

NEXT SFAC MEETING

2:00 pm Sunday

March 15

Oyster Point Yacht Club

South San Francisco



♪♪ COMING UP IN MARCH ♪♪



Whiskey and Women got their name from their first street performance together in Edinburgh, Scotland: they had only an hour to earn enough money to buy a bottle of Jameson. They had never rehearsed a lick of music together. Did they succeed? Yes! They busted out Irish, Scottish and Welsh drinking songs, sea shanties, Cajun two-steps, honky-tonk originals, impromptu harmonies and a whole lot of stomp and holler. The Scots responded with generous tips. The ladies knew they had something special: a mix of musicality and fun that was powerful even in its raw, unrefined state. Years later, the fun still shines through their performances like a beam of sunshine through a 25 year-old single malt. This lovely trio will hoot and howl their way into your hearts...sweetly!



Renee de la Prade

Renee was adopted as a baby by a loving family in the rural town of Nicasio, California. Her father Xavier was an accordionist and French teacher, her mother Candy loved country music. She was exposed to Irish music at 19 and it was love at first tune. She hung up the guitar in favor of the button accordion; a year later,

she got her beloved Cairdin accordion in the mail, and began playing music for college money. Wanting more chords than her traditional button-box could produce, in 2006 she got a job at Smythe's Accordion Center, where she learned to modify her accordion's bass system to play power chords. Her stomp box came a year later... Now she's ready for her real calling: to tour the world, and share the rock-n-roll.

Rosie Grace Steffy

Although Rosie and Renee are full biological sisters, they were adopted by two different families at a young age and it is a mutual, ecstatic adoration of music that has brought them together in recent history. Rosie first touched bow to string seven years ago in a cramped music shop in Hyderabad, India with the optimistic intention of learning to play the violin during her semester abroad. A year later she was thrilled to begin tutelage under wing of her encouraging sister Renee, who taught her delightful Irish and Cajun tunes. Many tunes and empty whiskey bottles later, they joined forces with Joan to create the spirited, adventurous, and enticing musical alliance known as Whiskey and Women.

Joan Wilson Rueter

Joan's love affair with the fiddle began when she found a German-made school violin in a dumpster on the street. Figuring it must be a sign, she began teaching herself to play. The dumpster fiddle and Joan traveled a few times across the country, as well as on tour to Europe, before the instrument was put into semi-retirement. Now she rocks a hundred-year-old Czech fiddle that used to belong to her uncle Jimmy. Drawing on inspiration from Irish, Cajun, and Appalachian styles, Joan's playing is reminiscent of a whiskey-fueled front porch party that lasts till dawn. She loves learning old tunes, writing new ones, and mixing the old with the new. ❖



MORE MARCH PERFORMERS



A native of CA, Glenn Hartman moved to New Orleans at the age of 18 to study and play music. He spent the next 25 years touring clubs and festivals and becoming an internationally acclaimed accordion player. He has played almost every major festival and club in the US and many abroad, including Bonnaroo, Bumbershoot, Edinburgh Fringe Fest, Outside Lands, The Hollywood Bowl, and The Horde Tour. One of Glenn's bands, The New Orleans Klezmer Allstars, has played at 22 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festivals in a row. NOKAS is also featured on the cover of Seth Rogovoy's book The Essential Klezmer. Glenn's original recording, "Not Too Eggy" is included in the 2004 collection Doctors, Professors, Kings and Queens: The Big Ol' Box Set of New Orleans Music.



In 2005, Hurricane Katrina washed Glenn and his family back to CA. He is now active in the Bay Area music scene while continuing to gig regularly in New Orleans. In 2011 The New Orleans Jazz Fest put on an "Accordion Summit" which featured Glenn playing with Steve Riley, Sunpie Barnes and Fixi. He maintains an active schedule; in March 2014, he played six gigs in New Orleans with four different bands, completed a recording in San Francisco with his new trio, and then flew to Germany to play sold out shows with The Klezmer Allstars Duo.

Glenn plays a beautiful Petosa AM-1100ESM.

Kombrig (Alex Yaskin)

Although he was born in San Francisco, **Kombrig** lived in the USSR for years; Alex has recently adopted the name 'Kombrig'. He performed for 25 years in the Soviet Union after realizing that people would pay to hear his special brand of music. Kombrig has been performing in the US ever since his return 12 years ago. He released three albums between 1995 and 2004 that sold very well; two were best sellers.



Kombrig has developed his own unique style of accordion performance. He says the melody line and the bass line are equally important, and between them he inserts rich chords. Kombrig plays the Bayan, a type of Russian button chromatic accordion, sings his own vocals and adds a bass drum sound by striking his right heel on his accordion case. His music covers many genres and he continually delights audiences with his original arrangements of popular music.

Kombrig can be found playing street music in Berkeley many week days. Monday and Tuesday he plays on Solano Avenue close to Peet's Coffee and Tea. Wednesday morning he's always in front of Cheese Board Pizza on Shattuck Avenue, and you can sometimes find him at the 4th Street Peet's. Friday nights Kombrig plays at La Note French restaurant in downtown Berkeley on 2377 Shattuck. He also plays at various locations in San Francisco, including every Saturday at 7 pm a Russian tea room on Balboa St. ❖



Don Savant was unable to play as scheduled at our February meeting; we're pleased that he'll be playing for us in March.

What a Great Meeting in February!

Meeting Notes from February 22, 2015

by Barbara Bruxvoort

The February meeting was fun! The sun was sparkling on the water outside and the music was sparking inside.



Paul Cain set up the sound system for the meeting, and then put it to good use by playing for us. He started up with a light touch, the “Minuet in G” by Bach, playing with a lovely harpsichord quality. The next piece

was the crowd pleaser “Bei Mir Bist Du Shein” which had the audience humming along—a little web research says that back in the day “the cowboys of the West were whistling the undulating melody” and a few accordion players in the audience were doing the same! Skipping forward a few decades to the Beatles, he played “In My Life.”

Next he treated us to the seldom-heard “The Inspector Clouseau Theme” by Henry Mancini—a fun piece, with the whining, whimsy and overconfidence that you expect from Monsieur Le Inspecteur: overlapping treble with an emphatic, plodding bass and ending in a whimper (of course) of minor chords. One can imagine the dust rising above the Inspector’s latest disaster. Parfait! Ending as he began, with Bach, we enjoyed “Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring” played not as a harpsichord this time but like an organ on all the reed stops. Very nice indeed!

Ron Harris, former member of the ACE ensemble and an Atherton Police officer, took the stage and set a mood with a beautiful series of songs with no introductions, just



letting the music speak for itself, catching the mood of the summery afternoon weather: perfect for watching the sunlight sparkling on the water and boats on the bay. All the doors were open and the greens were

brighter, the sunlight more dappled, the wind fresher as he played. His song series was: “Cry me a River” by Arthur Hamilton (set a syncopated happy mood); “Besame Mucho”; “Once in a While” & “Moonlight in Vermont” (rollerskates and calliopes, popcorn, the boardwalk); “Smoke Gets in your Eyes” and then “Pretend” & “I’m in the Mood for Love”. A beautiful set.

Big Lou and Friends had some last minute changes because they had thought the meeting was the week before! We were sorry for the mix up and glad that Big Lou and David persuaded **Kit Robberson** to visit us again, playing the Viola de Gamba; visiting us for the first time **David Phillips** played a highly cool pedal steel guitar. Big Lou showed off her new back strap that attaches near the bottom of the straps and goes across the hips. She highly recommends it for those who like to stand up while playing as it distributes the weight of the accordion on the hips. **Melody**, who works for **Accordion Apocalypse**, made the strap for her.



Starting out with Kit and Lou and David in 6/8 time, the steel guitar joined in and filled a gap we didn’t know was there. Next was a polka about Yasher with Dave singing about the very charming rascal! They followed up with the sly “It’s Always in the Way” rewritten by Lou about “my boyfriend’s big beer gut, at least that’s my story.” Next Kit put down her bow to play the walking bass in a song whose chorus again evoked the spirit of the Andrews sisters already present from “Bei Mir Bist Du Shein” earlier in the afternoon. Lou introduced a sing along and the national anthem of her homeland (East LA), “Woolly Bully.” David rounded it out with a great steel guitar solo. Visit Big Lou’s website at www.accordionprincess.com/index.html.

After the break we honored all SFAC past presidents. Dominic Palmisano and Marian Kelly were there to receive their certificates in person.

~ THE MAIN EVENT! ~

The second half of the meeting whirled away in the arms of **Tangonero!** **Claudio Ortega's** passionate, dramatic ballads joined with bandoneonist **Alex Roitman**, violinist **Michèle Walther**, **Daniel Fabricant** on stand up bass and **I-Yung Chung** on piano. When unexpected electrical connection problems prevented I-Yung Chung from using her electronic keyboard, a crew of volunteers did some fast thinking and wheeled in the Yacht Club's piano. A great all-acoustic set.

The group started out with "El Choclo" from the early part of the 20th century and from the first chord you could smell the smoke, see the lights dim and watch as women in high heels and black dresses circle



solemn men. Tangonero played with the precision and intensity of musicians who know how to animate dancers, and these phantom dancers performed at the edges of our vision the whole set.

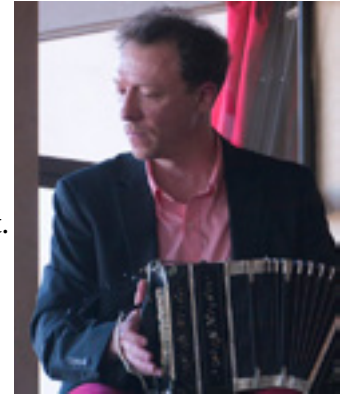
Paul's mastery on the sound board brought all the acoustic instruments into balance even with the piano change-up, and the group was off into "Mala Junta" ("Bad Company") and "Mal de Amores" ("Lovesick") from the same period.



Claudio Ortega sang "Naranja en Flor" ("perfume of Orange Blossoms, empty promises of love that have gone with the wind...all my life is in the past... like a bird in the dark...") and our phantom dancers wept.

Moving on to a Milonga, the genre predating the tango that is still danced in tango parties: "Milonga de mis Amores." And then the bandoneon wailed with "Quejas (cries, complaints, wails) de Bandoneon" and the violin also wept.

Alex Roitman gave us a short demonstration of the bandoneon, showing that the buttons are arranged in no particular order and we marveled at the command Alex has over the instrument. Then Tangonero shifted into the tango waltz: "Pobre mi Madre Querida" ("My Poor Beloved Mother"), made famous in the movie of the same name. The percussive closure of the bandoneon punctuated the solo.



Claudio Ortega joined the group again for a dramatic "Sur" by the Argentinian poet Homero Manzi.

Moving beyond danced tango (our phantom dancers needed a glass of water) to the great Astor Piazzolla and dance and death of the angel: "Milonga del Angel" & "Muerte del

Angel." The musicians evoked a with a deep vocal quality from their instruments, and the long, ethereal phrases told a beautiful story. The pieces were very introspective, but vibrated to every corner of the room. The applause was led with a "hell yeah" cheer from the audience.

Next there was the "Yunta de Oro"—played perfectly in synch on the razor's edge before passion slides into tragedy. "Ausencias" by Piazzola was next and then Ortega joined again with a powerful rendition of "Fueron Tres Años." Of course we demanded an encore and Tangonero played "Requerdo." ¡Gracias Tangonero para nuestros bellos recuerdos de su música! Find more information at tangonero.com and thetangosinger.net/Welcome.html ❖



CAFÉ VIENNA TRIO

Los Gatos Community Concert Assn. 67th Season
Features the Accordion with Café Vienna Trio

In the tradition of **Johann Schrammel** and the small musical ensembles of old Vienna, the **Café Vienna Trio** brings traditional European and classical music to intimate Bay area settings. Nineteenth-century Vienna was the center of music from eastern and western Europe, where ensembles performed **Schrammelmusik** in cafes and small concert venues, bringing classical music to the common man. It began with **Johann and Josef Schrammel** playing their own compositions such as “Wien Bleibt Wien” (“Vienna Forever”) as well as worthy classical compositions unique to Vienna. Cafe Vienna Trio similarly delights their audiences



with songs from traditional Euro-centric genres including the music of old Vienna, the gypsy ballads of Hungary and other European and world classics.

The group features **Joe Domitrowich**, accomplished performer and arranger for digital accordion; **Dave Dally**, superb concert violinist; and vocalist extraordinaire **Liana Braunova Derner**. Café Vienna Trio entertains and delights audiences with traditional instrumentation and arrangements of familiar and nostalgic tunes. Their repertoire ranges from classical or traditional Euro-centric genres to more modern western compositions.

The Los Gatos concert is March 22 and begins at 2:30 pm; doors open at 2:00 pm. Single tickets are available at the door for \$25, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for students, or can be purchased on line at www.lgcca.org.

Café Vienna Trio is available for public and private events. For more information about Café Vienna Trio please see www.capricious-accordion.com. ❖



GREAT NEWS!!

NEW STUDENT STAGE AT THE FESTIVAL

This year'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). We'll have a great lineup of accordionists who are donating their time and efforts to increase our scholarship fund. Arrive early for the festival and please stop by to support this cause with a donation. We 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: non-competitive** (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

♪♪ **Scholarship** ♪♪

We award 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)

THANK YOU!

Jim Holliday

We would like to give Huge thanks to Founding Member, Jim Holliday, who recently made a large and generous donation to the club. He writes that in 1990 he dreamed of a classy organization devoted to advancing the acceptance of the accordion as a valid and versatile musical instrument. He feels pleased to see that his dreams have come true.



GET WELL SOON!

Barbara Winter

We extend get well wishes to our dear Barbara Winter, who has been in the hospital with pneumonia during the past few weeks. Barbara is currently in the Kaiser Permanente Acute Care in San Leandro. We hope and expect that she will be home next week. If you wish to send a card, her address is 129 Bacon Ct, Lafayette, CA, 94549. Barbara has been making coffee for us at our club meetings every month for well over a year, and we miss her gracious and smiling presence.

Jim Holliday

Jim has been under the weather, and spent a few weeks in the hospital last month, so we are glad to report that he is now recovering at home. Jim and Evelyn miss seeing their friends at SFAC.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere sympathy to **Norma Zonay Parsons**. Bob, her husband of 55 years, passed away on February 13th at the age of 90. Services will be held on Saturday, March 14 at 1 PM at Lima Family Santa Clara Mortuary, 466N. Winchester Blvd, Santa Clara. You may send cards to Norma at Merrill Gardens, 1420 Curci Ave, San Jose, Ca 95056.

IN MEMORIAM

Gordon Piatanesi passed away on February 2, 2015. He was eighty-eight years old. On February 14, 2015 he was interned with his wife Gloria. They had been married 63 years. Gordon's grandfather, Colombo Piatanesi, came from Italy, and opened the business in 1907. He manufactured and repaired accordions, along with his son Gary Piatanesi, Gordon's father and



other family members. Gordon began his career with Colombo, after serving with the U.S. Navy during WWII.

Colombo Piatanesi chose the name Colombo and Sons Accordions, as no one could pronounce "Piatanesi." When

Gordon became the sole proprietor he purchased shares of the company from relatives. During the height of the company, there were two stores, one in San Francisco and one in Oakland, with as many as eighteen people on payroll. They made two accordions at a time, and it took at least three months to complete each accordion. Gordon moved the company to San Rafael in 1982, and retired in 1994.

Piatanesi accordions began in Castelfidardo, Italy. For over 30 years, the company was known as one of the foremost accordion builders in the world. Honors were bestowed upon the company at various American and European expositions. During this time, these accordions were played by the world's most renowned artists in all parts of the globe.

A celebration of his life will occur at St. Rita Hall, 2100 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Fairfax, Calif., on March 28, 2015, at 1:30 P.M. ❖

Accordion Orchestra III

Many of you have expressed interest in playing in a larger accordion ensemble/orchestra. If you're curious about participating in an orchestra, you now have the opportunity to join a group for a short duration, play some familiar tunes, and create a one-of-a-kind musical experience.

The **Accordion Orchestra Project III** will have its kick-off rehearsal on April 25th with four subsequent rehearsals scheduled throughout the months of May and June. The orchestra schedule will then conclude with a performance at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society in San Jose on June 7th. There is also the likelihood of a showcase concert on Saturday, June 6th, following the final rehearsal.

The repertoire will include favorites such as "Valencia," "Time To Say Goodbye," "American Patrol," and the "Waltz from Masquerade."



There is no cost associated with attending this project, and the rehearsal site is conveniently located in San Mateo at Laurel Elementary School with plenty of parking.

This event is made possible by some of Bay Area's finest accordionists and their friends devoted to bringing accordion orchestra music to San Francisco's backyard and enhancing the accordion landscape within the area. Both the San Francisco Accordion Club and the Silicon Valley Accordion Society are endorsing these events!

You can find the invitation and registration form on AbsolutAccord's website: absolutaccord.com. Should you have any questions simply contact Richard Yaus at (650) 832-1740 or via e-mail at ryaus@earthlink.net. And feel free to share this information with other accordionists in the area. ❖

ALL THINGS ACCORDION

Fine craftsmanship and whimsical function—these beautiful accordion drawers really work!
(No source information is available for this image)



This is the first appearance of All Things Accordion, a new feature that celebrates the accordion, wherever and in whatever form it appears. Shirley Brim, Editor

PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. In addition, our scheduled performers are drawn from professional player and groups, and 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) 453-3391

ewinglynn@gmail.com

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!**



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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For further information: www.ameraccord.com

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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* ♪♪

RON BORELLI San Mateo
RonBorelli@aol.com www.ronborelli.com

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RENO DI BONO South Bay
ourhike@aol.com www.italianaccordion.com

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edspolkas@yahoo.com

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BIG LOU, aka LINDA SEEKINS San Francisco
www.accordionprincess.com

ROB REICH East Bay & San Francisco
robbyreichmusic@gmail.com www.robreich.com

RENE SEVIERI East Bay & San Francisco
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www.facebook.com/rene.sevieri?fref=ts

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LYNN EWING (650) 453-3391

SKYLER FELL (415) 596-5952

LOU JACKLICH (510) 317-9510

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



SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President (650) 453-3391

ewinglynn@gmail.com

Dominic Palmisano, Vice President (415) 587-4423
accord47@gmail.com

Elaine Cooperstein, Treasurer (510) 921-9323
elainedc@sbcglobal.net

Don Savant, Secretary (408) 257-0379
donsavant@yahoo.com

SFAC Directors

SFAC Directors

Jean Moshofsky Butler (415) 377-9266
threehummingbirds@gmail.com

Vince Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
vincentrinaldi01@gmail.com

Robert Cooperstein (510) 207-6009
drcoop@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter

Shirley Brim (650) 201-7660
shirleyb77@gmail.com

Scholarship

Mike Zampiceni (408) 734-1565
eclecticguy@comcast.net

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.

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

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Come for fun and great music!!

March 15 @ 2 pm

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

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

Visit us online at www.sfaccordionclub.com



DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, 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 Oyster Point Yacht Club sign. 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

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

www.sfaccordionclub.com

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