

The World's First
Accordion Club
since 1912



San Francisco Accordion Club

JUNE 2012

NEWSLETTER

**Come to our June 17 meeting
@ 2 p.m. and hear . . .**

Jetty Swart, (Yeti) was born in Amsterdam, learned how to play the accordion on a Mediterranean beach and lives now in Paris and San Francisco (not at the same time).

She sings stories about slugs in love, criminal gurus and hallucinating butterflies while beat-boxing and playing accordion, loop station, toy-piano and flute (almost at the same time).

She has given more than 400 concerts in Europe, in small venues, on big stages at festivals and everything in between . . .



Richie Lawrence, born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was raised as a piano player and moved to Los Angeles, CA in 1980 to participate on a Columbia Records project. In 1988 he was approached by music compadre Paul Lacques and asked if he could get an accordion sound on synthesizer for his new project. As it turns out Richie owned an accordion and, soon the zany new wave polka band, ROTONDI, was born. Lawrence has used the accordion in the traditional cowboy folk duo, HORSE SENSE; Cajun/Zydeco specialists, THE CRAWFISH WRANGLERS; and blusey old-timey jug band, THE LOOSE ACOUSTIC TRIO, among other varied bands and genres. His new release is his second solo recording, WATER, featuring original songs performed on both accordion and piano.

Continued >

Don Nurisso has been playing accordion since 1949, and has loved it ever since. When he was 12, he heard Art Van Damme, and was inspired to begin playing jazz style. He studied with Dino Benetti and continues to study and learn from everyone he comes into contact with.



Duckmandu

Duckmandu aka Aaron Seemans
 Aaron Seeman's onslaught of solo accordion and vocals has astounded audiences of all types. His repertoire includes, but is not limited to, 70s Rock, Broadway, Klezmer, Classical, Country, Sousa marches, Punk Rock, and even a polka or two. Rather than play hokey accordion versions of these songs, Duckman/Seeman seeks to demonstrate that accordion and vocals alone can evoke the spirit of the song, whether the hard driving rock of AC/DC, the wide vocal range and sonic landscape of Boston, or the supersonic speeds and driving force of the Dead Kennedys. America and the world must be reminded what a powerful and versatile instrument the accordion can be.

Karla Mi Lugo
<http://karlacottonseed.weebly.com>



On most days, street performer Karla can be found on Valencia Street, balancing on a ball while playing accordion or juggling. Mi Lugo, whose father was in the Army, moved around a lot as a child, living in Europe for periods of time and then in Georgia.

She started performing after a heart-break. She moved out to the West Coast, fell in love with an artist and started writing songs. "Then I couldn't stop," she said.

She learned how to play the accordion, was introduced to circus arts and staked out spots on San Francisco sidewalks where she could perform.



Tatiana Semichasnaya and Steve Albini

May Meeting—Recap

Last month our meeting began with a Jam session. Due to the popularity, we try to have a Jam session every other month. Everyone is always welcome to join in, just bring an accordion or other “C” instrument and a music stand - simple but fun music will be provided. This month Paul Cain, one of our sound men played along on bass accordion and we were joined by Sheri Mignano. Not only did Sheri lead the way, but she also pointed out interesting chord changes and other variations. We had great fun and learned something too!

Lynn Ewing, our MC started the meeting by introducing Rene Sevieri, who has returned to the accordion after a lapse of many years. He played a number of medleys ranging from Italian (*Wedding Tarantella, Funiculi Funicula*), to Spanish (*España Cañí, Granada*) to Big Band (*In the Mood*) to Rock and Roll (*Rock around the Clock and California Girls*). Rene is a highly energy performer and we enjoyed the variety of his repertoire.

With a complete change in style, the duo of Sheri Mignano and George Bachich performed music of the Bal Musette. Sheri explained how many of the musette-era musicians in Paris (and other French cities) were émigré Italians and many of the pieces they performed were written by Joseph Colombo, a popular composer of the 30s and 40s. They began with the piece *Rivalité*, by Joseph Colombo. Other pieces included *Waltz Chinoise, Secret of the Rose and Zingarella!* Both Sheri and George have recently written new books. Sheri has written *French Soirée*, which contains a history of the Bal Musette in France, biographies of some of the key composers and performers of the genre and sheet music for you to print and play. George’s soon to be released book *An Accordion Buyer’s Guide*, includes tips on buying and accordion, as well as diagnosing and fixing instrument problems. Thank you Sheri and George for such an artistic and evocative program.

Next up were Tatiana Semichasnaya and Steve Albini (photo Pg.2). Tatiana is originally from Russia and is currently performing for the Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas and is a Roland Performing Artist. Soloing, she performed *Asturias* by Albeniz, *Por Una Cabeza* by Gardel and Astor Piazzolla’s *Libertango*. She was then joined by Steve, who played accordion and sang, *Guarda la Luna* and *Maruzella* by Renato Carosone.

After the break, Lynn began to explain how the scheduled Trio Davide was only going to be a Duo, when one of the “Daves” present, Dave Miotke, announced they were down to one. Fortunately for us Dave was ready and also enjoys performing solo. This was a very modest introduction to a

phenomenal performance of 11 songs with Dave singing and accompanying himself on the accordion, most from the big band era. Dave started with the Cole Porter jazz songs: *Between You and Me* and *Every Time We Say Goodbye*, continuing into Gershwin’s *S’ Wonderful, S’ Marvelous*. Dave is a wealth of information about songs of this era and shared a story of an opinion poll taken asking for the three best tunes of the 20th century. Coincidentally the top three tunes all began with the letter S: *Stardust* by Hoagy Carmichael, *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* by Jerome Kern and Otto Harbach, and *Skylark*, also by Carmichael and Johnny Mercer. Dave treated us to enthusiastic performances of all three (with a little coaxing from the audience). Lionel Hampton’s *Midnight Sun*, also has an interesting history. Lionel Hampton was overheard “doodling around” during a warm up by Sonny Burke back in 1947 and suggested they work this doodle into a whole new piece. The result was only mildly famous UNTIL it was accidentally heard by Johnny Mercer on his car radio one evening in 1954. With the addition of Johnny’s lyrics, the song really took off.

Dave, saving the best for last, concluded his performance with his personal favorite, Cole Porter’s *Begin the Beguine*. Dave’s enthusiasm was infectious and had the crowd standing on their feet at the end of the program. Several people commented that they could hardly imagine that more Daves would have added to the afternoon.



Dave Miotke

Please Remember!


To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

Come join us at AFNA this year and experience the joy of preparing some wonderful pieces for performance and your accordion friends in the group. Welcome. I really hope to see you in the group.

This August I will be conducting the orchestra at the Festival held by AFNA. I hope you will read the attached invitation and consider joining the orchestra. It will be a wonderful time for all of us to get together once more and prepare three exciting pieces for performance.

Please pass the word on to all your accordion friends, too. The arrangements by Anthony Galla-Rini all have parts suitable for every level of player; there is one exactly for you!

Many thanks!
Joan Cochran Sommers
Joansommers@kc.rr.com
(913) 722-5625



JOIN THE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA UNDER THE DIRECTOR OF MS. JOAN SOMMERS

The 2012 festival is going to be held August 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Irvine, CA, with discounted room nights and special performances by the AFNA Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Joan Sommers. Everyone is welcome and accordionists interested in performing in the orchestra should contact Ms. Sommers or AFNA@gmail.com for information. There will be two rehearsals and two performances, and every participant in the group will receive a group picture and complimentary CD of the performances. The hotel has a shuttle bus to and from South Coast Plaza, Fashion Island, and the John Wayne Airport.

ACCORDION EVENTS

If you are looking for something fun, interesting and accordion related to do— here are some of the Accordion Conventions and gatherings taking place.

The Annual American Accordionists' Association Festival, July 11-15 held at the Sheraton City Center, Baltimore, MD. Guest Artist and conductor of the AAA Festival Orchestra this year will be Stas Venglevski. www.ameraccord.com/festival.html

The 72nd Annual Competition and Festival of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International
July 25-29 held at the Lisle Hyatt Hotel, Lisle (Chicago), IL. For the latest Festival details, check the ATG's <http://www.accordions.com/atg/>

We (the San Francisco Accordion Club) will NOT have a program in August because many and most of us will be attending the . . .

Cotati Accordion Festival
Saturday & Sunday
August 18 & 19, 2012
9:30 - 8:30 both days

*Starring Dick Contino
and a host of other
great accordionists and
performers.*

From our President Lynn Ewing

Greetings from your Board! Our nominating committee is getting ready to contact some of you regarding your possible service on the Club Executive Board. We meet on the Thursday evening following the club meeting at my home in San Carlos. We will have several positions opening up, as some of our long time members are moving on to other projects. Please contact Maryanne Romanowski if you would like to serve, or would like to recommend someone for nomination. Her phone is 650-595-8105, email maromanowski@yahoo.com. SFAC is YOUR club! We'd love to hear you play, even if you are not experienced. If you would like to play yourself, or if you have a suggestion for us, please contact any member of the Board.



We haven't seen Co-founder, Jim Holliday and Evelyn Baulch this year as Jim is steadily recovering from an illness. We hope to see them real soon! ...

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Scholarship Awards

Twice a year, in April and October, our club awards scholarships to accordion students demonstrating promise to further their study and knowledge of the accordion. Scholarship Guidelines and Application forms are available at the monthly meetings or can be obtained from the club secretary, Randy Hicks—by emailing: hickr01@sprintmail.com. Completed applications are to be returned to: Mike Zampiceni—220 Tasman Dr., #106, Sunnyvale, CA 94089 by the end of either March or September to be considered for an award the following month.

Mike Z., Scholarship Chairman

Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA
\$3 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—
President (707) 318-0474; dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub.net/firms.com

The Vacaville Golden State Accordion Club meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Courtyard by Marriott • Vacaville 120 Nut Tree Parkway Vacaville, CA 95687 707-451-9000

The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Jerry Keifer (916) 652-0836

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. 1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

Accordion Instruction

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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card-size) for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices for members:

quarter-page ad \$25.00; half-page ad \$50, and a full-page ad \$100.

Non-member rates are double the member rates. A flyer (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

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Club & Musical Meeting • June 17 @ 2 p.m.

**Playing in June — Jetty Swart (Yeti) from Paris,
Richie Lawrence from Sacramento,
Don Nurisso, Duckmandu, and Karla Mi Lugo**

**Join us on the third sunday of the month
at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco**

DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.) Continue past the gate house to the sign Oyster Point Yacht Club. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

P A R K I N G N O T I C E

The new Ferry Terminal is now operational, and parking behind the yacht club is again possible.

**PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE
Commodore's designated space!**

SFAC Membership is

\$30.00 per year for individual or family.
Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guest. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Randall Hicks, 21071 Gary Drive, #212, Castro Valley, CA 94546. NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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