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October • 2011
San Francisco Accordion Club
NEWSLETTER
NEXT MEETING **Oct. 16 @ 2 p.m.**

Performing in October
Amber Lee and the Anomalies,
Tony Lovello, Skyler Fell, Luz Gaxiola

Amber Lee and the Anomalies' brand of Neo-folk-Accordion-Cabaret is helping fuel the fire of the accordion's resurgence as a sexy instrument!

Singer-songwriter **Amber Lee Baker** creates a window into this world with her well crafted songs, witty lyrics and catchy melodies. A world-traveling musician, she commonly performs as a one woman show with her accordion, loop-pedal, glockenspiel, and odd percussion instruments. Her most recent album **INDELIBLE** includes a full band with drums, bass, cello, k harp, various brass and woodwinds, and the occasional guitar. Amber is Miss February in the 2010-11 Accordion Babes pin-up calendar and Compilation CD. <http://www.amberleeandtheanomalies.com/>



Tony Lovello has returned to performing after working in the hotel business for the past 31 years. His magical arrangements are better than ever! This dynamic musician, sometimes called the *Liberace of the Accordion*, is no stranger in the field of show business. Lovello's talents have led him to appear with Frank Sinatra, Debbie Reynolds, Dinah Shore, Eddie Cantor, Pat Boone, Jimmy Durante, Kate Smith and his latest appearance with Roy Clark on the TV show Hee Haw. He has performed in every major city in the United States and half way around the world.

From start to finish you will be delightfully entertained and will experience a new dimension in the accordion. He razzle-dazzles you with fancy glissandos, bellow shakes, embellishments and the showmanship of a truly great performer. This dynamic musician is someone you do not want to miss. *(article continued on the next page>)*

Mark Your Calendars!

The regular monthly meeting for January 2012 will be held on January 22, which is a week later than our usual third Sunday of the month schedule. Please mark your calendars. We have the Rob Reich Trio lined up to entertain us and you won't want to miss them!

(continued from page 1)

Skyler Fell owner of the Accordion Apocalypse Repair Shop in San Francisco. is a professionally trained accordion repairwoman as well as a musician. Skyler offers repairs, sells parts, gives lessons, and free advice out of her humble shop. (see pg. 7 for info about their new location in S.F.)

Accordion Apocalypse has become a Bay Area accordion hub, hosting bi-weekly jams and shows by touring bands and wild circuses. Skyler plays in two bands: the **Hobo Gobelins** and the Accordion Apocalypse Circus Sideshow, the **TUMBLEWEEDS**.



I started playing accordion when I was around 20 years old, after walking into Boaz Accordions in Berkeley. Feeling inspired by live circus bands featuring fierce and independent women with a hardcore edge in Europe and the Bay Area, I decided to have a go at the accordion. What has happened since has been a truly magical and eye-opening journey.

Vince Cirelli and Boaz Rubin have both inspired me with an undying love for the accordion in all of its most complex beauty, as well as counseling me on the step-by-step procedures of well trusted traditional accordion repair techniques learned from past generations of great accordion masters.



Luz Gaxiola is the musical maestro of **Circus Finelli**. She fuzes music and comedy together in the tradition of Spike Jones, presenting musical feats of dexterity to delight and amaze. Her main instrument is accordion, but she also has a passion for trombone, tuba, theremin, and slide whistle. She was elected to play kazoo at her high-school graduation. Along with music, she also enjoys performing rolla bolla, hula hooping, and puppetry.



Squeezebox Stories on KRCB Public Radio, Sonoma County. Radio FM 90.9 (Santa Rosa) 91.1 in periphery of Santa Rosa www.krcb.org (streaming on the web for those who live outside the Sonoma County area)

Friday 11/18 10 p.m.
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Peter Soave to Play in Stockton

Peter will be playing (bandoneon) with the Stockton Symphony Nov. 10 and 12. A native of Detroit, Peter learned piano then chromatic accordion (bayan), and has won many international prizes and titles. He lives now in France with his wife Mady, also a very accomplished accordionist and performer. He has played for our club twice.



Peter Soave

For ticket info and options, please contact:
 The Truccos and Judy Burke
 (judy@lbproductioncenter.com)
www.stocktonsymphony.org/concerts

The September Meeting—An Eclectic Mix

The **Jam Band** provided a lively warm-up, playing familiar favorites. Pres. Lynn Ewing announced that this month our annual election of officers and directors for the coming year takes place. She had the old board and the new board stand up and make themselves known, and thanked both the outgoing and incoming boards for their devoted service to the club.

(see page 5 for a list of the new Board Members)

Skyler Fell's young student **Linus Schmit** played first. He is ten years old, plays in his school orchestra and speaks some Swiss German! He played *Camptown Races*, and also took on a real challenge with *Can-Can* and did a remarkable job for such a difficult piece.

Mel Cohen, as "Mel's Mellow Bellows," plays a Roland MIDI accordion. Mel chose songs which demonstrate the versatility and uniqueness of the MIDI: *Bei Mir Bistu Shein*, *Bésame Mucho*, Lawrence Welk's goodbye song, *Au Revoir and Auf Wiedersehen*.

Algis Ratnikas, known for his **Café Babar Jug Band**, played a Lithuanian folk tune, and a few of his own compositions: a Zydeco-style piece, and an original composition, written for his daughter's wedding in Italy, Umbria Sunset. You may have read the story he wrote about that experience in the last two newsletter issues.



Grigoriy Krumik (Bayan), **Clark Welsh**, (balalaika) and **Nicolai Massenkov** (vocalist) played Russian and Ukrainian folk songs and dances.

Vinny Rinaldi played for us during the break.

The final performance of the day was by **Due Zighi Baci** (Two Little Gypsy Kisses). **Sheri Mignano** (accordion) and **Michael Van Why** (vocalist) specialize in French, Italian and Neapolitan café music. Michael's beautiful, expressive voice is a great accompaniment to Sherri's accordion expertise. The group played tangos, marches, waltzes, rumbas, ballads and some swing tunes.



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. Completed applications are to be returned to: **Lynn Ewing, 80 Loma Road, San Carlos, CA 94070** by the end of either March or September to be considered for an 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.

Receive Your Newsletter On-Line! Help our Club SAVE MONEY!

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Accordion Band News

Band Practice is the 2nd and 4th 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

SFAC Membership

SFAC Membership

\$30.00 per year for individual or family
Meeting admission is \$6 per member & \$8 per guests. For membership renewal, please send a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Don Nurisso, 1166 Alicante Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044. NEW MEMBERS, please include your name and address along with your check, as well as a phone number and email address, if you want

SFAC Officers

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

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

Randall Hicks, Secretary
(510)583-1581 hickr01@sprintmail.com

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

SFAC Directors

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accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com

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don@nurisso.com

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aswy01@gmail.com

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

Newsletter

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Graphic Design
snapp.chris@gmail.com

Next JAM session will be held before the November meeting, from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m..

Anyone who plays accordion is invited to come and join in the fun. All you need to bring is an accordion and a music stand.

We encourage performers of all levels to participate and if you don't play accordion, please 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

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub.net/firms.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.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Last month we included a Membership Renewal Form in your Newsletter. We have been receiving many renewals and thank everyone who has sent in their renewal so far. If you haven't yet sent in your membership renewal, we hope you will do so soon. Renewal forms and dues payments can be sent to our new Membership Chair, Don Nurisso at 1166 Alicante Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044

If you need a Membership Renewal Form, please contact Randy Hicks by emailing: sfacnewsletter@earthlink.net or calling 510 583-1581 and leaving a message - he will get a form right out to you.

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
(707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
(650) 574-5707
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
accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net
(408) 375-0001

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

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

Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
nurisso@mindspring.com

Mike Zampiceni • South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net

Ed Gorzynski, Jr. • East Bay
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.

George Cerruti Passes

A Bay Area native, and former SFAC member passed away September 19. It was said that San Francisco's own George Cerruti was synonymous with the best in the accordions' era of wonder in the 1940's and 50's. George was born in Alameda on October 26, 1920. He began his accordion studies in the 30's under the tutelage of Ralph Pezzolo of Oakland. Through training and experience, George developed into a fine swing jazz accordionist. In the early 1950's, George became the musical director of the American Broadcasting Company's KGO Television station, where his career took off. He performed and directed the music on such programs as the Don Sherwood Tonight Show, the Les Malloy Show and the Al "Jazzbo" Collins show. He appeared with such noted artists as Johnny Mathis, Tony Bennett and Ella Fitzgerald to name a few. On the Tonight Show, he hosted Dick Contino and played Dizzy Fingers with Charles Magnante. He directed the orchestra for the Kay Starr Show and toured with the Ray Anthony Band and Revue – which took him from New York to Las Vegas. Many will also remember George as the organist for the San Francisco Giants, playing at Candlestick Park from 1975 to 1982.



He enjoyed sharing a story, a laugh or a song and will be remembered for his character, talent, kindness, and sense of humor. He is survived by his beloved wife Ann, his brother Ben, children Mike, Susie and Georgi, 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held September 23.

Thank you to Dick Schiller for the article published in the SFAC newsletter January 2004, from which biographical information was obtained.



ACCORDION APOCALYPSE

Repair Shop celebrates new San Francisco location!

Bringing the Accordion to new Generations!

San Francisco's only accordion sales and repair shop, Accordion Apocalypse, has moved to a new location in the SOMA district where it can more easily serve the Bay Area's growing accordion community. The new location is: 255 10th St. (upstairs—between Howard and Folsom SOMA) San Francisco, CA 94103

Now, with a more accessible location (just blocks from Civic Center BART station), Accordion Apocalypse continues to serve the blossoming accordion scene, with expanded capabilities and a growing reputation for excellent workmanship. The shop offers not only repairs, tuning and lessons, but is a one-stop shop for accordion sales, accessories, music books, networking and helpful advice.

Visit our new updated website with Tips on Caring for your Accordion, California Teachers List, Accordion Community Events listing and more!


For further inquiries, email: accordionapocalypse@yahoo.com

Skyler Fell
www.accordionapocalypse.com

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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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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Club & Musical Meeting • Oct. 16 @ 2 p.m.

Performing in October: Amber Lee and the Anomalies, Tony Lovello, Skyler Fell and Luz Gaxiola. The women playing in October are featured on the Accordion Babes Calendar. *Should we consider making an annual version featuring men?*

Join us (almost every) third sunday of the 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

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**

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