

June 2015

Our Next Music Program

2:00 pm Sunday, June 21

Oyster Point Yacht Club
South San Francisco



We have a great program for June!

David Miotke is as versatile as he is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and passionate performer with a remarkable career that continues to flourish from his home in the San Francisco Bay Area. Music has been an integral part of his life, beginning in Chicago where he became a National Accordion Champion at the age of nine. He went on to hone his skills at Northwestern University, earning a bachelor's degree in music theory and composition and a master's degree in applied piano. With the ground work laid, David became a professional musician using the stage name of Dave Michaels; he co-founded the well-known '60s folk rock band H.P. Lovecraft. David and the band headed to California where they caught the attention and admiration of Bill Graham, and recorded two albums—*H. P. Lovecraft* and *H. P. Lovecraft II*—while performing frequently at legendary venues like San Francisco's Fillmore and Winterland.



David performs solo and as a member of various ensembles with a wide repertoire from classic Italian arias to just about anything from the Great American Song Book including Cole Porter, Gershwin, and Rodgers and Hart. He crosses genres from Be Bop, Broadway and Cabaret to Tango and Jazz, singing in English and Italian. He had recorded in- and outside the studio playing, writing and singing for other

groups, television and radio. He has worked with a variety of performers including the Uptown Singers, Jazz Manouche, Lua Hadar with Twist, Ensemble Bizou, Ken Zimmerman, Marilyn Cooney, Katrina Wreede, David Sturdevant and others. Dave's creations are always evolving—every performance will likely have something new.

In 1997 Dave became Music Director at Max's Opera Cafe in San Francisco. He released his debut solo album *In Dust I Sing* in 2001, singing and playing original compositions to the ghazal lyrics of Francis Brabazon and Bhau Kalchuri. In 2011, Dave released *Beyond Lovecraft*, a tribute to The Great American Songbook. It features music by legends Ira and George Gershwin, Lorenz Hart and Richard Rodgers, Irving Berlin, Johnny Mercer, Hoagy Carmichael, and Duke Ellington. This compendium is vintage Miotke—no sheet music, overdubs, or multiple sessions, just pure improvisation as if you were there.

David is currently the featured member of the Italian-American group Trio Davide performing throughout Northern California with special engagements in Napa Valley wine country. He is a long-time member of the San Francisco Medicine Ball musical family and a regular performer at the famous North Beach Caffe Trieste. He is the pianist at Oakland's Plymouth Church of Jazz & Justice and freelances all over the Bay Area at private parties, weddings, and other events. ❖



More Great Talent in June



Kenneth Schwartz

comes to us from San Mateo and has been playing the accordion since age 8. Although initially trained in classical accordion and piano, Ken switched to popular music and played his first events in high school. As an undergraduate at UCLA, Ken was the only accordionist listed

in the campus directory (32,000+ students); he mixed chemistry by day with music by night and earned his way through college, playing numerous parties and weddings in the West Los Angeles area. Although his professional career is in biotechnology, Ken has never wandered too far from his musical roots and is looking forward to his first performance with our club.

Lynn Ewing was born and raised in San Diego, California, where she began playing accordion at age seven. As a young adult, Lynn taught at the Robert Mitchell Accordion School, where she directed five accordion bands and gave accordion lessons to over a hundred young children. She received her certification in the Orff Method of Music instruction from Mills College, and was the music specialist at El Granada Elementary school for seven years. Currently Lynn teaches private accordion students, and performs with two accordion ensembles, the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) and AbsolutAccord. Lynn is finishing her third term as President of the San Francisco Club.



Mike Zampiceni has been involved with the accordion his entire life. He is the son of noted accordionist, teacher, composer, arranger and music publisher, Joseph Zampiceni. He began formal study of the accordion at age 8, and played his first paid engagements by age 11. At 14 he joined his father's orchestra, playing accordion and drums and by 17, he was in the musician's union, as leader of his own band.



While in high school, Mike's choral teacher took note of his tenor voice and encouraged him to compete in vocal competitions and further his vocal studies. Mike graduated from San Jose State University with a B.A. in Music, concentrating on voice, piano and organ. After a year's break, he returned to work on an M.A., during which time he was chosen as the tenor soloist in a performance of a Bach cantata with the San Jose Symphony. Mike recently retired from a career as a technical writer. He has always been active in the music profession, continuing to play engagements and teach students. ❖

PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Our scheduled performers are drawn from professional players and groups, and from 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) 867-2633

ewinglynn@gmail.com

We Had So Much Fun in May!!

Musical Program Notes—May 17

by Shirley Brim
Photos by Steve Mobia

Our Sunday music program in May was great fun—the jam band started things off nicely for the early birds who came between 1:00 and 2:00 pm, and the formal program, hosted by Guy Greyhosky, began at 2:00. From traditional classics with Val Floren Brewer and her family, to René Sevieri's virtuoso strolling music then culminating with Sourdough Slim's wonderful cowboy music—this was another in our long series of original and entertaining Sunday music programs. Sourdough Slim's appearance was made possible in part by money contributed to the Val Kieser Memorial fund and by a special contribution of support from Randy Hicks.

Val Floren Brewer and Family kicked things off for us. Val (age 91½), her son **Jan Brewer** and Jan's wife **Carole Brewer** have played together for years. Val Floren Brewer is the younger sister of Myron Floren (of Lawrence Welk fame.) Val's son Jan has played drums for Myron's own band and with many other groups as well, and his wife Carole Brewer is a well-known Christian speaker and musician. With Val on accordion, Jan on drums and Carole singing and playing the piano, the group's polished and engaging style drew us in and had us tapping our toes in no time at all. Their familiar, traditional music was interspersed with entertaining stories about their long careers and also about Myron and the Lawrence Welk Show.

They kicked off their set with "Pennsylvania Polka" and then moved into a medley of "My Blue Heaven" and "Doodly Do." Jan Brewer talked about Val and Myron's early years, including a story about them sharing a single piece of gum because they didn't have enough money for two pieces! Myron was six when he first saw a relative playing the accordion—he watched

him very closely as he played, asked a lot of questions and then told his father that's what he wanted to do. In the midst of the Depression, Myron's father bought him an accordion from the Sears & Roebuck catalog for \$19.50 (lessons not included.) Friends and relatives were shocked at this extravagance, but his father had faith in Myron's dream of being a successful accordion player. As Myron's skills grew and his career took off, his dad enjoyed reminding the doubters that he'd been right all along.

"Dad's Waltz" came next—composed in the Norwegian schottische style by Myron as a tribute to his dad. Then came "It Had to be You" and a medley from "The Sound of Music". After a story about John Wayne's love of the polka and friendship with Myron, the group moved into "Beer Barrel Polka. Carole sang and invited the audience to sing along on the chorus. They ended their set with "God Bless America," another audience participation favorite. During the intermission, Val and Jan walked around, shaking hands and talking graciously with the audience. The group is a real crowd-pleaser and we hope they come back again soon!

We were thrilled when **René Sevieri** agreed to play for us on the spur of the moment—we love his intimate performing style and mastery of his music. He opened with a traditional Italian love song and then moved into "Marina, Marina," "Beseme Mucho," "Guitar Romano," and "Tango of the Roses;" he closed his set with "La Cumparisita." René clearly loves his music and we loved it too. His easy, engaging style with the audience and the romance of his songs drew us into the longing for a lost love and the anticipation of something wonderful with someone that you've just met. We reluctantly bade farewell to René and broke for intermission. Come back and play for us again, René! Mark Zhaged surprised and delighted us with his beautiful background music on the piano during the intermission—a rare treat for the Club.



~ THE MAIN EVENT! ~



Our featured performers for the day were **Sourdough Slim (Rick Crowder)** and his sideman, **Robert Armstrong**. Slim's performance is a trip to the Old West from the movies that we recognize and love. His songs conjure

up sad, lost cowboys and happy, yodeling trail hands who "had to go to the doctor to get their tonsils untangled." His vaudeville-style comedy and his stories and self-deprecating humor between songs opened a time portal to a scruffy saloon in a nameless western town in the 1800s.

Slim and Robert make a great duo. Slim played mostly accordion and Robert added harmony and complexity with guitar, musical saw and steel guitar as well as backup vocals. They opened with "My Last Old Dollar is Gone," then swung into "How Long Will I Have to Wait?". Slim describes himself as a yodeling cowboy with plantar fasciitis. He said he's been down on his luck—his accordion has been to the pawn shop so many times that the pawn broker plays it better than he does. Slim also mentioned that years ago he'd read of the evils of drinking, and on the spot he gave up reading!

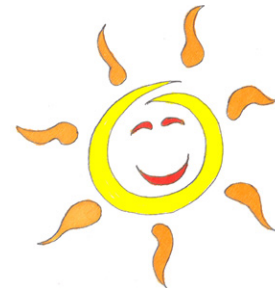
Slim sang "The Yodeling Cowboy," his own composition that showcased his award-winning yodeling talent, and then moved into "Old Winnemucca's Great Basin Sky," his tribute to the wide-open spaces of the West. Then they played "Fan It," with Slim doing an inspired faux trumpet solo through pursed lips and inviting the audience to sing along on the choruses.



Slim told a great story about performing in Seattle and encountering sailors rather than cowboys. So he learned a few sea chanteys and sang "Barnacle Bill the Sailor" for us. Robert accompanied him on the musical saw, evoking the sweet, sad tones you only hear from a violin bow on a handsaw. They moved immediately into the theme song from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's*

Nest and then on to "Oh, Sweet Mama," (the title song from their 2011 CD) and "Farewell for Now," all accompanied by Robert's musical saw.

We traveled back to the Gold Rush days with "Days of '49" and "Take My Boots Off when I Die," and Slim played guitar on the iconic "Ghost Riders in the Sky." Slim and Robert played "Red River Valley" for their encore and again invited the audience to sing along. We reluctantly returned to 2015 from this nostalgic trip with our cowboys from the Old West, but we hope they'll take us back there again soon. ❖



Sit in with the Jam Band

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, meet crazy new accordion friends and have WAY TOO MUCH FUN! We meet regularly before the monthly Sunday music program—

1:00-1:30 pm for multi-part music
1:30-2:00 pm for a traditional jam session

COME ON DOWN! We're waiting for YOU!

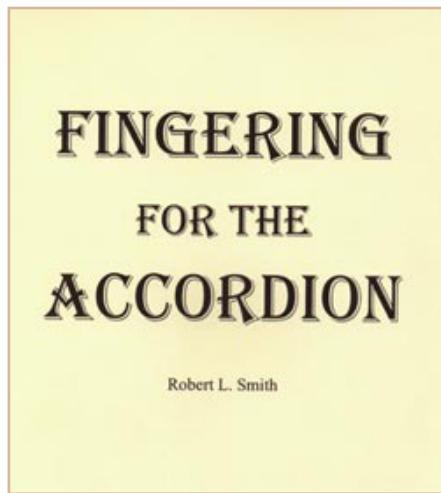
Please Remember!

Be sure to leave our meeting space at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Wipe up food or drink spills and recycle all trash. **THANK YOU!**

Accordion Club History

Jim Holliday and Evelyn Baulch

By Peter Di Bono



Bob Smith's book *Fingering for the Accordion* grew from this expression by C. P. E. Bach, "More is lost through poor fingering than can be replaced by all conceivable artistry and good taste!" The book presents not only the standard fingering patterns for scales and arpeggios for the piano accordion but also many alternative fingerings that can help the accordionist experiment with different approaches.

The book offers these areas of concentration for the treble keyboard:

- Eleven basic fingering techniques
- Major and minor scales in all keys with standard and alternative fingerings
- Four methods of playing the chromatic scale including the new 3+4 method
- True Legato Thirds on major, minor and chromatic scales

Bob also includes several fingering patterns for the bass on standard accordion such as:

- 5 fingerings for major scales
- 7 fingerings for harmonic minor scales
- 7 fingerings for melodic minor scales
- 9 fingerings for the chromatic scale
- Alternate fingerings for bass/chord combinations
- Diminished chord variations including the use of the thumb on diminished chord button

If you are looking for a book that will expand your approach to fingering and that will guide you into exploring fingering alternatives that best suit the size of your hand then I highly recommend *Fingering for the Accordion*. Excerpted from the book review by Robert Stead at www.ksanti.net/free-reed/. On the left, select 'Reviews', then in the center select 'Books' and then 'Smith, Robert L.' from the list.

The book is available by emailing Bob at:
bobsmith4@global.net ❖

Jim Holliday was one of the founders of the San Francisco Accordion Club when it was revitalized in 1990 and his life-long companion, Evelyn Baulch, was there with him at the reenergized Club. These two friends have been central to the success and vitality of the organization we all love. Jim's recent generous donation to the club has helped make our 100th anniversary gala celebration possible.

I can't think of anyone who loves accordion music more, but lately they have not been able to be with us at Club meetings. You may recall a few years ago when Steve, Harriet and I [ed: The Peter Di Bono Trio] played at one of the Club's monthly Sunday programs. Jim and Evelyn were seated front and center, their regular seats, awaiting the performance. During our performance I remembered that Jim's favorite song was "Moonlight In Vermont." I asked Harriet to play the lead and go and sit in the vacant chair next to Jim.

Well, Jim loved the attention from Harriet and I commented after we finished the song that that was as close to heaven as Jim would get for a while. Fast forward ten years, and Evelyn and Jim have not been able to come to the Club meetings for some time. About a year ago, Harriet asked me about Evelyn and Jim. I said that they have not been able to get out much, and Harriet suggested that we visit them and play a little mini concert in their home. It took a year for us to coordinate a free afternoon, but we finally visited Jim and Evelyn on Thursday, May 28, at their San Mateo home. (*Peter, Harriet and Jim, above.*)



Harriet and I played some of our favorites, and all of theirs. They both are doing well, and miss being able to come to the monthly Sunday programs. They're happy to have been involved with the resurgence of the accordion's popularity; it's their favorite instrument. They send good wishes to everyone in the Club. ❖

VINTAGE ACCORIONS TO BE AUCTIONED AT THE GALA!

These two beautiful historic Colombo accordions will be auctioned off at our gala on June 6th to the highest bidder!



Thanks to Dominic Palmisano, for donating the black, 1915 model, 100 years old this year! The grillwork contains the name "Colombo," a large eagle in gold and black, and says, "Piatenesi and Sons, Acc Mf'rs, San Francisco, Ca, 1915."



The white Colombo was donated to the club during our collection of accordions for Japan. It has a beautiful Art Deco grill and says "California Model" and "Colombo." The date is most likely late 1920s or early 30s.

They are both in playable—though not perfect—condition. Contact Lynn Ewing at 650-867-2633 to place a maximum bid if you can't attend.

♪♪ SFAC Scholarship ♪♪

The SFAC awards two scholarships a year to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. The student must have a financial need and demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** 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)

100th Anniversary GALA CELEBRATION

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

The San Francisco Accordion Club is proud to announce:

**The 25th Anniversary (1990)
of the Re-establishment
of the San Francisco Accordion Club**

AND

**The 100th anniversary (1915)
of the original
San Francisco Accordion Club!**

JUNE 6, 2015 FROM 6-10 PM

We're celebrating these two milestones with a festive evening gala. Join us for a memorable evening of fun, dancing and—of course—**ACCORDION MUSIC!** The cost is \$25 per person in advance. You can order and pay for tickets online at www.sfaccordionclub.com.

The gala will be held at the Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo, 300 E Santa Inez Ave, San Mateo, CA.

We'll have snacks, beverages and entertainment galore, featuring:

- The **Accordion Orchestra Project** conducted by Richard Yaus for its 3rd consecutive year
- The sublime strolling accordion music of **Reno Di Bono**
- Performances by **Jana Maas** and **Mike Zampiceni**
- Music for dancing by **Steve Albini**

**Call Elaine Cooperstein at 510-921-9323
for reservations, and you can pay for
your tickets online at PayPal.com**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your Club Needs You

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the original SF Accordion Club and particularly the 25th anniversary of the re-established club, I've been thinking a lot about what the club means. The club was formed to bring together people who play accordion and love accordion music, to play our accordions and listen to others play, and to meet each other, share resources and have fun with our favorite instrument!

We are fortunate to have so many kinds of accordion music in the Bay Area! We are so much more than polkas, although we love polkas too. At one of our monthly Sunday programs you might hear Tango music, hard driving or original romantic music, Klezmer music, French music, jazz, and even a cowboy yodeler, in addition to many American and Italian standards.

We have had some fabulous programs in the last few months, but our attendance has been very light. It is an unfortunate fact that our lovely location at Oyster Point Yacht Club costs money, and we can't make it without good attendance by our members and friends. We are lucky to have accordionists who play live music right in our own backyard. Even if you think that the program isn't really your kind of music, come to support the club anyway. You might find that new musical genres open up to you!

We need YOU to come to programs and participate in your club. Expand your horizons, find new music, meet new friends, and find out what you can do to help. Step out onto the skinny branches and play at a Sunday program. Be on the lookout for people who might play for us, and let them know about SFAC. Try your skills in the jam band or in the Orchestra project. Volunteer to emcee, make coffee, take notes at a Sunday program, or provide an article for the newsletter. Invite your friends to come and make it a social occasion. Introduce yourself to someone you don't know and find out how the accordion is part of their life.

Through the club, you'll hear about accordion events happening all across the US, discover opportunities to play in orchestras or learn about great visiting accordionists who are performing in the Bay Area. Sometimes we bring these artists right to SFAC!

So come to our monthly Sunday music programs and join in the fun! Hope to see you often!

Lynn Ewing, SFAC President



GREAT NEWS!!

NEW STUDENT STAGE AT THE FESTIVAL

Cotati's **Student Scholarship Fundraiser** is scheduled for **Friday, August 21, 6:30-9:30pm**, at Redwood Café, 8240 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati (just off the festival's plaza location). They'll have a great lineup of accordionists who are donating their time and efforts to increase the scholarship fund. Arrive early for the festival and please stop by to support this cause with a donation. They raised \$350 in 2014!

Saturday morning, August 22, 9:00 am to 12 noon, features **students whose teachers have submitted applications, performing on the Student Stage**. There are **two categories: noncompetitive** (no monetary awards) and **competitive** (scholarship money). **Teachers must submit paperwork no later than June 15, 2015** to qualify their students to perform, regardless of category.

All required forms are available online at the Cotati Accordion Festival website: cotatifest.com/index.php/schedule-performers/new-2015-student-stage

Call or e-mail for more information about requirements:

Sheri Mignano Crawford; 707-772-9816
Cotatiaccordionstudentstage@yahoo.com





ACCORDION EVENTS



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

Save the Date!



June 7-12, 2015

Contact camp treasurer:
Marlene Meissner
marlenem26@msn.com
503-463-9909

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contact@bcaccordion.ca



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betty@bettyjosimon.com



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Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission donation
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474
dcacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO for all three chapters: Carole Enneking
(707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub@netfirms.com

The Vacaville Chapter

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.
Pietro's No. 2, 679 Merchant Street, Vacaville
(707) 448-4588

The Humboldt Chapter

3rd Tuesday at 7pm. Humboldt Swiss Club,
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

The Sacramento Chapter

4th Wednesday at 7 pm.
Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd.,
Rancho Cordova

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
\$5 for adults, no charge under 16

♪♪ **Performing Around the Bay** ♪♪

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RonBorelli@aol.com www.ronborelli.com

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rdenier@sbcglobal.net

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RENO DI BONO South Bay
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www.capricious-accordion.com or
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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

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.

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RICHARD YAUS (650) 832-1740

MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579

NORMA ZONAY-PARSONS (408) 246-3073

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

MONTHLY SUNDAY MUSIC PROGRAM

Come for fun and great music!!

June 21 @ 2:00 pm

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

Jam band starts out with multi-part music from 1:00-1:30,
and the traditional jam session runs from 1:30-2:00

Visit us online at www.sfaccordionclub.com



DIRECTIONS:

Traveling either north or south on Highway 101 in South San Francisco, take the Oyster Point Blvd exit and follow it to Marina Blvd. Be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, the right turn immediately before Marina Blvd.

Turn right onto Marina Blvd and continue 0.7 mile, past the Oyster Point Marina gatehouse to the Oyster Point Yacht Club sign on the left. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

JOIN THE FUN!

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

www.sfaccordionclub.com

San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

P.O. Box 318175

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www.sfaccordionclub.com

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