

February, 2022

♪♪ SFAC Accordion Circle ♪♪

ONLINE-ONLY "OPEN MIC" PERFORMANCES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022

VIA ZOOM - 2:00 PM

♪ SFAC Members will receive ZOOM link via email ♪

from Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com



Our February meeting will return to our traditional small, informal **Accordion Circle** format, which will be open-mic and virtual via **ZOOM**.

If you would like to play (about 5-8 minutes of performance time) simply email Ken Schwartz to request a spot on the list. Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome – from beginners to seasoned experts, and everything in-between. And, if you don't play the accordion, join in anyway to cheer on the players.

Regrettably, there will be no jam session due to the limitations of internet-based meetings. This is a great opportunity for our members to polish their stage skills and share a few favorite pieces. Even a few minutes of performance will be enjoyed by all!

An email announcement to members will be forthcoming in the week prior to the event with additional instructions on how to join the meeting. Please RSVP to us at info@sfiaccordionclub.com, so we can plan for how many will join this event.





January SFAC Event Review

By Ken Schwartz

“Music is about experiencing the inexpressible”

Michael Bridge

January 16, 2022



Our January event featured the incomparable Canadian virtuoso accordionist, **Michael Bridge**, who gave a *tour de force* performance for those of us fortunate to be in attendance. Incredibly talented, Michael performed a diverse program which featured genres ranging from classical to jazz, beautifully on an acoustic chromatic button accordion and followed by a digital chromatic button accordion. Each piece was prefaced with an historical introduction. It was nothing short of sensational!

SFAC member **Paul Cain** emceed our event and introduced Michael. Michael is based in downtown Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where he has studied at the University of Toronto for the past 11 years (nb: he’s pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts). Paul noted: his favorite Baroque instrument is the accordion! How true, Paul, as evidenced by Michael’s performance. Michael started with the acoustic accordion and opened *Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1* (J. S. Bach), one of the world’s most recognizable pieces of music. It featured a long, complex, beautiful bass solo, followed by melodies alternating between the treble and bass. Next, was the final movement of Bach’s *5th French suite in G major*, written in 1723, just shy of 300 years old but just as beautiful as ever! Next, Michael performed Bach’s *2nd* in a series of pieces he wrote called *The Inventions*. The inventions were written in each key, intended for students. It was similar to Bach’s *Well-Tempered Clavier*. This piece, *Invention #8 in F Major* featured Michael’s arrangement. You will never hear more than 2 notes played at the same time; it sounds complex, nevertheless.



Next were 2 pieces inspired by Spanish geography. First was *Spanish Dance No. 5* by Enrique Granados. This famous tune, which we’ve all heard, again beautifully performed. One could easily envision the Spanish rolling hills on a hot summer day, which inspired its composition. Next was *Asturias* by Isaac Albéniz. Originally composed for piano, it’s been transcribed and is well-known for guitar; it’s one of Michael’s all-time favorite pieces to play. It’s E minor on the guitar but has been transcribed to G minor on accordion to take advantage of the lowest bass note on the accordion, which is E in the bass! The lowest note is used to great effect.

You’ve heard this famous piece, made so special with Michael’s performance, with its long bellows shake and terrific effects. When choosing a key, which key will enable the lowest bass note to make it “really rattle!” This was a fine example!

Next was *Tsaghkats Baleni*, an Armenian waltz, which means "white cherry blossom trees" (by Khachatur Avetisyan).

Next, the operatic piece *Largo al Factotum* from Rossini’s “Barber of Seville.”

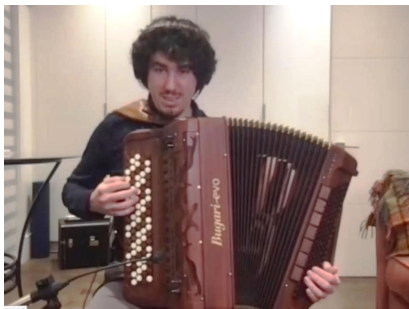
Next was Leonard Cohen’s famous *Hallelujah*, with its wonderful solemn theme.

Michael fielded a few questions during the brief intermission. He will be traveling with his clarinetist to the USA for a tour of 12 states in the Northwest between now and mid-May, including a site in Southern California (see his web site).

Bonnie Birch asked how Michael had mic’ed his accordion, which sounded so terrific. He uses DPA (Danish Pro Audio), which is made specifically for the accordion and clips onto the bass, a small basic standard mixer, which then goes into a standard USB interface to the computer. Microphones are really important, as is their placement.

Continued on next page ...

(continued) *January SFAC Event Review*



For Part 2 of today's event, Michael switched to his Bugari Evo digital accordion. The accordion is so versatile. He'd like this to be known more – it can be a soloist with a symphony orchestra or can play with any combination of other instruments; it's so exciting!

Michael performed a series of French musette tunes, starting with his terrific rendition of *Under Paris Skies* and then segued to various other French waltzes (and an American tune, *My Favorite Things* from "The Sound of Music"). No program would be complete without Astor Piazzolla. Next year will be the 100th year of his birth.

Michael performed his arrangement of Piazzolla's *Oblivion*, complete with ethereal accompaniment to complement Piazzolla's moving theme.

Next, was a rock style piece, *Palladio* (by Irish composer, Karl Jenkins), often performed by rock bands and in movies portraying huge waves buffeting large ships. This exciting piece perfectly complemented the terrific capabilities of the Bugari Evo, with heavy duty bass rock sounds and crescendo themes. This magnificent piece can really only be performed on a digital instrument, given the numerous effects musically conveyed. The bass is configured for both bass and drums (secret – the drums kick in when the bass keys are firmly pressed; less pressure presents the bass only, question from member Eric Baker). This is unique to the digital accordion, which produces a huge amount of sound. Aside from the solo bass notes, up to 3 percussion notes can be activated on any bass note. Next Michael performed *In the Mood*, made famous by Glen Miller.

Finally, Michael performed one of his signature songs and perhaps the greatest ending in history, Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*, which enabled him to win the Roland competition (and a Roland V accordion) many years ago!

Michael's website: MichaelBridge.ca, features his recordings, albums as well as a suite of digital files for sound combinations on the Roland 8x or Bugari Evo digital accordions (the suite doesn't work on the Roland 4x), including the sounds featured today.

Thank you, Michael for the spectacular performance. You were awesome! And, thank you, Paul Cain, for your terrific first time emceeing! Paul concluded and "dismissed" the class.



Don Nurisso

1943-2022

as told by Peter DiBono to Ken Schwartz

We are saddened to inform you of the passing last month of long-time club member, Don Nurisso. Don was a life-long friend of Peter Di Bono. Don was born on Mariposa Street, Potrero Hill in San Francisco in 1943. He started his accordion studies around age 7 with Bud Segheri, a local accordionist on Ocean Avenue in San Francisco; at about age 12 or 13, he switched to lessons under Dino Benetti in San Francisco. Peter was also Dino's student at that time, and that's how Don and Peter first met and became life-long friends and colleagues. Don loved to arrange and improvise on well-known standards. He was also a great fan of Art Van Damme. One of the highlights was when Don and Peter met and had lunch with Art at Cotati. Don attended Lick High School, studied mechanical engineering at UC Berkeley, and later continued his studies at Golden Gate University. He was married to Carol for 32 years and had a son, John.

From Dominic Palmisano: "Don was well appreciated through the years for his excellent skills to play the standards and jazz favorites, and participating in club-sponsored orchestras. He was a gentle and humble kind of guy!"

Our condolences to Carol and John. There will a memorial service in April.



UPCOMING SERVICE
Celebration of Life
April 2, 2022
11:00am
Auburn Presbyterian Church





A Message from the SFAC President

By Ken Schwartz

We hope 2022 will be the year more of you will want to get involved with the day-to-day operations of the Club. There are numerous opportunities, as noted elsewhere in this newsletter. Try emceeding an event, writing an event summary, contributing to the newsletter, volunteer to assist with hosting live meetings when we return to our Millbrae venue, or even join the board. As we emerge from the pandemic and ultimately meet again in-person, volunteering for our Club will be more important than ever. We can't do it without you.

Please encourage your young relatives and friends to take up the accordion for study! The Club will do all it can to make it happen for young students - it's our most important mission!

As always, please feel free to send your comments and suggestions for performers you'd like to recommend for future events to us at info@sfaccordionclub.com.

Many thanks!

Ken

Thank You, Donors!

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. We thank these members who have made extra donations during our current membership year.

Lorna Anderson; Scott T. Anderson; Dave Braun; Rosemary Busher; Raymond Celentano; George Chavez; Elaine & Robert Cooperstein; Edward Crnich; Xavier & Candace de la Prade; Christine Esteban; Terrie Frankel; Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Carlyn & Janet Jensen; Arlene Johnson; J. Robert Kennedy; Christina Knapp; Linda Lonay; Franco, Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi; Michael A. Marotta, Jr.; Nora Mazzara, James Monfredini; Anna Nicora; Laura Jean Niland; Julie Norman; Gisele B. Oakes; Colette Ogata; Robert D. & Dil Pisani; Diana Purucker; Michael Sanossian; Don & Mary Savant; Kenneth Schwartz; Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom; 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 the support and want to be sure you are recognized.

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.

Contact: Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

SFAC Scholarships

Your club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference is given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application.

eclecticguy@comcast.net

408-569-2579

Accordions for Rent

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



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Accordion Star International 2022: Virtual Accordion Competition/Festival



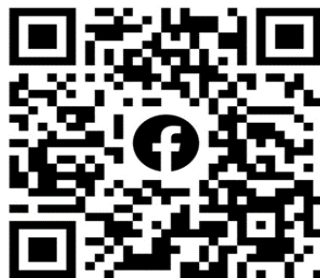
The 2nd annual *Accordion Star International Competition* and Festival takes place virtually on Facebook during April 15-24, 2022. The *ASI 2022 Competition* offers a unique opportunity for accordionists of all ages to present their artistry to an international audience of music aficionados, professional musicians, show business representatives and producers. The *ASI 2022 Festival* will host concerts, master classes, interviews and presentations by the elite competition jurors and festival guests. Accordion students, amateurs and professional accordionists of all ages are welcome to participate.

The international jury for the *ASI 2022 Competition* features leading world-class performers, teachers, composers, conductors, and producers from: USA, Canada, Russia, China, Italy, France, Germany, Ukraine, Albania, Sweden, Austria, Belarus, Cyprus, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Scotland, Serbia Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa, and other countries. Jurors will not be evaluating the competitive performances of their students nor competitors representing their country. Vyacheslav Semenov (Russia) is presiding as jury president.

Winners will be announced in 14 categories of varying genres, combos, age groups and instruments (piano, bayan, button, digital and accordion related - e.g., Bandoneon, Concertina, Melodica, Russian Garmon, any kind of national Garmon, etc.). The new categories include the “Astor Piazzolla Music Award,” and two categories “Accordion Star 37+” which have no age restrictions and are divided into amateurs and professionals.

First place winners will receive “Accordion Star International 2022 Champion” titles, cash awards and winners’ diplomas. Second and third place holders will receive laureate titles with second and third place designations on their diplomas. All competitors will be awarded diplomas indicating their average score and position in *ASI 2022’s* world ranking. Entrants need to register, submit a fee and upload their current performance to YouTube by April 7, 2022. The videos will be broadcast on an assigned date designated for the category. Additional details are described in the competition rules.

[Accordion Star International 2022](#) competition festival is supported by [Northwest Accordion Society](#), [Cotati Accordion Festival](#), [Tempo Trend Music](#), [Petosa Accordions](#), [Pigini Accordions](#) and other festivals and organizations in North America, Europe, and Asia. Program details, competition rules, judges, scheduled competition times, concerts and results will be posted on [ASI 2022’s FaceBook page](#). You may also request the rules and direct inquiries to world-class accordionist, Sergei Teleshev, ASI founder and director. For more information contact the festival team via e-mail: accostarfest@gmail.com.





**Welcome New SFAC Member
Jayden Entemann!**

Jayden Entemann is a Junior at Burlingame High School. He played piano from a very young age but recently grew to love the sound of the accordion. He hasn't played until very recently, but enjoys the feeling and sound of playing this new instrument.



SFAC Presents: March 20, 2022

Help, We Need Somebody!

A few accordion-related volunteer opportunities have come to our attention recently. Should any sound like something you have an interest in or a special talent for, be sure to reach out. Don't hesitate! **The Accordionists and Teachers Guild Int'l** is asking for administrative help. They have several "behind the scene" tasks and are a worthy cause.

Also, the student scholarship folks at the **Cotati Accordion Festival** are asking for shift help during the festival (1-2 hour shifts at the booth helps a bunch!). The festival runs Aug 19-21, 2022.

And to keep OUR organization flourishing, **The San Francisco Accordion Club is a volunteer-run organization and needs you!** Please feel free to reach out to any board member with questions on how to help out SFAC. Event write-ups for the newsletter or other article submissions are always appreciated. There are other areas in need of focus as well. If you can step up to volunteer, we would really like to hear from you! Please encourage your young relatives and friends to take up the accordion for study. The Club will do all it can to make it happen for young students – it's our most important mission!

Friends of SFAC— Accordion Groups/Clubs

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

Accordion Club of the Redwoods¹ (Santa Rosa)
Meetings 3rd Wednesdays—Cibo Rustico Pizzeria
(707) 318-0474, dcdacapo@gmail.com

Accordion Lovers Society International (ALSI)³
2nd Sundays—Mt. Miguel Covenant Village
Spring Valley, CA
gkoh15890@gmail.com (619) 427-4344

Accordionaires of Los Angeles
Online 4th Sundays³ - Meetings 3rd Tuesdays¹
Victorio's Ristorante, North Hollywood, CA
dnorferi@aol.com or "Accordionaires" on Facebook

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)¹
2nd Saturdays—Roseville, CA
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
cvalashan@aol.com (610) 209-4496

San Antonio Accordion Society²
2nd Tuesdays online - Meetings on last Tuesdays
Chester's Hamburgers, San Antonio, TX
LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)³
1st Sundays, online (in person schedule TBD)
Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos, CA (pending)
www.svasociety.org

¹ In person meeting only

² mixed: in-person and Zoom meeting

³ Zoom only meeting



ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

- ◆ Gail Campanella* GailCampanella@gmail.com
- ◆ Reno DiBono 30-minute group lessons* - Sundays
11am, request link from OurHike@AOL.com
- ◆ Lou Jacklich* 510-317-9510
- ◆ Marian Kelly 650-954-3711
- ◆ Joe Simoni* jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122
- ◆ Pamela Tom* accordionpam@gmail.com
- ◆ Joel Weber* www.ioelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com

* = remote lessons (ZOOM, Facetime, Skype) available

2022 ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

LIVE IN-PERSON & ONLINE/VIRTUAL EVENTS

Kokkola Winter Accordion Festival February 12-20

Kokkola, Finland festivals.fi/en/festivals/kokkola-winter-accordion-festival/

ATG Professional Development Workshops February 13 AND March 27

ATG.AccordionistsTeachersGuild@gmail.com

National Accordion Association Convention March 16-19

Richardson, TX www.accordions.com/naa/

A World of Accordions Museum World Accordion Day, Willard Palmer Festival and Polka Service

May 6-8 — Superior, Wisconsin—Live & Video Stream
(join list) worldofaccordions.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/worldofaccordions/survey.jsp?surveyId=1&

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 16-19, 2022 — Leavenworth, Washington
www.accordioncelebration.org

AAA Festival July 13-17, 2022 — Conshohocken, Pennsylvania

www.ameraccord.com

ATG 80th Anniversary Festival July 20-24, 2022

Chicago (Lisle), IL www.atgaccordions.com

AAA Accordion Master Class (aka *the Seminars*) July 29 - 31

Too Much Information, So Little Time But We Do It Anyway
New York, NY Contact: Accordionbill@gmail.com

Cotati Accordion Student Stage Scholarship Fundraiser

August 19, 2022 Cotati, CA

Contact: cotatiaccordionstudentstage@yahoo.com

Cotati Accordion Festival August 20-21, 2022

La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA www.cotatifest.com

Oregon Alpenfest

September 29 - October 2, 2022 — Joseph, Oregon

www.oregonalpenfest.com or alpenmeister@mail2oregon.com

Rose City Accordion Club Camp

June 4 - 9, 2023 — Eagle Creek, Oregon

maddoxfran43@gmail.com



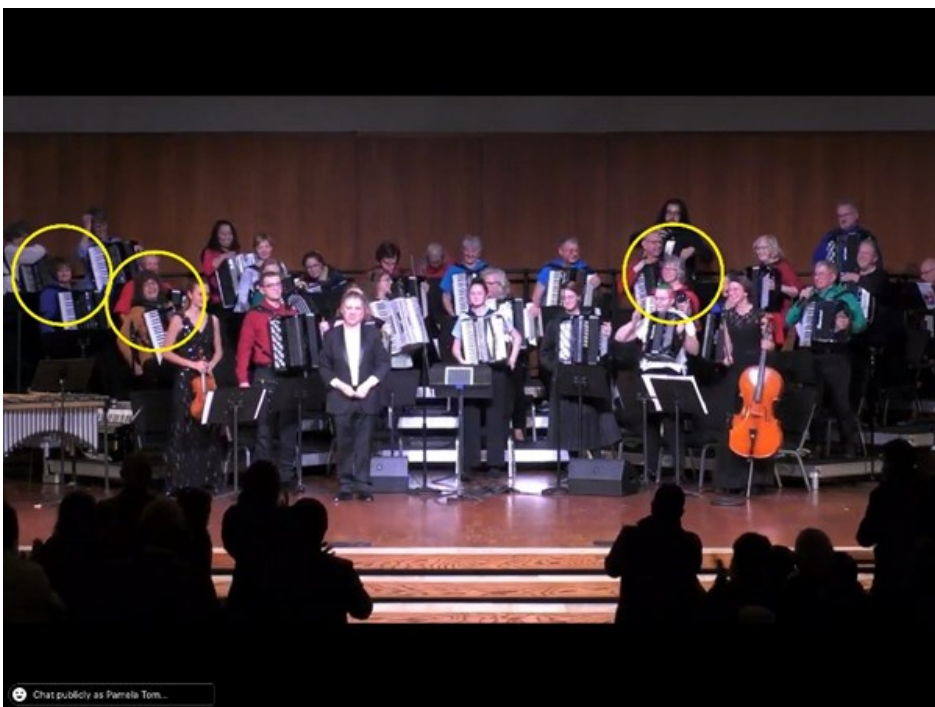
Brightly Shined the 2022 Houston Accordion Orchestra

By Pamela Tom

The 36-member 2022 Houston Accordion Orchestra and guest artists under Maestro Stas Venglevski's direction delivered an awesome performance on January 15, 2022 at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Houston, TX! With the theme **A Spectacular Collage of European Music**, highlights included Gail music from Austria, Finland, France, Italy, Russia and the UK. SFAC members participating in the Orchestra included **Gail Campanella**, **Gay Castellano**, and **Laura Jean Niland**. Gail adroitly performed her solo, Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Flight of the Bumble Bee*, with orchestral backup. Seven accomplished high schoolers participated in the Orchestra and were also featured as solo, trio and Houston Youth Accordion Ensemble playing two Astor Piazzollo works, *Bordel 1900* and *Ave Maria*, and Mozart's *Rondo Alla Turca*. The young Orchestra members were supported by scholarships from proceeds of Megumi Hada's 2021 accordion compositions (see SFAC June and December 2021 newsletters for details).

The concert was live-streamed on the Internet for a nominal fee and that's how I was able to view this outstanding program. The broadcast was professionally produced with excellent sound and video quality. The concert opened with the premiere of Stas Venglevski's composition *Miniature Overture*, a melodious work that set the pace for a wonderful concert ahead. The remaining selections comprised delightful surprises by multi-talented performers including Shirley Johnson (vocalist), Darya Kravchenko (dancer), Bruce Farrokhi (drummer), Ali Haghshenas (garmon guest artist), Gabrielle Peck (cellist), Bensen Kwan (award winning Houston-based percussionist on drums, vibraphone, tambourine guest artist), Ellina Musatov (violinist), and of course, accordionists (banyan and piano). The Russian folk tune, *Brightly Shines the Moon*,* filled with chromatic runs at warp speed showcasing the Orchestra's virtuosity, was a double treat as a program and encore piece. The Orchestra's selections were thoughtfully chosen and gave unique variety and entertainment. It was a fast-paced concert that left the audience wanting more ... as it should be! Kudos to the Orchestra, guest artists, soloists, and Stas Venglevski (conductor and director) who traveled from all parts of North America to Houston to present this annual entertaining concert!

*Link to 2005 sample recording (#15) of Stas and master mandolinist Mikhail Litvin, *Bright [sic] Shines the Moon* arranged by V. Andreyev: <https://music.apple.com/us/album/russian-fantasy/320884272>



Gail Campanella, Soloist

2022 Houston Accordion Orchestra

Front Row: Standing, Maestro Stas Venglevski

Second Row: Left, Gail Campanella and Right, Gay Castellano

Third Row: Left, Laura Niland



“IDEAS Symposium 4.0 Teaches ALL Accordionists”

by **L. Niland, an acoustic accordion player**

I just finished attending the 10-day online International Digital Electronic Accordion Society (IDEAS) Symposium 4.0 with Joe Natoli at the helm. You might ask: *What are you doing there... you are an acoustic player right?* Well, YES I am an acoustic player, but I also love LEARNING and this IS the place to be if you want to experience great teachers, thinkers and performers for all things accordion both digital AND acoustic as well as audio/video editing peripherals.

There were outstanding presentations on everything regarding digital accordions (Roland, Concerto, Bugari-EVO, Proxima) as well as instruction on video and audio editing for video presentations (glitzy shows too).

Master instructors included: Bob Donovan, Joe Natoli, Dr. Angela Natoli, Mike Soloway, Paul Pasquali, Gordon Kohl, Don Gerundo, Uwe Steger, Lenny Feldman, Don Hall, Alex Chudolij, Michael Bridge, Cory Pesaturo, Eddie Monteiro, Mitch White, Marco Cinaglia.

Two major Concerts with these Performers: Cory Pesaturo, Eddie Montiero, Joe Natoli, Michael Bridge, Kevin Solecki, Valeriya Grechenkova, Don Gerundo, Gordon Kohl, Bob Donovan, Julie Wisniewski, Uwe Steger and Annie Gong,

In addition, there were online Happy Hours with performances from participants and Attendees Concert as well.

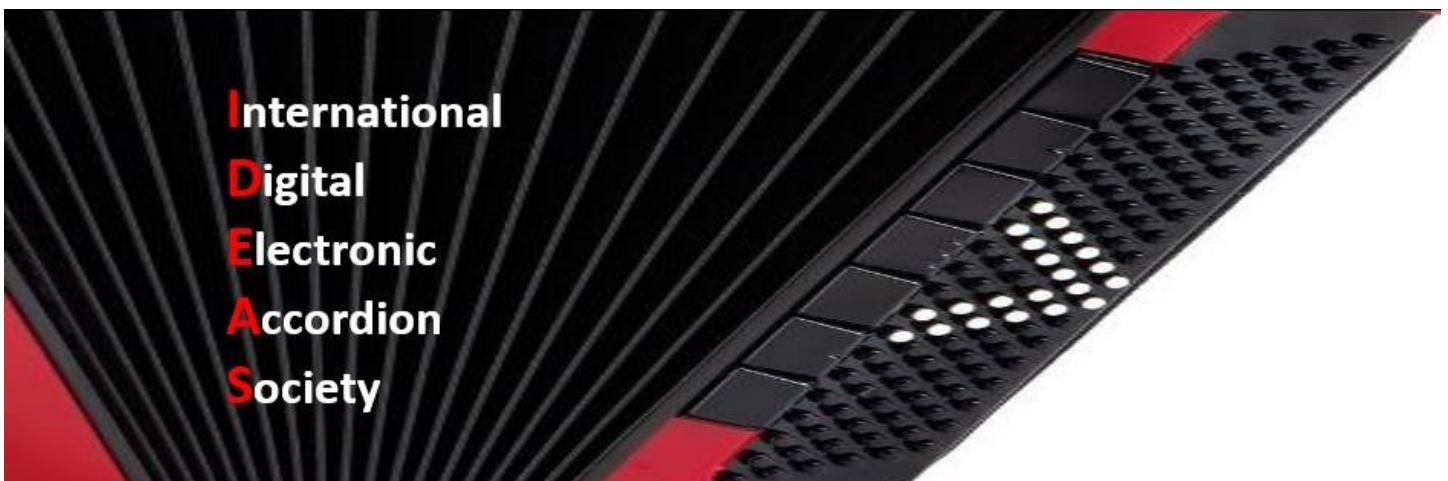
For ten days Jan 20-30, 2022 there was a plethora of wonderful workshops and online chats with the BEST instructors in the digital world sharing ideas with attendees from across the globe! Yes, folks from Australia, New Zealand, Germany and Canada too!

I loved the demonstrations of *Resolve* software (Donovan & Steger) to create professional video and audio editing. It is amazing what these programs can do on your own computer! All you need is the time to learn and apply your knowledge. Many attendees demonstrated their skills at creating videos, as they submitted these for presentation at the Attendees Concert.

What I learned is that there is SO much more that I CAN learn. Learning can be fun, especially when you meet a cadre of individuals at the Symposium with the same interests. Help is just a click away, especially in the technology age. There was so much information about electronics too, and how to resolve problems and most importantly, how to work with your new purchase, a digital accordion. Believe me, you NEED tutorial and once you have it, you are on your way to GREAT experiences with the instrument.

Although I am an acoustic player, I have great respect for the digital accordion and its incredible applications. As Mitch White would say: “Laura, we may convert you yet!” Maybe ... I am certainly thinking about it!

Many thanks to all the presenters and to Joe Natoli for his organizational skills in presenting this outstanding Symposium. I look forward to attending IDEAS Symposium 5.0. Congratulations on another successful IDEAS Symposium. I LOVED every aspect of the Symposium.





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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

IL DUETTO MUSICA (aka Paul Aebersold & Gloria Gazave) mazurkaman@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/Il-Duetto-Musica-992981207392410/

ROBERT KENNEDY robertkennedymusic.com, missionhotclub.com

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI East Bay & South Bay eclecticguy@comcast.net, www.mikezamp.com

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.sfaccordionclub.com or by mailing your contribution to the SFAC Treasurer, Elaine Cooperstein, 539 Elsie Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place 1/8-page (business-card size) free of charge for one month each year.

Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year.

Monthly ad prices for members:

1/8 page: \$10; 1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

Contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

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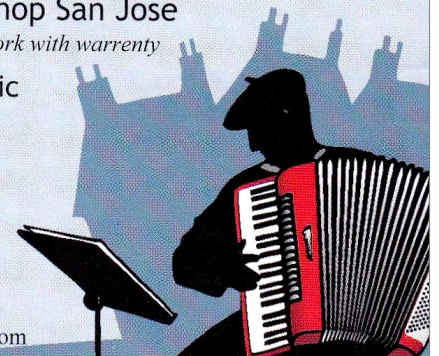
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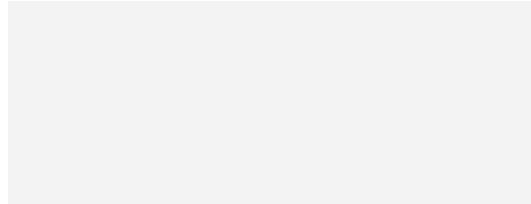
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Musical Meetings — 3rd Sundays monthly

SFAC Sunday Meeting

**ACCORDION CIRCLE! [VIA ZOOM]
ONLINE "OPEN-MIC" EVENT**

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Join us for fun and great music!
Sunday, February 20 at 2:00 pm

Check email for **ZOOM** link
See newsletter email for details, or
contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

fb.com/sanfranciscoaccordionclub

