

Newsletter of the

Silicon Valley Accordion Society

March 2024

SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday April 7, 2024
Christ Episcopal Church
1040 Border Road, Los Altos
Program begins at 1:30PM
Doors open 1:00PM



Monterey International features Mike Marotta on accordion and Dave Dally on violin. This very well-known group plays favorite songs from all over the world. Mike Marotta (accordion) and Dave Dally (violin) are the core of the group that is often expanded to include singers, bass, percussion and others. Mike Marotta Jr., 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 is an accomplished professional violinist who lives in Carmel Valley and leads the Monterey String Quartet. Dave has played at our Club with the Denier brothers, Joe Domitrowich and others. He can often be found Thursday nights performing at Lugano's Swiss Bistro, The Barnyard at Carmel Valley, just off Hwy 1.

Erasmus 'Orazio' Aiello 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 website: <https://montereystingquartet.com>

There will be NO jam band this month. Volunteer players please contact Colette, Colette.ogata@gmail.com

We LOVE seeing them and you will too! Please join us!

Hello Accordion Friends -

It was so good to see so many come to the club! At one point we had 36 people... a wonderful number to have! And we had a few surprises come whom we haven't seen for a while. Dick Schiller - it was nice to see you, it has been a long time, and thank you for playing your beautiful Scandalli for us. Everybody loved your Irish songs and the sound of your beautiful instrument. Ursula, it was wonderful to see you as well, thank you, daughter, for bringing mom.

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to the folks who really made an extra effort to help the club this month. Thank you, Georgia Sutherland, for writing up the meeting, you always make such a beautiful report. Thank you, Bruce Aseltine and Carol Schoppet for bringing snacks, it was all yummy, but the cake was out of this world. And thank you, Paul Aebersold, for bringing your special wines for raffles. Not only did you bring some exquisite wines for the raffle, but you let those who won the wines know what they won! Those lucky winners had a very special treat this month and thank you for going above and beyond for our club. I want to thank you all for helping with set up and clean up, it makes it easier when we have help, and thank you all for coming out, especially in this, once again rainy weather. Hope to see you all next month to see Monterey International... This is an absolute must for every household.

PS: There will be **no Jam Band** for April as we will have a featured performer, but we are asking for volunteers to please send an email to Colette.ogata@gmail.com so we may coordinate the time.

Thank you, Colette Ogata

SVAS Board of Directors/Officers

President: Colette Ogata 510-789-9739

Vice President: Bill Tapogna 408-984-5290

Secretary: Reno Di Bono

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and Georgia Sutherland **Volunteers**

welcome

Player suggestions from Pam

1. SMILE!
2. Make your music stand as low as you can so we can see your smiling face or better yet, memorize your songs.
3. Engage with the audience. Announce the song title and any history you might know about the song.
4. SMILE!
5. Practice, practice, practice.
6. Play with confidence.
7. Make eye contact with the audience.
8. Embrace imperfections. No one can see your mistakes.
9. SMILE!



Your Greeters Gloria Tapogna & Rosemary Miceli

It was a fun and musical afternoon at the March meeting, with some very tasty refreshments. Twenty-four were in attendance when we got started at 1:40 PM and the group grew to be thirty-six in all. It was fun to see old friends and meet some new ones as well. The Cupertino contingent included a woman named Monika, who graduated from Monta Vista high school with my daughter!



Our first performer was Joseph Martin, whose enthusiasm is quite infectious. He gave us wonderful renditions of a ballad “La Vie en Rose,” which means “Life in Pink” in French, and an Italian waltz “Ciao Ciao Palermo.”

Joseph was followed by Paul Aebersold playing three duets with Shirley Lee. Their first number was “Edelweiss” which is always a favorite. This was followed by the song “Bella Notte” from the movie “Lady and the Tramp.” During this number, Paul had a little solo segment that was meant to remind us of the mandolin played during this song in the movie. The final song was a waltz from a Verdi opera. Their duet arrangements had nice variety and were very enjoyable.



It was great to have Dick Schiller perform after a long absence from club meetings. Dick played a wonderful melody of Irish songs for St. Patrick’s Day. The medley included “My Wild Irish Rose,” “McNamara’s Band,” and “Danny Boy.” He moved from one song to another with nice transitions and key changes. His accordion, a Scandalli, caught the attention of Reno Di Bono, who said it was of unbelievable workmanship. Reno jokingly offered to buy it, and then went on to tell us that he will be getting his own new accordion soon, a Petosa 950, which is smaller and lighter than any of his other accordions (which are getting too heavy, he said).

Next, it was Reno’s turn to entertain us, and he played a total of eleven songs, all from memory. Reno always appears to be very extemporaneous in his playing, and he loves sharing his tricks and techniques in little mini-lessons for us all. Today’s lesson was about the “circle of fifths” which are the chords that can accompany many songs. One of his numbers, “The Jolly Caballero” involved very fast fingering. He said afterwards: “I’m too old to play that song. It would have been better on a button accordion because on my accordion it involves too much finger crossing.” His variety of songs is amazing, including American, Italian, French, and Russian tunes among others. It’s always a treat when Reno performs for us.





Following Reno's performance, we enjoyed the Jam Band group, under the leadership of Bob Stanfield. The group included eight accordions, a guitar, a bass, and a recorder. Each player chose a song from the Jam Band book, and it was fun to hear them play together. I especially enjoyed Barbara Corsiglia's bass playing, which provided a nice accompaniment to all the accordions. The final and most enthusiastically played song was "Julida Polka" which is always a favorite.

At the beginning of the break, Joseph Martin told us that a gentleman named Valdet is opening an accordion store at 21998 Foothill Boulevard in Hayward. This store will offer instruments for sale, repairs, lessons, and free practice space. After the break, seven lucky attendees won the raffle prizes.

Raffle Winners





Our featured performers were the Sunday Seven Band, which only had six players, but way more than six instruments! Led by Bob Stanfield, the other accordions were played by Vic Corsiglia and Tseli Wu, Birgit Calhoun played the recorder, Scott Barta played the guitar, and Barbara Corsiglia played bass, concertina, drum and harmonica. Vic also put down his accordion and picked up his mandolin for a couple of numbers. The group played a total of nineteen numbers. Their program included a great variety of songs, including some Irish tunes celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Most band members were wearing something green, with Vic sporting a green beret! In addition to the playing, there was a lot of singing, both by the band members and also by the audience. Scott sang all the verses for "Jack was Every Inch a Sailor" (a song from Newfoundland) and we all joined in for the chorus. Another of their sing-along numbers was "Home on the Range" which got everyone singing. And, of course, we all sang with them as they finished, as usual, with "God Bless America." It was a fun day!

SVAS Reporter Georgia Sutherland

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Upcoming events

National Accordion Convention

March 20 -24 2024

Lewisville, Texas

<http://www.accordions.com/naa/cComingConvention.html>

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 20-23, 2024

Leavenworth, Washington

<https://www.accordioncelebration.org>

Accordionist and Teachers Guild Festival

July 23-27, 2024

Kansas City Missouri

<https://www.atgaccordions.com/2024-festival>

Cotati Accordion Festival

August 16-18, 2024

Cotati California

<https://cotatifest.com>

Next SVAS Meeting – Sunday April 7, 2023
Monterey International Band

Silicon Valley Accordion
Society
PO Box 1513
Los Altos, CA 94023

To: