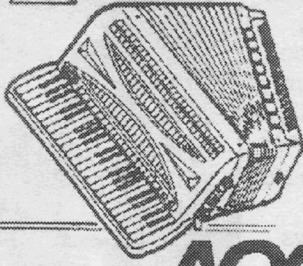


Newsletter of the

SAN FRANCISCO



ACCORDION CLUB October 2006



Happy Halloween



Happy Halloween

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President's Message

Fall is here, it's time start getting ready for the holidays. A musician gets busier now than all the rest of the year, and preparing Christmas music is at the top of my list. One of my favorite holiday tunes is whimsical composer Leroy Anderson's masterpiece, *Sleigh Ride*. The arrangement I have is by the Pietro Deiro Company and it follows the composer's original piano



score exactly. It is no mean feat to perform, and I will begin re-learning it this coming week in order to have it ready for the Christmas season.

I approach a new piece of music by getting familiar with the left hand first, and even though I have played *Sleigh Ride* for years, it has a left hand that is both very musical and very difficult. There are one-measure passages in the piece that I have gone over and over dozens of times, and it's still anyone's guess if I will be able to play them correctly at a performance.

Speaking of performances, last week I went out to St. Helena to play a wedding. I found a great parking spot right in front of the church, arriving one hour before my downbeat in order to have time to change my clothes and get ready for the ceremony. The church didn't have a place for me to change, so, as musicians often do, I decided to change in my car. The area was free of passersby so I quickly changed into my tuxedo shirt, black socks, and after making sure no one was around, I began to change my pants. Well, just as I was past the point of no return, a loud school bell rang out, and almost immediately the sidewalk near my car was filled with school children head-

OCTOBER 15 MEETING

2:00 p.m. sharp!

Bruce Kirschner accompanied by teacher Ron Borelli; Ron Borelli and his sister, vocalist Carole Borelli; The Great Morgani in full glory and costume; Sharon Greyhosky; and last but by no means least, 6-year-old Isaac Teich!

ing for home. So there I was, hat in hand, so to speak. I was thinking what the headlines on the 6 o'clock news would be: "RETIRED POLICE OFFICER CAUGHT..." Happily, I was able to rectify the situation without any embarrassing complications.

Our September meeting was filled with great entertainers from around the country, and October is shaping up to be a real winner too.

Congratulations to **Vince Cirelli** on the birth of great granddaughter, **Victoria Marie**. **John Gullmes** and **Marja** tied the knot recently, and we wish them many happy years together.

Please consider bringing some sort of dessert when you come to the meeting.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME, SO PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THAT IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY

We are still seeking a new Club Secretary, so someone step up and give me a call (415) 753-1502.

I look forward to seeing you on October 15, 2:00 pm. Play that accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

Wanted

Items for the newsletter! Send me your articles: on playing tips, technique, accordion history, music theory (not too complicated!), accordion history, events, photos—whatever might be of interest for the newsletter.

Call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net.

Visit us at our new Website www.sfaccordionclub.com

September Meeting: An all-Star Show!

Pre-meeting music was by Yours Truly, and I hope it was enjoyable. Pres. Peter announced that **Vince Cirelli** is a **great-grandfather** for the second time! Congrats Vince and family! And still more congratulations to newlyweds **Marja and Johan Gullmes** of Half Moon Bay.

First on the musical program was **Tom Bruno** from Pennsylvania, who always knocks our socks off. Tom played a Mario Mosti arrangement of *Stardust*, which he dedicated to **Gus Greyhosky**; followed by a Magnante arrangement of *Gay Ranchero*, known to Spanish speakers as *Las Alteñitas*; a Magnante composition, *Green Light, Mancito*, a paso doble by Pietro Deiro; *La Marioposita*, a Pietro Frosini composition; Magnante's *Waltz Allegro* and *Flying Saucers*; a Mario Mosti arrangement of *Moonlight in Vermont*; the Magnante arrangement of *Twelfth Street Rag*; *El*



Tom Bruno

Cabrilo (Little Goat) by Pietro Deiro; and a special Magnante arrangement of *A Man and a Woman*. The crowd demanded an encore, which was Magnante's arrangement of *Carnival of Venice*. As always, Tom demonstrated not only mind-boggling technique, but excellent bellow control and amazing use of the bass.

Tom talked a bit about Magnante and also his CD's (for sale), of which he played some clips from Magnante on the Jack Burch show and also *Magnante Revisited*, including *Magnante speaking!* Wow, it was fascinating and the audience was mesmerized.

The next performers in our all-star show were **Bonnie Birch** (accordion) and **Nick Heiting** (guitar and vocal), from Seattle. Bonnie and Nick have been playing together for 11 years. Bonnie arranges the music for accordion and guitar, or they work out their arrangements together. Bonnie is strongly influenced by Galla-Rini in some of her arrangements, including *Danse Macabre* and *Danse Bohème* (see below). Bonnie actually knew and had a lesson with Charles Magnante!

Here is what they played: *Swiss March* by Walter Wild, a "feel-good song"; *Style Musette*, a French waltz; an abbreviated version of *Danse Macabre* by Saint-Saens; Cole Porter's *I Love Paris* from *Can-Can*, with vocal by Nick in both German and English; *Toreador Song* from Bizet's *Carmen*. An interesting note here is that Bizet lived only to 38. *Carmen* made its debut the year Bizet died, 1875, so he never saw his opera become a success.

Bonnie and Nick continued with *It Had Better Be Tonight* from *The Pink Panther*, with vocal by Nick.

At this point we had the break (great food as always!) and the raffle (Vinny Rinaldi and Aldo Argenti were two of

the drawing winners).

After the break, Bonnie and Nick continued in a Western mode, with a medley of *Apache/Ghost Riders in the Sky*, where you could hear, in *Apache*, the arrows whizzing by, as beautifully and cleverly depicted by Nick on a guitar string. Next we heard *Hello, Young*



Bonnie Birch and Nick Heiting

Lovers (a favorite of mine), with Nick doing the vocal, in which Bonnie did some very interesting combining of chords in the left hand for an unusual effect. They moved on to the Swing Era with a swing version of *Petite Fleur* (Sidney Bichet), with what I believe was some rumba rhythm in the middle; *Vanessa* by Bernie Wayne, in which Bonnie used *every button on the bass side*, with very clever rhythm and bass progression. Their last number was *Danse Bohème*, also from Bizet's *Carmen*, which Bonnie adapted from a Galla-Rini arrangement.

It was a tough act to follow, but Pres. Peter Di Bono took the stage next. Peter announced that his dad, **Tony**, celebrated his 89th birthday yesterday and that his mom, **Celine**, celebrated her 88th the week before! Peter first played several pieces solo, including a French waltz medley, a beautiful piece called *Nuages* (Clouds) by Django

Reinhardt; *Je Te Veux* by Eric Sate; and *Fascination* including the middle part which few people know, dedicated to his mom. He also played his own arrangement of Astor Piazzollo's beautiful *Chiquilin de Bachin*.

At this point Peter informed us that his wife **Victoria** had an unfortunate encounter with a truck yesterday that left her badly shaken but with no broken bones. What a scare!

Peter was then joined



Peter Di Bono

by his lovely operatic signer, **Linda Wenstrand**, whose husband Jack was also in the audience. Linda sang *Con Te Partiro* (Time to Say Goodbye), popularized by Andrea Bocelli; *Ti Voglio Tanto Bene*, the signature song of great Italian tenor Beniamino Gigli; *La Danza* by Rossini, with a galloping rhythm; and last, George Gershwin's *Embraceable You*.

What a program! What a show! You just can't beat the SFAC programs!

Val

(More photos on next page)



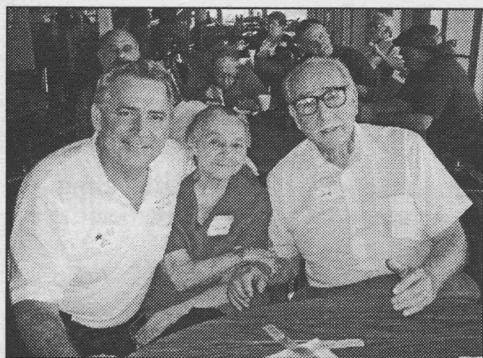
Peter Di Bono and Linda Wenstrand



Pre-Meeting Music by Val



Welcome Table



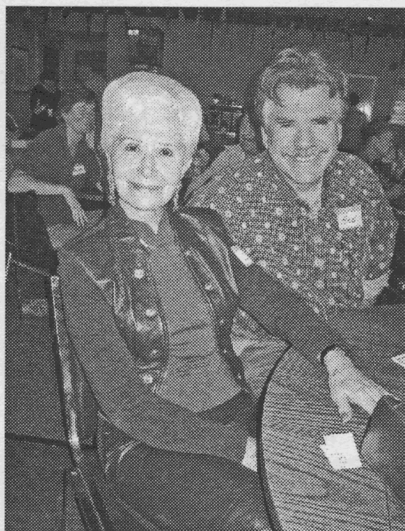
Peter Di Bono and parents Celine and Tony



Placida and George Chávez, Ernst Angst, Sue Hirigoyen



Nick Heiting, Bonnie Birch, Ed Massolo, Tom Bruno



Treasurer Bob Hansen and his mom Lydia



People having a great time!

*Thanks to Anne Métais for
Cat & Mouse Ensemble Cartoon* →



Notes from former Pres. Bob Berta in Michigan

I am the board member in charge of entertainment for the accordion club but mainly lead the jam sessions. We have gotten quite a lot of people participating in them now as part of each meeting.

They have mentioned getting me into an officer position in the accordion club but am resisting it as I think I can do more in my existing role. Plus, being a newcomer to Michigan I don't know as many people in the club as long-time members. The accordion group at meetings is partially a jam session but we also have a large ensemble that plays very advanced music. They are working on the complete *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* for Mozart's birthday. It was led by the late Lana Gore and was similar to the ACE group, although has more members, and we now have another conductor. We also have a smaller group that I am working with that is learning how to play ensemble music sort of like the SFAC ensemble (not ACE).

I miss Joe and the Ensemble so much. Those in the SF club who are in the ensembles he leads should know what a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity they have learning from such a fabulous musician.

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Welcome New Members

A hearty WELCOME to . . .

Bruno Bianchini of Santa Clara who delighted us all with his playing at the August meeting. Bruno plays piano accordion and loves "Oldies."

Mel Cohen of Napa, who also participated in the Galla-Rini camp this year. Mel also attended and joined at our September meeting. He plays piano accordion and enjoys European music and "standards."

Joan Grauman of Potomac, MD
Joan is well known to those of us who attended Galla-Rini camp this year, and also as co-owner, with husband Dan, of *SqueezinArt* accordion products and novelties. Both are absolutely delightful people.

Blanche Milner of Modesto, CA, who joined at our September meeting. Blanche enjoys mostly lively polka music.

Richard Selfridge of Camarillo, CA, who was born and raised in the Bay Area. "I attended the Galla-Rini camp this year and met so many of your members, nice people and a lot of fun to be with." Well, we enjoyed meeting YOU, too, Richard, and hope we'll get to see you from time to time!

To Bruno, Mel, Joan, Blanche and Richard: a hearty WELCOME ABOARD!! We're delighted to have you.

One of many letters sent to the ACE Ensemble following their recent performance at the Farallone View School

ANOTHER ACCORDION CAMP??

You bet!! The **Marocco-Ballarini Accordion Camp**,
January 24-28, 2007

This camp will be held at the Best Western Dobson Ranch Inn & Resort, Mesa, Arizona. The camp will feature daily orchestra rehearsals led by composer/performer/conductor Frank Marocco. The orchestra will be featured in a public performance on Saturday evening. There will also be workshops and nightly performances or parties. The cost of the camp includes all activities, meals, and spacious accommodations. Participation limited to 50 players (no limit on non-players). Double occupancy (2 queen beds) \$565 per playing participant. Single occupancy: \$785 per playing participant. Other types of accommodations at comparable rates.

For Info Call (301) 279-8716

or e-mail marocco-ballarini@comcast.net

For info including photos of the site visit www.frankmarocco.com

Word Has It . . .

. . . That SFAC member **Ralph Muscatell** had successful surgery on his rotator cuff. Way to go, Ralph!

. . . That SFAC member **Father Joe Baccellieri** also is recovering from some serious but successful surgery and was able to participate in a grand accordion event in the Northwest early this month.

. . . That **Carmen Vitanza**, member of AAA, NAA, the Florida Accordion Association and the Central Florida Accordion Club, wants everyone to know about his book, **My Accordion, the Music of My Life**, that is not only a memoir and inspirational work, but contains thoughts about the value of a second vocation. Discounted price to club members is \$20 (normally \$23.95), including postage. Foreword by **Art Van Damme**. Write: Carmen Vitanza, 3842 Berkley Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026

. . . That SFAC member **Debbie Stearns** has moved to Magalia, CA, near Chico but loves our club and will remain a member. Debbie is the sister of **Maryanne Romanowski**. Their dad, the late **Ed Romanowski** was also an avid accordion lover and enthusiastic member of our club.

Dear SF Accordion Chamber Ensemble,

I really loved your music it made me happy and giddy, even if I had a bad morning your music lightened my day as if someone finally turned the light on in a grey, dark, sad room. It really encouraged me to play better on my piano so someday I might play as beautiful as you guys.

I really like the way you taught us some things about the accordion while you played. One of my favorite songs was the story one about the Camels, the princess, the jugglers, and so on it really painted a picture in my mind just like one of you said.

I am a 5th grader here and me and most of the other 5th graders are going to a middle school and I'm going to miss those assemblies like yours. Who knows? Maybe there are great assemblies like yours here too but I don't think anyone can beat you guys. Thank You.

from Annie Zell



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Our Sincere Thanks

To those who have generously donated to the Club since the beginning of this year. Donations that your Editor has heard about:

Jim Holliday (in memory of Ed Zaro)
Frances and Dominic Benedetto, Mark Zhagel
Robert Sprugasci (2 Raffle Ticket Scramblers)
Lee and Walt Woodall; Ken Nimmo; Johan and Marja Gullmes; Sue Hirigoyen; Peter Di Bono; Bruce Kirschner
This list is cumulative throughout the calendar year.

Please let me know if you have contributed in 2006 and I did not print it—we want you to be recognized!

AND MORE THANKS . . .

. . . to Michael Sanossian for folding, labeling, stamping and mailing the newsletters; and to all the generous people who brought food to the meeting and helped with the serving. Even if we don't get all the names, your volunteer spirit is much appreciated!

Your Executive Board met . . .

. . . On Monday, 11 September 2006. The Treasurer reported that the club has \$4,119.76 in Checking; \$3,989.42 in Savings; \$1,361.50 in the Scholarship Fund. Our Website is up and running. We will feature The Internationals at our November meeting.

PLEASE NOTE

Club members are welcome at board meetings anytime. Board meetings are generally held at 6:30 p.m. at the Oyster Point Yacht Club on the Monday before a meeting. Always check with a board member (see last page) to confirm date & time if you wish to attend.



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The SF Accordion Club warmly thanks Hunan Yuan Restaurant for offering us a gift certificate for the raffle at the picnic. To thank them we shall run their business-card ad for six months.



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SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

First and Third Wednesday of the month
at Ed Massolo's home, 612 Lassen ST.,
South San Francisco

ON HIATUS—members will be notified when we start up again!

SFAC Band Practice

Starting up Wed., Oct. 11 at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
Band members will be notified and given directions.

Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163
Or Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

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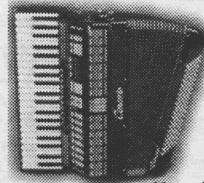
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\$8 for each guest

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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Treasurer: Robert Hansen (650) 756-3547
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NEXT MEETING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15
PROMPTLY AT 2:00 P.M.
OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB



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Oyster Point exit from 101; east on Oyster Point; right on Marina Blvd.,
through gate house to sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club"

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