



Official Instrument of San Francisco
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SUNDAY, March 15 ENTERTAINMENT: DON'T MISS
Two groups back by popular demand!

The Accordion Magic 5 from Sacramento:

Dave Chelini, Jim Shoemaker, Taffy Steffen, Vince Cukar, Roger Cromwell

And The Peter Di Bono Trio:

Peter Di Bono (accordion); Harriet Newhart (violin); Steve Hanson (bass)

President's Message

We are very pleased to be able to present so many entertaining programs at our monthly musical meetings. We are fortunate to live in an area where there are so many fine musicians who are willing to share their talent with us. While some of them are our own members, we attract visitors from around the country and the world who play for us when they are here. We constantly search for talent, and we get together as a board to work out a schedule. Of course, our work is made easier when they contact us instead. And we gladly accept your suggestions of players who might be interested in coming to us at some future date. Just contact any board member with your ideas.

I thought you might like to know what is ahead for the next few months. This is a tentative schedule, subject to changes as needed.

March 15: our Sacramento-area-based group, the **Accordion Magic 5**, will be back to play for us with some fine new arrangements. They will also take turns playing solos. This group plays some great tunes, most of which are familiar to us, done in interesting arrangements.

The second half of the program will feature our own **Peter Di Bono**, certainly one of the very best musicians around. Peter will bring with him two excellent musicians to produce some very sweet sounds. Violinist **Harriet Newhart** and bassist **Steve Hanson** complete the trio.

April 19: To keep things in the family, we will have Peter's brother **Reno Di Bono** who will bring his trio back for another of his outstanding programs featuring a variety of pop tunes, jazz, and a smattering of Italian music, with Reno doing the vocals. The second part of the program will see a return of the **San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble**, with **Joe Smiell** conducting. Included among his original arrangements will be *Cowboy Rhapsody*, *American Sketch*, and *Grande Marcia Italiana*.

May 17: **Alex Roitman**, a student of Peter Di Bono, will bring his tango band which he calls "**Tangonero**," to the club for their first appearance. We look forward to hearing them. **Steve Balich** from the North Bay will bring a few of the members of his band to play the second half of the program. Steve is well known to us and is one of the most beloved figures in the accordion community. He will have you dancing in the aisles, or at least tapping your toes to his music. *(Continued on page 5)*

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco

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

Our Website is again active and growing—check it out! www.sfaccordionclub.com

March Program—WOW!

President Frank Montoro introduced visitors **Darnell Howes** and **Bill Bates**. Bill is president of the *Deutscher Musikverein*, a club of German musicians who have a big German brass band. This group has expressed an interest in teaming with us on some project. The **San Francisco Accordion Band** ("Fun Band") is working with Bill on a proposed musical collaboration in September. Stay tuned!

Frank also introduced two young ladies who are working on a research project: **Julie Caine**, an independent producer/journalist; and **Marié Abe**, a Ph.D. candidate in ethnomusicology at UC Berkeley. Frank also pointed out that two fine accordion repair people were present: **Vince Cirelli** and **Skyler Fell**.

Our very able warm-up accordionist was none other than **Sue Hirigoyen**. Nice job, Sue—thanks much!

First on the day's program was a very special presentation that was *not musical!* **André Paris** treated us to the amazing but *nonpolitical* story of a very special experience—one such as very few people ever have: He was the personal guest of **President Obama** at the



André Paris

presidential inauguration. It is a long, incredible (but true) story; but in a nutshell, throughout his life as a teacher and soccer coach, André was very supportive and benevolent of youth in need. Thirty-five years ago, there was one such youth in Hawaii—a young boy by the name of Barack Obama, whom André took under his wing,

coached and mentored, and the favor was not forgotten. André was the special guest of the Obamas, not only for the inauguration, but in the White House, including breakfast at the same table (for 6) with the Obama family. "Uncle André," as Obama called him, was even invited to play the accordion—and a gleaming Excelsior appeared on a rolling table just for a stunned André to play! He played three songs for the appreciative family.

There is much, much more to the story, but what an adventure! André displayed several mementos of the trip and passed around three photo album/scrap books. Wow! No matter where one stands politically, or who the President is, being invited privately to the White House is a very high honor. Congratulations, André!

Then we heard our first musical performance: "**Debbie and the Docs**," consisting of **Debbie Knapp** on accordion, her hubby **Jim** (an ophthalmologist) on string bass and **Josh Di Chicacchio** (who recently earned his doctorate at the Eastman School of Music) on guitar. These are all accomplished musicians, and they played just beautifully. I probably missed some of the names, but they started out with a *Gavotte* by J. S. Bach; then a "Homage to Mozart" with Mozart's *Rondo a la Turca*, the familiar and lovely *Für Elise*. Debbie and Jim also performed some popular music, with Jim on bass: *La Vie En Rose*, *Pigalle* (of which Debbie dedicated the *spaces* to Joe Smiell—players in the ACE Ensemble and the Fun Band will understand!), *Bésame Mucho*, *Torno a Surriento*, *Funiculli*, *Funicula* with clapping by the audience, *Bella Notte*. Josh played a beautiful solo, *Asturias* by Isaac Albéniz. They finished up with an American jazz piece, *Eulipians*, with a vocal by Debbie, who was playing the left hand only! What a classy and professional performance!



Jerry Choate, who lives up in Chico, comes around whenever he visits his sister in Emeryville, and we were very happy to welcome Jerry, who plays music that we all love to hear. Playing his *Giulietti* extended keyboard accordion, amplified, he played *That's Amore*, *Always Happy Polka*, *Edelweiss*, *Ain't She Sweet*, *Bye Bye Blackbird*, *More, Spanish Eyes*, *Moonglow* as a medley with the theme from *Picnic*, *Jennie's Mazurka* (which Steve Balich wrote for his beautiful wife Jennie), *Your Cheatin' Heart*, and *Schneewalzer*. Smooth, relaxing and a delight to hear—thanks, Jerry!

After the break and a hearty **HAPPY 90TH** to **Jim Holliday**, we were treated to the **Robert Reich Trio** a.k.a. **Nice Guy Trio**, all *young people*: **Robert** of course, on accordion;



Jerry Choate

Daniel Fabricant on bass and Darren Johnston on trumpet. Robert started off solo on his Titano accordion, playing *Balajo*, a waltz by French composer Jo Privat. He played a medley of Klezmer songs, and the audience clapped enthusiastically to the beat of the fast one. Robert has been playing accordion for a mere 8 years and is a real pro. Then the whole trio played, first *Off the Grid*, written by

Darren Johnston, the trumpeter; then *Stardust* (Hoagy Carmichael); *Fabbi's Footsteps*, written by Daniel Fabricant (bassist); *The Balancing Act* and *Unicycle Cocek*, both composed by Robert. There is a lot of talent among these three young men.

We thank all of today's performers for an outstanding show!
Val and Randy



The Robert Reich Trio: Daniel Fabricant, Robert Reich, Darren Johnston



Happy 90th Jim Holliday!!!



Don Nurisso



André with his props



Rob Reich and Salane Schultz



Diane Blais and Taffy Steffen

Your Newsletter

We all like the "feel" of a solid piece of paper that we can read at our leisure. However, our expenses are increasing at an alarming rate, including another postage increase this May. With the hope of not increasing dues or gate fees, we hope that many of you will agree to receive your newsletter by e-mail. There are actually some advantages: You get to see the photos in color, and you can enlarge the page as large as you wish! We know that many of you do not have e-mail and that's OK; but for those who are willing to receive it as a .pdf, please contact any board member. Thanks very much!

President's Message (Continued)

In addition, there will be more individual players and groups planning to play for us in the months ahead. We are working to schedule the "Wild Irish Rovers" and **Absolut Accord**, for instance, and we have yet to complete arrangements with others. An outstanding East Coast accordionist, **Amy Jo Sawyer**, is interested in coming to play for us while she is visiting out here. Also an old friend of ours, **Stas Venglevski**, is planning a trip

to the West Coast, and we hope to snag him if we can!

On August 16 we will have our annual club barbecue, and the entire entertainment program will be up to you. We invite everyone who plays accordion to play a few tunes for us. If you were with us last year you will remember the great time we had. It's Open Mike!

So, come and enjoy! Remember it's every third Sunday of the Month, 2:00 p.m. at Oyster Point Yacht Club!

Frank Montoro



Diane Blais: Nothing like wine & accordion—what a combo!



Darnell Howes and Bill Bates



Randy wins bottle of wine in drawing

Message from SFAC Member Grigoriy Krumik

I have some thoughts that I'd like you to share with our accordion community. My very famous instrument, the Russian Bayan, that I have played since 1968, was made by special order with solid reed plates of copper (all hand made). It has been entirely repaired and restored by fellow SFAC member **Yakov Puhachevsky** (we call him **Jacob**). Jacob also contributes his free time to restore a Simon Shtauber 1952 Hohner Atlantic III.

The accordion community thanks Jacob for his personal contribution and tremendous job.

About **Yakov Puhachevsky**: He is a graduate of Kishinev (Republic of Moldova) Music School (1972) with honors. He holds a second degree in mechanical engineering that he received in 1977 from Moldova University.

Jacob studied accordion with Prof. I Birbrayer. He worked as an accordion master craftsman in Kishinev from 1964 until he emigrated to the US in 1991. Jacob has extensive experience in repair, restoration and tuning of various types of accordions, Russian Bayans, diatonic accordions and more. The accordion world needs to know about him. *Grigoriy*

New Production Editor for our Newsletter!

Introducing **Randall Hicks**. Randy has been a member of SFAC for a year now, and we are so very fortunate that he has accepted to take on the job of Production Editor of our Newsletter. Randy tells about himself . . .

By day, Randy works as a computer engineer for Oracle Corporation, but enjoys many (perhaps too many, by his own admission) activities and hobbies from square dancing to baking and candy making. He is always willing to take on a challenge—just like when he picked up an accordion for the first time in his life only 12 months ago (on a dare, mind you). He is very happy to be able to contribute to this great club, and hopes that you will be patient while he is learning the ropes of desktop publishing (which includes learning the computer software), and he also invites your comments and suggestions.

Randy began studying piano at age 8, and in the early 80's graduated from Lawrence Conservatory of Music in Appleton, WI with a major in Vocal Performance—and, like most musicians, he transitioned to a job as a bank teller, which led him more or less to his present employer, Oracle Corp.

Val adds: Randy also is a very important part of our "Fun Band," and is studying accordion with Lou Jacklich.

Welcome, Randy—and thanks for taking on this challenging job!!

(Photo of Randy above this article)

Welcome New Members

The following members joined at the last musical meeting:

Ed Soss of San Francisco, although he loves accordion music, does not play accordion himself—but he enjoys all kinds of accordion music, from classical to European to Latin to Tex/Mex and Cajun/Zydeco.

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Moisiso of Burlingame enjoy mostly European music.

A Hearty WELCOME to Ed and the Moisisos!

Your Executive Board Met . . .

On Monday, February 23. The board is working on finalizing the parameters of our Scholarship Program, which is supported by donations and half of the prize money from our drawings. (More about the Scholarship Program to the right, next column.) Other subjects covered: insurance, offering the newsletter in e-mail form to save money; performer expenses; publicity including an ad in the Texas Convention program; and upcoming programs. Financially we're sound.

News of the San Francisco Accordion Chamber Ensemble

The ACE Ensemble is hard at work on music for their spring repertoire. The Ensemble will perform at the SFAC musical meeting on Sunday, April 19 and also will be presenting a concert on Sunday, April 26 at 2:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 2124 Brewster Ave., Redwood City.

News of the San Francisco Accordion Band

The "Fun Band" has several jobs lined up for the coming months, including the Accordion Club of the Redwoods "Spring Fling" on March 21 in Petaluma, the SVAS on the first Sunday in June, the Petaluma Accordion Celebration in late June, and a tentative performance at the Park Chalet restaurant in San Francisco (in conjunction with the *Deutscher Musikverein*)

Your SFAC Scholarship Program

Scholarships will be awarded each April and October. Applications must be received by the end of the previous month (March and September). Ask any board member for scholarship applications, which also will be available at meetings.



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When Do Our Fellow Accordion Clubs in the Bay Area (and slightly beyond) Meet?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) regularly meets on the third Monday of the month, Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three chapters: The Vacaville club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, at Creekside Bar & Grill, 555 Main street, Vacaville. The Humboldt Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The Sacramento group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. in the Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas Blvd, off Highway 80 in Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041.



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Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club. Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate in 2009 and your name doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks! These donations are very much appreciated. So far this year your Editor has learned of donations from: **Maryanne Romanowski** and her firm, which is Care2.com Inc.; **Amil Samayoa**; **Randall Hicks**; **Alexander Roitman**; **Bruce Kirschner**; **Michael Sanosian**;



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- * Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net * Peter Di Bono San Francisco peterdsf@gmail.com
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- * Zighi Baci San Francisco (Sheri Mignano) www.zighibaci.com or e-mail zighi@sonic.net

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 \$7 for each guest


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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy
 Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

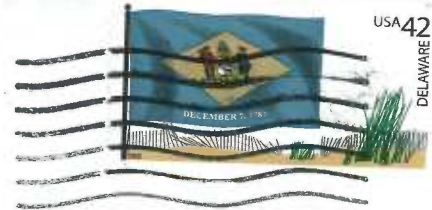


NEXT MEETING:
Sunday, March 15, 2009
2:00 Oyster Point Yacht Club



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