

**March, 2016**

Next Music Program:

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Oyster Point Yacht Club



## Featured for March: **AbsolutAccord**

Fun and fully engaging, **AbsolutAccord** plays their accordion ensemble arrangements with a unique style and flair.

After fifteen years of weekly rehearsals with only a few personnel changes, AbsolutAccord finds itself with a 150+ piece repertoire representing a wide and diverse variety of musical genres, from classical through traditional, international and standards, all of which are scored in a sophisticated and musically creative way. Many arrangements originated in

Germany; recently though, the musical director Richard has been creating his own inventive transcriptions which the group plays enthusiastically.

AbsolutAccord, always absolutely in accord, has been featured at the Cotati Accordion Festival, the Las Vegas Accordion Convention, the 2010 and 2014 ATG Festivals, as well as at various local farmers' markets, at schools, and at all the accordion clubs in the greater Bay Area.

In 2005 AbsolutAccord released their first CD with enticing pieces such as *El Choclo*, *Plaisir d' amour*, *C'est si bon* and *Chattanooga Choo Choo*. The second



Left to Right: Alfredo Vega, Richard Yaus, Marian Kelly, Lynn Ewing, Randall Hicks, David Perry

CD was released just two years ago including titles such as *España*, *Jalousie Tango*, *Ciribiribin*, *Rock Around the Clock*, and a *West Side Story* medley, all highlighting an infinite spectrum of music.

The group's accordionists are Lynn Ewing, Randall Hicks, Marian Kelly, David Perry, and Richard Yaus. On select performances, such as the upcoming performance at the SFAC, AbsolutAccord enriches their sound with avid percussionist Alfredo Vega.

**AbsolutAccord**.....the name says it all.

## Ed Massolo, Lou Jacklich & Jeremy Jeans also appearing in March!



Ed Massolo

### Ed Massolo

In the 1990's Ed was one of the early movers and shakers of the newly founded Bay Area Accordion Club (now SFAC). Ed began playing the accordion at age 9, and took lessons from John Molinari. He had a five-piece band and played for many weddings, picnics and other events. Ed constructed the SFAC's eye-catching signboard as well as the very clever stage used by the SFAC at the yacht club for both storage and performances; he hosted Board meetings and manned the door at club meetings for many years. Welcome back, Ed!



Lou Jacklich (left), Jeremy Jeans (right)

### Lou Jacklich & Jeremy Jeans

"All I've ever done is play the accordion. You might say it's in my blood." This quote from **Lou Jacklich** sums up his life history. He began instruction at 6 years of age, and started playing professionally at 12. He joined the Navy during the Korean War and started a band and entertained his comrades. Eight decades after it began, Mr. Jacklich's love affair with the accordion burns strong; he continues to teach and perform. "I wouldn't think about having a real job before retiring," he says while strapping on his Bugari Gold Model 288, custom-made accordion for yet another lesson. In 2014, the SFAC presented Lou Jacklich with a lifetime achievement award for his distinguished teaching and performance career. A detailed biography of Lou Jacklich, as well as tracks from his 1962 Capitol Records album, are available at <http://www.musicforaccordion.com/eTracks/inform/jacklich/>

The summer before **Jeremy Jeans** turned 6, his grandfather gave him an antique 12-bass accordion. You may have seen this family legacy portrayed in Steve Mobia's 2009 documentary film, *Behind the Bellows*. Jeremy was instructed by Tony Cervone for approximately six months and continued his studies with Lou Jacklich upon Tony's retirement. Jeremy fell in love with the instrument and during the next several years performed at the Walnut Creek Center for Performing Arts, the Cotati Accordion Festival, the San Francisco Accordion Club, the Accordion Club of the Redwoods, and the Arizona Accordion Club, and competed two years at the North American Accordion Festival in Los Angeles. Like many of Mr. Jacklich's students, Jeremy has returned for lessons as an adult after having left in his teens; however, still in his 20's, Jeremy's hiatus was brief and his award-winning skills are very much intact!



# February Meeting Report

By Robert Cooperstein



The opening set at this meeting of the SFAC was conducted by 3 students of Dave Chelini from the Sacramento area. The first player was 11-year-old **Nicholas Plasichuk**, the son of Anatoly and Noni Plasichuk. Having taken lessons from Dave for 9 months,

Nicholas was one of several of his students who performed at the Cotati Accordion Festival in August, 2015. After opening with a lovely version of *Over the Waves* (which has been used in countless films including many cartoons), he performed *Golden Slippers* and *Echo Waltz*.



The next young player up was **Joe Matella, Jr.**, who has been taking accordion lessons from Dave for three years. Ten years old and a 5th grader, Joey likes playing out about town with other people and at assisted living centers. He surprised everyone by beginning with a rousing version

of *The Star Spangled Banner*, the Palmer-Hughes arrangement. He followed that with *You Tell me Your Dream* and *Ciribiribin*. Joey then played a duet with our third young player, Johnathan Lathrop, *Let's Dance the Polka*, also from Palmer-Hughes.



Seventeen-year old **Jonathan Lathrop**, who has studied with Dave for some 2.5 years, and who also played at Cotati, continued with a few more songs on his own, including *Lights and Shadows* and *El Relicario*. He closed

with a very soulful version of an old classic, *Autumn Leaves*. Both Nicholas and Jonathan won Cotati Accordion Festival Student Stage Scholarships awards in 2015.

After having brought his most talented students up to entertain us, maestro **Dave Chelini** himself took the stage to play several songs for us. His first selection was *Midnight in Paris*, as arranged by



Charles Magnante, the legendary American accordion virtuoso. Dave explained that his next song, *Domino*, was a tune that people just "can't leave alone," having been performed in many variations. His version was inspired by Frank Marocco's arrangement. Dave finished his set with a pretty unique and very

boogie-woogie version of *Chattanooga Choo*

*Choo*, popularized by Glen Miller.

We look forward to other accordion teachers following the example of Dave Chelini by working with the SFAC to plan musical programs showcasing the talents and achievements of their students. Thanks to Dave, Nicholas, Joe, and Jonathan!

*Continued next page.....*



Michael and Steve Trucco

After the intermission, our featured performers were The Truccos. Steve Trucco and his son Michael are an accordion duo from Stockton, CA. They have been playing together for over 18 years. The Truccos play together with a rather strict division of labor: Steve plays the melody while Michael plays “in the cracks”, as he himself put it. The Truccos play mostly Italian waltzes and polkas but also music from the forties and fifties, with Michael adding vocals from time to time. I really don’t know if they would agree, but to my ears some of the Truccos’ arrangements evoked the sound of Flaco Jiménez, the great Conjunto, Norteño and Tejano music accordionist from San Antonio, Texas (who I had the pleasure of hearing at Cotati a few years ago). After their first song, an upbeat waltz, Steve mentioned that his son had been up to 2:30 in the morning playing with his “Boston” tribute band “Long Time,” in which he plays keyboards and sings. Later, back in the lounge, Michael told me that “Long Time” attempts to recreate the sound of the classic 80s rock band “Boston” (*More Than a Feeling*) note for note, tone for tone, beat for beat.

It seems that the Truccos don’t really work from a play-list, they create their sets on the spot. Following a very nice duet, Michael got a chance to showcase his vocal artistry with a long snippet, by request, of Louis Prima’s *Angelina*, which is often lumped together with the wedding song from “The Godfather”, *Zooma Zooma*. Sticking to his vocal groove, Michael launched into a jazzy version of *All of Me* (Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, etc.), followed by a very fast-paced dance tune and then a slower

one. After a little discussion, the Truccos came up with *Masquerade Polka*, followed by *That’s Amore*, made famous by Dean Martin. Following a medley, the Truccos treated us to the old Julius La Rosa novelty song *Eh Compari!*, which I suspect must be difficult to sing, since the lyrics themselves are a little hard to read! I thought that was going to be their closing song, but quite by surprise they finished out with *Beer Barrel Polka* – what else? I do hope the Truccos return soon to play for the SFAC. As we said in our program notes, “Even though they are two separate accordionists, when playing together they seem to meld into a single accordion.” Indeed.



## Sit In with the Jam Band

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, meet new accordion friends and have WAY TOO MUCH FUN! We meet regularly before the monthly Sunday music program.

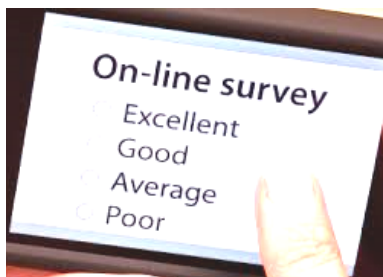
1:15-2:00pm for a traditional jam session

COME ON DOWN! We're waiting for YOU!



## Message from the Board by Mike Zampiceni

The board of the San Francisco Accordion Club recently requested your participation in a membership survey, and we appreciate your timely and thoughtful responses. 40% of our membership responded to the online questionnaire. Besides responding to the multiple-choice questions in the survey, you also provided lots of valuable comments.



Summarizing the results, slightly less than half of you have attended at least one meeting since October 2015. The remainder attended meetings sometime between 2014 and October 2015. Nearly a quarter of you had not attended any meetings in 2015. Apparently, most of you feel that the quality of our meetings is high, though, because three-quarters of you rated the quality of the meetings as such. A similar number feel that the Oyster Point Yacht Club is at least a satisfactory or even excellent venue for our programs. Fewer than 10% of the respondents felt that serving refreshments is an enticement for attendance. In terms of attendance, a significant 39.3% indicated that scheduling conflicts or other commitments on Sundays was the primary reason for not being able to attend meetings more frequently. Despite the mostly positive survey feedback, attendance has been waning over the past several months, and the board will examine ways to improve attendance.

You definitely value the newsletter we provide, because an impressive 70.3% of respondents strongly agreed that that the monthly newsletter is a significant benefit for members. Also, most of you read the newsletter every month. Aside from putting on the monthly meeting, the newsletter is the biggest ongoing effort of the SFAC, and we are in need of volunteers to continue this production up to the quality standards that our membership deserves. See the February newsletter for a detailed

description of volunteer opportunities, or contact a board member (see page 11 ) to discuss your volunteer interests and availability.

Although we have provided a summary of the results thus far, the online survey will remain open until April 15 for our members to give input. If you do not have email and would like to provide written input, please contact Robert Cooperstein at 510-207-6009 to request a paper survey via US Mail. If you did not complete our survey online, and still would like to, there will be one more link sent with the March meeting reminder email. If you have not been receiving SFAC meeting reminders approximately monthly via email and would like to, please contact Robert at the above phone number to provide your current email address.

## **Welcome back, Mike!**

Mike Zampiceni is pleased that he has returned to the Bay Area full-time after having moved to the Sacramento area in 2014. He now resides in Hayward and looks forward to continuing his teaching business and playing throughout the bay area once again.

Mike is also appreciative of having the availability of accordion shops in the area once again, considering that there are none in the Sacramento area. Rather than shopping online, he encourages you to support your local shops for your purchases of accordions, music, and accessories. That's how these shops stay in business. Without your support, these businesses cannot survive, and their demise would mean a major inconvenience if your accordions need repairs.

*Thanks, Mike! We also encourage readers to see our ads on page 9 and to support the businesses that support the SFAC!*

## Accordion Encounters

On February 12, SFAC roving reporters Robert and Elaine quite serendipitously walked past Schroeder's on Front Street in San Francisco and saw that "Polkalicious" was to play at the restaurant the very next night. Knowing that Schroeder's is polka and accordion-friendly, having seen the SFAC's own Big Lou play there a few years ago, Robert and Elaine resolved to return the next night to see if "Polkalicious" is a band about which members of the SFAC might want to know. Sure enough, this band did not disappoint!



**POLKALICIOUS**

In a beautifully remodeled Schroeder's and a deliciously revamped menu, "Polkalicious" polkafied top pop hits from 1970s-90's, to the delight of a packed dancefloor. The lineup included a bass player using a very unusual small hollow-body bass guitar with a very big sound, a drummer, a guitarist, a vocalist-trumpeter and – of course– an accordionist. This was not a night to hear *Julida* or *The Pennsylvania Polka*, but it was a great night to polka to old MTV favorites including *Come On Eileen!*, *Walk the Dinosaur*, *We Didn't Start the Fire*, *Careless Whisper*, *Pump up the Jam* and *Thriller!* The band made great use of wireless technology, wandering the restaurant at will in different directions, disappearing into the crowd and among diners, and even

dancing with the audience without missing a beat! "Polkalicious" are not only excellent musicians and vocalists, they are performance artists that really know how to entertain! They will return to Schroeder's at 7pm on March 17 right after the famous Front Street St. Patrick's Day Party. Parking is difficult, but Schroeder's is a very short walk from BART.

## Thanks to our donors!

The San Francisco Accordion Club has revenues, and it has expenses. Several of our members made donations during our 2015 membership renewal that had a significant impact on our budget, and we would like to take this opportunity to extend a very big thank you to (alphabetically): Chris and Tor Arild, Anthony Bologna, Maria Brown, Gail Campanella, David and Nancy Chelini, Mr. William DeMichelis, Lynn and Gail Ewing, John Fiore, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Johan and Marja Gullmes, Ron and Mary Jo Harris, Carlyn and Janet Jensen, Michael A. Marotta Jr., Herb Meier, James Monfredini, Bob and Jo Anne Nelson, Anna Nicora, Ken Nimmo, Gisele B. Oakes, Daniel Oliver, Alexander Roitman, Maryanne Romanowski, Ed Salvador, Michael Sanossian, Kenneth Schwartz, Richard & Leslie Selfridge, Pamela Tom, Roland Vigil & Francis Benedetto, Mr. & Mrs. Hilbert Werner, Barbara Winter, and Norma Zonay-Parsons.

### The Ten Most Celebrated Accordionists of All Time!





At left—**The Truccos** continue the party in the Oyster Point Yacht Club Lounge after SFAC's February 2016 program.

From left to right: Steve Trucco, Dominic Palmisano (front), Robert Cooperstein, Ken Schwartz, Elaine Cooperstein, Lynn Ewing, Michael Trucco.

## PLAY FOR US!

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)

### 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.

## SFAC Scholarships Available

The SFAC awards two scholarships a year to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact Mike Zampiceni for a scholarship application.

Mike Zampiceni

[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)

408-569-2579

## 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, and find out how to get in on the action!



# Upcoming Accordion Events



*Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration*

**June 16-19, 2016**  
Leavenworth, Washington

Sponsored by the Northwest Accordion Society



**26th Annual COTATI ACCORDION FESTIVAL**  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
**AUGUST 20 & 21, 2016**  
9:30 AM - 8:00 PM - LA PLAZA PARK IN COTATI

**BUFFALO SQUEEZE-FEST**  
**American Accordionists' Association**  
**July 6-10, 2016 - Buffalo, NY**

AAA Festival - Workshops, hands-on sessions, spectacular concerts, world premiere  
[www.ameraccord.com/festival.html](http://www.ameraccord.com/festival.html) for information.



**VEGAS NIGHTS!**  
*Celebrate with the Stars*  
At the Gold Coast - August 8-11, 2016

**STARRING!**  
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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)**

President/CEO for all three chapters:  
Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359  
[gsaccordionclub@netfirms.com](mailto:gsaccordionclub@netfirms.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**

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

WILLIAM DE MICHELIS *South Bay*  
[accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net](mailto:accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net)

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[www.capricious-accordion.com](http://www.capricious-accordion.com) or  
[www.alpinersusa.com](http://www.alpinersusa.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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[www.facebook.com/rene.sevieri?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/rene.sevieri?fref=ts)  
[www.youtube.com/user/sevieri55](http://www.youtube.com/user/sevieri55)

TANGONERO [www.tangonero.com](http://www.tangonero.com)

MIKE ZAMPICENI *Sunnyvale and Sacramento*  
[eclecticguy@comcast.net](mailto:eclecticguy@comcast.net)



## SFAC Officers

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**Dominic Palmisano**, Vice President (415) 587-4423  
accord47@gmail.com

**Elaine Cooperstein**, Treasurer (510) 921-9323  
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**Secretary**, (Open position)

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**Ken Schwartz** (650) 344-6116  
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**Shirley Brim** (650)201-7660  
shirleyb77@gmail.com

**2 Open Positions**, volunteers welcome

### Webmaster

**Randall Hicks** (510) 750-6858  
hickr01@sprintmail.com

### Newsletter Layout

(Position open, volunteers needed!)

### Scholarship

Mike Zampiceni (408) 734-1565  
eclecticguy@comcast.net

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LOU JACKLICH (510) 317-9510

MARIAN KELLY (650) 954-3711

NADA LEWIS (510) 243-1122

KAY PATTERSON (707) 666-2849

VINCENT RINALDI (415) 824-7609

BIG LOU (LINDA SEEKINS) (415) 468-5986

JOE SIMONI (650) 867-1122

RICHARD YAUS (650) 832-1740

MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579

## **Please Remember...**

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

Contact SFAC President Lynn Ewing or a member of the board to express interest in volunteering



*The Polka Cowboys*  
**Featuring Art Peterson**  
Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm  
Hornbill Burmese Cuisine, El Sobrante

**The San Francisco Banjo Band is looking for an accordion player.** Most all playouts are from S.S.F. to Redwood City with a few jaunts to S.F. and beyond. Not a "ball and chain" commitment, and we focus on having a good time. We have a volunteer band. Any questions, interest, and to find further information, email or call.

Bill Portman, 650-333-4720, williamjportman@gmail.com

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Come for fun and great music!!

**March 20 at 2pm**

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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**

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