



# the San Francisco Accordion Club NEWSLETTER

*Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month  
@ the Oyster Point Yacht Club in South San Francisco*

## **Musical Meeting • July 18**

**Art Peterson** is not new to the Bay Area musical scene, but somehow he managed to fly under our radar until recently, and we are fortunate to be having him play solo for us this month.

Art grew up in the Los Angeles area and was inspired by the old-time country western variety show **Town Hall Party**, which featured such artists as Gene Autry,



Ernest Tubb and Tennessee Ernie Ford. Today, Art is the leader of his own western swing band – **The Polka Cowboys**, singing and playing the accordion. Art was a founding member of **Those Darn Accordions** and is in demand; complementing numerous bands and pick-up groups in the Bay Area (he also plays guitar and banjo). Art performs a vast repertoire of swing and western songs, polkas, rancheros and a few surprises too! His playing style is easy going, and one can't help but be swept away to a simpler time

*cont. pg. 2>*

## **Special Performance!**

### **July 25—at Oyster Point Yacht Club**

Martynas Levickis is a Lithuanian-born young classical accordionist who has been playing accordion since the age of 3. He has won multiple prizes at international competitions in Lithuania, the USA, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Estonia and Belarus. He has won countless awards and honors and has worked with the BBC concert orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and other symphony orchestras.

Martynas is competing in the ATG Convention (see pg. 2) and has generously agreed to this one-time performance. All members and friends of the SFAC are encouraged to attend at the reduced admission price of \$10 per adult, \$2 per child.



*For questions or to RSVP, and to qualify for the reduced price, contact Algis Ratnikas [aalgis@aol.com](mailto:aalgis@aol.com). Exact time (afternoon) To Be Announced.*



listening to the fellow who has been dubbed “the original good guy in the white hat.”

**Skyler Fell** (see profile article pg. 7) a member of our club and owner of *Accordion Apocalypse* will be playing for us with her **Jug Band – The Hobo Gobelins!**

Out of the depths of Oakland’s underground art scene, the Hobo Gobelins are an irresistible hybrid of old and new, of familiar and strange. Since 2003, this rag-tag band of brilliant weirdos has been serving up a high-energy live show, putting themselves at the forefront of the neotraditional acoustic revival. Equal parts avant-garde performance art, punk rock, and vaudeville routine, the Hobo Gobelins mix the traditions of the old world with the horrors of modernity, in a show that is just as entertaining on a stage, in the woods, or under your bed! In the worlds created by their inventive songwriting, monsters from folklore and fantasy rub shoulders with hobos, dragons, and freight trains. When the Hobo Gobelins take the stage, anything can happen—and often does!

Cobbling together the scraps of various musical styles, from bluegrass and sea chanteys to klezmer and irish traditional, this now-legendary band will have you shouting along, waltzing and spilling your drink all over your loved ones.



© [www.myspace.com/hobogobelins](http://www.myspace.com/hobogobelins)

## Musical Meeting in June

Grigoriy Krumik entertained us before the meeting, playing his bayan superbly as always. Thanks Grigory!



President Frank Montoro began the meeting by honoring all fathers today—Father’s Day!

The Marotta Family band played first, consisting of: Dave Dally, prominent violinist and trumpet player. Dave plays mostly with the Monterey String Quartet, which he founded. The incomparable Steve Henson played bass and Makucho Bonilla played percussion, consisting of bongos and a very mellow-sounding wooden box.

They started with the beautiful Brahms *Hungarian Dance #5*; Piazzola’s *Libertango*; Khachaturian’s *The Sabre Dance*; *Quizás, Quizás, Quizás*. After a “grand tour” of the SF Peninsula, Oratio (Erasimo) Aiello, excellent operatic tenor, arrived in time to sing a beautiful *O Sole Mio* for us, followed by *Core Ngrato*, *Te quiero Dijiste*, *Granada*, the tenor aria *Nessun Dorma* from Puccini’s opera *Turandot*. Such a treat!

Mike Marotta Jr.’s daughter Rachel then joined with Oratio to sing two numbers.

Following a break Mike Marotta Sr. joined the group with his accordion as they performed a Spanish number with bongos and vocal by Makucho. Between numbers Mike

*cont. on pg. 10>*

## **July 21-25 the Accordionists & Teachers Guild, Intl. (ATG) is hosting their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Santa Clara Hilton.**

This is the ATG's first time to hold this event on the West Coast. It will include concerts, competitions, displays, workshops and lots of fun. It is a "must attend" event for every accordionist in the area. For more information about this event, visit [www.accordions.com/atg](http://www.accordions.com/atg)

**Esther Lanting**, ATG Board Member and director of the ATG Galla-Rini Orchestra, invites you to play in the Galla-Rini Orchestra at the ATG, which will play Friday night, July 23rd at the 8:00 p.m. concert, and again on Saturday, July 24th at 11:00 a.m. at Great America. The event/concert at Great America requires that each player pay \$32 for park admission (regular price is \$54.99). After the concert, this admission price allows each individual to stay at the park as long as they would like. Each accordion participant can also invite and bring friends and family who will be admitted by paying this \$32.00 price as well. Plus, for an additional \$5.00, folks can participate in an All-You-Can-Eat Hot Dog and Ice Cream Social. Rehearsals are required Thursday and Friday afternoons from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

*This is an "anyone can play orchestra" and welcomes people of all levels of playing skills. We are sure to have a good time!*

**Interested in playing?** Get in touch with Esther Lanting as soon as possible to let her know of your interest and level of play. Email preferred ([elanting@verizon.net](mailto:elanting@verizon.net)) but OK to call her home phone (574-862-1910) if email is not an option. Please remember she is on Eastern Time Zone - 3 hours later than the West Coast. She will send out copies of the music once the appropriate level has been determined.

In addition to the Galla-Rini Orchestra, the ATG 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary event has many workshop options and featured guest soloists. It is also sponsoring the Anthony Galla-Rini International Competition for Classical Accordion. This competition is drawing some of the best players from around the world. During the Thursday and Friday night concerts, several outstanding national and international accordionists will be featured soloists, as well as two local groups—Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE), and AbsolutAccord.

## **San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble**

The ACE Ensemble will be playing at the ATG Convention in Santa Clara on the evening of July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 p.m., along with some other Bay Area favorites. The concerts are open to anyone who would like to attend. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by filling out and sending in the registration form on the ATG website. Tickets can also be purchased at the event. We are planning a really beautiful program, and I hope that everyone will come and hear not only ACE, but other fabulous musical offerings of the Convention (see above).

ACE has also played recently for students at two schools: The Lakeshore School in San Francisco (thanks to Caroline Grannan) and the Farallone View School in Montara (thanks to Frank Montoro and his daughter Diana). The kids really loved the music, as evidenced by the dozens of letters we received. Two examples follow exactly as were written: "*Dear A.C.E., I really enjoyed your accordian playing. I thought it was amazing! My favorite song was The Yellow Bird. I loved the tune. Sincerely, Sophie B.*" Another one: "*Dear Musicians, You are the best! I could'nt wait this morning to hear you play. When I heard you play I could'nt help claping my hands. Your director was awesome too. Thank you alot for coming to our school. I wish I could be one of you. Sincerely, Dayana V-G*" (accompanied with a charming drawing of two accordionists).

It is easy to understand why we love playing with the Ensemble!

*Val*

## Performing Around the Bay

**Steve Balich** • North Bay  
(707) 874-3494

**Ron Borelli** • San Mateo  
(650) 574-5707  
[rborelli@aol.com](mailto:rborelli@aol.com)

**Renée de la Prade**  
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco  
[www.sfhounds.com](http://www.sfhounds.com)

**Richard Denier** • Carmel  
[rdenier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdenier@sbcglobal.net)

**Peter Di Bono** • San Francisco  
[www.peterdibono.com](http://www.peterdibono.com)

**Reno Di Bono** • South Bay  
[ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com)

**William De Michelis** • South Bay  
[wdd777@comcast.net](mailto:wdd777@comcast.net)



*Renée de la Prade & the Great Morgani Accordionist*

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[www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com) or  
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San Francisco  
[www.eurocafemusic.com](http://www.eurocafemusic.com) or  
[zighi@sonic.net](mailto:zighi@sonic.net)

**Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobelins** • Oakland  
[www.myspace.com/hobogobelins](http://www.myspace.com/hobogobelins)

**Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers**  
[kirschner@aol.com](mailto:kirschner@aol.com)  
[www.klezmakers.com](http://www.klezmakers.com)

**Don Nurisso** • Pacifica  
[nurisso@mindspring.com](mailto:nurisso@mindspring.com)

**Mike Zampiceni** • South Bay  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)



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email  
[hickr01@sprintmail.com](mailto:hickr01@sprintmail.com)

## Executive Board Notes

It is time to start thinking about Club elections in September, and whom you would like to guide the Club in its 21st year. Very soon, the board will be establishing a nominating committee which is comprised of two Board members and three members-at-large. Please positively consider helping out if asked to serve on the nominating committee- and anyone interested in volunteering needn't wait to be asked, just contact any board member and let him or her know.



### ***Recording Policy Reminder***

Please be aware that our club has a policy in regard to recording during our Monthly Musical meetings, as follows:

***“Any and all video/audio recording at our Monthly Musical meetings must be pre-approved in writing by the performer(s), and any approved recordings made are to be used for educational purposes only. Recordings are not to be used for any commercial purpose or posted to any public website or forum, such as YouTube.com. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the suspension of any recording during our Monthly Musical meetings.”***

### ***SFAC Scholarship Program***

Scholarships are awarded each April and October. The Scholarship requirements are available upon request and Application forms are available at the monthly meetings or from any board member. The Scholarship Application Forms must be returned to Frank Montoro, 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo, CA 94402, by the end of either March or September to be considered for award the following month.

### **SFAC Officers**

Frank Montoro, President  
(650) 574-4757 [akordn@earthlink.net](mailto:akordn@earthlink.net)

Lynn Ewing, Vice President  
(650) 365-1700 [ewinglynn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ewinglynn@sbcglobal.net)

Valerie Kieser, Secretary  
(510) 531-4836 [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net)

Marian Kelly, Treasurer  
(650) 854-1896 [kelly.marian@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.marian@gmail.com)

### **SFAC Directors**

Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952  
[accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com](mailto:accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com)

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[gusgrey@me.com](mailto:gusgrey@me.com)

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Sharon Walters-Greyhosky  
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### **Newsletter**

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Christina Knapp, Editor/Graphic Design  
[snapp.chris@gmail.com](mailto:snapp.chris@gmail.com)

Last month I ran a request encouraging members to consider receiving their newsletters online. As a result, we have 6 additional people signed up, and hope to sign up even more!

We are able to incorporate lots of color into the on-line version of the newsletters—something we can't do in the printed version, as printing in color is cost prohibitive. If you haven't yet, try to Demo the June issue of the Newsletter.

If you would like to join the growing ranks of members getting their newsletter online and in color, please email me at: [hickr01@sprintmail.com](mailto:hickr01@sprintmail.com). **Thank You** to the six members who have just recently signed up.

***Randy H.***

## Accordion Instruction

Gene Bartolomei (209) 886-5532

Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744

Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707

Irving Cardoza (408) 264-9755

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) 312-9596

Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579

Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

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## **Our Sincere Thanks!** *To those who generously donate to the Club.*

With each new membership year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you have donated and your name doesn't show up in this column, please contact Val at (510) 531-4836 or [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net) and let her know. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized. We gratefully acknowledge donations from: Ross and Laureen Bausone, Xavier de la Prade, Lynn Ewing, Lou Fabbri, Johan and Marja Gullmes, Ron Harris, Randall Hicks, Val Kieser, Bruce Kirschner, Herb Meier, Frank Montoro, Sundi O'Mara, Larry and Paula Re, Alex Roitman, Maryanne Romanowski (and employer match), Paul Thiel, Scott Williamson, Barbara Winter, Lore Warren, Richard Yaus & Mark Zhagel.

### **Dates to Remember**

**Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration June 17-22**  
Leavenworth, WA.  
[www.nwasnews.com/liac.html](http://www.nwasnews.com/liac.html)

**2010 American Accordionists' Association Competition and Festival July 14-18**  
Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel  
Harrisburg, PA  
[www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com)

**2010 Accordionists and Teachers Guild Competition and Festival July 21-25, 2010.**  
Santa Clara Hilton, Santa Clara, CA  
[www.accordions.com/atg](http://www.accordions.com/atg)

**21st Annual Galla-Rini Accordion Camp July 25-30, 2010**  
Directed by Maestro Joe Smiell.  
Music Conservatory of the San Domenico School in San Anselmo, CA  
contact Tor Arild: email [tarild@gotsky.com](mailto:tarild@gotsky.com)  
*or* phone (650) 851-7831

**20th Annual Cotati Accordion Festival August 21-22 Cotati, CA**  
[www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com) [info@cotatifest.com](mailto:info@cotatifest.com)

**2010 Las Vegas International Accordion Convention • November 1-4**  
Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas NV  
Phone (800) 472-1695 *or* visit  
[www.accordionstars.com](http://www.accordionstars.com)

### **President's Message**

When we formed our accordion club twenty years ago, most of us knew only a few of the charter members. I decided to write a column for the newsletter as a way of introducing members to each other. I called my column "Profiles," and we ran these for over a year to get us started. Our membership has grown over the years, and we have developed many new friendships during the course of our general meetings and other events. Recently we began seeing new faces as younger members joined us. I thought it was time that we start a new series of profiles to get to know these new members better. This is the first of these articles.

### **Profile of Skyler Fell**

I recently spent an hour with Skyler Fell at her shop, The **Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop** on Jennings Street, in an industrial part of San Francisco. Where else would a young entrepreneur go to find low(er) rent to start an accordion shop? Parking is great, she told me, just a few feet from the curb to 2626 Jennings. Her shop is colorful, funky and devoted to the accordion. She has a great many accordions displayed for rent and sale along with sheet music, accordion straps, stands and other accessories. You'll find all sorts of accordions available, from those for beginners to professional instruments, including an assortment of button models, some of which were manufactured right here in San Francisco. For more information, go to [www.accordion-apocalypse.com](http://www.accordion-apocalypse.com) (see also Skyler's ad in this newsletter).

*cont>*

Next to the showroom is her repair shop. Her assistant, Ariel McGurty, was working on an instrument's bass machine, which was completely dismantled in order to clean the oxidation off the moving parts. There were many accordions undergoing repair on the work benches, along with one that was being tuned. Skyler has the proper equipment to tune accordions and the patience and skill to do a first-class job. She told me that it takes from 8 to 20 hours to tune a full-sized accordion.

After the tour, I sat down with Skyler and asked her how she developed the craftsmanship to run her own shop at a time when there are so few people who care to learn the trade of instrument repair. Here is her background.

Skyler was born in Nottingham, UK. Her father was from a coal-mining family, some of the last miners who removed coal from the pit on a pony-driven cart. Skyler was an only child. Her family came to the USA when Skyler was ten months old, and her parents managed a resort in NW Washington state. They were also stewards of The Nature Conservancy Foulweather Bluff Preserve. She recalls that she and her father would sail over to the Conservancy in their boat to make sure that all the fires were out, and clean up after the visitors.

Her parents had both been sailors in the Mediterranean, and her father was an experienced sailor.

Skyler's mother's family came from the Ukraine and immigrated to New Jersey. Her grandmother was an activist for public libraries and human rights, and wrote an autobiography about her experiences called *Zoia*.

Skyler and her family came to the Bay Area when she was eleven. She graduated from Berkeley High School in 1998, working her way through high school doing welding and fabrication in metal shops. Later she joined the faculty at "The Crucible," a West Oakland School of Arts, Industry and Community. There she specialized in welding sculpture and facilitated a youth program where she taught hundreds of students to apply the skills of welding and oxy-acetylene torch cutting to art projects using metal as their medium.

She became interested in playing music as a member of the 924 Gilman Street Collective devoted to "D.I.Y. music, art and politics," as she explained. There was an accordion shop down the street, and she became inspired to learn to play. Later, she met teacher Mike Zampiceni through Boaz Rubin. At Boaz Accordions she worked out a "work-trade" agreement for lessons and accordion rental which eventually led her to her first accordion repair apprenticeship.

After her move to San Francisco in 2005, she met Master Craftsman and Accordion Builder, Vince Cirelli. They became friends, and Vince decided to become her accordion repair mentor. Vince is glad Skyler is interested in learning his trade and has been very generous in giving his time. Skyler keeps careful notes on how to perform various repair techniques and refers to them in her daily work. For now, she works with Vince repairing accordions in his shop one day a week.

Skyler played a little piano by ear as a youngster, but has had no formal training. She loves picking out tunes on her own and with a group of like-minded young friends. She is planning on going on tour with her band later this summer in her own tour bus that she keeps in back of the shop.

Toward the end of my visit, Skyler shared with me her keen interest in bringing into our club some of her young friends and associates. As a member of our Executive Board, she looks for ways to include them in our Sunday programs as well as other activities. She works well with other members of the board in our discussions and is an active problem-solver. Skyler is a valuable member and we are pleased to have her carrying out the mission of our club with us.

*Frank Montoro*

**A Special Thank to:**  
**Ron Johnson**  
**of Millbrae, CA for donating a**  
**120 bass Accordion to SFAC!**

cont. from pg. 3

Sr. kept us listening and laughing as he told anecdotes. They continued with *Autumn Leaves* and *Sweet Georgia Brown*, then *Smile* with vocal by Rachel; a country/Cajun number with a very long name that starts “*Blame it on your Lyin’, Cheatin’ . . .*” etc. Rachel and Mike Sr. sang *You Don’t Know Me*. Then Rachel and Oratio sang *Time to Say Goodbye*, and Oratio sang the beautiful *Non Ti Scordar Di Me*.

Oh there were so many songs! Add in *Our Love Is Here to Stay* in a medley with several other songs; a Charles Aznavour French song; *Sabor a Mí* sung by Makucho, with Dave Dally on C cornet; another tango with vocal by Makucho; Czardas; *Funiculì Funiculà* (Oratio vocal).

The finale was *America*, sung by Rachel.

A huge thanks all the members of the Marotta band, who came to play for us today.

Val



Dave Dally, Mike Marotta Jr. and Mike Sr.

## Please Remember!

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

*Thanks.*

## San Francisco Celebrates Accordion Day



On Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at noon, approximately 40 accordion players showed up to play on the stairs of San Francisco City Hall. An audience of 100 or so formed on the sidewalk in front of us, and everyone sang and danced to our lively renditions of “San Francisco,” “Beer Barrel Polka,” “O Marie,” and “Tic Toc Polka.”

Tom Torriglia, [tom@ladyofspain.com](mailto:tom@ladyofspain.com), the producer of the event, read a proclamation by Mayor Newsom, announcing June 11 as **Accordion Day In San Francisco**.

Thank you to all of you accordonados who showed up.

*Peter Di Bono*

## SF Accordion Band News

The Band has been very busy! This past Sunday we played for an hour and a half at the Golden State Accordion Club picnic in Vacaville for over 200 people. We did a great job and I was very proud of our players, who work very hard.

In the coming weeks we will be playing for our SFAC August meeting, and again at the annual Corte Madera **Piccolo Pavilion** music series on August 22 and we will be playing on our float again this year at the Columbus Day parade (a.k.a. the Italian Heritage Day parade) in San Francisco, which takes place on Oct. 10.

**Band Practice** takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, monthly @ 7:00 p.m. at Val Kieser's home in Oakland. Please CALL AHEAD in case there is a change. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, contact Val (510) 531-4836 or [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net) Val



*From the Left: Judy Dale, Gene Dale, Bob Smith, Mel Schwing, Vic Corsiglia, Barbara Corsiglia, Scott Williamson, and Val Kieser.*

### Cotati Tickets

Tickets to the Cotati Accordion Festival August 21-22 are available for advance purchase through the Club. Two-day tickets are \$25 and single-day tickets are \$15. If you purchase your tickets through us, part of the purchase price comes back to help support our Club. Contact Val Kieser at (510) 531-4836 or email [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net)

### Playing at our Meeting!

We are always grateful and accepting of anyone who wishes to play for us during the breaks or before the meeting starts. Share your talent!

**AbsolutAccord** will be performing at the Rengstorff House in Mountain View on August 8th from 2-3 p.m. as part of their concert series. A rare and unusual musical treat with seven accordionists. *3070 N. Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View, CA 94043*  
PH (650) 903-6392 [www.r-house.org](http://www.r-house.org)

### Newsletter Deadline

Submissions are welcome for consideration and inclusion in the Newsletter. The deadline for time critical information is the second Monday following the Monthly Musical Meeting. All other submissions will be considered as time and space permit. Please be mindful that copyrighted material cannot be reprinted without the author/publisher's permission.

*Monthly Musical Meeting*  
*Sunday • July 18, 2010 @ 2 p.m.*

**Art Peterson**

**Skyler Fell and her Jug Band-The Hobo Goblins**

*Join our club! Meet new friends, listen to Accordion music  
from various performers—relax and have fun!*

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](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

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