Pesaturo, Grayson Masefield, and Stas Venglevski join the orchestra on a couple of choruses – *ala The Three Tenors* – when the tenors performed all over the world with various symphony orchestras. Cory, Grayson and Stas will be the Star Performers at the 2017 Las Vegas Accordion Convention. They will join the orchestra for this special tribute and of course they will also show the audience some of the bellows shakes that were made so popular by our friend Dick Contino.

As a heart-felt tribute to Dick Contino, Joan has made a new Accordion Ensemble Arrangement of *Lady of Spain*, which will feature the Accordion Orchestra joined by these three internationally famous accordionists. Dick Contino certainly inspired a whole generation of young accordionists to practice diligently, with the hope that they might become as popular as their idol – better known in Las Vegas as *Mr. Entertainment!*



The THREE Accordionists; Cory Pesaturo, Grayson Masefield, and Stas Venglevski & Conductor Joan Sommers

Please join us for this inspiring musical tribute to DICK CONTINO

LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION CONVENTION – October 23 - 26, 2017 – www.AccordionStars.com
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