



Newsletter of the
SAN FRANCISCO



We Wish
You a
Merry
Christmas!

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You a
Merry
Christmas!



ACCORDION CLUB

December 2005

The Accordion: San Francisco's Official Instrument

President's Message

Warm holiday wishes to all of you for a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. 2005 has been a year of great turmoil and suffering for many throughout the world. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers through this holiday season. Whatever your



philosophy, support our troops who are giving the very substance of their existence to serve our Country. Pray that a true peace will emerge in the Middle East, and that the leaders of the world, especially our President, will be guided to correct decision-making. Please, put aside a little something from your gift stash for your favorite charity, there is a lot of need outside your door.

I want to thank everyone who has helped to make this the good year that it was. We are finishing on the high part of the wave so to speak, and we have great visions for 2006. I'm afraid I'll forget to mention someone personally, so I won't use any names. You know who you are, we all do, and thank you so much for your tireless assistance.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual Christmas get together. It will be a great meeting with lots of terrific music, prizes and surprises. See you there on the 18th!!!

Play your accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

DECEMBER 18 MEETING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

We'll be featuring our groups

*THE SAN FRANCISCO
ACCORDION CHAMBER ENSEMBLE*

Ten of our own members, conducted by Joe Smiell

All arrangements by Joe Smiell

*Playing a mixture of Christmas music, American musicals,
Classical and maybe some surprises*

A L S O . . .

*THE SAN FRANCISCO ACCORDION BAND
a.k.a. the SFAC "Fun Band"*

Under the direction of Sharon Walters Greyhosky

Will play a program of Christmas & Holiday music

Plus some fun songs that will surely stir up some memories!

Galla-Rini Accordion Camp

The Galla-Rini Accordion Camp will be held July 23-28, 2006 at Dominican University in San Rafael, just north of San Francisco. This camp is focused on playing accordions in an ensemble. The music consists of arrangements of classical music, show tunes, popular tunes and original compositions by Joe Smiell and Anthony Galla-Rini. We will be under the musical direction of Joe Smiell. The vision for the camp is to have a good time while learning new skills. The camp will be open to accordionists of all levels of competence, with a part for each one and room for individual musical growth, regardless of skill level. We live in the beautiful new dormitories, eat in the cafeteria and have a wonderful time. There is opportunity to jam and form small music groups. On the last evening of the camp we will present a free concert for the public.

The camp is limited to forty playing participants. We will be mailing camp applications and information to interested people at the end of January. Questions? Contact Vic Corsiglia [vic3458@pacbell.net; 408-554-6275].

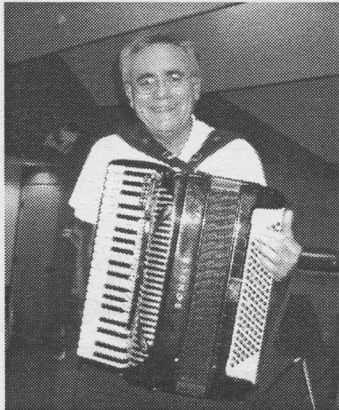
Vic

**NEXT MEETING: Sunday, December 18, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the
South San Francisco Senior Center, 33 Arroyo Drive, South SF**

November Meeting, or Where Can You Get Entertainment Like This For Only \$5.00???

This meeting drew one of the largest crowds we've seen in quite some time, and for good reason!

Great warm-up music was played by **Lee Woodall** and **Jim Firpo**.



Bart Beninco

One of our all-time favorites, **Bart Beninco**, came down from Petaluma with a new repertoire that blew everyone away. Bart is one of the smoothest, most musical players I've ever heard, and today was no exception. He played *Gitanerías*, *Dark Eyes*, *Andalucía*, *The Breeze and I*, *Accordiana*, and *Chitarra Romana*.

Dennis Stoscher remarked, "If Bay Area Rapid Transit could play like that we ought to all jump BART (Bart) and go for a ride"! Well, it was splendid, Bart, and we thank you so much! By the way, Bart's beautiful mom, Mary, was there and looking lovely as always.



Harry Gay and Don Garibaldi

Then came **Harry Gay and Don Garibaldi**. With Harry on acoustic accordion and Don on Petosa MIDI accordion, they complemented each other beautifully. They played together as kids, and then Don joined the Navy and they didn't see each other for 25 years. When they got back together, it was as if they never were apart. They played *La Compagnola* which merged into *Clarinet Polka*. I didn't get the names of everything they played, but the waltz that followed started out in a minor key and moved into a major key and it was lovely. Then they played Louis Prima's *Just A Gigolo*; *Aquellos Ojos Verdes* (I know this has an English title but I can't think of it) for a Latin flavor; *In the Mood*, *Sweet and Lovely*, *Chattanooga Choo-Choo*, *O Marie* and *Flight of the Angels*. What a treat from these wonderful gentlemen who came all the way from Stockton to play for us. Thanks, Harry and Don!

During the break, **Bob Smith** fascinated many interested people by demonstrating the 1919 Galleazzi accordion that he just finished restoring for **Frank Schlotter**. Bob had with him some detailed photos of the inside parts of the accordion.

Next we held the raffle. I did not get the names of all the winners but know that one of them was **David Deanda**. For the cash drawing, none other than Pres.



Bob Smith with Galleazzi accordion and Frank Schlotter, owner of the accordion

Peter Di Bono drew first prize (rigged???)—but Peter graciously returned the money to the club. Other winners included **Harry Gay** and **Al Puppo**. Al very kindly donated \$50 back to our Scholarship Fund.

Ron Borelli is another of our favorites whom we don't hear often enough! Teamed up with his drummer and his sister **Carole** (vocalist), together they put on a great show! **Vince Cirelli** installed the electric bass system on Ron's Colombo accordion for a very effective bass sound. They played (and Carole did vocals on several of them) *Under Paris Skies*, *O Marie*, *Fascinating Rhythm* (Gershwin), *What Is this Thing Called Love* (Cole Porter), *Perfidia*, *There Will Never Be Another You*, *I Thought About You*, *New York, New York*, and *Night and Day* (Cole Porter).



Joe Smiell and Frances Benedetto

We were very pleased to see **Joe Smiell** at this meeting, as Joe usually is tied up on the third Sunday of the month. Of course we had a special cake for Joe for his 80th birthday which was a few days earlier. Joe muttered something about this birthday going on far too long, but he got no sympathy—everyone congratulated him anyway!

Our thanks once again to **Frances and Domenic Benedetto** for the beautiful spread of food as well as the cake for Joe's birthday! And thanks to all our performers and all those, especially **Rosemary Armanino** and **Vince Cirelli**, who helped make this one of our best meetings ever! Val



Lee Woodall and Jim Firpo

A Very Special Occasion at Vince Cirelli's Accordion Shop

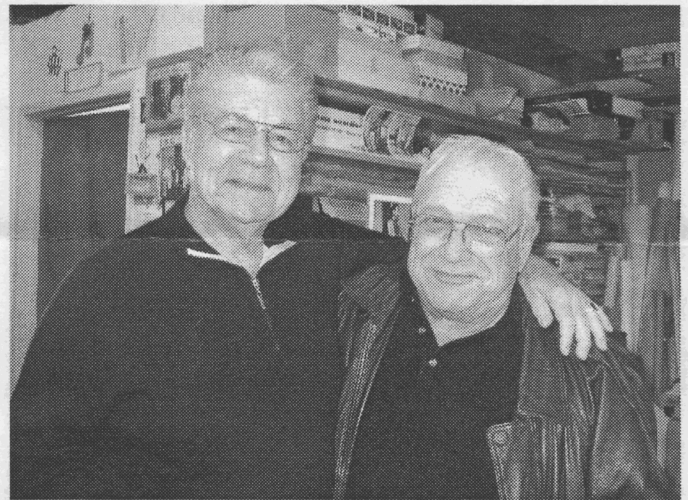
Honoring **Carl Fortina** who received the restored 1932 (est.) Cellini accordion that Vince worked on for a year. Here's the story:

Jascha Heifetz, a brilliant concert violinist who was also a concert pianist, wanted to play the accordion but was frustrated trying to play the buttons on the bass side. As the story goes, he even had trouble with the buttons on an adding machine! So **Cellini Accordion Company** built a special piano accordion for him that had a piano keyboard on the bass side instead of buttons. The left-hand keyboard had a two-octave range starting with the same low F as the low F bassoon reed on the treble side, and then proceeded up the keyboard for two octaves. Heifetz willed the accordion to Carl Fortina, who had to spend some time searching for it. Once he found it, he turned it over to Vince for restoration.

Vince Cirelli was so intrigued by this instrument, that he completely dismantled it and rebuilt it from scratch. When he finished, the instrument was like a new accordion with a very different and rich sound coming from the bass side. In fact, Vince said that he would love to build one with this different reed setup. **Carl Fortina**, who had searched for this accordion of his beloved friend, was ecstatic with the restoration, and promised Vince that when he masters the left hand piano keys, he will come to our club to perform on this wonderful sounding instrument. And that may be in **March of 2006**. So mark your calendars and watch your newsletter for further information. And once again, our **Vince Cirelli** has proved the great artist and craftsman, bringing back to life yet another vintage jewel of our accordion world—and he's OURS!!! Thank you Vince! DS & VTK



Vince Cirelli, Carl Fortina and the restored Cellini accordion



*Two old friends, Carl Fortina and Harry Gay
(Harry has always considered Carl to be his Mentor)*



*Pres. Peter Di Bono and Carl Fortina
(Note the piano keyboard on the left hand)*



*The Whole Gang: Marian Kelly, Joe Smiell, John Puppo, Val Kieser, Ed Massolo
Back row from center: Rosemary Armanino, Don Garibaldi, John Marquette,
Harry Gay, Carl Fortina, Vince Cirelli
(Peter Di bono arrived after this photo was taken)*

**THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE OF
THE SFAC NEWSLETTER
IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY SENT IN
YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES
FOR 2005-2006!**

**\$25 single; \$30 couple or family at one
address! Mail to SFAC, P.O. Box 318175,
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175**

New Address for Maestro Tony Galla-Rini

The Maestro has moved once again. He is very close to his son and daughter-in-law, Ron and Jan Gallarini. They request that any mail for the Maestro be mailed to them directly and they will pass it on to Tony.

The Address: Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini; 9185 Stone Canyon Road; Corona, CA 93885. You are requested to call Ron and Jan when you want to see Tony, and they will tell you where you can visit him. They often have him over to their home, so you might meet him there. Phone (951) 277-2105.

Hint: Tony Galla-Rini's 103rd birthday is January 18, 2006.



ACE Ensemble at Mt. Carmel School 12-12-05

**IN COMING MONTHS LOOK FOR SOME
TERRIFIC PROGRAMS**

In January:

JOE DOMITROWICH from Cupertino and
MIKE AND STEVE TRUCCO from the Valley

And in February:

TOM BRUNO from Pennsylvania!!

He'll play for our meeting, and talk to us about Charles Magnante, and whatever else we might throw at him!

also:

MIKE MAROTTA, BOTH SR. AND JR.

And violinist DAVE DALLY!!

They enthralled us last time, and will again!

Then, in March (hopefully)

CARL FORTINA playing the vintage Cellini accordion that Vince Cirelli restored (see page 3)



Kids' Letters to God

* "Dear God, Are you really invisible or is that just a trick? Lucy"

* "Dear God: Did you mean for giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? Norma"

* Dear God, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones why don't you just keep the ones you got now? Jane"

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**SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice Scheduled to
Recommence in January!**

PLAYERS WILL BE NOTIFIED as to day, time and location
First and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Info: Val Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtacc@value.net

SFAC Band Practice

Second and Fourth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Hope Lutheran Church, 55 San Fernando Way, In Daly City

Call first!: Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

**Your Club's ACE Ensemble and "Fun Band"
Having a Busy Season!**

Since ACE's performance for the Fédération des Alliances Françaises this past October, it has performed a very well-received concert for the Amici Club in Mt. View, gave a mini-concert for the kids at Mt. Carmel School, and will be playing for our club on Dec. 18 and for the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church on Jan. 6. (Photos pages 4 and 9)

The Fun Band performed to an enthusiastic, singing crowd of kids at Hope Lutheran Church School on Dec. 9 and will also be performing for our club on Dec. 18.

Come and join in ...

San Francisco Accordion Club

Our New Home and New Meeting Schedule!!

Since February 2005 the SFAC meets on the

Third Sunday of the month

2:00 p.m. South San Francisco Senior Center in

The South San Francisco Municipal Building

33 Arroyo Drive, South San Francisco

For Info call any board member.

East Bay Accordion Circle

Meets the THIRD TUESDAY of the month 7:30 p.m.

1540 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Bring your accordion!

For information call (510) 548-2822

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month

Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma

For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

Golden State Accordion Club

Vacaville Chapter Meets 7 PM

the second Tuesday of the month

Moose Hall, 6585 Gibson Canyon Road

Sacramento Chapter meets 7 PM

the fourth Wednesday

at Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento

For information call (707) 864-2359

Northern California Accordion Society

Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month

Venita Rhea's Restaurant, 4415 Granite Dr., #1500, Rocklin, CA

Info: Call Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

Good Time Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday
of the month

Community Center

1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon

For information call (209) 545-3603

Medford Accordion Club

Contact: Joe Zajac, 424 Girard Dr., Medford, OR 97504;

(541) 779-3420 or zajac@aol.com

South Bay Accordion Jam

Third Sunday of the month 2:00 p.m.

Location of meeting varies; for info call

Victor Corsiglia (408) 554-6275 or

Bill Tapogna (408) 984-5290.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

Meets on the first Sunday of the Month

2:00 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau Restaurant

390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

(between 280 and Stevens Creek Blvd.)

For Info Phone (408) 270-5003

Our Sincere Thanks

***To those who have generously donated to the Club
this year. Recent donations that your Editor has heard about:***

Anonymous Donor

Peter Di Bono

Paul Pasquale (accordion straps)

Mike Zampiceni (accordion)

Ivan Sarkany

Frank Montoro

Lee Woodall

Sundi O'Mara

Bruce Kirschner, M.D.

Dennis Stoscher (mike cable)

Ed Zaro

Herb Meier

Al Monti

Al Puppo

Upcoming Events

June 23-25, 2006

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

Leavenworth, WA

Info: Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce (509) 548-5807

Or Events@leavenworth.org

July 23-28, 2006

GALLA-RINI ACCORDION CAMP!!

On the beautiful campus of Dominican University

In San Rafael

Musical Director is our own Joe Smiell

Contact Gwyn Lister (415) 924-3202 listergj@peoplepc.com

Or Victor Corsiglia (408) 554-6275 vic3458@pacbell.net

(See article on first page by Vic Corsiglia)

July 10-15

Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Festival

And Championships, Kimberley, B.C., Canada

info@kiotac.ca www.kiotac.ca (250) 427-4547

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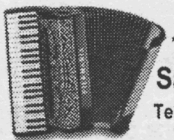
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 Email - paul@accordioninfo.com



* "Opera — A form of entertainment where there is always too much singing."
Claude Debussy

* "My greatest teacher was not a vocal coach, not the work of other singers, but the way Tommy Dorsey breathed and phrased on the trombone."
Frank Sinatra

* "Wherever there is good music there is harmony. Wherever there is harmony there are good citizens."
J. Hampton Moore



Word Has It . . .

. . . That **Michael Sanossian** had successful knee surgery. Painful but I'm sure he'll be glad he did it.
 . . . That **Vince Cirelli** has a birthday this month and we wish him the best ever!
 . . . That Pres. **Al Monti** of the Arizona Accordion Club landed in the hospital recently but is on the mend. We wish you the best, Al!
 . . . That Val failed to give credit to **Vinny Rinaldi** for his valuable help in decorating our Columbus Day float. So, thanks Vinny!
 . . . That we overlooked printing the promised photo of **Morgani** in the last issue. So here it is, with my apologies to Morgani!



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**The SFAC thanks Hunan Yuan restaurant
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PLEASE REMEMBER TO LEAVE THE MEETING HALL CLEAN AND FREE OF FOOD, PAPER PLATES, NAPKINS, CANS BOTTLES, ETC. !!!!

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The SFAC thanks the Mariposa Argentine Tango Club for putting on a great show at our club picnic



ACE Ensemble at Amici Club in mt. View 12-5-05

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SFAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual; \$30 per year for a family
Mail check to S.F.A.C.
P.O. Box 318175
San Francisco, CA 94131-8175
Admission to Meetings: \$5.00

Ad Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$10.00; a half-page ad will cost \$20.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$35.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$20. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

SFAC Officers

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Vice President: Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938
Treasurer: Robert Hansen (650) 756-3547
rhansen50@sbcglobal.net
Secretary: Rosemary Armanino
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Directors for 2005-2006
Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208
James Firpo (415) 648-3674
Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net
Ed Massolo (650) 589-8409
massolo612@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser



NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, December 18, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO SENIOR CENTER
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

33 ARROYO DRIVE, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO

From El Camino: one block north of Westborough; turn West



Newsletter of the
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