

October, 2016

COME JOIN IN THE SFAC ACCORDION CIRCLE!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016

♪ ♪ JAM BAND, WORKSHOP, OPEN MIC ♪ ♪

OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA



New for October: SFAC Accordion Circle



SFAC Jam Band earlier this year

Please bring your accordions and be ready to have fun with our new bi-monthly **Accordion Circle** program format! If we have your email address, this month's Oktoberfest selections were emailed to you on September 9. Some music books will be available for everyone to play along as a group in the familiar format of the SFAC's revered "Jam Band."

Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome — the very beginner, someone dusting off that accordion after raising a family or pursuing a career, and the seasoned expert — as are all SFAC members and friends who simply wish to enjoy the camaraderie.

During the "Open Mic" portion of the meeting, any person or group may enjoy the experience of playing in front of an audience - no arrangements ahead of time are required. If you wind up not playing in October and would like to make sure there is a spot for you at a future meeting, please contact November emcee Don Savant at donsavant@yahoo.com.

We will continue to feature professional talent on the odd months of the year, while the even months are for SFAC members to have fun making their own music with each other. With this new format, the Club wishes to support its members on their journeys to develop as accordionists and performers, in a setting which also offers experienced accordionists an opportunity to demonstrate their skills.

This month, Lynn Ewing will offer a mini-workshop to pass on helpful tips and tricks that she has learned as a music teacher and as an attendee of many accordion camps and conventions.

Accordion Circles will also serve as opportunities to share information and experiences. If there is a topic you would like to know more about, or would like to share knowledge you feel would be helpful for the rest of the group, please let Don know.

Please feel free to email info@sfiaccordionclub.com should you have any questions.



September Review — by Allan Schwartz [with photos by Steve Mobia]

Our September meeting featured two eminent jazz accordionists: **Dave Miotke** and **Frank Petrilli**. Both very much lived up to their billing as featured artists.

Emcee Lynn Ewing noted that this was her last meeting as President of the SFAC. She introduced the artists and announced the new informal Accordion Circle

SFAC meeting format beginning in October and continuing every other month thereafter. As Lynn said: "Come and bring your accordion!"

Dave Miotke, playing solo, opened the musical part of the gathering, performing with his magnificent Bell accordion, demonstrating the virtuoso fingers we all wish we could have, gliding around the keyboard. Dave's heart and passions are in big band jazz. Dave began with the Irving Berlin classic *Blue Sky*. Next up was *All of Me*, which showcased some of the best leads and fills of the afternoon.



Dave then treated us to: *Prelude to a Kiss*, the Duke Ellington ballad; *Dancing on the Ceiling*, which Dave once played with a then-obscure singer by the name of Ann-Margret; Cole Porter's *Begin*

the Beguine; *Chicago*; *Back in the Yards*, which he once performed for Chicago Mayor Richard Daley - not everybody's hero; Cole Porter's *I Concentrate on You*; the musically complex *Midnight Sun*; then back to Cole Porter with *I've Got You Under My Skin*, which



Dave described as being as good as anything ever written and, finally, what he opined was one of the three best songs of all time: *Stardust*.

As if that were not enough, Dave is an excellent vocalist and belted out the words to every song he played. In between renditions, he beguiled the audience with tales from his long musical career. Thank you, Dave, for taking us back to an era of glamorous, beautiful music.

The intermission was highlighted by Lynn Ewing presiding over her last meeting as President of SFAC (she will stay on in a different position). On behalf of all members and our Board of Directors, Ken Schwartz presented Lynn with an engraved rosewood plaque and flowers honoring her years of dedicated service to the club. Ken noted that Lynn has served as our President from 2010-2016 and re-



Continued next page...

Play with the Jam Band

Join us 1:15-2:00pm for a traditional jam session before the monthly Sunday music program at Oyster Point Yacht Club.

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, make new accordion friends and have **WAY TOO MUCH FUN!**

Continued - September Meeting Review

markably has presided over and organized approximately 66 meetings, as well as representing us at the Cotati Accordion Festival each August. She also served previously as VP of the SFAC. Lynn received a standing ovation. Flowers were also given in appreciation to outgoing SFAC Treasurer, Elaine Cooperstein, who has served our club and will remain on the Board as well as continue to do newsletter layout. She, too, received a standing ovation. Huge thanks to both Lynn and Elaine!

Ken noted careful preparation goes into each of our monthly programs and encouraged fellow members to volunteer in organizing future programs; there are any number of ways to assist. For example, preparation of refreshments is simple but important to meeting success and will greatly facilitate planning.



Speaking of refreshments, Rosemary Busher very kindly brought a fabulous array of cheese and fruit, while Pam Lister and Elaine Cooperstein provided other goodies in addition to our usual coffee and tea selections.

Our second hour featured the accomplished jazz accordionist Frank Petrilli. Frank brought with him an outstanding rhythm section: Scott Stryer on percussion and Steve Auerbach on acoustic bass.

Frank played a large and resonant Petosa jazz accordion that looked like the very instrument Johnny Cash would have chosen: even the keys were black. And with so splendid a rhythm section behind him, who could resist but turning to Latin jazz! So, Frank commenced with a Brazilian piece, *Meditation*. His relaxed approach to the compositions and mastery of the keyboard were immediately apparent. Several other of his selections featured Latin rhythms.

Following *Meditation* were *Softly as in Morn-*



ing Sunrise, It Could Happen to You, Just in Time, Yesterday I Heard the Rain, Day in the Life of a Fool, I Thought About You (one of two Jimmie Van Husen songs he played), *Watch What Happens, My Foolish Love and Bluesette*.

All were excellently performed in the very smooth style of an accomplished trio. It was all the more remarkable, given that Frank is based in Los Angeles while Scott and Steve are local to the Bay Area, so this was their first performance as a trio, just for our meeting! Well done!



After Frank received the second standing ovation of the afternoon, Dave re-emerged to play with Frank, Scott and Steve. First we heard a spirited and improvisational *You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To*. The fabulous four closed together with *The Days of Wine and Roses*, with Dave back on vocals.

We had a great time as we were treated to great music!



The Accordion: Early History

The accordion has always been a huge part of popular culture and is frequently the centerpiece of the folk music of many an ethnicity. Whether you are Irish, French, Italian, German, Polish, Russian, Hungarian, Colombian, Brazilian, Argentinean, Dominican, Mexican, Jewish, Egyptian, Algerian, Lebanese, Persian, Indian, or Chinese, the accordion and its relative instruments dominate the musical landscape of that traditional music.

These instruments function under a sonic principle: an airflow streaming across a free vibrating reed that resonates a tone based on its length. The first instrument known to have used this principle can be traced back to 3000 BCE in China with the [scheng](#), an instrument made



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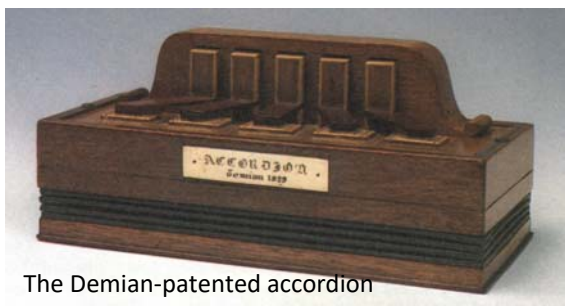
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out of bamboo pipes set in a small wind-chamber into which a musician blows through a mouthpiece. Suspected to have journeyed

to Europe during the 13th century, the *scheng* hardly faced any major adaptations until the Industrial Revolution.

A closer predecessor of the modern accordion is arguably credited to Cyrill Damian, an Austrian instrument



The Demian-patented accordion

maker. In 1829, Cyrill and his two sons presented a new

instrument to the authorities for patent - the accordion. Naturally, the instrument wasn't as developed as today's accordions, but offered the general concept of the bellows sandwiched between two manuals. It only had a left hand buttonboard, with the right hand simply operating the bellows. One key feature for which Demian sought the patent was the sounding of an entire chord by depressing one key.



Inventor Cyrill Damian

At the turn of the 20th century, accordion manufacturers realized the extensive presence of the piano in American homes and salons. Consequently, they decided



Demian's "accordion"

to seduce and target piano players with the accordion by offering piano keys in lieu of the traditional buttons on either side. Its convenient portability and comparative affordability contributed a great deal to its commercial success, which is the reason why the majority of the population familiar with the accordion recognizes it with a piano keyboard on its right side. However, the rest of the



world adopted the initial concept of an all-button instrument as the primary blueprint for the accordion.

In Russia, the *bayan*, a high-tech button accordion, became one of

the centerpieces of traditional folk music. Its gigantic typewriter appearance allows for limitless technical dexterity and its distinctive sound emulates that of a pipe organ. What say ye, Grigoriy?

[Adapted from University of Michigan UMS Newsletter and other online sources]

Join In the Fun!

Helping with the monthly music programs is a great way to meet new people and help make the program run smoothly. We welcome people to help emcee the program, take photos or write a lively report about the music program. You don't need experience—just a willingness to help while you have fun with the group.

Discover your inner entertainer, photographer or writer and help us host our monthly events.

Contact Lynn Ewing, ewing-lynn@gmail.com, 650-867-2633 to find out how to get in on the action!



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RIP “Buckwheat” Zydeco (November 14, 1947—September 24, 2016)



Buckwheat Zydeco (Stanley Dural, Jr.), the accordionist, organist, singer and songwriter, achieved fame as the man who introduced the Zydeco dance music of Louisiana to the world stage. Stanley Dural died on September 24th from lung cancer at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette. He was 68.


Stanley Dural Jr was born in rural Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1947, one of 13 children. His parents were farmers. He worked on the farm as a boy, spending much time picking cotton, later commenting, “I did a lot of hard stuff coming up. I’m glad I did, ‘cause this stuff – making music – is easy.”

His father, Stanley Dural Sr., was an amateur accordionist who played traditional Creole songs around the house. In his youth, Buckwheat – the nickname referred to his braided hair, which was reminiscent of the ‘Buckwheat’ character in the old ‘Our Gang’/‘The Little Rascals’ comedy series – rebelled against his father’s music. He took up the accordion, piano, keyboards and the Hammond B3 organ and gravitated toward funk and rhythm & blues, joined bands before forming his own and eventually finding commercial success.

His international performances include the 1996 Summer Olympics closing ceremony, which was broadcast to a huge TV audience worldwide, and both of President Bill Clinton’s inauguration celebrations.

Dural broke new ground for Zydeco, both stylistically and commercially. In 1987, Island Records released Buckwheat Zydeco’s Grammy-nominated ‘On a Night Like This’, the first Zydeco album on a major label. More recently, the world-travelled Dural was the first Zydeco bandleader with his own YouTube channel, ‘Buckwheat’s World’.

He was a “cultural ambassador in the truest sense,” said Michael Tisserand, author of the 1998 book ‘The Kingdom of Zydeco’, which will soon be reissued with a new foreword by Dural. “He brought this traditional music to the biggest stage it ever enjoyed. It took someone with his talent, range, sense of showmanship and charisma to take it that far. He’d play songs by Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones, and stretch the music beyond its original shape”, Tisserand said, “but always with the sense of celebration, excitement and cultural pride at the heart of zydeco”. [Reprinted from www.accordionuse.com]



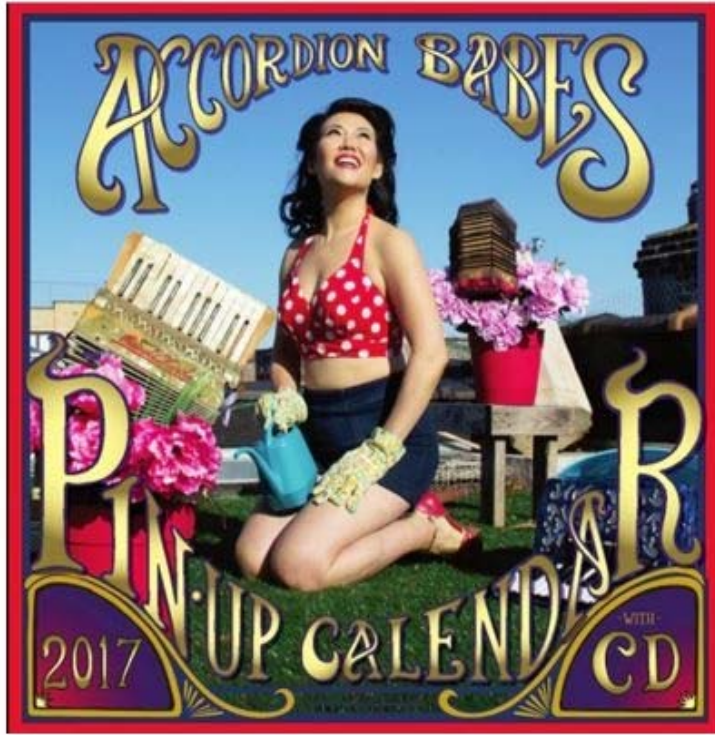
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A 2017 pin-up calendar featuring 13 accordion-playing women in sexy and fun poses, which includes a compilation CD of their music. Will soon be available at SFAC meeting for approximately \$17.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL— Update

Robert Cooperstein, our membership director, reports that renewals for 2017 are going well. Thanks to all who have already renewed! If you received an invitation to renew with an enclosed return envelope, please take the time to send it back with a check if in fact you intend to renew. This will save Robert the extra and unnecessary task of sending a reminder letter or email in the near future. If on the other hand you do not intend to renew (of course the SFAC will be very sad to lose you!) please let him know that by mail or email, for the same reason. Merry Squeezing!

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices **for members:**

1/4-page: \$25: 1/2-page: \$50: Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

Upcoming Accordion Events



American Accordionists' Association

www.ameraccord.com

A Valtaro Celebration

Saturday, November 26, 2016
12 noon until 5:00 p.m.

Magnanini Farm Winery

172 Strawridge Road • Walkkill, New York 12589

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NO REFUNDS ON CANCELLATIONS AFTER NOV. 10, 2016

Visit us online for complete menu and directions.
www.ameraccord.com

Eastbourne Accordion Festival in England!
The Queens Hotel, Marine Parade, Eastbourne
01606 270148 (February Friday 10th - Monday 13th)
<http://www.carillonstudios.com/>



ACCORDION LOVERS' TRIP OF A LIFETIME MAY 16-20, 2017

Trips Depart London—Heathrow

This is a bucket-list trip for all true accordion aficionados! Come to Castelfidardo, Italy – the spiritual home of the accordion – and renew your love affair with this amazing instrument. Wander the streets and sample the culture of Castelfidardo. Learn more about the artistry of accordion design and manufacture. Revel in the company of accordion lovers from all over the world. Enjoy jam sessions with your fellow travelers.

UK/USA Visit to Castelfidardo

For more information, contact:

Peter Le Geyt (member of Guildford Accordion Club UK)

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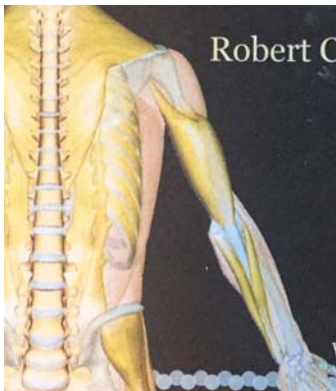
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By Appointment
510-207-6009

drcoop@gmail.com
RobertCooperstein.com

Weekend appointments available

Bay Area Accordion Clubs

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
dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com

Contact: Jean Stevens, President (916) 872-8081
accordionriffs@gmail.com

Vacaville Chapter

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.
Pietro's No. 2,
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville

Humboldt Chapter

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

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: Ed Sciarini (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: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sunday at 1pm. Harry's Hofbrau,
390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose
www.svasociety.org
\$5 for adults, no charge under 16

Performing Around the Bay

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

RICHARD DENIER *Carmel* - rjd.denier@gmail.com

PETER DI BONO *San Francisco* www.peterdibono.com

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

WILLIAM DE MICHELIS *South Bay* -
accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net

JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay* www.alpinersusa.com
or www.capricious-accordion.com

ED GORZYNSKI, JR. *East Bay* - edspolkas@yahoo.com

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- VINCENT RINALDI (415) 824-7609
- BIG LOU (LINDA SEEKINS) (415) 468-5986
- AARON SEEMAN (510) 368-1450
- JOE SIMONI (650) 867-1122
- MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579

Please PLAY for your club!

Playing warm up or during the break for our Sunday music program 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) 453-3391 ewinglynn@gmail.com

SFAC Officers

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(Positions open, volunteers needed!)

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Contact any member of the board to volunteer. See February 2016 Newsletter for descriptions of tasks, small or large, remote or on-site, that you can do to help the SFAC continue its excellent programs and activities!

Please Remember...

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

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

SFAC SUNDAY ACCORDION CIRCLE

Come for fun and great music!!

Sunday, October 16 at 2pm

Mini-workshop—Lynn Ewing

Oktoberfest Fun Band

Open Mic

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



OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB

Plenty of free parking, ramp access.

DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 (North or South) in South San Francisco, take the Oyster Point Blvd exit and follow signs to Marina Blvd. Avoid turning right onto Gull Drive, 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.

Time to Renew!

SFAC Membership year is Oct.-Sept.

Join or renew using PayPal or a credit card at:
www.sfaccordionclub.com/membership.html, or
mail check payable to "SFAC" to Elaine Cooperstein, 539 Elsie Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

- ◆ \$35 per year for individual or household
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San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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