



San Francisco Accordion Club

NOVEMBER 2012

NEWSLETTER

Playing November 18

Cristina Mariani is a native of Lodi California. She lives in Stockton California where she is a high school senior at St. Mary's High School. She lived in Italy between the ages of six and eleven where she attended grammar school and studied piano. Upon her return to the U.S. she began taking accordion lessons from Gene Bartolomei and has been a student of his for the last five years. She has played for and received acclaim from famous accordion artists such as Peter Soave and Carl Fortina. She recorded her first album last year which is titled **With All of My Heart**. She loves art and is a very talented writer.



Cristina Mariani



the Marottas

Marotta and friends

Mike Marotta Jr. (Accordion), a Monterey native, is the third generation of Marottas to entertain Peninsula audiences. For over 45 years he has performed all styles of popular music on accordion and piano with the Marotta Band.

Dave Dally (Violin) is leader of the Monterey String Quartet, Concertmaster of Ensemble Monterey and directs the orchestra at Monterey Peninsula College. He has played with Mike Marotta Jr. for over twenty years.

Erasmus 'Orazio' Aiello (Tenor) comes from Palermo, Sicily. He has been discovered by musicians eager to share his gift of singing traditional Italian songs and opera with wider audiences. During the day he practices while baking bread at his famous Palermo Bakery.

Monterey International has three CDs: **Italian Favorites**, **Monterey Style**, **South of the Border**, and **Time to Say Hello** featuring Erasmo Aiello.



Bob Smith

Bob Smith will play and sing as he has on several occasions in the past. Bob was formerly the bass accordion player in the Accordion Chamber Ensemble. This prestigious role always attracted a lot of attention from Joe Smiell who demanded nothing short of excellence in his players. Bob also wrote many arrangements of tunes that he liked and wanted to make available to others. In particular, the Fun Band led by Val Kieser enjoyed playing many of Bob's arrangements.



Tribute to Vince

Vince Cirelli, December 21, 1920 - September 29, 2012. Vince Cirelli recently passed away and the life of this master accordion craftsman, repair technician, shop owner, teacher, father, husband, and excellent musician has left us all with heartfelt gratitude for a life of dedicated service to the accordion and the community surrounding it. Vince Cirelli was my accordion guru and a guide who inspired and enriched my journey through life as an accordion shop owner and repair technician. Throughout his life he was a dedicated promoter of the accordion whether he was teaching accordion lessons to his students or being a world renowned repair person. Through my 5 year apprenticeship, he shared with me the knowledge, procedure, organization, and 'know how' necessary to continue this grand tradition. His deep understanding of accordions and repair will live on through my hands and mind, and be used and appreciated by both me and the accordion community every day. For this I am forever grateful. Vince will be truly missed by his loyal apprentice, family, friends and accordionists around the world. Thank you Vince, may you rest in peace.

Skyler Fell

OCTOBER 2012

Led by Mike Zampiceni our meeting began with a moment of silence for beloved club member and accordion master **Vince Cirelli**, who passed away last month.

Two students of Peter Di Bono's began the program.

Lorenzo Lucchesi played a medley of three German pieces: *Two Hearts in Waltz Time*, *Schneewalzer (Snow Waltz)*, followed by *O Mio Babbino Caro* and a sing-along of *It's Now or Never*.



Lorenzo Lucchesi

Isaac Teich followed, starting with *Embraceable You; As Time Goes By* and finished up with a German dance and *The Sharpshooters' March*.



Isaac Teich

Mike Zampiceni then introduced **Xavier de la Prade**, and shared with us that as a boy in Vermont, Xavier took lessons from Joseph Zampiceni, Mike's father. Xavier's father-in-law is Nacio Herb Brown, composer of many well known '30s and '40s tunes, such as "Singin' in the Rain." Xavier, who lives in Marin County and teaches French, began with *All I Do Is Dream of You* and the enduring pop song *A Whiter Shade of Pale*, with its haunting Bach-flavored theme (from "Air on a G String"). After *Me and Bobby McGee*, Xavier switched into a series of French pieces: *Bourrasque*, *Chevaliers de la Table Ronde* and *Reine de Musette*. Mike asked for one more song, and Xavier played Kris Kristofferson's beautiful country ballad *Help Me Make It Through the Night*.



Xavier de la Prade

Peter Di Bono and guests performed next, starting with the duo of **Peter and Linda Yoshida Wenstrand**. *The Song is You* by Kern and Hammerstein's set the tone for Linda's performance of beautiful arias and theme songs from musicals and the big band era. "Their amazing set included 'S Wonderful, Anything Goes, It's DeLovely, In the Still of the Night and So in Love ending with Begin the Beguine.

cont.



Peter DiBono and Linda Westrand

Peter continued with a solo set, responding to a request for something Italian with a medley of *Ritorno a Sorrento* and music from **The Godfather**. He continued with Piazzolla's *Oblivion* and *Fascination*, giving the audience another glimpse of his accordion skills, making complex arrangements seem natural. He was then joined by two very special musicians – his 95-year-old father, Anthony on harmonica, and Peter's brother Reno, who surprised their dad by walking in with his accordion. It was a touching moment, as they performed *Vieni sul Mar* and *Tick Tock Polka*, there were few dry eyes in the audience.

Linda returned to more breathtaking blending of soprano and accordion: *Falling in Love with Love, Lover, What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life, Summertime* and *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man*. The big finish was a great choice: first, *San Francisco, Open Your Golden Gate* interwoven with *I Left my Heart in San Francisco*. The pair ended with *O Mio Babbino Caro*.



Peter DiBono, Anthony and Reno

The Babes are back!

The Accordion Babes will be in concert at Rhythmix Cultural Works (www.rhythmix.org) in Alameda on Saturday, December 1st at 8 p.m. Sometimes sweet, sometimes sassy and always entertaining, the Babes put on a fabulous show. Check them out— you won't be disappointed!

ACCORDION EVENTS

AccordionUSA.com is an information packed web site featuring articles about worldwide and local events music, theater and art. Check it out and read about . . .

Well known accordionist, **Dick Contino**, **Corky Bennett** and **Pearl Django** will present a concert: Music of "Then and Now" on November 18th at 2:00 p.m., at the Broadway Performance Hall, 1625 Broadway, Seattle, Washington.



*Peter DiBono, Lynn Ewing and Frank Montoro
Three SFAC presidents*

PLAY FOR US!

What have we been missing before our meetings recently? The sound of accordion music as we enter, as our warm up players contribute to a convivial musical atmosphere! Playing warm up or during the break is a great, non threatening 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.

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.

A special thanks to **Phil and Cheri Marcucci** for their generosity to SFAC. Many times they have donated their wines as prizes. This month, not only did they donate two gifts for our door prizes – a set of boutique red wines, (Zinfandel & Pinot Noir) and a specialty oil and vinegar set – they also won the raffle and donated their winnings back to the club. Phil and Cheri are the proprietors of **Marcucci Farms** in Santa Rosa, a family operation that began in the 1880's and has been carried on through Phil and Cheri's children and grandchildren. They produce wine and olive oil under the Fava Brothers Vineyard and Marcucci Farms labels, respectively. Please look for them on the web at www.marcucci-farms.com and on Facebook, and look for their wines served at many Bay Area fine dining establishments.

The San Francisco Accordion Club is happy to support Renee de la Prade's **2012 Accordion Babes Calendar** this year, as we have in the past. Calendars will be available at our club meetings while they last beginning this month. For the low price of \$15 you will receive the collectible Accordion Babes Pin-up Calendar for 2013 and accompanying CD, which combines folk music, pop tunes and dance tunes from 13 fine bands into one awesome indie compilation. Bring your calendar back for autographs when the Babes play for us in January of 2013!



President's Message

We are coming up on the 100th birthday of the founding of the San Francisco Accordion Club. Board member Jean Butler and former Secretary Randall Hicks have been doing extensive research to try to document the actual date the club was founded. The first newspaper clipping shows a club picnic in 1916, and the club was officially incorporated with the state of California in 1918. However, we believe that it may have started informally as early as 1914 or 1915. We'll have an article on some of our discoveries very soon!

Often we receive inquiries about whether an accordionist is available to play at an event. We are making a list of members who are willing to play in various venues. We have a number of fine accordionists who deserve fees for playing, but there are some who are willing to play for various non-profits just for the fun of it and to promote the accordion. This month Marian Kelly and I will be playing in Sequoia High School's production of "Caberet". I will also be playing at Filoli Mansion's "Holiday Traditions" event, on Friday, Nov 30, 1-2 p.m.. If you would like to be included in our player's list, please contact a Board member.

Like us on FACEBOOK and check us out on our webpage! We have a Facebook page where we can feature members. Let us know if you are performing in a public venue or have an interesting accordion story we can share. Make sure we have your email so that we can send you monthly reminders of the Club meetings and important notices via the web.

Our club is collaborating with Accordion Apocalypse in a rental program to start students on 12 bass accordions owned by the club, which have been refurbished by Skyler Fell. This program has been very successful and we recently purchased 2 more small accordions at Cotati with the proceeds from our music sale.

We have terrific performers coming up over the next months, so put a big red circle around the 3rd Sunday of each month, and plan to attend our monthly meetings! In fact - the 2013 ACCORDION BABES CALENDAR has our meetings already marked, so be sure to pick one up soon!

Lynn Ewing

Accordions in Las Vegas?

For five wonderful days Xavier de La Prade, Frank Divita, and I enjoyed wonderful accordion music at the 2012 Las Vegas Accordion Convention. There may have been others from the San Francisco Accordion Club and the Accordion Club of the Redwoods but with over 250 people attending I am not sure who else was there from home.

Each day began with hourly workshops: including *Bellows Shake Techniques*, *Improvising and Adding Flair to Oktoberfest Music*, *A Simple Approach to the Accordion* and many more. The Orchestra practiced every afternoon for two hours under the direction of **Professor Joan Cochran Sommers** and gave a concert on the last night of the Convention. There were about forty players in the orchestra, the music was sent out ahead of the convention, and we had a wonderful time playing the eight selections. At every lunch and dinner, where the food was outstanding, we were treated to professional performances from: **Dick Contino, Jeff Lisenby, The Accordion Kings, Stas Venglevski, Peter Soave, Amy Jo Sawyer, Gordon Kohl, Mary Tokarski**, and so many more. We finished up our day in “Club Concerto” listening to our fellow participants entertain us.

The Theme this year was “Mardi Gras” and costume night was great fun – next year the Convention will be the end of October – so watch for the Halloween costumes. The convention was held at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas and will be there again next year. The hotel is very comfortable but there is no time to gamble. If you have not been to this venue it is worth your time to hear so many great accordion players and be with nice people, who play the accordion.

For information contact: Paul Pasquali @ Phone: 801-485-5840 or email: [www. AccordionStars.com](http://www.AccordionStars.com).

Gwyneth Lister



Scholarship Applications Due

Twice a year, our club awards scholarships to accordion students who have a financial need and demonstrate dedication to pursuing their study of the accordion. Students must study with a teacher who is an SFAC member in good standing. Completed applications should be returned to Mike Zampiceni, 220 Tasman Dr, #106, Sunnyvale, CA 94089. Scholarship Guidelines and application forms may be obtained from current club secretary, Mike Zampiceni at: eclecticguy@comcast.net

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
(415) 587-4423 accord47@gmail.com

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

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

SFAC Directors

Jean Moshovsky Butler, [threehummingbirds@
gmail.com](mailto:threehummingbirds@gmail.com) phone 415-377-9266

Vince Rinaldi, vinnyrinaldi01@sbcglobal.net
phone: 415-824-7609

Don Nurisso (650) 359-3549
don@nurisso.com

Scott Williamson (650) 493-3075
aswy01@gmail.com

Newsletter

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



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Accordion and Distributing Co. LLC.

JOHN CASTIGLIONE Director

13300 E. 11 Mile Rd. Suite A
Warren Mi. 48089-1367

Tel: 586 755 6050
Fax 586 755 6339

E-Mail johncast@bignet.net
internet www.castiglioneaccordions.com



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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 Nov. 18 @ 2 p.m.

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

P A R K I N G N O T I C E

The new Ferry Terminal is now operational, and parking behind the yacht club is again possible.

**PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE
Commodore's designated space!**

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.

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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