



San Francisco Accordion Club December 2011

NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting, Dec. 18 @ 2 p.m. It's a PARTY!

During the first half of the meeting we invite anyone who plays to bring their accordion (or any other musical instrument as long as it is a "C" instrument) and join in one large jam band. All you need is your instrument, a music stand and be ready to have some fun. Sheet music will be provided by Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, who are putting together a collection of easy holiday favorites

If you don't play, then lend your voices and sing along – everyone can get in on the fun.

The Jam Band selections will be interspersed with a few special holiday novelty songs.

For the second half of the program, we will be treated to the *San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble*, directed by **Maestro Joe Smiell**. They recently presented their fall concert and will be sharing some of that program with us.

Members of the Ensemble are:
Peter Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, Nora Mazarra, Marian Kelly, Reno Di Bono, Dave Perry, Taffy Steffen, Jerry Kramer, Val Kieser, Anne Me-tais, Taylor Pederson Sharon Greyhosky, and a special appearance by Joseph Smiell.

Special thanks to Chris and Tor Arild, who contribute immeasurably to ACE by serving as the Music Librarians.

Please bring a plate of your favorite holiday treat – sweet or savory, to compliment our break-time buffet.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and hope to see you at the party!

Time is running out!

Our new membership year has begun. To date, we have 134 renewals for 2012. We would be delighted to see all 230 of our members from 2011 continue to support the club by renewing. If you have not renewed, we hope that you will do so soon. The December issue of the newsletter is the last one you will receive if you haven't renewed. Besides the Newsletter, with membership you also receive discounted admission to most meetings – the more you come to the meetings, the more you save! You can find a link to the Membership renewal form on the Blog page of our website (<http://www.sfaccordionclub.com/blog.html>) or you may simply call Randall Hicks at (510) 583-1581 and leave a message – we will email or send you a renewal form promptly.



THANKS to Phillip and Cheri Marcucci for the donation of 2 gift packs of the excellent wine from their vineyards at Marcucci Farms in Santa Rosa. You can find them on Facebook or visit their website at: <http://www.marcucci-farms.com/index.html>

Our monthly musical program was a great success — one of the best attended meetings this year! Gus Greyhosky acted as MC. A \$300 Scholarship was awarded to Linus Schmitz, followed by him playing two selections to demonstrate his progress—The Caissons Go Rolling Along and Vieni sul mar (Come to the Sea). Well done, Linus!

The duo of **Taffy Steffen & Jim Shoemaker**, from Sacramento played first. They are members of our club and Jim is also an active member of two additional accordion clubs. Their selections took us on a European tour with Piccata (Italy), Les Bicyclettes de Belsize (France) and Zum Abschied (Germany) to name only a few. As the perfect segue to our next group, Val Brewer joined Taffy and Jim on stage to play Janet's Waltz. Grazie, merci & danke schön Taffy and Jim!

Joining **Val Brewer** on stage were her son **Jan** and her daughter-in-law, **Carole** who make up the delightful **Val Floren Brewer and Family Trio**. Val and her family are all talented and entertaining musicians in their own right. Val is also the sister of Myron Floren, probably as much a figure on the Lawrence Welk Show as Lawrence himself. Jan shared a little Scandinavian humor and a few anecdotes from times he spent on the sidelines during taping of the Lawrence Welk show. He is also an accomplished drummer and master of the spoons! Carole has a lovely voice and played along on the piano. Val led the Trio with her accordion (a "hand me down" from Myron) in several polkas and Carole played and sang Spanish Eyes. After several more selections, they invited everyone to sing along with God Bless America, to end their set.

Last we heard from our featured performers – **The Peter DiBono Trio**, with Peter on Accordion, **Harriet Newhart** on Violin and **Steve Hanson** on Bass. We were, as always, wowed by their performance. They opened with Innamorata. Harriet makes the violin sing, playing off of Peter's accordion work, with excellent backup from Steve. They opened up their performance to requests from the audience – I don't think there is anything this dynamic trio can't play. When Bei mir bist Du schön was requested, Peter related an amusing story of how, on a lark, he and a drummer entered a national contest sponsored by Coca Cola Bottling – a sort of precursor to American Idol. They took the state of California by storm, but unfortunately were edged out in the 6 State Western Division finals by a Folk Singing duo (Folk was all the rage at the time) - the song they played was Peter's own arrangement of Bei mir bist Du schön. Peter then lead us in a chorus of Happy Birthday for the upcoming birthday of Val Brewer on November 27 and with the afternoon at an end Peter's Trio concluded with a medley of selections from My Fair Lady.

Thanks to all our wonderful performers – Linus, Taffy, Jim, Val, Carole, Jan, Peter, Harriet and Steve— for making our November meeting a delight.

Randy Hicks



Jim Shoemaker and Taffy Steffen



Val Floren Brewer and Family Trio



The Peter DiBono Trio

International Accordion Convention 2011 Masquerade in Las Vegas

If you love the accordion and can't get enough of it, the LVAC is the place to be. Masquerade was the theme—our first night being Halloween! We heard beautiful music from **Peter and Mady Soave; Mario Tacca and Mary Mancini**; and closing out the evening and rocking the house, **Bruce Gassman**. Prizes were awarded for the most outstanding costumes!

The second evening included the pleasure of hearing **Frank Marocco** playing his smooth jazz sounds solo as well as a set with flute, sax, drums and bass. Adding to the evening was the exciting Colorado ensemble, the **Soundscape Trio** with an unusual and diverse set of late 19th and early 20th century music.

Emmanuel Gasser and **Mary Tokarski** performed beautiful sets on the third night, and **The Accordion Kings** wowed the audience with a lively performance. **Angelo DiPippo** received the 2011 Honorary Director's Award.

The final night, **Alexander Sevastian**, Coupe Mondiale winner in 2007 performed an amazing set of classical Russian Music that was absolutely breathtaking. The convention closed with the Festival Orchestra Performance directed by **Joan Cochran Sommers**. It is always a joy to perform under Joan's baton. The Orchestra performed El Capitan March, Best of Abba, My Heart Will Go On, Finlandia, Begin the Beguine and Lord of the Dance.

Lynn Ewing



Alexander Sevastian



Bruce Gassman



The Accordion Kings

Victoria, B.C. to host Coupe Mondiale 2013

Aleksandar Milojevic, president of the B.C. Accordion Society, has signed a deal to host the *Coupe Mondiale* in Victoria. The annual event—for both professional and young players—is the World Championship, considered the accordion equivalent of the Olympics. This will be the first time it has been held in Canada. “We’re bringing the world to Victoria in August of 2013, and there will be a significant economic impact to Victoria.”

This event will attract hundreds of the world’s top accordionists, as well as a few thousand spectators travelling from Europe, the U.S., China, Australia and other countries. He signed the contract last month while serving as an adjudicator at the Coupe Mondiale in Shanghai. The Coupe Mondiale is sponsored by Confederation Internationale des Accordionistes. It took Milojevic a year of *constant convincing* to persuade the confederation to green-light his bid.

Originally, the 2013 Coupe Mondiale was to be hosted by Holland. Milojevic said Dutch organizers ran into financial problems, thus allowing other countries to vie for the honour.

Milojevic is well known in international accordion circles. Originally from Serbia, he competed in the Coupe Mondiale when he was young, later working as a promoter for music, theatre and other arts events. His wife, Jelena Milojevic, is among of the world’s leading female accordionists, having won a 2003 world competition in Italy. The estimated cost for the B.C. Accordion Society will be about \$200,000 to stage the event. Milojevic’s plans to approach the province and the Canada Council for funding. Venues for the event have yet to be confirmed.

“We’re now discussing a few options, whether UVic or the Victoria Conservatory or St. Ann’s Academy,” he said. “It’s going to be the biggest celebration ever of the accordion in this part of the world.”

*Times Colonist,
Victoria & Van Couver Island*



The Great Morgani celebrates 15 years of street performing in Santa Cruz by Chelsea Hawkins

Frank Lima, better known as *The Great Morgani*, has been donning elaborate costumes, bejeweled platform boots and playing the accordion around Santa Cruz for the past 15 years.

Friday marked the anniversary of Lima's career as a street performer and yesterday he could be found playing a variety of music to onlookers and passers-by.

A stock broker before his retirement, Lima said he decided to give street performing a try after he read about a musician in an article in the Sentinel.

His first performance was a far cry from what The Great Morgani is today. Sans costume or alter ego, Lima quietly walked onto Pacific Avenue to play the accordion, not really interacting with the people who passed by.

Pieces of Lima's eventual full-body costume began to appear—starting with gloves until he eventually decided to cover his face—and he found the costumes allowed him greater freedom and lowered his inhibitions.

Lima said he had never envisioned himself as a street performer, but the community in Santa Cruz has truly accepted him and allowed him to push his creative boundaries. "In 15 years, they've let me do pretty much what I wanted," Lima said. "I always describe my music as European romantic. I'm an American of Portuguese descent pretending to be Italian." Through the years, Lima has become a recognizable figure in Santa Cruz and locals can't help but exchange a word or request a song when they see him out on the downtown strip.

"I've seen him at various events and I feel like we're so lucky to have him here," said Kathy



Frank, a Santa Cruz resident. "He makes our town so unique, as if it wasn't unique enough already."

As long as you don't request accordion classic "Lady of Spain," Lima is happy to play you a tune of your choice. He said he has a repertoire of a thousand or so songs stored away in his head. Friday afternoon, at the prompting of onlookers he played Frank Sinatra tunes "New York" and "It Had to Be You."

But in his 15 years of performing, Lima said one of his favorite memories was participating in the First Night parades.

One year, Lima dressed in a mirrored suit, large metallic boots and constructed a fake accordion which was attached to a remote control vehicle. Lima then comically chased the accordion in the parade.

"I want this to be my legacy—that I was the accordion player who dressed funny," he said. "I don't want to be remembered as a stock broker. That's what I had to do to get to this place and do this."

Lima described a scene last week as he was performing: a woman, a stranger to him, came up and started to sing with him as he played a Puccini tune. Lima said the woman sang with him perfectly, as if they had played together for 20 years. It was a moment that couldn't have been rehearsed or re-created, and Lima couldn't help but be moved.

"That's what I like about street performing," he said. "It's magic."

Through the years, Lima says he's met a variety of friendly locals and that while he is representing himself as a performer, he feels as if he is representing the Santa Cruz community as a whole.

With 15 years experience, Lima has no desire to pull down the curtain on his one-performer show.

"I'm going to be 70 next year. I wonder if I can do [street performance] until I'm 75. Maybe I can incorporate a walker," he said with a laugh.

*the complete article can be read at:
www.santacruzsentinel.com*

Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA
\$3 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—
President (707) 318-0474; dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com

The Vacaville Chapter meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main Street, Vacaville.

The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova.
Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. 1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

Accordion Instruction

Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
David Chelini (916) 428-8764
Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
Lynn Ewing (650) 365-1700
Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510
Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308
Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

Next JAM session

will be held before the December meeting, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m..

Anyone who plays accordion is invited to come and join in the fun. All you need to bring is an accordion and a music stand.

We encourage performers of all levels to participate and if you don't play accordion, please come anyway and be our audience.

Accordions For Sale

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Club & Musical Meeting • Dec. 18 @ 2 p.m.

Performing in DECEMBER— Holiday Sing and Play Along, San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble,

Join us (almost every) third sunday of the month at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco

DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.) Continue past the gate house to the sign Oyster Point Yacht Club. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Visit us online @ www.sfaccordionclub.com

NOTICE

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted through September 2011, while a ferry boat terminal is being built. We can no longer park behind the building and there is limited parking in the lot alongside the OPYC. PLEASE do not park in the Commodore's designated space in the front of this lot! Overflow parking must go to the next lot down the line, where the \$10 parking fee is being waived.

SFAC Membership

SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family
Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guests. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Don Nurisso, 1166 Alicante Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044. NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you want

Newsletter of the San Francisco Accordion Club

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