

# San Francisco Accordion Club

## SEPTEMBER 2013

# NEWSLETTER



**Iñaki Diéguez** is a native of Irun, Spain and began studying the accordion at the age of 9 culminating in graduation from the Conservatory of San Sebastian with honors. He has won numerous International awards and given concerts throughout Europe and the United States.

After a career as a classical musician, Iñaki began an intense focus on modern music. In 2008 he joined the world famous Cirque du Soleil with the show Alegria and was actively involved in the creation of their new show Ovo, participating in over 1000 performances in the USA, Canada and Korea.

His newest CD, **Birak**, released in October 2012, is a collaboration of musicians from Brazil, Quebec, the United States and the Basque country and was recorded in different studios around the world.



**Sam 'n Ash** is a new and innovative duo in the world of folk music. Each well-versed in their instrument, the combination of accordion and mandolin is unique and beautiful. The duo performs mostly original material, blurring lines between multiple genres. Ashley Broder is an in-demand mandolinist, violinist, and cellist. She has received numerous accolades and has been featured in Mandolin Magazine. Samantha Harvey is an award winning accordionist, pianist, and stepdancer. Steeped in the folk and Celtic traditions, her musical mastery, impeccable timing, and driving percussive steps appeal to audiences of all ages. Together, they create a unique and exciting blend of dynamic rhythm and harmonic sound.

**Jam Session before the meeting  
@ 1 p.m. Bring your instruments!**



photo by Bruce Lawrie

### **Gail Campanella**

featured at Cotati this year, grew up in a large Italian family in Northeastern Colorado, and showed an interest in the only musical instrument in her home, her mother's old accordion. Her formal music instruction began at the age of 10, and by age 14, she became the town accordion teacher when the local accordion teacher retired. She continued to make monthly 80 mile train trips to Denver to study with Anthony Pennetti and to play in his accordion orchestra. Gail continued her music study, including piano and the Orff and Kodaly teaching methods, as well as classical accordion with Robert Davine at the University of Denver. Although she resides in Santa Barbara, Gail is a member of SFAC. For the past several years, Gail has been a member of the Los Angeles Accorionnaires Orchestra. She has resumed teaching private accordion and piano lessons, and performs on both piano and accordion.

### **Cotati 2013** by Chris Knapp

On both days the activities started at 9:45 and did not end until 6:30. **Polkacide** played on Saturday for the final set. They are an all time great band who started out some 35 years ago as a joke by playing some polkas but were so well receive-that it became their regular schtik. One of the lead singers, Neil, still sports his chrome head rivets and wears a link of sausages hanging from inside his lederhosen.

**The Great Morgani** sported a royal blue robot like outfit with platform shoes and played twice daily.



The Great Morgani

**Cory Pesaturo** performed with **Yasmine Azaiez** on violin—an amazing duet, skilled in classical and jazz improvisation.

**The Internationals** played and wowed the audience with some old time favorites and some great yodeling.

**Jet Black Pearl** stole the show with her uncanny stage presence and throaty vocals. She was clearly my favorite of all the performances I saw on Saturday.



Corry Pesaturo



*Yasmine Azaiet*

The **Mad Maggies** played some cool stuff and then there was **Duckmandu** who soon joined **Polkacide** for the final-hour long performance where people danced till they dropped!

**Frank Petrilli** and **Gail Campanella**, (both have played at our club) played on Sunday and Lynn reported that they were excellent as usual.

Unfortunately I was unable to see/hear **Vincenzo Abbracciante**, **Renzo Ruggeri** or the other groups I wanted to hear, but I am sure they were all amazing.

*all photos in this article  
by Chris Knapp*



*Yodeler from the Internationals*



*Polkacide*



*Jet Black Peral, aka Jetty Swart*

### **Scott Anderson-new member**

When I got out of the Air Force twenty years ago, I decided to play the accordion around the time I returned to the Bay Area from San Antonio. As a child, my college professor parents took my sisters and me to Paris on a sabbatical, and I had been exposed to some accordion music. I heard a bit more in South Texas, largely among the Hispanic population of that region. The major appeal of the accordion to me is its versatility, allowing the player to interpret music from diverse cultures and times.

Fifteen years ago I began studying with Lou Jacklich. I may be his slowest-learning student, but the accordion rounds out my life and has introduced me to many friends. My daughter, Sophia, plays piano and alto saxophone. My son, Luke, plays flute and piano, and recently picked up one of my smaller accordions. My wife, Camille, puts up with the cacophony of sound our home. It is great to be a member of the San Francisco Accordion Club.

## **Accordions in the THEATER by Marian Kelly**

The directors of the Los Altos Stage Company, who are staging a production of *The Fantasticks*, the longest-running off Broadway musical, have decided that they want an accordion and two other instruments (guitar, tuba and trombone . . . same fellow) to provide the music. What a fine idea! And there is a great deal of music. You've probably heard *Try to Remember* or *Soon It's Gonna Rain*. You may not have heard *Plant a Radish* or *Never Say No* or . . . well, the show features a lot of amusing and sometimes touching lyrics set to memorable melodies.

The production will be held at the Bus Barn in Los Altos, off San Antonio Road near the library and civic center. Go to [losaltosstage.org](http://losaltosstage.org) if you'd like to buy tickets or phone the box office at (650) 941-0551. The performances take place Wednesday through Saturday evenings for the whole month of September, with a Sunday matinee. Marian Kelly will handle the accordionizing.

## **JOIN US and VOTE!**

The annual meeting and **general election** for the Executive Board will be held at the beginning of our September meeting. The only order of business is to conduct the election, so it won't take too long before the entertainment begins. Thanks to our nominating committee of Scotty Williamson, Vinny Rinaldi, Gwyn Lister and Mike Zampiceni for nominating Elaine Cooperstein as Treasurer and Corinne Chandel as a director.

Returning Board members and the positions they are running for:

Lynn Ewing, President

Dominic Palmisano, Vice president

Mike Zampiceni, Secretary

Directors: Vinny Rinaldi and Jean Moshovsky Butler

### **Time to RENEW**

It is that time again! All members should receive a renewal letter in the US Mail.

Membership is \$30 per household, and runs from October 2013 to September 2014.

If you are a Lifetime member or have already paid through next year, we won't be soliciting dues from you, but we hope that you might consider making a donation. The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501 (c)(3) Charitable organization and your donation will be tax deductible. Donations help us defray the cost of our lovely facility at Oyster Point Yacht club, and providing you with quality entertainment month after month.

Please send renewals to Corinne Chandel, 1910 Mt Vernon Ct. #19, Mountain View, CA 94040 or you can bring your renewal form to the next couple of club meetings.

## **WELCOME to our Club!**

The following people joined us at Cotati:

Kate Brolan from Santa Rosa,  
Romy Fogel from Lafayette,  
Thomas Sarnicicola from Hercules,  
and Natasha Yankoffski from San Francisco.

### **FOR SALE!**

Hohner/Tango IIM 34/96  
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## Accordion Storytime at the San Bruno Library

by Barbara Bruxvoort

On August 12, Lynn Ewing joined Family Storytime at the San Bruno Library for a special guest appearance with her accordion. Almost forty children and parents enjoyed singing along with favorite songs as well as musical books. Local storytimes are a great way to connect to the community and introduce new families to the accordion! Storytimes at the library are all about *reading together for families* and to help lay the foundation for early literacy. Rhythm, rhymes and song lay the foundation for the important early literacy skills of patterning and predictability; what are songs but poetry with music?

The magical element that musical-storytime brings to a community is the experience of sharing live music. Gone are the days when a person who wanted music made it themselves and children learned from their elders. Musical Storytime gives that experience back to the community in a way that is satisfying both to the performer and to the audience. Current brain development research shows that music makes an important contribution to reading readiness.

For a one-time event, I recommend choosing *participation songs* rather than *performance songs*. These are songs that children and parents can be expected to join in easily, and they tend to have the following characteristics: 1. Song has a simple chorus that repeats. 2. Song has a call-and-response format. 3. Silly elements make the children and parents smile. 4. Children can call out additions to the song, such as animals in *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*.

Advice for volunteering at your local library: call the library and speak with the children's librarian. See if he/she would be interested in some music for storytime. A typical storytime might have 3-5 books and 3-5 songs, about 40 minutes, depending on the ages of the children and the tradition of the program. Unless you have experience with storytime or teaching, you will probably be playing music and the librarian will be reading along with you. If you are in San Mateo County I can help you make the connection with your local children's librarian.



### Scholarship News

The SFAC Board recently broadened our scholarship guidelines to include a provision to help young accordionists who are competing in National and International Competitions. We are delighted to announce that we have awarded such a scholarship to Samantha Harvey, who will travel to Ireland to compete in the **All-Ireland Fleadh** in Derry, Northern Ireland. This event draws competitors from around the world and is described as the *Olympics of Traditional Music*. Samantha competed at the regional contest in the US, and won first place in both accordion and piano. She is one of only four Americans who will be competing in accordion in the adult category, and the only one from the Western US. We will have an opportunity to hear Samantha this month as she plays for our club.

## Lark Camp 2013

by Myfany Turpin

What a treat to go to Lark Camp during my visit to the United States earlier this month! I have a full size piano accordion which I did not intend to lug from Australia. Fortunately I got in touch with Lynn Ewing of SFAC who supplied me with one, plus an accordion sized backpack, which proved to be very handy at the Camp.

I joined the Klezmer & Balkan Orchestra workshop, which was taught by Ty Rust where we learnt Doko Doko and some classic horas, shers and bulgars. Ty did most of the arrangements himself and treated us to select recordings of these songs, including some wonderfully wild modern arrangements such as Boiled in Lead's *Sher*. Like Ty, Nada Lewis provided us with sheet music in her Eastern European Klezmer and Rom Music workshop where many beautiful, lesser-known and challenging tunes such as 'Skotshne' awaited us. Simo Tesla's Serbian and Balkan ensemble was a real treat. As a relative newcomer to the accordion from piano, I received advice on how to hold and move the accordion, and tips such as marking changes with bellow movement in the music. We covered a diverse range of music, from the rollicking *Dospatsko Horo*, to the delicate *Svilen konac (Silver thread)* and Simo's own sentimental peice *In Your Arms* (wait til Woody Allen gets wind of this).

One evening we performed our faster tunes with those enrolled in the dance workshops. Melding music and dance is such a satisfying and vibrant experience. I can't wait to get back home and share the wonderful selection of tunes that these three teachers shared with us, and spread the word about Lark camp and its accordion maestros. Thanks Lynn for preparing me with accordion and woollies for the adventure!

*Dr MYFANY TURPIN | ARC Research Fellow in linguistics and ethnomusicology  
School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies*



*The Serbian and Balkan ensemble*



*Simo Tesla with participants Myf and Becky.*

## Message from the President by Lynn Ewing

Cotati had some excellent players this year, and it was great fun to be there. Thanks to MaryAnne Romanowski, Scotty Williamson, Mike Zampiceni, Vinny Rinaldi, Taffy Steffen, Sheri Mignano, Gwyn Lister, and Gus and Sharon Greyhosky, for being a welcoming presence at the SFAC table. We are richer by four new members, and a couple hundred dollars in sales from your donations of sheet music and CD's.

I went straight to the Coupe Mondiale in Victoria, BC, and this festival is an experience like no other. Founded in 1938, and hosted in a different country each year, the Coupe is the oldest and most prestigious of the international competitions. World Class accordionists from China, Russia, New Zealand, Brazil, and many countries from Eastern and Western Europe perform. They are astonishing in their virtuosity. Competitors range from 12 years to 32 years of age. These performances were recorded live and are archived and available at the Coupe Mondiale Website for your listening pleasure.

One of the striking things about this event - is that you are in close proximity with the composers and arrangers who create some of the pieces being played, such as **Viatcheslav Semionov, Renzo Ruggieri, and Antonio Spaccarotella**. US luminaries such as **Joan Cochran Sommers** and **Mary Tokarski** mixed with festival attendees and contestants, and the competitors interacted in a friendly way with a mix of good will, sign language, and valiant attempts to communicate in an unfamiliar language.

The City of Victoria was very accommodating— with front page press coverage and pictures in all the newspapers every day, and free concerts in the park each day at noon. One of the highlights was hearing the first place winning virtuoso ensemble **Concertino** from Moldova play a concert. They consist of six championship accordionists, supported by violin, bass, piano and percussion.

Playing in the World Orchestra was unforgettable as well. Professionals, judges, competitors and hobbyists all participated in an 89 member orchestra which was truly exciting. The first piece was **Danse Villageoise** by Claude Champagne, conducted and arranged by Canadian Maureen Jarosh, who has been operating a studio and an accordion orchestra for 35 years. Joan C. Sommers, who has conducted more championship Virtuoso Accordion Orchestras than any other American, arranged and conducted selections from **Les Miserables**, with a guest appearance by New Zealand tenor and accordionist **Lionel Reekie**.

You will have an opportunity to experience a similar event here in our own backyard when we host the **Accordionists and Teachers Guild (ATG)** festival in July of 2014. I encourage you to expand your horizons with accordion music whenever you have the opportunity. It is truly inspiring to have the privilege of hearing such excellent music played on our favorite instrument!

## Samantha Harvey

also a new member is a young accordionist living in Ventura, CA. She has been playing the piano accordion for years and loves it! A recent college graduate, she is now making a full-time career in music and dance. She performs with different bands, gives music lessons, and teaches dance at the Claddagh School of Irish Dance. Last spring she travelled to NJ to compete at the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh (Irish music competition), and won first place in both accordion and piano. In August, one of only four Americans who qualified, she travelled overseas to compete for a title at the All-Ireland Fleadh with the help of a scholarship from SFAC.

## Congratulations

Reno and Anna Di Bono will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary on Sept 7, 2013. All told, they gave birth to three sons, and they in turn, 9 grandchildren.

**XX=XXX=XXXXXXXXXX**

## Performing Around the Bay

**Steve Balich** • North Bay  
[www.stevebalichband.com](http://www.stevebalichband.com)

**Ron Borelli** • San Mateo  
[rborelli@aol.com](mailto:rborelli@aol.com)

**Renée de la Prade**  
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco  
[www.sfhounds.com](http://www.sfhounds.com)

**Richard Denier** • Carmel  
[rdenier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdenier@sbcglobal.net)

**Peter Di Bono** • San Francisco  
[www.peterdibono.com](http://www.peterdibono.com)

**Reno Di Bono** • South Bay  
[ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com)

**William De Michelis** • South Bay  
[wdd777@comcast.net](mailto:wdd777@comcast.net)

**Joe Domitrowich** • South Bay  
[www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com) or  
[www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com)

**Due Zighi Baci**, (Sheri Mignano)  
San Francisco  
[www.eurocafemusic.com](http://www.eurocafemusic.com) or  
[zighi@sonic.net](mailto:zighi@sonic.net)

**Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobelins**  
Oakland  
[www.myspace.com/hobogobelins](http://www.myspace.com/hobogobelins)

**Ed Gorzynski, Jr.** • East Bay  
[edspolkas@yahoo.com](mailto:edspolkas@yahoo.com)

**Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers**  
[kirschner@aol.com](mailto:kirschner@aol.com)  
[www.klezmakers.com](http://www.klezmakers.com)

**Big Lou, aka Linda Seekins** • San Francisco  
[www.accordionprincess.com](http://www.accordionprincess.com)

**Mad Maggies** • San Francisco  
[themadmaggies.com](http://themadmaggies.com)

**Don Nurisso** • Pacifica  
[don@nurisso.com](mailto:don@nurisso.com)

**Rob Reich** • East Bay & San Francisco  
[robbyreichmusic@gmail.com](mailto:robbyreichmusic@gmail.com)

**Diana Strong** • Pacifica  
[don@nurisso.com](mailto:don@nurisso.com)

**Tangonero**  
<http://tangonero.com>

**Whiskey and Women** •  
[www.whiskeyandwomenmusic.com](http://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 March, 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](mailto:accord47@gmail.com), or Lynn Ewing, 650-453-3391, or [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)



# ACCORDION EVENTS

**14th Annual Las Vegas International  
Accordion Convention  
October 28—31, 2013  
at the Gold Coast Hotel  
Carnival of Venice in Vegas**  
WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT,  
fabulous meals plus enjoyable and informa-  
tive workshops. Join the fun and make new  
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Hotel accommodations are very inexpensive.  
Be inspired by the some of the finest.  
Learn from the masters.

There will be included three gala luncheons  
and FOUR regal dinners including a Tuesday  
Grand all-you-can-eat Buffet. Plus an unfor-  
gettable Monday night opening Party and a  
Thursday night Prime Rib Dinner the final  
evening along with dinner dancing.



## A special Moment in TIME

The musicians union local 6, holds a special luncheon for all lifetime members. There are now 7 accordionists who are members of this elite group. We were all captured in the attached photo. You'll notice all the 90 year olds (not sure of John Fiore age) are standing (I think they still stand and play accordion) and the young 60 year old are sitting (they're still in training from the masters)



*From left to right  
Standing-John Fiore,  
Dominic Saso, Mike  
Corino, Martha Wallahan  
Sitting-George Campi,  
Ron Sfarzo, Ron Borelli*

## 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](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

### Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

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

Lynn Ewing, President  
(650) 453-3391 [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

Dominic Palmisano, Vice President  
(415) 587-4423 [accord47@gmail.com](mailto:accord47@gmail.com)

Mike Zampiceni (408) 734-1565  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)

Maryanne Romanowski, Treasurer  
(650) 595-8105  
[maromanowski@yahoo.com](mailto:maromanowski@yahoo.com)

## SFAC Directors

Jean Moshofsky Butler, [threehummingbirds@  
gmail.com](mailto:threehummingbirds@gmail.com) phone 415-377-9266

Vince Rinaldi, [vinnyrinaldi01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vinnyrinaldi01@sbcglobal.net)  
phone: 415-824-7609

Don Nurisso (650) 359-3549  
[don@nurisso.com](mailto:don@nurisso.com)

Scott Williamson (650) 493-3075  
[aswy01@gmail.com](mailto:aswy01@gmail.com)

## Newsletter

Christina Knapp, Graphic Design  
[snapp.chris@gmail.com](mailto:snapp.chris@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  
September 15 @ 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.

**SFAC Membership is**

\$30.00 per year for individual or family.  
Meeting admission is \$5 per member & \$7 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.

**Join us for a JAM SESSION  
before the meeting!**

**Newsletter of the  
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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San Francisco, CA 94131-8175  
[www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)



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