



## San Francisco Accordion Club

# NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING June 19 @ 2 p.m.

### SPECIAL APPEARANCE



*Vincenzo Abbracciante*

## DIRECT from ITALY

### Vincenzo Abbracciante . . .

was born in Ostuni (BR), Italy in 1983 and is the third-generation of a family of accordionists. From an early age, he studied music, with his father being his first accordion teacher. He has since studied or attended master classes with some of the most noted jazz performers and composers from around the world—such as Franco D’Andrea, Bruno Tommaso and Steve Potts. As a classical accordionist, in 2000, he won the **25<sup>th</sup> International Accordion Championship** in Castelfidardo, Italy and in 2003, the **53<sup>rd</sup> Trophée Mondial**.

Vincenzo performs traditional accordion music with great dexterity and flair, he has composed sound tracks for film, appeared on film and now has flown to another level of accordion playing. He is one of those young players that will change the face of accordion for years to come.

“The fellow who has really impressed me is a young Italian from Puglia: Vincenzo Abbracciante. In every song he has taken me on a journey and touched me.” *Richard Galliano*

Vincenzo will present a program featuring traditional virtuoso accordion solos and ensemble performance in a Jazz trio with drums and bass.

You can view several videos of Vincenzo playing on **YouTube**, by putting in his name into a Google search: **Vincenzo Abbracciante, YouTube** One of the best videos is of him playing *Carnival of Venice!*

**Door fee for June will be \$10.**

**JAM Session  
postponed  
until July.  
see pg. 5**

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### May News & Music

**Gwyn Lister** was our MC for the day—and shared several accordion jokes with us. Thanks, Gwen!



*Gwyn Lister*

**Mike Zampiceni**, played tunes from America, Latin America, and Great Britain, the last being a Beatles number.



*Mike Zampiceni*

**Don Savant** played first. Don plays smooth jazz with unique harmonies. His granddaughter Natalie accompanied him and sang *On My Own* from Les Misérables.



*Don Savant plays while granddaughter Natalie sings*



*The Great Morgani*

**The Great Morgani**, a.k.a. **Frank Lima** climbed into his costume on stage while playing—with a little help from Vinny Rinaldi. After several songs he ended with Liberace's signature piece: *I'll Be Seeing You*.

**The Reno Di Bono Trio + ONE:** Reno on accordion, Dave Kawamoto on sax and clarinet, and Brent McHenry on percussion played last. They became a quartet with the addition of Steve Auerbach on bass. Performed were compositions by Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, as well as several Italian pieces. Reno and Brent included vocals on a few numbers.



*The Reno Di Bono Trio + ONE*

The club thanks Reno for his generous donation of the proceeds from the sale of his new CD *Jazz Accordion* at the meeting.



*Steve Auerbach*

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

June's meeting is going to be Fabulous, with **Vincenzo Abbracciante**, from Italy. (*see front page*) This is a special appearance and all members and friends are encouraged to come and hear this extraordinary accordionist.

#### ***There will be No Club Meeting August 21st!***

Our regularly scheduled meeting on Sunday, August 21 coincides with the **Cotati Accordion Festival** this year. It was decided to cancel the August meeting and encourage members to enjoy the variety of entertainment at the Cotati Festival. The Club will have one-day (\$15) and two-day (\$25) tickets to the Festival available for sale at the June and July meetings or you may contact **Val Kieser** at [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net) or (510) 531-4836.

**A portion of the proceeds from the tickets we sell will be donated back to our club by the Festival.**

VISIT [www.cotatifest.com/](http://www.cotatifest.com/) to see the schedule of events.

**Attend the  
Annual Cotati  
Accordion Festival  
Aug. 20-21, 2011**



**The Cotati Accordion Festival**

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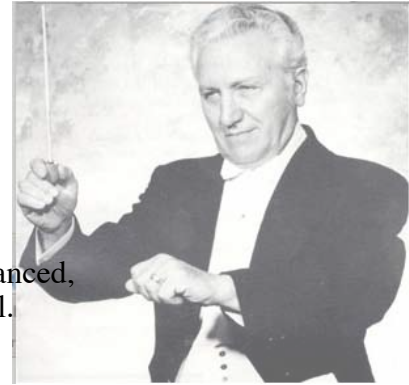
**The San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble Association presents  
THE GALLA-RINI ACCORDION CAMP 2011**

**Tuesday, July 5—Saturday, July 9 • 2011**

**San Domenico Music Conservatory-San Domenico School,  
1500 Butterfield Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960**

Participants at all levels of competence, from beginning through advanced, will get musical parts and instruction specifically geared to their level.

**Contact: Tor Arild, tarild@gotsky.com or Phone (650) 851-7831**



*Anthony Galla-Rini*

Continuing a long tradition of presenting the accordion as a serious musical instrument, we invite you to join us for 5 days of good music making with the camp orchestra under the direction of Maestro Joe Smiell, conservatory-trained musician known for many years for his outstanding arrangements for accordion orchestra.

Joe's teaching emphasizes playing musically, important with any instrument. The accordion is especially suited for producing the nuances that make music pleasing, whether playing with an orchestra, a small group, or solo, no matter what style of music. *Be prepared to learn and to have a great time!*

## **Accordions for Japan UPDATE!**

Last month we mentioned the initiation of a project to help out our fellow accordionists in Japan who were impacted by the earthquake and tsunami. We have good news! Through the *Japan Accordion Association*, we have found a group that is especially in need of our help.

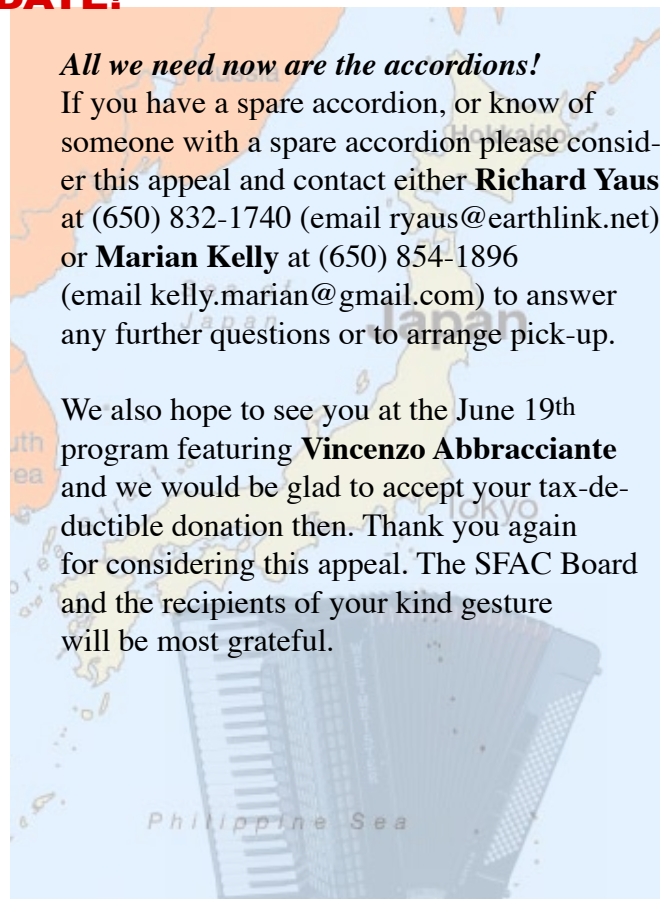
The members of the **Tohoku Accordion Jumboly Quintette** were located right off the northern coast of Japan and all lost their instruments in the flooding.

To help this group we are in need of five accordions, 96 or 120 bass in very good condition. Richard Yaus is coordinating this effort and is negotiating with a freight shipper, Skyler Fell of Accordion Apocalypse has agreed to help pack the accordions for safe shipment and the Club is ready to provide you with a receipt for your tax deductible donation. We will even be glad to arrange pickup.

### *All we need now are the accordions!*

If you have a spare accordion, or know of someone with a spare accordion please consider this appeal and contact either **Richard Yaus** at (650) 832-1740 (email ryaus@earthlink.net) or **Marian Kelly** at (650) 854-1896 (email kelly.marian@gmail.com) to answer any further questions or to arrange pick-up.

We also hope to see you at the June 19th program featuring **Vincenzo Abbracciante** and we would be glad to accept your tax-deductible donation then. Thank you again for considering this appeal. The SFAC Board and the recipients of your kind gesture will be most grateful.



## Scholarship Awards

Twice a year, in April and October, our club awards scholarships to accordion students demonstrating promise to further their study and knowledge of the accordion. Scholarship Guidelines and Application forms are available at the monthly meetings or can be obtained from the club secretary, Randy Hicks - by emailing: [hickr01@sprintmail.com](mailto:hickr01@sprintmail.com). Completed applications are to be returned to: **Frank Montoro, 1448 Tarrytown St., San Mateo, CA 94402** by the end of either March or September to be considered for award the following month.

### Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

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## Receive Your Newsletter On-Line!

### Help our Club SAVE MONEY!

**Not only will you be able to  
view and read it  
IN COLOR,  
you will save us the cost of  
printing and postage fees, and  
you will have less  
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to recycle.**

**to sign up for this service  
send an email to:  
[sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net)**

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## Accordion Band News

Band Practice is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, monthly @ 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's home in Oakland. Please CALL AHEAD in case there is a change. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, contact Val (510) 531-4836 or [vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net)

## SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President  
(650) 365-1700 [ewinglynn@gmail.com](mailto:ewinglynn@gmail.com)

Frank Montoro, Vice President  
(650) 574-4757 [frankmontoro@gmail.com](mailto:frankmontoro@gmail.com)

Randall Hicks, Secretary  
(510)583-1581 [hickr01@sprintmail.com](mailto:hickr01@sprintmail.com)

Marian Kelly, Treasurer  
(650) 854-1896 [kelly.marian@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.marian@gmail.com)

## SFAC Directors

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[accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com](mailto:accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com)

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[vtkacc@ifn.net](mailto:vtkacc@ifn.net)

Sharon Walters-Greyhosky  
(415) 621-8284  
[swaltersgrey@comcast.net](mailto:swaltersgrey@comcast.net)

## Newsletter

Christina Knapp, Editor/Graphic Design  
[snapp.chris@gmail.com](mailto:snapp.chris@gmail.com)

## Jam Session POSTPONED!

As originally planned, our next Jam session would have been before the June meeting. With bringing in such a high-profile performer as Vincenzo Abbracciante, there will be a lot of pre-meeting coordination and set-up involved. To avoid confusion and make both this meeting and the Jam session the most rewarding for everyone, we are postponing the Jam session to before the JULY meeting, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m.,. Val Kieser will still be the coordinator for this Jam session.

We encourage anyone who plays accordion to come and join in the fun in July. All you need to bring is an accordion and a music stand.

Sheet music and a great time will be provided —just ask anyone who attended the last Jam in March! If you don't play accordion, come anyway and be our audience.

## 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

\$2 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—

President (707) 318-0474;[dcdacapo@gmail.com](mailto:dcdacapo@gmail.com)

### Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

[gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com](http://gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com)

*The Vacaville Chapter* meets monthly on the second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main Street, Vacaville.

*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: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041

### 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.

## Welcome new members

John Poggetti of San Francisco and

Ellen Karel of Corte Madera.

Ellen plays piano accordion

and especially likes European music.



## Performing Around the Bay

**Steve Balich** • North Bay  
(707) 874-3494

**Ron Borelli** • San Mateo  
(650) 574-5707  
[rborelli@aol.com](mailto:rborelli@aol.com)

**Renée de la Prade**  
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco  
[www.sfhounds.com](http://www.sfhounds.com)

**Richard Denier** • Carmel  
[rdenier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdenier@sbcglobal.net)

**Peter Di Bono** • San Francisco  
[www.peterdibono.com](http://www.peterdibono.com)

**Reno Di Bono** • South Bay  
[ourhike@aol.com](mailto:ourhike@aol.com)

**William De Michelis** • South Bay  
[wdd777@comcast.net](mailto:wdd777@comcast.net)

**Joe Domitrowich** • South Bay  
[www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com) or  
[www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.com)

**Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)**  
San Francisco  
[www.eurocafemusic.com](http://www.eurocafemusic.com) or  
[zighi@sonic.net](mailto:zighi@sonic.net)

**Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobbelins**  
Oakland  
[www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins](http://www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins)

**Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers**  
[kirschner@aol.com](mailto:kirschner@aol.com)  
[www.klezmakers.com](http://www.klezmakers.com)

**Don Nurisso** • Pacifica  
[nurisso@mindspring.com](mailto:nurisso@mindspring.com)

**Mike Zampiceni** • South Bay  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)

**Ed Gorzynski, Jr.** • East Bay  
[edspolkas@yahoo.com](mailto:edspolkas@yahoo.com)

## Play at our Meeting!

We are always grateful and accepting of anyone who wishes to play for warm up, intermission, or the first part of the meeting. Share your talent and hone your performance skills! Contact Val Kieser to sign up.

## The Path to Better Sight Reading

*Reprinted from the February 2004 Accordion Talk  
Newsletter of the Rose City Accordion Club*

Sight-reading music is a reflex activity that one can develop and improve. Reading new music must be approached with proper discipline. If a student is fairly challenged by sight-reading—playing each new piece in fits and starts, fingers cautiously crawling to the next chord, head incessantly bobbing up and down from printed page to keyboard and back again – it can be a very frustrating, discouraging and time-consuming experience. One must keep in mind, however, that even some very accomplished musicians do this, and that there is hope for you and for them. A totally disciplined approach must be adopted—one that specifically trains reflexes. Not interpretation. Not technique. Reflexes. If the approach isn't taken, learning new pieces will always be a chore.

Three essential elements for a sight-reading improvement regimen: The student starts a sight-reading improvement campaign with folios of simple pieces: baby pieces perhaps, or easy classics in large volumes. Easy Bach, easy Mozart, easy pop books. Get out those method books from the old days. Don't be embarrassed to go back to Your First Music Book if need be. Choose the simplest things. Check to see if your local library has such music folios.

The second element is a good metronome. This is the instrument that inflicts the deadline upon your next digital move. It doesn't stop while you find your next note, so setting it at the slowest tempo where you think you can negotiate a passage is key. A simple piece might have one or two passages that are slightly more difficult than the rest of the piece (just as in any other piece of music). Those are the passages that should dictate your metronome's tempo for the entire piece. Once you have found that tempo, write it lightly in pencil (the third element, a pencil) at the top of the piece. Later, after you have gone through a series of pieces and your reading is improving, go back and review pieces at a faster tempo than the one you penciled in. Pencil that new tempo in too, for future reference. As you improve you'll get all your pieces up to speed by going back and increasing the metronomic beat, bit by bit.



## 2011 LAS VEGAS INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION CONVENTION Oct. 31 — Nov. 3

Sign up for this fabulous convention set in Las Vegas, the city of Sin, and don't forget to bring a masquerade costume for the first evening, which starts on Halloween! This is the 12th year for this event and having attended twice, I recommend it as a fun packed event, with workshops, concerts, jam sessions and the final performance which includes the *International Accordion Orchestra* led by Joan Sommers. If you get tired of hearing accordion music, you can always gamble or take in a Las Vegas show!

Early Bird Specials are still available, go to:  
[www.accordioninfo.com/convention/](http://www.accordioninfo.com/convention/)


*Christina Knapp/Editor*



**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) 365-1700
- 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
- Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (415) 621-8284
- Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
- Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
- Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

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www.accordionapocalypse.com

**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.

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We wish a speedy recovery  
for those members who because  
of health reasons, are not able  
to join us at our monthly  
meetings!

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### Newsletter Deadline

Submissions are welcome for consideration and inclusion in the Newsletter.

The deadline for time critical information is the second Monday following the Monthly Musical Meeting.

All other submissions will be considered as time and space permit.

Please be mindful that copyrighted material cannot be reprinted without the author/publisher's permission.

Send items to the editor,

**Christina Knapp**

*snapp.chris@gmail.com*

Cotati tickets will be available at the June meeting. Please purchase your Cotati tickets from Val Kieser.

Our club receives a benefit from every ticket sold.

Tickets cost \$15 each for one day,

\$25 each for both days.

### SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family membership.

Meeting admission is \$6.00 for members and \$8.00 for guests.

For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Valerie Kieser, 3437 Crane Way, Oakland, CA 94602.

For new members, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you want.

**Musical Meeting • June 19 @ 2 p.m.**  
Jam Session resumes!

**Vincenzo Abbracciante—Special Guest Appearance Direct from Italy!**

*Join us the third sunday of every month at the Oyster Point Yacht Club,  
911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco*

**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](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)

**NOTICE**

Parking behind the Oyster Point Yacht Club will be disrupted through September 2011, while a ferry boat terminal is being built. We can no longer park behind the building and there is limited parking in the lot alongside the OPYC. PLEASE do not park in the Commodore's designated space in the front of this lot! Overflow parking must go to the next lot down the line, where the \$10 parking fee is being waived.

**Newsletter of the  
San Francisco Accordion Club**

P.O. Box 318175

San Francisco, CA 94131-8175

[www.sfaccordionclub.com](http://www.sfaccordionclub.com)



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