

January, 2021

♪ ♪ *SFAC Accordions Live* ♪ ♪

ONLINE-ONLY MUSICAL PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021

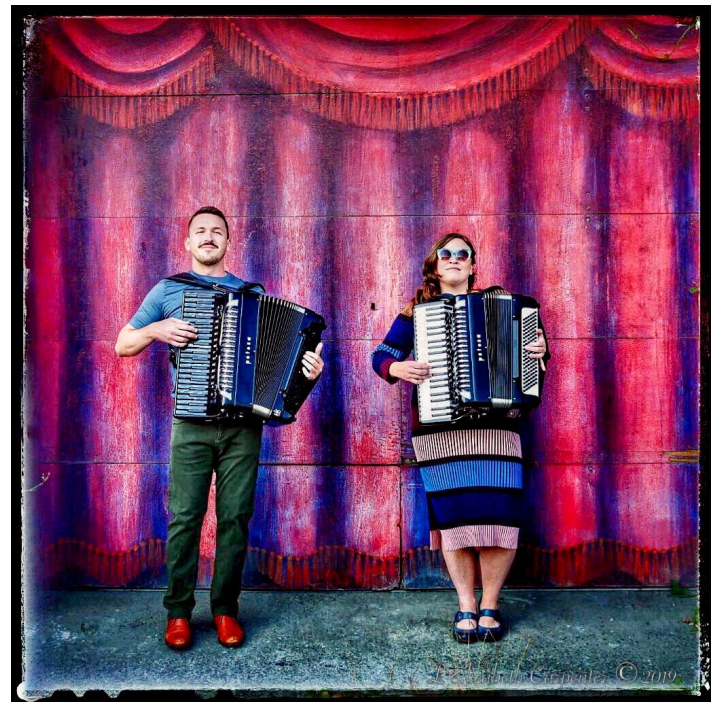
VIA ZOOM - 2:00 PM

CREOSOTE—ACCORDION DUO:

JAMIE MASCHLER & GABE HALL-RODRIGUES

SFAC MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE ZOOM LINK VIA EMAIL

from KENNETH.E.SCHWARTZ@GMAIL.COM



Creosote Accordion Duo

Jamie Maschler

Gabe Hall-Rodrigues



Creosote is the dynamic accordion duo with renowned Seattle accordionists **Jamie Maschler** and **Gabriel Hall-Rodrigues**. Together they create original and Brazilian music inspired arrangements with a unique and endearing twist. They have performed at several accordion events throughout the country, perform regularly in Seattle and recently were featured performers at the National Association of Music Merchants' (NAMM). The Museum of Making Music, located in San Diego, CA has their video *Semente* on permanent display as part of the "Accordions: Expanding Voices in the USA" exhibit.

In November 2019, the duo competed in the Trophée Mondiale in Loule, Portugal. They represented the US with original pieces and arrangements for the accordion.

Jamie and Gabe met at Petosa Accordions in Seattle, WA where they both currently work selling, teaching, and repairing accordions. The duo is currently working towards the 2021 opening of the Emerald City Accordion School, offering online accordion courses, group classes, and private instruction.

Continued on page 2

Also Performing January 17

Students of Michael Zampiceni

Siyuan

I've been musically mentoring Siyuan Liu Donnelly since he was 5 years old, and now at the advanced age of nearly 11, he's currently working on selections from Palmer-Hughes book 9 of a 10-book course. Throughout that time, Siyuan has benefitted from innate musical ability, dedication and perseverance, supportive parents, and a competent teacher.



I entered him in the Cotati student competition when he was only 6, and he was one of two award recipients. He competed each subsequent year thereafter, receiving scholarship awards each time. Last year at the age of 9, he played Charles Magnante's challenging *Waltz Allegro* among other repertoire, and won the first annual Rosa and Anthony Facciuto \$500 Scholarship at the 2019 Cotati Accordion Festival for the student who earned the top score in the Student Stage competition. Siyuan has performed several times for both our club and the Silicon Valley Accordion Society. Before his 2019 Cotati triumph, the San Francisco club awarded him a scholarship at our May, 2019 meeting, whereupon Siyuan played a well-received program.

Colin

Colin Kennedy started playing the accordion at age 8 less than two years ago after having first started piano instruction a few months prior. He was smitten with the accordion after he attended the 2019 Cotati festival, and he and his mother even had a chance to meet Cory Pesaturo while there, whom I think has become Colin's musical idol. I started working with Colin just a year ago, and he's one of my two most improved students for the past year. I recommended him for a scholarship from our club, which he received recently.

Colin feels that it's unfortunate that not many Americans play, know, and love the accordion. During his 3rd-grade school sharing, Colin played his accordion several times for his classmates. He educated them that this instrument is the "Official Instrument of San Francisco." He enjoys playing a variety of music genres, such as patriotic songs, waltzes, polkas, jazz, cowboy motifs, and many others. He has a sharp intellect and enjoys reading, especially Tom Clancy novels.



You will need a [zoom](#) meeting link that will be emailed to Club Members shortly before January 17th in order to attend. Current members will receive the link, so if your membership has lapsed or you would like to join as a new member, please check out our [Membership](#) page.

December Holiday Festival Event Summary

By Ken Schwartz

'Twas the week before Christmas and all was still, that is, unless you attended the Club's Holiday Event, which rocked with live music and an abundance of holiday cheer! Colette Ogata once again ably emceed.



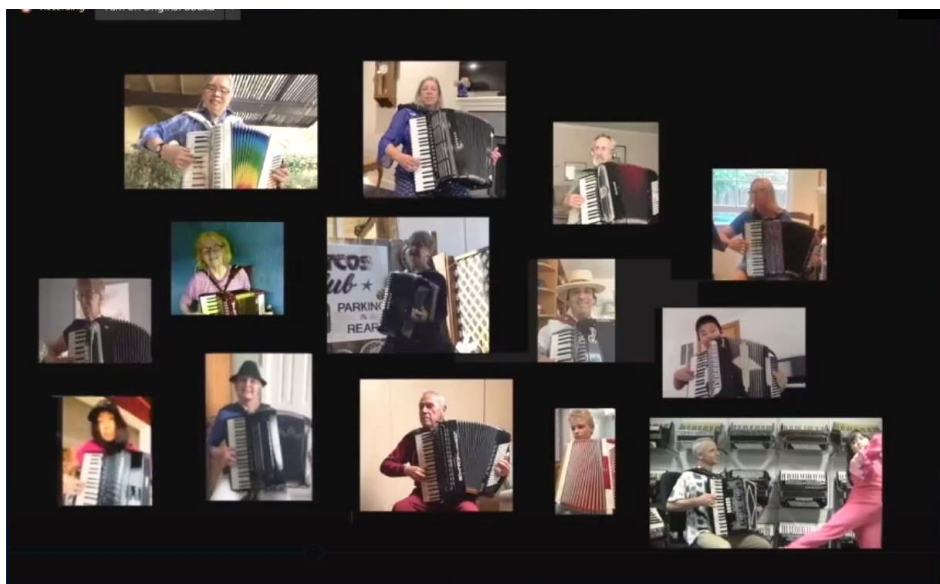
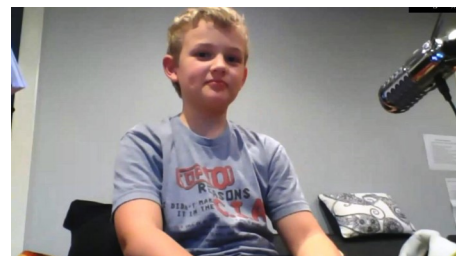
The **Bonnie Birch Bavarian Trio**, featured **Bonnie Birch** resplendent in gold sequins on accordion, Bavarian-garbed **Nick Heiting** vocalist and guitarist, and Paul Oster on the tuba. They opened with holiday tunes, including



including *March of the Toys* (Victor Herbert), a festive *Sleigh Ride* (Leroy Anderson), complete with chimes and bells, and finished with Paul's tuba-generated "cow moo." Nick sang a German folk song *on Uber and Unter Oberammergau* followed by a spirited version of the song *Apache* (arrows whizzing through the air), demonstrating Bonnie's deft playing, followed by Italian songs (Bonnie is part Italian ancestry): *Il Bacio* (Italian for *The Kiss*), followed by a tarantella and then a surprise "guest" - "Elvis" on the tuba (actually Paul with Elvis mask), performing Elvis' famous

Christmas song, *Blue Hawaii*. *The Chinese Dance* from the *Nutcracker* (Tchaikovsky), *O Tannenbaum* (with Nick's vocal accompaniment), and for an encore, a rousing rendition of *El Cubanhero/ Cumana*. Wow! Thanks for your sensational performances, Bonnie, Nick and Paul!

SFAC Scholarship Aware to Colin Kennedy: Rosemary Busher presented the Club's prestigious scholarship award to 10 year old Colin Kennedy, who studies with Mike Zampiceni! Congratulations, Colin! We're looking forward to your next performance!



World Premier Lady of Spain Video: Marilyn Valentino presented a world premiere of her SFAC video from the August, 2020 Cotati Accordion Festival. This year's festival was held virtually; the organizers invited participants to submit *Lady-of-Spain* videos. Marilyn reached out to the 13 SFAC members who participated, and created a unique video featuring just them. We really enjoyed and will treasure this unique video!

Continued on next page ...

(Continued) December Event Summary

By Ken Schwartz

Lou Jacklich

Mr. Jacklich thrilled us with the classic American composition, *On the Trail* from *The Grand Canyon Suite* (Ferde Grofé), complete with harmonica-like tremolos and played out of meter to mimic the gait of the mule ride down the narrow Grand Canyon trail; followed by his own arrangement of a tribute to George Gershwin, featuring *Rhapsody in Blue*, *The Man I Love*, *S'wonderful*, *I Got Rhythm*, and *An American in Paris* and other themes. It was nothing less than a tour de force! Next was one of this writer's favorite Jacklich pieces, another American classic – *Holiday for Strings* (composed by David Rose, it was the theme song for the Red Skelton TV show), which Mr. Jacklich performed effortlessly.

There are few single notes; it's mostly written in fast, 5-fingered pizzicato chords and soaring melodies. Then he performed *Malagueña* (Ernesto Lecuona) (with an unbelievably long bellows shake) and *Misty*. As an *en-core*, Mr. Jacklich performed one of his signature songs—the incredible *Kitten on the Keys*. Colette requested a 2nd encore of her favorite Jacklich song, Ernie Felice's arrangement of *I'm in the Mood for Love*, beautifully performed, of course! Thank you so much, Mr. Jacklich, for inspiring us with your always powerful performances!



Special Guest, Mr. Harvey Tarter (Oceanside, NY)

Ken Schwartz introduced his special guest, Mr. Harvey Tarter, who was Ken's accordion teacher in Long Island, NY from age 9 – 13. Mr. Tarter (Harvey) was a precocious age 16 when he established his 1st accordion studio in his parents' home; Ken became his student when Harvey was well established at age 18. Ken sent a letter to Harvey 10 years ago congratulating him on his 50 years of teaching (Harvey was now in Oceanside, Long Island, NY) but they never spoke until this month, when an invitation was extended for today's meeting, marking more than 60 years since becoming his student. Nowadays, Harvey



teaches mostly piano – there just aren't that many students of accordion, at least on Long Island. Ken recalled how Harvey enrolled him in the AAA National Accordion Championship in New York City at age 11 to perform Czardas (Monti). He didn't win in his age category – he missed a note! Ken "promises" not to miss it when he performs this for the club, hopefully with Harvey in attendance. Thank you for making such a difference in my musical life, Harvey! Best wishes for many more years of instruction!



Mike Zampiceni

Mike rounded out the afternoon with his great virtuoso renditions of holiday songs and superb vocals, including *Jingle Bell Rock*, *Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!*, *Winter Wonderland*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* (first introduced by Judy Garland in *Meet Me in St Louis*) followed by accordion/vocal of *Feliz Navidad* (Feliciano) and then a $\frac{3}{4}$ beat version of *Greensleeves* and a wintry

Continued on next page ...

(Continued) December Event Summary

By Ken Schwartz

Sleigh Ride. Next were Mike's swing/vocal renditions of *Jingle Bells*, *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, *White Christmas* (Irving Berlin), *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, and for an encore *Silent Night*. Wow! Mike's terrific playing and vocals have become a club holiday favorites; today was no exception and was perfect to round out our musical year! Many thanks for your terrific performance, Mike! It was perfect!

It's been such a difficult year in so many ways! We hope our 2020 holiday event brought you much joy as we look forward to a better 2021!



Wishing You Health and Happiness in the New Year!

New Member Betty Quarles

Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Sister, Friend and recently retired Pharmaceutical Clinical Researcher, I moved from the Bay Area to North Las Vegas a year ago and am now living in a desert cradle surrounded by beautiful mountains that can be seen in all directions. Sitting on the patio at night listening to music and enjoying the warm night air is uplifting to my soul.

I love music from all over the world and was introduced to a live performance of accordion music over 20 years ago by Ken Schwartz, a long-time colleague and friend. Ken performed at company functions and private parties and it was always a joy to listen and watch the enthusiasm and vigor he exuded when performing. I joined the San Francisco Accordion Club for the entertaining live performances by various artists and absolutely enjoyed the first event attended last month and look forward to attending many more in the future.



Welcoming Paul Cain to serve on the SFAC Board of Directors



A native of Carmel, California, I grew up appreciating the central coast for its natural beauty and musical diversity. My first summer job in high school was as a stage hand for the Carmel Bach Festival. I have remained a part of that festival for more than 30 years now!

Working as a touring audio engineer, I have staged theatrical productions in all 50 states. For years, I toured the US with musical theatre companies. Having seen the nation, I went on to tour the world producing on-board shows for the cruise industry.

Since 1998, I have provided sound, lighting and video support for local non-profit and educational organizations on the Monterey Peninsula pertaining to their recurring events and fund-raising activities.

I currently live in Prunedale CA with wife Bree, daughter Pele and about 100 accordions. I have taught myself piano accordion, chromatic accordion, diatonic accordion, english concertina, anglo concertina, hybrid bandoneon, Stradella bass and free-bass. I never met an accordion I didn't like!



Sad Farewell to SFAC Member **Dominic Granelli**

1930-2020

A loyal SF Accordion Club member since 2006, Dominic passed away on December 17, 2020 at the age of 90. Many may remember sitting nearby him in the audience or chatting with him during the break, he regularly attended our meetings and we were happy to have him. In fact, he was featured in the July 2017 "Guess Who" column where he shared the story of returning home from the Korean War to find out his parents had sold his accordion! That didn't stop him; at 75 years young he got another accordion and was part of the community after that. Rest in Peace, Dominic.



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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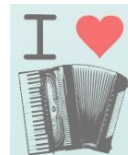
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JOEL WEBER (510) 655-4398

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

MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579 MikeZamp.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

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

TANGONERO (Alexander Roitman)
www.tangonero.com

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties
accordionpam@gmail.com

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

It's a Wrap!

Time now to take a glance back at 2020 with a positive spin. Our club is thriving and the on-line platform offering global capabilities transformed us and provided a boost. That being said, we can't wait to meet again *live and in person* – live music is simply not replaceable. While we appreciate all the contributing musicians, in the interest of space, this is a summary of the most notable performances. The year was neatly bookended by **Bonnie Birch** in January and then again in December. My goodness, what a fine accordionist she is! Way back in February we celebrated several distinguished club members known in part for their longevity and accordion talent. Yes, a great big birthday cake for the ninety-year-old set was shared right before things locked down. No candles were blown out over that cake that day, and not because of Covid rules: it was simply a case of forgetting to bring candles. In March we hosted husband and wife team from Lithuania **Augustinas Rakauskas** and **Greta Staponkute**, aka **Tutto a Dio**. Drama ensued as their tour was cut short, but only after they had played a beautiful set for us over YouTube. The next morning they were up and out the door to SFO just prior to lockdown. So it was at that March meeting that we scrambled to offer our first ever on-line event, and history was in the making. In May we welcomed to the virtual stage our friend from Santa Barbara, the beloved **Gail Campanella**. The June extravaganza of solos by ten club members showed great participation as we remotely cheered each one. July was a fun juxtaposition of two countries represented (Scotland & Brazil!) with legendary **Gary Blair** playing his super fast tempo, followed by bandoneon player with a tango flair, **Adrian Jost**. That was a fun afternoon! Other highlights of the year include a joyful set from **Alicia Baker Straka** (September) and the headliner who needs no introduction, **Cory Pesaturo** (November). Whew! If you are reading this you probably attended a couple of the meetings described here. We sincerely hope you enjoyed those memorable gatherings filled with good people and good music.

In other exciting SFAC news, **Paul Cain** joined the SFAC Board of Directors recently, and late last year a proud recipient secured the prestigious SFAC Scholarship. It pleases us no end when youngsters find interest in furthering accordion studies and skills, and we hope it isn't too far of a stretch to think that you share the sentiment.

Taking musical steps forward, we embark on 2021 ever grateful for good health and with a big dose of hope. Moreover, we extend a warm welcome to the many new members who have joined as well as appreciate sustaining members who reliably hang in there with us! We consider ourselves a "social club" as well as a musical one, so seeing so many friends on Zoom makes it worthwhile. We enjoy seeing you all!

Programming for future meetings continues to evolve and we strive to keep them as meaningful, entertaining and interesting as is possible on Zoom. The music is live (not prerecorded!) and we consider this part of the charm, despite occasional internet interruptions.

Meeting emcee duties were handled by a whole team of people that included **Ken Schwartz**, **Colette Ogata**, **Elaine Cooperstein** and **Steve Marshall** – thanks for stepping up! Special thanks to **Marilyn Valentino** for contributing to the holiday online play-along experiment and for producing the clip of club members joining in at the traditional Cotati *Lady of Spain*. Many from the group said they found playing and taping from home easier than the usual cacophonous experience at La Plaza Square! In any event, it's the spirit that counts – amirite?!



Membership Update *by Robert Cooperstein, Membership Director*

Our newest club member is **Laura Jean Niland**, of San Antonio, Texas. Laura is the director and lead accordionist of the Yellow Rose Accordion Band, formed in 2013. Laura is also the President of the San Antonio Accordion Association and editor of its newsletter, *Bellow Tones*. We are delighted to have another accomplished accordionist taking part in our club!

Speaking of accomplished accordionists, we would also like to welcome back **Richard Yaus**, of Norwalk CT, whose recent renewal capped the end of the membership drive. Many of you will remember that Richard conducted 3 Accordion Orchestra Projects (AOP) in 2013-2015 before leaving the Bay Area, and several of you actually performed in this most memorable orchestra. Accordion Pam has posted several videos of the [2015 AOP on YouTube](#).

I have very good news for all of you. I will not begin pestering you for our next renewal drive until some time in September 2021!

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, Jerry Keifer, 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.

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

Non-member rates are double.

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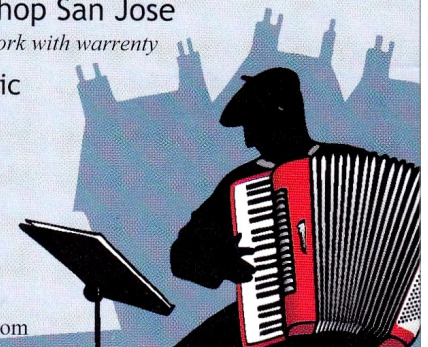
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Holiday Soirée Connects Accordionists at Christmas

Pamela Tom and Kaisu Lankinen

Family and friends joined together in a socially distanced accordion soirée on Christmas Day. Due to mandatory Covid-19 isolation, Zoom (a video and chat service software) was used to host a fun-filled, quick-paced, 2-hour interactive Internet session of good cheer with:

- ◆ play-along carols with band parts
- ◆ novel holiday-themed videos
- ◆ 8 solo performers
- ◆ carol trivia game with prize
- ◆ story sharing
- ◆ toast for a better year ahead

Guests from California, Finland, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, and Texas tuned in for this intimate musical gathering that included Christmas experiences with the accordion. Players and singers at home muted their microphones and accompanied lead accordionists (**Pamela Tom, Lou Le Brun** and **Lorna Andersson**) on Zoom. Show-and-tell with a favorite holiday treasure (ornament, recipe, etc.) or story helped folks connect with each other.

Specially chosen short public and private videos helped round out the entertainment. Multi-talented **Elena Stenkina** (see



photos) gave us permis-

sion to access and show her lighthearted, refreshing *Jingle Bells* 2016 YouTube video (with over 20K views). Elena also graciously treated our soirée to a personalized *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* video and audio greeting! Elena has been an international professional accordionist for over 20 years. She has performed at numerous venues including the Carnival and Princess cruise lines, NagaWorld casino, Glow Show World Events and the Great Moscow State Circus! She is the silver medal winner in the Music “Original” category in Hollywood’s 2019 *World Championship of Performing Arts*. Her video highlights are at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ElenaStenkinaAccordion>.

Zoom was key to celebrating the 2020 Yule season with joy. A group of up to 25 households lets everyone be seen in one gallery screen. A memorable time was had by all at the soirée!



Pamela advises: *the value of the bulleted items in the article helps give others ideas on how they can use Zoom to host their own party (Valentine, Mardi Gras, Spring, birthday, anniversary, etc.). The caveat is that a lot of planning takes place and the event goes by at a quick pace. It's best to have an emcee with co-host to facilitate admissions, muting, etc.*

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Leavenworth International Accordion

Northwest Accordion Society

June 17 - 20, 2021

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"

www.accordioncelebration.org

Elena Fainshtein—Light classical AND Pop

Not Just OOM-PAH! Online Workshops & Concert

Monday & Tuesday Feb. 22-23, 5:00—7:30 pm Pacific

Registration www.NotJustOompah.org (\$65 incl. materials)

Elena & Gregory Fainshtein - Facebook concert

Sunday, February 21, 2021, 1:00-2:00 pm Pacific

<https://www.facebook.com/elena.fainshtein.5>

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Kim & Dan Christian

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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

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SFAC — Looking Ahead!

♦ January 17, 2021

SFAC Accordions Live!

Featuring (via Zoom)—from Seattle—

♦ **Creosote Accordion Duo:**

Jamie Maschler & Gabriel Hall-Rodrigues

♦ February 21, 2021

SFAC Accordion Circle! Member participation

♦ Open mic

♦ via Zoom

♦ March 21, 2021

SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring (via Zoom)—

♦ **Kim & Dan Christian**

Accordionist Reno di Bono

Plays 6pm to 8pm each Saturday evening at:

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Los Altos, CA 94022

Reservations recommended:

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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

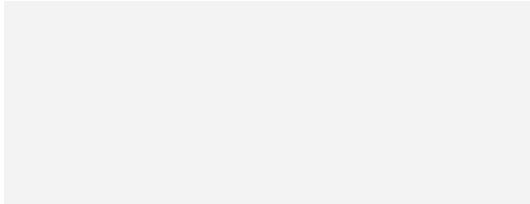
Sacramento Jammers

accordiondave1@gmail.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

www.svasociety.org

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



3rd Sundays – Monthly Musical Meetings

SFAC Sunday Meeting

SFAC Accordions Live!

Online Musical Program

Creosote - Accordion Duo

Sunday, January 17

Join us for fun and great music!

Online via Zoom

Sunday, January 17, 2021 – 2:00 pm

Watch email for **ZOOM** link

RSVP Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

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Happy New Year!

