

Newsletter of the

# *Silicon Valley Accordion Society*

April 2024

SVAS Next Meeting: Sunday May 5, 2024  
Christ Episcopal Church  
1040 Border Road, Los Altos  
Program begins at 1:30PM  
Doors open 1:00PM



The May Program will feature the SVAS Jam Band  
with music celebrating Cinco de Mayo



Hello Accordion Friends -

Finally, SPRING is in the AIR! I think this is my favorite part of the year as we will get to enjoy warmer weather, blooming flowers and beautifully green hills in our background as we drive around the Bay Area.

We really enjoyed a fabulous day of music with Monterey International. I am happy to say we reached 50 people in attendance at one point, a number which we have not seen since pre-pandemic. It was so nice to see folks we have not seen for a while.

Mike Marotta and Dave Dally certainly have a great understanding of each other's role with their instruments. Their arrangements are such that the two instruments intricately intermingle and produce a rich combination of lush chords to which I was mesmerized by their ability to trade the melody back and forth so effortlessly. Add Orazio with his operatic voice to the mix and the result is a group of very happy club members enjoying such an upbeat, delightful show. And I have to say, Mike, I especially loved you singing the song, "You have a Friend in Me." It was such a simple song that made me happy.

For the Month of May we are planning to have a Jam Band with Music to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. If you would like to play in our band and have not received music to practice with, feel free to contact me and I will be happy to send you the music.

Please contact [colette.ogata@gmail.com](mailto:colette.ogata@gmail.com)

Thank you, Colette Ogata, President

## Playing Tip

Dragon Bass, *again?* by Laura Niland

I know it's the Chinese New Year of the Dragon but... *What are you doing?* Are you "Dragon Bass" with that accordion again? What I mean is... it isn't proper to play the bass and chord, back and forth, like they are stuck together... with no "space between the notes". We call that *draggin' the basses*", and it just doesn't sound right at all!

At times we are all guilty of this, because we often spend more time thinking about how our right hand plays the melody, that we forget that the left hand has a LOT to do too! Keep those notes separated! Practice without using the right hand and listen to what you are playing. Does it sound right now? Is it a *DRAGON BASS*? Or is it complementing the right hand with *separated* notes?

Stay away from the DRAGON so that your songs can have a happy memory for your audience! You will be happy to get that "Dragon" OFF your bass side! What a relief!

SVAS Board of Directors/Officers  
 President: Colette Ogata 510-789-9739  
 Vice President: Bill Tapogna 408-984-5290  
 Secretary: Reno Di Bono  
 Treasurer: Rosemary Miceli  
 Program Schedule/Webmaster: Pam  
 Kawashima  
[Pkawashima@gmail.com](mailto:Pkawashima@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Bernie Coullahan  
[becoul@yahoo.com](mailto:becoul@yahoo.com)  
 Newsletter Reporters: Marcia Coullahan  
 and Georgia Sutherland **Volunteers  
 welcome**

## Important Notice

SVAS normally meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. For 2024, there are 3 exceptions due to holidays/other. The following meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:

July 14, 2024

September 8, 2024

October 13, 2024

## April Program

WOW! What a fabulous afternoon at SVAS! Beautiful weather, a great variety of music and super musicians playing them. And 50 enthusiastic folks to hear and enjoy them! What could possibly be better? Well, how about adding some great snacks supplied by Bob and Kris Stanfield, and some wonderful raffle prizes supplied by Tseli Wu? No better way to spend a Spring Sunday!

Our first entertainer was BILL LIKENS, who is a master at playing music from "Far Away Places with Strange-Sounding Names." His musicality and vocals provide an enjoyable departure from some of the music that we routinely hear. His selections included Bailando and Duele el Corazon, both by Enrique Iglesias, Sitna Zborenka, a Traditional Bulgarian Dance, and Ein Fest der Musik which is German, by Slavko Avesenik.



Next up was RENO DI BONO, a long-time member of SVAS and always a welcome performer at our concerts. In addition to being a very accomplished musician, Reno is a professional educator, and in addition to his instrumentation, he provides us with a great deal of valuable information about the music that he is playing, as well as the musicality involved (chords, arrangements, etc.) His selections included many "old time Italian tunes," (as he put it!). Most enjoyable! His selections included Calabrisella, Romanga Mia, a Sicilian Tarantella, Finiculi Finicula, and Lullaby of Birdland.



Following Reno, we had a special treat! MIKE MAROTTA and DIANE SALMON presented a beautiful duet: "Por Una Cabeza." Their arrangement and the way they performed together was absolutely wonderful!

And that rounded out the first half of our program. This was followed by a brief intermission, which allowed everyone who had not purchased a raffle ticket to do so. Six lucky folks went home with a bottle of "grape juice" as provided by TSELI WU.

And then we welcomed MIKE MAROTTA, DAVE DALLY and ERASMO ORAZIO AIELLO.



What a fabulous program they provided. Watching Mike play his accordion and Dave play the violin together is a special treat! They complement each other so well! They had an exceptionally enjoyable variety of tunes for us. Their program consisted of Putting on the Ritz, Te Quiero with Orazio, Tango Paradiso, Can't help Falling in Love. Your reporter has, in the past, requested the tune "Sabre Dance." Mike told me that he called Dave and said "I know he is going to request it, so we better dust it off") ...and dust it off they did! Much to the delight of the crowd, who absolutely roared with pleasure when the tune was finished! A special treat indeed!

And then there was ERASMO! This guy has a "Set of Pipes"! His Italian tenor voice, and his professional presentation of his vocals was a fabulous addition to the program. Most enjoyable! And it was really intriguing to watch Mike and Dave as they were accompanying Erasmo. They were absolutely intent---really professional!

And that brought to a conclusion our Spring Special! See you all next month: MAY 5!

Bill Tapogna, Reporter




SVAS members (left to right) Ken Caple, Marcia Coullahan, Lou Buonomo, and Roy Helsing jamming at the Buonomo home during a break from the National Accordion Convention March 20-24, 2024 Lewisville, Texas.

### Raffle Winners



**petosa**  
accordions  
SINCE 1922

*Artista Pro XT*



The **Artista Pro XT** is inspired by the creative professional accordionist. The aging process of our maple creates a unique timbre quality within a class of its own that will endure generation after generation. Stunning beauty and an unsurpassed warmth and resonance are the hallmarks of this fine instrument. Individually and uniquely handmade, the Artista Pro is limited in production and distinctively one-of-a-kind.

All details at  
[www.petosa.com](http://www.petosa.com)

19503 56th Ave. West Ste. B Lynnwood, WA 98036 206.632.2700

### Upcoming events

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 May 5, 2024**  
**SVAS Jam Band**

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

To: