

**July, 2016**

**3RD SUNDAY MONTHLY MUSIC PROGRAM**

**SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2016**

**OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB  
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA**



## **SFAC in July: Featuring Michael Zampiceni!**



**Michael Zampiceni**

Raised with accordions from birth, **Mike Zampiceni's** father, Joseph Zampiceni, was a noted accordionist, teacher, composer, arranger, and music publisher several decades ago. At age 8 Mike began formal accordion studies, and by 11 was playing for paid engagements. He joined his father's orchestra at 14, playing accordion and drums, and by 17 he joined the musician's union and became the leader of his own band. Mike went on to earn both a bachelors and masters degree in music from San Jose State University, with performance concentrations in voice and classical

organ. Throughout his career as a technical writer from which he recently retired, Mike found time to continue performing and teaching. His passionate genres revolve around classical music and jazz, but he also has a penchant for Latin music, particularly Brazilian jazz. He also has a repertoire of ethnic European music.

Also performing in July, **Don Savant**, an Oakland native who took accordion lessons for two years with a teacher from Meniketti Studio beginning at age ten. He took up the accordion again as a junior in high school after seeing the younger John Molinari play, and purchased his white Giulietti from John Sr. It stayed in the closet for years,

however, until Don discovered the accordion community through a mutual acquaintance of Marian Kelly. Don now thoroughly enjoys being tutored by Mike Zampiceni.



**Don Savant**

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!

*Continued next page...*

## Also in July: Don Savant, Siyuan Donnelly, Daniel Cher, Lynn Ewing

**Siyuan Donnelly** started playing accordion in his kindergarten class in Shanghai two years ago when he was four years old. Since moving to California a year ago, Siyuan has become a student of Mike Zampiceni. Siyuan and his parents feel very lucky to have found Mike--he's a wonderful teacher. Siyuan displays musical discipline and maturity beyond his years, and Mike is always pleasantly surprised with what Siyuan has undertaken on his own at each lesson. Siyuan seems to enjoy playing, and likes the strong sound an accordion makes. He is also something of an extrovert, and seems to like playing for people. Besides playing for the SFAC in July, he'll be playing on the Saturday morning student stage at the upcoming Cotati festival.



**Dr. Daniel Cher** is a professional-level violinist



who also noodles on the piano and still remembers some of his harmony class from 30 years ago. He is a founding member of the St. Michael Trio, considered Silicon Valley's update to the world of classical music, and he has played with professional orchestras including New Century Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra New England, and

the New Haven Symphony. He had an accordion epiphany two years ago and has studied jazz improvisation with Mike for most of that time. When he's not working on learning progressive chords on

the accordion, Daniel designs and implements clinical trials for Bay Area medical device companies.

**Lynn Ewing**, the current President of SFAC, was born and raised in San Diego, where she started playing accordion at age seven. As a young adult, Lynn taught at the Robert Mitchell Accordion School, where she directed five accordion bands and gave accordion lessons to over a hundred young children. She received her certification in the Orff Method of Music instruction from Mills College, and was the music specialist at El Granada Elementary school for 7 years. Currently Lynn teaches private accordion students, and performs with two accordion ensembles, the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE) and AbsolutAccord.



### Play with the Jam Band

Join us 1:15-2:00pm for a traditional jam session before the monthly Sunday music program at Oyster Point Yacht Club.

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, make new accordion friends and have **WAY TOO MUCH FUN!**

## June Meeting Review

By Robert Cooperstein

What better way to kick off our musical program than having **Reno Di Bono** render rapid-fire versions of mostly familiar pieces spanning many genres and musical eras. After starting with a very bright and hand-clapping Italian Polka, he quickly launched into exactly

43 seconds of a frenetic *Tico Tico*, explaining “This is the warmup!” That passed into a “cool off” connected to another even more frenetic short piece! Reno then slowed the pace down with a very



Reno DiBono

pretty version of one of his favorite songs, Gershwin’s *London Town*. This led perfectly into another tune seemingly from the same well, a soulful rendition of *When Sunny Gets Blue* (Nat King Cole, Johnny Mathis). Admitting that the song sounds better on a guitar than on an accordion (what?!), Reno jumped into a boss nova and then another short piece. We next got to hear *Cherokee* (also known as “Cherokee (Indian Love Song)”, a jazz standard written by Ray Noble and published in 1938. Although Reno lamented after the next song that it was very hard to resist speeding it up and losing control of the pace, we were treated to a gorgeous version of *After You’ve Gone*, a 1918 popular song. It took me a little time to identify the next all-too-familiar opera song, but I eventually realized it was *Nessun Dorma*, from Puccini’s *Turandot*. Reno concluded his set with a modern Italian (“even Sicilian!”) song from the 1988 movie “Cinema Paradiso,” the title track *Cinema Paradiso* by the great Ennio Morricone.

**Dina Gutkina** first performed for the SFAC in the early 1990s, on a day when she just showed up with her bayan. After an elapse of approximately 25 years, just

this April she once again just showed up at one of our meetings to accompany bayan artist Stas Venglevski, in one of the most memorable concerts in the history of the SFAC. We were so

honored to have her back in just 2 months’ time, rather than having to wait another quarter century! Dina played a series of pieces by Russian composers. I can honestly say I did not recognize any of the songs, nor was I



Dina Gutkina

able to hear any of the titles or composers clearly enough to do any research after the fact. I guess I will have to brush up on my Russian or Belarusian, the official languages of Dina’s native country Belarus, prior to Dina’s next appearance at one of our musical programs! I can say that her 20 minute set was an extremely passionate and energetic rendition of Russian music immediately identifiable as such. It is hard to define what we mean by “Russian music” but we know it when we hear it – thanks Dina!

Well, it takes several decades to make an accordionist like **Ron Harris** – it just does. It’s not just about the technical features of the particular accordion, although



Ron Harris

we certainly we have seen many unique designs at our programs; nor is it just about the virtuosity of the musicians, granted having been blessed to hear many of the world’s finest at our programs. Ron is an entertainer’s entertainer, whose connection to the

*Continued next page.....*

audience transcends all else. I can safely say that every song he played affected every person in the room, bringing them back to a time and a place when that song was important in that person's life. Ron opened with a tight medley of *Pennies from Heaven*, *All of Me*, and *Some-where Over the Rainbow*. His style and pacing made me think of Mr. Volpi, who plays in the bar of the Petaluma restaurant featuring his name, except Ron's arrangements were more recognizable and, well, longer in duration! A romantic rendering of *Torna a Surriento* led to two closing songs that I personally heard first in ultra-pop versions: Jerome Kern's *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man* (Doo Wop version by *The Hideaways* out of Philadelphia, c.1960), and Jack Lawrence's *Linda* (covered by surf rockers Jan and Dean in 1963). The song *Linda*, by the way, was written about then one-year-old future star Linda McCartney!

After the intermission, headliner **Paul Pasquali** introduced us to his incredible invention, the Concerto—the state-of-the-art digital/acoustic instrument, which Paul



states is the world's 1st true digital accordion. Paul is the owner of **Accordions International** in Salt Lake City ([www.accordionfactory.com](http://www.accordionfactory.com)), and organizer of the annual Las Vegas Accordion Convention (coming up August 8-11, 2016 – see [www.accordionsstars.com](http://www.accordionsstars.com)). Although Paul certainly played some beautiful music, his set was an

awesome demonstration of the technical wizardry of the instrument itself, and of course his mastery of its seemingly infinite possibilities to render orchestral music, replete with sections of string (violin, viola, cello and double bass), brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. Paul was way too impatient to play any song from beginning to end, as he kept seeing opportunities to musically digress and to provide exemplars of the Concerto's larger-than-life sound. That stated, and through it all, we heard *Never on Sunday*; *I left My Heart (in San Francisco)*; *Granada*; *Going Out of My Head*; *Calcutta*; *New York, New York*; *Memories* (from the musical *Cats*); and finally, appropriately, *Time to Say Goodbye*. I thought Paul had intended to close his set right there, but on second thought he clearly wanted to play one more: *The Battle Hymn of The Republic*.

### Fond Farewell & Best Wishes to Richard Yaus!

Dear Accordion Friends,

After living here in the Bay Area for 19½ years I decided to leave California to explore my future on the East Coast, specifically Connecticut between Stamford and New Haven. The time that I have spent with all of you in the accordion community is an incredible and memorable chapter of my life.

I will miss everyone's talent and the fun time times we spent together with our beloved instrument, the accordion. Sadly, our accordion ensemble AbsolutAccord had its last rehearsal [in June]. And unfortunately the Accordion Orchestra Project comes to an end as well. Thank you for all your support over all these years – it has meant a lot to me! Thanks to all of you making my musical journey here in the Bay Area an unforgettable one I will always remember.

I'll still be around for a few more weeks so don't be surprised if you still see me here and there – and I'll come and visit on occasions as well, so it's not a 'good-bye' forever.

Best,

-Richard

Email: [ryaus@earthlink.net](mailto:ryaus@earthlink.net)

*Lynn: We are planning a little send off party for Richard on Sunday, July 24th from 4 - 7pm, at Lynn's house.*

*Members who wish to attend, please call or email Lynn for details: [EwingLynn@gmail.com](mailto:EwingLynn@gmail.com); 650-867-2633*

## Join In the Fun!

Helping with the monthly music programs is a great way to meet new people and help make the program run smoothly. We welcome people to help emcee the program, take photos or write a lively report about the music program. You don't need experience—just a willingness to help while you have fun with the group.

Discover your inner entertainer, photographer or writer and help us host our monthly events.

Contact Lynn Ewing, [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com), 650-867-2633 to find out how to get in on the action!

### SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices **for members**:

1/4-page: \$25: 1/2-page: \$50: Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

### **DISCOUNTED COTATI TICKETS**

The SFAC is delighted to offer a discounted price on tickets purchased in advance for the Cotati Accordion Festival, August 20-21.

The reduced rate will be **\$15 for 1-day tickets** (\$19 at the gate) and **\$25 for 2-day tickets** (\$29 at the gate), available for purchase in person at the SFAC musical program on **Sunday, July 17th**.

Here is a great opportunity to not only save some money but also increase the public presence of the SFAC at this great accordion event! Thanks to Linda Connor, Scott Goree and the other hard-working staff at the Cotati Festival for extending this offer to our members.

Please do take advantage of it!



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### **LOST & FOUND**

Striped "Balboa Island" sweater left behind at Oyster Point Yacht Club after June 19 meeting. Claim it in person during the July meeting or call Elaine (510-921-9323) to arrange to retrieve it if it's yours.

## Lou Jacklich named *Cotati Accordion Festival* Honorary Director

Accordion virtuoso, veteran instructor, and West Coast pioneer of the electronic accordion, **Lou Jacklich**, has been selected to be the Honorary Director of the 26th annual Cotati Accordion Festival (CAF) taking place August 20-21 at La Plaza Park in Cotati, California. Mr. Jacklich and his student Jeremy Jeans will perform 10:25-10:45am on Saturday, August 20. The Honorary Directorship will be introduced on Saturday before Lady-of-Spain-A-Ring (about 1:30 PM) on the Main Stage.

Mr. Jacklich's outstanding full-time career as an accordionist spans over 70 years...and still counting! Visit the CAF website ([www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com)) to read Lou Jacklich's history in making a meaningful contribution to the enjoyment and advancement of the accordion in the US, and to listen to audio samples of his arrangements on the electronic accordion in the early 1960's.

**We invite all current and former Lou Jacklich students to please meet at the Jim Boggio statue at 2:15pm for a group photo.**



Lou Jacklich & Jeremy Jeans in 2004

**More about Cotati 2016:** This year's Festival has a "Western" theme featuring: the Doo-Wah Riders, Debra Peters and the Love Saints and the Vivants. There will be a great lineup of international players representing countries including: Canada, China, Croatia, Finland, Portugal and Serbia. Accordion celebrities Jelena Milojevic, Cory Pesaturo,



Lynn Ewing presents Mr. Jacklich with a Lifetime Achievement award on behalf of the SFAC (2014)

Michael Bridge, Sourdough Slim, Steve Balich Polka Band, Those Darn Accordions, and a host of others will be performing. A wide variety of regional and musical genera (e.g., Country, French musette, Gypsy jazz, Western, Blues, Cajun, Zydeco, and Latin) are in store. Roberta Cantow will show her new documentary, "Accordions Rising." Sheri Mignano Crawford is organizing the Student Stage. Other surprises are planned including another wonderful grand finale.

*CAF tickets are \$19 (\$15\*) for one day, and \$29 (\$25\*) for two days. [\* = discounted advance tickets may be purchased in person at the July 17 SFAC meeting] Kids 15 and under may attend FREE when accompanied by a paying adult.*

Details on performers, student stage, schedule, parking, benefits to local youth groups, vendor information, advertising and more at [www.cotatifest.com](http://www.cotatifest.com)



Mr. Lou Jacklich and students at the 2015 CAF  
Photo by Russell Event Photography of Rohnert Park

## SFAC MEMBERS ENJOY ROSE CITY ACCORDION CLUB CAMP

The Rose City Accordion Camp at the beautiful Silver Falls Conference Center in Oregon was wonderful. Accordion music from morning to night – two bands to play in under the direction of Stas Venglevski and Murl Allen Sanders. Workshops lead by Bev Fess and Mary Tokarski on subjects such as “Technic.... Your Style, Your Way”, “Fingering it’s Important”, “Memorizing Secrets” and many more. In this beautiful setting we had very nice cabins, wonderful food and great camaraderie. Band practice, workshops, evening concerts and the Jam Band. Thursday night we gave our concert to a very enthusiastic audience. Camp was June 5th to the 10th. Next year the camp will be held from June 4th to the 9th. Participation is limited so sign up soon and meet and have accordion fun with players from all over the United States and Canada. For information contact the Rose City Accordion Club in Portland or Gwyn Lister [gwynethacc@gmail.com](mailto:gwynethacc@gmail.com). Gwyn, her daughter Pam and son John all enjoyed the camp very much and became better players (We hope!). Hope to see you there next year.

*Gwyn Lister*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2016-17

The SFAC will begin its annual membership renewal drive in August. There will be reminders in the Newsletters, and a direct mailing to all current members. As in the past, members will be able to renew either by mailing a check, or through our webpage at [www.sfaccordionclub.com/membership.html](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com/membership.html). Some members have already renewed their membership through year 2017. They will be receiving a letter advising them of their status so they may safely ignore any communications announcing this year’s renewal drive. We do hope each and every current member of the SFAC will continue their support of the club into the next and future years. We are proud of the value provided by our musical programs, the Newsletter, and the myriad of ways the SFAC continues to support the accordion culture in the Bay Area and beyond. We hope you agree!

## IN MEMORIAM: Giovanni “Papa Gianni” Giotta May 1, 1920 – June 11, 2016

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Customers: It is with “cuor’ pesante” (heavy heart) that I must report to you the passing of my father. This little dynamo of a man founded our company, accomplished so much and made so many feel good with his personality, service and music. His unique expressions-his hands, his words and his songs, are preserved in history. He was at the core of my musical upbringing and life, and our world will never be the same without him.

In addition to everything else, Papa Gianni Giotta was a HUGE proponent of the accordion. When we watched the Lawrence Welk show on TV each week, he kept telling me to practice because one day, I was going to be on that show. My father was an incredibly strong backer of my accordion study, performance and related activities from the very beginning in 1971, sparing no expense for my education, work, success and satisfaction. He publicly sang the praises of the instrument and, of course I had been accompanying his vocals on accordion since 1972. We did one hell of a lot of singing and playing together, thousands of appearances; in studios, on stage and on camera...

*Fabio G. Giotta*  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Caffe Trieste Incorporated  
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Mr. Giotta’s complete obituary is available online at: [http://  
coffee.caffetrieste.com/](http://coffee.caffetrieste.com/)

An article on Mr. Giotta’s life appeared in the June 15 San Francisco Chronicle and may be read online at: [http://www.sfgate.com/  
bayarea/article/Giovanni-Gianni-Giotta-Caffe-Trieste-8108305.php](http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Giovanni-Gianni-Giotta-Caffe-Trieste-8108305.php)

# Accordion Events



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## Bay Area Accordion Clubs

### **Accordion Club of the Redwoods**

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission donation  
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma  
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474  
[dcdacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

### **Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)**

[gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com](http://gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com)  
Contact: Jean Stevens, President (916) 872-8081  
[accordionriffs@gmail.com](mailto:accordionriffs@gmail.com)

#### *Vacaville Chapter*

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.  
Pietro's No. 2,  
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville

#### *Humboldt Chapter*

3rd Tuesday at 7pm.  
Humboldt Swiss Club  
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

#### *Sacramento Chapter*

4th Wednesday at 7 pm.  
Old Spaghetti Factory,  
12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

### **Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)**

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. Escalon Community Center,  
1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon  
Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

### **Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)**

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall,  
6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay  
Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

### **Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)**

1st Sunday at 1pm. Harry's Hofbrau,  
390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose  
[www.svasociety.org](http://www.svasociety.org)  
\$5 for adults, no charge under 16

### **Performing Around the Bay**

RON BORELLI *San Mateo* - [RonBorelli@aol.com](mailto:RonBorelli@aol.com)  
[www.ronborelli.com](http://www.ronborelli.com)

RICHARD DENIER *Carmel* - [rjd.denier@gmail.com](mailto:rjd.denier@gmail.com)

PETER DI BONO *San Francisco* [www.peterdibono.com](http://www.peterdibono.com)

RENO DI BONO *South Bay* - [ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com)  
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WILLIAM DE MICHELIS *South Bay*  
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JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay* [www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com)  
or [www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com)

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BIG LOU, aka LINDA SEEKINS *San Francisco*  
[www.accordionprincess.com](http://www.accordionprincess.com)

ROB REICH *East Bay & San Francisco*  
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KAY PATTERSON *Napa Valley & Surrounding*  
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TANGONERO [www.tangonero.com](http://www.tangonero.com)

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- NADA LEWIS (510) 243-1122
- KAY PATTERSON (707) 666-2849
- VINCENT RINALDI (415) 824-7609
- BIG LOU (LINDA SEEKINS) (415) 468-5986
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### **Newsletter Layout, Content Coordinator**

(Positions open, volunteers needed!)

### **Scholarship**

- Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579  
eclecticguy@comcast.net

## **PLAY for your club!**

Playing warm up or during the break for our Sunday music program is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Our scheduled performers are drawn from professional players and groups, and from talented amateurs as well. Call us—we're happy to add you to the schedule to play a 10-15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs.

Contact:

**Dominic Palmisano**  
(415) 587-4423 [accord47@gmail.com](mailto:accord47@gmail.com) OR

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



Contact any member of the board to volunteer. See February Newsletter for descriptions of tasks, small or large, remote or on-site, that you can do to help the SFAC continue its excellent programs and activities!

### **Please Remember...**

Help keep our meeting space at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Wipe up food or drink spills and recycle all trash. **THANK YOU!**

Join us the third Sunday of each month at the  
Oyster Point Yacht Club • 911 Marina Blvd • South San Francisco

**SFAC SUNDAY MUSIC PROGRAM**

Come for fun and great music!!

**Sunday, July 17 at 2pm**

**Mike Zampiceni**

**Lynn Ewing**

**Siyuan Donnelly, Daniel Cher, Don Savant,**

Admission: \$6 for members, \$8 for guests

The jam band will play from 1:15-2:00



**OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB**

**Plenty of free parking, ramp access.**

**DIRECTIONS:** From Hwy 101 (North or South) in South San Francisco, take the Oyster Point Blvd exit and follow signs to Marina Blvd. Avoid turning right onto Gull Drive, immediately before Marina Blvd.

Turn right onto Marina Blvd and continue 0.7 mile, past the Oyster Point Marina gatehouse to the Oyster Point Yacht Club sign on the left.

**Amp Up the FUN!**

**SFAC Membership** is \$35 per year for individual or family (\$5 discount for online newsletter option). Join or renew using PayPal or a credit card at: [www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)  
First time membership valid through Sept. 2017!

**San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter**

P.O. Box 318175

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