

February, 2019

Sunday, February 17, 2019

♪ SFAC Accordion Circle! ♪

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE
Chetcuti Community Room — Millbrae, CA
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Please bring your accordion and be ready to have fun for another meeting in the SFAC's **Accordion Circle** bi-monthly format! Just show up to secure your spot in the circle to play together from the SFAC jam book, but be sure to also add your name to the open mic play-list so others can hear what you've been working on. It is a friendly atmosphere, and cheering-on each other musically feels good. Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome - from very beginner, to someone dusting off that accordion in the closet after raising a family or pursuing a career, to the seasoned expert. If you don't play the accordion - come anyway and enjoy the music. There will probably even be a few tunes to sing along with.



January 2019 SFAC event summary

by Ken Schwartz

Our first event of the New Year was a real crowd pleaser with contemporary adaptations of music from the old world by two very talented groups of performers. The event today was ably emceed by club member **Colette Ogata**.

Klezmore Square

This was Klezmore Square's first appearance with our club and how fortunate we were to enjoy their performance of show-stopping contemporary arrangements of old European songs. The group fea-



tures **Claudia Bloom** (violin), **Dan Pitt** (E flat alto horn), **Jeff Wolfeld** (clarinet), **Jennifer Wolfeld** (piano), and **Dr. Daniel Cher** (accordion); all are consummate musicians in addition to their day jobs in Silicon Valley. Please refer to the January newsletter for more details on how the group came about



and their individual musical biographies. The group is from *Congregation Beth Am* of Los Altos Hills and specializes in Klezmer music, which originally derived from Eastern and Central Europe. Many of the



songs are named for their place of origin (e.g., *Bulgar* is from Bulgaria) or artist who popularized them (e.g., *Goldenshteyn*, a famous clarinet player).

The group performed a series of lively tunes derived from Eastern Europe with their own characteristic chord progressions. While the tunes would not be instantly recognizable to most audiences, the performance was so complete with unusual rhythms, harmonics and the Eastern European scale that the audience was captivated by this style and gave a rousing ovation.

The performers fielded questions from the audience on the derivation of Klezmer music and what are known as Freygish scales used in this type of music (some chord progressions are given various names derived from Jewish literature) with frequent use of minor keys. Much Jewish music, including its celebratory music, is written in a minor key. Dan performed today on an E flat alto horn, which is not exactly a traditional Klezmer instrument. Also known in England as an E flat tenor horn, the horn he played today was made for the British coal miners brass bands in 1962 in London; Dan plays it because he loves it!

Songs performed today included *Bulgar No. 18*, *Chase Music Bulgar*, *Bygone Days*, *Goldenshteyn* (named after the famous clarinet player), *Russian Spanish Waltz*, *Expectation Waltz*, *Yikhes* (*Oy, relatives*), *Misirlou*, *Abi Gezunt* (*As long as you're healthy!*), *Pas d'Espagne*, and *Der Heyser Bulgar*.

Thank you to Klezmore Square for entertaining and educating us with lively music, which was enjoyed by all!

Continued on next page ...



They opened with the Italian standard *Funiculi Funiculà*, followed by an *Italian Polka* and then *Ferryboat Serenade*, *Julietta Polka*, *The Theme from the Godfather*, *Oh Marie* (with Reno singing the Italian lyrics), one of Reno's favorites, *Guaglione*, followed



by a *Sicilian Tarantella*, then *Tarantella Napoletana* with great unison between the individual performers, a *Sicilian waltz* followed by an *Italian waltz*, *That's Amore* (also sung by Reno), *On an Evening of Roma* (with Reno singing), *C'e La Luna Mezz'o Mare* (with Giuseppi singing, of course, in Sicilian!), *Volare* (sung in Italian by Reno); *The Woodpecker Polka*, *Motorcycle Polka* with fun harmonies between the individual instruments, *Eh Cumpari* (sung in Italian by Reno); and appropriately, closing with Joe's masterpiece arrangement of *Clarinet Polka*, which he performed allegro, faster and faster as they neared its completion! Congratulations to Giuseppi, 84 years young, on performing this signature piece so ably and beautifully! The trio received a rousing ovation from the audience!

Today's groups were examples of the great American musical melting pot, which reflects some of the many artistic tunes and styles brought from the old country and provided for an afternoon of fun entertainment!

Intermission

Member **Marlene McBride** graciously assisted with the drawing of the intermission raffle tickets. With great skill, she pulled a winning ticket for her hubby, Brian!



The Reno Di Bono Trio

Shifting gears to another old world favorite (Italy, Sicily and Napolitano), today's featured performance group was the **Reno Di Bono Trio**, comprising **Reno Di Bono** (accordion), Sicilian born clarinetist **Giuseppe "Joe" Divittorio**, and **Steve Hanson** on bass. This group has been performing together for a long time (think decades), often working wineries and other events. They love to serenade and bring their special variety of joy to audiences at wineries and Italian fiestas, performing around 100 jobs/year!



The San Francisco Accordion Club

Reflections on 2018 and 2019 Going Forward

As we celebrate the New Year, the SFAC Board would like to update you with a quick review of 2018 and our goals for 2019.

It's now been almost 2 years since we re-located our meetings to the Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room (please see Robert Cooperstein's article in the May, 2017 newsletter), and we hope you have enjoyed this new venue, with its proximity to public transportation, restaurants, and ample parking.

- The club is growing!!! We added 16 new members in 2018!
- A number of accordions were received as bequests and/or gifts to the club. Some have been sold to young students; others are currently being rented out on behalf of the club, so thank you!
- The club remains financially sound, thanks to memberships, generous donations, fundraising efforts such as accordion sales/rentals, our "rummage sale" of donated items at our Cotati 2018 booth, the willingness of so many fine musicians who play for our performance meetings either gratis or for a small stipend, and many of our members who voluntarily perform services and tasks that the club would otherwise have to pay for. Many thanks to Paul Cain and Steve Mobia on sound and Randy Hicks, our webmaster, just to name a few, for their important services to the club.
- Our Millbrae venue continues to serve us well, and we enjoy a positive working relationship with the City of Millbrae. We've just renewed our contract!
- We continue to offer innovative programming and the Accordion Circle has grown in popularity.
- The club sponsored a booth at the 2018 Cotati Accordion Festival, which provided an opportunity for great team bonding, and importantly, it generated new members and good will for the club. We also raised a few hundred dollars, thanks to the effort of the many volunteers who staffed the booth during the 2-day festival
- We offered club T-shirts for the first time in 2018.

2019 Wish List and Goals

- Jam sessions continue to be popular and will be expanded on the months when we have featured performers.
- We look forward to bringing new types of accordion music and introduce new performers to the club. The May 19th, 2019 event, for example, will see the appearance of Cory Pesaturo, multitalented virtuoso accordionist and winner of American and International competitions! More details to follow.
- Please stay tuned for additional great performers in March and upcoming months.
- We plan to award 2 scholarships to students of accordion in 2019. SFAC members who are accordion teachers should keep an eye on the club newsletter for upcoming information on applying for student scholarships.
- We continue to seek new members to the Board of Directors and volunteers to help with the club in various ways:
 - Encourage more member participation to produce the monthly club newsletter and events:
 - Contribute articles about accordion events you've attended, your own experiences playing out or for friends, taking lessons, maybe a picture of you as a child for the "Guess Who?" feature.
 - We would welcome assistance with editing the newsletter (currently by Elaine and Rosemary) and writing the monthly event summaries.

Continued on next page ...

(continued) Reflections on 2018 and 2019 Going Forward

- Meeting Volunteer Opportunities: In addition to serving as emcee for a musical meeting, members will be encouraged to help with various tasks, both small and large, that go into running the monthly meetings.
- Facebook - We are seeking a volunteer to update monthly our Facebook page with event/meeting information, and other periodic updates about the club, members, and events, etc.
- We are planning for Cotati, once again, in 2019.
- This will offer opportunities to volunteer both in the planning and manning of the booth.
- Suggestions are welcome as to what else you would like to see in 2019! Please feel free to email Ken Schwartz at kenneth.e.schwartz@gmail.com.

We have an ambitious agenda for 2019 and, with your help, will look forward to making it happen!

Here's to a great 2019 everyone!

Thanks, everyone!

The SFAC Board of Directors



Music Lessons

Peter Di Bono

415-699-8674

peterdsf@gmail.com

www.peterdibono.com



Event Reviews:

Member volunteers are needed to assist with the monthly event summaries. This is a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your club!

Please contact Ken Schwartz at
Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

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Houston Accordion Retreat 2019

Seven members of the San Francisco Accordion Club attended the Houston Accordion Retreat with **Stas Venglevski** this January over Martin Luther King Weekend. **Lynn Ewing, Pamela Tom, Gail Campanella, Gay Castellano, and John and Gwyn Lister** had a great time representing our club and playing in the orchestra.

The event was beautifully organized by Megumi Hada. Ten states and two Canadian provinces were in the house. Stas kept us busy, with 12 orchestra pieces, several of which were original works. There was a Russian theme, and we were joined by the **Houston Balalaika Orchestra** as well as two vocalists, a guitar and a clarinet for five traditional Russian songs. It was intense, with 3 orchestra rehearsals plus an ensemble rehearsal each day, but Stas is so witty and good-humored that he made it fun for us.

In addition, we were lucky to have master Domra players Misha Litvin and Olga Douglas performing with the orchestra on *Concerto in G Major* by Vivaldi, which was written for two mandolins. Domras are similar to Mandolins, but with less strings. Misha played with us on *Concerto in A minor* by a famous Russian composer Nicholas Budashkin, and for fun we did *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* with animal sounds provided by Bill Palmer, Jr.

We had a 2nd concert night which featured the advanced ensemble with Gail playing the bass, and other attendees Bev Fess, John and Madalyn Neu, Judy Ridenour, Heidi Spendlove and John Simkus. where we played two original compositions by Stas, *Blue Swan* and *Fugue*, and *Accordion Plus*, a bright jazzy number by Claude Thomain, and a reprise of the Vivaldi with Olga and Misha.

In addition, Stas performed some great solos, and also wonderful duets with John Simkus from Chicago and Misha on Domra.

There were a couple of evenings of informal performances by members of the orchestra, and one night featured original duets by Stas. Gail Campanella and I were honored to perform the world premiere of a duet written especially for us, *Chit Chat*.

I'm hoping for a couple of pictures of the ensemble and the orchestra with the Balalaika's, but since I was on stage - couldn't get them! Hoping there will be a few out shortly.

Lynn, Stas, Gail, Gwyn, John, Pam and Gay



Las Vegas International Accordion Convention

PRESS RELEASE – TWENTY-YEAR CELEBRATION – REASON TO ATTEND!

October 14 – 17 we will celebrate our 20th year in Las Vegas with an Accordion Event (Party) of a lifetime! There are a few great reasons to attend – but perhaps the biggest reason is this year’s lineup of Accordion Stars including **Professor Frederick Lips!**

Yes you read that correct Professor Lips – a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear and be in workshops with the most famous accordionist and accordion Professor in all of Europe and Russia. Of course we will be featuring the BEST of the BEST – with talent like **Cory Pesaturo** and MORE, plus **Professor Sommers** conducting the Las Vegas International Accordion Orchestra!

Come join the FUN – and be a part of our ROARING TWENTIES Celebration. The Las Vegas International Accordion Convention – where everyone is a STAR!

Those who have attended come back year after year because they know what fun and what a great value! If you have not attended then come find out why nothing else compares to the Accordion Celebration in Las Vegas!

When – October 14-17, 2019 – Rooms only \$47 per night on our block with a special \$12 per night resort fee savings! Plus we will take \$50 off your registration when you book on the convention block – in addition to the Early Bird savings by registering before March 15! For registration details contact event organizer Paul Pasquali at paul@AccordionStars.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society Has Relocated

The new meeting home for the SVAS is now Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, CA 94024. The SVAS meets the first Sunday each month. Doors open at 1:30 PM. (Harry’s Hofbrau in San Jose is permanently closed.)

Save the Date — May 19, 2019


SFAC Welcomes Cory Pesaturo!

Looking ahead, we have some truly exciting performers lined up for our March and May programs. We are excited beyond words to announce that world-famous **Cory Pesaturo** has accepted our invitation to perform and direct the entirety of our May 2019 meeting! In all likelihood Cory will take advantage of his trip to the Bay Area to appear in some other venues – we will keep you informed as soon as more details emerge. Among his many achievements, in 2009 Cory became the first American to win a World Accordion Championship since Peter Soave won 25 years earlier! Cory is a BIG name in our accordion world – this is one you won’t want to miss.



ACCORDION REVOLUTION

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BAY AREA ACCORDION CLUBS

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474
dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com

Contact: Jean Stevens, President (916) 872-8081
accordionriffs@gmail.com

GSAC Napa Valley Chapter (formerly Vacaville)
2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm.
The Runway Restaurant
2044 Airport Road, Napa

GSAC Humboldt Chapter
3rd Tuesday at 7pm.
Humboldt Swiss Club
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

GSAC Sacramento Chapter
3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm
Elks Lodge No. 6
6446 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento

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)

[New location] 1st Sundays at Christ Episcopal
Church, 1040 Border Rd., Los Altos, CA
Doors open at 1:30pm. www.svasociety.org

SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI San Mateo - RonBorelli@aol.com
www.ronborelli.com

RICHARD DENIER Carmel - rjd.denier@gmail.com

PETER DI BONO San Francisco www.peterdibono.com

RENO DI BONO South Bay - ourhike@aol.com
www.italianaccordion.com

JOE DOMITROWICH South Bay
www.alpinersusa.com
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ED GORZYNSKI, JR. East Bay - edspolkas@yahoo.com

IL DUETTO MUSICA (aka Paul Aebersold & Gloria Gazave)
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BIG LOU, aka LINDA SEEKINS San Francisco
www.accordionprincess.com

KAY PATTERSON Napa Valley & Surrounding
AccordionKay@comcast.net

TANGONERO www.tangonero.com

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties
accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI East Bay & South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net
www.mikezamp.com

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/issue or \$100/year. Monthly ad prices **for members**:
1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.
Non-member rates are double.

SFAC Scholarships

Your club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference is given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application.
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ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

National Accordion Association 2019 Convention

March 7-9, 2019

Hyatt-Regency - Richardson, Texas

www.accordions.com/naa

San Diego Accordion Camp

April 4-6, 2019

Manga Italiano Restaurant - Chula Vista, California

Contact Gordon Kohl: GordonKohl@GordonKohlAccordions.com

619-395-0454

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 20-23, 2019

Leavenworth, Washington

www.accordioncelebration.org

ATG-Accordionists & Teachers Guild International

29th Annual Festival

July 23-27, 2019

Denver, Colorado

www.atgaccordions.com/2019-festival

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention

LVIAC—20th Anniversary

October 14-17, 2019

Gold Coast Hotel, Las Vegas

<http://accordionstars.com>

Paul Pasquale (801) 485-5840

Focus on Developing Solo Arrangements at SDAC

The 2nd annual **San Diego Accordion Camp (SDAC)** will be conducted by Gordon Kohl on April 4-6, 2019 from 9 AM to 4:30 PM daily at the Mangia Italiano Restaurant in Chula Vista, CA.

The camp will focus on customizing tunes and transforming them to our own signature solo arrangements. In addition to reviewing basic accordion techniques, chord theory and experimenting with chord progression will be introduced. The emphasis of the camp is on enjoying playing music and learning in a relaxed atmosphere.

Camp provides an opportunity for group play, in contrast to an orchestra rehearsal. Both electronic and acoustic accordions are welcome. Gordon will provide suggestions for switches and voices as the group works on numerous well-known tunes (e.g., *La Cumparasita*, *La Vie En Rose*, *Libertango*, *Zorba the Greek*, etc.).

\$189/person includes: textbook ("First 50 Songs" arranged by Gary Meisner), parking, course materials, notebook & lunch. Sign-up by March 15, 2019. The textbook will be mailed in advance for practice of the selected tunes ahead of camp. Extra class notes and exercises will be provided at camp in your notebook.

For an enrollment form or further information, contact Gordon Kohl at GordonKohl@GordonKohlAccordions.com or (619)395-0454 [mobile]

Thank You, Donors!

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to the Club. We would like to thank the following regular and lifetime members who made a donation during the past renewal campaign (October 2018 - September 2019 membership year):

Paul Aebersold, Anthony Bologna, Scott Anderson, Chris & Tor Arild, Evelyn Baulch, Dave Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Gail Campanella, George Chavez, Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, David G. Deanda, Peter & Victoria Di Bono, Aldo Didero, Lynn & Gail Ewing, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Dominic Granelli, Gus & Sharon Greyhosky, Johan & Marja Gullmes, Ron & Mary Jo Harris, Lou Jacklich, Jerry Keifer, Marian Kelly, Gwyn Lister, Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi, Nora & Tony Mazzara, Herb Meier, James Monfredini, Anna Nicora, Julie Norman, Gisele Oakes, Colette & Casey Ogata, Paul Pasquali, Diana Purucker, Alexander Roitman, Ed Salvador, Michael Sanossian, Don & Mary Savant, Kenneth Schwartz, Richard & Leslie Selfridge, Georgia Sutherland, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Barbara Winter, Clarence Witzel Jr., Richard Yaus, and Mark Zhagel

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized.

Future Accordion Stories...Your Help Wanted.

Pamela Tom is planning to write articles for the SFAC Newsletter on:

- Flying with your accordion
- Accordion Transport – User-Friendly Carriers on Wheels
- Challenges of Practicing Accordion in a Hostile Environment

If you have any stories to share, please email Pam with your experiences and/or accordion transport device (photos would be appreciated). **Please reply by February 21, 2019.** accordionpam@gmail.com



ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

RON BORELLI (650) 574-5707
DAVID CHELINI (916) 428-8764
MYRLE DAHL (415) 897-2283
PETER DI BONO (415) 699-8674
LYNN EWING (650) 453-3391
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KAY PATTERSON (707) 666-2849
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Newsletter team: Layout, Content Coordinators, Proofing, Mailing

Elaine Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Robert Cooperstein
(Newsletter volunteers needed!)

Scholarship Awards

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San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

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3rd Sundays—Musical meetings in Millbrae

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordion Circle

Sunday, February 17

Come for fun and great music!!

2pm—5pm

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"open mic" style solo opportunities

SFAC Jam Band

All are encouraged to participate!

\$5 suggested donation (Under 13 free)

Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA



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