



February 2007

*Official Instrument of San Francisco
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February 18 Meeting

Another great program is planned! From the North Bay we'll be hearing a favorite player from up there, XAVIER DE LA PRADE, who will have us singing along! Also NAOMI ZAMIR of Menlo Park, a new SFAC member and student of Ron Borelli; VIC CORSIGLIA'S group from the South Bay will keep your toes tapping; and, after intermission, two of our all-time favorites, JOE DOMITROWICH from Cupertino, whose program is billed as "From Strauss to Santana," and MIKE ZAMPICENI from Sunnyvale, who amazes all with stunning precision at amazing speeds! (See also note on page 2)

DON'T MISS THIS PROGRAM!



President's Message

I was looking forward to a great beginning of the New Year for last month's meeting, but as you know, we had to skip the meeting. It was the result an oversight not in our control. The Oyster Point Yacht Club was booked from the previous year, and it wasn't discovered until late Decem-

ber. I hope you had sufficient notice of the cancellation, and didn't show up to a room with no accordion people! We should have no interruptions to our monthly get-togethers from here on in. The February meeting is sure to be a good one, you can read about the line-up elsewhere in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

There are several vacancies on the Board, as I told you last month, and since then, Treasurer Bob Hansen

has had to step down from that position. It is very important that we fill the Treasurer spot right away since it leaves me in charge of the checkbook. Right now there are only five of us running the entire Club. We won't give up, but it's high time for others to step in and help us out. So...we really need some people to come in and assume these posts.

People are needed to handle the admissions and drawings table at the monthly meetings. The mid-meeting buffet will be provided by The Oyster Point Yacht Club for a small fee. Please continue to bring a little sweet something for the buffet however.

We have some wonderful players lined up for the next several months, but without your assistance handling the little chores, "Somethin's gotta give."

I look forward to seeing you on February 18th, 2007, at 2:00 pm.

Play that accordion every day, and remember:

REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!

Peter Di Bono

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco

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

Our Website www.sfaccordionclub.com is live but incomplete and under construction

A Word About

Joe Domitrowich's Program . . .

"From Strauss to Santana"

will contain the whole gamut of musical styles—classical, salsa, jazz and everything in between,

including Frosini's *Jolly Caballero*.

Joe brought the house down the last time he played for us—*so get ready!*

And, about Mike Zampiceni

Mike has been playing at Di Cicco's Restaurant in Campbell for nine years AND has been playing accordion for fifty years (he looks far too young for the latter!). Mike will leave you breathless as he flies over the keys with amazing precision.


Word Has It . . .

. . . That **Jennie Balich** continues to recover well from her broken hip. **Steve Balich** wrote: "Jen and I want to wish you and all the SFAC members a very happy and prosperous and healthy 2007. Jen is coming along slow and steady and hopes to be back dancing soon." *Steve and Jen* Steve and his band have a very full playing schedule, booked months in advance.

. . . That our dedicated member and volunteer, **Lucille Creamer**, is ailing, and we all wish her the very best. She's a real gem.

. . . That **Vince Cirelli** is back working in his shop! This is wonderful news! Vince asked me to thank everyone for their well wishes, care and concern.

. . . That **Sue Hirigoyen** had her first turn on the "Hot Seat" at the good Time Accordion club. She has now officially performed before a group! **Harry Gay** was a big support for her, along with the encouragement of her teacher, **Lou Jacklich**. Congratulations, Sue! Now you can "keep your feet wet" by playing some pre-meeting music for us in February! I nominate Sue for the person who has made the most progress in the shortest period of time. It takes real dedication and lots of PRACTICE!!!



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Welcome New Members . . .

Julian Goldenberg all the way from West Orange, N.J., who writes, "Greetings and Happy New Year to you and to all the members of your accordion club. It was nice speaking with you (Val) on the phone. Enclosed is a check to cover a membership/subscription to your club and newsletter. I'm looking forward to receiving your newsletters and to find out what's going on in your area. Hope you have a great year, and perhaps I'll meet some of your members this August in Washington, D.C." Julian wrote a follow-up note later saying he was enjoying looking at the newsletters I sent him, and he noticed that accordion activity is thriving in the San Francisco. Thank you, Julian!

Sheri Mignano of Petaluma. I heard Sheri and her guitarist play at a meeting of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods last November and knew they'd be a hit at SFAC as well. Sheri likes to play Italian and Latin dance music. She has two ensembles: "Zighi Baci" in which the Italian tenor Carlo Solivan is featured; and a group featuring 5-6 mandolins, guitar and accordion. Sheri published a book, *Mandolins, Like Salami*, which is a social history of Italian-American mandolinists of the 20th century; also a huge volume of more than 125 Italian dances, *Mandolin Melodies*. She sells her books at City Lights, Caffè Trieste in North Beach (where you can hear her play on Saturday mornings), Elderly Instruments (on line), Down Home Music in El Cerrito and other places. We will get Sheri and one of her groups to put on a program for our club as soon as we can set it up.

Welcome Aboard, Julian and Sheri

ACCORDION EVENTS COMING UP IN 2007 THAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!

The Las Vegas Accordion Convention,

takes place Monday through Thursday, June 18-21, 2007 at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Headline artists include **Leo Aquino** from Canada, **Daniel Desiderio**, **Tony Lovello**, **Walter Ostanek**, **Mario Padone**, **Soundscape Accordion Trio**, **Sammy Thomas**. Featured legends will be **Art Van Damme**, **Peter and Mady Soave** and Comedian **Pete Barbutti**. Also appearing will be **Gina Branelli** from the UK, **Gordon Kohl** from San Diego, and our own **Ron Borelli** and **Joe Domitrowich**.

The Convention will be celebrating 100 Years of the Piano Accordion! For details visit www.AccordionStars.com.

Rose City Accordion Camp

In Silver Falls, Oregon, June 3-8. Info call (530) 293-0322.

Galla-Rini Accordion Camp

July 22-26, at Dominican University in San Rafael. Mark the dates now; details will follow in coming issues.

The Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes' 2007 Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships

Taking place August 13-18 in Washington, D.C.

Co-hosted by the AAA and the ATG. For info:

www.ameracord.com or e-mail Joan Cochran Sommers sommersj@umkc.edu or call (913) 722-5625.

Did you know . . .

. . . That there is a **button box ensemble** too? While not actually a part of the SFAC, most of the players are members, including Chris Arild, Mary Ann Field, Val Kieser, Sally Ann Smiell, and George Chávez. Other players include Ed Smiell (Joe's son), Elizabeth Fink, and Johannes Moderbacher. Joe Smiell is our director and the writer of all our music. We look forward to playing for the SFAC some day soon. Below is a picture of our most recent rehearsal (not everyone was present).



The Button Box Ensemble: *l. to r.* Val Kieser, Chris Arild, Mary Ann Field, Joe Smiell, Ed Smiell, Johannes Moderbacher, George Chávez, Liz Fink.

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News from Tom Cordoni in Petaluma
The Fifth Annual "Celebrate the Accor-
dion" Event will be two days long this year: **Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24**, and will be held in only one venue, the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum. Tom is currently scheduling players, so if you or your group would like to add your talent to the event, please call Tom at (707) 762-2231. (Our "Fun Band" is already on the schedule!) Note from Val: This event is loads of fun. Be sure to come and enjoy the day whether or not you will be playing!

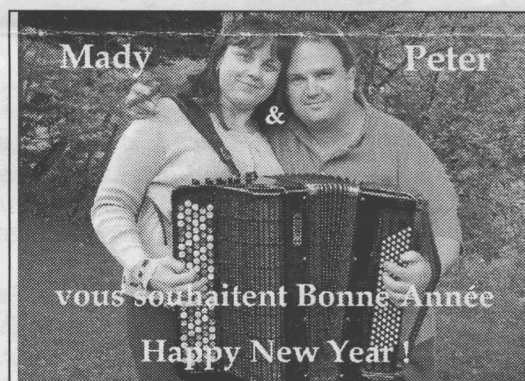
Some More Accordion Happenings . . .

The National Accordion Association's
National Accordion Convention
Richardson Hotel, Richardson, Texas (near Dallas)
March 7-11, 2007

This is a hands-on convention and you are encouraged to bring your accordion. There will be two accordion orchestras; also workshops on every imaginable subject; jam sessions, swap shop, and FUN!! Val has all the details and the forms (510) 531-4836; vtkacc@ifn.net; or you can download the info and forms at www.accordion.com/naa
Or e-mail NatlAccordion@sbcglobal.net
Cost for the entire convention: \$140/person.

The NAA (above) is also sponsoring the
NATIONAL BUTTON ACCORDION FESTIVAL
May 25-26-27

Yukon Czech Hall In Yukon, Oklahoma.
For all types of button accordions.
Three fun-filled days of music and dancing; polka Mass and concert on Sunday; Info: Val has the flyers, or visit www.accordion.com/naa
Or e-mail rpivovar@verizon.net



A New Year greeting to all from Mady and Peter Soave

"Where is my friend playing?" Contact:

Steve Balich (707) 874-3494
Joe Domitrowich (408)255-1259
info@capricious-accordion.com or
alpiners@alpinersusa.com
Mike Zampiceni (408) 734-1565
eclecticguy@comcast.net
Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707 rborelli@aol.com
Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net
Peter Di Bono pdibono@hotmail.com
Reno Di Bono (South Bay) ourhike@aol.com
William Demichelis wdd777@comcast.net

Wanted

Items for the newsletter! Send me your articles: on playing tips, technique, accordion history, music theory (not too complicated!), accordion history, events, personal experiences, photos—whatever might be of interest for the newsletter.

Call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net.

Fun Band News . . .

The Fun Band meets at Val's house in Oakland on the **second and fourth Wednesday evenings of the month**. At the moment we're working on our program of mostly Irish music for the Accordion Club of the Redwoods' "Spring Fling" dinner-dance on March 16. If anyone hears of another event where we might play, please let Frank Schlotter know as soon as possible (510) 339-1163, or Val (510) 531-4836 (vtkacc@ifn.net) so we can get our schedule in order.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US! We do have FUN and the music is not difficult.

Current players in the band are: Vic and Barbara Corsiglia (Barbara plays bass guitar and other special sounds as needed); Lyndie Chiou (on string bass whenever she has time in her busy life); Telmo Echeverría; Val Kieser; Gwyn Lister whenever we can get her; Mel Schwing; Bob Smith; Scott Williamson; Lee Woodall. Now: How about YOU ?!!!!

ACE Ensemble News . . .

The ACE Ensemble practice venue has changed to the Oyster Point Yacht Club! We just can't thank **Mary-Alice and Dave Eldon** enough for their very gracious hospitality in having us rehearse in their beautiful home in Redwood City for over ten years! They certainly deserve a rest!

Right now the ACE Ensemble is preparing for its upcoming **spring concerts**, one of which will take place at the **Randall Museum , 199 Museum Way in San Francisco on Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m.** There is ample parking. Please come and support our ensemble! The concert will be billed as **Music from Around the World, with Joe Smiell as Conductor and Arranger**. Tickets at the door: Adult \$5; Seniors \$3; Children under 12 free.

Other concert dates are being set and will be announced.

ACE players: Aldo Argenti, Jr., Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono, Mary-Alice Eldon, Lynn Ewing, Ron Harris, Marian Kelly, Valerie Kieser, Deborah Knapp, Nora Mazzara, Kevin McCarthy (percussion), Anne Métais, Frank Montoro, Bob Smith, and Sharon Walters Greyhosky. Joe Smiell is our musical director and arranger, and Chris Arild is our hard-working Librarian.

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club.

Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate and it doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks!

PLEASE NOTE

Club members are welcome at Executive Board meetings anytime. Board meetings are generally held at 6:30 p.m. at the Oyster Point Yacht Club on the Monday before a meeting. Always check with a board member (see last page) to confirm date & time, which may occasionally vary from the normal schedule, if you wish to attend.



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THANKS FROM YOUR EDITOR

My thanks to all of you who have submitted articles, songs, and other items for the newsletter. Although I cannot print everything, especially in one issue, I am holding onto these items for possible use in future newsletters. I appreciate your response to my plea for newsletter items!

Val

AND MORE THANKS . . .

. . . to Telmo Echeverría and Sue Hirigoyen for helping with the proofreading, folding, labeling, stamping and mailing of newsletters; and to all the generous people who bring food to the meetings and help with the serving. Even if we don't get all the names, your volunteer spirit is very much appreciated!

Your Executive Board Met . . .

. . . On Thursday, February 1. Due to members' commitments and crises, the board meeting had to be postponed twice, and met this time outside its regular schedule. The search is on for replacements for vacant board and officer positions. Programs are being planned for three months in advance. As soon as possible we'll get our Website completed and updated. The board voted to wait until we can get a better overview of our financial position before trying to put out an occasional newsletter with some color in it.

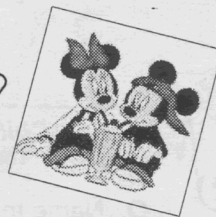
Club bank balances were unavailable at the time of this meeting.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
LEAVE THE MEETING HALL CLEAN
AND FREE OF FOOD, PAPER PLATES,
NAPKINS, CANS, BOTTLES, ETC. ! ! ! !**



I Love You Truly

Carrie Jacobs-Bond
1906



Accordion transcription
Andante con amore

1

I love you truly, truly dear,

GM Am D7 Am D7 GM

5

Life with its sorrow, life with its tear,

GM Am D7 Am D7 GM

9

Fades in - to dreams when I feel you are near,

B7 Em Gd

13

For I love you truly, truly, dear.

GM GM *rall.* D7 GM

Level 6

Accordion transcription Copyright © 2007 by Robert L. Smith, Livermore, CA

From Bob Smith's book *Songs of Long Ago*, available by calling (925) 294-9659 or e-mail bobsmith4@sbcglobal.net
Price of the book \$25 including shipping



Children's science exam answers

Thanks to Aldo Argenti for sending them

- Q. Name the four seasons
 A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar
 Q. How is dew formed?
 A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.
 Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?
 A. Keep it in the cow.
 Q. What causes the tides in the oceans?
 A. The tides are a fight between the Earth and the moon. All water tends to flow toward the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.
 Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?
 A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.
 Q. What is the fibula?
 A. A small lie.
 Q. What does "varicose" mean?
 A. Nearby.
 Q. Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean section."
 A. The Caesarian Section is a district in Rome.
 Q. What does "benign" mean?
 A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

When do our fellow accordion clubs in the Bay Area meet?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) regularly meets on the third Monday of the month, Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three divisions. The **Vacaville** club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, Moose Lodge, 6585 Gibson Canyon Road, Vacaville. The **Humboldt** Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The **Sacramento** group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Clubs: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave., Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets on the third Thursday of the month, Granite Rock Grill, 5140 Pacific Street, Rocklin, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041.

Bill Palmer on Bellow Control

STOP THE BELLOWS!

When it is desired to terminate the sound of the treble and bass exactly together, this is best accomplished by stopping the motion of the bellows very suddenly, with the fingers continuing to hold down the keys and buttons that are being played. This not only terminates the sound exactly together, but gives a bit of extra reverberation to the sound. When this technique is NOT used, an unpleasant and unwanted crescendo sound is likely to occur when the fingers leave the buttons or the keys. If the bellow remains ever slightly in motion as the fingers are lifted, a very unmusical "yunk" is heard. This sound is one that we often hear from inexperienced players, and it is a sound that causes many discerning music lovers to dislike the sound of an accordion.

The above technique is often useful on the closing chord of a piece. With fingers remaining on keys and buttons, simply bring the bellows right up to the bellows frame, and let the motion stop when the bellows is precisely (and sometimes quite suddenly) closed. This requires a bit of practice, but the results make it worth the time.

Practice the following exercise.

Be sure to keep the fingers on the buttons and keys during the rests, but STOP THE MOTION OF THE BELLOWS at the EXACT moment the rest occurs instead of lifting the fingers:

SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

First and Third Wednesday of the month

ON HIATUS—members will be notified when/if we start up again!
Joe Smiell's schedule is making it difficult for Joe to be there.

SFAC Band Practice

Wed. Feb. 14 and 28, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
CALL AHEAD!! Please join us!

Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

Or Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net

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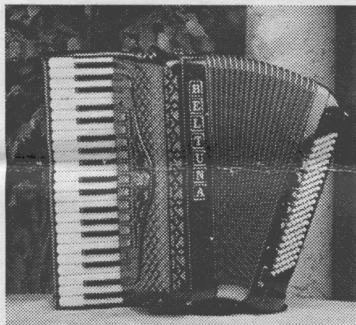
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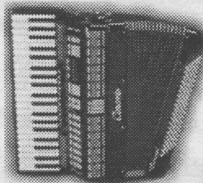


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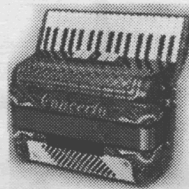
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\$8 for each guest

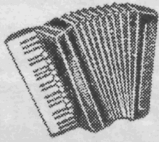
SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

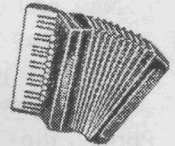
SFAC Officers

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Secretary: Lore Warren
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Directors for 2006-2007
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Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtacc@ifn.net
Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser
(510) 531-4836 vtacc@ifn.net (New)

We need volunteers for vacancies!
Call Peter or Val (see numbers above)



The next meeting will take place on
**Sunday, February 18. We have a great lineup of
players for February, including Mike Zampiceni,
Joe Domitrowich, Vic Corsiglia's group, Xavier
de la Prade, Naomi Zamir and more.**
See you there! (Directions inside newsletter)



***Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club***

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