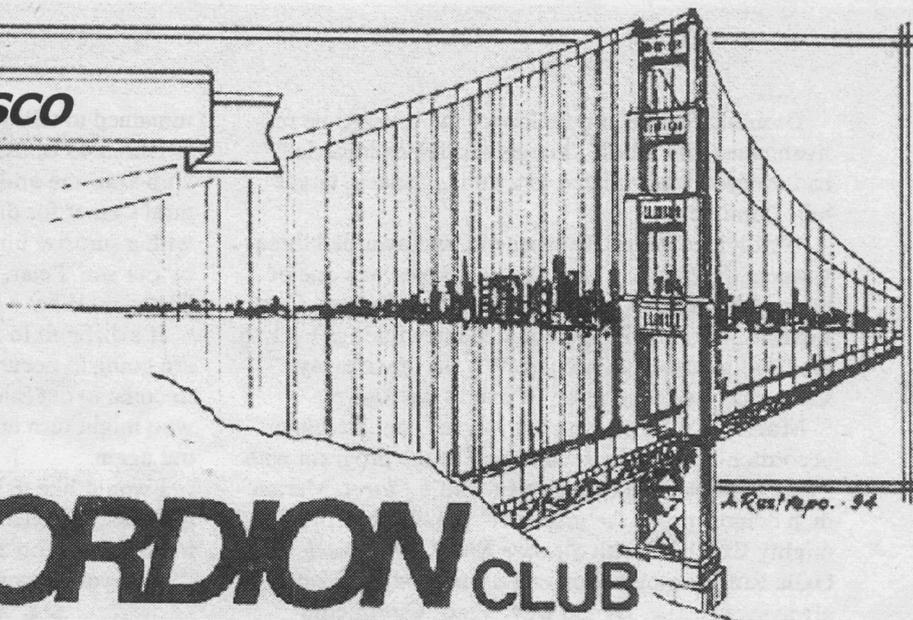


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



ACCORDION CLUB

October 2004

The Accordion: San Francisco's Official Instrument



President's Message

I hope you came to the last meeting; it was one of the best ever. Over 125 accordion lovers packed the clubhouse, and they were not disappointed. The new

2:00 pm start time seems perfect - Sunday morning activities are over, and there is a leisurely afternoon ahead to enjoy some great music. It may have been me, and the secret I had been keeping for the last five weeks (more of that later), but there seemed to be a lot more excitement than usual. People seemed friendlier than usual too. One of our members told me later that she sensed a feeling of warmth and closeness among the members that she hadn't experienced before. She said she liked that, and so do I.

The meeting got under way with the **Lou Casalnuovo** Quartet. Lou and clarinetist **Sam Farano**, played some wonderful harmonies that reminded me of the Ernie Felice sound of years ago. **Dave Lario** on bass, and **Marc Hinchman** on drums joined them on these tasty arrangements of some great jazz standards. *Idaho* and *There's No You* are wonderful tunes not heard often, but Lou's renditions will surely bring them to the fore.

San Francisco jazzman, **Dave Baioni**, came on next and treated us to some special arrangements. Joining Dave was clarinetist, **Vince Aguiar**, who also did a great job on flute. **Marc Hinchman** on drums filled out the trio. Dave's hobby is the study of martial arts, and he is a holder of the coveted black belt.

Continued on page 2

DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING

Sunday, October 10

Featuring

Ed Burgle

*from the North Bay;
Our Own One & Only*

Vince Cirelli

Our Own Don Nurisso

*And a special treat
from Milwaukee*

Sarah Kozar and

Don Turner

of the Riverwest Accordion Club

**NEXT MEETING: Sunday, October 10, 2004 1:30 p.m.
MOOSE LODGE DALY CITY**

Dominic Palmisano took over the break-time refreshments, did a little "loaves and fishes miracle," and everyone was treated to a midday snack. Great job, Dominic.

We divided the raffle proceeds, and awarded three winners. Needless to say, **George Alves** was one of them. Another was our special guest performer, **Carl Fortina**, who graciously donated his winnings back to the Club's Scholarship Fund. We also gave away some CDs, and plan more of that in the future.

Marian Kelly, playing her magnificent Excelsior accordion, started the second half of the program with a sizzling rendition of Pietro Frosini's *Floret*. Marian then demonstrated the orchestral possibilities of the mighty Excelsior with *Swanee River*, *Desafinado*, and Galla Rini's arrangement of *Fascination*; Marian is always a favorite. By the way, Vince Cirelli completely overhauled her accordion about two years ago, and Marian says the accordion is better now than when it was new.

Dr. Harry ("Painless Harry") **Gay** then joined with our special guest, **Carl Fortina**, and soon had everyone delighted with their renditions of some accordion favorites. They took turns, one playing melody and the other harmony and fills, and just kept throwing it back and forth that way. It's amazing that those wonderfully musical arrangements just happen, improvised on the spot; "That Doggie In The Window" tickled everyone.

Carl Fortina then played solo, and mesmerized the audience with *Tico Tico*, *Here's That Rainy Day*, and a dizzily agile performance of John Pezzolo's *Flying Butterflies*. Carl finished up his performance with the title song from the blockbuster movie, *The Godfather* in which he is the accordionist in the original soundtrack. Everyone wanted more, but Carl wanted it to end there, on that very high note.

It wasn't over, however. Unbeknownst to Carl, and while Marian Kelly was performing, Dominic Palmisano secretly ushered into the back of the clubhouse, our very special guest visitor disguised in sunglasses and a baseball cap with his collar pulled up. After getting everyone's attention, and introducing **Byrne Newhart** and **Bob Markeson**, two great Bay Area musicians, I noted that Carl Fortina is such an important person in the musical world, having performed in over 600 movies, and countless television, radio, and commercial spots, that one of the greatest jazz accordionists in the world--and in fact, some say he invented jazz accordion--was present in the audience. At that point Carl Fortina, had an inquisitive look about him which turned to disbelief, when the great **Art Van Damme** came forward from the back of the clubhouse to thank Carl for his many years of dedication to the accordion. The two shared a warm embrace and some quick stories on the stage. Both of these greats

remained to talk with our members, and take pictures.

About 45 of us, including special guests **Carl Fortina**, **Art Van Damme** and wife **Lory**, then went to The Basque Cultural Center for dinner, and more fun. The evening concluded with a surprise birthday cake for my wife **Victoria**, presented by our son, Peter, while **Ron Borelli** and I played Happy Birthday. What a day!

It's difficult to assess in advance when these great events are going to occur because they are so spontaneous. I urge you to come to our Sunday meetings regularly, and who knows who might turn up one of these days. You won't want to miss out again.

I would like to hear from you if you have any ideas, or suggestions, to better our club; in the meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you on September 12th at 2:00 pm.

Play your accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

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September Meeting a Smash Hit

Having delayed my (Val's) trip to Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp in the Sierras just for this meeting, I was *not* disappointed! What an afternoon!

When I walked in, a bit on the late side, **Lou Casalnuovo** and his combo "Sons of the Beach" were playing some nice light jazz. The combo was Lou (accordion), **Sam Farano** (clarinet), **Marc Hinchman** (drums), **Dave Lario** (bass).



Lou Casalnuovo

played *The Jolly Caballero*, *Canadian Capers* and *Beautiful Days*.

We hadn't heard **Marian Kelly** in too long a time, so I was particularly glad to hear her play for us again. She played *Florette* (Frosini waltz), the title song from *Out of Africa*, a Galla-Rini arrangement of *Desafinado* (Out of Tune), *Fascination*, and an extremely clever "fancy" version of *Swanee River*, containing some new and fascinating harmonies.



Ed & Frank

Right in the middle of Marian's performance the drawing was held. This time we had several winners to split the take (45-30-10): **George Alves**, **Carl Fortina** (our star for the day and who generously donated his winnings back to the club), and **Ray Abinanti**.

Carl Fortina, a native San Franciscan, has played in over 600 movies over 40



Marian Kelly

years, plus TV commercials, jingles, *Godfather I*. (Now **Frank Marocco** has taken over these big jobs.) **Harry Gay** spoke up, saying



Carl Fortina & Harry Gay

Carl has been a hero of his for many years, and Harry finally got to meet his hero about a year and a half ago. Harry and Carl played several numbers together, including *Tick-Tock Polka*, *O Marie* (in waltz time and then in cut time), Harry's trademark yodel *Iupali* with variations including *How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?* that was hilarious.

Then Carl played some numbers alone, starting with the ever-popular, fast and precise *Tico-Tico*. Others included *Flying Butterfly*, *Moonlight Becomes You/But Beautiful* and the theme from *Godfather*.



Vince Aguiar, Marc Hinchman, Dave Baione

not to be recognized. It was a beautiful and emotional surprise meeting between two great men who had admired each other for many, many years: **Carl Fortina** and **Art Van Damme!!!** Wow! What a meeting!

If this was not enough to blow everyone away, there was a real surprise still to come: The One and Only **Art Van Damme** had snuck into the room trying



Jim Hillman, Domenic Saso, Art Van Damme, George Alves



Art & Lory Van Damme

I unfortunately had to miss the gala dinner held afterward, so will let Pres. Peter report on that (see President's Message).

Val

Your Executive Board Met . . .

. . . On Tuesday, September 7, 2004. We'll continue with the Sunday meetings at least three more times and then decide whether to make it permanent.

Discussion of items we might sell for Christmas to make a little money for the club. Peter might give a workshop in November, once he knows what his schedule will be. The board voted to put a \$600 max. ceiling on expenditure for our participation in the Columbus Day Parade. Membership renewals will be coming in soon, which will raise our bank balances. All agreed that Dominic Palmisano is doing an outstanding job as Treasurer.

Word Has It . . .

. . . That **Jim Hillman** is recovering from a recent heart attack. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

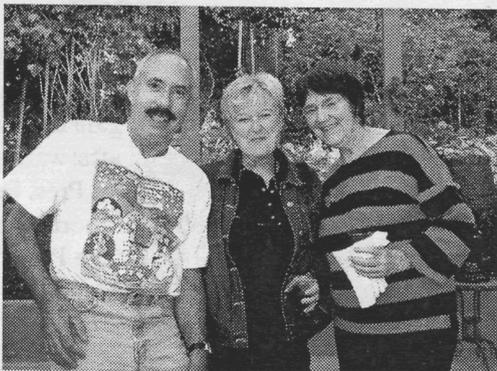
. . . That **Bart Beninco** has had a recent hospital stay, while his mom is still recovering from a recent operation. We wish them both a rapid recovery.

. . . That **Ed Zaro**, our intrepid videographer, recently turned **96!!!** Congrats, Ed! Keep up the good work!

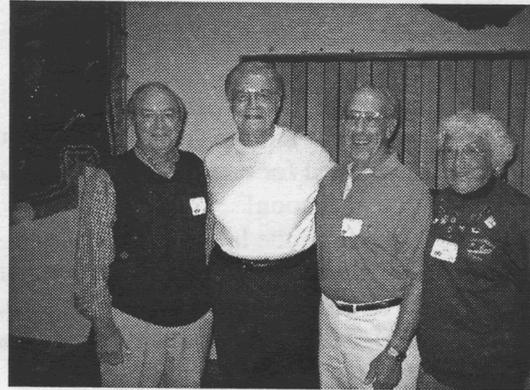
. . . That SFAC member **John Wesley Hollowell** of Memphis, Tennessee is interested in hearing of any accordionists who play gospel music. Call Val if you need his address for this purpose.

. . . That **Dennis and Elna Stoscher** hosted a fabulous party Sept. 19 for the Silicon Valley Accordion Society, at their beautiful Belmont home. What a perfect setup they have for such a party, with terraces at different levels, allowing lots of "rooms" for different accordion playing and jamming groups. Thanks, Dennis and Elna, it was just great! (See photo below)

. . . That **Aldo Argenti** had two important pals at the September meeting, both of whom went to high school with **Carl Fortina**: Aldo's cousin **Al Scaccalossi**, who played in the Balboa High School Jazz Band with Carl, and friend **Al Landi** who also went to Balboa High, so they and Carl were high school buddies. (See photo above opposite)



Frank Lima (a.k.a. The Great Morgani), Patricia Brown and Marian Kelly at Stoschers' party



Al Scaccalossi (Aldo Argenti's cousin), Carl Fortina, Al Landi (old friend of Aldo's) and Rita D'Amico having a great time at the Sept. meeting

OUR SINCERE THANKS

. . . to those who have generously donated to the Club or the Scholarship Fund in 2004. To date, your Editor has learned of the following:

Ed Zaro

Janet Landauer

Clyde Forsman

Johan and Sheila Gullmes

Joe Smiell

LynnEwing

Mark Zhagel

George Chavez

Val Kieser

Marlene G. Fullmer

(In honor of Joe Lombardi's 75th Birthday)

Bob Smith

Sundi O'Mara

Bruce Kirschner

[This list will be cumulative throughout the year. If your name slipped by and did not reach the Editor, please contact Val Kieser (510) 531-4836]

Letter to the Editor . . .

"We appreciate the wonderful write-up about Dick Contino's performance at the Cotati Accordion Festival. He plays the accordion with his whole heart and soul. Thank you,

Dick Contino Fan Club Members
Larry and Paula Re"

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Another Accordion Friend Leaves the Business

We've just learned, sadly, that long-time accordion artist, builder and repair man **Steve Navoyosky**, after 51 years of serving our accordion world with first-rate service and accordions, has decided to close. Accordions have been his life, his having been trained as an Excelsior-Giulietti craftsman—but the influx of Ebay accordions into the market has taken its toll on his unique business. Steve has more than 300 accordions for sale, and is more than willing to entertain serious and reasonable offers for his fine accordions. Steve's e-mail is SNAVOYOSKY@NEO.RR.COM. Some of his accordions can be viewed on the Internet at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AFF-Accordionclassifiedads/>. RS

An Effort by Accordionist Peter Desmond to get the Accordion into the Community Music Center of SF

Peter Desmond is trying very hard to get the CMC to offer accordion lessons, but has met with a cool attitude for the most part. He wrote a long, impassioned plea to Catherine Kalin, the President of the CMC Board of Directors, too long to reproduce here. In the letter he cited the importance of the accordion in Mexican (mariachi) music and Latin American music as well as classical and other types of music and venues. He also cited the richness and versatility of the accordion. He enclosed some CD's of fine accordion music, including teenage virtuoso Sammy who was at Cotati. He did receive an encouraging response from Ann Smith, the CMC Director of Promotion.

Peter Desmond would like to make it known that his hope now is to have as many as possible of those interested in accordion lessons call the CMC and express their interest. The telephone number of the CMC is (415) 647-6015.

Don't forget . . .
If you haven't already sent in
your membership renewal,
please do so right away —
Your club needs
your support!
(Membership info on page 7)

!!!

Welcome New Member

Frank VanderZwan of Menlo Park

Frank is Pastor of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, and an accordion player, and we welcome

A Worthwhile Visit

Do go and visit **Kimric Smythe's Accordion Center**, 449B—23rd St. (near Broadway) in Oakland (see ad on back

page). Dick Schiller and I visited Kimric a few days ago. Since Boaz' departure, Kimric is picking up a lot of the slack. He has a very good selection of accordions



Kimric Smythe, Smythe's Accordion Center in Oakland

of all types and brands, as

well as racks and racks of accordion music of all levels. He also does repairs and is a Weltmeister dealer.

Kimric frequently hosts accordionists playing all types of music, and last Saturday he hosted a show by **Jason Webley** from Seattle, well known in younger circles, part avant-garde, part-folk musician who plays several different instruments, including accordion and guitar, which he played Saturday night. Announcing one of his pieces, Jason asked the audience whether they wanted him to play it on guitar or accordion, and they shouted "**Accordion**"!! (These were ALL young people!) The audience was varied, from completely

conservative to semi-punk. Jason is an affable and gregarious young man with a lot of music inside him. It was an interesting experience to watch his one-man show, which included some comedy, some drama, and lots of music.



Jason Webley at Smythe's

On several occasions, Jason spoke directly to us, as representatives of the SF Accordion Club—in fact, during the show, Jason suddenly jumped off the stage and ran to the

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Photo thanks to Rosemary Armanino

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(650) 359-3549 nurisso@sirius.com

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(415) 587-4423 accordion@comcast.net

Secretary: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 vtacc@value.net

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Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

Scott Williamson (408) 553-7519

Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 vtacc@value.net

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: Members \$3, Guests \$5

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.

Accordion Teacher Listings

San Francisco/North Peninsula

Peter Di Bono
Theory/Technique/Performance
(415) 753-1502

Dominic Palmisano
(415) 587-4423 accordion@comcast.net

Lou Soper
Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m.
Moose Club, Colma/Daly City (510) 841-6745

Sharon Walters All levels (415) 621-8284

North Bay

Steve Albini
Marin/Sonoma
Private (415) 897-4131

Domenic Saso
Accordion or Piano, Jazz or Classical
Petaluma (707) 773-1384

Bart Beninco
Accordion and Piano
Petaluma (707) 769-8744

Marjorie Konrad
Button Box, Piano Accordion & Chromatic
Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

East Bay

Valarie Morris
Group & Private; Theory, Technique,
Composition; all levels/ages
(510) 222-8442

Lou Jacklich
Private Lessons; Technique,
Arranging & Chords (510) 317-9510

Henri Ducharme
(Oakland) (510) 763-1179

Peninsula & South Bay

Lynn Ewing
All levels/ages
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Marian Kelly
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Individual need
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Ron Borelli
Theory, Technique, and Performance
(650) 574-5707

Mike Zampiceni
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BA and MA in music
(408) 734-1565

Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

Irving Cardoza (408) 264-9755

Come and join in ...

San Francisco Accordion Club

Beginning August 2004, on a trial basis

The SFAC will meet on the

Second Sunday of the Month 1:30 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma

For information call Val (510) 531-4836

Website: www.sfaccordionclub.org

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.

in 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

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

Website: www.SVASociety.com

SFAC Ensemble Practice *New Days!*

First and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

Call first!: Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757

SFAC Band Practice *New Days!*

Second and Fourth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

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

Who Is Playing Where

Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio

Playing Sept.9 at Guglielmo Winery for the Santa Clara
County/Province of Florence, Italy, Medici Award Barbecue

Playing Sept.15 Lake Sonoma Winery, Healdsburg 5-8 p.m.

Playing Sept.19 Campo DiBocce

benefit for Day School noon-4 p.m.

Playing Sept. 24 Armida Winery, Healdsburg 6-9 p.m.

For info call Reno (408) 252-3808

Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA

Annual Oktoberfest at Joan & Peter's German Restaurant

322 Third St., San Juan Bautista 12 Sept. noon- 5 p.m.

Small wooden dance floor; Reservations (831) 623-4521

Admission includes excellent dinner by Chef Peter

Oktoberfest at Tyrolean Inn, 9600 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond, 6:30-10 pm

Oktoberfest at Wolfe Creek, OR Oct. 1, 2 and 3

For more info call Joe (408) 255-1259

The Internationals Teske's Germania,

255 N. First St., San Jose; call (408) 292-0291

Mike Zampiceni plays on Saturday nights

at Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant

2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose

And on Friday nights at Bellagio,

33 S. Central Ave. in Campbell (408) 370-7705.

For reservations call (408) 377-5850

William DeMichelis plays on Friday and Saturday nights

at the Elbe German and European restaurant

117 University Avenue, Palo Alto. Call (650) 321-3319

or visit www.elbe-restaurant.com

Steve Balich, Sr. Band [info: (707) 874-3494]

Steve Albini at NBICF "Festa Italiana"

Sunday, October 10, Santa Rosa Veterans' Building

Info call Jeanette Mitchel (707) 591-9696 or nbicf@sonic.net.

Steve Albini will also play at Cal-Italia Restaurant 19209 Sonoma

Highway, Sonoma Monday, October 11 6:00-9:00 p.m. This is a

casual restaurant with great food and bocce court and gardens.

Info (707) 938-1449

Steve Albini also regularly appears at Piccolino's Italian Café, 1385

Napa Town Center (First Street). Info (707) 251-0100 or

www.piccolinoscafe.com

Tom Torriglia's Bella Ciao band will play Saturday, Oct. 23

9:30 p.m. at the famous Purple Onion, 140 Columbus Ave. at Pacific

in SF's North Beach. Info (415) 956-1653. \$10 at the door..

More info: (415) 440-0800 or www.ladyofspain.com/bellacioa.html

Big Lou's Polka Casserole will play Sat., Oct. 16 2-5 p.m. at Little

Switzerland's Oktoberfest, Grove St. at Riverside in Sonoma; also

Thurs. Oct. 21 8:30-10:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz, 1319 San Pablo in

Berkeley; \$9 cover; and Sat. Oct. 23 1-5 p.m. "Biketoberfest" in

Fairfax at Fair/Anselm Plaza on Center Blvd. in Fairfax.

Rick Corrigan and the Pickpocket Ensemble will perform Friday,

October 29 at 9:00 p.m. at Red Poppy Gallery, 2698 Folsom St. at 23rd

(Mission District) San Francisco (415) 826-2402



Quote submitted by Robert L. Smith

By Carl Philippe Emanuel Bach in his book,

"Essay on the True Art of Playing Keyboard Instruments," first published in 1753: "More is lost by incorrect fingering than can be compensated for by all the art and good taste in the world."

Regarding Our SFAC Musical Groups

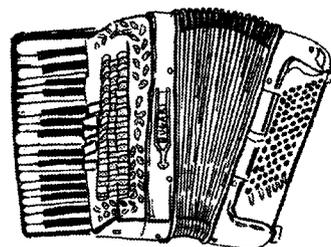
All our club groups continue to do well! The **ACE Ensemble** is working on its fall concert repertoire and will be performing at the **Silicon Valley Accordion Society** meeting December 5, and will present a concert at the Zion Lutheran Church in Piedmont on Nov. 7. The **ACE Ensemble**, the **SFAC Ensemble** and the **SFAC Fun Band** (a.k.a. San Francisco Accordion Band) will perform at the December 12 meeting.

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