

December, 2020

♪ ♪ *SFAC Accordions Live* ♪ ♪

ONLINE-ONLY MUSICAL PROGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

VIA ZOOM – BEGINNING 4:00 PM

Please note start time of 4:00 pm PST for this month's date only

BONNIE BIRCH BAVARIAN BAND

MIKE ZAMPICENI

LOU JACKLICH

MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE EMAIL WITH ZOOM LINK
from KENNETH.E.SCHWARZ@GMAIL.COM

We hope you will be able to join our *Virtual Holiday Party* featuring a variety show of member performers: **The Bonnie Birch Bavarian Band, Lou Jacklich, and Mike Zampiceni.**

And we have *special surprises* in store too!
Please note start time of 4:00 pm PST for this month's date only

The **Bonnie Birch Bavarian Band** has been together for 20 years playing all over the Northwest. **Bonnie** is a virtuoso on the accordion and has over 30 years playing the instrument. **Nick Heiting** originally comes from Munich, Germany,



singing fluently in German, as well as playing great accompaniment on the guitar. **Paul Ostler**, with perfect pitch and a skilled tubist (yes, that is a real word), is a 20-year Veteran having played all over the world with the U.S. Navy Band.

Lou Jacklich has been performing nationwide and teaching in the San Francisco Bay area for over 75 years. In the early 50s he launched the *Lou Jacklich School of Music* that quickly grew to over 400 students taught by 7 instructors, in addition to Lou. Collectively, over 1,000 students have been trained by Lou and that number still continues to rise.

Lou was also a West Coast pioneer with the electronic accordion in the late 50s and early 60s and recorded



the album *Lou Jacklich Plays* under contract with Capitol Records showcasing both his talent and La Melodiosa's contribution to the electronic accordion scene.

Lou's accomplishments as an accordionist and contributor to the accordion community are extraordinary. He was honored in 2014 with the San Francisco Accordion Club's lifetime achievement award, has served as the 2016 Cotati Accordion Festival's Honorary Director, and was co-recipient of the

Continued on page 2

Performing in December

2016 Las Vegas International Accordion Convention's inaugural Art Van Damme Education Award. Lou continues to concertize and maintains an active teaching schedule in his home studio in San Lorenzo.

In **Mike Zampiceni's** own words, "I've been involved in this club for well over two decades, and most members already know my musical background, including growing up in an accordion environment in San Jose with my father, Joseph Zampiceni, who was a performer, composer, arranger, and publisher of accordion music under the name Zampiceni Publications. My musical life is like bookends, in that I was deeply immersed in music for my first 30 years, was a technical writer for the next 30 years, and have now come full-circle to my musical roots.

I initially started learning the accordion at age 8, then branched out to drums and voice when I was in high school, whereupon I graduated with the Bank of America achievement award in music. I became a music major at San Jose State with concentrations in voice and classical organ performance.



During this first segment of my musical life, I played a lot of music gigs in various groups and sold pianos and organs. During my middle period as a writer, I continued playing music gigs as able and also taught a few students.

After I retired over five years ago, I was eager to play and teach as much as desired, since I identified more with being a musician than anything else, and it was also a pursuit that would give me personal satisfaction while also mentoring and entertaining others. More recently until the pandemic curtailed my retirement "job," I had several students, played and sang for private parties, and also performed twice weekly at O Sole Mio Italian restaurant in Millbrae.

I have eclectic musical tastes reflected in my repertoire, including classical, jazz, Latin, European, and American standards from the 1930s through 1970s."

And for that *special surprise*, we will be hosting the World Premier of member **Marilyn Valentino's** documentary video: *SFAC at the Cotati Accordion Festival*, with a performance of *Lady of Spain* by our members who submitted videos for the 2020 Cotati Accordion Festival hosted over ZOOM for the first time. [See page 7 for details.]



You will need a [zoom](#) meeting link that will be emailed to Club Members shortly before December 20th. Please RSVP, so we can plan for how many of you plan to attend, as our Zoom account is a tiered plan. **Current memberships will receive the link, so if you haven't renewed yet or would like to join, please check out our [Membership](#) page.**

November Membership Appreciation Event Summary

By Ken Schwartz

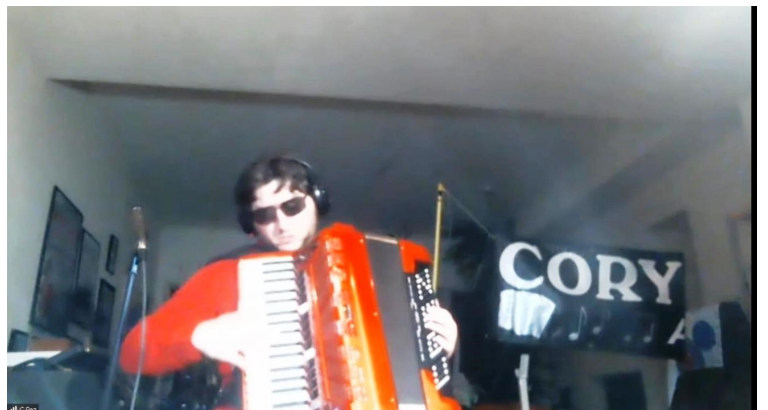
Wow! Members who attended November's "Thank You" event were treated to an afternoon of perfection, featuring **Peter Di Bono and Harriet Newhart** and **Cory Pesaturo**. The event was very ably emceed by Colette Ogata.

Peter Di Bono and **Harriet Newhart** beautifully performed songs which have made them club favorites over many years. Their renditions are melodic, timeless, and have a mellow quality, perfect for these times. Being the excellent performers they are, each sounded fresh, like they were just performing it for the first time (they've been performing together for 30 years, however!). Harriet's violin, described by some as "Hollywood Tone," conveys a fresh and "bright" tone. Peter's accordion is mellow and soothing. Together, they're tops! They opened with *Innamorata*, followed by *Mattinata (You're Breaking My Heart)*, a melody of French waltzes, *La Vie En Rose*, the tango *El Choclo*, *Puttin' on the Ritz*, and *Cheek to Cheek*. Thank you, Peter and Harriet! We look forward to having you back when we can all be together in person!



Cory Pesaturo, three-time world champion in Digital Accordion, Acoustic Accordion and Jazz Accordion, is the only person to hold this record. Cory is well-known for revolutionizing the accordion, establishing new boundaries for this great instrument! He is also the youngest person to ever play at a State Dinner at the White House, playing for the Clintons when he was only 12, and at age 15 was the youngest person to win the U.S. National Accordion Championship. This is only a short list.

Cory delivered a stunning virtuoso performance for our club, which included international selections, different genres and tempos. He opened with an incredible, frenetic French musette piece, *E-Gus*, which, as he put it, was "something easy for the fingers!" That was for starters! Next were two "Balkan Medleys," too fast to register to the ordinary mind, starting in 4/4 but finishing with a flourish in 11/8 and 9/8 rhythms, no less! Next was Cory's jazzy version of *It Might as Well be Spring*, made famous by Frank Sinatra but nothing like Cory's version, complete with musical sound effects on his digital accordion! Next was something "slow," Piazzola's *Oblivion*, which, in his opinion, is often performed too slowly. Switching to an Italian theme, Cory performed amazing renditions of well-known Italian songs, including *Reginella Campangiola* and *O'Surrdatto 'Namorato*. Next up on the international selection was a Klezmer medley, followed by *Rosey Posey Polka*. Cory performed this polka in Iceland, which has 14 accordion clubs (yes 14!) in a country of only 400,000!



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(Continued) November Event Summary

By Ken Schwartz

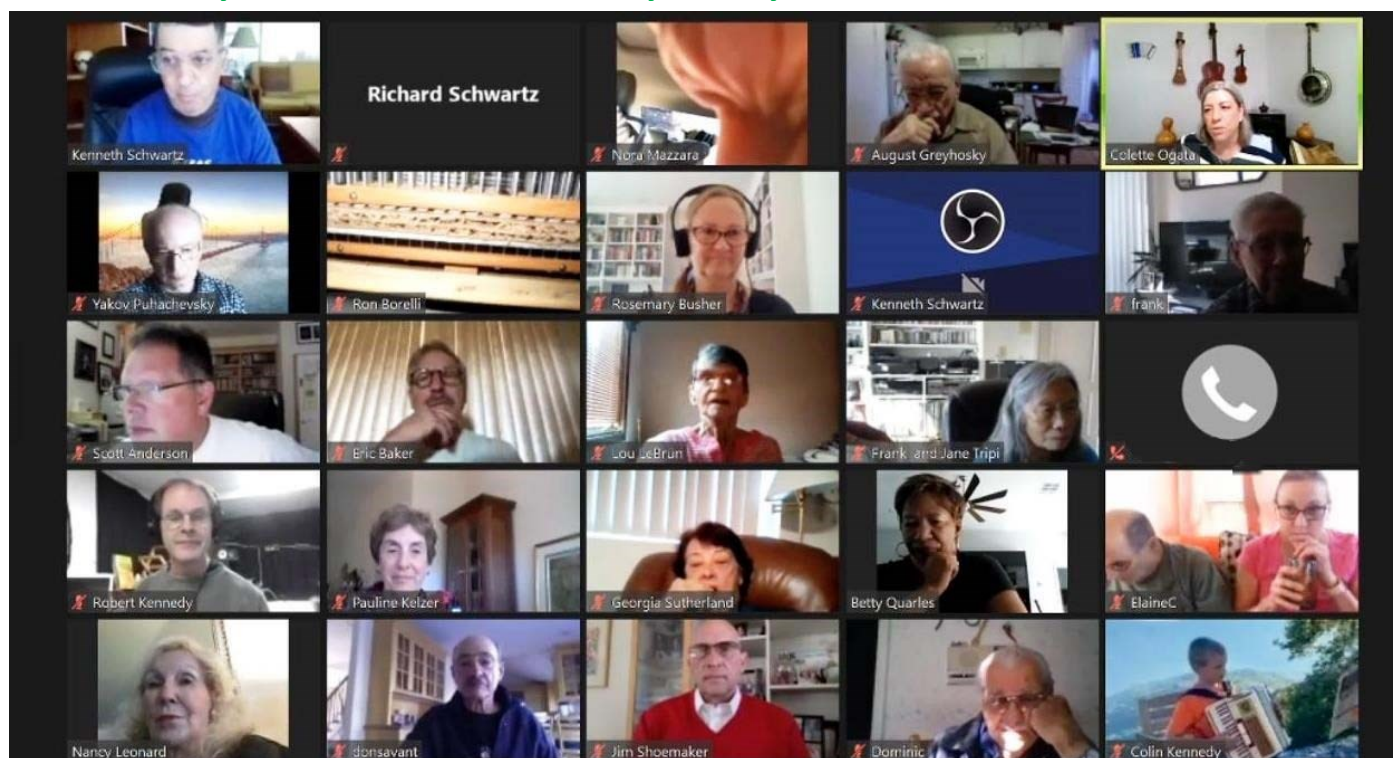
Next was *Bella Chitarra*. (by Frank Marocco, featured on his album “Appassionato”), *No More Blues* and a doo-wop song. Cory next performed a personal request from this writer, *Romanian Moritor, Romanian Spring*. This writer recalls this song as one of the highlights of Cory’s performance before the club in May, 2019. Next was *Lush Life*, a Billy Strayhorn jazz classic. And for the grand finale, Cory finished with musical fireworks: *Techno Improvisation in All Keys*, improvised on-the-spot just for the club, it covered (as the title implies) all the keys and was punctuated with multiple rhythms, sound blasts, digital percussions and more, all demonstrating his world-class mastery! THANK YOU, Cory! You were amazing. We look forward to future performances!

Colette also filled us in on a few Cory biographical tidbits, of which most of us were unaware. Cory also plays the piano, clarinet and sax. At age 12, he filled in for Myron Floren on the Lawrence Welk show, when Mr. Floren called in sick! Twice a month, Cory leads a teaching academy Master Class on everything, including technique, what world champions have used, transposition, even non-accordion based, to becoming a better musician. It’s open to all with an interest in music theory, not just for accordion. Please refer to Cpezmusic.com for more details.



These very special performances were the club’s way of saying “Thank You” to you, our membership, for your renewals and support, which have enabled the club to sponsor our performers and these programs and even grow during these challenging times. We will continue to present quality programs in 2021 for your enjoyment.

We wish all of you a wonderful and healthy holiday season!



Membership Update *by Robert Cooperstein, Membership Director*

As of December 1, we formally ended this year's membership drive. This was the most successful drive since I assumed my position as membership director in June, 2014. We lost only 18 members, whereas we added an outstanding 32 new members. This gave us a net gain of 14, the largest gain since I became the director.

Since publishing our November newsletter, we added two new members: **Kathy Kearney** of San Carlos, CA; and **Kaisu Laninken** of Medford, MA. Please join me in welcoming our new members!



Cotati Accordion Festival in Winter!

The Second Cotati Accordion Virtual Festival will take place this coming December 19-20 from 11:00am to 4:00pm online for all to view. See <https://cotatifest.com/virtual-festival/> for details.

Internationally acclaimed virtuosos from 8 different countries, such as **Cory Pesaturo**, **Jenny Conlee-Drizos**, **Matthias Matzke**, **Pietro Adragna** and **Erica Mancini**, will be performing live, along with streaming chats, interviews, The Lady-of-Spain-a-Ring, The Grand Finale, raffles and more.

The Winter Cotati Accordion Virtual Festival will give the viewers a chance to see the accordion played at artistic levels never imagined by the uninitiated. Whether you are an accordion aficionado or just curious, the performances will be unforgettable.



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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year. Monthly ad prices **for members**:

1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

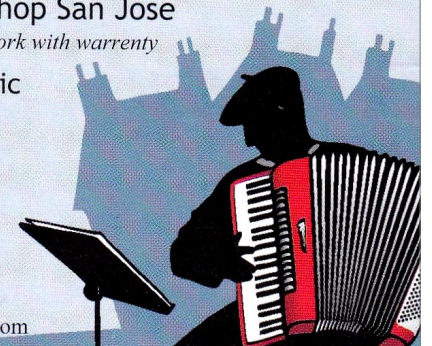
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SFAC Christmas Play-Along

Recently a few of us got together (virtually, of course!) to test the idea of a Christmas Play-Along for club members.

Say what? What's a Play-Along?

The Christmas Play-Along is an experiment. The goal is to explore a new way of making music together on our accordions, using the existing capabilities of our virtual meeting technology.

The Play-Along is completely different from playing together in person in our traditional Accordion Jam Circle. For one thing, we won't actually be hearing each other play. Rather, we'll each be supplying the missing accordion part for classic Christmas carols recorded by orchestras, choirs, and other instruments.

And we'll be able to enjoy seeing our fellow accordionists playing along with us. Most important, we'll share the experience of making music together.

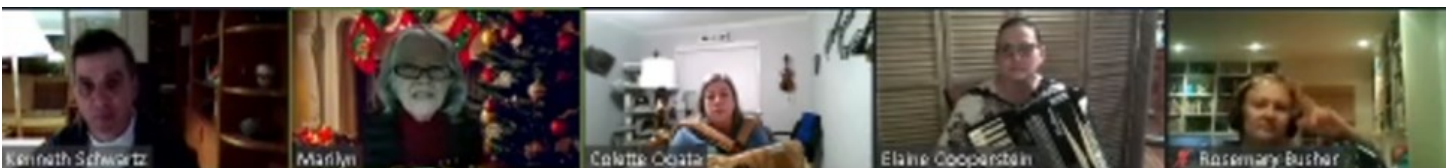
So how does this work?

Get your accordion ready, set up your headphones, stereo, or TV for the best sound, and mute your microphone (a must given Internet lag times). Then turn up the volume and surround yourself with music.

Add a simple melody, a harmony, or a special improvisation. Be sure to match your playing with the sound, not the video images – the time delay between audio and video can cause confusion!

When is it happening?

The SFAC Christmas Play-Along will be on Thursday, December 17 from 7:00-8:00 pm. If you're interested and would like to give it a try, please send an email to mvalenti-no@alumni.stanford.edu. Sheet music will be available.



World Premiere SFAC at the Cotati Accordion Festival Video

December's meeting will feature the Premiere of our very own "SFAC at the Cotati Accordion Festival" video, created by SFAC member Marilyn Valentino. Special guests will be the 13 SFAC members who made and submitted videos of themselves playing *Lady of Spain* for the festival. The video combines the individual movies, so that the separate contributions blend together into an accordion ensemble. The Cotati Accordion Festival, traditionally held in August each year, was held virtually for the first time in 2020.

Everyone who is familiar with the Cotati Accordion Festival will recognize the traditional *Lady of Spain* song, which is introduced each year with the words "Please Grab Your Instruments and Join In!" A photo from the actual broadcast appears below. Look closely and you'll recognize fellow SFAC members among the participants.



Please Grab Your Instruments and Join In!

One, two, three; two, two, three!

Event Reviews:

Volunteers are *very much* needed to assist with the monthly event summaries. This is a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your club! Please volunteer to write up a meeting review for an upcoming newsletter.

Please contact Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com



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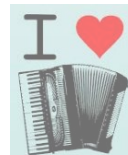
Music Lessons

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peterdsf@gmail.com

www.peterdibono.com



SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI *San Mateo* - RonBorelli@aol.com
www.ronborelli.com

RICHARD DENIER *Carmel* - rjd.denier@gmail.com

PETER DI BONO *San Francisco* www.peterdibono.com

RENO DI BONO *South Bay* - ourhike@aol.com
www.italianaccordion.com

JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay*

www.alpinersusa.com

or www.capricious-accordion.com

ED GORZYNSKI, JR. *East Bay* - edspolkas@yahoo.com

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JOEL WEBER (510) 655-4398

<https://joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/>

MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579 MikeZamp.com

New Member Welcome!

New SFAC member, **Kaisu Lankinen, PhD**, comes from Finland but is currently based in Boston. She plays button accordion with a unique chromatic Finnish system with 5 rows of buttons. In Finland she learnt to play mostly European classical and traditional accordion tunes. In addition, she accompanied and performed with several Finnish folk dance groups for more than 10 years. In 2018, after finishing her PhD in Biomedical Engineering in Finland, she moved to the Bay Area to continue her research in UC Berkeley. While in the US, Kaisu wanted to learn to play American music, especially jazz. She was fortunate to find a wonderful teacher, Mr. Lou Jacklich, after attending a meeting of the SFAC in March 2018. Since then, she has been taking weekly lessons with Mr. Jacklich, and has been especially enjoying learning jazz, improvisation and making her own arrangements. In Fall 2019, she moved to Boston to take a new position in Harvard University to continue her neuroscientific research. Fortunately, she has been able to continue weekly accordion lessons with Mr. Jacklich via Skype, and as there are so many good tunes to play, they have even extended her lessons to 2 hours!



🎵 Thank You, Donors! 🎵

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. We would like to thank the following members who have made donations during our current membership year October 2020 - September 2021.

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott T. Anderson, John Baylo, Anthony Bologna, Dave Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Gail Campanella, Stephanie Capodanno, Raymond Celentano, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Richard Denier, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Dominic Granelli, Gus & Sharon Greyhosky, Ron & Mary Harris, Carlyn & Janet Jensen, Christina Knapp, Franco & Susan and Lorenzo Lucchesi, Michael A. Marotta, Jr., Sharon Marotte, James Monfredini, Anna Nicora, Gisele B. Oakes, Colette Ogata, Robert & Dil Pisani, Michael Sanossian, Tibor Sarkany, Don & Mary Savant, Jeanine Savello, Ken Schwartz, Joe Simoni, Georgia Sutherland, Pamela Tom, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, Barbie Wong, Mike Zampiceni, & Marlen Zhagel

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized.

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat

Designed for serious accordion ensemble musicians

January 14-16, 2021

For information contact meghada33@gmail.com

Leavenworth International Accordion

Northwest Accordion Society

June 17 - 20, 2021

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"

www.accordioncelebration.org

AAA Festival—CANCELLED

~~American Accordionists' Association~~

~~Marriott Philadelphia West—Conshohocken, PA~~

~~July 14-18, 2021~~

~~<http://www.ameraccord.com/festival.php>~~

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SFAC Directors

Rosemary Busher (510)220-2931, rosemary@busher.org

Paul Cain paulrussellcain@gmail.com

Robert Cooperstein (510)207-6009, drcoop@sbcglobal.net

Ken Schwartz (650)344-6116, Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

Elaine Cooperstein (510)921-9323, elainedc@sbcglobal.net

Dominic Palmisano (Honorary Director) accord47@gmail.com

Webmaster & Accounting

Randall Hicks (510)750-6858, hickr01@sprintmail.com

Newsletter team: *Content collection & writing, Layout, Copy Editing, Print shop pick-up, Labels/Stamps, Mailing*

Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Pamela Tom

Scholarship

Mike Zampiceni (408)569-2579, eclecticguy@comcast.net

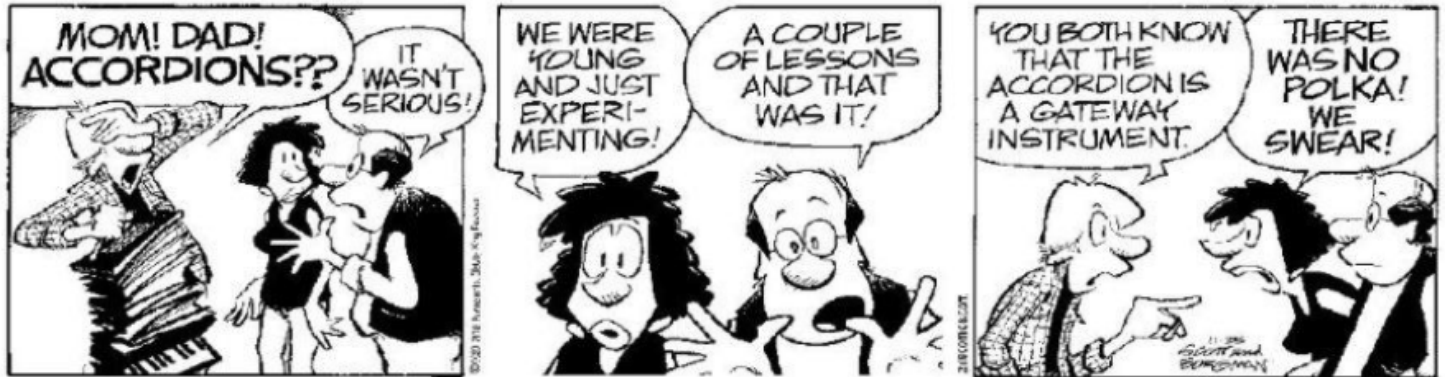
SFAC Scholarship Award

Congratulations to 10-year-old **Colin Kennedy!**

The young accordionist currently studies with **Mike Zampiceni** and performed at our October virtual club meeting. He is being awarded a San Francisco Accordion Club Scholarship, which will credit \$400 to offset lesson fees. Colin is committed to mastering the finer points of playing, and we are thrilled to hear he shows notable musical improvement and initiative. In addition to music, Colin is an avid reader who is particularly fond of Tom Clancy novels. Keep up the good work Colin, and congratulations!



ZITS



Area Accordion Groups/Clubs

Most clubs are on hiatus or meeting virtually (online). Check each club's website and/or club contacts for meeting schedules

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

Contact: Tony Mustaro, President
(707) 318-0474, dcdacapo@gmail.com

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

Humboldt Accordionaires

humsqueez44@yahoo.com

Napa Valley Accordion Party

gbachich@accordionrevival.com

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Sacramento Jammers

accordiondave1@gmail.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

www.svasociety.org

*The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization whose purpose is to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation for the accordion within the membership and throughout the general public. Donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted by using the **Donate** button at www.sfactionclub.com or by mailing your contribution to the SFAC Treasurer, Elaine Cooperstein, 539 Elsie Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577*

Accordionist Reno di Bono

Plays 6pm to 8pm each Saturday evening at:

Tre Monti Italian Restaurant
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Reservations recommended:
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SFAC — Looking Ahead!

- ◆ **December 20, 2020**
Holiday Accordion Virtual Event
 - ◆ Bonnie Birch Bavarian Band
 - ◆ Mike Zampiceni
 - ◆ Lou Jacklich
- ◆ **January 17, 2021**
SFAC Accordions Live!
Featuring (via Zoom)—from Seattle—
 - ◆ **Creosote Accordion Duo:**
 - ◆ *Jamie Maschler & Gabriel Hall-Rodrigues*

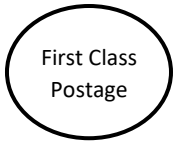
Accordions for Rent

Do you know someone interested in renting an accordion? The SFAC has four instruments available for members to rent. See our June 2020 newsletter for descriptions and rental terms.

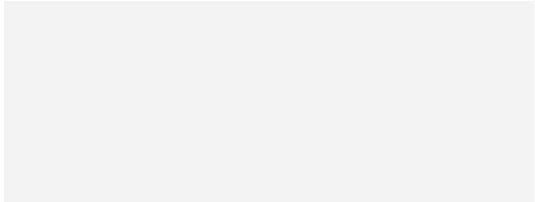


San Francisco Accordion Club
Newsletter

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



3rd Sundays – Monthly Musical Meetings

SFAC Sunday Meeting
SFAC Accordions Live! Online Musical Program
Sunday, December 20

Join us for fun and great music!
Online via Zoom
Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 4:00pm
Watch email for **ZOOM** link
RSVP Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

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Happy Holidays!