



San Francisco Accordion Club

AUGUST 2013

NEWSLETTER

NO CLUB MEETING IN AUGUST!
Attend the 23rd Annual
COTATI ACCORDION FESTIVAL
August 17 & 18, featuring

World-Class International Accordion Elite
including: Renzo Ruggieri
Italy's Jazz Accordion Legend
Also performing:
Cory Pesaturo, Frank Petrilli,
Vincenzo Abbracciante, Gail Campanella
Andre Thierry & Zydeco Magic



Renzo Ruggieri

SATURDAY—AUGUST 17

- 9:45-10:15 The Golden State Accordion Club Band
 10:20-10:50 The Hot Fritattas
 10:55-11:25 Tango No. 9
 11:30-12:00 Youkali
 12:05-2:35 Simka
 12:40-12:55 The Great Morgani
 1:00-1:40 **Vincenzo Abbracciante**
 1:40-1:50 Honorary Director Recognition - John Volpi
 1:50-2:10 Lady of Spain-A-Ring
Audience Participation
 2:10-2:50 Those Darn Accordions
 2:55-3:35 **Cory Pesaturo**
 3:40-3:55 The Great Morgani
 4:00-4:35 The Internationals
 4:40-5:10 Jet Black Pearl
 5:15-5:55 the Mad Maggies
 6:00-6:15 Duckmandu
 6:20-7:20 Polkacide
- 12:00-5:00 **Cajun/Zydeco Dance Party**
 8201 Redwood Hwy.
 Dance Lessons 12:00-1:00 by Ted Sherrod
 Les Amis Zydeco 1:00-5:00
- 9:30-5:00 **Polka Dance Party**
both days in the Polka Tent on site
 9:30-11:00 *Jim Gilman*
 11:00-12:00 *Chuck Berger*
 1:00-5:00 *Steve Balich Sr. Polka Band*
- 5:05-6:30 **Zydeco Dance Party**
 in the Polka Tent on site
 The Wild Cathoulas

SUNDAY—AUGUST 18

- 9:45-10:15 The Golden State Accordion Club Band
 10:20-10:50 Future Accordion Stars
 10:55-11:30 Sweet Moments of Confusion
 11:35-12:10 **Gail Campanella**
 12:15-12:50 Bella Ciao
 12:50-1:05 The Great Morgani
 1:10-1:50 **Vincenzo Abbracciante**
 1:55-2:20 Lady of Spain-A-Ring
Audience Participation
 2:20-3:00 **Frank Petrilli**
 3:05-3:55 **Renzo Ruggieri**
 4:00-4:15 The Great Morgani
 4:15-4:25 Raffle Drawing
 4:25-5:00 La Familia Peña-Govea
 5:05-5:25 **Cory Pesaturo**
 5:30-6:30 **Andre Thierry and Zydeco Magic**
- 12:00-5:00 **Cajun/Zydeco Dance Party**
 Friar Tucks, 8201 Redwood Hwy.
 Dance Lessons 12:00-1:00 p.m.
 by Ted Sherrod
 MotorDude Zydeco 1:00-5:00
- 9:30-5:00 **Polka Dance Party**
both days in the Polka Tent on site
 9:30-11:00 *Jim Gilman*
 11:00-12:00 *Chuck Berger*
 1:00-5:00 *Steve Balich Sr. Polka Band*

July Meeting Recap

President Lynn Ewing gave a big thanks to Richard Yaus and the company he works for (LUNAR: <http://www.lunar.com/>) for a combined donation of \$300 which made it possible for members and guests to attend the July meeting free of charge!

Gus Greyhosky as emcee introduced **Paul Cain**, our sound guy. Paul explained a little bit about the special and rather rare Giulietti accordion he brought to play—one in his collection of 30+ accordions! This one is unique in that colored lights randomly flash as it is played. Paul played three short selections, the last being an original composition *Pele's Waltz*, written to commemorate the birth of his daughter Pele.

Thor Miao, the most recent recipient of a San Francisco Accordion scholarship, performed next with two ambitious classical transcriptions for accordion: *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius and the first movement of Mendelssohn's *Concerto for Violin in E Minor, Op 64*. He played entirely from memory and the pacing and dynamic expression was astounding.

Concluding the first half of the program was **The Accordion Orchestra Project** directed by **Richard Yaus**.

This project is a group of Bay Area accordionists, organized by Richard for the purpose of offering players the opportunity to play in an ensemble environment, concluding with their performance today. Richard gave an interesting introduction to each piece with lesser known snippets of history. The group opened with *La Cucaracha*, a Spanish song about a 5-legged cockroach that



limps along, as evidenced by the unusual beat in the music. *La Cucaracha* was followed by *Funiculi, Funicula* (composed to honor the start of cable car rides up Mt. Vesuvius, outside Naples) and Bert Kaempfert's *Strangers in the Night*.

Richard noted that composer Leroy Anderson was also a great accordion-

ist and the group launched into Anderson's *Blue Tango*, with half the orchestra playing the melody and the other half providing an aggressive tango rhythm. The well-known *Barcarolle* (a gondolier's song) from Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann* began as a sight-reading exercise in rehearsal, and went so well, it was added to the program. Brahms's *Hungarian Dance # 5* is a racey, Czardas-like piece with many sudden changes of tempo. The orchestra had no problem keeping up with the conductor. Richard wrote the



parts for each piece—a major piece of work. Their last piece was *España* by Emmanuel Chabrier. This piece was transformed into a popular hit in $\frac{3}{4}$ time by Perry Como as *Hot Diggity (Dog Diggity)*. It was an amazing performance by a group of players who put the program together in only 5 practice sessions.

Following a brief break, **Lou Jacklich** took the stage. He introduced each piece with its title, but in fact, the music that followed incorporated several related pieces. So his *Rhapsody in Blue* medley took a turn and included excerpts from *Porgy and Bess*, *An American in Paris*, and other Gershwin melodies. Lou is a master player and has been playing for 79 years. He never allows technique to detract from the music, but it is clear that his technique is amazing. His second piece was *Malagueña*, by Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona.



Lou's triple bellows shake and feeling brought interruptions of applause from the audience. Asked to play one more piece, Lou titled it *What Will Be Will Be*. It included that well known tune, but also extracts from *Swanee River* and *The Bumble Boogie*. His set ended with a standing ovation.

The final performance was by the featured duo **Due Zighi Baci: Sheri Mignano** on accordion and **Michael Van Why**, tenor. They performed for almost an hour—starting with the tarantella *Valencia*, then *Roma, Nun Fa La Stupida Stasera* (Rome, don't fool around tonight, Help me). Then a Neapolitan song of scorn about a kid who has to steal from his Mama's purse *Tu Vuo Fa L'Americano* – full of verve and vigor).



All the songs were opportunities for Michael to wow the audience with his tenor voice. Sheri creates all of their arrangements. In every song there was an interlude where Sheri's accordion playing sparkled. Switching to American songs, they performed *Mack the Knife*, and *Temptation* (Bing Crosby hit of 1933), Then they played *La Valse à Mille Temps* (Waltz in 1,000 time, a Jacques Brel

classic), and the melancholy *I Will Wait for You* from *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (Michel LeGrand's haunting love story). They tried to end with *Begin the Beguine* (Cole Porter), but there was no way the audience was willing to let them leave without at least one more song, so they wrapped it up with *Lady of Spain*, and also received a standing ovation. Their performance was a wonderful treat and a great finale for an afternoon of music by several talented performers.



Former San Francisco Supervisor Willie B. Kennedy remembered

by Peter DiBono



Willie B. Kennedy passed away on June 28. She was the San Francisco City Supervisor who authorized the ordinance resulting in the *accordion* being named as San Francisco's official instrument. She served as supervisor from 1981 to 1996, and had since held the post of President of the Commission, which provides economic and other support to Bayview, Hunters Point and nearby neighborhoods.

Tom Torriglia was an acquaintance of Ms. Kennedy, and influential in getting her to present the ordinance to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Mayor Art Agnos wanted the violin, someone else wanted the electric guitar—but Kennedy's bill was the only one presented to the Mayor. The Mayor did not act on Ms. Kennedy's bill, and consequently it became law by default because it was not vetoed. Coincidentally, The San Francisco Accordion club had its rebirth about the same time, and partly because of the hearings and PR? Lou Soper, Len Traverso, Palmisano, Holliday, and Rusty Bartoli, were at the hearing, and they got together at Walter Traverso's house afterward to talk about their favorite instrument, the accordion, and began to meet regularly. Other accordion players heard about the meetings, and wanted to be included. They decided to form a club, and due to the larger numbers of attendees, began meeting at Woodlake Joe's in San Mateo. I heard about the meetings and attended to see what it was all about. I became the 25th member to join the Club. All of the accordion clubs around the Bay Area, and the entire State for that matter, came in existence because of that meeting at San Francisco City Hall, and the chance meeting of the founders.

in part from the San Francisco Gate

Coming in September

Iñaki Diéguez is a native of Irun, Spain and began studying the accordion at the age of 9 culminating in graduation from the Conservatory of San Sebastian with honors. He has won numerous International awards and given concerts throughout Europe and the United States.

After a career as a classical musician, Iñaki began an intense focus on modern music. In 2008 he joined the world famous Cirque du Soleil with the show *Alegria* and was actively involved in the creation of their new show *Ovo*, participating in over a 1000 performances in the USA, Canada and Korea.

His newest CD *Birak*, released in October 2012, is a collaboration of musicians from Brazil, Quebec, the United States and the Basque country and was recorded in different studios around the world.



The San Francisco Accordion Club

enthusiastically welcomes the following
new members:

Georgia Sutherland

I credit my father with an insightful suggestion and much support in launching me into accordion playing when I was in the 5th grade. He thought I should play an instrument that was complete in itself and brought home a used 48-bass accordion.

During school years I took lessons and played my accordion on camping trips and beach parties and I even brought my accordion to the very first Girl Scout National Roundup in Milford, Michigan where I got to play a piece on National Public Radio.

Over the past 50 years I've continued to play casually and infrequently. I found three other accordion players in my Sweet Adelines (barbershop) chorus, and we've played together at chorus retreats to the delight of our chorus friends.

I discovered the Silicon Vally Accordion Society in 2011 and have played there a couple of times in the warmup session. I enjoy playing songs from musicals, sing-along folk songs, polkas, marches, and other familiar pieces. But I'll have to say that the highlight of my accordion "life" was participating in the Accordion Orchestra Project recently. A wonderful experience indeed!



Barbara Bruxvoort

When I was young, my dad played the accordion, and I have always loved it. At the time, however, I picked up the Flute instead. When I started folk dancing (I am a past president of the California Folk Dance Federation and dance regularly with Changs International Folk Dancers in San Francisco), I rediscovered accordion music. I love all kinds of dance music--Bulgarian, waltzes, mariachi, valse murette, contra.....you get the idea. I took accordion lessons for a short time several years ago, but was diverted by library school and motherhood.

I am the Children's Services Manager at the San Bruno Library and my present goal for the accordion is to play it along with story-time at the library. With much encouragement and patience from my teacher Lynn Ewing, I am investing a lot of practice time wrestling Twinkle Twinkle Little Star to the ground.

I live in Pacifica with my husband and two children and we appreciate the warm welcome received at the San Francisco Accordion Club.

Darwin McTighe

I am a retired Caltrans Highway engineer who grew up in a large Italian Community in Renton, WA. My father was a huge Lawrence Welk fan, and our family was originally from "Lawrence Welk Country" (South Dakota) before relocating to Seattle, where I attended high school. At the age of 12, I took accordion lessons for several years. Now at age 80, I am taking lessons again and am fortunate to find an instructor as qualified as Lynn Ewing.

My wife Josefina and I will be married 50 years in 2016 and I hope to be playing accordion at the anniversary celebration. We also have three daughters and 5 grandchildren.

6

An Unusual Accordion by Bob Smith

Many years ago Reno Pucci sold me an accordion built in San Francisco on April 19, 1924 by *Galleazzi and Sons*. I have partially restored it, although it is not yet in playable condition. The treble side is a chromatic style with a false piano appearance. This style was popular in the 20s. Most accordionists of that time played the chromatic accordion, but because of the popularity of the piano, piano accordions were gaining popularity on stage.

The bass side is what makes this accordion so unusual. Normally, on most accordions, the bass buttons are arranged on a somewhat diagonal pattern. The most common form is the Stradella bass, typically having six columns for counter-bass, bass, major, minor, seventh and diminished chords. The **root** notes are arranged vertically following the well-known “circle of fifths,” as in Bb, F, C, G, D, A, E, etc.

There are four complete diminished 7th chords on the column closest to the bellows. The C diminished chord is duplicated. The remaining buttons have a single bass note in rows 1, 3, 5 and 7 (counting from the bottom,) and the corresponding Major chords on the rows above (rows 2, 4, 6, & 8.) The minor 7th chords are on the the bass strap side, activated by two thumb switches. This was cleverly built so the player can press either one or both while playing the appropriate Major chord button. This allows you to play a true minor 7th!

This accordion needs a new home, preferably near the San Francisco Bay Area, where it has lived its life so far.

Top							
D	M	A	M	D	M	B	M
D		A		D		B	
Cd		GM		CM		FM	
Ed		G		C		F	
Dd		DM		AM		EM	
Cd		D		A		E	
G	M	C	M	F	M	B	M
G		C		F		B	



Message from the President by Lynn Ewing

As I prepare to attend **Cotati and Coupe Mondiale** in August, and **Las Vegas International** in October, I find myself thinking about how much my world has expanded by participating in accordion events of all kinds.

It was through our club that I discovered a much larger world of the accordion, not only in the Bay Area, but across the US and internationally! When I began playing the accordion after a 20 year hiatus, I was fortunate to meet, among others, Val Kieser who seemed to be going to accordion events constantly. At first I thought she was just a trifle too enthusiastic! However, now I find myself caught up in the accordion world to a level beyond my wildest imaginings.

Participating in the **Accordion Orchestra Project** with Richard Yaus, and witnessing the excitement generated in those who had never played in a group before, has planted an increased desire to urge all of you to get out and explore some of the opportunities available, many local. If you play the accordion, think about signing up for the next Accordion Orchestra Project, which Richard hopes to offer sometime in 2014.

We are lucky to have the **Cotati Accordion Festival** so close to home, and as I look at the roster of players listed to play, it amazes me how many of those performers we have had play for us at our club meetings. If you attend please stop by and say hello to us at our table which will be located near the jam tent.

The **Coupe Mondiale/The "World Cup" of Accordion** immediately following Cotati up in Victoria, B.C. this year, is about as different from Cotati as it could be, with a focus on young players. You must be under 33 years to compete. Attendees will see competition, virtuosity, and a lot of modern music. The **Las Vegas International Accordion Convention** is a unique blend of workshops, performances by world class players, orchestra experiences, and just plain fun. It is not too late to sign up, and if you have never been there, I urge you most strongly to attend. Details are in the **Accordion Events** section of this newsletter on page 9.

And now, a very exciting piece of news which you will hear more about in the months to come. The **ATG /Accordionists and Teacher's Guild** is bringing their national festival once again to the San Francisco Bay Area in July of 2014. This event features an orchestra for local and national players, as well as both local and world class performers, with many opportunities for socializing and workshops. It is a fabulous opportunity awaiting your participation!

On the internet you can take advantage of the Accordion USA news, www.accordionusa.com and check out the websites of the national organizations—AAA /American Accordionist's Association and ATG. Many of these organizations have actual paper newsletters which you can sign up to receive.

Go see our local performers listed in **Performing around the Bay** pg.8 in this newsletter. Come to Cotati! Come to Las Vegas! Join Richard Yaus and the Accordion Orchestra Project! And put the ATG Festival, July 23, 26th, 2014 on your calendar and plan to attend!



FOR SALE —1940 by G Galleazzi & Sons of North Beach, San Francisco. Ornate with mother of pearl keys and housing. 20" x 15" x 8", 120 bass. A friend, who played in a group, used it for a couple of months and reported that it is in fine condition. \$299

Margaret Melaney, Menlo Park, CA
melaney@earthlink.net

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
www.stevebalichband.com

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco
www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.com

Reno Di Bono • South Bay
ourhike@aol.com

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 Gobelins
Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobelins

Ed Gorzynski, Jr. • East Bay
edspolkas@yahoo.com

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

Big Lou, aka Linda Seekins • San Francisco
www.accordionprincess.com

Mad Maggies • San Francisco
themadmaggies.com

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
don@nurisso.com

Rob Reich • East Bay & San Francisco
robbyreichmusic@gmail.com

Diana Strong • Pacifica
don@nurisso.com

Tangonero
<http://tangonero.com>

Whiskey and Women •
www.whiskeyandwomenmusic.com

Please Remember!

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

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.

PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Although our featured performers are scheduled almost all the way through September, 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

ACCORDION EVENTS

AAA Convention - American Accordionists Association 75th Anniversary Celebration

August 14-18, 2013
The New Yorker Hotel
481 Eighth Avenue at 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
<http://www.ameraccord.com/>

the 66th Couple Mondiale
will be held August 17-25, 2013,
in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
<http://www.couplemondiale.org>

Cotati Accordion Festival
August 17 & 18, 2013
9:30 - 8:30 both days
in La Plaza Park in Cotati, CA 94931
(60 West Cotati Ave.)
Advance tickets: \$15 one-day,
\$25 two-days
At the gate: \$17 one-day,
\$25 two-days
Kids 15 and under
FREE with paying adult.

14th Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention October 28—31, 2013 at the Gold Coast Hotel

Carnival of Venice in Vegas
WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT,
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tive workshops. Join the fun and make new
friends from all over the World. See the latest
in new accordions with factory exhibits.
Hotel accommodations are very inexpensive.
Be inspired by the some of the finest.
Learn from the masters.

There will be included three gala luncheons
and FOUR regal dinners including a Tuesday
Grand all-you-can-eat Buffet. Plus an unfor-
gettable Monday night opening Party and a
Thursday night Prime Rib Dinner the final
evening along with dinner dancing.

**NO MEETING in August
Join us at the Cotati Festival**

Musicians from 120+ countries will attend courses on how to play the world's finest instrument at the Gold Coast Hotel & Casino

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Venice
in Vegas**
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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.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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aswy01@gmail.com

Newsletter

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snapp.chris@gmail.com



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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
September 15 @ 2 p.m.
Admission: \$5 members, \$7 guests**

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.

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.

**NO MEETING in August
Join us at the Cotati Festival**

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

P.O. Box 318175
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175
www.sfaccordionclub.com



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