

April, 2016

A Very Special Music Program

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Oyster Point Yacht Club
\$12 admission (\$10 SFAC members)



Featured for April: Stas Venglevski!



We are delighted to welcome **Stas Venglevski**, all the way from Wisconsin! Artistry, dazzling technical command, and sensitivity have brought Stas, a native of the Republic of Moldova, part of the former Soviet Union, increasing acclaim as a virtuoso of the bayan. A two-time first prize winner of bayan competitions in the Republic of Moldova, Stas is a graduate of the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow where he received his Masters Degree in Music under the tutelage of the famed Russian bayanist, Friedrich Lips.

Stas is an Accordionist, a Musician, an Arranger, an Entertainer and a Teacher. Stas' repertoire includes his original compositions, a broad range of classical, contemporary and ethnic music. He has toured extensively as a soloist throughout the former Soviet Union, Canada, Europe, and the United States, including numerous performances with Doc Severinsen, Steve Allen and with Garrison Keillor on the Prairie Home Companion Show. In addition, Stas has performed with symphony orchestras throughout the United States. He performed world premieres of "Concerto No. 2" by Anthony Gallarini and "Bayan and Beyond," composed for Stas by Dan Lawitts.

The brilliant artistry and musical virtuosity of Stas afford an expanded dimension in music and an innovative musical adventure to the audience.

As a special presentation, Stas has invited 5 SFAC members to perform his recently composed "Rondo Fantasy," for 5 accordions and solo. This work premiered at the ATG Festival in Chicago in 2015, to much acclaim. The SFAC members performing are: **Gail Campanella** from Santa Barbara, **Jana Maas**, former President of Good Time Accordion Club in Modesto, **Marian Kelly**, former president of the SFAC, **Grigoriy Krumik**, with Ukrainian roots, and **Lynn Ewing**, current president of the SFAC.

Gail Campanella, Grigoriy Krumik, Jana Maas & Lynn Ewing in April!

Gail Campanella

Gail's interest in her mother's old accordion resulted in her starting accordion lessons at age 10. Gail taught elementary music in the Denver Public Schools for 6



years. Her performing experience includes the 2013 Cotati Accordion Festival, the 2015 Orange County Accordion Festival (Big Squeeze), the 2015 National Accordion Orchestra in South Bend, Indiana (Director Gene Van), Accordionaires Orchestra (Director Janet Hane), and guest accordionist with the Santa Barbara City College Jazz Band (Spring 2016). She has been invited to be guest artist for the Chicago Accordion Club in July 2016 and guest soloist for the Washington Metropolitan Accordion Society in September 2016. She has also performed for the Santa Barbara and San Francisco Accordion Clubs.

Jana Maas

Jana's Italian heritage led her to begin accordion lessons at age 6. In 1999, she and two friends formed the very successful "Good Time Accordion Club." She served as club president for 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 CD, "Accordion Blend."



Lynn Ewing

The current President of SFAC, Lynn was born and raised in San Diego, where she started playing accordion at age seven. As a young adult, Lynn taught at the Robert Mitchell Accordion School, where she directed five accordion bands and gave accordion lessons to over a hundred young children. She received her certification in the Orff Method of Music instruction from Mills College, and was the music specialist at El Granada Elementary school for seven years. Currently Lynn teaches private accordion students, and performs with two accordion ensembles, the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) and AbsolutAccord.



Grigoriy Krumik

Grigoriy is a native of the Ukraine, and began playing a 2 row traditional accordion called a Garmoshka when he was 6 years old. He switched to the Bayan at 9 years old and attended the



Music College and the Academy of Music in the Ukraine. He taught music at the college as well as in the classroom as a specialist. 15 years ago Grigoriy immigrated to the United States where 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 the person to talk to.

March Meeting Report

By Ken Schwartz

SFAC President Lynn Ewing opened the program by acknowledging members who made the program happen, including:

Pam Lister & Ed Massolo—room setup

Barbara Winter—coffee and crackers

Elaine Cooperstein—cheese

Paul Cain—sound

Steve Mobia—Photography

Dominic Palmisano & Elaine Cooperstein—reception

Ken Schwartz—program reporter

Lynn asked again for members to volunteer to help with all the behind-the-scenes things that make our monthly program possible, including members with computer skills and/or those able to make some telephone calls on behalf of the club. So, please contact Lynn to help! Many hands make light work.

Robyn Lee emceed our program, coincidentally celebrating her 32nd birthday with us.

Robyn just joined the club about a year ago, and said that it means a lot to her. We were happy to have an almost standing-room crowd only for our program!



Ed Massolo opened our program. Ed's had a long, distinguished accordion career and in 1990 was one of the guiding lights for the newly-founded Bay Area Accordion Club (now SFAC.) Ed was born to play beautiful accordion music, as he demonstrated with a masterful performance!

Ed opened with Pietro Deiro, Jr.'s arrangement of "Non Dimenticar" ("Don't Forget"), followed by "Carnival of Venice," "Come Back to Sorrento" (a Gary Dahl arrangement), "Beautiful Days Waltz" (arr. by another famous Deiro, Pietro Deiro Sr.), and "Chitarra Romana." He concluded with a

perfectly performed "Flight of the Angels waltz" (arr. Harry Gay), which Ed cited as a great exercise for improving finger control. Ed's been performing on the accordion most of his 91 years, and his performances



showcased all the talents and skills he brings to this instrument! Hurry on back, Ed!

Continuing this month's line-up of accordion movers and shakers, **Lou Jacklich and Jeremy Jeans** graced our stage with a rousing performance. Lou has taught generations of students, a number of whom attended our program. One of those former students, who began lessons at age 5½ when his feet didn't touch the floor under his chair, was Jeremy Jeans, who has gone on to his own illustrious career on the accordion. Jeremy has played with Lou at many venues, including Cotati and Las Vegas. Lynn last heard Jeremy perform in 2000 and was very happy to have both Lou and Jeremy performing for the club!

First up from Lou and Jeremy was a very lazy "Up a Lazy River," highlighting the duo's unique rhythm and jazz progressions. Their rendition sounded like two harmonicas in perfect harmony! This was followed by "Georgia," again sounding like two harmonicas—how do they do that? They followed up with "Fly me to the Moon" and a beautiful, over-the-top rendition of "Hava Nagila," which progressed from an opening andante to its thrilling crescendo, bringing the clapping audience to its feet! (This writer is still stomping his feet and clapping as he writes this review!)

Building upon their musical momentum, Lou and Jeremy performed "Has Anybody Seen My Gal? (Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue)," which shimmered with Lou's bellows shakes, a soulful rendition of "Summertime" (George Gershwin), and finally, a tour de force performance of "Bumble Boogie." The

Continued next page.....

bees whizzed up and down the keyboards! Challenging under any circumstance, they flew in perfect winged harmony in 3rds, crossing paths at the finale as one buzzed up, the other down. Lou and Jeremy concluded with an encore performance of "Theme from the Godfather."

Las Vegas met the SFAC at our program!

Their performance was a perfect combination of virtuosity with exciting, wonderful rhythms and chord progressions. Emcee Robyn complimented Lou and Jeremy with great admiration of their sexy and beautiful music.



In addition to Sunday having been Robyn Lee's 32nd birthday, our sound tech **Paul Cain's** birthday was earlier that week, and we celebrated both during our intermission. Their very cute daughters,

who livened up the party, accompanied their parents. So, in addition to our usual snacks, the club was treated to a large birthday cake in Robyn's honor. She told us that she's been interested in the accordion since her teens and was finally able to begin studying about 1½ years ago. Robyn absolutely loves our club and was thrilled to be our emcee. We hope she will emcee again very soon!

The Main Event— AbsolutAccord

AbsolutAccord, led by Richard Yaus, has performed together for 15 years. Members of the group include Marian Kelly, Lynn Ewing, David Perry, Randall Hicks, Richard Yaus and the newest member, percussionist Alfredo Vega.

When Richard first started the group, 95% of their arrangements came from his music teacher in Germany. Four years ago, Richard began writing his own arrangements, not an easy task, as each piece needs to be specially transcribed and arranged for the accordion. The arrangements reproduce the sounds of different orchestral instruments; even the bass section is well represented by Marian Kelly's rare bass accordion. "Ava Maria," "La Bourrasque," and "Blue Moon" are some of Richard's latest arrangements.

Richard complemented AbsolutAccord's performance with stories about some of the composers, and even some chuckles; "French people love eating snails. Why?



Because they don't like fast food!" and "Enjoy your martini but don't drink and drive. Why? Because you could hit a bump and spill your drink!"

The group's virtuoso performance was nothing short of amazing! The performance covered a wide range of musical styles, all beautifully performed, including the following:

"Il barbiere di Siviglia, Overture" (Gioachino Rossini, 1816). Rossini stopped composing in his mid 30's, moved to Paris, and loved cooking!

Johann Sebastian Bach's "Concerto No. 2 in G-major" which Bach adapted from Antonio Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in G-major, Op. 7/2. Bach wrote every day and many nights, and is credited with more than 1000 compositions. He borrowed from Vivaldi for this piece, which he arranged.

AbsolutAccord added its own musical addendums and jazz interpretations to Bach's arrangement.

AbsolutAccord continued with Waltz from "Masquerade" (Aram Khachaturian, 1941); "Ave Maria" (Vladimir Vavilov, 1970); a thrilling performance of the "Theme from The Magnificent

Continued next page.....



AbsolutAccord: Richard Yaus, Lynn Ewing, David Perry, Randall Hicks, Marian Kelly, and percussionist Alfredo Vega

Seven" (Elmer Bernstein, 1960), which took us back to the time of the great western movies, "La Mer" (Beyond the Sea) (Charles Trenet, 1946); "La Bourrasque, Valse Musette" (Michel Peguri, 1900); "Blue Moon" (Richard Rodgers, 1934); "Apanhei-Te, Cavaquinho" (Ernesto Nazareth, 1914); a rousing "Libertango, Tango Nuevo" (Astor Piazzolla, 1974); and finally "Dance with Us in Anatevka," Richard Yaus' masterful arrangement of dance music from "Fiddler on the Roof" (Jerry Bock, 1964) including "Tradition," "Wedding Dance No. 1," "Perchik and Hodel Dance," "Chava Sequence," and "To Life-Dance."

After a standing ovation, AbsolutAccord performed an encore: "Under the Double Eagle" (J.F. Wagner, 1893)

10 Jacklich students at the March SFAC event!



Front row: Pam Lister, Jeremy Jeans
 Middle Row: Jennis Lee, Pam Tom, Jane Tripi, Colette Ogata
 Back Row: Elaine Cooperstein, **Lou Jacklich**, Randy Hicks, Scott Anderson, Steve Marshall

San Francisco Banjo Band looking for accordion player!

For questions, interest, & further information, email or call Bill Portman, williamjportman@gmail.com, 650-333-4720
 See www.sfbanjoband.com.



Play with the Jam Band

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

We meet regularly before the monthly Sunday music program at Oyster Point Yacht Club.

Join us 1:15-2pm for a traditional jam session

President's Message

By Lynn Ewing:

As we move into the last 5 months of my presidency, we have some good news and some challenges.

We are pleased to welcome Mike Zampiceni and Allan Schwartz to the Board, giving us a full Board. Our attendance has substantially improved at meetings, and we thank you for that! I'm sure that you will want to bring friends to hear Stas Venglevski this month, a true virtuoso that we are so lucky to have.

We have had several people step forward to serve in various positions. However, if the club is to continue to function, we need much more widespread participation. This is not simply an entertainment venue featuring our favorite instrument, it is a club, which depends on our members stepping forward. There are several small jobs which can be done at meetings, and we hope you will seriously consider taking on one of these tasks 2 or 3 times a year. Making coffee, bringing sweet or savory snacks such as cookies, cheese or crackers, serving as the emcee, taking photographs, and taking notes for the meeting report in the Newsletter are all very manageable jobs. With 5 or 6 people willing to do each of these jobs, it is easy to coordinate volunteers for each meeting, some of which can be done remotely if you live a distance away. Please contact Lynn or any member of the Board if you can contribute in one of these ways.

There are a number of jobs that can be done remotely, even if you live so far away that you are unable to attend club meetings on a regular basis. We were so pleased to discover from the survey how much most of you appreciate our Newsletter. If you simply have email and go online, there are many things



that would help. Finding interesting articles online and forwarding them to our editor is one. Proofreading the content that goes into the Newsletter, or contacting our upcoming performers and getting their biographical information are others. Writing thank you notes afterward, and confirming the performers beforehand are two other simple and easy tasks which do not require physical presence. Newsletter editing and layout require more computer skills, but certainly can be done from a distance.

We will continue through September with our wonderful monthly meetings, except for August when we take a break so that our members can attend Cotati. Depending on participation, your Board will then evaluate whether the club can continue with our monthly meetings and our Newsletter. Please think seriously about your own contribution to your club, and let us know how you can help. It may be a cliché but so true - Many hands make light work!

Happy squeezin'!

Lynn

Thanks to our donors!

Several members have made donations during and since our 2015 membership renewal that tremendously help the SFAC budget, and we would like to extend a very big thank you (alphabetically) to: Chris & Tor Arild, Anthony Bologna, Maria Brown, Gail Campanella, David & Nancy Chelini, Mr. William DeMichelis, Lynn & Gail Ewing, John Fiore, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Johan & Marja Gullmes, Ron & Mary Jo Harris, Carlyn & Janet Jensen, Phil Marcucci, Michael A. Marotta Jr., Herb Meier, James Monfredini, Bob & Jo Anne Nelson, Anna Nicora, Ken Nimmo, Gisele B. Oakes, Daniel Oliver, Alexander Roitman, Maryanne Romanowski, Ed Salvador, Michael Sanossian, Kenneth Schwartz, Richard & Leslie Selfridge, Pamela Tom, Roldan Vigil & Francis Benedetto, Mr. & Mrs. Hilbert Werner, Barbara Winter, and Norma Zonay-Parsons. [If you have made a recent donation and your name does not appear, please contact Treasurer Elaine Cooperstein (see p. 11)].

Accordion “a blank slate” for young Millenials ...

— Excerpt from Toronto Star Newspaper feature on [Squeezebox](#), an evening of contemporary music, held Feb. 10 in Toronto, Ontario, which included accordionist Michael Bridge. (Trish Crawford, February 9, 2016, [www.thestar.com](#))

Michael Bridge, a 22-year-old master’s student in the University of Toronto’s music department, became intrigued with the accordion at the age of 4 through the gift of a small concertina bought for \$5 at a garage sale. U of T offers the only Canadian degree in the accordion, says Bridge, adding that accordion playing can be found all over the world.

“It’s in China, Brazil, New Zealand, Finland; it’s popular everywhere but here,” he laughs, adding he hopes to change that through concerts. Forget old-school simple folk styles; Bridge can make his accordion sound like a full orchestra and produce screaming rock riffs. His repertoire runs from Tchaikovsky’s “1812 Overture” to Coldplay’s “Viva La Vida.”

When he tells people he plays the accordion, he gets three responses, he says. “If the person is 65 and above, they are well aware of the golden age of accordion music and saw its decline. They remember Lawrence Welk. The middle group, 40 to 65, grew up thinking the accordion is uncool and out of style. For those under 35, it is a blank slate, but it has retro value.”

Rock bands such as Mumford and Sons and Barenaked Ladies (with whom he played “If I Had a Million Dollars”) are increasingly turning to the instrument as are classical symphonies.

Bridge’s teacher, Joseph Macerollo recently played with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Macerollo is dedicated to broadening the appeal of the instrument as well as expanding the formal education surrounding it.



Photo: [www.michaelbridgemusic.com](#)

SFAC Scholarships Available

The SFAC awards two scholarships a year to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact Mike Zampiceni for a scholarship application (see contact information on page 11.)

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.

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, ewinglynn@gmail.com, 650-867-2633 to find out how to get in on the action!

Upcoming Accordion Events



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Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474
dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

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

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

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Newsletter Layout

(Position open, volunteers needed!)

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eclecticguy@comcast.net

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

Contact SFAC President Lynn Ewing or a member of the board to express interest in volunteering



Many Hands Make LIGHT Work

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San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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