



San Francisco Accordion Club

FEBRUARY 2013

NEWSLETTER

PERFORMING Feb. 17, 2013

Mike Zampiceni, SFAC Board Secretary, is our featured performer for this month.

Accordions were part of his family from day one, being the son of noted accordionist, teacher, composer, arranger and music publisher, Joseph Zampiceni. He began formal study of the accordion at age 8, and played his first paid engagements by age 11. At 14 he joined his father's orchestra, playing accordion and drums and by 17, he was in the musician's union, as leader of his own band. While in high school, Mike's choral teacher took note of his tenor voice and encouraged him to compete in vocal competitions and further his vocal studies.

Mike graduated from San Jose State University with a B.A. degree in Music, concentrating on voice, piano and organ. After a year's break, he returned to work on an M.A. degree, during which time he was chosen as the tenor soloist in a performance of a Bach cantata with the San Jose Symphony.

While presently engaged in a career in Information Technology, Mike has always been active in the music profession, continuing to play engagements and teach students. Groups he has played with include the San Jose Symphony and San Jose Civic Light Opera. His engagements range from strolling accordionist to church organist for weddings and memorial services. Mike's extensive repertoire includes American standards from the 30s to the 70s, commercial jazz and European music.

Mike is available for special engagements, and is accepting a limited number of students. Contact him at eclecticguy@comcast.net or 408-569-2579.

Don Nurisso and Francine Passa have been friends since 1976, and have had great times making music together. Don received his first 12 bass accordion from a distant cousin in Genova Italy in 1949, and has been playing ever since. The jazz bug bit Don when he heard his first album of Art Van Damme in 1955, and Don has had a long career playing with many well known band leaders from San Francisco to Wisconsin.

Francine Passa's perfect pitch caused her father, owner of a San Francisco Violin Shop to encourage her to take up violin, and she has made her life around music ever since, playing with many renowned orchestras and teachers.





Don Savant

Don Savant

An Oakland native, Don Savant took accordion lessons for two years with a teacher from Menichetti Studio starting at age ten. As a junior in high school he was re-inspired by the younger John Molinari to again pick up the instrument, and purchased his white Giulietti from John Sr. It stayed in the closet most of the time he and his wife, Mary, were raising their four kids and he worked as an engineer in the electronics industry. Now in the 19th year of a second childhood, he “works” as a nature docent, hike leader, for Filoli and Henry Coe State Park, a conservation easement monitor for Peninsula Open Space Trust, and enjoys river kayaking, biking, swimming, hiking, rafting, and playing ukulele. In recent years he discovered the accordion community through a mutual acquaintance of Marian Kelly and now is thoroughly enjoying being tutored by Mike Zampiceni. He likes playing oldies from his parents era, and has played venues including the Filoli ballroom, and Red Wall Cavern at mile 33 of a fifteen-day raft trip through the Grand Canyon.

Big Lou, the Accordion Princess will be playing with **Kit Robberson** on viola da gamba for part of her program. Kit is part of Lou’s French trio, studied music at the U of Texas and plays with several Renaissance groups. She studied with master musician Jordi Savall. Lou has played with such bay area notables as the Melotones, the Stir-Ups, Thee Hellhounds, and Polkacide. She founded Those Darn Accordions. Lou cut her musical teeth playing country-western piano in Austin, Texas. She loves most music, but has a soft spot for the ethnic variety, especially Eastern European polkas and French waltzes. A native of Hollywood, she also treasures movie music, and loves to play songs from the wide screen. Recently she had the totally unwarranted thrill of a lifetime playing in the tavern band in the Berkeley, Los Angeles, and New York productions of Wozzeck with the London Philharmonia.



Kit Robberson and Big Lou

Jam Session at 1:15

Bring your accordion
and join in the fun!
Music will be provided.

Nicolas Blasco, a young Frenchman who has been studying accordion with Big Lou at Accordion Apocalypse for the last year or so will also show us his newly acquired accordion chops!

January Meeting 2013

Sunday Jan. 20, 2013

The meeting opened with a few words of welcome from club President, **Lynn Ewing**, giving a nice introduction to **Skyler Fell** by recounting the many activities which she supports at her Accordion Apocalypse store. Skyler then demonstrated a brand-new Scandalli accordion (see page 4 photo). It was a beautiful instrument with a great sound. She played *Stolichnaya* (new words set to Kalinka). Every verse ended with the artist drowning their sorrows in vodka.

First to perform was **Big Lou, The Accordion Princess**, aka **Linda Seekins**. She performed two pieces that



Madame X.

were among her favorites, *Gay Ranchero*, a Mexican melody from many years ago, to which she sang along, and a haunting theme from the new musical



Next up was the group: **Whiskey and Women**, a trio of **Renée de la Prade**, **Joan Wilson** and Renée's sister **Rosie**. Renée explained how the group got its name. Cold and none too happy in the rain, in Edinburgh, Scotland, she and Joan decided that life might be warmer and better outside with a bottle of Jamieson's whiskey. They entertained the passersby for 90 minutes and collected enough money for a "wee dram" – Women and Whiskey was born. Renée plays accordion, Joan plays fiddle, and Rosie plays percussion, fiddle and accompaniment with tambourine and foot drum. The music was Cajun themed, foot-stomping and full of energy. The next thing you know, many people in the audience were on their feet dancing! The set began with a piece Renée said was a Cajun classic: *Je t'ai au bas* (I'm down in the dumps) that certainly got us interested. Then a song composed about an ex-boyfriend, simply called *Girard*. There was a Cajun waltz, and a song with lyrics about a chicken.



Karla Mi Lugo

During the refreshments break, **Karla mi Lugo** (see photo on previous page) put on a wonderful short performance of playing her accordion while balancing her feet on a soccer ball and holding a large flower. Karla performs up and down the West Coast, mixing playing, singing, whistling and juggling.



Jet Black Pearl (aka Jetty Swart) took over the stage next. Many of Pearl's tunes and songs are original compositions: *Lips, Hot Boots, L'accordione and Rooster*. This last composition is a ballad about a rooster in a hen house. She also played a beautiful Bal Musette, first describing how we might hear it in the South of France on a warm evening with hundreds of people dancing, eating and having a good time.

Diana Strong described the genre of her musical selections (all self-composed) as Balkan. She began with Spiderweb waltz. This used every key as the basic theme, moving up and down in scales and octaves. *Sailor* is one of her newest pieces, with a melancholic mood. She finished with two tunes in complicated time signatures 11/8 and 9/8, that are very typical of Balkan music. The last one was her composition called *Turkish Lullaby* – based on a traditional Turkish theme.



The final act was the The final act featured two members of the band **The Mad Maggies** from Petaluma.



Both clad in kilts, Maggie Martin on accordion and her partner GDub on guitar began with the polka *Where is Diana?*, followed by *Luna* (about love

and Whiskey) and a French song about the sea, wind and where to find love. Their final tune was *Making Way* a new composition that starts slowly, gaining momentum and finally romping to a fine finish.

Our meeting was exciting, inspiring and very entertaining. It is great to hear younger musicians playing different styles of music. The accordion is enjoying a new renaissance with musicians of all genres and ages.



Skyler showing off the new Scandalli

President's Message

Our program last month got me thinking about what a wonderful and diverse instrument the accordion is. I remember Anthony Galla-Rini saying that the problem with the accordion was that it is too versatile! It can be used for jazz, classical, folk music, and just plain foot stomping fun. I think of other instruments which are used in as many settings, but seem to be taken more seriously—for example, the violin, enjoying a solid place in the symphony orchestra. Perhaps that is the reason it gets more respect. The accordion evokes strong emotions, and it's a bit of a mystery to me why this should be—but maybe that's why those of us who love it—love it so much!

When the accordion first evolved, with local musicians in the rural crevices of France, Italy or Germany playing for dances or singing around a campfire, they saw a fantastic, portable, instrument, which could be used to provide what everyone wanted and needed—music! In some ways, the young performers that we heard last month are bringing the accordion home to its roots—as a fabulous addition to creative expression and fun. When performers such as Guido Deiro and Anthony Galla-Rini took the accordion to incredible artistic heights, an attitude of envisioning the accordion to be a serious instrument created a chasm between **serious** accordionists and those who were using it mainly for entertainment and fun.

We are lucky in the San Francisco Bay area to have many musicians playing the accordion in different genres. In January, we had fresh, original music from young folks who have no preconceived idea of how the accordion *should* sound—they use it as an expressive creative musical choice. This month our featured artist is **Mike Zampiceni**, a skilled accordionist (see front page for his bio). In March, we will have **Iosiph Purit**, a young virtuoso bayan player from Russia, where the accordion (bayan) is not only an essential folk instrument, but is still taught routinely in conservatories. **Bonnie Birch**, coming in April, uses her accordion to provide musical entertainment in multiple venues, with a specialty in French music including vocal and guitar accompaniment. In May, **Frank Petrilli**, a protegee of jazz legend Frank Marocco, will be performing with his own *latin* flavored jazz. In June, we will have **Mike & Steve Trucco**,

who play Italian music as a father son duet without the benefit of sheet music.

We continue our involvement with the Asian community through our work in the **Accordions for Japan** project, which I will talk about in more detail next month. Whether you are able to attend meetings or not, we urge you to support your club, which has one over-riding goal—to be a center for people who love the accordion in all its variety, and want to share it with the world. Whether you are a player or a listener, a button boxer, piano accordionist, bandoneon or concertina player, a jazz lover or a rocker, we want to be your place. Please renew your membership, come to our meetings, and bring your friends! There are many-accordion lovers out there who don't even know about us. Let's celebrate our wonderful instrument!

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
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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

Tagonero
<http://tagonero.com>

Whiskey and Women •
www.whiskeyandwomenmusic.com



*Those Darned Accordions, playing in SF in the 90s
photo by Christina Knapp*

OUR SYMPATHY

goes out to long time club and ACE member Ron Harris, and his wife Mary Jo, who lost their daughter on December 28th. Cards can be sent to Ron and Mary Jo at 20 Bel Air Way, Redwood City, CA 94062.

Also, many of you may remember our good friend and former bass player for ACE, Aldo Argenti, who played and sang with his daughters many times at the club. Aldo passed away a few years ago, and his wife Marilyn passed away on January 20th. Cards may be sent to his family c/o Diana Argenti, 836 Hillcrest Dr, Redwood City, CA 94062.



SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

Young Russian Virtuoso Bayanist **Iosiph Purits** will be playing at our club meeting on March 17th! Iosiph is the student of Maestro Freidrich Lips, and a protege of Stas Venglevski.

This is a special event! Mark your calendars and don't miss it!

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.

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

ACCORDION EVENTS

AccordionUSA.com is an information packed web site featuring articles about worldwide and local events music, theater and art. Check it out!

NATIONAL ACCORDION CONVENTION MARCH 6—10, 2018

the 26th Annual Festival will be an informative and fun event for all accordion enthusiasts taking place at the Westin Park Central in Dallas, Texas.

Convention Manager Gordon Kohl returns to the National Accordion Convention as a rock 'n roll band director that features the accordion! Gordon Kohl will direct a "Tribute to the American Bandstand and Dick Clark"

NAA President Norman Seaton says,"It is time for the accordion world to join the guitar-driven music and have just as much fun as they do. This event will be a merger of music, rhyme, and vocals.

Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA
\$3 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—
President (707) 318-0474; dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

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

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

The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Jerry Choate (530) 345-2031

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. 1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

Accordion Instruction

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

SFAC Officers

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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.

THE ACCORDION APOCALYPSE REPAIR SHOP

San Francisco



ACCORDION APOCALYPSE

415-596-5952
www.accordionapocalypse.com

**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 Feb. 17 @ 2 p.m.
and come to the Jam Session at 1:15**

DIRECTIONS:

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

Visit us online @ www.sfaccordionclub.com

SFAC Membership is

\$30.00 per year for individual or family.
Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guest. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Mike Zampiceni, PO box 62484, Sunnyvale, CA 94088
NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you wish.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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