



the San Francisco Accordion Club September • 2010 NEWSLETTER



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Two great groups coming to our stage in September!!

The Klezmakers are an eight-piece Klezmer band from the San Francisco Bay Area and their repertoire encompasses Eastern European dances, Yiddish theater tunes, and traditional Israeli folk songs.

Their sound is full and rich: a melodic ensemble of clarinet, violin, flute/piccolo, and accordion – backed by a solid rhythm section of guitar, keyboard, bass/cello, and drums. Their vocalist also packs quite a punch! Together, they create a joyous and heartfelt sound that echoes the Old World, while still making today's audiences get up and dance.

Last year, the Klezmakers released their first CD—*Garage Waltz*—inspired by their true to Silicon Valley beginning in a small garage (where they still rehearse). For more information about the Klezmakers, you can visit them at: www.klezmakers.com

Tangonero is back with another exciting performance of Tango and other Argentinian classics. Tangonero is a 4 piece Argentine Tango band based in San Francisco. The ensemble is made up of Violin, double-bass, guitar and accordion. As their name implies, Tangonero specializes in classic tango music as well as the tango's predecessor, the Milonga. The Argentinian tango is described as a genre that fuses intense passion with quiet tenderness, alternating sharp percussive rhythms with slow nostalgic melodies. It squeezes your heart to tears and then sets your feet to dancing. You can visit them at www.tangonero.com See photo next page >





Tangonero

AUGUST MUSICAL MEETING *Val Kieser*

The **Fun Band** (San Francisco Accordion Band) began the afternoon by playing some lively pre-meeting music and also played again during one of the breaks.

Skyler Fell, as our MC, introduced **Paul Pasquali** of **Accordions International** in Salt Lake City. Paul is the founder and promoter of the **Las Vegas International Accordion Convention**, to be held this year November 1-4 at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino. (*see Dates to Remember pg.4*) He encouraged everyone to attend the Convention, which will feature some absolutely incredible performers. Visit the LVIAC Website for more details.

Paul's International business, includes a complete repair shop with **Chans Iverson** as the technician. On display were several beautiful accordions by Borsini and Piermaria, as well as Paul's own Concerto accordion.

Chans demonstrated the capabilities of a 72-bass Borsini, which has a very powerful sound for such a small model. He played an Irish jig, *Autumn Leaves* and *Domino*.

Paul played his Concerto accordion, which has both reeds and a MIDI. He played *Happy Birthday* to Marian Kelly, followed by *Never On Sunday*, using reeds only.

Then he demonstrated the powerful sound of the MIDI system. Two small paper-thin squares are the speakers—producing a “surround sound.” Paul described how his MIDI corresponds with various organ manuals: upper manual, lower manual and pedals. His demonstration continued with various combinations of jazz guitar, organ, string orchestra, choir, percussion, synthesized

accordion and several other musical voices. Some of the songs he played for us were: *Nes-sun Dorma* (Puccini); *I Could Have Danced All Night*; and *New York, New York*. Finally, using the reeds alone he played a nice rendition of *Amazing Grace*.

Robert Doerr, musician and magician played for us, during the break, while his dog *Ginger* lay at his feet.

Open Mike brought us **Xavier de la Prade** and **Sheri Mignano** playing French café music as a duet. They played *Paris Canaille*; *A Paris Dans Chaque Faubourg*; and *Le Dénicheur*.

Grigoriy Krumik, played several folk songs and Piazzola's *Libertango* for us on his Bayan.

Diane Blais from Vacaville plays an accordion with a converter between Stradella and free bass. She played *Sonatina* by Clementi with free bass; a French waltz, *Kermesse Alsacienne*; and *Fliege Mit Mir In Die Heimat* (Forever & Ever) using Stradella bass.

Last we heard **Bruce Metras** with his light jazzy style playing *With a Song In my Heart*, *When Sunny Gets Blue*, and *Oblivion* (Astor Piazzola).

The September Musical Meeting, will be another musical treat. Don't miss it!



Paul Pasquali & Chans Iverson

SFAC Officers

Frank Montoro, President
(650) 574-4757 akordn@earthlink.net

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

Valerie Kieser, Secretary
(510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

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

SFAC Directors

Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com

Gus Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
gusgrey@me.com

Randall Hicks (510) 583-1581
hickr01@sprintmail.com

Sharon Walters-Greyhosky
(415) 621-8284
swaltersgrey@comcast.net

Newsletter

Valerie Kieser, Copy Editor
vtkacc@ifn.net

Christina Knapp, Editor/Graphic Design
snapp.chris@gmail.com

SFAC Scholarship Program

Deadline is coming up! Scholarships are awarded each April and October. The scholarship guidelines and requirements are available upon request and application forms are available at the monthly meetings or from any board member.

Reminder for Teachers: For scholarships to be awarded in October, applications must be received by September 30. Applications should be sent to: Frank Montoro, 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo, CA 94402.

Member News

Walter and Teri Traverso have moved to Roseville. They can be reached at (916) 782-0428. Walter is one of the founding members of SFAC.

André Paris will be visiting Europe and then moving to Australia to be near some of his family members.

John Puppo, longtime member of the club and lover of the accordion, passed away this last month.

President's Message—Frank Montoro

As I approach the end of my third year as your San Francisco Accordion Club president (2007-2010) and second "tour of duty" (1994-1995), I have a whole host of people whom I want to thank for making these the most enjoyable years of my life. The purpose of this club is to *enhance and stimulate an appreciation of the accordion within the membership and the general public*. Working with individuals and groups, we have tried to bring about the fulfillment of these goals. We are now in our 21st year as an organization dedicated to the promotion of our beloved instrument, the accordion, legacy of the original San Francisco Accordion Club of the early 20th Century.

Thanks to the following members who have helped make this a wonderful experience. First, our dedicated Executive Board members during these past three years: Aldo Argenti (now deceased), Judy Dale, Telmo Echeverría, Lynn Ewing, Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Gus Greyhosky, Skyler Fell, Randall Hicks, Valerie Kieser, Marian Kelly, Maryanne Romanowski, and Lore Warren.

Our Newsletter Editors: Randall Hicks, Valerie Kieser and Christina Knapp.

Greeters at our Sunday meetings: Ruby Dezman, Dominic Palmisano, Evelyn Baulch and Marian Kelly.

And thanks to two of our members who often hosted visiting accordionists by sharing their homes, Valerie Kieser and Marian Kelly.

Thanks to the dozens of participants who have entertained us at our monthly musical meetings and to the local fans who have cheered them on. And we must not forget those who have kept our club going through their membership. Many of them were from outside of our area and joined because they wanted us to know that they cared about the future of the accordion.

Finally, we thank our hosts, The Oyster Point Yacht Club and manager, David Bennett, for allowing us the use of this beautiful facility. I am indebted to all of you and wish our new President, Lynn Ewing, continued success.

Play 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 and hone your performance skills! Contact Val Kieser to sign up.

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.*

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
(707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
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rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade
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Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
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Reno Di Bono • South Bay
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William De Michelis • South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich • South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinersusa.com

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)
San Francisco
www.eurocafemusic.com or
zighi@sonic.net

Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobbelins • Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins

Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni • South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net



Club Elections by Randall Hicks

**SFAC General Elections
September 19 - Please Vote!**

Elections for the Executive Board will take place at our monthly meeting on Sunday, September 19. At present, the nominating committee has received the following nominations: President—Lynn Ewing; Vice President—Frank Montoro; Secretary—Randall Hicks; Treasurer—Marian Kelly; Directors at large—Skyler Fell, Gus Greyhosky, Val Kieser and Sharon Walters-Greyhosky. Additional nominations can be accepted from the floor at the meeting, prior to taking the vote. Show your support for the club and the nominees by coming out to vote — we promise to provide fantastic entertainment and refreshments!



Dates to Remember

Saturday, September 25, 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.

2010 Festa Coloniale Italiana @ the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club (1630 Stockton Street, San Francisco, CA 94133)—celebrating the rich Italian and Italian-American heritage. Live music, costumed dancers, wine tasting, a pizza-tossing demonstration, a cultural exhibit and the most mouth-watering food this side of Siena. FREE Ph.415 -781- 0165

Bella Ciao (Tom Torriglia's band) **Fuoco** (Steve Albini's band) and the **Aurora Mandolin Orchestra** will be playing at this event.

2010 Las Vegas International Accordion Convention • November 1 – 4

Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas NV
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www.accordionstars.com

Accordion Band News

Band Practice is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, monthly @ 7 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

San Francisco Accordion Club

Bring Your Friends Special!

Bring this coupon along with two friends to our monthly musical meeting and both your friends will get in at the single guest rate of \$7.00.



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Galla-Rini Camp 2010 by Val Kieser

Held again at the San Domenico School Music Conservatory in San Anselmo, CA — this year's event was smaller and more intimate than previous camps. Participants came from as far away as Alaska, Canada and Ohio.

Weather was cold, but spirits were bright as we prepared for our big concert Thursday evening. The Ensemble, consisting of all the attendees at the camp, played Galla-Rini's arrangement of *Intermezzo* from *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Mascagni); and Joe Smiell's arrangements of: *Pizzicato Polka*, by Johann and Josef Strauss; *Pas Des Fleurs*, ballet piece by Delibes; as well as music by Handel, Victor Herbert, Jacques Offenbach, Frederick Loewe and others all conducted by Joe Smiell, musical director of the camp. It was challenging and quite a workout!

A smaller group of players in the concert played Joe Smiell's arrangement of *Andante Cantabile* by Dancla.

Lively parties took place on Tuesday and Wednesday where anyone could play whatever they liked, and we were treated to a very wide variety of musical styles.

Apart from rehearsing for the concert and the informal party performances, we received lessons from Joe Smiell about things we were taught years ago, but which most accordionists seem to have forgotten: phrasing and articulation. We played some of Joe's seemingly simple—but deceptively difficult to play correctly—exercises. Joe's son Joseph gave a fascinating workshop on timing and all its aspects, leaving our heads spinning with all the new ways of looking at timing and time signatures.

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 vkacc@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, and Mark Zhagel.

Accordion Instruction

Gene Bartolomei (209) 886-5532
 Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
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 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
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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 \$6 per issue or \$60 per year. **Monthly ad prices for members:** quarter-page ad \$15.00; half-page ad \$25, and a full-page ad \$50. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. 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.

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www.AccordionInfo.com
 email: Paul@AccordionInfo.com



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JOHN CASTIGLIONE Director

13300 E. 11 Mile Rd. Suite A
 Warren Mi. 48089-1367

Tel: 586 755 6050
 Fax 586 755 6339

E-Mail johncast@bignet.net
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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.
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