

Happy August Accordion Friends:

Hope this newsletter finds you all well as we enter into fall 2022. Doesn't time just fly? Recently we acquired two accordions as donations from a couple of very kind people, and I am happy to say we were able to put them on Craigslist and sell them. We have taken the 300.00 total for both accordions and put it back into the club. Of course, this will help us keep going and helps us to hire Accordion players to come play for our club. Thank you to all who donate, or have donated, we very much appreciate you. It takes a lot of effort from all of us to keep our beautiful club alive and well. With that said, I am wishing to hear from all of you through email this month. Please let us know who you would like to come play for us. Please send suggestions, names our way. We will do our best to see if we can accommodate. Please contact Colette.ogata@gmail.com or any of us on the board.

For the month of September, we will have Richard Noel, from Bakersfield. Richard is an active supporter and Consultant for the Roland V-Accordion. Get a sneak preview by looking him up

at <https://www.noelaccordion.com> , or simply put his name on the YouTube channel search bar.

There are upcoming events I think are important to put out there, so that we could possibly support these venues, if we are able.

Friday, August 26, 2022, International Music Festival with World class Performances at Kilston Estate, Cottage Grove, Oregon. Check out the link below for more information. Father and daughter, Sergei and MariaTeleshev. among others will be performing at this lovely Estate.
<https://www.facebook.com/steleshev/videos/1486097058477619>

San Francisco Italian Festival, Saturday August 27, 2022. More information on page 3.

Hope some of you were able to visit Cotati, this past weekend. If you did, would love it if you wrote a little something about your experience and send it my way so I can put it in the next newsletter.

Please all stay well, take care, and hope to see you in September. Thank you Colette Ogata

How to be a Reporter

Bring paper and pen, arrive on time, and get a front row seat.

1. Write down names of performers and anything that occurs to you during the performance, either from the performance itself or from the audience during the performance. (It isn't required to write down the names of all the pieces that were performed.)
 2. If unsure of any name, ask one of the organizers, (Bill T, Colette, Pam) or ask the performer directly.
 3. Take your notes home and make them into sentences.
 4. Send report to Colette.ogata@gmail.com
- It's that easy!

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Silicon Valley Accordion Society

PO Box 1513
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE





Silicon Valley Accordion Society Meeting Writeup – August 7, 2022

Our meeting on Sunday, August 7, was as usual, an interesting and fun mix of performers. We got off to a late start (due to technical setup issues) but certainly enjoyed our volunteer musicians during the first part of the afternoon. They were followed by a break and a spirited raffle for many bottles of wine and two packages of chocolates. The program concluded with a very impressive hour-long performance by our guest musician, Joe Domitrowich.

The music started with a 30-minute performance by the Happy Days Band, comprised of Bill Tapogna, Tseli Wu, Marcia Coullahan (leader), Gloria Tapogna and Sharon Teter. They were well prepared and in costume too, wearing white tops and dark pants. Bill, Tseli and Marcia played accordions, Gloria played recorder, and Sharon played violin. The instruments blended nicely together. I even noticed that the violin could do its own version of a bellows shake! Their 11-song program consisted of a number of waltzes and polkas, some of which were new to me like “Snow Waltz” and “Pizza Polka.” It is clear these friends have fun playing together. When I asked Marcia about her lovely new accordion, she told me that Norma Parsons had given that to her before she died.

Our next performer was Misha Studenkov, who is home for the summer. He attends the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, but enjoys playing for us here and told us that his California accordion is a better instrument than the one he has in New York. His first song was a jazzy and elaborate version of “You’d Be So Nice to Come Home To.” He followed this with a Polish folk tune called “In My Little Garden.” This was a lively and appealing number that would definitely be a folk dance back in Poland.

Mei Lu followed, entertaining us with “Starlight Waltz” and “Let’s Dance the Polka.” She mastered some challenging fingering on the keyboard during the polka number. She also sang (hummed) along in both of her numbers. It is always delightful to have her play for us.

The final volunteer performer was Sonja Krave, who shared that she was self-taught a long time ago and got interested again when she saw a small Roland (digital) accordion. This delightful instrument was a 72-bass, bright red jewel, and she has learned how to select different voices and pre-record accompaniment to her numbers. She played three songs, and it is easy to see why her new accordion inspired her.

Our featured performer, Joe Domitrowich, was one of the most impressive accordion musicians I have ever had the pleasure of hearing. A paragraph from his website seems appropriate here:



“As a serious student of the accordion in his youth, and with formal training in technique, Joe mastered the art of playing the traditional acoustic accordion at an early age. More recently, the advent of digital technology has awakened Joe's interest in diverse genres of music and inspired him to arrange and perform an unusually broad repertoire, meticulously blending the familiar timbre and sound of reeds and bellows of the traditional acoustic accordion together with digital samples of other instruments. Joe is known for delivering live music that is both entertaining and technically challenging to perform.”

Joe brought his elaborate sound system, complete with foot pedals and a small microphone that he wore close to his mouth, which made his commentary easy to follow. The majority of his program was played on a Concerto digital accordion, which has, as you might imagine, a very large number of settings. To make these easier to adjust, Joe has modified a wristwatch, replacing the clock works with a mirror. He wears this on the inside of his right wrist, which makes it easier to see and adjust the controls on the front of his instrument.

The eleven numbers he performed on the Concerto were all masterfully performed and varied a lot in style and technique. He started with a medley of Russian songs “Dark Eyes/Two Guitars/Kalinka/Stenka Razin” and sang a bit in Russian. He followed this with a rendition of Strauss’s “Blue Danube” which was familiar and enchanting and sounded like a full orchestra was playing! Next was a song from Colombia (and some singing in Spanish) and I enjoyed his fingers playing bass notes (not chords) to accompany the right-hand melody. Later on, he played a song that he called “Clarinet Capers.” He said that this was an enhancement of an earlier arrangement of “Clarinet Polka,” and it included a fun tribute to Woody Woodpecker! This number had great phrasing and a lot of effective bellows shaking. The final number on the Concerto was one he called “Train Ride.” He said this was often requested, and it was easy to see why that was true, as it incorporated some other train-theme songs and sound effects.

Joe then switched to his free bass accordion. This is a digital Evo instrument, with a keyboard of three and a half octaves and 180 bass buttons. 120 of the bass buttons are melody notes and duplicated the keyboard notes so that sometimes it was difficult to tell whether it was his right hand or his left hand making the sound. He played two numbers on this instrument and continued to delight us with his technique and musicianship, all played from memory with no sheet music in sight.


In closing the afternoon, Bill Tapogna quipped: “Hey Joe! One of these days you’ll get the hang of it!” It was clear to me; Joe has already got it!

Georgia Sutherland

New Accordion Book!

This beautiful book is an informative and well-illustrated historical account of how the accordion earned a special place in the American musical culture.
A must-have for every accordion fan!

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“Duo TWO ACCORDIONS” Blazes West Coast with Far Reaching Impact

New CD • Oregon 2022 World Athletic Championships • Cotati Accordion Festival • And More!

Submitted by Pamela Tom, Accordionist

This year “Duo TWO ACCORDIONS” (world-class father and daughter champions, **Maria & Sergei Teleshev**) have been in hot demand along the West Coast from California to Washington while reaching across to US and international audiences. The talented duo act is known for outstanding solo and duo performances.

“Duo TWO ACCORDIONS” were contracted performers at the Oregon 2022 World Athletic Championships (WAC) featuring the world’s best athletes from over 200 nations. This was the first time that the WAC (inaugurated in 1983) was hosted in the US. On July 18th, 20th, and 21st “Duo TWO ACCORDIONS” gave open-air concerts of international classical and contemporary music totaling 5-1/4 hrs. The Teleshevs were issued a special uniform and had access to all the areas and events. As artists, they performed in concert attire. Sergei noted that “We met many international athletes and made new fans among the general public at our performances.”



Sergei and Maria Teleshev at the WAC, July 2022.



“Duo TWO ACCORDIONS” new CD, “In Any Style...”

Many of the selections performed at WAC included highlights from “Duo TWO ACCORDIONS” newly released recording, “In Any Style” which includes 14 classical and contemporary favorites including: “Firedance,” “Indifference,” “Schindler’s List Theme,” “Tango La Cumparsita,” “Karleks Waltz,” “Lullaby of Birdland,” “Thunderstruck,” “Libertango,” “Tico Tico,” etc.

Watch a 2 min 40 sec CD release of the video at:

<https://youtu.be/gq3GANov8H4> To order this exciting new CD or digitally download the recording, email your interest to: accostarfest@gmail.com. Proceeds from this recording support the Accordion Star International Competition/Festival (organized by Maria and Sergei Teleshev), an annual event that joins together professional players and accordion lovers worldwide.

It’s been a banner accordion year for the Teleshevs. In addition to conducting the 2nd annual Accordion Star International Competition/Festival in May, they were guest artists at the March Zoom meeting of the San Francisco Accordion Club, and played to a filled auditorium at the June Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration in Washington. Both venues included audiences spanning both the West and East Coast, and beyond for the LVIAC.

The accordion needs more ambassadors like Maria and Sergei Teleshev! Keep up the great work!

**Our Next SVAS Meeting will be the Second Sunday,
September 11th, due the Labor Day Holiday**

The Frosini Society Celebrates 20th Century Accordion Music Adam Adamsson, Frosini Society Executive Board Member



The Frosini Society is an association where both young and seasoned accordionists can meet and share in the amazing community formed around 20th century accordion music. Our association was formed in 1984 in Härnösand, Sweden with the ambition of collecting and preserving classical accordion music as it was performed by great accordion players and composers such as Pietro Frosini, the Deiro brothers and Ragnar Sundquist among others.

Throughout the years we've organized and created everything from accordion competitions to concerts and to previous newspapers [no longer in print]. Today we place a special emphasis on young practitioners as it is our firm belief that the preservation of this old and beautiful art is best done through connecting it with the next generation of accordionists. As a way to show this, each year, we award a scholarship to a regional accordion student who has shown passion and diligence for classical accordion music. We've also arranged two accordion youth camps within the past year that attracted players from all over Sweden. Finally, a CD is in the making in collaboration with past scholarship students and other promising accordion youth.

Also, in these two past years we've taken a great leap as an organization through the introduction of a website (frosinisallskapet.se) with goals to connect more with our members and share material such as sheet music and recordings from great accordionists whose work has fallen into the public domain. To date our website collection includes: Pietro Frosini (120 sheet music/66 audio files), the Deiro brothers (Guido Deiro's 15 sheet music/Pietro Deiro's 67 audio files)¹ and Ragnar Sundquist (10 sheet music/111 audio files)¹.

Finally, our future ambition is to continue to spark an interest in the future generations through active encouragement, inclusion and arrangement of events. There is also active work being done to expand upon the existing material on the website such as sheet music and recordings. Parts of this material (including Frosini) is offered for free, but to access the entire website membership is required. Annual membership costs 100SEK (~\$10) for members 25 years and older. For young members below 25, the membership fee is free. Contact me for details: niklas.adam.andersson@gmail.com

Consider becoming a part of this society and share in our efforts to preserve the cultural treasure that is 20th century accordion music!

¹Membership required to access Deiro and Sundquist collections.

Pamela Tom

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Cotati Accordion Student Stage Scholarship Fundraiser August 19, 2022

Cotati, CA

Contact: cotatiaccordionstudentstage@yahoo.com

Cotati Accordion Festival August 20-21, 2022

Cotati, CA www.cotatifest.com

Oregon Alpenfest September 29 - October 2, 2022

Joseph, OR Contact: alpenmeister@mail2oregon.com

SVAS Board of Directors/Officers

President: Colette Ogata 510-789-9739

Vice President: Bill Tapogna 408-984-5290

Secretary: Bernie Coullahan

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Program Schedule / Webmaster: Pam Kawashima
Pkawashima@outlook.com

Newsletter Editor: Open – volunteers welcome

Newsletter Reporters: Marcia Coullahan and Georgia
Sutherland
Volunteers welcome

Silicon Valley Accordion Society Meeting Writeup – July 10, 2022

On Sunday, July 10, we saw and heard an interesting parade of special accordions and performers. The first to play for us were Vic and Barbara Corsiglia, on accordion and guitar respectively. It was great to see them, as often they have a conflict on the first Sunday of the month. Vic told us that the Avendola accordion he was playing was given to them by Barbara's cousin. They drove their motorhome all the way to Idaho to pick it up a few years ago. They have donated it to the club, and we all agreed that it had a very nice sound that complemented the two tunes they played for us.

Next up was Rudy Pivk, who had a very special accordion indeed. This accordion is the very same one that Carl Fortina played in at least 10,000 TV soundtracks and 200 movies, and was the accordion featured in the 1963 film *Irma La Douce*. This Diamond accordion has an extended keyboard (43 keys), 7 treble registers, 120 bass buttons and 4 bass registers. Rudy showed off this instrument with some very fine playing of five numbers.

Girl Power was next, as Tseli Wu (our prize-winning member as reported in the May-June newsletter) brought her lovely brown instrument and treated us to some very wonderful renditions of four numbers. She makes big music with her

small (72 bass) accordion. Bill Tapogna commented that "She becomes one with the

accordion," and all of us that were present can certainly agree! Later in the day, her mentor, Reno Di Bono, told us that Tseli starts each musical phrase anew (which is hard to do) and is a master of using dynamics. This was evident in her performance, for sure. Tseli uses a very nifty electronic device that displays her music a page at a time. I think I want one of those!

Don Savant made beautiful music for us on his big and heavy Giuletti accordion. Someone referred to it as an inexpensive instrument, and I suspect that the opposite is true. Don performed four numbers for us. He said these pieces have "captured his mind" recently, and he played them beautifully, without any printed music to help him along. It is always great when Don shares his music with us.

Reno Di Bono was our final performer before the break, and he didn't disappoint. He played and sang some Italian songs, which we always enjoy. Then he moved into some jazz arrangements, telling us that jazz was a new venture for him. His jazzy rendition of "Ain't Misbehavin'" was spirited and wonderful to hear. Reno is always a teacher. This month's lessons were about triads plus color notes, and a direction to end a song by stopping the bellows, not lifting the fingers. Thanks for the tips, Reno!

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During the break, attendees were encouraged to bid in a Silent Auction for an accordion, and to take sheet music that covered the top of a table. Left-over music will go to Cotati with the San Francisco Accordion Club, and the accordion (if not purchased at the meeting) will be sold on Craigslist to benefit the club. There was no raffle held this month.

By this time the room was nicely full (28 attendees) and Zoom was started to include another 15 attendees to hear our two featured performers.

First to play were Adam and Emma Dohner, on accordion and violin. They introduced Shireen Tofig, who they recently recruited to do percussion with them. Shireen had a very unusual Pearl box drum, which doubled as her seat. She played this by tapping it with her heel, or by patting it with her hands. It was very pleasant and a very effective accompaniment to the six numbers they played. Adam and Emma coordinated their two instruments beautifully, trading the melody and accompaniment. The first song was a bluegrass number. The second song was "She's Not There" which had a strong beat and made me want to get up and dance. The percussionist added a scraped hand instrument called a "guiro" to enhance this number. They followed with a cute and jerky song by Paul Simon, followed by a medley in which the accordion and violin traded the melody back and

forth. I realized during this number that the violin is mysterious to me – how do they know where all the notes actually are? They played six pieces during their performance, and all were excellently done and very pleasant to experience, especially their rendition of Abba's "Gimme Gimme Gimme a Man after Midnight."

Our final performer, Mike Zampiceni, brought his small (72 bass) sparkly red accordion to serenade us. (Small red accordions always make me nostalgic for the 48 bass instrument I learned on when I was ten years old!) Mike certainly does not need a big accordion to make a big sound. He plays without printed music and seems to have complete command of his instrument. On one of his songs ("Bluesette") it seemed as if his left hand must have touched every one of the 72 bass buttons at some time! After his first few numbers, he opened up for requests. We heard a polka, a tango, a medley of Irish songs (accompanied by some very competent singing), and "Satin Doll." Someone requested that Mike do something in Zydeco style, so he played "Jambalaya." He then performed a spirited "Beer Barrel Polka" (where many of us joined in the singing). Someone requested "Never on Sunday" which he played with a very interesting introduction. He concluded by playing and singing "Arrivederci Roma" which was a fitting ending to a very fine performance.

Georgia Sutherland

