



IDAHO

Joan zen abenduaren 2an Jim Jausoro hil zen Idahon, bertako euskaldunen erreferente garbia eta euskal musitaren sustatzaile sutsua. Bere akordeoiaren doinuen bitartez milaka umek izan zuten euskal musika eta kulturara hurbiltzeko aukera. Jasotako ohore eta omenaldiak ere ehundaka izan zituen. Ipar Ameriketako euskalzaleek gogoan izango duten pertsonai leial eta zintzoa joan zaigu. Goian bego.



Jim Jausoro with Lehendakari Ibarretxe at the closing ceremony of the Third World Congress of Basque Communities held in Vitoria-Gasteiz in July 2003.

Idaho loses one of its great treasures, Jim Jausoro

Some of us dedicate our spare hours to extra-curricular projects and causes as time and family allows. Jim Jausoro dedicated his life to Basque music and to culture.

What began as musical entertainment for gatherings in 1932 led to a lifetime of dedicated practice, performances, and service to the Basque communities in the American West.

Jim passed away on December 2nd 2004 surrounded by his family and in the midst of an entire community who will feel his loss for literally generations to come.

Raised in a boardinghouse owned by his parents, Tomas

and Tomasa Jausoro, in Nampa, Idaho, Jim's interest in music began at the age of ten, when he would try using the accordions left at the hotel by borders who spent months at a time in the hills as herders. He took lessons for six months and learned to read music. By 1932, at the age of 12, he was asked to perform Basque music in boardinghouses and at private parties. His accordion traveled with him to World War II and his service in the Navy, where he learned to play other types of "modern music."

In 1935, at the age of 15, Jim won an amateur contest held at the Adelaide Theatre. The grand prize was an all-expense paid trip to Portland,

Oregon, and the opportunity to play in a national radio program over Station KWG, one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest. According to a newspaper clipping at the time: "Shy, small, Jimmy Jausoro, 15 year old amateur contest winner, had his 'big moment' on the air, was interviewed and got a chance to play his accordion, an accordion almost as big as himself, and an accordion that he has worked months selling newspapers for the Boise Capital News to buy. He said he was a little scared, but he liked it."

Although Jimmy's roots never moved far from the Treasure Valley, the impact of his music has extended over



three continents and has touched thousands of people.

In 1947, Jim was asked to play for children's dance practices, which he continued until this past month. About that same time he and his good friend, Domingo Ansotegui, started playing for Basque dances in Boise, Shoshone, Gooding, and many other communities in Idaho as well as in Elko, Winnemucca, and Ely, Nevada. After returning from the service he worked for the Union Pacific Railroad from which he retired after 39 years. In November of 1957, he formed the Jim Jausoro Orchestra and he and his friends played both Basque and modern dance music until 2000.

In 1960, a group of young Basques from Boise who had traveled to their homeland, met dancers there who taught them dances and then encouraged them to return home and form a group using the same name. In an interview with Jim in 2000 he said, "when I got started, there was no written music to follow. When the Oinkari Basque Dancers got going in 1960, they'd hum the dances to me and I'd write down all of the dancers' music." Some of the music was written for dances choreographed in the 1960s and remain as trademarks of the group today.

In 1980 he began playing with the newly-formed Caldwell Basque Dancers for practices and performances. Jim played for them for the last time at a performance at Albertson College on

November 10th practiced with the Oinkari Basque Dancers on November 14th. His last practice for the Boiseko Gasteak Basque Dancers was Tuesday evening, November 16th.

As a Master in the Traditional Folk Arts Program for the Idaho Commission on the Arts, Jimmy taught his trademark piano accordion to four apprentices over the years. He also taught at numerous music camps set up to teach Basque children about their heritage. He was an avid student, always trying to learn new music and practicing his skills on the accordion. Not focusing solely on Basque music, Jim's performances have led to cross-cultural and multi-ethnic events with members of the German, Italian, and Greek communities.

Jimmy accompanied the Oinkari Basque Dancers to Washington, DC in July, 2004 where he played at the Library of Congress and on the Millennium Stage of the Kennedy Center to crowds who gave ovation after ovation of appreciative applause.

The long list of performances over the years does not include the some 400 weddings at which Jimmy and/or his orchestra played, nor does it reflect the hundreds and hundreds of performances and practices at which Jimmy played for the dantzaris. It would take pages to list the many summer and winter Basque dances where he could be found playing in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. Jimmy and the Oinkaris also

performed for numerous annual events such as Music Week, Trailing of the Sheep, veterans' reunions, government and private conferences, and for tour groups.

Jim was a gentle man, a humble man, a family man of the highest character, a musician, a sports fan, and an absolutely dedicated contributor to Basque culture. When asked in a 2000 interview he had done this for so long, he responded: "I want to keep the accordion alive and I continue to play for the dancers because I love it. Our performances have taken us all over the country, including Alaska, and over to Europe. I enjoy being with people and playing music and will continue to do so as long as I can."

Jim Jausoro is survived by his wife, Isabel, of 51 years, his two daughters Marie Day (Bryan), and Anita Jausoro, and his granddaughter, Danielle Day. He is also survived by his brother and numerous nieces and nephews.

Idaho has lost an ambassador and the Basque community has lost one of its cornerstones. Jim Jausoro will live on in the hearts of literally hundreds of young people who have danced to his music or learned from him and in the influence he has left in Idaho and the many places he's traveled. His legacy is here, but he will never be able to be replaced. Goian Bego.

PATTY A. MILLER
 Executive Director, Basque
 Museum & Cultural Center

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