



San Francisco Accordion Club

DECEMBER 2012

NEWSLETTER

It's a Party!

Dec. 16th

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

The **SFAC JAM Band** will play for a Christmas Sing-along to open our meeting. All are invited to arrive at the club at 1:15 for our **HOLIDAY JAM SESSION**, led by Vic and Barb Corsiglia. Bring your instrument and music stand. Sheet music of some easy holiday favorites will be provided. If you don't play, lend your voices and sing along - everyone can get in on the fun. After the pre-meeting jam, the band will choose a few selections to play to kick off our meeting.

We are delighted that Gus Greyhosky's young student, **Massimo Sciaroni** will play a song for us.

Bob Smith has been scheduled to play for us for the last two months, and this month, we hope it will really happen! Bob has not only written a book on fingering for the accordion, he has created many of his own arrangements which he has generously shared with club members.

The duo of **Taffy Steffen & Jim Shoemaker** will take us on a European tour with their sophisticated stylings. Taffy is active in a community band and theater, and Jim plays in the band for the Alpentnazer Schuhplattler dancers of Sacramento.

Frank Lima, aka **THE GREAT MORGANI** gave up a lucrative career as a stockbroker in order to pursue his love of something different - street performing! He can often be seen standing on the sidewalks of Santa Cruz covered from head to toe in elaborate costumes he creates himself, composed of shiny fabric, plastic discs, colored foil, or virtually any type of material object or decoration one could imagine! In his character of "The Great Morgani", Frank is a highlight each year of the Cotati Accordion Festival, where he unveils 4 unique costumes every year, to the delight of the audience.

The **San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)** was founded in 1995, as a small group devoted to playing original arrangements for accordion. Through the next 17 years, Joe Smiell Senior created more than 300 arrangements for accordion orchestra, which ranged in genre from classical to folk to show tunes before his passing in early 2012. The baton has now been passed to Joe's son, Joseph E. Smiell, who has moved the group more firmly in the direction of classical works from Dvorak, Bach and other great composers, while still performing some of Joe Senior's original works and arrangements. The ensemble consists of eight accordionists - Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono, Lynn Ewing, Grigoriy Krumik, Nora Mazzara, Anne Metais, Taylor Pederson and David Perry (photo next page).



Jim Shoemaker and Taffy Steffen



Frank Lima

cont >

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The ACE ensemble has been privileged to perform at the French Embassy as part of the fund raising effort for the SF Symphony, as well as the Oakland Museum, the Alliance Francaise, and numerous other venues. ACE plays gratis for schools when possible, and puts on at least two concerts a year....(etc) They will perform a concert open to the public at the Community Music Center in January. (see adjacent article)

The ACE Ensemble will perform at 4 P.M., Sunday, January 13th at the San Francisco Community Music Center. www.sfcmc.org CMC is located in San Francisco at 544 Capp St. Admission is \$15 adults, \$10 students and seniors. For information, please contact Peter Di Bono, 415-699-8674, or peterdsf@gmail.com.



ACE, Accordion Ensemble

Castelfidardo, Italy: Accordion Mecca 2012

This fall I traveled to “Accordion Mecca”, Castelfidardo, Italy and visited three wonders of the modern accordion world: the accordion factories, the Castelfidardo International Accordion Festival, and an international treasure, the Castelfidardo Accordion Museum.

At the accordion factories I was able to witness how each accordion is made using traditions that have been handed down for generations and state of the art technologies to create finely crafted accordions that are true works of art. I was welcomed by many factories including Scandalli, Zero Sette/Bugari, Borsini, Bompezzo/Brandoni, Victoria, Paolo Soprani, and the Binci Reed Factory.

At the festival I witnessed virtuoso players from around the world, and met many accordionists and repair people.

I was able to attend demonstrations by master craftsmen at the Castelfidardo Accordion Museum and to visit the Scandalli Factory where I was given an informative tour of their facilities. The high quality accordions they produce are created from the finest materials available, are

flawless and sound beautiful. Everything from the glue to the bellows, is produced under one roof! During the tour I had the opportunity to see the coveted Scandalli Super VI in various stages of production. Inspired by what I saw, I decided to import some Scandalli accordions and will be returning to Italy as soon as possible as they generously offered to give me factory training in the service and repair of these remarkable instruments.

I met with Alessio Gerundini, president of Bugari/Zero Sette Accordions, where there are 22 accordion technicians working in the production facilities to create only the highest quality Professional and Cassoto accordion models, each one specially custom fitted for its new owner. I was happy to see that they offer a beautiful custom Retro 1920’s style accordion, brand new with hand made reeds!

From there I went to the Brandoni & Bompezzo accordion factory (suggested by SFAC member Gus Greyhoskey) to meet with director Bompezzo Giampaolo. A family staffed and run business, they manufacture custom hand made accordions, a legacy passed down

for generations. In their showroom I enjoyed playing the smallest 120 bass accordion in the world! Their natural wood models are absolutely gorgeous, created primarily out of mahogany, spruce, and fir imported from northern Italy, Central Europe, Africa, Canada, and sometimes even California! They are sealed with many layers of protective coatings to preserve and accentuate the natural beauty of the wood and joinery while still maintaining a sturdy outer body and promoting ideal sound vibration.

During the last day of the Castelfidardo Accordion Festival my group of friends and I were taken on an extended tour of the Borsini Factory where we met with Carlo Borsini. Inside the factory there was everything from stacks of raw wood used to make the Borsini accordion bodies, to C&C milling machines used to mill the soundplates and complex decoration of the intricate treble grille. They showed us how the Borsini bellows gaskets are built into the inside of the accordion body, and the new treble register innovations allowing the player to control the airflow between sets of reeds with a slow moving lever for a excellent range of sound on each switch. We also discussed the differences in sound and durability between accordions finished in celluloid, paint, and wood finish. We took videos of the accordion production process and will be featuring this Borsini video starring our tour guide and Borsini dealer Jeffrey Iacono of Costa Mesa, California soon. I made the short journey to Victoria Accordions to meet with president Riccardo Breccia. They specialize in high quality lightweight double cassotto (tone chamber) professional accordions. Previously this company produced the brand Titano, mostly imported on the east coast of the US. Working with top notch violin makers, they skillfully craft the body of each accordion from maple and spruce brought down from the mountains of northern Italy. They offer over 300 custom models, and if you order a Victoria Accordions from our shop in San Francisco, they will deliver your hand made accordion to you from Italy in only 1 to 2 months!

Giansandro Breccia, president of Paolo Soprani, E. Soprani, Moreschi, and Pasco Italia Accordions met with me at the Soprani Music Store Showroom in downtown Castelfidardo to show me some of their newest accordion models. We then drove to their shipping, inspection, and repair facilities where I met their

some of their lightweight and affordable 96 bass models.

Next, I was pleased to visit Binci, 'la vera voce a mano', at the Binci Reed Making Factory, where the best hand made reeds for accordions are manufactured. Nestled in the hills just outside of town it was a treat to meet the entire family and get a hands on demonstration of how reeds are made. In their production facilities, the reed maker uses natural light for inspection of the blue spring steel reeds and duraluminum reed plates, and meticulously adjusts the reeds by hand, tuning them to a standardized set of tuning reeds until they are deemed perfect. Scandalli gets many of the reeds for their top accordions from Binci, and my Repair Shop, The Accordion Apocalypse in San Francisco is proud to carry Binci reeds for your reed replacement needs.

Contact me at (415)596-5952 to get information or order an accordion from any of these accordion manufacturers. Experience the magic for yourself and play one of our professional hand crafted Italian Scandalli accordions in our brick and mortar store!

Skyler Fell

www.accordionapocalypse.com



NOVEMBER 2012

Marian Kelly greeted our audience this month, filling in for President, Lynn Ewing who was “moonlighting” playing accordion in the pit orchestra for Sequoia High School’s production of Cabaret.

Our first performer was 14-year-old **Elise Leavy**, accompanied **Rick Chelew** on guitar. (photo on page 5) Elise is a frequent participant at the Lark Camp in Mendocino where folk tunes are often passed around with names unknown. Included in her performance were two Brazilian tunes, a Klezmer piece and two waltzes in the French Style, composed by accordionist Dan Newton, a frequent clinician at the Lark Camp. It was a great performance by an obviously up-and-coming artist. Elise said she started accordion with lessons from Mike Marotta Sr., who was in the audience.

Cristina Mariani, 16 and from Stockton, took over the stage next. (photo on page 5) She launched into *Sway*, aka *¿Quién será?* the song made famous by Dean Martin in the early ‘50s. She continued with *Flight of the Angels*. Her other pieces included *Moon Glow*, *Luce e Ombre*, *España Cani* (Spanish Gypsy), and *Malagueña*. Her last piece was *Bumble Boogie*. The audience wanted one more, so Cristina played *Granada*. It was a nice finale to an amazing performance.

In recognition of the great job these young performers are doing, and of the important role that younger players are taking in the accordion world, Ann delivered scholarship checks to Elise and Cristina.

Following Cristina was a group of musicians from Carmel and Monterey led by **Rich Denier** on accordion, playing Swiss music. The group included **Dave Dally** on violin, **Macucho** on percussion, **Mike Marotta Jr.** on accordion and **Steve Hanson** on double bass. This group plays on Thursdays at Lugano Restaurant in Carmel. They played three tunes: *Bürgler Sennechilbi Polka*, *Schwyzzer Grüess* (Swiss greetings), and *Schöne Eveline Polka*. It was a great selection of traditional Swiss folk music.

After the break, **Mike Marotta Jr.’s group** played the second half. The group included Mike playing accordion, Dave Dally on violin, Macucho on percussion and singing, Steve Hanson on double bass, and vocalists **Cathy Williams** and **Erasimo Aiello**. Starting with well-known *Perfidia*, they played some 22 pieces, mostly familiar and romantic including Italian, French and Latin, as well as American. Erasimo sang *Con te partirò*, aka Time to Say Goodbye, and Cathy sang

Dream the Impossible Dream and a lovely interpretation of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*. Mike Sr. joined the group for *Begin the Beguine*, adding a new factor to the already wonderful band. This was a very special moment as Mike Sr. had been hospitalized with a serious illness only a few weeks before. It didn’t take long, and he was back in the driver’s seat. They played *Autumn Leaves*, and Macucho sang in Spanish. By request, they played *She*, aka *Tous les visages de l’amour*. Erasimo sang *O Sole Mio*. Astor Piazzolla’s *Adios Nonino* and Aram Khachaturian’s *Sabre Dance* followed. For their final piece, Mike Sr., after joking that he had to leave for a reservation at In-N-Out, asked the audience whether they wanted to hear *Granada* again or *Funiculi Funicula*. Of course, the answer was, “Both!” And they did, with Erasimo singing. People were dancing in the entryway. The atmosphere was charged with excitement and no one wanted to leave, ...



the Marottas



Elise Leavy and Rick Chelew



Cristina Mariani

PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, non threatening way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Although our featured performers are scheduled almost all the way through June, we have lots of opportunities during the first part of the meeting for people who would like to play a short 10 or 15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs. Contact Dominic Palmisano at 415-587-4423 or email accord47@gmail.com, or Lynn Ewing, 650-453-3391, or ewinglynn@gmail.com

Wozzeck, the opera performed by the Philharmonia, includes a scene that depicts a tavern in which an accordionist is playing. **Big Lou the Accordion Princess**, who often plays at Schroeder's Oktoberfest events, got the nod. After the San Francisco gig, she went to Los Angeles for a performance, and from there to New York for a performance at Avery Fisher Hall.

Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/entertainment/garchik/article/The-most-military-fun-since-Bilko-4048607.php#ixzz2CgwwqVP6S>

ACCORDION EVENTS

AccordionUSA.com is an information packed web site featuring articles about worldwide and local events music, theater and art. Check it out and read about . . .

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card-size) for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices for members: quarter-page ad \$25.00; half-page ad \$50, and a full-page ad \$100. Non-member rates are double the member rates. A flyer (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

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In Sympathy

We would like to extend our sympathy to two club members who have lost dear ones recently. Mike Zampiceni, our club secretary, lost his beloved mother, Olive, on Nov 20th. Olive also played the accordion, and there are many wonderful memories of the prominent place the accordion played in the life of this talented family. Glen McClelland lost his dear wife Jean the same week, on Nov 21st. Glen was the first president of the San Jose Club, and he and Jean for many years did the newsletter mailing for our own SFAC. Our hearts are with you, as you move forward.

Membership and Donations

Our new membership year has begun! We would be delighted to see all of our members from 2012 continue into our new membership year, which runs from October 2012 to September 2013. This will be your last newsletter if you have not renewed. Membership is only \$30 per household. If you would like to make a donation to SFAC, we are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit and your donation will be tax deductible. Donations help us defray the cost of our lovely facility at Oyster Point Yacht club, and provide you with quality entertainment month after month. Please send renewals to Mike Zampiceni, PO box 62484, Sunnyvale, CA 94088.

Scholarship Information

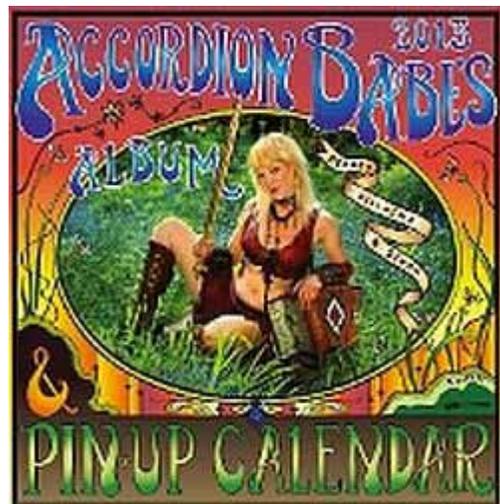
Twice a year, our club awards scholarships to accordion students who have a financial need and demonstrate dedication to pursuing their study of the accordion. Students must study with a teacher who is an SFAC member in good standing. Completed applications should be returned to Mike Zampiceni, 220 Tasman Dr, #106, Sunnyvale, CA 94089. Scholarship Guidelines and application forms may be obtained from current club secretary, Mike Zampiceni at: eclecticguy@comcast.net

The West Coast Accordion Babes will perform at the San Francisco Accordion Club Sunday, January 20, 2013 at 2 p.m.

Renee de la Prade & Whiskey and Women, www.facebook.com/pages/WhiskeyWomen
Jet Black Pearl www.jetblackpearl.com
Maggie Martin of The Mad Maggies www.themadmaggies.com
Diana Strong www.dianastrong.webs.com
Skyler Fell of The Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop
www.facebook.com/skyler.fell

CALENDARS

Accordion Babes Calendars make great gifts! Calendars, (which include a CD) will be available at our December meeting for only \$15.



Singing with your Accordion Workshop with Mark Growden at The Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop

**Thursday, December 13, 2012
7— 8:30 p.m.**

Come sing, play, and squeeze your accordion with singer/multi-instrumentalist Mark Growden. Learn to breath with your accordion and let it help you as you sing.

\$10-\$25 sliding scale

7pm 255 10th St. (upstairs) x Howard in SF

<http://www.markgrowden.com/>

<http://www.accordionapocalypse.com>

Accordionist needed:

for a tango group performing at tango parties. Our group was recently formed and presently we have: piano, drums, base, acoustic guitar and a vocalist. We rehearse Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at a home in Cupertino. We have Russian, Spanish, English tangos in our repertoire. Our musical director is Lena Grozman: 408-446-0945 or - Irina Martineau: 408-921-9556, IMartineau@nvidia.com



Accordion FORUM

Looking for an accordionist
for your next event?
Want to find an excellent teacher?
Have something to suggest?
Just want to chat with fellow
accordion aficionados?

POST IT ON OUR FORUM

This link will take you there.

COTATI ACCORDION FESTIVAL AUGUST 17 & 18, 2013

tickets will be available
JANUARY 1, 2013
lineup to be determined

President's Message

We had a fabulous meeting last month and I received the following email from Mike Marotta Jr.

"We had a great time playing for the Club, and for me to see my father playing again and being so loved meant everything. The SF Accordion Club has literally given my dad a new lease on life. Thank you to all of the members for this."

This really says to me how much difference this club can make in people's lives. Along those lines, I can say personally that without the San Francisco Accordion Club, my life would be totally different. I had given up playing for over 20 years when I met Frank Montoro and he invited me to a club meeting. Through the connections I made in this club, I have become involved in various accordion groups and events that are the center of my life. The more opportunities this club can give to people to play, hear accordion music, and meet other accordionists, the more enriched we will be.

While playing at Filoli for their Holiday Traditions Boutique, a young girl about 9 years came up to me very shyly. Her mom said, "She heard you playing and wanted to come in. I would like to introduce you to Frankie Yankovic's great grand-daughter!" Isn't that wonderful? Of course, I immediately told her about the club and gave her one of our cards – don't forget to hand those to people when you have accordion conversations!

I am pleased to tell you that the Board has expanded the use of our scholarship money to include stipends to young accordionists to encourage them to play and attend competitions and events that can improve their abilities. So keep purchasing those tickets for our raffle, because it goes to a good cause.

The Board is also trying to compile a list of accordionists who will play at various events when we receive inquiries through our club email. If you are interested yourself, or you know someone who would be, please let one of the Board members know. Along those lines, Cotati Accordion Festival has just established an online forum which I believe will be helpful to connect people seeking accordionists and people who want to play in the Bay Area. Please see the information this page.

Have a wonderful holiday and a New Year full of love, music and friends.

Lynn Ewing

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.net/firms.com

The Vacaville Chapter meets monthly on the second
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at Pietro's No. 2 at
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville, CA 95688
707 448-4588

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: Jerry Choate
(530) 345-2031

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) 453-3391
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
Big Lou (Linda Seekins) (415) 468 5986
Joe Simoni (650) 867-1122
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (650) 731-6010
Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

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

**Club & Musical Meeting • next meeting Dec. 16 @ 2 p.m.
and come to the Jam Session at 1:15**

It's a Party!

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

SFAC Membership is

\$30.00 per year for individual or family.
Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guest. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Mike Zampiceni, PO box 62484, Sunnyvale, CA 94088
NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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