



San Francisco Accordion Club

MAY 2013

NEWSLETTER

PERFORMING May 19, 2013

join us for the JAM session
before the meeting

Frank Petrilli *by Joan Grauman*

With superb skill, Frank injects his own special warmth and feeling into every note he plays.

Frank has been a lifelong resident of Los Angeles, California and music has been his life's passion. He started playing the accordion at age 7, and by 16 was playing professionally. As the popularity of the accordion declined in the US, Frank switched to playing Hammond B3 Organ and saxophone. In 2006, he returned to the accordion and started playing with the *César Mateus Latin Jazz Band*. He began his studies with Frank Marocco in late 2006, he quickly became Frank M.'s protégé, and has become an excellent and recognized player in the jazz community.

Frank regularly performs in the Los Angeles area with renowned artists such as guitarist John Chiodini at top venues such as the Vibrato Jazz & Grill. He has also performed at major accordion events in the US and internationally, including the 2011 AAA Festival in Charleston, SC, the accordion competition, *Accofestival 2012* in Kiev, Ukraine, and in Castelfidardo, Italy at the Frank Marocco Memorial Concert, which featured many major stars of the accordion world. He recorded his CD, *Totally Frank*, produced by Elke Ahrenholz, during this visit to Italy. Frank also appeared on the TV series, *Mad Men*.

Frank will be a featured artist at the *Cotati Accordion Festival* on August 18, and on October 20, he will perform with world renowned bayanist Stas Venglevski and jazz accordionist John Simkus in Milwaukee, WI for the *Accordion 21st Century* event, followed by a performance at the Chicago Accordion Club on October 21.



Frank Petrilli



John Chiodini

Guitarist and composer **John Chiodini** began his performing career in clubs, recording studios and theaters throughout New England in the 1960's and 1970's. As a member of the Boston Pops Orchestra under Arthur Fiedler, John made numerous appearances in concerts and on recordings, including the long-running PBS television series "Evening At Pops".

In the early 1980's, he relocated to Los Angeles, touring, writing, and recording with Peggy Lee. His MCA recording entitled "Weightless" was critically acclaimed. He toured and recorded with Natalie Cole ("Unforgettable" tour). Other artists with whom John has toured and/or recorded include: Buddy DeFranco, Maynard Ferguson, Carl Andersen, Louis Bellson, Tony Bennett, Michael Bolton, Bobby Caldwell, Celine Dion, Dr. John, Arthur Hamilton, Shirley Horn, Lainie Kazan, Hubert Laws, Barry Manilow, Rebecca Parris, Terry Harrington, Diane Schuur, Nina Simone, Barbra Streisand, Nancy Wilson, Michael Buble...

cont. >

Val Floren Brewer

is an accomplished accordionist, big-band entertainer, music teacher, and the sister of Myron Floren. Val taught accordion in Sioux Falls, S.D., with her brother Myron, and later taught in her new home of Sacramento, Calif.

At one time, Val was the only woman instrumentalist performing with a big band.

Val has been entertaining Northern California audiences for over 40 years. In recent years, she has performed with her son Jan Brewer, a retired school principal and professional drummer. Val's daughter-in-law Carole Brewer adds vocals and piano accompaniments.

Val Floren Brewer & Family entertains with a variety of musical styles including popular standards, inspirational songs and hymns, sing-alongs, and of course, great toe-tapping polkas!



Steve Albini

Steve Albini is a multi-instrumentalist and singer. He has performed throughout the U.S. and Europe. His southern Italian roots are strongly reflected through his music. As a studio musician Steve is often called by producers and artists to add his touch to their projects. His current project is Il Sole, a world music group which features Steve and Cirque Du Soleil accordionist Tatiana Semichastnaya. Steve is also a Roland Artist and is the V-Accordion Product Manager for Roland U.S.



Steve Albini

April Meeting 2013

Kay Patterson, a student of Peter DiBono played first as people came in for the meeting. She performed a collection of Italian and Swiss-Italian pieces, ending with a sing-a-long. Kay performs at her family winery in the Napa Valley – the Nichelini Family Winery.

President Lynn Ewing welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded us that this meeting was in remembrance of Val Kieser. It was a year ago that we had the first celebration of Val's life. Two very special guests were in attendance – Telmo Echiverria and Bob Berta. Telmo is a long-time club member and pillar of Val's *Fun Band*, who now lives in Ibarra, Ecuador.

SFAC past president Bob Berta, was here from Macomb Township in Michigan (30 miles north of Detroit). Bob is a very active member in his local accordion club in Michigan. (see photo pg. 4) Bob Smith brought copies of Val's Waltz to share with those in attendance.

Lynn turned the meeting over to *comedienne Gwyn Lister* who lamented that all the accordion jokes have recently been hijacked by banjo enthusiasts. She then introduced the first performance: a duo with **Sabra Daly** on button box and concertina, with **Dave Cory** on guitar. As a youth Sabra studied accordion until it was no longer considered a *cool* instrument and then dropped it. A fascination with Irish Music led her to take up the concertina and button box. Now Irish music is her passion. They started with a combination of jigs and reels including music by Kevin Keegen (a soccer player from

the 1950s), *The Maid Behind the Bar* and *The Convenience Reel*. They switched the pace to a slow piece *Bantree Girl's Lament*. Their final piece was *Morning Dew*, a well known piece by Joe Colley. The rhythm of the Irish music was infectious and the audience was enthusiastic.



Dave Corey



Sabra Dady

Frank Montoro who was one of our past Club presidents played next, launching into a medley of *Sabor a Mi* (Be true to me), and *Guantanamera*. He played *Cuando Calienta el Sol*, *Aelita*, then switched into *Bessame Mucho*. The last tunes were *La Bakina*, and *Adios*. There was a standing ovation for Frank.



Frank Montoro

After the break, Gwyn introduced our featured performer **Bonnie Birch**. Bonnie hails from Seattle and recalled how she and Val first met at an accordion convention in Las Vegas with Val graciously relinquishing her husband John to be Bonnie's dancing partner. Bonnie divided her performance into themes, beginning with German, progressing through Italian and Spanish to French, Irish and finally sideways into a Polka. She played standing up the whole time – quite a feat on its own!

The German set began with Espana (which seemed to include the Hot Diggity, Dog Diggity theme!), and the well-known *Radetsky March* by Strauss. The Italian set included *O Mio Babbino Caro* from Puccini's Gianni Schicchi, *La Gazza Mazurka*, *Sicilian Tarantella* and *Ciribiribin*. She then progressed to the Spanish *Albeniz Tango*, followed by a foray into Brazil with *Forro*. For the French set she spoke of her admiration for Edith Piaf as a distinctive singer and composer. She then played *Mademoiselle de Paris*, then *La Sorciere*, less well known, and then moved straight into a medley of tunes from Bizet's *Carmen*. Bonnie's Irish segment included *Swallowtail Reel* and her version of *Danny Boy*. She asked how her Irish music on a piano accordion compared with the real thing on button box. The roar of approval seemed okay to her! Among certain circles, Bonnie is known for playing the song *Vanessa*, which utilizes the very last button on the bass and difficult to perform.

Photos and story continues >

After a standing ovation, Bonnie agreed to play one more selection—and it became Polka time with the *Happy Lady Polka*. The polka rhythm never fails to be a winner on a well-played accordion. Before saying goodbye, Bonnie made a brief mention of her role in organizing the music festival in the Bavarian-themed town of Leavenworth, Washington State. Please see pg. 9 information under Accordion Events.



Bob Berta, Lynn Ewing, Bonnie Birch, Peter DiBono, Frank Montoro

DO YOU REMEMBER KSFO and Miss Jones?

Mr Richard Ferrie contacted us with the following question: “I’ve been looking for years for a record that was played on KSFO in the early 1960’s (probably 1960, in fact) a jazz accordion version of “Have You Met Miss Jones.” It involved an extended solo. The name of the artist sounded like Ernie McKeckern—not sure. Jim Lange was the DJ who used to play it most frequently; since no sign of this recording surfaces anywhere on the Internet, I’m assuming the radio station had a promo copy. It seemed to be a big local hit, much requested, according to Lange; and it was wonderful, joyous, expansive, almost that sense you get when Coleman Hawkins launches into his classic “Body and Soul.”

If anybody remembers this, he can be contacted at 408-268-4513 - or RichardWferri@aol.com



San Francisco Bay Area

Accordion Orchestra Project

- **Do you want to play music with other accordionists?**
- **Are you interested in playing familiar tunes?**
- **Is it difficult to make a long-term commitment to participate with an established group?**

If you answered **Yes** to any or all of these questions, you're a likely candidate to attend our first Accordion Orchestra Project held in San Mateo. The Project will be directed by Richard Yaus, the leading force behind the successful accordion ensemble AbsolutAccord. The goal is to bring accordionists together to create a one-of-a-kind orchestra experience that will conclude with a performance at the San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC) on July 21st, 2013.

Rehearsals will be held on the following dates from **10 AM until approx. 2:30 PM** (with breaks):

Rehearsal - Saturday, June 8th, 2013

Rehearsal - Saturday, June 15th, 2013

Rehearsal (Power Rehearsal with Breakout Sessions) - Saturday, June 29th, 2013

Rehearsal - Saturday, July 13th, 2013

Final Rehearsal - Saturday, July 20th, 2013

PERFORMANCE at SFAC – Sunday, July 21st, 2013 at 2 PM

You must be able to attend at least three of the first four rehearsals; attendance is mandatory at Final Rehearsal and the SFAC performance.

Proposed music pieces:

- **“Blue Tango”** by Leroy Anderson
- Frank Sinatra's hit **“Strangers In The Night”**
- **“España”** by E. Chabrier
- possibly **Hungarian Dance No. 5 and/or No. 6** if time permits.
- Other pieces may be introduced depending on overall rehearsal progress and capabilities.



Music parts will be provided.

For Registration Form call (650) 832-1740 or send an e-mail to ryaus@earthlink.net.

A Registration Form will also be posted at www.absolutaccord.com

There is no cost associated with attending or performing. The Project is made possible by some of the Bay Area's finest accordionists and their friends devoted to bringing accordion orchestra music to San Francisco's backyard and enhancing the accordion landscape within the area.

Non-playing participants are welcome to attend any rehearsal to listen.

The rehearsal site is located close to Hillsdale Shopping Mall and public transportation in San Mateo; the venue also provides plenty of parking.

Laurel Elementary School Library

316 36th Avenue

San Mateo, CA



REQUIREMENTS:

All participants **must be able to read music.**

Ability to play at a level equivalent to Palmer Hughes Accordion Course Book Number 5 or Sedlon 3A or higher.

Should be comfortable playing scales and chords in the keys of C-major/minor, G-major/minor, F-major/minor, D-major/minor, B-flat-major, A-major/minor, E-flat-major, E-major/minor, A-flat-major etc.

An understanding of music terminology, music notation, time signatures, articulation, and the ability to translate these into your music playing.

Understanding of bellows techniques helpful; instruction will be given on advanced use of bellows.

Participants must have a tuned accordion with a minimum of 96 basses; shifts on your instruments should include Clarinet, Violin, Bandoneon and/or Oboe.

Please bring a sturdy music stand to all rehearsals and to the performance.

If you're unsure about the requirements simply call Richard at (650) 832-1740 or e-mail him at ryaus@earthlink.net.

If you are interested in playing one of the two available parts written specifically for a bass accordion you will be required to read and play bass clef with your right hand. Bass accordions will be provided.

No prior ensemble/orchestra playing skills are required, but if you've played with others before that's a great plus.

This event is endorsed by the San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC) and the Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS).

The San Francisco Accordion Club

enthusiastically welcomes the following new members:

Riccardo La Spina - Riccardo prefers European ethnic music, as well as Balkan, Scandinavian, Celtic, and ragtime music.

Steve Grochowski - Steve likes to play classical, European-ethnic, and polkas.

Gail Campanella - Gail began studying the accordion at age 10, and became her Colorado town accordion teacher at age 14, when the local accordion teacher retired. For the past several years, Gail has been a member of the Los Angeles Accordionaires Orchestra. She has resumed teaching private accordion and piano lessons, and performs on both piano and accordion. She will be one of the featured players at this year's Cotati Accordion Festival.

Jerrold Glen Choate

70, of Chico passed peacefully on March 24 after a six-month battle with cancer. Born in Oakland, Jerry graduated Albany High in 1960 and served in the Army from 1967-1969 in Alaska. He married in 1975 and settled in Chico. An accordion player since age 8, Jerry played gigs throughout northern California, both solo and with his band, The Treble Makers. He was a founding member and current president of Roseville Accordion Club. He is survived by his wife Judy of Chico, daughter Stacey Knowles of Oregon, son Brian (Lindsey) of Plumas Lake, sister Judy (Rich) Stoyko of Hayward, three grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. If you would like to sign the online guest book, it is available at Jerrold Choate - Legacy.com

Cards may be sent to: Judy Choate, 701 E. Lassen, #277, Chico, CA 95973

Donations to your favorite charity in Jerry's memory are preferred in lieu of flowers.

Published in San Francisco Chronicle on April 7, 2013

President's Message

Growing up playing accordion, I was fortunate to be involved in a quartet which performed frequently, and that was my favorite part of making music - playing with others. As I returned to playing accordion many years later, I have continued to participate in orchestras and ensembles, and it is still my favorite way to make music. What I have learned about music from playing in ensembles and orchestras and working under the direction of maestros like Joe Smiell, Richard Yaus, Anthony Galla Rini, Joan Cochran Sommers, Stas Venglevski and Frank Marocco has been absolutely priceless. Playing in ensembles and orchestras has enriched my life so very much, that I have often wished EVERYONE could have the experience. Thanks to the generous offer of Richard Yaus, (see flyer, pg 5) this opportunity will be now be available to all of us.

Richard Yaus grew up in Germany, and was also extremely involved in ensembles, orchestras, and competitions. He wants to bring the experience of playing in an orchestra to the accordionists of the Bay Area who may not be able to travel or make long term commitments. The San Francisco Accordion Club and the Silicon Valley Accordion Society are endorsing this endeavor 100%! If you are able to participate in the Orchestra Experience I STRONGLY encourage you to do so. You will be amazed at what you learn and how much you enjoy yourself.

I hope to see you at the club meeting this month, which promises to be a terrific program. I can't wait to hear our featured artist, jazz accordionist, Frank Petrilli play with his amazing guitarist, John Chiodini. It is always a pleasure to hear Val Floren Brewer and her family, and to hear Val's interesting stories about herself and her brother, Myron Floren. The wonderful Steve Albini has graciously stepped in to replace Jon Persson, who is unable to perform for us this month as originally planned. See you May 19th!

Lynn Ewing

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

Skylar Fell, Hobo Gobbelins
Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins

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



A few of the accordion
fashion statements we saw
in April!

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 June, 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



Paul Cain

Scholarship Recipient

Thor Miao, a Berkeley resident, has studied with Lou Jacklich for 15 years. He has performed three times each for the San Francisco, San Jose, and Napa accordion clubs, as well as the Alameda County Fair. He has also recently given a concert at the Finnish Lodge in Oakland. One of his recent accordion accomplishments is memorizing Capriccio Brillante by Mendelssohn, which is 25 pages long. He is currently enrolled in the computer science program at Laney College, and he is also studying piano and theory.

Please Remember!

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

ACCORDION EVENTS

Festival for the Accordionists and Teachers Guild, Int'l will be held in the CHICAGO area, Wed., July 17th- Sat. July 20, 2013. Concerts! Workshops! Competitions! Exhibits! For details, see the ATG website, www.accordionists.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>

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration June 20-23, 2013
Leavenworth WA
505 Highway 2, Leavenworth, WA 98826
800-961-0162
info@iciclevillage.com

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.)
This year the festival will be featuring:

Renzo Ruggieri
Italy's Jazz Accordion Legend
Also performing:
Cory Pesaturo, Frank Petrilli, Vincenzo Abbracciante,
Gail Campanella, Pietro Adragna

Andre Thierry & Zydeco Magic
Sunday's Grammy-Nominated Headliner
Motordude Zydeco, The Wild Catahoulas,
The Golden State Accordion Club Band,
The Steve Balich Sr. Polka Band, The Great Morgani, Simka, The Internationals, the Mad Maggies, Sweet Moments of Confusion, Jet Black Pearl, Tango No. 9, Youkali, Future Accordion Stars, Bella Ciao, Polkacide, Duckmandu, Les Amis Zydeco and MUCH MORE!

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

SFAC Officers

Lynn Ewing, President
(650) 453-3391 ewinglynn@gmail.com

Dominic Palmisano, Vice President
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Mike Zampiceni (408) 734-1565
eclecticguy@comcast.net

Maryanne Romanowski, Treasurer
(650) 595-8105
maromanowski@yahoo.com

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don@nurisso.com

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aswy01@gmail.com

Newsletter

Christina Knapp, Graphic Design
snapp.chris@gmail.com



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San Francisco



415-596-5952
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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 May 19 @ 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.

**join us for the JAM session
before the meeting
@ 1 p.m.**

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

P.O. Box 318175
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www.sfaccordionclub.com



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