

NEXT SFAC MEETING**2:00 pm Sunday****February 22****Oyster Point Yacht Club****South San Francisco**


FEBRUARY'S FEATURED PERFORMERS


With members from Russia, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United States, **Tangonero** is a San Francisco-based ensemble dedicated to preserving the tradition of Argentine tango. Tangonero was started in 2008 by bandoneonist **Alex Roitman**, violinist **Michele Walther**, and former guitarist **Zac Selissen**. The three organizers met at a tango jam in San Francisco and soon decided to form a band. Along the way they have added **Richard Duke** on string bass and most recently, pianist **I-Yun Chung** after the departure of guitarist Zac in the middle of 2014, when he moved to New York City. **NOTE**—bassist **Daniel Fabricant** will stand in for Richard Duke, who is unavailable for this performance.

*Tangonero*

Many people know and love the tango music of **Astor Piazzolla**, and so it was for Tangonero. Overflowing with the intense passion, lust and sorrow of his music, their performances capture the fire of the dance and the essence of the tango culture of Piazzolla's Argentina. Most Tangonero performances are at tango dance parties known as milongas. The Bay area's thriving Argentine tango community offers several milongas every night; check www.tangomango.org for listings.

Since 2008, Tangonero has performed at concerts, milongas and tango festivals; they have also produced several tango stage shows with vocalists and dancers. They released their first album, *La Yumba*, in 2009,

and are currently working on the next album, scheduled for release in the fall of 2015. Tangonero was awarded the San Francisco Community Music Center's Shenson Award for their original stage production *Malena*, in collaboration with Argentine vocalist Claudio Ortega and dancers Count Glover and Chelsea Eng.

PERFORMERS

Violinist **Michèle Walther** performs in a variety of music styles from jazz and classical to the avant-garde and world music. She has toured the East coast with Ian Anderson/Jethro Tull, performing in venues such as the Rose Theatre in NYC. In the Bay Area, Michèle can be heard with the George Cole Band and the Resonance Jazz Octet.

Born and raised in Moscow, Russia, **Alex Roitman** first studied piano and accordion; then Alex's passion for Argentine tango led him to study the bandoneon. In addition to his bandoneon work, Alex has composed several tango pieces and continues to work on transcribing and arranging great tango music of the past.

Pianist **I-Yun Chung** is a highly sought-after performer, composer, arranger, accompanist, and teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area. She began her formal musical studies at the age of six. I-Yun holds a degree in classical piano performance from the National Taiwan University of Art and BA in film scoring from the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Daniel Fabricant (*standing in for regular bassist Richard Duke*) may be the most versatile bassist in San Francisco—and the most in-demand. Playing upright or electric, he can adapt to a wide range of musical settings, from intimate chamber groups to sprawling dance bands and Latin ensembles. ❖



MORE FEBRUARY PERFORMERS



Big Lou and Friends

David and Lou are a married couple performing together for 15 years. They play as Big Lou's Dance Party (formerly Polka Casserole), and have performed several times at the



Big Lou and Dave

SFAC. Their neighbors, **Kathleen and Henry**, are also a married couple. Dave has been playing with Kathleen for 35 years in various incarnations, starting with the Rayons back in 1980. Henry (Kathleen's husband—see how convoluted this is getting?) played with both of them in the **Hurricanes**. Kathleen and Henry currently perform as **The Flying Salvias**. Lou and Henry play the accordion, Dave plays bass and Kathleen sings. ❖



Harry and Kathleen, The Flying Salvias

Don Savant is an Oakland native who took accordion lessons for two years with a teacher from **Menichetti Studio** beginning at age ten. He took up the accordion again as a junior in high school after seeing the younger **John Molinari** play, and purchased his white Giulietti from **John Sr.** It stayed in the closet for years, however, until he discovered the accordion community through a mutual acquaintance of **Marian**



Kelly. Don now thoroughly enjoys being tutored by **Mike Zampiceni**. He likes playing oldies from his parents' era, and has played venues including the Filoli ballroom, and Red Wall Cavern at mile 33 of a fifteen-day raft trip through the Grand Canyon. ❖



Ron Harris began his accordion career at the age of 4½, studying in San Francisco with **Armand Oliveras** (1941-1945); **Joe Lazzerin** (1946-1948) and **Angelo Cagnazzo** (1948-1951). Ron was about 12

years old when he began his lessons with Angelo and would ride the bus, carrying his accordion, from his family's home in Daly City. While taking lessons with Angelo in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, he could hear fellow student and future accordion legend **Dick Contino** practicing upstairs. He finished his studies with Leo Giusti (1951-1954) in Daly City. When he was 13, he performed on Horace Heidt's radio and TV talent show. ❖

Paul Cain is a Carmel native, whose accordion obsession started about six years ago. In that time, he has collected around 60 beautiful and rare instruments. He's also teaching himself to play piano accordion, chromatic button accordion, diatonic button accordion, free-base accordion and concertina! Although he does read music, Paul really enjoys playing mostly by ear and figuring out his own arrangements for accordion.



Paul works at the Monterey Bay aquarium as the manager of audio visual integration. By night, he runs his own sound, lighting and video production company. ❖

We Had a Great January Meeting!

Our January meeting was a very special experience! First, the jam band was greatly enhanced by the presence of the members of the **Sunday Seven**. It was especially fun to have the drums from **Mike Marotta's group** and the saxophone! We've invited them to join us every month, and we hope they'll take us up on it! We give tremendous thanks to **Vic and Barbara Corsiglia** for organizing the jam on such a regular basis.



Sunday Seven

The **Sunday Seven** swung right into their set, with a rousing version of "Beer Barrel Polka." **Bill Tapogna** and **Bob Stanfield** strolled into the audience as they played, encouraging everyone to clap and sing. This set was great fun, including the "Joy of Spring Waltz," "La Campagnola," "Never on Sunday," "Edelweiss" and "El Rio Drive Polka." They also played a moving military medley of songs from each branch of the military. They asked audience members who were members of each branch to stand as their song was played, which was proudly done. We had such a good time that **Don Savant's friend Dolores Murphy** was inspired to sing an impromptu version of her "Holy Names College Drinking Song" to the tune of "The Caissons go Rolling Along." She brought down the house! The group features **Bill, Bob, Scotty Williamson** and **Vic Corsiglia** on accordion, **Scott Stanfield** on bongos and tambourine, **Barbara Corsiglia** on guitar, **Gloria Tapogna** on recorder and **Lyle Gilleson** on sax.

Next, we had the pleasure of hearing **Frank Montoro**, a charter member of Bay Area Accordion Club (BAAC) and a two-time president of our club, once when it was still BAAC in 1994-95 and recently after we resumed the name SFAC in 2007-2010. He began with an exciting



Frank Montoro

rendition of "El Relicario", then moved into romantic mode with the beautiful tune "This is All I Ask." "Antoinette" was next, with a nice upbeat, ethnic feel, and the set closed with "Cry Me a River" which had a lovely arrangement with several sweet key changes. Frank is the son of Spanish immigrants and spoke only Spanish until he started school. He is one of 9 children and is still going strong at 91 years young. He was a school principal for many years, and played professionally through most of his adult life.

The first part of the meeting closed with a visit from **Frank Lima** (the other Frank), better known as "**The Great Morgani**." Frank was born in Los Banos, CA to

Portuguese parents, and also spoke no English until he started school. He was a stockbroker who took up street performing in Santa Cruz 18 years ago, and is famous for his many wild costumes,

which he creates himself. Most of the time, we can't see Frank's face, or even his accordion, as it is covered in fabric, but this time Frank brought a beautiful turquoise accordion with a matching turquoise hat, as the costume was "in need of some repair." It was nice to see his face for a change! Frank has a unique style—as with his costumes, he creates his music by ear, and this was evident in his unusual and lovely intro to "A



The Great Morgani (Frank Lima) performance.

Man and a Woman," as well as a waltz that he composed on the spot when a woman asked him to play "something Corsican". Frank is creating six silver costumes for the 25th anniversary of Cotati Accordion Festival, and we can't wait to see him! **Mary Savant** thanked him in Portuguese at the end of his

We honored our charter members after the break, and current president Lynn Ewing was pleased to be able to present certificates of appreciation in person to charter members **Josephine Hornbrook, Big Lou, John Fiore, Frank Montoro, Dominic Palmisano, Peter Di Bono, Thelma Bartoli** on behalf of her late husband **Rusty**, and **Lucy Smiell** for her late husband, **Joe**. The other charter members we have

contact information for will receive their certificates either in the mail or in person. THANK YOU to the charter members for reinventing and rejuvenating the SFAC!

~ THE MAIN EVENT! ~

Mike Marotta and Friends took the stage as our featured performers, and they rocked the place! **Mike Jr** on accordion, **Dave Dally** on violin, **Joe Gough** on drums, and **Steve Hanson** on bass started off with “Por Una Cabeza” and then did a lovely piece called “The Prayer” which is usually sung by their tenor, who was out sick, but the instrumental version was absolutely beautiful. Then **Mike Marotta Sr**, 93 years young, took the stage and absolutely tore it



Mike Marotta and friends

up! Mike Sr established the band 74 years ago, and played gigs every weekend while raising his family in Monterey. They began with “Latina Samba,” and went on to “Nany,” and then a beautiful version of Astor Piazzola’s “Oblivion,” with lots of mood changes from dark and mysterious to upbeat and delightful. They continued with “Cavaquinho” and “La Vakina” before introducing their surprise star, **Ree Brunell**.

And Ree really was a surprise! This seasoned entertainer played Las Vegas for years, and the guys in the Rat Pack came to HER shows! She was born and raised in Monterey, and said she was in love with Mike Sr from the time she was 15 and he was 19. Now 87 years old, Ree brought along a EEE-sized brassiere to show how cute and curvy she used to be! She is still darn cute, and brought down the house with “Just in Time,” “Lady is a Tramp” and



“Quando Quando Quando *Ree Brunell* (Tell Me When).” Mike Sr provided some moments of excitement by mixing in “Tico Tico,” on which he produced a mean bellow shake. The audience wouldn’t let Ree go, and she did a beautiful encore of “Someone

to Light up my Life.” The Marottas continued with two encores, playing “Pop’s favorite song,” “Anema E Core” and then “La Batina.” Then Mike Sr insisted that **Lynn Ewing** sit on the stage while he serenaded her with “You Don’t Know Me,” and it was truly a memorable finish to an amazing day at the San Francisco Accordion Club! ❖



PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. In addition, our scheduled performers are drawn from professional player and groups, and talented amateurs as well. Call us—we’re happy to add you to the schedule to play a 10-15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs.

Contact:

Dominic Palmisano

(415) 587-4423

accord47@gmail.com OR

Lynn Ewing

(650) 453-3391

ewinglynn@gmail.com

Please Remember!

Let’s leave our meeting space at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Please clean up your food or drink spills and recycle your trash.

THANK YOU!

OUR SINCERE THANKS!

We wish to express our appreciation to everyone who donated to the club during 2014. Beginning with the 2015 membership year, we will acknowledge our generous donors according to donation levels:

Bronze—\$20-\$49; **Silver**—\$50-\$199; **Gold**—\$200-\$499 and **Platinum**—\$500+.

If you donated during 2014 and your name doesn't appear on this list, please contact treasurer **Elaine Cooperstein**, 510-921-9323, elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We value your support and we want to be sure you are recognized. We gratefully acknowledge donations during 2014 from:

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♪♪ Scholarship ♪♪

Our scholarships are awarded twice a year (spring and fall) to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. They must have a financial need and demonstrate dedication to pursuing their study of the accordion. We are pleased to announce that **Mike Zampiceni** has agreed to stay on as our **Scholarship Chair**, although he has moved to the Sacramento area and is no longer a Board member. Contact Mike for a scholarship application.

Mike Zampiceni

6923 Gold Oak Lane
Citrus Heights CA 95621 (new address)
eclecticguy@comcast.net (unchanged)
408-569-2579 (cell—unchanged) ❖



IN MEMORIAM

Walter Kühn, Performer, Bandleader And Accordion Evangelist, Dies At 59

“A gentleman,” a widely repeated anonymous quotation has it, “is a man who can play the accordion but doesn’t.” By those lights, Walter Kühn was unequivocally no gentleman.



Mr. Kühn, who died in Manhattan on Jan. 2, at 59, was for decades an evangelist of the instrument, as a performer, band leader and owner of the Main Squeeze, a shop on the Lower East Side that he founded, in the words of its website, to meet “all your accordion needs.”

That most of us have accordion needs—unrecognized, untapped and achingly unfulfilled—was Mr. Kühn’s self-appointed mission to impress upon the public. From his boyhood in Germany to the end of his life, he sought to prove that the accordion, long derided, was actually “the hippest instrument on the planet,” as he said in a 2011 interview with WNYC Radio.

As a performer, Mr. Kühn appeared with the Last of the International Playboys, the nine-piece Latin jazz ensemble he founded, which played in clubs across the country.

As a band leader, he established the Main Squeeze Orchestra, an all-female, all-accordion ensemble of about 14 that has performed throughout New York City, playing everything from Strauss waltzes to Kinks covers.

As an entrepreneur, he opened the Main Squeeze, at 19 Essex Street, between Hester and Canal Streets, in 1996. Part emporium, part performance space, part conservatory and part hiring hall, the store teaches, tunes, repairs and sells the accordion—prices range from about \$100 into the thousands—and has become a mecca for players from around the world.

Accordions can be heard in genres as diverse as jazz, rock, tango, klezmer and zydeco. But as Mr. Kühn well knew, the stigma of the wheezing polka box endures. He was quick to finger its source. “Blame it on Lawrence Welk,” he told *The Star-Ledger* of Newark in 1999.

Walter Werner Kühn was born in Hanau, near Frankfurt, on Oct. 10, 1955, and began studying the accordion at about 6 years old. After earning a degree in piano and bassoon from the Musikakademie Frankfurt am Main, he was offered a position as a bassoonist with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra.

He declined, preferring to make his way as a jazz bassoonist and pianist. Settling in Hamburg, he supported his musical life with a series of odd jobs, among them gravedigger, wine seller aboard a streetcar and janitor in a brothel.

Mr. Kühn moved to New York in the late 1980s to study jazz piano in Harlem, packing his accordion “almost as an afterthought,” his former wife, Claire Connors, said on Wednesday. The instrument would give him his livelihood, first as a performer on subway platforms and later as a visible, and audible, public ambassador.

Mr. Kühn’s marriage to Ms. Connors ended in divorce. Survivors include his companion, Lauren Schwartz; his mother, Loni; and a brother, Gerhard. At his death—from lymphoma, Ms. Connors said—he lived in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

The Main Squeeze recently lost its lease and must close by Jan. 15. There are no plans to reopen it elsewhere, Ms. Connors said.

NY Times
Jan 11, 2015 ❖



Tribune Media Service

Accordion Orchestra III

Many of you have expressed interest in playing in a larger accordion ensemble/orchestra. If you're curious about participating in an orchestra, you now have the opportunity to join a group for a short duration, play some familiar tunes, and create a one-of-a-kind musical experience.

The **Accordion Orchestra Project III** will have its kick-off rehearsal on April 25th with four subsequent rehearsals scheduled throughout the months of May and June. The orchestra schedule will then conclude with a performance at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society in San Jose on June 7th. There is also the likelihood of a showcase concert on Saturday, June 6th, following the final rehearsal.

The repertoire will include favorites such as "Valencia," "Time To Say Goodbye," "American Patrol," and the "Waltz from Masquerade."



There is no cost associated with attending this project, and the rehearsal site is conveniently located in San Mateo at Laurel Elementary School with plenty of parking.

This event is made possible by some of Bay Area's finest accordionists and their friends devoted to bringing accordion orchestra music to San Francisco's backyard and enhancing the accordion landscape within the area. Both the San Francisco Accordion Club and the Silicon Valley Accordion Society are endorsing these events!

You can find the invitation and registration form on AbsolutAccord's website: absolutaccord.com. Should you have any questions simply contact Richard Yaus at (650) 832-1740 or via e-mail at ryaus@earthlink.net. And feel free to share this information with other accordionists in the area. ❖

#HONORING PAST PRESIDENTS

Last month, we thanked the charter members who reinvented the club in 1990 after years of inactivity. This month, we'd like to give big thanks to those people who have served as president! They will be honored with a small ceremony at this month's meeting and certificates of appreciation from the Board. Amazingly, a number of these folks served more than once as president.

We are fortunate to have most of our past presidents still with us today, and still playing our wonderful instrument. Only **Lou Soper**, who served as the first president of the club, and **Val Kieser** are deceased. Our election cycle has varied a bit in date, with elections being held in April, June and finally (current) September, so this is why you will see the same year listed more than once.

Lou Soper served as president from May of 1990 to mid 1992, and again from October 1999-2001. **Peter Di Bono** was president in 1992-93, and also from 2003-07. **Dominic Palmisano** served in 1993-94, and **Marian Kelly** served out the end of his term for the remaining three months of 1994. Not having had enough of a good thing, **Marian Kelly** resumed the presidency from 1997-99. **Frank Montoro** was president in the 1994-95 year, and again for three years from 2007-10. **Bob Berta**, who lives now in Michigan and is very active in that club, was president from 1995-97. **Lynn Ewing** followed Frank Montoro in October of 2010, and is currently serving her third term as president.

It takes a lot of dedication from many people to keep this club functioning, and we are proud to be celebrating 25 years of the re-establishment of the San Francisco Accordion Club, and the 100th anniversary of the original San Francisco Accordion Club!

The bottom line is that without you, the members, this club could not exist. Many hands make light work! If you have something you can do to become involved in your club, don't be shy! We invite and encourage your participation in any way that you can. Thanks to all who help keep us going—and ESPECIALLY those who were willing to take on the leadership role of president. ❖



Check out accordion events all over the US at AccordionUSA.com for all information about great festivals and performances.

Save the Date!



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2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.
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The Humboldt Chapter

3rd Tuesday at 7pm. Humboldt Swiss Club,
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The Sacramento Chapter

4th Wednesday at 7 pm.
Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd.,
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Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. Escalon Community Center,
1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon
Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall,
6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay
Contact: Jerry Choate (530) 345-2031

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

1st Sunday at 1pm. Harry's Hofbrau,
390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose
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♪♪ *Performing Around the Bay* ♪♪

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*rene@accuratefirestop.com
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DIANA STRONG *Pacifica*

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RICHARD YAUS (650) 832-1740

MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579

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SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President (650) 453-3391
ewinglynn@gmail.com

Dominic Palmisano, Vice President (415) 587-4423
accord47@gmail.com

Elaine Cooperstein, Treasurer (510) 921-9323
elainedc@sbcglobal.net

SFAC Directors

Jean Moshofsky Butler (415) 377-9266
threehummingbirds@gmail.com

Vince Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
vincentrinaldi01@gmail.com

Robert Cooperstein (510) 207-6009
drrcoop@sbcglobal.net

Don Savant (408) 257-0379
donsavant@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Shirley Brim (650) 201-7660
shirleyb77@gmail.com

Scholarship

Mike Zampiceni (408) 734-1565
eclecticguy@comcast.net

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Members may place one small ad (business-sized card) for one month free of charge in a given year; thereafter, 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 member rates.

A poster (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members and \$65 for non-members.

**Join us the third Sunday of each month at the Oyster Point Yacht Club
911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco**

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Come for fun and great music!!

February 22 @ 2 pm

Admission: \$6 for members, \$8 for guests

Doors open at 1 pm for Star-Spangled Banner rehearsal

Jam Band begins at 1:15

Visit us online at www.sfaccordionclub.com



DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, 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 Oyster Point Yacht Club sign. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

SFAC Membership is \$30.00 per year for individual or family. Join or renew using PayPal or a credit card at

www.sfaccordionclub.com

NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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www.sfaccordionclub.com

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