

Newsletter of the
Silicon Valley Accordion Society

September 2023

SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday October 1, 2023
At Christ Episcopal Church
1040 Border Road, Los Altos
Program begins at 1:30PM
Doors open 1:00PM

Featured Performer

Monterey International

Mike Marotta Jr., Dave Dally, and Steve Hanson



Mike Marotta Jr. is from Monterey, Ca., where he was born into a family of accomplished musicians. At 15 years old he started his band and now, 50 years later, continues to be one of the busiest musicians on the Monterey Peninsula. He loves playing for SVAS and we love seeing him!!

Dave Dally is an accomplished professional violinist that lives in Carmel Valley and leads the Monterey String Quartet. Dave is a very sought after musician and 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, in The Barnyard at the mouth of Carmel Valley, just off Hwy 1.

David Marzetti comes from a radio background that spans over 45 years. He is active in the Monterey community and is highly regarded as "Monterey's Emcee" hosting many local functions and fund raisers. He also hosts several radio shows including "Sundays with Sinatra" on KMBY radio. David has been the Vocalist with his friend Mike Marotta Jr. for many years singing Standards and Italian favorites.

Steve Hanson, string bass, is one of the busiest Bay Area musicians. Steve hails from Minnesota, and grew up working the family's dairy farm. Steve enlisted in the United States Navy, and found his way to the Navy Band where he played trombone. He was stationed in Naples, Italy for three years, and learned to speak Italian, and to love Italian food. Steve received his master's degree in music from The University of North Texas. Steve serves on the Board of Directors of The Musician's Union Local 6, San Francisco.



We are very happy to have them back.

Dear Accordion Friends -

I heard we had a great time at our meeting Sunday, September 10th, with Bill Likens and his band. I am sorry Casey and I had to miss it, but we went on a much-needed vacation... always good to recharge one's batteries.

I Love that we had our Oktoberfest celebration in September, as that is actually when it is held annually in Munich, Bavaria. Oktoberfest is celebrated from Mid-September to around the first Sunday in October. Please see Georgia Sutherland's beautiful write up about our Oktoberfest meeting below.

I can say Cotati was an incredibly fun venture this year! If you have not been for a few years, you might want to take a special trip out there next year as I have never seen so many people at that festival. It was quite fun, the park was full, there were tons of food trucks and vendors selling their wares and even a massage booth where you could get an on-the-spot massage. The music, of course, was the best around. It was nice to sit on a blanket and eat and then go play in the jam tent with fellow accordionists. The Great Morgani appeared with 8 different costume changes for which each one was impeccably detailed, and, as always, he looked marvelous!

Looking forward to seeing you all next month. In the meantime, take care and stay well.

Colette Ogata, President

SVAS Board of Directors/Officers

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At Cotati



Oktoberfest attire

It was an enthusiastic group that joined in the Oktoberfest fun on Sunday September 10. With President Colette on vacation, Bill Tapogna was the master of ceremonies,



The first to be introduced was “not a stranger” named Reno Di Bono, playing his Petosa accordion. Reno started by telling us that the accordion is a perfect instrument for waltzes and proceeded to play nine short waltzes for us. Some were French, some were Italian, one was American, and the final one was a jazzy waltz that must be mastered by anyone who enters the Castelfidardo accordion competition. And Reno couldn’t help providing a brief lesson on the three chords that form the basis for many song accompaniments. It’s always enjoyable when he plays for us

Ed Burtle came next, playing his Roland accordion. Ed sported an Alpine hat with lots of decorative pins, in honor of Oktoberfest. He played two waltzes and a familiar polka, with lots of bass solo embellishments.



After his delightful performance, we enjoyed Mei-Shen Lu, playing two numbers on her Petosa accordion. It was wonderful to hear her performance of “La Cumparsita” and the “Theme from the Godfather.”

Mei was followed by Paul Aebersold, wearing his lederhosen pants and Alpine hat. He said he got them at a party store, but maybe that was a joke as I’ve never seen anything of that quality at a party store. His wood-toned accordion with red bellows fit the theme as well, as he played five numbers that are frequently heard at Oktoberfest. One was a Hank Williams tune titled “There’s a Tear in my Beer,” another was a piece from a German musical called “The Student Prince,” and the final was a tango written by a German expatriate to Argentina. Very fun.





Rudy Pivk was the final player before the break, playing his unique “golden” Hohner accordion. Rudy’s seven numbers were delightful, with many styles of music. He also said “You name it, I’ll play it” and demonstrated that by playing “Spanish Eyes” and “In the Mood” to cap off his delightful performance.

The featured performers were The Musikanten-Stammtisch. They were introduced by their leader, Bill Likens, who told us that they were not a performing group at all, but rather a group that meets for jam sessions on the second Thursday of every month at Esther’s Kitchen and Beer Garden restaurant in Los Altos. They were true



performers for us, though, as we enjoyed a full hour of entertainment by the members of their ensemble. The group included Bill Likens and Bob Stanfield playing accordions, Tom Povse playing flute, Birgit Calhoun singing and playing the recorder, Bill Stewart playing both ukelele and autoharp, Mike Hart playing a helicon tuba (looks like a Sousaphone, but smaller), and Duane Shen and his daughter and son doing a few dances. They handed out word sheets for the audience to sing along. Most of the songs were in German, but those of us present for the performance also enjoyed singing along on two familiar songs in English: “Edelweiss” and “The Happy Wanderer.” Bill introduced each of the songs, but the musicians carried the day. The accordions were a constant in every number but did not overshadow the sounds of the other instruments, especially the tuba which had many opportunities to shine. The flute and recorder also were clearly heard in many numbers, as was Bridget’s singing. Duane’s dancing included lots of leg work and knee slapping, which was really fun. His daughter and son joined in with a hat-swapping



sequence and a diagonal clapping demonstration that was fun to watch. In one final dance, Duane was joined by a member of the audience. We also learned a bit about the history of Oktoberfest, which started back in 1810 as the ceremony for a German marriage. Over the years, it also included horse races, and these days it is the familiar celebration that lasts two weeks and two days and always ends on the first Sunday in October. So, thanks to Bill and his group, we were in good time to start enjoying Oktoberfest until October 1, when we will have our next SVAS meeting.

Raffle Winners



BEHIND THE BELLOWS – Video Now Viewable in High Definition

Submitted by Pamela Tom



“Behind the Bellows” is one-hour accordion documentary written, directed and narrated by Steve Mobia in 2009. Steve noted that the video was originally shot on the standard DV video of the day. He recently updated the video so that you can now watch it in high definition on the Internet. The next paragraph is based on text describing the video that is located on Vimeo at:

<https://vimeo.com/382265821> .

Photo Credit: Steve Mobia

“Seven years in the making, this is an American documentary about the beloved but often misunderstood squeezebox; its history and variety as well as its effect on popular culture. Contains insightful interviews with accordion legends such as Anthony Galla-Rini, Guy Klucevsek and Dick Contino among many others. See the original drawings for the accordion's patent of 1829 as well as the first design of the concertina. Visit an accordion museum and a factory where the instrument's many parts are created. Venture through several types of concertinas, button boxes as well as high-tech MIDI accordions. See historic clips of Guido Deiro, Art Van Damme, Lawrence Welk and Frankie Yankovic. Discover why "Lady of Spain" is associated with the accordion. See the first attempt to make a rock-n-roll accordion. And listen to where the accordion might be headed in the future.”

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To: