

April 2015

## Our Next Music Program

2:00 pm Sunday, April 19

Oyster Point Yacht Club  
South San Francisco



## FEATURED APRIL PERFORMERS



**AbsolutAccord** is a seven-piece accordion ensemble with a unique style and flair. Formed fourteen years ago by Richard Yaus, AbsolutAccord has a 150+ piece repertoire representing a wide and diverse variety of musical types. From classical through traditional, international and standards, the group's music is scored in a sophisticated and musically creative way. Many arrangements originated in Germany with Richard's teacher; more recently, Richard has begun writing his own inventive transcriptions that the group plays enthusiastically. Many of these originally scored pieces will be featured at the upcoming performance at the SFAC.

The group's accordionists are: **Lynn Ewing, Grigory Krumik, Randall Hicks, Marian Kelly, David Perry, Norma Zonay-Parsons, and Richard Yaus.**

**Lynn Ewing** teaches private accordion students, and performs with two accordion ensembles, the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) and AbsolutAccord.

**Randall (Randy) Hicks** graduated with a music degree in Voice from the Lawrence Conservatory of Music in Appleton, WI. On a dare, Randy took up the accordion at the age of 49. He hasn't looked back since.

**Marian Kelly** teaches accordion, plays the bass accordion in AbsolutAccord, and she's also a member of ACE.

**Grigoriy Krumik** plays the button accordion (Bayan) and works with many well-known musicians, performing widely throughout the Bay Area, and playing in ACE as well.

**David Perry**'s accordion languished in his closet for 48 years, but he began playing again in 2008. He now performs with ACE and AbsolutAccord.

**Richard Yaus** studied with the German accordion virtuoso Georg Schwenk, while winning music competitions in the solo, duo and orchestra categories during the 1980's and 90's. Richard has performed the music of Astor Piazzolla with the Palo Alto Philharmonic and with the Redwood Symphony in Shostakovich's Suite for Variety Orchestra.

**Norma Zonay-Parsons** has entertained since her teens; she now teaches in her studio in San Jose and performs with AbsolutAccord.

AbsolutAccord, always absolutely in accord, has been featured at the Cotati Accordion Festival, the Las Vegas Accordion Convention and the Northern California Wagner Society, as well as various local farmers' markets, schools, and all the accordion clubs in the greater Bay Area. The ensemble was invited to perform at the 2010 and 2014 ATG Festivals in the Bay Area, and is extremely proud to be invited to perform for the SFAC in April. The timing is especially apt, as their latest CD was just released in mid-2014, highlighting the group's wide spectrum of music. The new CD will be available for purchase at their upcoming performance. AbsolutAccord....the name says it all. ❖

♪ ♪  **MOBE GREAT MUSIC IN APRIL**  ♪ ♪

As a youngster growing up in a large Italian family on a farm in northeastern Colorado, **Gail Campanella** showed an interest in the only musical instrument in her home—her mother’s old accordion. She began taking lessons at the age of 10 in Ft. Morgan, Colorado, where she enjoyed lessons and participated in annual accordion contests, Kiwanis Stars of Tomorrow, talent shows and many other local events.

Gail became the town accordion teacher at age 14, when the local accordion teacher retired. She made monthly 80-mile train trips to Denver to study accordion with Anthony Pennecci and to play in his accordion orchestra.



Gail majored in piano at Loretto Heights College in Denver while continuing her study in classical accordion with Robert Davine at the University of Denver. After graduation, she played “honky-tonk” piano in Central City, Colorado, and taught music in Denver public schools. She studied the Orff and Kodaly methods

of music education and became a certificated Orff music teacher. For the past several years, Gail has been a member of the Los Angeles Accordionaires Orchestra.

Gail and her husband, John, have three grown children—Gian Carlo, a real estate broker currently living in Istanbul, Turkey; Oino lives in Campbell, CA, and is drummer and keyboardist in the band “dredg”; and Veronica, who lives and works in Santa Barbara, CA.



**Grigoriy Krumik** is a native of the Ukraine, and began playing a two-row traditional accordion called a Garmoshka when he was six years old. He switched to the Bayan button accordion at nine years old and attended the Music College and the Academy of Music in the Ukraine. He taught music at the college as well, as a specialist in the classroom.



Grigoriy immigrated to the United States 15 years ago. He plays the Bayan in concert and with the Accordion Chamber Ensemble, and is the accompanist for a children’s choir. If you need your piano tuned, Grigoriy is also the person to talk to. ❖



**Sit in with the**  
**J A M B A N D**

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

**1:00-2:00 pm for a traditional jam session**

COME ON DOWN! We’re waiting for YOU!



# WE ROCKED THE HOUSE in March!

## Musical Notes

by Robert Cooperstein



**Don Savant** opened his set by inviting Paul Cain, the club's much-appreciated sound tech, to join him in the opening number. Many people would recognize the song as "Surrender" as recorded by Elvis,

although it originated as a Neapolitan ballad (1902) by Giambattista and Ernesto de Curtis entitled "Torna a Surriento." The song has special significance for Don—he first learned it from John Molinari Sr, a legend in the local accordion community. Don was playing the Guilietti accordion that he bought from Paul Cain, and which was once played by the legend himself. Reluctant at first to part with this special accordion, Paul finally agreed when he located a similar Guilietti accordion that also features a bass converter. Saxophonist Roldan Vigil then surprised Don by sitting in on "Moonglow." After Roldan stepped down Don launched into two jazz waltzes; my personal favorite "Emily," and "Jitterbug Waltz." He then treated us to "Accordion Joe," recorded among others by Duke Ellington himself, c. 1930. Don did a great job with this vocal debut--what might best be called vocal jazz meets beat poetry. He finished his set with "Bluesette," another jazz waltz.

**Kombrig (Alex Yaskin)** began his set by explaining saying that he started his 'brand' about eight years ago, which included adopting the name Kombrig. Introducing his set as music for the 21st century, he explained that he plays with a "virtual band" that he has created in his computer. Not to be confused with the sound that comes from a midi accordion, he said the accompaniment was independent from his accordion playing. Kombrig is a master of the Bayan, which he characterized as a "button chromatic accordion." The Bayan is a Russian instrument with a range of 5½ octaves and 150 buttons, as compared with the 3½ octaves and 120 buttons of the standard

piano accordion. Kombrig's performance might be best described as a jazzy travelogue, spanning considerable territory in time and space. The trip got under way with a Fats Domino-like version of Patsy Cline's "Crazy." After jumping into a very complicated



Bossa Nova tune whose Portuguese title roughly translates to "I Can't Stand it No More," Kombrig launched into Fleetwood Mac's "Black Magic Woman" (1969), later famously covered by Santana. Snapping out of our Latin reverie, we suddenly found ourselves in 1930's

Germany for a rousing, carousel-inspired version of "Die Moritat von Mackie Messer"—commonly known as "Mack the Knife"—from Kurt Weill and Bertold Brecht's Threepenny Opera. Kombrig concluded his set with two more Latin-themed tunes, "Blue Spanish Eyes," one of the most recorded songs of all time (even Elvis took a stab at it) and an ebullient Brazilian samba.

**Glenn Hartman** has recently stepped up as a friend and member of the SFAC. He is associated with Doc's Lab at 124 Columbus in San Francisco, once the home of the legendary Purple Onion and prior to that, the Columbo & Sons Accordion Factory! Glenn recounted how a photo of John Molinari, Sr, long-lost on the premises of the old factory, eerily popped out of a picture frame that had been marked on the back "please return to me"...and so it was! Warning us that he plays a lot of Jewish music, Glenn began with an adaption of an 11th century tune featured on a contemporary collection titled *Der Terk In America*. From there he effortlessly slid into Zydeco (Glenn has spent much time in New Orleans and it shows), and from there right back to the shtetl with a rollicking klezmer piece. Although (just like 12-bar blues songs) 3



after a while all klezmer tunes begin to sound alike, Glenn's klezmer songs are pretty far off the beaten track, infused with original transformative blends of other songs. We got rock'n'roll licks and jazz runs deeply embedded in centuries where they should never have been comfortable and yet, impossibly, were.



Glenn invited Roldan and his sax to join him on Duke Ellington's "Take the A Train." It was a great treat to watch such talented musicians bouncing and jiving at the mic, bustin' loose and just having some fun!

## ~ THE MAIN EVENT! ~

Raw and polished, polished and raw—that's my best description of the fabulous Whiskey and Women: Renée de la Prade, Joan Wilson Rueter, and Rosie Grace Steffy.



This group just tore it up! Their infectious exuberance produced an effect never previously seen at the Yacht Club (at least by me)...members of the Yacht Club came out of the adjacent bar to join us, rocking to the infectious Zydeco rhythm that had everyone tapping their feet. Zydeco has a unique place in American music, a fusion of Creole language and culture, African American blues, jazz, and rock'n'roll—pure

musical gumbo. In the spirit of Whiskey and Women's frenetic pace, with a hardly a pause between songs, I will make no effort to list the titles they played with one exception: the closing song was "Iko Iko," which I first heard as a youth in a rock version by the Dixie Cups (1964). This song exemplifies what became universally known as the "Bo Diddley Beat" by 1955 (a fusion of 3-2 clave and R&B/rock'n'roll). James "Sugar Boy" Crawford of New Orleans first recorded "Iko Iko" under the title of "Jock-A-Mo" in 1953.

The girls also invited Roldan to bring his sax to the stage for some fun—that boy plays a mean sax! We hope to have Whiskey and Women back when Renée returns from Europe sometime next year.



We loved the rich cultural tour and infectious enthusiasm of our musicians in March and look forward to more wonderful music in our Sunday programs to come! ❖





## NEW MEMBERS



## GREAT NEWS!!

### NEW STUDENT STAGE AT THE FESTIVAL

**Roldan F. Vigil**, saxophonist extraordinaire, hails from Redwood City and reinstated his membership in the SFAC this month. He showcased his considerable talents by joining in with several of the performers at our March music program.



**Nada Lewis** lives in El Sobrante, located in the East Bay. An avid accordion player, her musical tastes are quite eclectic, including Balkan, Klezmer, French, Greek, Irish, Scandinavian and Gypsy music.



**Jeanny Wang**, from Berkeley, also joined this month. She has volunteered to help with several SFAC activities, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to her and the other new members for joining our club!



**Robyn Lee** has wanted to learn how to play the accordion for 12 years; she just bought a used accordion, and she is in the market for a teacher. Robyn and her best friend are currently trying to learn to play together and have already formed their band, the "Asian Box." They would eventually like to play songs by Metallica, ac/dc and other heavy metal bands!



**Shirley Brim**, new editor of the SFAC newsletter, officially joined the club this month. She took several years of piano lessons back at the dawn of time, played a little clarinet in junior high school and currently sings in a choir, but doesn't play the accordion. She is, however, enjoying the discovery of the endless variety of accordion music and finding new friends in the SFAC. ❖

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net) (unchanged)  
408-569-2579 cell (unchanged)

## BREAKING NEWS!

### Pregnancy Rates Plunge After Oregon Gives Every Man an Accordion (April Fool!)

Population growth in Oregon has slowed to almost zero, the state reports, in the wake of an initiative to issue accordions to every reproductive-age male. The musical/contraceptive giveaway included a large range of the box-shaped, bellows-driven instruments, running the gamut from Weltmeister piano accordions to Schrammels and British Chromatics.



All types of accordions are apparently equally powerful in reducing the number of romantic hookups—as well as unplanned pregnancies—occurring in the Beaver State. The result has been less sprawl and more room for the state's wildlife.

“We’re hearing a lot of serenading,” said an official in Eugene, Ore. who spoke on condition of anonymity. “A lot of guys standing beneath windows, just, you know, singing along and playing their songs. There’s that wheezing sound everywhere ... and we’re seeing women turn up their TVs, even sticking some wadded-up Kleenex in their earholes.”

The Center [for Biological Diversity]’s Executive Director Kierán Suckling reports that the accordions are guaranteed effective, even when played by a man wearing a super-sexy black vest.

Source: Center for Biological Diversity Newsletter, April 1, 2015. Reprinted with permission. [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org)

“At the Center for Biological Diversity, we believe that the welfare of human beings is deeply linked to nature . . . . Because diversity has intrinsic value, and because its loss impoverishes society, we work to secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction.” ❖

## 100th Anniversary GALA CELEBRATION

### JUNE 6—SAVE THE DATE!

The San Francisco Accordion Club is proud to announce:

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

AND

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

We’re celebrating these two milestones with a festive evening gala on June 6, 2015 from 6-10 pm. Join us for a memorable evening of fun, dancing and—of course—**ACCORDION MUSIC!**

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

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

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

The cost is \$25 per person.

Please RSVP your intentions to join us:

Lynn Ewing— [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com) ❖



## 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 Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> with four subsequent rehearsals scheduled during May and June. The orchestra's schedule will conclude with a performance at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society in San Jose on June 7<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a showcase concert at the SFAC's 100th anniversary gala on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 playing in the orchestra, and the rehearsal site is conveniently located in San Mateo at Laurel Elementary School with plenty of parking.

The orchestra is made possible by some of a Bay Area's finest accordionists and their friends devoted to bringing accordion orchestra music to San Francisco's backyard and enhancing the accordion landscape in the Bay Area. Both the San Francisco Accordion Club and the Silicon Valley Accordion Society endorse the orchestra!

You can find the invitation and registration form on AbsolutAccord's website: [absolutaccord.com](http://absolutaccord.com). Contact Richard Yaus with any questions: by phone at (650) 832-1740 or e-mail at [ryaus@earthlink.net](mailto:ryaus@earthlink.net). Please feel free to share this information with other accordionists in the area. ❖

## ALL THINGS ACCORDION



The new facade of the **Hotel Liesma in Jurmala, Latvia**, was inspired by music and is strongly reminiscent of an accordion in action!

Architects: Jevgenijs Busins, Liva Banka  
Collaborator: Sandra Laganovska, SIA - Arhitekta Modra Ģelža birojs  
[www.evolo.us/architecture/hotel-liesma-inspired-by-music-jevgenijs-busins-liva-banka/](http://www.evolo.us/architecture/hotel-liesma-inspired-by-music-jevgenijs-busins-liva-banka/)

### PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Our scheduled performers are drawn from professional players and groups, and from talented amateurs as well. Call us—we're happy to add you to the schedule to play a 10-15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs.

Contact:  
**Dominic Palmisano**  
(415) 587-4423  
[accord47@gmail.com](mailto:accord47@gmail.com) OR

**Lynn Ewing**  
(650) 453-3391  
[ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://AccordionUSA.com) for all information about great festivals and performances.

## Save the Date!



**June 7-12, 2015**

Contact camp treasurer:  
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Chicago)

[www.accordions.com/atg/](http://www.accordions.com/atg/)



**The Cotati Accordion Festival**

[www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com)

**August 22-23, 2015**  
Cotati CA



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**Accordion Club of the Redwoods**

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission donation  
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma

Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474  
[dcacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcacapo@gmail.com)

**Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)**

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

**The Vacaville Chapter**

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.  
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(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.  
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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 Directors

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

**MONTHLY SUNDAY MUSIC PROGRAM**

Come for fun and great music!!

**April 19 @ 2 pm**

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

Jam band plays from 1-2 pm, prior to the regular meeting

Visit us online at [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)



**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 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](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

**San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter**

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