

NEXT SFAC MEETING

2:00 pm Sunday
November 16

Oyster Point Yacht Club
South San Francisco



November
2014

November's Featured Performers

The Peter Di Bono Trio has been serenading Bay Area audiences for over 25 years at venues ranging from an elegant wedding on Nob Hill to a forest picnic in Carmel Valley. The music covers a very wide spectrum from Broadway to Bach, and back. The trio was selected to perform at the gala dinner celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the introduction of the song, "I Left My Heart In San Francisco." The performance took place in the Venetian Room of the Fairmont Hotel where Tony Bennett, who was in attendance, introduced the iconic piece 50 years before.

Peter's partner, violinist Harriet Newhart, was classically trained on piano and violin at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and is equally comfortable playing Mozart, Mancini or marches. Harriet brings such warm vitality to her music that she has been a favorite of San Francisco audiences and musicians for her entire career. Harriet and husband Byrne, also a violinist, are the principals of San Francisco's Starlite Strings, which provides classical and strolling violin ensembles for weddings, corporate events and private parties in the San Francisco Bay Area and Wine Country.

Peter Di Bono has played nearly every type of music, and in every setting imaginable. Performances include musical theater and guest soloist with Bay Area symphony orchestras. A winner of many musical competitions, Peter won the then version of America's Got Talent while in high school as well as the Bank Of America Award for music. His many musical styles include classical, jazz, Italian, French, German—"You name it, I do it!" Peter has



an active teaching practice with over 20 students, and is on faculty of the Community Music Center in San Francisco. Peter retired from the San Francisco Police Department as an inspector, specializing in narcotic drug enforcement. He holds a Juris Doctorate degree from San Francisco Law School. A San Francisco native, Peter still resides in the City with his wife, Victoria. He has four children and two grandsons.

Peter will not have his bass man with him this time due to a prior commitment. ❖

Also Featuring

Kay Patterson

Rene Sevieri

♪♪ *More November Performers* ♪♪



Kay Patterson

Kay Patterson, a student of Peter Di Bono, is a relative newcomer to accordion but a lifelong musician, primarily as a classical pianist and teacher. She is a Phi Beta Kappa music graduate of UC Berkeley, and teaches privately at her studio in Fair Oaks (in the Sacramento area).

Kay began studying accordion in September of 2011, with the goal to play at her husband's family winery, The Nichelini Family Winery in Napa Valley. The tasting area is outdoors during the warmer months, and Kay now regularly plays at special events, releases, and often just for fun.

She has developed a style and repertoire that goes well with both the historic Italian-Swiss heritage of the winery and the fine Bordeaux-style wines being produced there. Hopefully, the ambience of live music will make visitors enjoy their visits more, and encourage them to take some wine home for later enjoyment. ❖

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Rene Sevieri

Rene Sevieri's singing and accordion playing are deeply rooted in his Italian heritage, but his music repertoire has been influenced by many bands and styles over the years. Rene recently played for an olive harvest in the Carmel Valley for 7 1/2 hours straight, without taking a break, and he never repeated a song.

Rene started taking accordion lessons in 1963 at the young age of 8 from Michele Corino at North Beach Music in San Francisco. He played his first professional gig at the age of 12 for a fashion show at the Italian Village in North Beach. Right

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

before he graduated from Saint Ignatius High School in 1973, Rene formed a band called Hang Ten and The Surfmen. They toured military bases and car shows playing surf music, while Rene continued playing for weddings and dinner dances whenever the band wasn't booked.

In 1997 he quit playing professionally because his business was flourishing, and he wanted to spend more time with his wife and three young sons. Rene and his family just welcomed their first grandchild—a baby girl!

Rene sold his business two years ago and is presently semi-retired, with time to play the accordion on a regular basis again. About six years ago, he bought a ukulele in Hawaii and has been playing it ever since, as well.

You can find selections from Rene's latest CD, *Canzoni di Babbo* on his YouTube page: <http://www.youtube.com/user/sevieri55>. ❖

The October Meeting Rocked!



Jam Band

Report by Lynn Ewing, President

The meeting started off at 1:15, with a well attended jam band, led with flair by Kate Froeberg. We encourage EVERYONE to bring your accordion to every meeting. We have committed to having the jam band every month, and there is often a spot at the beginning of the meeting for a spontaneous tune or two. The November meeting will be special because we will try out our five-part arrangement of the “Star Spangled Banner,” which we plan to submit to the Giant’s Music manager. For music, please contact Lynn Ewing, ewinglynn@gmail.com.

Gwyn Lister was our emcee and we appreciate her relaxed and humorous style!



Reno Di Bono

Reno Di Bono, playing his Sonola SS6, provided a polka fix for those who have been craving it, beginning with 4 polkas—“Rosalie Polka,” “Julietta Polka,” “Anita Polka,” and the “Motorcycle Polka.” He treated us to “Amelia Waltz” before swinging into his jazzy arrangements, with a lovely “Bossa Nova” in which he used some of the bass techniques he taught at the ATG festival, and a smooth version of “When Sunny Gets Blue,” which he dedicated to Don Savant.

Reno talked about his family—he has 9 grandchildren, 7 of whom are girls. His granddaughter Gianna Di Bono, age 16, with whom he played at ATG, is a star pupil in the Honors program at St. Francis. Gianna was able to harmonize spontaneously with Reno at age 10, when he put his CD together.

Reno’s accordion accompanied Gianna singing “All of Me,” and then Gianna played piano with Reno on “Summertime,” Gianna finished their set playing and singing “Hey Jude” on the piano. Reno swears Gianna will play accordion someday—it’s coming back!



Kate Froeberg volunteered *Gianna Di Bono* to fill in when Mike Zampiceni couldn’t make it—THANKS Kate! Kate started playing accordion at age 4, and got back into it after a hiatus of many years, after playing a run of Fiddler on the Roof with Saratoga Community Players. Serendipity



Kate Froeberg;

took her to Reno’s class at the Senior Center, where she heard about the San Francisco Accordion Club, and we are so glad she did! She dedicated her first piece, a lovely version of “Emily” to Reno. Her next piece, “Cherokee” had a great “tom-tom” sounding intro, which set the mood nicely. She then played a lovely waltz, “Moon Mist,” which she described as,

“...kind of Halloweeny.” This piece was composed by her teacher, Victor Leone. Kate is always up for learning new pieces, and when she heard Amy Jo Sawyer play “Just Cruisin” at the ATG, she had to try it, because she said it was “so harmonically hip.” Amy Jo, who Kate described as looking like a former Miss America, has composed over 100 tunes for accordion. To contact Amy for music or CD’s, please go to <http://www.musicforaccordion.com/inform/amy/>.

Before the break, Gwyn took a moment to promote the camp up at Silver Falls, and the Las Vegas Accordion convention, which are taking place in June 2015. I agree with Gwyn—accordion events and festivals are such a wonderful way to expand your accordion playing chops, as well as meet some wonderful people! We all know that accordionists are the best people in the world. *More information on page 8.*

We were then privileged to hear Louis Rodriguez, playing at the San Francisco Accordion Club for the **3**

first time. Louis studied in Germany, and had a big studio in Chile for some years. He came to the US on a concert tour in 1968, and decided to stay after the coup d'etat in Chile. He proudly became a US Citizen in 1976. Louis' first selection was his own arrangement of "Chiquilin de Bachin," by Astor Piazzola, who single-handedly revolutionized the Tango. This song was inspired by a little street urchin selling flowers near a restaurant where Piazzola was playing with his quartet. His next piece was the beautiful "Romanza Andaluza, Op 22" by Pablo de Sarasate, a famous violin selection with complex rhythms that Louis handled masterfully. His next song was a csardas titled "Beka -Roka," written by Adrian Wettach. Wettach was born in Switzerland and became the most highly paid performer in Europe under the stage name "Grock" as the "King of Clowns."



Louis Rodriguez

Louis did an excellent job with the piece's two tempos—"very slow" and "play as fast as you can!" Louis played "Sonnettaubchen" by Richard Kubinszky for his encore when it was clear that the audience wasn't ready to let him go!

Louis also talked about his very special accordion—a Hohner Gola, which was made to his specifications in 1960. The accordion has an extended keyboard of 44 keys, and the black keys are more narrow than is standard to make room for the extra keys. The accordion is called a "five-choir" accordion, and not only has chin switches, but the wrist switch has a series of slides that enable him to change registers from anywhere on the treble keyboard. It has both a free bass and a stradella bass, but no 7th chord bass. As you can imagine this is a very heavy accordion, weighing in at 32 pounds.



Gola accordion keyboard

As you can imagine this is a very heavy accordion, weighing in at 32 pounds.

~ THE MAIN EVENT! ~

Our featured performers were the 14-member Aurora Mandolins Ensemble. Director Jo Pelligrini introduced the Ensemble by relating the history of this unique and accomplished group.



Jo Pellegrini

The original Aurora Mandolin Orchestra began playing together during the 1930's but disbanded during the war years. Jo's husband Gino was a member of this orchestra and he reestablished the group in 1970 with 14 players. Jo has directed the group since Gino's passing in 2006.

The ensemble boasts a variety of instruments. There are mandolins in three sizes—mandolin, mandola, and mandocello—as well as accordion, string bass, guitar, flute, and viola.



Aurora Mandolin orchestra

Because this is the Accordion Club, we're highlighting the accordionists and we thank Jo for providing a full history of the group's accordionists. A number of SFAC members have played with the group, some as regulars for long periods and others sitting in for special events. Mary Alice Eldon was the first regular, followed by Marian Kelly for many years. Don Nurisso played with the Mandolins for several years as well; when he moved about a year ago, Patricia Brown took over. Peter Di Bono, Mike Zampiceni, and Joe Simoni have also filled in from time to time as needed.

Patricia Brown took up the accordion as an adult, and began studying seriously with Marian Kelly about three years ago, although she has played on and off for about 10 years. She played piano as a child, and took up the accordion when a friend offered her one that was languishing in her closet. She says, "I thought it would be easy, as I could already read music and play the piano keyboard. I was so wrong! It has been a lovely challenge. I'm now



Patricia Brown

♪♪ Scholarship ♪♪

Lorenzo Lucchesi (Peter Di Bono's student) receives SFAC Fall Scholarship Award

Our scholarships are awarded twice a year (October and April) to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. They must have a financial need and demonstrate dedication to pursuing their study of the accordion. We are pleased to announce that Mike Zampiceni has agreed to stay on as our Scholarship Chair, although he has moved to the Sacramento area and is no longer a Board member. Contact Mike 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) ❖



HELP WANTED AND THANK YOU

A Big THANK YOU to Frank Montoro, who has single-handedly mailed the paper version of the newsletter for many years. Due to a health issue, Frank must relinquish this task. We so appreciate all that Frank has done for us through the years! He has served in numerous capacities with SFAC, including past-President, and was one of the first members of the reestablished club.

Barbara Bruxvoort, daughter Rosie, and son Ben, along with Dominic Palmisano, are stepping in to take care of the newsletter distribution for the next few months—THANKS! If you are available to help affix mailing labels and stamps and mail the newsletter, please contact Lynn Ewing. Many hands make light work! ❖

committed to improving my playing so that I can continue to play with others. I have a longer-term goal to learn to jam and play without music. It has been fun to have the new experience of playing with Aurora, and it has taught me a lot about counting!”

The program opened with “Vita Mandolinistica,” a rousing march by R.B. Kok, and continued with the lovely traditional Phillipine song, “Dahil Sa Iyo” (“Because of You”) made famous by Nat King Cole. Patricia played the intro and the solo line and then the flute and mandolins reprised it. “Priere Musicale” (“Prayer Music”), by F. Menichetti was next, followed by “Vivere!” (“To live!”) a famous song in the 40’s. You could hear the words occurring in the melody.

Pat bought a new accordion, and you could hear it beautifully as she introduced the haunting melody of “Oblivion” by Astor Piazzola.

Jo invited us to clap along as they played “Milena” (a csardas) by M. Machiocchi, but we couldn’t keep up with all the tempo changes! The group played a variety of enjoyable pieces, including “Vieni Su” (“Come on”) made famous by Dean Martin and the “Napoli



Aurora Mandolin Orchestra

Tarantella” by Mezzacapo. The orchestra’s guitarist proved his mastery with the complicated rhythms and fingering of the beautiful “My Heart At Thy Sweet Voice” from the opera Samson & Delilah. The set ended with “Besame Mucho” by C. Velazquezto, but when the audience insisted on an encore Jo played one of her husband’s favorites, “Soul of Russia.” It was a marvelous afternoon of music.

Our special thanks to Don and Mary Savant, who have been setting up our room every month, and to Barbara Winter, who makes the coffee! ❖

Please Remember!

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

THANK YOU!

THE GOLA ACCORDION

Louis M Rodriguez

Bill Tapogna asked me to write about the Gola 459 concert accordion I played last June when performing for the Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS). The number 459 refers to the number of instruments built up to that time. This instrument was built by master craftsman, Giovanni Gola, in 1968.



Gola accordion

Signore Gola was born in 1907 in Stradella, Italy and learned his craft at the Dallape Accordion Factory. He worked from 1952 to 1972 for Hohner in Trossingen, Germany. After his retirement, he returned to Stradella where he died in 1978.

While at Hohner, he designed and built a prototype for an instrument destined to become the best in the world. Specially trained technicians working with only the finest materials were used to accomplish this goal. The building of the Gola line began in 1954. These instruments are designed and built to customer specifications; therefore no two models are identical. A Gola concert accordion weighs over 32 pounds and is currently priced above \$50,000.

To highlight the differences between a Gola and other accordions, we should look at the construction of this instrument, its bass system, keyboard, custom shifts and reeds.

There is no assembly-line procedure for these instruments. Each one is built by a small team of master craftsmen who work exclusively on that instrument. It takes nine months to build and every Gola is made out of more than five thousand pieces. The interior is crafted with clockwork precision. I have owned a number of accordions in my life time, all of which I could take apart with a screwdriver and a pair of pliers. Not this one. The interior shows incredible precision. Every part looks like a work of art. Exquisite craftsmanship and incredible attention to detail are the norm for these instruments. Only an expert technician could disassemble an accordion such as this.

In 1968, when I submitted my specifications for the instrument, I ordered the Gola with the standard bass system but without the Dominant Seventh chords.

The Dominant Seventh chords can be accomplished by combining two chords; as an example, C-major together with G-diminished. It's cumbersome at the beginning, but one gets used to it very soon. In addition to the standard bass and chords, I wanted the German Bariton Bass System (Free Bass). Bariton Bass consists of three rows of 58 buttons with a range of more than three and a half octaves of single notes.

The keyboard has 44 keys, ranging from E to the C three octaves higher. In order to fit those keys without extending the size of the instrument the keys are narrower than the keys of a standard keyboard.

The instrument has seven shifts for the left hand, plus one slide shift operating the master and upper octaves and an extra shift allowing me to add a piccolo octave to any combination in the left hand.

I wanted an instrument with the customary eleven shifts for the right hand plus three slide shifts, two located at the border of the keyboard and one underneath, and also two chin shifts. With these devices, I can have quicker access to accomplish timbre changes on the instrument.

At the end of last year, the third octave F-sharp key stuck on the keyboard. I sent the instrument to the Hohner representatives in the USA, located in Glen Allen, Virginia. Mr. Timothy Schofield, supervisor of the Free Reed Service Department, did a general overhaul and tuning. He repaired the instrument, installed new leather valves on some of the basses, fixed small glitches in the shift mechanism and tuned the instrument.

The Gola models are tuned using a different procedure from that of other instruments. No files or sharp instruments are used on these Italian reeds. Instead, a so called "sandpaper file" is utilized. The procedure consists of slightly touching the reeds, rather than filing them. The Gola accordion does not lose its tuning. All it requires is a preparation (minute sandpaper file adjustments) rather than a tuning.

In my opinion, if this instrument was a violin, it would be a Stradivarius. If it was a piano, it would be a Steinway concert grand. ❖

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sympathy to the family of Glenn McClelland, 91, who passed peacefully on October 22, 2014, surrounded by his family. A wonderful, caring and socially gregarious gentleman, Glenn was an early member of the SFAC. Glenn was active in the SFAC, and he and his wife Jeannie faithfully mailed the newsletter for many years. He was also a founding member of the Silicon Valley Accordion Society. We remember Glenn warmly and appreciate everything he did for SFAC.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR SFAC MEMBERSHIP!

The 2014-2015 membership year is well underway! All members should have received a renewal letter in the US mail. Membership is \$30 per household, and runs from October 2014 through September 2015. *If you have not yet renewed, please do so. This will be the last newsletter for nonrenewed members.* If you are a life-time member or have already paid through next year, we won't be soliciting dues from you, but we hope that you might consider making a donation.

The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so your donation is tax-deductible. Your membership fee helps us defray the cost of our meeting space at Oyster Point Yacht Club and providing you with quality entertainment month after month.



Please send renewals to:
Treasurer Elaine Cooperstein
539 Elsie Ave
San Leandro CA 94577

You can bring your renewal form to the next couple of club meetings, or **you can also pay dues with PayPal or credit card at www.sfaccordionclub.com.** ❖

Star-Spangled ~~Audition~~ Opportunity!

To mark the 100th anniversary of the original San Francisco Accordion Club, and the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of our club, the SFAC board is pursuing an opportunity to showcase our club and San Francisco's "Official Instrument" with an all-accordion performance of the National Anthem before a San Francisco Giants game in 2015! To do this, we will submit an audition recording to the SF Giants office in early 2015.

Preliminary practice sessions are planned before our club meetings, November, December and January at 1 PM before the jam band. A 5 part arrangement by Frank Marocco will be available at the meetings or via email in advance. For the fun of rehearsals, and just getting an exposure to playing part music, we would like everyone who is interested to bring an accordion and music stand, and try it out! Music is right hand only and is not too difficult, but it does require being able to read and to follow a conductor. Lynn Ewing is preliminarily planned to be the conductor.

Because there is potentially extensive public exposure if we are invited to perform the national anthem at AT&T Park, we may have an audition process for the actual recording of our audition submission. It is suggested that participants should be at least in Palmer Hughes book 3 to participate in the recording session. One or more practice sessions in addition to short rehearsals described above may be scheduled as needed to prepare for the recording.

If you are interested, please email Lynn Ewing at ewinglynn@gmail.com, or call 650-867-2633. ❖

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to inform you of the passing last week of Dave Bennett, a former Commodore of the yacht club, and member in good standing of San Francisco Accordion Club. Dave had held almost every position at the Yacht Club, and was really "Mr. Oyster Point". He was a true friend to SFAC and will be sincerely missed. His service will be held at 10:30 Am Friday, Nov 7th at Saint Roberts Church in San Bruno.

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

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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,
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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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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 one Sunday each month at the Oyster Point Yacht Club
911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco**

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Come for fun and great music!!

November 16 @ 2 pm

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

Doors open at 1 pm for Star-Spangled Banner rehearsal and Jam Band

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.

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

www.sfaccordionclub.com

NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

Newsletter of the San Francisco Accordion Club
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