



San Francisco Accordion Club

MARCH 2013

NEWSLETTER

PERFORMING March 17, 2013

Also Performing . . .

Grigory Kruimk will play with his friends and fellow musicians, **Clark Welsh** on the balalaika, and **Vladimir Zavadsky** singing tenor. Grigory and Clark recently played at the SF Library in a program of Russian, Ukrainian and Gypsy Music.

Clark Welsh, founding member, arranger and prima balalaika and domra virtuoso is a native of Marin County, has been amazing audiences for years with his seemingly inexhaustible supply of exotic instruments. He also plays bouzouki, tambura, sax, guitar, cobza, tamburitsa, tambura, oud, bass, and numerous flutes and reeds from Eastern Europe and the near east. Clark has played with Nikolai Massenkoff, Danubius, Hatsegana, Aywah, Troika balalaikas, Neva, Khadra; the San Francisco Pops, Palm Beach Florida, Edmonton Alberta, and Oakland Symphony orchestras, as well as other groups too numerous to mention. Mr. Welsh has performed in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Korea, Russia, Hungary, and Slovakia.

(cont. on pg. 2)



All the way from Moscow . . .

our March performer is **Iosif Purits**, a 25 year old virtuoso bayanist, who has been winning international competitions since the age of 8. We are privileged to have this very special musician visiting us through the friendship of **Stas Venglevski**, who has helped arrange Iosif's US tour. Iosif is a student at the Russian Gnesins Academy of Music, where he studies under world renowned Bayan professor Friedrich Lips.

Iosif was the first child in Russia to win the *under age 12* category at The International Accordion Competition in Klingenthal, Germany and since then has been a prizewinner in more than 20 International Competitions, including Classika Nova in German, Vesennie Golos in Moscow, Petropavlovskie Assamblei Garmonki in St Petersburg, and Castelfidardo Italy, to name just a few.

He has also made concert tours in numerous countries, including Austria, Sweden, Finland, Germany, the Czech Republic, China, France, Serbia and Denmark. We are truly excited to be able to present such an outstanding musician to the San Francisco Bay Area on his first tour of the US, and we hope that you will bring friends with you to this special performance.

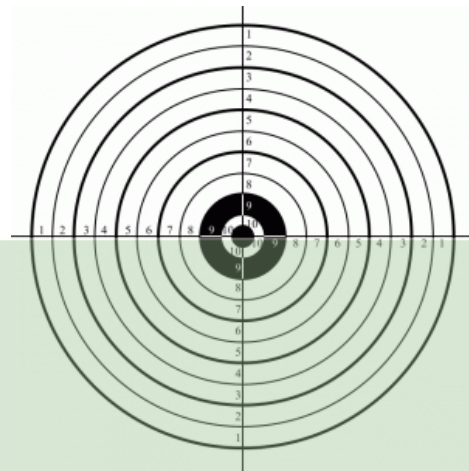
For this exceptional program, there will be a special admission charge of \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members.

Grigoriy Krulik is a native of the Ukraine, and began playing a 2 row traditional accordion called a Garmoshka when he was 6 years old. He switched to the Bayan at 9 years old and attended the Music College and the Academy of Music in the Ukraine. He taught music at the college as well as in the classroom as a specialist. 15 years ago Grigoriy immigrated to the United States where he plays the Bayan in concert and with the Accordion Chamber Ensemble and is the accompanist for a children's choir.



Sharpshooter's March

Many of you may have been surprised to notice **Guido Deiro** as the composer of *Sharpshooter's March*, as my own copy has "G. Metallo" as the composer. A rapid search of the internet turned up an article written by Guido himself in which he explains that he first heard a catchy melody being played by a hand organ in Germany, and speaking to the musician, was only able to discover that it was "an Italian March". He jotted the tune down, and later arranged it for accordion and recorded it for Columbia Records. He did some searching to find any kind of publication of this tune and was unable to do so. However, upon final publication of the piece, Guido found a secondary title added of "Curro Cuchares", by G. Metallo. It was composed for violin and guitar, and he felt there were significant differences between this tune and the one that became famous as "Sharpshooter's" but he says that he never claimed to have composed it. He does take credit for introducing, arranging, and popularizing it. The bass solo was a completely new innovation, which was very exciting for accordionists. The first page of it is posted in the article, and it looks almost exactly like the arrangement in my Sedlon Method book!



Condolences

We extend our sympathy to the family of club member Albert Moisiso, who passed away on February 19, 2013. Cards can be sent to: Mrs. Albert Moisiso, 1813 Sebastian Dr, Burlingame, CA 94010

We extend our sympathy to Dave Bennett, our friend and manager of the Oyster Point Yacht Club, whose wife Dee, died suddenly and unexpectedly last week. Dave has been so helpful to the San Francisco Accordion Club and the ACE ensemble, and has been an enthusiastic attendee at our meetings for years.

Our thoughts and condolences are also with our Newsletter Editor, Chris Knapp, whose mother passed away on March 4th, 2013, while in the process of this newsletter being published. I want to take this opportunity to thank Chris for doing such a fine job on our newsletter for the last 3 years.

February Meeting 2013

A small but dedicated group of musicians participated in the jam session, providing the prelude to an afternoon of great accordion music.

Emcee **Peter Di Bono** introduced the first performer, **Nicolas Blasco**, joking that he came to the U.S. from France to study accordion. Nicolas, who studies with Big Lou, started playing approximately one year ago, and this was his first public performance. He played and sang three French waltzes based on minor or major love tragedies from different parts of France.

Next up was the duo **Big Lou** (Linda Seekins) and **Kit Robberson**, who plays the viola da gamba. Peter introduced Lou by listing all the accordion activities that she has been involved in, and it is a long, well-known list, including “Those Darn Accordions”. Lou has recently retired as a seismologist at the U.S. Geological Survey. There was some mention that an earthquake is happening somewhere at any time. We moved hurriedly on. The Viola da gamba, dating back to the Renaissance, resembles a double bass but is more closely related to a guitar. It has seven strings and frets, and is gripped using the legs (“da gamba”). Kit pointed out that the viola da gamba is seldom heard these days. We would be lucky to ever hear a viola da gamba and accordion playing together again!

Lou also spoke about her accordion, which Vince Cirelli restored after she found it in miserable condition. Nowadays it sits by the door inside her house, so that if there is ever a fire, she can save the accordion on the way out.

Kit Robberson & Big Lou



Their choice of music was also all French – Lou’s favorite. Lou pointed out that of all the French music she knows, 95% of it is concerned with love, and 95% of that is tragic. Their first piece was *La Vie en Rose*, made famous by Édith Piaf, and only hints at future tragedy, because such happiness can’t possibly last. They played five pieces altogether, all waltzes. After the first piece, perhaps the best known was their last piece: *Indifference*.

The next performance was **Francine Passa**, violin, and **Don Nurisso**, accordion. Peter mentioned that the Passa name was well known in musical circles. Francine’s father ran a violin shop, and in its day many famous violinists visited the store (including Isaac Stern). The pair played 6 jazz arrangements of well-known songs. They began with *Satin Doll* and played *Sophisticated Lady*, *Girl from Ipanema*, and *Wave*, and ended with *Bésame Mucho*—or tried to end. Peter requested one more piece, and they played a medley of *Dream and That’s All*. The audience loved it.

Nicolas Blasco



Francine Passa



Don Nurisso



After the break, **Don Savant** played, first giving a fine tribute to his teacher of several years, Mike Zampiceni. Don played 2 songs with great feeling: *Watch What Happens* (Michel Legrand), and *You're Mine All Mine* (Glenn Miller). He then invited Mike to join him, and the duo started with *What A Wonderful World*. They moved into *Up a Lazy River* (Hoagy Carmichael). Don took his leave, and the stage was Mike's for the rest of the afternoon.



Don Savant



Mike Zampiceni

Mike told the audience that he would play three pieces from movies, and asked which year all three movies appeared. All the music was by Mancini: *Moon River*, *Days of Wine and Roses*, and *Baby Elephant Walk* (movie *Hatari!*). The answer was 1962. By this time, Mike was getting into his stride, with embellishments that looked impossibly fast. He played *Sharpshooters March* (Guido Deiro), much appreciated by the audience. He then launched into a series which highlighted his awesome techniques: *Doll Dance*, and *Tantalizing* (as arranged by Magnante). On request, he agreed to play "something Italian." He started with *Flight of the Angels* (a tough piece even at a slow pace), then switched to a medley of *Sicilian Tarantella* and the *Wedding/Neapolitan Tarantella*, and ended with *O Sole Mio*. After some more joking about not trying this at home, Mike played a final piece: *The Jolly Caballero* (for the first time in 40 years). There was a standing ovation. It was a great end to a wonderful afternoon of entertainment.

Donation Request

I am hoping some kind soul in the Accordion Club has an old beat-up 12-bass accordion they don't care about to donate to my science/garden class at Lakeshore Elementary School. I often play accordion for the students in spare moments, and recently I brought in a cheap toy accordion. They take it out when we work in the garden, and the students fight over the privilege of playing it between digging and watering. I would love to have something a little more substantial for them to play. It doesn't have to be in tune or have all the buttons working. But it will be greatly loved and will introduce a new generation to the accordion. If you have anything like this and would like to donate it to my classroom you will be forever appreciated.

Jean Moshofsky Butler
 threehummingbirds@gmail.com
 415 377 9266

President's Message

Members of the San Francisco Accordion Club were well represented at the **Mesa Accordion Event** (formerly known as the Frank Marocco Accordion Event) which was held this past February over President's Weekend. This event is built around a 50 member accordion orchestra, supplemented by Sean Brogan on the String Bass, and Wes Anderson on Percussion, and directed this year by Stas Venglevski. The Mesa Accordion Event is 4 days of work and fun, filled with rehearsals, workshops, special performances and of course, socializing!

A moving musical and video tribute to Frank Marocco took place on Saturday night, and participants celebrated his life and legacy by playing and listening to songs that were chosen in his honor. Jazz accordionist Amy Jo Sawyer wrote a beautiful ballad in Frank's memory, and Stas Venglevski, Joe Natoli, and Gabe Hall Rodriguez all played arrangements they created specially for the occasion. SFAC member Diane Blais played a beautiful and moving arrangement of Ave Maria on the Free Bass, which she dedicated to both Frank and her mother, who is recently deceased. We heard a wonderful selection of Frank's terrific arrangements as well, and we ended the night grateful for all that Frank Marocco contributed to us by founding this event in 2007 and even more so for having had the privilege of knowing this incredible man who was so generous in sharing his amazing music with us and the world.

The final concert on Sunday evening, culminating the four days of hard work, was attended by approximately 300 people, with standing room only! Eleven of our members played in the orchestra - Diane Blais, Lynn Ewing, Joan Grauman (who manages the event with her husband Dan), Joe Greco, Gwyn Lister and her son John, Jana Maas, Anne Metais, Frank Petrilli, Jim Shoemaker, and Taffy Stefan. The orchestra performed 8 pieces, including an original composition by Stas - *The Big Chuich Tarantella*, an arrangement by Frank Marocco of Henry Mancini's *Meglio Stasera*, Frosini's *Jolly Caballero*, arranged by Stas for Accordion Orchestra and Slapstick - a recent composition by Hans-Gunther Kolz for accordion and accordion orchestra, featuring Gail Campanella as soloist.

The 2014 event will feature guest artist, Joan Cochran Sommers, who will be honored on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

One of the highlights of the event was the participation of Antonino De Luca, an amazing young accordionist from Italy, who came accompanied by Frank's former manager, Elke Arenholz, the owner of Victoria accordions of Castelfidardo, Italy. Antonino is completing his education as a classical accordionist, but his real passion is jazz, and he plays from the heart. He was inspired by Frank Marocco, and his knowledge of American Jazz Standards is phenomenal.

I hope everyone will be able to attend EVERY meeting of the club over the next few months, where we will be featuring some fabulous performers. This month, of course, virtuoso Iosif Purits plays, and in April, we have Bonnie Birch from Seattle, who is coming courtesy of your donations in Val Kieser's memory. In May, jazz accordionist Frank Petrilli arrives from Southern CA, and will be playing in company with famous guitar great John Chiodini, and we will also hear from Myron Floren's sister, Val Brewer. Father and son duo Mike and Steve Trucco will be featured on Father's Day in June, and Due Zighi Baci, with accordionist Sheri Mignano and tenor Michael Van Why will perform at our July meeting.

Lynn Ewing



SFAC member Joan Grauman, organizer of the Mesa Event, with SFAC Pres Lynn Ewing

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

Thank you to Renewing Members

We depend on your memberships and donations to hold our meetings at the beautiful Oyster Point Yacht Club. Most of you received a personal renewal in the US Mail, with a self addressed envelope to Mike Zampiceni back in September, and sent it in, and all is well.

If you are receiving this newsletter, congratulations! Your membership is current! Thanks for supporting the San Francisco Accordion Club. See you at our next fantastic meeting, featuring IOSIF PURITS all the way from Russia.

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 June, 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

Scholarship Information

Scholarship Applications are due in MARCH to be awarded in April. 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

Please Remember!

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

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! Featured artists will be Martynas Levickis from Lithuania and the Orchestra Polyphonia, from the French Ile de la Reunion. Other featured artists will be Stas Venglevski, Joe Natoli, Mirco Patarini and others to be announced. YOU are invited to play in the Festival Orchestra, which will be conducted by Joan Cochran Sommers. 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

For the first time in recent memory, the International Competition of Accordionists known as the Coupe Mondiale will be held in the West of the North American Continent. This event is associated with both the above US organizations, AAA and ATG. This is a wonderful opportunity for accordionists in the West to attend an amazing event. The caliber of young players that you will hear at this event is unsurpassed.

This will be the second time the Coupe Mondiale has been held on Canadian soil (Toronto in 1964) and CIA (Confederation International des Accordeonists) is more than excited for this great opportunity to promote it's activities in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Victoria, B.C. The Coupe is hosted by CIA member the British Columbia Accordion Society.

<http://www.coupemondiale.org>

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

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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**

**SPECIAL PROGRAM—Russian Fantasy!
Admission:\$10 members, \$12 guests
Club & Musical Meeting • next meeting March 17 @ 2 p.m.**

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.

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.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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