



San Francisco Accordion Club
JUNE 2013
NEWSLETTER
PERFORMING June 16, 2013

Beginning at 1:30, Reno Di Bono will play warm up.

Steve and Michael Trucco

This father and son duo from Stockton, CA, in the heart of the Central Valley, has been playing together for over twenty years. Steve and Michael play mostly Italian waltzes and polkas, mixing in a few standards from the 40's and 50's, where Michael handles the vocals. They have been featured at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention for many of the 12 years of its existence, the Cotati Accordion Festival, the Reno Italian Festival, the Great American Squeeze Off and have played for the Concert in the Park Series in their hometown of Stockton, California every year since its inception. Their unique style of playing duets has been honed to almost an art form. Even though they are two separate accordionists, when they play together, they seem to meld into a single accordionist. Maybe being father and son has something to do with that.

In 2006, The Trucco Families formed "Accordions Rock!!!" a business selling t-shirts, hats, aprons... anything they could put their logo on. They started a website, accordionsrock.com, and have shipped items to accordion lovers all over the country. The business is still going strong.



photo by Bruce Lawrie

Lynn Ewing

is probably best known as the current president of the San Francisco Accordion Club. Lynn was born and raised in San Diego, California, where she started playing accordion at age seven, and competed for many years in the Western States Accordion Festival. As a young adult, Lynn taught at the Robert Mitchell Accordion School, where she directed five accordion bands and gave accordion lessons to over a hundred young children. She received her certification in the Orff Method of Music instruction from Mills College, and was the music specialist at El Granada Elementary school for seven years. Currently Lynn teaches private accordion students, and performs with two accordion groups, the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) and AbsolutAccord.



Paul Cain, is commonly known as “The Sound Guy.” Paul never met an accordion he didn’t like, and has a growing collection to prove it! This month he will be showing off the Giulietti with flashing lights that he has just restored. He has been collecting accordions for years because he appreciates the fine craftsmanship and variety of accordions. However, he didn’t actually learn to play accordion (properly) until just a few years ago. Attending SFAC meetings has given him the opportunity to hear great accordion artists, and be inspired by them.

Bob Stanfield

Bob took accordion lessons for one year when he was in the 7th grade, putting the instrument aside for high school, college, and two careers. He flew for the Navy and retired as a Navy Captain after 28 years of active and reserve duty, including several combat tours of duty in Vietnam. After his Navy active duty, Bob went into banking, and managed several branches and became the SF regional manager for a major bank, eventually becoming a bank president and CEO. When he retired in 2003, Bob found he could still play a couple of tunes on his accordion and has been playing it ever since. Bob has served as treasurer of SVAS for the past 8 years and leads the Sunday Seven band. His favorites are polkas, waltzes,



Peter, Reno, and Tony Di Bono

As a special Father’s day appearance, Reno and Peter di Bono will play with their Dad, Tony, who is now playing harmonica! Please see Reno’s article on page 5.

May Meeting 2013

The afternoon's festivities started off with the Jam band, hosted by **Vic and Barbara Corsiglia**. Our guest performers, the Brewer family joined in with the Jam band bringing drums and piano to the ensemble, as well as Val on her accordion. Paul Cain was dazzling everyone with the special Giulietti accordion he recently acquired featuring a panel of flashing LED lights that lit up when certain notes were played.

At 2 p.m. our emcee **Lynn Ewing** took over and called everyone's attention to the *Accordion Orchestra Project* being organized by **Richard Yaus** that was announced in the last newsletter. He has had excellent response and spots are filling up, but Richard will accept a few more applications from those who might be interested. Lynn then introduced the **Brewer Family** from Sacramento. **Val** is Myron Floren's sister and has just celebrated her 90th birthday (and we joined in a chorus of "Happy Birthday"). She plays the accordion every day, and her playing proves it. Val explained how she and Myron were both completely self taught by following the lessons in the publication *Music Magazine* from the 20s and 30s. Their first accordion was purchased from the Sears Roebuck Mail Order catalog for \$19! **Jan**, her son, now plays percussion professionally and Jan's wife **Carole** plays piano and sings. Carol played and sang on radio's Channel 42 weekly for 10 years! The Brewer family started with a great selection of music. The first piece was **Glow Worm**, a catchy tune with quite a history. It was originally composed for a German operetta in 1902. It was re-introduced into a Broadway musical in 1907, and became widely popular in 1950 with the **Mills Brothers** singing an arrangement with new lyrics by **Johnny**

Mercer. This was followed by **Rosamunde**, the German name for the Beer Barrel Polka, which is originally a Czech tune. They continued with **My Blue Heaven** and **Spanish Eyes** featuring Carole on vocals. **God Bless America** was the planned final number, but they were persuaded to give us an encore and performed a wonderful rendition of **It's a Small World**.



Next we had a surprise performance from **Steve Albini** who has Italian roots from Naples and southern Italy. He started with **Flight of the Angels** and then sang to **Guarda che Luna** and **Sway** with his rich baritone voice. His next piece included improvisation—the first two verses of **Fly Me to the Moon** followed the expected slower rhythm, and he then transitioned to a much quicker beat, and started jazz-style embellishments. His final two pieces, also with vocals, were **Guglione**, and an original composition called **Farina**. It was a sensational performance, as the thunderous applause showed.



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Following a short break, Lynn introduced our featured performers: **Frank Petrilli** on accordion and **John Chiodini** on guitar. Frank and John are both regulars in the Los Angeles circle of jazz musicians. They began with *Watch What Happens*. Next was a composition by a Brazilian composer whose day profession is dentistry entitled *Desafinado* (usually translated as *off-key*.) Must be an unusual clinic for a filling. It was both interesting and a treat to watch professionals make the handoff which occurs in jazz when each musician takes the lead. A glance and a slight nod is all that was needed. Frank mentioned that even though he and John played in the same quartet, this was their first time they have played as a duet. They next performed *Emily*, a slower piece with a well-known tune and then *Triste* as a Bossa Nova. The Bossa Nova rhythm is basically a Samba, so they played a sad samba! The improvisations added an element of freshness to a fairly familiar tune. This was followed by *Softly as in a Morning Sunrise*, and then Stevie Wonder's *Isn't It Wonderful*. The final piece was a tune by Richard Galliano, an internationally famous player and composer entitled *Fou Rire* (Gigging). The music required complex fingering, captivating the audience who clearly wanted more. They generously agreed to an encore and played *Corcovado* (Quiet Nights) by Antonio Carlos Jobim and *You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To*. It was a wonderful afternoon of entertainment.



Memories of Our Parents by Reno Di Bono

Our parents, Tony and Celine were inseparable musically. I often wondered why my mother was not playing accordion. She was a beauty and always teamed up with dad and sang and danced while he played... *Five Foot Two, The Sheik of Araby, Darktown Strutters Ball,*

Italian songs, *Vicino Mare, Oh Marie* and that long forgotten tear jerker, *Il Sirio*. Many nights after dinner, Dad would take out his old, old, old accordion and play sitting at the head of the dinner table. Mom was doing the dishes with her song and dance added. It was a very happy feeling put upon us boys by two loving and gentle parents.



We were given accordion lessons with Dad and Mom's hard earned money of the 1950's. The teacher was John Pezzolo and later Dino Benetti. Each lesson was \$3.00. Then came Dino Benetti's accordion picnics each September at Wildwood Park in Saratoga.

During the summer months, we boys practiced our solos, but Dad would join us. The three of us, with Dad in the middle, went on stage as the Di Bono Trio and played the Di Bono Boogie in G for cheering, mostly Italian-American crowds at the picnic. The real fun part was being with Dad and his cut-up humor at Dino's weekly summer rehearsals at St. John's school in the Mission district. After each tune, Dad would crack up the whole band with his wit. Then there were the bus trips to Tahoe. The entire Di Bono clan would rent a bus and all head to Southshore Lake Tahoe. Dad played accordion all the way and we sang our hearts out.

Dad had a unique way of playing his right hand upside down. He played the melody with his thumb and produced a driving two beat rhythm with the other four fingers. He was way ahead of his time on that one. Finally, Dad turned pro. Because of the influence of the accordion club, BAAC, Dad practiced, learned new tunes, joined the banjo club to play the accordion, and did gigs for MONEY. He may well have played 4-5 times-

per week in "Retirement Home" country. The gigs lasted 1 hour and Dad and Mom, always together, entertained scores of retired people all over the Bay Area. In the 10 to 15 years of playing, Dad became a musical hero to many people.

He never used an amp nor was he short on enthusiastic rhythm. He has the rhythm for sure. One New Year's Eve, I referred Dad to play at a retirement home in Redwood City. I lent him my drummer Brent and my guitar player Dennis for the gig of only two hours. Dad asked, "How much should I charge?" I wildly suggested \$1500 dollars. Guess what? They paid dad the \$1500 for two hours, or \$250 per hour each: An unheard of fee at that time. Alas, at 95 years old, his fingers are very stiff and he is unable to play accordion anymore. So, he plays harmonica, and he can really play harmonica.....what an ear and feeling he has. He has *soul*. We were lucky to have such great and adoring parents as Tony and Celine.

An Orchestral Experience Not to Be Missed!

The San Francisco Accordion Club and the Silicon Valley Accordion Society are delighted to endorse Richard Yaus' project of creating a unique, one time, orchestra which will meet for several Saturday rehearsals, and then perform at the San Francisco Club at the July meeting.

The goal of the project is to give accordionists an opportunity to experience playing in a group under a conductor, to receive coaching and strengthening of playing skills, and to culminate in a performance where all can enjoy the fruits of their labors! Even if the skill level of the orchestra is currently beyond your ability, there will still be much to be learned by coming to observe. Since playing will be right hand only, and instruction will be given on proper use of bellows, this may put the experience within reach of less experienced players.

This orchestra will be available at no cost to the participants, and rehearsals will be conveniently located close to Hillsdale Shopping Mall in San Mateo at the Laurel Elementary School Library. Rehearsals will be from 10 AM to 2 PM, with stretch breaks and lunch on Saturdays, June 8, June 15th and June 29th, as well as July 13th and July 20th. Please plan to attend at least 3 of the first 4 rehearsals. Attendance at the July 20th rehearsal is required if you plan to perform with the orchestra on July 21st at the SFAC meeting.

Please contact Richard Yaus at 650-832-1740 or email ryaus@earthlink.com for more information or to register.

Scholarship Information

Scholarship Applications are due in SEPTEMBER to be awarded in OCTOBER. Twice a year, our club awards scholarships to accordion students who have a financial need and demonstrate dedication to pursuing their study of the accordion. Students must study with a teacher who is an SFAC member in good standing. Applications can be obtained by emailing **Mike Zampiceni**, @ eclecticguy@comcast.net

and should be returned to him at:
220 Tasman Dr, #106, Sunnyvale,
CA 94089



President's Message

As I read the article that Reno wrote about his parents, it made me think of what a big influence so many Dads have had on the accordion playing of their sons and daughters. When I first joined the San Francisco Accordion Club many years ago, Reno, Peter, and Tony played together at Donworth hall, and I was so impressed. I'm so delighted that we will again have an opportunity to hear Tony and his sons play for us. Father and Son Steve and Mike Trucco have brought the accordion duet to an art form. And Paul Cain, our "sound guy" often brings his little daughter to our meetings, and she has her own small accordion.

Although I don't know the stories of all my friends who play the accordion, I can certainly attest that many of them were encouraged by their dads to take up the instrument. And many people who didn't play as children have taken it up as adults primarily because of hearing accordion played in their homes when they were growing up. If you have stories of your fathers and accordion, we would love to hear them.

My father was the one who insisted I play the accordion when I was growing up, and although I never heard him play, there was a small Hohner 12 bass that belonged to him which I still have. He was a tremendous supporter of my accordion endeavors, and spent countless hours carting me around to performances, back and forth to band practice, footing the bill for competitions, and opening our home to weekly rehearsals for the quartet I played in for many years. He spent countless hours having *lively* discussions with me about how long I should practice every day, but that, of course, is another story. The bottom line is that I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to play an instrument that still brings so much pleasure to my life after so many years.

Speaking of that, I want to give final encouragement to people to consider coming to the Orchestra which is being directed by Richard Yaus. Even if you are not able to come to every rehearsal or play in the performance next month, you will receive so much information from Richard's instruction, that you will find it a very satisfying experience.

Lynn Ewing



Lynn Ewing, 7 yrs. with her accordion

The San Francisco Accordion Club

enthusiastically welcomes the following new members:

Audrey Spinazola who was trained in classical Piano, and is now learning the accordion under the tutelage of Peter Di Bono. She is excited about the accordion and the club!

Tony Lovello

is seriously ill, and our thoughts are with him and his family and friends.

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
www.stevebalichband.com

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco
www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.com

Reno Di Bono • South Bay
ourhike@aol.com

William De Michelis • South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich • South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinersusa.com

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)
San Francisco
www.eurocafemusic.com or
zighi@sonic.net

Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobelins
Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobelins

Ed Gorzynski, Jr. • East Bay
edspolkas@yahoo.com

Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Big Lou, aka Linda Seekins • San Francisco
www.accordionprincess.com

Mad Maggies • San Francisco
themadmaggies.com

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
don@nurisso.com

Rob Reich • East Bay & San Francisco
robbyreichmusic@gmail.com

Diana Strong • Pacifica
don@nurisso.com

Tangonero
<http://tangonero.com>

Whiskey and Women •
www.whiskeyandwomenmusic.com

Please Remember!

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

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.

PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Although our featured performers are scheduled almost all the way through September, we have lots of opportunities during the first part of the meeting for people who would like to play a short 10 or 15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs. Contact Dominic Palmisano at 415-587-4423 or email accord47@gmail.com, or Lynn Ewing, 650-453-3391, or ewinglynn@gmail.com

ACCORDION EVENTS

Festival for the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, Int'l will be held in the CHICAGO area, Wed., July 17th- Sat. July 20, 2013.
 Concerts! Workshops! Competitions! Exhibits!
 For details, see the ATG website, www.accordions.com/atg or contact Betty Jo Simon, president, 913) 888-4706

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration June 20-23, 2013
 Leavenworth WA
 505 Highway 2, Leavenworth, WA 98826
 800-961-0162
info@iciclevillage.com

ATG (Accordion Teachers Guild) 73rd Annual Competition & Festival Wed., July 17th- Sat. July 20, 2013.
 Concerts! Workshops! Competitions! Exhibits!
 For details, see the ATG website, www.accordions.com/atg or contact Betty Jo Simon, president, 913-888-4706

AAA Convention - American Accordionists Association 75th Anniversary Celebration
 August 14-18, 2013
 The New Yorker Hotel
 481 Eighth Avenue at 34th Street
 New York, NY 10001
<http://www.ameraccord.com/>

the 66th Couple Mondiale
 will be held August 17-25, 2013,
 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
<http://www.coupemondiale.org>

Cotati Accordion Festival
 August 17 & 18, 2013
 9:30 - 8:30 both days
 in La Plaza Park in Cotati, CA 94931
 (60 West Cotati Ave.)
 Advance tickets: \$15 one-day,
 \$25 two-days
 At the gate: \$17 one-day,
 \$25 two-days
 Kids 15 and under
 FREE with paying adult.

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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 Chapter meets monthly on the second
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at Pietro's No. 2 at
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville, CA 95688
707 448-4588

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 Choate (530)
345-2031

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

Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
David Chelini (916) 428-8764
Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
Lynn Ewing (650) 453-3391
Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510
Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308
Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
Big Lou (Linda Seekins) (415) 468 5986
Joe Simoni (650) 867-1122
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (650) 731-6010
Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

SFAC Officers

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eclecticguy@comcast.net

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maromanowski@yahoo.com

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aswy01@gmail.com

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

**Club & Musical Meeting • next meeting June 16 @ 2 p.m.
Admission: \$5 members, \$7 guests**

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.
Visit us online @ www.sfaccordionclub.com

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 Mike Zampiceni, PO box 62484, Sunnyvale, CA 94088
NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

**Beginning at 1:30,
Reno Di Bono will play warm up.**

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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