

Appearing in other news media . . .

Bohemian Rhapsody

(A treatise on the Marais)



Figure 1. Dominique Alavoine meets her public playing a book-operated street organ. Photo: William Allard

COAA members subscribing to *National Geographic* were treated to a surprise in the August, 2003 edition which featured an article entitled *Bohemian Rhapsody* written by Cathy Newman. The article, revolving around the Marais, 310 acres of Paris on the Right Bank of the river Seine, began with the photograph (Figure 1) and story about Dominique Alavoine.

The coast is clear this afternoon, so Dominique, who is thin, angular, and has the hollow-eyed look of an Edith Piaf, begins peeling out *Lili Marlene* under the arcades of the Place des Vosges, a 17th-century square of perfect symmetry in the heart of the Marais.

The article goes on to describe the Marais and notes that Dominique noted that she could reach people with a song, creating a rapport—almost angelic. Describing Dominique's mode of work, the author states:

After playing in front of the Place des Vosges, she wheels her barrel organ down the Rue St. Antoine and wrestles it up the steps leading to the plaza in front of the Church of St. Gervias-St. Protais. Slipping the punch cards of a tune into the organ, she turns the crank and plays *When I'm Sixty-Four*, singing in a clear soprano in French-inflected English.

The author noted that Dominique noted that through her work is how she met the man of her life—he came every day to listen to her. The author suggested she should get a barrel organ herself at which time Dominique encouraged her to play her organ:

She inserts a roll of music in the organ, and, as I (the author) crank the handle, wavering notes shape themselves into *Some Day My Prince Will Come*.

Previously printed articles appearing in the *Carousel Organ*

may be obtained by:

***Back Issues CD**—contains entire contents of issues #1 through #13 (including the first special rally edition). This may be purchased for \$22.50 (includes postage) from Ron Bopp, Editor, 55801 E 365, Jay, OK 74346.

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