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San Francisco Accordion Club January 2012

NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting,

Jan. 22 @ 2 p.m.

- **Rob Reich Trio**
- **Ocotrillo featuring Gabe Hall-Rodriguez & Frank Petrilli on accordion**

Accordionist **Rob Reich** is an acclaimed accordionist, pianist and composer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. His playing and composing graces the sounds of many high profile ensembles, including Tin Hat, Gaucho, Nice Guy Trio and Circus Bella. He also freelances with many other Bay Area bands. His website is: www.robreich.com

Rob graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Oberlin Conservatory. In 2010, Rob was commissioned by the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival to compose "Sidewalks and Alleys", performed by the Nice Guy Trio.

Bassist Daniel Fabricant grew up in Ashland, Oregon, where he began playing guitar and trumpet in grade school. Since moving to the Bay Area and transitioning to double bass, he has performed as a freelance sideman



with Andrea Marcovicci, Mary Wilson, Spencer Day and others. He recently completed his education degree at SFSU and teaches privately as well as classroom general music.

Elizabeth Goodfellow is a freelance drummer in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has performed in Europe, Canada and the U.S. as a member of the 2003 Sisters in Jazz Collegiate All Stars. Her performance experience also includes playing over 150 educational shows as part of the San Francisco Symphony's Adventures in Music program. As a former member of the 561st Air Force Band, Ms. Goodfellow performed for the President of the United States.



Ocotrillo is comprised of Gabe Hall-Rodriguez (accordion and vocals), Sean Brogan (bass), and Wes Anderson (drums). Sean and Wes have been playing Bass and Percussion at the Frank Marocco Accordion event since it's inception. Gabe was inspired to take up accordion when he attended the Event Concert just a few years ago, and has since won the Virtuoso prize at the American Accordionists Association Festival. All members of the trio graduated with degrees in music from Arizona State University (ASU). Ocotrillo's repertoire contains a variety of music styles, including classic jazz and standards, older styles, such as Dixieland or New Orleans jazz, as well as music from various parts of Brazil.

cont. >

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The group brings a fun and positive energy to playing, and each performer holds awards for his respective instrument from national and state organizations. The group hopes to be able to entertain any audience and truly enjoys making music together for people who enjoy it.

Gabe Hall-Rodrigues is a native of Arizona and began playing piano at the age of 7. He grew up in a Brazilian-American family and the mixing of his two parents' cultures provided him with exposure to a variety of genres and a unique set of musical experiences. Gabe is an active performer in the Phoenix valley with several groups, including: Another Day, a local reggae-rock band in which he plays keyboards, accordion and is the lead singer; The Dixie Devils, an ASU-affiliated New Orleans style jazz band in which he plays accordion and sings; and Som Brasil, a local Brazilian band playing a variety of genres native to that country. He has been featured singing with the ASU Concert Jazz Band on two occasions and was an accordion soloist with the ASU Sun Devil Marching Band. He was awarded first place in the U.S. Virtuoso Solo Competition at the 2010 American Accordionists' Association Festival in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Sean Brogan is a recent graduate from the Herberger School of Music at ASU. Since graduating in May 2010 with honors (Magna Cum Laude), Sean has pursued his career as a freelance musician. Being well versed in many musical styles has led Sean to work alongside other great artists, such as Frank Marocco, Fred Forney, Nick Manson, Margo Reed, Barb Catlin, Lynne Timmes, and many others. Sean currently holds the principal bassist position for the Phoenix Children's Chorus and is a former member of the Sedona Jazz on the Rocks youth band.

Wesley Anderson started playing the drum-set at the age of 8. By the age of 17, he joined the Arizona Academy Drum and Bugle Corps, where he played snare drum from 2004-2008. During this time he received numerous awards and championship titles. Wes attended ASU from 2008-2010 receiving his Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance in December of 2010. He currently teaches the ASU drum-line, as well as local private students. Over the years Wes has been given the opportunity to play with many notable musicians, including Frank Marocco, Stas Venglevski, Vince Abbracciante, Bob Mintzer, Wycliff Gordon, Gregg Bissonette and many others.

Frank Petrilli was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, California and started playing the accordion at age seven. At 15, Frank started playing Cordovox and soon after was playing professionally in small combos. He continued to play professionally through college until he was about 23, when family and work demands took precedence. Frank stayed active musically by playing keyboards and saxophone but his accordion playing remained dormant until 2006. Soon after he started

playing again, he attended the first Frank Marocco Accordion Event and began studying with Frank Marocco which still continues today. Currently, Frank performs with the Cesar Mateus Latin Jazz Sextet at various jazz venues in Los Angeles. Just this past year, Frank established a relationship with Victoria Accordions and is their USA sales representative.



Frank Petrilli

NEW MEMBERS

Steve Melnicki of Foster City and Victoria Doggett of San Francisco. When Victoria was asked how she might like to help promote the accordion, she replied that she is planning a documentary on women and the accordion.

Please Remember!

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

December Meeting Recap

Vic and Barbara Corsiglia organized this special Christmas Jam Session and provided the music books. There were 11 plus occasional “drop-ins” by **Vinny Rinaldi and Paul Cain** who set up the performing area and the sound system (with brand new speakers and microphones). Please remember that for Jam Sessions everyone with an accordion and a music stand is always welcome. The music is chosen to be easy (and playing one hand only is a further escape for awkward bits). It is a fun, relaxed way to enjoy playing the accordion without any of the pressures that solo performances might bring. This month the selection included *Five Foot Two, Baby Face, Your Cheatin’ Heart, Tic Toc Polka, Iupali Iupala, Johnson Rag*, and ended with the rousing polka: *Just Because*.

Our Christmas meeting began with a series of solos interspersed with Christmas music by the “jam band.” Lyric sheets were provided so the audience could sing along, if they chose. **Gwyn Lister** was our MC for the meeting. She was armed with quite a selection of accordion jokes: one being “What is the difference between an accordion and an onion?” Answer: “No one cries when you chop an accordion.”



Smiling Band Participants



Bob Smith plays



Gwen Lister and her Axe

Bob Smith played and sang his own arrangement of the haunting *Perfidia*. Mike Zampiceni played the Christmas Song by Mel Tormé, *Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire* and then *Rudolf*. Peter Di Bono chose a piece (not particularly easy to play on the accordion) – *Sleigh Ride* written by a fellow accordionist, **Leroy Anderson**. He followed this with a Peter special – a “racey” song set to the music of *Winter Wonderland*. The new lyrics are definitely LOL (Laugh Out Loud). **Lynn Ewing** played a lovely theme and variation arrangement on *O’ Come All Ye Faithful*, arranged by Camarilli. This was followed by *I’m gettin’ Nutin’ for Christmas*, which has become a Club Christmas tradition, Later Peter played *Santa Baby* with Lynn singing the lyrics.

The **San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)** was led by Joe Smiell. Among the pieces they played were an arrangement of *White Christmas*, *A Polish Christmas Carol* and ended with Joe’s arrangement of *South Pacific*.



Joe Smiell conducts the Accordion Chamber Ensemble

From our President

Happy New Year! We hope that you have a wonderful year of squeezin' ahead of you!

Thanks to everyone for being a member of the San Francisco Accordion Club. Your support has enabled us to provide you and the membership with rewarding benefits, such as our monthly newsletter and quality entertainment at our monthly meetings.

We have a wonderful program coming up on January 22, with the young players of jazz trio Ocotrillo, Gabe Rodriguez, Sean Brogan and Wes Anderson, coming from Arizona to play for us, and they'll be joined by Frank Petrilli of Woodland Hills, CA. The amazing Rob Reich trio also will be featured, so don't miss out on attending this meeting! February will feature Ron Borelli, Don Nurisso, and the Reno Di Bono trio, and we will have very special guest artist, Stas Venglevski with his domra player Mischa Litvin coming in March.

Lynn Ewing

YOUR STORY

Just like Peter DiBono, whose story contribution is found on the opposite page, many of you have an Accordion story or two. We would love to publish accordion stories from members as a special interest feature in the newsletter. Maybe it is about how you got interested in the instrument, or a particularly influential or entertaining instructor, or an experience while performing—anything involving you and your accordion is fair game! Three to four paragraphs maximum, and it may have to be shortened or edited, at the editor's discretion. If you have a story you would like to share, please write it up and send it to our Newsletter editor at: snapp.chris@gmail.com (please include in the subject matter heading of the email, for the SFAC newsletter) or mail it to the club mailing address:

San Francisco Accordion Club, PO Box 318175,
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Peter Di Bono's STORY

Talentsville U.S.A 1960 was a national contest sponsored by The Coca Cola Bottling Company. Every high school in the Country was invited to send two entertaining groups from their student body to compete to determine the best entertaining group in the United States. It was the 1960s version of American Idol.

My school, Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco, was a small school, and we only had one group: me and my drummer friend, **Bobby Molinari**. We were to represent our school in this competition against all other high schools.

The first elimination contest was scheduled for a Sunday morning at The Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Bobby and I had played a dance the night before until 1 a.m., and we were really tired when I picked him up Sunday morning to be at the Palace Hotel for the 8 a.m. tryouts.

We got to Jessie Alley behind Palace Hotel around 7:30 in the morning. There were hundreds of people: jugglers, dancers, singing groups, acrobats, etc, and I said to Bobby, "Let's go home, we don't have a chance against all of these groups. Bobby said, "No, we're here, let's play, and see what happens".

Well, we stayed, played, and won that competition. We had a hot arrangement of *Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen*, which we had created ourselves. The arrangement featured typical accordion pyrotechnics and drum solos; it knocked the socks off of all of the other groups.

In the following months, we competed in a series of regional eliminations up and down the State, and won them all, including the State of California competitions. We were finally eliminated at a competition among the six Western States, losing to a duo of girls singing folk music, which was the new rage at that time.

Bobby and I, known then as **Pete And Bob**, were featured at teen dances around the greater Bay Area. We, and the two runners up of the competitions, would perform mid way during those teen dances that were popular back then. We even signed autographs for the many young(female) fans who greeted us outside the theaters after our performances.

It was a lot of fun, and, looking back now, quite an achievement.

We also won the statewide competition for the California Exchange Clubs when we finished the Coca Cola competition.

Bobby went on to become a fireman with The San Francisco Fire Department, and I joined the San Francisco Police Department. We are both retired now.

Best regards, Peter Di Bono

Real Music is LIVE !

visit my website @ peterdibono.com



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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 Golden State Accordion Club meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Courtyard by Marriott • Vacaville 120 Nut Tree Parkway Vacaville, CA 95687 707-451-9000

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

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Club & Musical Meeting • Jan. 22 @ 2 p.m.

Performing in JANUARY • Rob Reich Trio • Ocotrillo featuring Gabe Hall-Rodriguez & Frank Petrilli on accordion

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 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 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 Randall Hicks, 21071 Gary Drive, #212, Castro Valley, CA 94546. 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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