



San Francisco Accordion Club

JULY 2013

NEWSLETTER

PERFORMING July 21, 2013

Two Gypsy Kisses (Due Zighi Baci)

One Tenor, One Accordionist, Hours of Memorable Music! Specializing in French chanson, Italian and Neapolitan canzone, **Two Gypsy Kisses** works its charm and whisks you away to magical, faraway places like the old dance halls of Paris or the music salons of Rome and Naples. This dynamic duo promises to transport you with their authentic, enchanting renditions of popular European salon and café music dating back to the 1850s. Whether it's Verdi, de Curtis, Bixio, Mudogno, Carosone, Piaf, Aznavour, or Trénet, you will fall in love with these timeless, sentimental, and artful arrangements true to the composers' intent. Two Gypsy Kisses adds its unique style and panache to every song.

Tenor Michael Van Why holds a B.A. in music from SSU where he studied Vocal Performance. Michael is a bay area entertainer specializing in twentieth century popular French, Italian and Neapolitan Cabaret/Café music. He has also been featured in principal theatrical roles which include **Albin/Zaza** in *La Cage aux Folles*, **Seymour Krelborn** in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and **Padre Perez** in *Man of La Mancha*. In the fall of 2013 Michael will reprise his role in *La Cage* at Cinnabar Theater in Petaluma, followed by a winter production (opening New Year's Eve) of *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*. While Michael continues to enjoy theater work his true love is the nostalgic music of Paris, Naples, Rome and old New York.

Sheri Mignano Crawford learned to play accordion in "Goosetown" the Italian ghetto in San Jose and earned various college degrees, teaching humanities at the college level.



Upon retirement, she published *Mandolins, Like Salami and Mandolin Melodies & Ensembles*. Sheri will be playing accordion in two musicals with Michael at Cinnabar Theater and she is the Music Director for Jacques Brel. You can find **Zighi Baci Publishing** on Facebook or visiting www.EuroCafe-Music.com or www.ZighiBaci.com

Accordion Orchestra Project

We are delighted to host and hear the results of the *Accordion Orchestra Project* at our July meeting. This orchestra gives accordion players of all levels a chance to participate in a larger ensemble, acquire skills necessary to create this one-time experience, and to share their accomplishments before a live audience.

Comments below are from some of the musicians in this fourteen-member orchestra. I think you will agree that the experience has been a success!

From Dominic: "Just a few weeks ago fourteen accordion players met and began playing a simple piece in five parts. We learned two more compositions and the following Saturday we added a few more to our repertoire. Please join us and witness this unique group playing for the first and only time in public."

cont. >

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From Georgia: *"I've been playing accordion for over sixty years, but this is the first time I've ever had a chance to play in a group that challenged me, and the first time to play music that is arranged for accordion in anything more than two parts. I find it very exciting and inspiring to have this opportunity and can hardly wait to see what the next few rehearsals bring in terms of musicality. I'm enjoying every minute of this experience."*

From Scott: *"Playing with others in the Orchestra Project challenges me in a different way than strolling alone or playing less formally with friends. I hope it will make me a better musician."*

From Jan: *"The interesting thing about my journey is discovering Lou Jacklich again after a 60 year interval. I took lessons from him until 1951 when I was 13. He went into the service and I stopped playing. I accidentally found him again 3 1/2 years ago when reading a San Francisco Accordion Club newsletter that had accordion teachers listed. As it turned out I still had the accordion I played when I was a kid and it was in good condition. I am not that great an accordion player, but I am benefiting from this new and unexpected connection with music at my age."*



Lou Jacklich by Randall Hicks

Following in the footsteps of his father and uncle, Lou started his 79-year love affair with the accordion. *"All I've ever done is play the accordion. You might say it's in my blood."* This quote from Lou sums up his life history.

He began instruction at 6 years old, started playing professionally at 12 years for Vaudeville. He joined the Navy during the Korean War and started a band and entertained his comrades.

The next eight years were spent as a member of the Navy's Active Reserve. He was the owner of a music studio in Castro Valley for approximately ten years, and was a Capitol Record recording artist.

Soon he will celebrate 85 years and continues to teach and perform. He enjoys studying classical musicians, their life histories and what made their music work. *"I wouldn't think about having a real job before retiring,"* he said while strapping on his Bugari Gold Model 288, custom-made accordion for yet another lesson. Lou hits one of the four chin switches and launches off to another day, another job, and another challenge.





Thor Miao

Thor Miao our scholarship recipient for this semester will be playing two major works at our July meeting: *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius and a transcription of the 1st movement of Felix Mendelssohn's *Concerto for Violin in E minor, Op 64*. Lou Jacklich describes Thor as an outstanding student, who has been with him for 15 years. Thor began his study with John Molinari when he was in 4th grade, and became a student of Lou's after John's untimely passing. Thor attends Laney College, studying computer science and music theory, and took up study of the piano about 3 years ago. He is participating in the Orchestra Project as well, and has performed at Bay Area accordion clubs several times, as well as at the Alameda County Fair. He is giving an upcoming concert at the Finnish Lodge in Oakland.

Paul Cain will be playing his flashy (and flashing) restored Giulietti.

June Meeting by Mike Zampicini

The lyrics to a famous Broadway song start with "June is bustin' out all over ...," and in the case of our June meeting, high-quality music busted out all over the halls of the Oyster Point Yacht Club. What better way to celebrate this harbinger of summer than with a tune in June. We were fortunate to have a wonderful array of players and musical moods, ranging from the quieter and introspective first half of the program to the more festive and boisterous second half.

It was Father's Day, and we thoughtfully engaged the resources of several fathers for the program, as in the case of Steve and Michael Trucco, a father and son theme. For a contrast club president Lynn Ewing also played.

Prior to the program, **Reno Di Bono** had volunteered to perform as the warm-up player, and when I arrived shortly after 1:30, he was playing some beautiful ballads as he strolled around the tables with his sonorous Sonola. We talked shop about accordions for a few minutes, and I lamented about the sale of my recently acquired Giulietti Super due to its considerable weight.

Before the program one of our club's music scholars and repairman, **Bob Smith**, showed us a very rare and bizarre antique C-system chromatic accordion. This 1924 vintage curio with 32 basses was made in San Francisco. It's an instrument that defies description, and is best seen rather than described. Rather than treble buttons, it has three rows of keys in three different levels. Despite its obscurity, Peter Di Bono said he has one just like it.

Our program was ably presided by M.C. **Gus Greyhosky**, who introduced our first performer, **Bob Stanfield**, currently treasurer of the Silicon Valley Accordion Society. Bob first played *I Believe*, which demonstrated the expressive and gentle quality evident in his program. He engaged us with a nice variety of music with American, Italian, and Spanish selections, such as *Just Because*, *Tango of the Roses*, and *La Campagnola*. He said the later piece was inspired by the Truccos, and that we'd be hearing it twice that day. He stood for almost the entire time, and I concluded that his back is in better shape than mine, especially considering that he plays a Big Bertha sized accordion.





Lynn Ewing followed Bob on stage, and related an interesting story about how it was her father who wanted her to play the accordion. Before beginning, she said she was going to play several Frank Morocco arrangements, the first of which was *La Vie En Rose*. When she played the Godfather medley, I savored her crescendos and particularly decrescendos. *Il Postino* was her one concession to Italian repertoire considering, as she said, that the Italian portion would be well represented with the Di Bonos and Truccos. Lynn returned to another Francophile's delight in a rendition of *Domino*, another Morocco arrangement. She concluded with an original tango by Stas Venglevski.



Originally, father **Tony Di Bono** and sons **Peter and Reno** were going to play together for us, but unfortunately, Tony had taken ill before the performance. Peter assured us that his 96-year-old father would be fine and then played a Verdi operatic selection using the high reeds, demonstrating his expressive side along with the dulcet tones of his Sonola. Puccini's *Musetta's Waltz* from *La Boheme* was next, again expressively played using the high reeds.

Peter performed next and mentioned that the toughest audience to play for is the accordion club audience. Reno surprised us by accompanying his brother on the harmonica, which Tony, their father had taken up when he could no longer play the accordion. Reno demonstrated his considerable competency on an instrument about the size of a candy bar and played a somewhat whimsical solo of *Sentimental Journey*. After the two played *Tennessee Waltz*, Peter played *Cinema Paradiso* as a solo providing a nice book-end to Lynn's performance of *Il Pastino*, written by the same composer. Both Di Bonos played contemplative ballads during the afternoon.

After our usual break of socializing followed by the door prize and raffle drawings, we eagerly awaited our featured performers, who drove over all the way from Stockton to entertain us. Father and son **Steve and Michael Trucco** took the stage dressed in coordinated black outfits. The shirts had embroidered white accordions with wings, and the backsides had the slogan “Accordions Rock.” The flying shirts were very appropriate, because this father and son team did indeed take flight with a sprightly performance.



Considering that the Truccos specialize in Italian waltzes and polkas, it was befitting that they began the program with an uplifting waltz followed by a polka. It was soon evident that they excelled in executing perfectly synchronized clear, crisp, and clean technique. Their playing style and technique was virtually identical, just as if they were related *or something*. They also made use of the upper dynamic ranges of their accordions, meaning that they definitely could be heard.

Speaking of flying accordions, they literally took us on a flight of sorts by playing *Flight of the Angels*, which was astounding in that the tempo was aggressive, but neither Trucco missed a note of those flying triplets. While progressing on their flight path, they played a request for *Carnival of Venice* with lots of 16th notes at warp speed. Dominic Palmisano request *Sharpshooter's March*, and amazingly, they performed it as if they had practiced it especially for this performance—even though they hadn't played it in quite some time.



An Unusual Accordion

article by Bob Smith coming next month!

Carmen Carrozza 1921—2013

Legendary composer, arranger and world renowned concert artist and educator, Carmen (Carmelo) Carrozza passed away on June 17.

Carmen Carrozza was born July 20th, 1921 in Calabria, Italy. He immigrated with his family to the United States when he was nine years old, settling in Westchester, NY. Carrozza soon began studying music, becoming proficient on the violin and piano, but it was the accordion that he truly loved, soon concentrating solely on mastery of this instrument.

In 1937, he graduated from the Pietro Deiro Accordion Conservatory in Greenwich Village, NYC with highest honors and a gold medal in performance. He furthered his studies at the New York Academy of Music specializing in theory, harmony, counterpoint and composition. Carrozza's professional debut took place in 1947 at the Philadelphia Academy of Music launching what was to be one of the greatest careers of the century.

Carrozza was the first accordionist to be invited to perform as a featured soloist with major symphony orchestras, premiering such works as Paul Creston's Concerto for Accordion and Orchestra with the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler and Alan Hovhaness' The Rubaiyat with the National Symphony and New York Philharmonic under the direction of Andre Kostelanetz.

Carrozza was not just a performer, but contributed significantly to the development of accordion literature and recognition of the accordion as a serious musical instrument worthy of original compositions, beyond the traditional transcriptions of popular music of the day. He collaborated with and premiered many original accordion works by such outstanding American composers as Robert Russell Bennett, Henry Cowell, Paul Creston, Alan Hovhaness and Virgil Thompson, and Russian composer, Alexander Tcherepnin. It was Maestro Carrozza who paved the way to the concert platform for concert accordionists of the future.



Carrozza was a past president and an active governing board member of the American Accordion Association (AAA). In 2002, Maestro Carrozza was honored by the American Accordionists Association as the first recipient of their prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. Maestro Carrozza's legacy continues on through the Carmen Carrozza Scholarship Fund for the advancement of promising young accordionists and the commissioning of new works for the accordion.

With special thanks to Rita Barnea from whose original article the above information was extracted.

Randall Hicks

Elections

It is that time again . . . Some of the current Club board members have agreed to run again but we are losing several from their positions and will need to replace them. One of the more “specialized” positions is that of Treasurer. Maryanne Romanowski has been our treasurer for the last two years, but due to logistics is not able to run for the board next year. She has, however agreed to offer her help to the new treasurer, including generating the monthly reports in QuickBooks.

Serving on the Board is interesting, satisfying and fun! We are grateful to the members who have served so ably on the Board for the Club in the last few years, and many thanks to those who are willing to continue.

Bottom line - many hands make light work! We need people who have good ideas for club direction, and we could use computer skills too. If you are willing to serve on the Board, please contact Scotty Williamson, chair of the nominating committee - 650-493-3075 or aswy01@gmail.com

Accordion Camps are Special

I had a wonderful time at the Rose City Accordion Club Camp in Oregon. Lots of music in beautiful Silver Falls State Park Conference Center. About fifty accordion players from all over the U.S. played in one of the two accordion orchestras led by Murl Allen Sanders of Seattle and Gordon Kohl from San Diego. We played a great variety of pieces and had a standing room only audience for our concert on Thursday night. Workshops were held each day by Ron Borelli of San Mateo and Beverly Fess from Canada. I learned alot, and now I need to put it to use. The meals were outstanding—as always—Silver Falls is a bit of paradise. Many attendees were from the Bay Area. We had time to play music and visit. Consider joining us next year for a great experience and a good time!

For information contact the Rose City Accordion Club, c/o 251 McNary Heights Dr. North, Keizer, OR. 97303 or phone: Marlene Meissner @ (503) 463-9909 – email: marlenem26@msn.com.

Gwyn Lister

Performer Data Bank

Requests from the public come into the SFAC seeking “an accordionist to play” on a fairly regular basis. These range in scope from someone to play at Uncle Dan’s birthday party to an accordionist for a theater production or an accordion part in a newly composed piece for an established orchestra. Some are paid jobs, and some are just honorariums. In line with our mission of promoting the accordion and showcasing it at various venues, we would like to create a database to efficiently connect the seeker and the player.

When we receive such a request, we would like to forward it confidentially to an email list composed of those of you who are interested in being notified of such opportunities. You can then decide if the particular job is of interest to you and follow up with the seeker directly.

Because of administrative constraints, we will not be able to tailor email lists based on the type of job or whether or not it pays a certain amount.

If you would be interested in being notified of these types of requests, please send an email to Lynn Ewing ewinglynn@gmail.com and we will put you in a special database and add you to the email distribution list.

Scholarship Information

Scholarship Applications are due in SEPTEMBER to be awarded in OCTOBER. 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**, @ eclectic-guy@comcast.net and should be returned to him at: 220 Tasman Dr, #106, Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
www.stevebalichband.com

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco
www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.com

Reno Di Bono • South Bay
ourhike@aol.com

William De Michelis • South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich • South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinersusa.com

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)
San Francisco
www.eurocafemusic.com or
zighi@sonic.net

Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobelins
Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobelins

Ed Gorzynski, Jr. • East Bay
edspolkas@yahoo.com

Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Big Lou, aka Linda Seekins • San Francisco
www.accordionprincess.com

Mad Maggies • San Francisco
themadmaggies.com

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
don@nurisso.com

Rob Reich • East Bay & San Francisco
robbyreichmusic@gmail.com

Diana Strong • Pacifica
don@nurisso.com

Tangonero
<http://tangonero.com>

Whiskey and Women •
www.whiskeyandwomenmusic.com

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 September, 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

**ATG (Accordion Teachers Guild)
73rd Annual Competition & Festival
Wed., July 17th- Sat. July 20, 2013.**
Concerts! Workshops! Competitions! Exhibits!
For details, see the ATG website, www.ac-cordions.com/atg or contact Betty Jo Simon, president, 913-888-4706

**AAA Convention -
American Accordionists Association
75th Anniversary Celebration**
August 14-18, 2013
The New Yorker Hotel
481 Eighth Avenue at 34th Street
New York, NY 10001
<http://www.ameraccord.com/>

the 66th Couple Mondiale
will be held August 17-25, 2013,
in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
<http://www.coupemondiale.org>

**NO MEETING
in August
Join us at the
Cotati Festival**

Cotati Accordion Festival
August 17 & 18, 2013
9:30 - 8:30 both days
in La Plaza Park in Cotati, CA 94931
(60 West Cotati Ave.)
Advance tickets: \$15 one-day,
\$25 two-days
At the gate: \$17 one-day,
\$25 two-days
Kids 15 and under
FREE with paying adult.

**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
friends from all over the World. See the latest
in new accordions with factory exhibits.
Hotel accommodations are very inexpensive.
Be inspired by the some of the finest.
Learn from the masters.

Bring your donations for the Cotati Accordion Festival

The Cotati Accordion Festival is once again
on the horizon, and will take place in August

Several of our members will once again
have a presence at the festival, and we can
use donations of ACCORDION RELATED
tapes, CD's, original sheet music or other
accordion items to sell. Bringing these items
to the July meeting would be ideal. We could
also use some volunteers to spend an hour or
two staffing the table. Contact Lynn Ewing
with questions.

We are delighted that the San Francisco Ac-
cordion Club will be well represented at Co-
tati. Sunday features performances by SFAC
members from Southern California, Gail
Campanella and Frank Petrilli. Accordion
Babe SFAC members Maggie Martin, Diana
Strong, and Big Lou, the Accordion Princess
are also featured. We have been fortunate
also to hear Duckmandu, Jet Black Pearl,
and Tom Torriglia recently, and many of you
will remember when Vincenzo Abbraciante
played for us at a spectacular meeting in
2011. Renzo Ruggieri is the hottest Italian
accordion player going at the moment, and
will also dazzle us with his magnificent style.

Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

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

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

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

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

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

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

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

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

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

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

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

Accordion Instruction

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

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don@nurisso.com

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aswy01@gmail.com

Newsletter

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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 July 21 @ 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.
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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