

# San Francisco Accordion Club

## **OCTOBER 2013**

# NEWSLETTER



Playing October 20, 2013 at 2 p.m.

**Tangonero** is a San Francisco based ensemble dedicated to preserving the tradition of Argentine Tango. With performers from Russia, Switzerland, and the United States, the group is dedicated to preserving the tradition of Argentine Tango. From the folk styling of Roberto Grela to the jazz infused grandeur of Astor Piazzolla, their arrangements cover the broad scope of tango history. Overflowing with intense passion, lust and sorrow, their performances capture the fire of the dance and the essence of a culture.

The accordion player, **Alex Roitman**, was born and raised in Russia where he began playing the piano when he was 7 years old. He has studied accordion with Peter DiBono.

Violinist **Michele Walther** performs in a variety of music styles from jazz and classical to the avant-garde and world music.

**Zac Selissen** is a guitarist and arranger whose performance of the guitar has earned him mastery of a wide range of music – from rock to jazz, bossa, and bluegrass, from classical to tango and flamenco.

**Jacob Johnson** has been studying the double bass since the age of 12. He has held numerous positions in symphony orchestras around the globe including Solo Bass for the Amadeus Operenensemble in Salzburg, Austria.

No JAM SESSION this month.

cont.

# **Kay Patterson playing Warm Up**

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 U.C., Berkeley, and teaches privately at her studio in Fair Oaks (in the Sacramento area).

She began studying accordion in September of 2011, first with Dave Chelini in Sacramento, and then with Peter in August of 2012. Her goal was to play at her husband's family winery, *The Nichelini Family Winery* in Napa Valley, which she has been doing for over a year now.

She is working on developing a style and repertoire that will go well with both the historic Italian-Swiss heritage of the winery, and also complement 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.



Serena Skye consists of accordionists Jean Butler (an SFAC board member) and Caroline Grannan; violinist Stephanie Costanza, a member of the North State Symphony and Symphony of the Redwoods; and multi-instrumentalist Naomi Aizawa Ralph, a violinist in Symphony Parnassus who also plays ukulele and bass guitar with Serena Skye. The ensemble is named after Jean's two parrots, who dance and comment during rehearsals.

#### Jana Maas

Being Italian, at age 6, Jana began accordion lessons. Sixteen years later she graduated from CSU, Stanislaus with a degree in Accordion performance; earning her teaching credential a year later. For the past 32 years she has been an elementary music teacher in Modesto.

In 1999, Jana along with two friends formed the very successful "Good Time Accordion Club". Currently, they have over 200 members. She has served as clubpresident for the past 14 years.

Jana has gained international recognition participating and teaching at accordion camps throughout the U.S. She has several original compositions and arrangements, one of which is included on Stas Venglevski's latest album.



ana Maas

# September Program Review by Michael Zampiceni

You may occasionally see a movie or attend a concert that is so memorable, you remember the details of it years later. Such was the case at our September meeting, in which we were treated to not one, not two, but three stellar performances that exceeded the expectations of meeting attendees. One of the keywords of this program was variety, in that each performer specialized in a particular genre of music that showcased the ability of the accordion to excel in rendering virtually any type of music. There was also a distinct contrast in their choice of instruments, ranging from a traditional full-size piano accordion, to a smaller folk-style instrument, to a European chromatic accordion.

Our first performer, Gail Campanella from Santa Barbara, featured accordionistic repertoire reminiscent of what the golden age masters, such as Galla-Rini, Magnante, and the Dieros, might have performed. Gail exhibited the clear, precise technique that was very evident when I heard her play for the first time at Cotati this year. I remarked to her after the Cotati performance that an accordionist need not aspire to any more than she has attained, which is the highest compliment I could offer to any performer. Her performance at the club mirrored what I had experienced at Cotati, so I was equally as enthusiastic at our Sunday meeting.

Gail exquisitely played several Magnante arrangements, the first of which was the 12th Street Rag to start her program with a sprightly focus. She later played another Magnante arrangement of Gitanerias, and displayed impeccable technique and dynamics in this difficult-to-play piece. She played a Bulgarian waltz and noted that this was a good exercise for playing arpeggios. Perhaps the showcase number of her performance was Dizzy Fingers by Zez Confrey, written in 1923. It's music that would make any listener or player dizzy. During her performance, Gail also exuded a warm and charming stage presence, and it looked like she enjoyed herself on the stage. Gail received and deserved a standing ovation to which she responded by playing a simple little ditty called Flight of the Bumblebee. Simple, perhaps, if you're a bee, but extremely challenging if you're a human playing innumerable sixteenth notes at breakneck speed!

At the conclusion of Gail's performance, Lynn



Ewing joined Gail on stage and played a duet of a whimsical sounding polka called French Gaiety. They both seemed to be amused with the give and take of their respective parts.

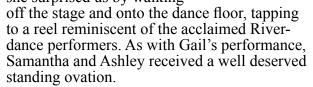
The audience experienced a 180-degree turn in format and repertoire with our next performers, known as Sam and Ash, who traveled all the way from Ventura to entertain us. Samantha Harvey is the recent recipient of our club's scholarship award, and although we typically don't grant this award to those outside of our club, Samantha made a compelling case for consideration. Being a very young and financially challenged musician, she indicated that she could benefit from financial assistance to compete in a music contest in Ireland. The club board agreed and decided to help her defray the costs associated with this challenge. One of the conditions of the award was that she perform for us at an upcoming meeting, so we were fortunate that she was able to comply with our request so soon.

Samantha played a folk-style, small piano accordion, and her musical partner, **Ashley Broder**, accompanied Samantha on the mandolin. They complemented each other extremely well with notable balance. Samantha mentioned that Irish music had been a strong influence in her life, so it wasn't surprising that the duo predominantly regaled us with Irish folk-based Celtic music consisting of several reels and jigs. Samantha played a small, musette-tuned accordion that she recently purchased, and it was well suited for

this genre of music. Ashley's proficiency on her

instrument was phenomenal, particularly for such a young person, and she's also noted as being equally proficient on the violin and cello.

If Gail's demeanor was warm and charming, then Samantha's was exultant. She appeared to remain in a state of extended joy throughout her performance, and her musical selections reflected this energy and vitality. During her dialogue between selections, Samantha mentioned that she had been dancing since she was very young, and shortly thereafter, she surprised us by walking



**Inaki Dieguez**, (photo pg. 5) from the Basque region of Spain, was our featured performer. If you've ever attended a Cirque du Soleil performance, you would have an idea of the playing style that Inaki delivers. A lot of it is penetrating, clear, and sharp fusion, which I've theorized is an amalgamation of Brazilian, southern European, and jazz elements. This is a style that I've heard other European accordionists perform, such as Richard Galliano and Renzo Ruggieri. My recollection is that this genre didn't exist a couple of decades ago, and I feel it is a very worthy and robust addition to the world music scene. Inaki is a master of this genre, evidenced by his prolific compositions and incomparable ability to extemporaneously improvise any of his selections.

He started his program with one of his lively, technically demanding compositions, which highlighted the quick, sparkling, crisp technique that would predominate throughout his performance. Most of his selections incorporated a flurry of notes too numerous for my musically analytical mind to contemplate. I later thought about how many thousands of notes he must have played.

To a traditional accordion player, Inaki displayed an unorthodox approach to utilizing



basses and chords. He played lots of bass extensions that transcended beyond the typical bass-chord, same-row pattern. He played lots of multi-row combinations, often with three notes at the same time, and seldom played basses and chords separately. He mostly played bass and chord combinations together.

His instrument was intriguing and aesthetically pleasing to observe. He played a chromatic accordion that had very shiny buttons appearing like chrome from a distance. Halfway through the program, Lynn asked Inaki to provide the audience with some information about the instrument. He stated that it's a Ballone Burini accordion, which I had never heard of before, and that this was only one of two made to these particular specifications. He showed us the registers, which were cleverly hidden on the backside of the treble keyboard.

When contrasted with Gail and Samantha, Inaki had a more introspective persona. Although he certainly wasn't detached from the audience, it was evident that he was at one with his instrument and thoughts.

Predictably, Inaki received a rousing standing ovation, and a line started to form immediately upon the program's conclusion for gratified audience members to purchase his CDs.

Special thanks goes to Lynn Ewing, our club president, for doing all of the footwork necessary to have these fine performers play for our club.



Inaki Dieguez

Due to increased costs at our Oyster Point facility, admission for the 2013-14 year will be \$6 for members and \$8 for guests.

# **Accordion Exchange**

If you are seeking an accordion, or have one to sell, you are now welcome to submit the details to the newsletter. This is strictly a service to our members, and SFAC cannot take responsibility for the condition of any accordion advertised.

1980's Iorio Syntara

120-bass 4/5 with LMMM configuration wettuned. Second owner. Appears and plays virtually as new. Hasn't had much play time. Just used for a few gigs in the 1990's. Acoustical part of the accordion works perfectly. Electronics were also working fine the last time I used them a few years ago. This is a good value even if you never use the electronics. Asking \$750. Call Mike Zampiceni at 408-734-1565, or send email to eclecticguy@comcast.net

# Time to Renew your MEMBERSHIP

Membership Renewals are now due! It is your membership that keeps our club functioning! If you have not renewed, please return your form to: Corinne Chandel, 1910 Mount Vernon Ct, #19, Mountain View, CA 94040.

scholarships are awarded twice a year, in April and October. The Scholarship program is funded with proceeds from the 50/50 raffle we have each month. The only requirement is that the recipient be studying with a teacher who is a member of SFAC, and that there is a financial need. Scholarship guidelines are available at the monthly meetings, or contact secretary Mike Zampiceni, eclecticguy@comcast.net, 1220 Tasman Dr #106. Sunnyvale. CA. 94089.

Musician at SF Folk Festival 2013



FOR SALE!

Hohner/Tango IIM 34/96 (Small and lightweight) "Made in Germany" Switches: 5/3

Hohner ergo straps/bellows pad Hard case included.

\$495/firm

Sue 510-552-6305

# Frank Panacci Sr. Receives Award

Our long time Accordion Club Member Frank Panacci, Sr. was awarded a service award given by Mayor Lee and Police Chief Greg Suhr. Frank, who is now 89, was a San Francisco Police Officer for 31 years. Besides his daily duty assignments, he scouted locations for production companies and controlled the streets during filming. He worked on the TV shows and movies including Bullitt

The Steve McQueen movie **Bullitt** was filmed in April 1968, and featured a tremendous amount of on-location filming. Frank became close friends with Steve McQueen. Chad McQueen, Steve McQueen's son, was at San Francisco City Hall when Frank received his award, and June 21, 2013, was proclaimed *Bullitt Day*!

During filming on **The Laughing Policeman**, Frank heard someone shouting about a murder that had just occurred. He hopped on his three-wheeler motorcycle, caught up with the assailant, drew his gun and made the arrest.

In addition to working with the cast of San Francisco-based movies, Frank often invited cast members to his house. His lovely wife always cooked them a great Italian dinner.

Ironically, Frank's son, Frank Jr., was an extra on another famous Steve McQueen film shot in San Francisco, **The Towering Inferno**. As a teenager, Frank, Jr. stood in as a San Francisco Firefighter in a scene filmed at Station 38 on California Street. That small role inspired him to join the fire service where he now serves as the Deputy Fire Chief in Daly City.

Ratting On Russo by Peter Di Bono

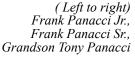
This a wonderful story written by Alan Venable, a member of our Club, and an aspiring accordion player.

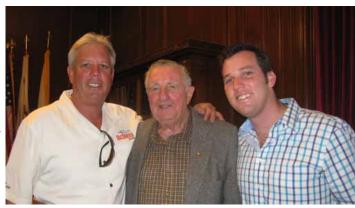
The book is about a young man growing up in 1950s Pennsylvania, and the many foibles experienced as a teenager at that time.

Many of the situations Alan describes are not dissimilar to my own teenage experience. The hook though, is that the main character, in the book, Martin Badger, is learning to play the accordion as is his friend, Arnold Russo. Alan spends a lot of time describing the some of the difficulties of learning to play the accordion.

It's a fun book, and one that will evoke many of our childhood memories.

It's available from Alan Venable, OneMonkeyBooks.com





# Message from the President by Lynn Ewing

The Las Vegas Accordion Convention is coming right up! There are still incredibly inexpensive rooms available at \$34 per night, and the Convention is always such a fun event. I will be there, playing in the orchestra, being a copresenter for a workshop with Stas Venglevski, and generally having a great time listening to music, attending workshops, and seeing friends. Hope you will join us! See the information on page 9 of this newsletter, or go to the website at www.http://accordionstars.com/

I want to sincerely thank the outgoing Board members who have contributed so much to the functioning of this Club. Don Nurisso, Scotty Williamson, and Maryanne Romanowski have truly served us well. We are lucky to have many club members that do so much to help us.

Continuing to help behind the scenes, we have Randy Hicks who has been doing our website updating and online newsletter distribution, as well as major help proofreading and editing the newsletter. Frank Montoro and his partner Jonelle spend hours every month folding, sealing, labeling, stamping and mailing the hard copy of the newsletter. Paul Cain, Vinny Rinaldi and Steve Mobia do huge amounts of set up and operate our sound system every month. Chris Knapp, our hard working newsletter editor continues to put up with last minute changes, deadlines, and layout changes. Barbara Winter is always at the meetings, and she is helping with the coffee now, to my eternal gratitude. Nora Mazzara circulates from table to table soliciting raffle donations, which helps us get that pot of money up! Gus Greyhosky stops by and picks up our mail for us from our PO Box. Scotty Williamson has agreed to continue sending out the monthly email reminder for our meetings, which is so very helpful, and he and Dominic Palmisano are always at the admission table, welcoming you to our meetings. Corinne Chandel, a new Board member, has been managing our database, chairs our membership committee and right now, is busy entering all your renewals! Vic and Barbara Corsiglia run the jam band, and provide so much entertainment for us. We love our emcees, Skyler Fell, Gwyn Lister, Anne Metais, Peter Di Bono and Gus Greyhosky.

A very special thank you to Richard Yaus, for bringing the Orchestra Project to our club, and for co-sponsoring the meeting, along with his company LUNAR, to make admission free for all attendees. It was one of our most successful meetings ever. Finally, I want to thank those of you who have renewed your membership, and am especially grateful to those who included a donation to the club. Dues and donations have helped tremendously in providing us with high quality programming.

Welcome to our newly elected Board members, Elaine Cooperstein, treasurer, and Directors Don Savant and Corinne Chandel. We thank you for serving on the Board. I am so happy that Dominic Palmisano, VP, Mike Zampiceni, Secretary, and Directors Vinny Rinaldi and Jean Moshovsky Butler will continue on the Board, as they all do so many things every single month to make our wonderful meetings possible.

Please continue to let us know who you would like to have play for us. Your ideas for the San Francisco Accordion Club are more than welcome!

# Rob Reich performs Chopin

by Chris Knapp

I received an email with a link to a You Tube video of **Rob Reich** performing a *Mazurka Op 7 No. 1* by Chopin. I then watched another one which he had posted: *Ombrages*. by Gus Viseur in 1945— a lovely Valse Musette.

These were posted a few years back by Rob and are great to watch for inspiration or entertainment.

You can see Rob Reich perform at many venues around San Francisco, so check it out! He has performed for us in the past and hopefully will again in the future.

# 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 Gobbelins Oakland www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins

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

# 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.

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 or Facebook, MySpace and You Tube to view videos

Mike Zampiceni • South Bay eclecticguy@comcast.net

## **Please Remember!**

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

## **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 March, 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

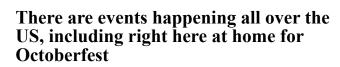
14th Annual Las Vegas International Accordion Convention October 28—31, 2013 at the Gold Coast Hotel Carnival of Venice in Vegas

#### WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT

fabulous meals plus enjoyable and informative 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 unforgettable Monday night opening Party and a Thursday night Prime Rib Dinner the final evening along with dinner dancing.





CHECK OUT AccordionUSA.com for all kinds of cool festivals and performances including this I found online . . .

AJ Castillo in Concert by Kevin Friedrich A three time award winner, AJ Castillo is known for his unique accordion sound and style will appear in October in Austin, Hereford and Midland, Texas. AJ is a native of Austin, TX, and is a recent graduate of The University of Texas at San Antonio. Born to a musical family, he was introduced to the accordion by his grandfather. He started playing the accordion at the age of 9/10 and began his professional music career at 13. Today, this young talented musician is reaching Latin music fans all over the world and is being recognized by professionals in the Latin music industry.



4J Castillo

# **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@netfirms.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

## SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President (650) 453-3391 ewinglynn@gmail.com

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

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

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

#### SFAC Directors

Jean Moshofsky Butler, phone 415-377-9266 threehummingbirds@gmail.com

Vince Rinaldi, vinnyrinaldi01@sbcglobal.net phone: 415-824-7609

Corinne Chandel chancori@gmail.com, 626-807-8147

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

## Newsletter

Christina Knapp, Graphic Design & Layout snapp.chris@gmail.com





New AM-1000 Leggera

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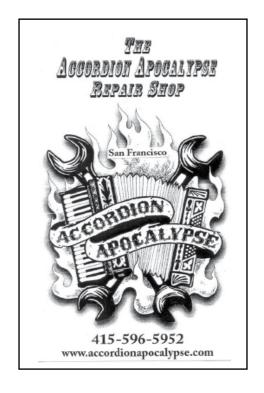




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# Join us on (almost every!) third sunday of the month at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco

Club & Musical Meeting • next meeting October 20 @ 2 p.m. Admission: \$6 members, \$8 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. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Corinne Chandel 1910 Mount Vernon Ct., #19 Mountain View, CA 94040 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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