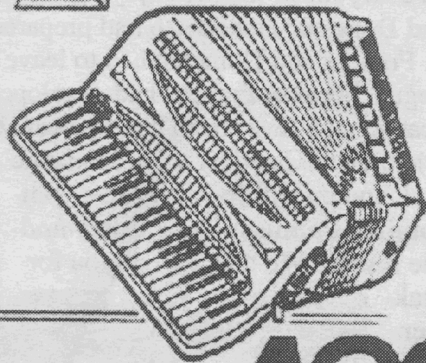


Newsletter of the

# SAN FRANCISCO



# ACCORDION CLUB

## JULY 2004

*The Accordion: San Francisco's Official Instrument*



### President's Message

I hope everyone had a Happy July 4<sup>th</sup>. I spent the holiday weekend down the Coast in Carmel, and had the opportunity to experience "home town America." Holiday celebration was everywhere; everyone was wearing red, white, and blue, there were flags exhibited everywhere; parades, fireworks - a real celebration of America. I felt good about being an American, and said a prayer of thanks for our women and men in the military service who protect and preserve our wonderful way of life. God Bless America!

Our annual Club picnic will have passed by the time you read this; the only thing I can report at this time, is that there are over 140 members who have sent in their reservation. Domenic and Frances Benedetto are preparing a scrumptious lunch, and it should be a fun day in the sunny Oakland hills. More next month.

Speaking of next month, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR MONTHLY MEETING IS MOVING TO THE AFTERNOON OF **SUNDAY, AUGUST 8**. The meeting will begin at 1:30 in the afternoon, and should

(Continued on page 8)

**NO REGULAR MEETING  
IN JULY!!**



**PICNIC!!!**  
**NATURE FRIENDS PARK**  
3115 Butters Drive  
In the beautiful Oakland hills  
The deadline was Monday,  
July 5, so you must already be  
signed up!

Questions: call Frances or  
Domenic Benedetto (650) 368-6477

**NEXT MEETING: Sunday, Aug. 8, 2004 1:30 p.m.**

**MOOSE LODGE DALY CITY**

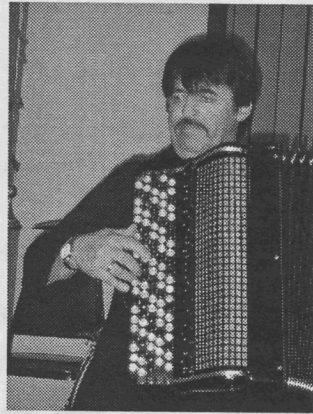
Featuring young piano accordion virtuoso Alexei Bordei, the Nurisso Trio, Dave Baione (great soloist), and The Di Bono Family

**NOTE  
CHANGE  
OF DATE  
& TIME !!!**

### June Meeting: A Study in Variety

After our president's announcements, our musical program began with our own SFAC bayan virtuoso **Grigoriye Krumik**. Grigoriye's fast-moving technique always amazes the listener. Grigoriye, I did not get the names of the pieces you played, but I and everyone else surely appreciated your facility on that button bayan keyboard.

Next we were treated to a demo of what good teaching can do: Two of Pres. Peter's students, showing what they have learned. First was **Olivia Matheson**, 12, who played *Sheherazade* by Rimsky Korsakov and *Sleeping Beauty Waltz* by Pyotr Ilyich



Grigoriye Krumik

Tchaikovsky. Next came **Julia Farrugia Glennon**, 13, a student of Peter's whom we have heard before,

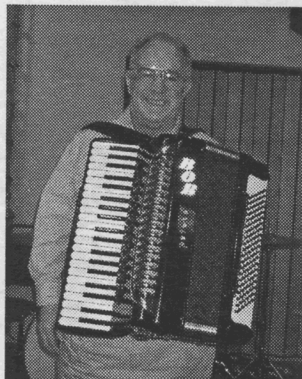


Peter Di Bono  
With students  
Julia Farrugia Glennon  
←  
and Olivia Matheson  
↓

and she is making tremendous progress. She played *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*; a beautiful piece from *Il Postino* that I have heard Peter play before; and *Come Back to Sorrento*. Congratulations to both these lovely and talented young ladies, both students of the Waldorf School (of the arts) who did a beautiful job.



Following Olivia and Julia we heard one of our long-time favorite players, **Bob Smith**, who first played his own arrangement of *Sunrise, Sunset*. He read us the words before playing the piece, giving that gorgeous piece extra meaning. Bob also played the hundred-year-old *Golden Sunset Waltzes*, a waltz medley by John T. Hall, who also wrote *Wedding of the Winds*. The



Bob Smith

sound was reminiscent of a picnic in the park a century ago, with carousels and other lively sounds going on in the background. Well done, as usual, Bob!

Intermission found everyone in the bar enjoying fabulous food that **Frances and Domenic Benedetto** had prepared. Sadly, however, both Frances and Domenic had to leave before the meeting began, because Frances had developed a very painful case of cat scratch fever from having been, by freak accident, scratched on the hand by a cat. Domenic took her to the hospital, and thankfully she is now completely recovered. **Dominic Palmisano and Rusty and Thelma Bartoli** to the rescue! We thank all of you for coming through and taking care of the food service detail.



Barbara and Dale Winter

Following intermission, the cash drawing was held. Special thanks to **Barbara Winter** who took over ticket-selling duties for **Evelyn Baulch** (who had already left with **Jim Holliday** for the Las Vegas convention). **Olivia Matheson** drew the winning ticket from the bucket, and the cash was won by none other than Peter's other student, **Julia Farrugia Glennon!!** Congratulations again, Julia!

Returning to the musical portion of the meeting, the first up was **The Schiller Family Band**, consisting of **Dick Schiller** and **Val Kieser** on accordion,

**Jon Schiller** on guitar, **Anthony Vasquez** on bass guitar, **Don Schiller** on drums, and **Gayle Schiller** playing tambourine and wood block rhythm. After a patriotic Welcome Medley of *The Marine Hymn*



The Schiller Family Band  
Front: Dick Schiller, Val Kieser, Gayle Schiller,  
Don Schiller, Jon Schiller;  
in back: Tony Vasquez

and *God Bless America*, inviting the audience to sing along, and featuring Dick's Marine son Don on drums, we played (I can say "we" because I was invited to be part of the band for this performance) a series of three lively polkas from the famous **James Last** German orchestra's recording "Polka Party." One polka (my favorite) was called simply *Ständchen* (literally, "Serenade"). The other two are already familiar to everyone: *Na Marancé* (in Czech) that Americans know as *Too Fat Polka*; and *Trompeten-Muckel* (in German) that we know as *Clarinet Polka*. In between these



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**June Meeting (Continued from Page 2)**

last two we played a slow waltz that Dick had written on the occasion of a dinner that members of my board of directors gave for me last December, that he called *Valerie* — a really lovely piece that highlighted Jon Schiller (melody, on guitar) and Tony Vasquez (bass guitar, who kept us on the beat). Thanks so much, Dick.

Last on the program was our one and only **Mike Zampiceni** playing a small, 72-bass Dino Baffetti accordion but sounding just as good as if it were a very fine full-size accordion. Mike can make any accordion sound terrific! Add to that his beautiful tenor voice, and wow! You have a fabulous performance! Mike played a medley from *Fiddler on the Roof* (including vocal on *Sunrise, Sunset*), *Tea for Two*, *Beer Barrel Polka* (I don't think I've ever heard Mike play that), *String of Pearls*, a Latin waltz, and the theme from *Godfather*. Mike played more tunes than listed above—I didn't get all the names, but what a performance! Many thanks, Mike. I hope you can make it to more meetings and play for us more often.



*Mike Zampiceni*

Val



*Chris Arild and Steve Cannata*



*The Drawing: Julia, Olivia, Peter, Barbara Winter*



*Dennis Stoscher entertains some of his admirers*



*A new conductor in the Smiell Family?  
Franz Joseph Smiell (2-1/2) in Fontana May 2004*



*The proud families and admirers of Peter's students*

## Word Has It . . .

. . . that the **Silicon Valley Accordion Society** has a brand new President: **Bill Tapogna**, replacing our long-time friend **Glenn McClelland**, who had a short term but regretfully had to resign because of conflicts with his personal life. Congratulations, Bill!

. . . that Val goofed **BIGTIME** in the last newsletter! **Norma Zonay-Parsons'** duo with violinist **Tyane Boye** is called **Bellows and Bow** (not Buttons & Bow!). My apologies to Norma and Tyane!

. . . that Yours Truly (Val) and Dick Schiller had a really nice visit with SFAC member **Joe Domitrowich** when his *Alpiners USA* band played recently at the Naturfreunde Park in Oakland (where our picnic is held). See the "Who Is Playing Where" column elsewhere in this newsletter, and go see and hear Joe and his band. You couldn't find a nicer guy, and his music is great for dancing.

. . . That the **Celebration of the Accordion** in Petaluma was a great success. The accordion exhibit in the museum is outstanding, including some great paintings by **Lee Woodall**; and our SFAC "**Fun Band**" valiantly played in spite of high winds blowing over music stands and even folded chairs. Several SFAC members



played individually as well, in various venues at various times of the day. Thanks, Tom Cordoni, for all your hard work. It certainly paid off as the event was an outstanding success, and we all had a great time.

. . . that in spite of the coverage on the **Jay Leno Show**, portraying the accordion in a decidedly unflattering light, the **Las Vegas Accordion Convention** was great fun and full of super entertainment. See article by **Sundi O'Mara** and photos on the opposite page. Or, go talk to any of our local club members who attended (**Barbara and Dale Winter, Jim Holliday, Evelyn Baulch, Ron Borelli, Mel and Cherie Schwing, Sundi O'Mara, Val Kieser, Richard Denier, Ernst Angst, Dick Schiller, George Alves, Don and Susan Pandori, Marjorie Konrad, Jana Maas, Harry Gay, Bob Foppiano, Don Garibaldi, George Chavez**—sorry if I accidentally left anyone out!). By the way, Marjorie Konrad's grandson **Keith Church** won the **Pietro Deiro Award**, offered to a deserving youth accordion player between 8 and 17 years of age. Congratulations, Keith! Plus: the **Crystal Frosini Award** this year went to the **Good Time Accordion Club**. Nice Going, **Jana Maas** and all you friends up in Escalon! And thanks, **Paul Pasquali** for all your hard work in putting on this outstanding convention.

. . . that, sadly, **Boaz Accordions** is closing up shop locally, and **Boaz and Judy Rubin** are moving East. I hope we'll get more details of their decision.

Val

## The Las Vegas Accordion Convention

By Sundi O'Mara

I attended the Convention at the Plaza Hotel for the third time. We were greeted by Gina Branelli's accordion playing as we registered. We had our first concert after dinner on Sunday, featuring **Janet Todd, Mario Tacco** and singer **Mary Mancini**, and **Tony Lovello**, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award. There's nothing like live music.

In the next three days there were classes and exhibits where everything was available for sale from music and recordings to accordions. I tried out some accordions—they didn't break!

I played in Janet Todd's Master Class, attended some of **Joan Sommer's** classes and **Mirco Patarini's** class. Mirco took his accordion apart to show us the reed blocks and how they work. I would love to learn to fix accordions.

For the first time there were polka workshops, and I went to all of them. **Gary Blair** from Scotland explained about polkas in Scotland, Ireland and Italy and played some of them. I met him at an accordion festival in London in December 2001. We



talked about the event.

**Walter Ostanek** talked about two styles of Slovenian music, my favorite. Cleveland style is what Frank Yankovic played.

They use guitar, bass, saxophone, drums, banjo and sometimes two accordions. The accordion is dry tuned. The other style is Alpine, what you would hear in Austria and Switzerland, with the accordion musette tuned. Clarinet and trumpet play the melody while accordion, guitar, baritone horn or bass play the rhythm.

**Don Lipovac** gave us theory on Slovenian music. As in Walter's class, he played some Slovenian music. They both talked about Frank Yankovic and Slavko Avsenik. They use button accordions (button boxes) in both styles. (Continued next page)





**Your Executive Board met . . .**

. . . On June 8, 2004. The board voted to let the club pay for board members' dinner on board meeting nights, up to a total of no more than \$100 per board meeting. The board approved unanimously the appointment of Dominic Palmisano as our new Treasurer. We will have a half-page ad in the Cotati program for \$235. The board discussed ways of making our presence in the Columbus Day parade more spectacular and ways of getting kids interested in accordion. Our bank balances: In checking \$2,991.76; Savings \$5,458.12, for a total of \$8,449.88. (This total does *not* include the sum set aside specifically for the ACE Ensemble, entirely made up of donations directly to ACE.)

(Continued from previous page) Alex Meixner explained the various types of polkas and played some samples, and we listened to some on the boom box.



**Art Van Damme Quintet**

During lunch and afterward, we heard **Ron Borelli, Janet Todd, Gordon Kohl, Mirco Patarini, Tony Lovello, Walter Ostanek with Gaylord and Eddy Klancnik and Alex Meixner.** During their act, Howie Mandel and the crew from the *Tonight Show* did some taping. They put an accordion on



**Art Van Damme, Dick Contino, Joan Sommers, Gina Branelli, Paul Pasquali**

Howie. I waved my napkin to the music as I do at the accordion camp. What a blast.

During dinner and afterward we heard the **Truccos, Janet Todd, Mario Tacca/Mary Mancini, Tony Lovello, Don Lipovac, the K Trio, Art Van Damme, Patricia Bartell, Peter and Mady Soave, Walter Ostanek, Alex Meixner, John Simkus and Stas Venglevski, and Gary Blair** in his kilt. I hope I didn't leave anyone out!

To end the event on the last evening, most of the per-

**OUR SINCERE THANKS**

*. . . to those who have generously donated to the Club or the Scholarship Fund in 2004. To date, your Editor has learned of the following:*

- Ed Zaro**
- Janet Landauer**
- Clyde Forsman**
- Johan and Sheila Gullmes**
- Joe Smiell**
- LynnEwing**
- Mark Zhagel**
- George Chavez**
- Val Kieser**
- Marlene G. Fullmar**

(In honor of Joe Lombardi's 75th Birthday)

*[This list will be cumulative throughout the year. If your name slipped by and did not reach the Editor, please contact Val Kieser (510) 531-4836]*

formers got on stage with **Mary Mancini** singing *God Bless America* and *America the Beautiful*. WOW!

**Joan Sommers** received the 2004 Honorary Conductor Award. Congratulations, Ms. Sommers!

There was music and dancing after hours each night in the Club Concerto room (*the "mosh pit" according to Howie Mandel—Ed.*), featuring a wide variety of talent. I was pleased to see and hear some kids there playing my favorite instrument.

Hats off to **Paul Pasquali** and his committee for a fun and educational event. I arrived home with nothing broken this time!

*Sundi*



**The Good Time Accordion Club receives the Frosini Award**

*Yes, Harry Gay does play the button box!!*



***In Memory of Reno Pucci***

It was with much sadness that I learned of the recent passing of my first accordion teacher and friend **Reno Pucci**. He was 82 years old, and unbeknownst to his friends, had been suffering from congestive heart failure for a number of years. He was a very private person, but an avid supporter of our club. He was always ready to play and impart his knowledge of music and the accordion to his audience. He was part of the grand history of



the accordion in the San Francisco area, performing in just about every restaurant in the city during his career covering a span of 75 years. Reno (or Rino—he sometimes liked to use the Italian spelling of his name), was born in San Francisco's North Beach area. He attended public schools and graduated from San Francisco State

University with a teaching degree. His accordion education came from several noted teachers including **Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini**, and **Caesar Pezzolo**. He taught piano, violin, guitar, and of course accordion all of his life, and his last studio was in the Excelsior district, where he took over **John Pezzolo's** location at Onondaga and Mission St. and taught there for 20 years.

As a wee lad of 10 years I was fortunate to have Reno as my first teacher as he came to my house for my lessons (remember the days of house lessons?). With his enthusiasm, he transferred to me a love for this beautiful instrument that has never left. He schooled me in many of the wonderful accordion classics: *Flight of the Angels*;

*Nola*; *Accordiana*; *Dizzy Fingers*; many of the Italian standards and classic polkas. Although I had several teachers during my formative years, it was Reno's teaching that gave me the grounding that has accorded me one of the great joys in my life, my love for the accordion.

During his life Reno toured the world, including travel in Canada, Alaska, the near East, down the Nile River and several Caribbean cruises. With Joyce, his lovely wife of 42 years, they toured extensively in Europe and Italy, performing throughout Italy, including Castelfidardo. A highlight of one trip was being guests at the famed Hohner factory in Germany.

Reno had an immense pride in his accordion and an uncompromising belief about how it should be presented to the public. Joyce relates that on one cruise to the Isle of Capri,



Reno encountered a dour-faced accordionist performing on the ship and not getting much of a reaction to his playing. He went up to the man and offered to show him how to please the audience. Taking the man's accordion he performed all over the ship with his talent, charm and wit, and in the process filling the man's tin cup with donations from grateful listeners. That was Reno—pleasant, personable, talented, the personification of the ideal accordionist. He had little patience for those who would make light of his beloved accor-

dion. He once told me of an encounter in which the sarcastic question was asked, "Where's your monkey"? Without missing a beat, Reno replied, "Would you like to apply for the job"? There was no response.

*(Continued on next page)*



**Caesar Pezzolo Accordion Band  
Fairfax Park**



I'm especially happy that Reno performed at my daughter Jaime's wedding in the late 90's and was an important part of this great event. The way he connected with people and put them at ease was amazing.

Our club and the accordion world have lost a dynamic spokesman, teacher and performer. I miss him greatly and can only thank my lucky stars that one day in 1948 our paths crossed, and my life was changed forever.

Dick Schiller



Reno (left), wife Joyce (right) and their two daughters

***Petosa Accordions Doing Very Well, Thank You!***

Having heard the rumor that Petosa's factory in Italy had closed, I telephoned Joe Petosa, Jr. to get the "scoop." The rumor is absolutely untrue, and the factory, which is part of a venture with Zero Sette, dating back to 1945 and set up by Joe Jr.'s grandfather, is operating as usual, and that in fact, two shipments of new Petosas have just arrived in Seattle.

The rumor might have originated from someone who was visiting in Italy and tried to contact the Petosa factory and was surprised that they could not reach anyone, and then concluded that the factory was closed. In fact, the factory is private and not open for tourists, and does not sell directly to the public, and therefore cannot be contacted directly in the way that other factories can be contacted and toured and patronized directly.

Val

**REMEMBER !!!**  
**No regular meeting in July**  
**(because of picnic)**  
**Next meeting will be on**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 8**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**!!!!!!**

***ADVERTISE IN THE  
 SFAC NEWSLETTER !!!***

**ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO DO SO TOO:  
 ACCORDION PEOPLE NEED AND USE  
 ALL TYPES OF SERVICES JUST LIKE  
 EVERYONE ELSE!**

***Welcome New Members***

Art Peterson of El Cerrito  
 Marjorie Konrad of Santa Rosa (welcome back, Marjorie!)  
 Cotati Accordion Festival Committee

***News Note . . .***

***Excelsior and Pignini*** have collaborated on some aspects of manufacture but are still two distinct and independently operated accordion companies

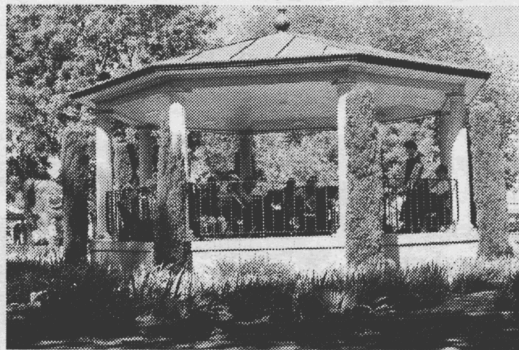


Another photo from Las Vegas . . .



Art Van Damme Quintet

And another one from Petaluma



The SF Accordion Band ("Fun Band")  
Day of the Accordion in Petaluma

(Pres. Message—Continued from page 1) conclude about 4:00 pm. This first Sunday meeting should be a good one. Top-flight Russian accordionist, **Alexei Bordei**, is slated to begin the **afternoon** program. Alexei played briefly, after last month's meeting, on Dick Schiller's accordion, and judging from what I heard, you are going to love him.

**Don Nurisso** then takes over with a trio of accordion with mandolin and sax/clarinet. Don's keyboard wizardry, coupled with the sound of the mandolin, and the rich, woody tone of the clarinet makes for a promising performance.

The second half of the **afternoon** features yours truly, and my brother, **Reno**, will join me. We'll do a couple of Joe Smiell's tricky arrangements, there'll be some singing, and maybe I can get my Dad, **Tony**, to join in the fracas. We'll see what shakes out of the tree, who knows? Filling

out the **afternoon** program will be jazz great, **Dave Baione**. We rarely get to hear Dave, and I am looking forward to hearing his fine improvisation. The last time I heard Dave was several years ago at the Spanish Cultural Center. It's been too long, Dave. In addition to being a very accomplished accordionist, Dave is also a very accomplished martial arts practitioner; so make sure you applaud a lot. Did you notice that I emphasized the word, **afternoon**, several times in the last paragraph? Please remember the new meeting day is **SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>!** (The new meeting formula is, the second Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m.—Ed.)

I had a nice conversation with **Joe Petosa Jr.** this morning. Joe reported that their instruments are selling so fast that they are in high gear just trying to keep up with demand. What a nice problem to have. The exacting workmanship, and attention to detail, make it impossible to turn out new accordions quickly, but, if you've ever played a Petosa, you'll understand why sales figures are up for three years running. Joe said that this year will surpass last year's totals. They just received a large shipment of new Petosas, and they are already spoken for. He is awaiting another shipment later this summer, and there appears to be no end in sight. Way to go, Joe!

That's all for now. I look forward to seeing you, and hearing from you with any comments or suggestions on keeping our club the best. Play your accordion every day, and remember:

**REAL MUSIC IS LIVE!!!**

*Peter Di Bono*

### Report from Bob Berta in Michigan (Continued from last month)

While we all have memories of those fantastic players both outside the club and inside, I also have warm memories of those of us who are a bit less than stellar musicians. Some of the most satisfying moments in the club were the beginners' first steps on our stage, or the "seasoned" members who gave up accordion at an early age and then many years later decided to take it up again as retirement afforded them a bit more time. I also enjoy seeing the very obvious change as members first play for us, and then seeing a huge improvement in their playing as they become more relaxed and comfortable over time.

I want to put in a special thanks to a real "treasure" of the accordion world, **Vince Cirelli**. He is a true artisan. Some of the most enjoyable moments I spent were several hours with Vince as he described everything in intimate detail as he took me through the intricacies of the construction of an accordion. He also completely rebuilt one of my accordions, and the result was a truly magical instrument transformation.

The one thing about our club I was most appreciative of, especially when I was President and Newsletter Editor, were all those unsung heroes who were always there to lend a hand, whether it was collecting money at the door, submitting articles for the newsletter, helping out setting up or taking down, or just volunteering whenever something needed to be done. A club relies on volunteers for everything. While some people like to complain when something doesn't go right, it takes a special person to quietly just step in and do what needs to be done and to get the job done.

The club has seen some highs and lows, but through it all the SFAC has steadfastly stood by its ideals and simply continues to be the club that others emulate. We have a rich heritage, and only through enthusiastic and *participating* members can it hope to continue to be the accordion club that sets the standard for excellence.

If ANY of you have reason to come to the Detroit area, I would be really insulted if you didn't at least give me a call, and hopefully we can get together!

*Bob*



### *More Pearls from Bob Hope*

*Submitted by Aldo Argenti*

On giving up his early career, boxing: "I ruined my hands in the ring—the referee kept stepping on them."

On Sailors: "they spend the first six days of each week sowing their wild oats, then they go to church on Sunday and pray for crop failure."

On Never Winning an Oscar: "Welcome to the Academy Awards or, as it's called at my home, 'Passover'."

On Golf: "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

On Presidents: "I have performed for 12 presidents and entertained only six."

On Why he Chose Showbiz for his Career: "When I was born, the doctor said to my mother, 'Congratulations. You have an eight-pound ham.'"

On Receiving the Congressional Gold Medal: "I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it."

On his Family's Early Poverty: "Four of us slept in the one bed. When it got cold, Mother threw on another brother."

On His Six Brothers: "That's how I learned to dance—waiting for the bathroom."

On His Early Failures: "I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me."

On Going to Heaven: "I've done benefits for ALL religions. I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality."

### *RIP that Oompa-Oompa from the Bass*

From an article by bass authority Norm Zeller, author of "The Mastery of the Basses" (No date given, but the illustration shows Mr. Zeller playing an accordion that appears to be from the 30's or 40's.)

*Submitted by Vince Cirelli*

The player should always bear in mind that the accordionist is *never any better than his left hand*. Flawless right hand technique does not mean a thing unless the accompaniment is properly played. By the term "properly played" I do not mean mere lucky strike on the basses, but the accurate gauging of so-called jumps, and the manner of touch used on the buttons.

The secret of accurate gauging is not practice alone. It requires training, the fingers to rest as close as possible to the buttons at all times. If you are one of the many players who have developed the habit of "slapping" the buttons, I will venture to say you have always had difficulties in judging the "bass jumps," and your hand vibrates as if you were affected with St. Vitus Dance.

By practicing a few minutes day on bass jumps alone, keeping the fingers close to the buttons, and "pressing" rather than "striking," you will find within a short time that accurate gauging will be greatly improved.

The pressure on the button, however, whether a bass or a chord, should be instantly released. All rhythm playing on the basses should be short and precise, in the same manner as that of a rhythm section in a dance orchestra.

Too many accordionists, *among them professionals*, have

drifted into the bad habit of playing a *sluggish accompaniment* to a fine right hand solo. Radio playing has been *partly* responsible for this condition. The accordionist usually has an orchestra background, and so eliminates the left hand entirely. The effect, on the air, is pleasing, but what happens when the player performs the same number without the aid of either a mike or an orchestra?

*(To be continued)*

### *More Accordion Facts from Mr. Smarty Pants*

\* An accordion player since the 1930s, **Myron Floren** first played on the radio in 1939, on KSOO in Sioux Falls. Floren had been an accordion teacher, a member of the country western band *The Buckeye Four*, and an entertainer for the troops in World War II. To this day, even though Welk retired in 1981, Floren plays 150 dates a year. For the last 25 years in a row he has performed at Wurstfest in New Braunfels.

\* In 1990, there were an estimated 75,000 accordionists in the United States.

\*Pietro Deiro, known by all accordionists as "The Daddy of the Accordion," was born in Salto, Italy in 1888. Eventually, he established a Vaudeville career in San Francisco and got signed to RCA Victor Records. He died November 3, 1954.

\* Former Boston Celtics player Tony Lavelli used to play his accordion at halftime.

\*Debra Peters (of Debra Peters and the Love Saints) started on the accordion at age 4 after being convinced by a guy who was selling lessons door-to-door; after two weeks of persistent requests, her mom finally agreed to buy her one. Peters, a veteran champ of several Kiwanis Club-sponsored accordion contests, once was a member of a winning orchestra that had 50 accordionists. . . . Peters has been offered big money over the years to play the accordion topless but has refused because she fears she would get caught in the bellows.

\* Deborah Norville (formerly of NBC's *Today Show*) is a closet accordion player.

\* Tchaikovsky used the accordion in his Suite No. 2 in C major in 1883. Prokofiev used the accordion in his Cantata for the 20th anniversary of the October Revolution, Op.; 74.

\* The cities of Detroit, Michigan, Skokie, Illinois and St. Paul, Minnesota have designated the accordion as their official instrument. (*Of course we all know that San Francisco and Petaluma, CA have both done the same!—Ed.*)

\* *The Golden Encyclopedia of Music* by Norma Lloyd describes the accordion as "an organlike piece of furniture (that was) dear to the Victorians."

\* The accordion was used extensively in the score of the television series "Wagon Train."

\* In China, the accordion is known as the "Sun-Fin-Chin;" in Russia it is the "Bayan;" in Norway the "Trekspill;" and in Italy, the "Fisarmonica."

### Upcoming Events

**July 11-15**

**American Accordionists' Assoc. (AAA) Festival/Competition**

Boston Marriott Hotel, Quincy, MA Info: (201) 991-2233

**Saturday, July 17**

**Accordion Club of the Redwoods annual picnic**

Penngrove Community Park, Penngrove

For info call (707) 795-4860

**July 21-25**

**Accordionists & Teachers Guild (ATG) Festival**

(ATG, Continued) Best Western Wilwaukee Airport Hotel

For info call (414) 543-7714

or e-mail barryshirl@core.com

**July 25-30**

**15th Annual Galla-Rini Accordion Camp**

University of San Diego

Call Val for info and flyers (510) 531-4836

or e-mail vtkacc@value.net

**August 28-29**

**Cotati Accordion Festival**

www.cotatifest.com

**September 12-18**

**Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp in the High Sierras**

Intermediate-advanced, but all levels welcome

Info call Sally Ann (510) 236-3784

**Saturday, September 25**

**Lindesnes Trekkspillklubb**

Norwegian entertainment including music, comedy and dance

7:30 p.m. Turlock Community Auditorium

1574 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, CA

Tickets \$15; Reception following performance

Info: call (209) 667-1452 or (209) 632-5643

### A Note About Membership Cards . . .

. . . or the absence of them. Because of the name change of our club (from BAAC to SFAC) and the time it has taken to make the change on all fronts, we have not prepared membership cards for the current membership year (which ends 9/30/04). Not to worry: if you're a member, we'll have your name on the list! If you want a membership card of your own, please contact Val (510) 531-4836 or [vtkacc@value.net](mailto:vtkacc@value.net) and she'll make one for you.

### SFAC Officers

**President: Peter Di Bono**

(415) 753-1502 [pdibono@hotmail.com](mailto:pdibono@hotmail.com)

**Vice President: Don Nurisso**

(650) 359-3549 [nurisso@sirius.com](mailto:nurisso@sirius.com)

**Treasurer: Dominic Palmisano**

(408) 734-1565 [eclecticguy@earthlink.net](mailto:eclecticguy@earthlink.net)

**Secretary: Valerie T. Kieser**

(510) 531-4836 [vtkacc@value.net](mailto:vtkacc@value.net)

### Directors for 2003-2004

**Ron Borelli**

(650) 574-5707 [rborelli@aol.com](mailto:rborelli@aol.com)

**Vince Cirelli (415) 467-2208**

**James Firpo (415) 648-3674**

**Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938**

**Scott Williamson (408) 553-7519**

**Newsletter Editor: Valerie T. Kieser**

(510) 531-4836 [vtkacc@value.net](mailto:vtkacc@value.net)

### SFAC MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per year for individual;

\$30 per year for a family

Mail check to S.F.A.C.

P.O. Box 318175

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

Admission to Meetings: Members \$3, Guests \$5

### Ad Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue; a business-card-size ad will cost \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; a quarter-page ad will cost \$10.00; a half-page ad will cost \$20.00; and a full-page ad will cost \$35.00. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$20. The cost for ads placed by non-members will be twice the above-quoted prices.

### Accordion Teacher Listings

#### San Francisco/North Peninsula

**Peter Di Bono**

Theory/Technique/Performance

(415) 753-1502

**Dominic Palmisano**

(415) 587-4423

[accordion@comcast.net](mailto:accordion@comcast.net)

**Lou Soper**

Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m.

Moose Club, Colma/Daly City

(510) 841-6745

**Sharon Walters**

All levels (415) 621-8284

#### North Bay

**Steve Albini**

Marin/Sonoma

Private (415) 897-4131

**Bart Beninco**

Accordion and Piano

Petaluma (707) 769-8744

**Marjorie Konrad**

Button Box, Piano Accordion

& Chromatic

Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

#### East Bay

**Valarie Morris**

Group & Private; Theory, Technique,

Composition; all levels/ages

(510) 222-8442

**Lou Jacklich**

Private Lessons; Technique,

Arranging & Chords

(510) 317-9510

#### Peninsula & South Bay

**Lynn Ewing**

All levels/ages

(650) 365-1700

**Marian Kelly**

Lessons structured to your

Individual need

(650) 854-1896

**Ron Borelli**

Theory, Technique, and Performance

(650) 574-5707

**Mike Zampiceni**

Beginner to Advanced

BA and MA in music

(408) 734-1565

**Norma Zonay-Parsons**

(408) 246-3073





**Come and join in ...**

**San Francisco Accordion Club**

***Beginning August 2004, on a trial basis***

***The SFAC will meet on the***

***Second Sunday of the Month 1:30 p.m.***

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St. Daly City/Colma

For information call Val (510) 531-4836

Website: [www.sfaccordionclub.org](http://www.sfaccordionclub.org)

**East Bay Accordion Circle**

Meets the THIRD TUESDAY of the month 7:30 p.m.

1540 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Bring your accordion!

For information call (510) 548-2822

**Accordion Club of the Redwoods**

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month

Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma

For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

**Golden State Accordion Club**

**Vacaville Chapter** Meets 7 PM

the second Tuesday of the month

Moose Hall, 6585 Gibson Canyon Road

**Sacramento Chapter** meets 7 PM

the fourth Wednesday

at Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.

in Sacramento

For information call (707) 864-2359

**Northern California Accordion Society**

Meets 7 PM the third Thursday of the month

Polish American Community Hall

327 Main Street, Roseville

Info: Call Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

**Good Time Accordion Club**

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month

Community Center

1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon

For information call (209) 545-3603

**South Bay Accordion Jam**

Third Sunday of the month 2:00 p.m.

Location of meeting varies; for info call

Victor Corsiglia (408) 554-6275 or

Bill Tapogna (408) 984-5290.

**Silicon Valley Accordion Society**

Meets on the first Sunday of the Month

2:00 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau Restaurant

390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose

(between 280 and Stevens Creek Blvd.)

For Info Phone (408) 270-5003

Website: [www.SVASociety.com](http://www.SVASociety.com)

**SFAC Ensemble Practice New Days!**

First and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

***Call first!***: Frank Montoro (650) 574-4757

**SFAC Band Practice New Days!**

Second and Fourth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City

***Call first!***: Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

**Who Is Playing Where**

**Reno Di Bono** and the Blue Moon Trio

play for dancing every second Friday of the month

at Montaville in Scotts Valley, CA

8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

May 15 with "I Gondolieri," Italian music for Saratoga Public Schools Silent Auction, at Villa Ragusa, South 2nd. St, downtown

Campbell, 6:30—8:30 p.m.

For info call Reno (408) 252-3808

**Joe Domitrowich and the**

**Alpiners USA**

July 10 and Aug. 14 from 6:30 p.m.

Joan & Peter's German Restaurant

322 Third St., San Juan Bautista

Small wooden dance floor

Reservations (831) 623-4521

Admission includes excellent dinner by Chef Peter

August 1, 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Oakland Nature Friends,

3115 Butters Drive, Oakland

For more info on all the above call Joe (408) 255-1259

**The Internationals** Teske's Germania,

255 N. First St., San Jose; call (408) 292-0291

**Steve Balich Sr. and his Band**

Info: Call Steve Balich (707) 874-3494

**Mike Zampiceni** plays on Saturday nights

at Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant

2509 Bascom Ave., San Jose

And on Friday nights at Bellagio,

33 S. Central Ave. in Campbell (408) 370-7705.

For reservations call (408) 377-5850

**William DeMichelis** plays on

Friday and Saturday nights

At the Elbe German and European restaurant

117 University Avenue, Palo Alto

Call (650) 321-3319

or visit [www.elbe-restaurant.com](http://www.elbe-restaurant.com)



**Real Excuses from Parents (with original spelling) collected by schools all over the country**

- My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.
- Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
- Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and also 33.

**Regarding Our SFAC Musical Groups**

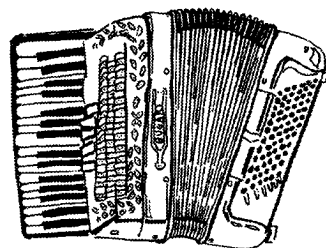
All our club groups are doing well! The **ACE Ensemble** is working on its fall concert repertoire; The **Fun Band (SFAC Band)** played at the Petaluma Celebration of the Accordion and will be playing at the club picnic, and also has a couple of "gigs" lined up in Marin County later in the summer; participation is way up at our **SFAC Ensemble** and we're playing some gorgeous arrangements written especially for us by Joe Smiell. People are discovering the joys of group playing!

## *Venturi House of Music*

Accordion Exchange  
1706 Howard Road  
Madera, CA 93637  
(559) 674-0071 FAX (559) 674-5468



[www.accordionexchange.com](http://www.accordionexchange.com)  
[accordionexchange@sbcglobal.net](mailto:accordionexchange@sbcglobal.net)  
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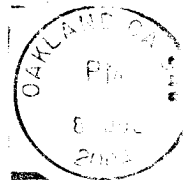
Free list of accordion music CDs, cassettes,  
and VHS tapes available upon request

~ visit our website: [www.petosa.com](http://www.petosa.com) ~

313 N.E. 45th Street Seattle, WA 98105 (206) 632-2700

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

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[www.SFACcordionclub.org](http://www.SFACcordionclub.org)



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