

March, 2024

Sunday, March 17, 2024

♪♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪♪

Online-only Concert Performance!

Alicia Jo Straka

via ZOOM - starts at 3:00PM PT

♪ Members will receive Zoom link via email ♪



Alicia Jo Straka, previously Alicia Baker, is a professional accordionist, pianist, and vocalist from Portland, OR, currently residing in Denver, CO.

Alicia received three bachelor of arts degrees from Oregon State University and a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from University of Colorado, Boulder.

Throughout her years as a student, Alicia had the honor of being a sponsored accordion and piano artist for the prestigious company, Roland, and has won many International accordion competitions. Most recently, Alicia had the honor of premiering a work featuring accordion and soprano voice at both the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, and Carnegie Weill Hall in New York.

Alicia's repertoire spans a wide variety of musical genres, including; jazz, pop, french musettes, opera, folk songs, polkas, contemporary, classical, romantic, and techno. She is also a composer and often features her own arrangements in concert.

Alicia has created a unique show for her audiences by combining accordion with her accomplished voice. Known for accompanying herself on operatic arias, and playing modern styles like techno, pop, and jazz; she is passionate about reinventing the face of accordion in today's world. Alicia currently spends her time teaching private students, performing, composing, and arranging.

This little vignette only scratches the surface! Please visit Alicia's website: aliciajostraka.com to learn more about this talented and delightful artist.



SFAC ZOOM performance, September 2020

East Meets West!

SFAC East Bay Accordion Circle, February 25, 2024

Kenneth Schwartz

February's Accordion Circle in Piedmont, our first meeting not in Millbrae since we moved our programs there from Oyster Point several years ago, was attended by an enthusiastic group of accordionists and friends, some 27 in all, most of whom were new to our Club! One new member joined on the spot; we believe others will follow as well. Several expressed interest in formal lessons.

The Piedmont High School Student Center was charming, with wood-beamed ceilings, great acoustics, and lots of room to spread out. We're informed that the Student Center building was constructed as part of the President Roosevelt era Work Progress Administration (WPA) program, while the country was in the throes of the Great Depression. The building has been preserved for its historic and architectural value, while most of the remainder of the campus is new construction. Needless to say, everyone loved the setting!

The meeting was capably emceed by Rosemary Busher, with Ken Schwartz also chiming in. There were a few minor glitches, to be expected with a new venue, including searching for electrical outlets (it's an older building) and some technical issues with Zoom, due to loss of battery power on a laptop computer (my oversight), but that said, everyone had a wonderful time and guess what – our East Bay members want us to return soon!

Fourteen talented accordionists participated in the jam session, skillfully led by Joseph Martin. Practice counts – the group performed a great rendition of the *Boogie Woogie Swing* for its finale. Following a terrific jam session, several in the group offered to play a few solo songs.

Scott Anderson led off with a lovely rendition of *Fascination*, which he started out as a waltz before transposing the key up a 4th and changing the rhythm to a rumba. Well done, Scott! Next, Scott played Beethoven's *Für Elise*, also well done.

Next up was Thomas Seiter, who played several songs. A native of Germany, Thomas leads the group **Polkageist West**, which performs around the Bay. Thomas thrilled us with a rousing singing rendition of *Bluegrass Polka*; followed by a bit of the story of his life and then something really special – *Jambalaya*, which he sang to entertain all in the Circle. Thomas then played a terrific duet of *Beer Barrel Polka* with Mike Zampiceni, who both played and sang. The duo had everyone stompin' on the floor. We wish you all could have been there to enjoy it! Mike then soloed with *Norwegian Wood* and his own wonderful and most unexpected version of *I Can't Get No Satisfaction!!*

Next, Ken Schwartz borrowed Rosemary Busher's small Giuletti and played *A Gay Ranchero* followed by *Sabre Dance*. Finally, Edward Spondike, via Zoom from Ohio, played a wonderfully melodic composition of his called *Listen to the Rain*, followed by Neil Baker's *A Waltz For Lily*.

Many thanks to Rosemary Busher, who was the spark for and lead organizer for this first ever East Bay meeting; to Randy Hicks, who located the venue; to Joseph Martin for leading the jam session; and to our teachers in attendance, Joel Weber and Mike Zampiceni, for providing encouragement and inspiration to their students.

We wish all of you could have been at the meeting. It was a wonderful, warm introduction to our East Bay colleagues, who are waiting for us to return. Stay tuned!

Thanks, all!



March President's Report

Ken Schwartz



February's successful East Bay meeting was a great example of new avenues for the Club's continuing efforts to promote and stimulate appreciation for the accordion. The meeting was well attended and many in attendance were new to the Club! Everyone had a wonderful time with the jam session, performing and singing solos, meeting new colleagues, and sharing our common interests. There will be more such get-togethers!

Continuing our theme of outreach, we have some exciting events planned in coming months:

- ◆ **Festa Italiana**, Sunday, June 2nd in Little Italy, San Francisco. This will be our 2nd year of participation at this festival. Last year was highly successful, so please mark your calendars. We hope some of you will want to volunteer to man our display – if it's anything like last year, it will be busy!
- ◆ **Cotati Accordion Festival**, August 16-18. We'll be there again, in force! This too will be busy and a great opportunity to meet fellow accordionists from all over!
- ◆ **East Bay Meetings**. We plan to return and will announce dates, as soon as we secure the venue.

We're off to a great start in 2024, please stay tuned!

SFAC Membership Report

Robert Cooperstein



I am pleased to report that our Club added several new members in February. Let me start with **Grace Wu**, who was *gracious* enough to provide a short bio. She writes: "My name is Grace! I'm an amateur accordion player currently living in Hayward. I first picked up the instrument a few years ago because of a video game character, so I like to transcribe and play video game music. Although I love listening to any genre of accordion music!" Also joining last month, let us welcome **Maggie Resnick** of El Cerrito and **Ron Michael-Greenberg** of Oakland.

Thank You, Donors!

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. These members have made extra donations during our current membership year (October 2023-September 2024):

Paul Aebersold; Lorna Anderson; Scott Anderson; Ron Borelli; Rosemary Busher; Gail Campanella; Raymond Celentano; George Chavez; Elaine & Robert Cooperstein; Edward Crnich; Xavier & Candace de la Prade; Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; John Lister; Linda Lonay; Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi; Ed Massolo; James Murdoch; Laura Jean Niland; Colette & Casey Ogata; Paul Pasquali; David Perry; Robert D. & Dil Pisani; Nadia Poskatcheeva; Don Savant; Kenneth Schwartz; James Shoemaker; Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom; Jane & Frank Tripi; Frank Venturelli; Carol Whitehead; Barbara Winter; 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.



Ron Borelli, Accordionist

Contact information:

- Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM
- WEBSITE: RONBORELLI.COM
- TEXT/PHONE: 415-203-6700

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

Ken Schwartz, President

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

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

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

Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

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Webmaster & Bookkeeping: Randall Hicks

Newsletter: Content, Layout, Edit, Printing, Labeling, Mailing

Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher (and credited contributors each issue)

Accordion Rentals: Rosemary Busher

Live Meeting Sound & Amplification: Paul Cain

Live Meeting ZOOM camera & sound: Ken Schwartz

Membership Drive & Recordkeeping: Robert Cooperstein

Chiropractic and Accordions, a Strange Brew

Robert Cooperstein



Sometimes there is no good explanation for events and circumstances to have become almost impossibly intertwined. Such is the case for Elaine and me, who keep finding our accordion lives jumbled up with our chiropractic careers.

The first instance came about when we began attending meetings of the SFAC at Oyster Point, our former venue. Lynn Ewing was the President at that time. Somehow in conversation with Elaine, Lynn mentioned that Bill, her former husband, just happened to be the current President of Palmer West, a chiropractic college in San Jose. Well, not only had Bill been Elaine's boss at the chiropractic college in Iowa before she moved to California, but I was employed by Palmer West at the time and had known Bill since 1985! Three decades prior, when I worked for another college, Bill and I each represented our respective Bay Area chiropractic colleges at research conferences.

The second instance came about when I, in casual conversation with SFAC member Dr. Scott Anderson, learned that Dr. Scott was a PhD in anthropology and an MD, to boot. My jaw hung when I heard that, because in the early '90s I had inherited a quarterly column writing for **Dynamic Chiropractic**, a trade journal, from a person who may have been the chiropractic profession's first triple degree doctor: PhD (anthropology, of course), MD, and DC. In fact, I had shared classes with this person, Dr. Robert Anderson (a real kidder in those days), when he was earning his chiropractic degree in the early 1980s! Scott broke out in a huge grin – "Well, that's Bob, my father!" Who woulda thunk it, I had inherited *his father's* column in this trade journal! By the way, with a circulation of around 50,000, it featured my face 4 times a year and sort of made me well known in the profession. I still have articles and columns written by Dr. Anderson.



The third chiropractic-accordion entirely unexpected confluence occurred just 2 weeks ago in Las Vegas, where I had been invited to speak at a truly huge chiropractic seminar. Running into Sherry, a former student of mine from the early '90s (who at this time is a prominent spokesperson for the chiropractic profession), somehow



it came up in conversation that she is the grandniece of none other than Lawrence Welk, that she is mentioned in a book about him, and that her mother had been given three of Welk's earliest accordions! Yes, she also knew Myron Floren and his sister Val Brewer, who played for the SFAC in October, 2010.

Guess it's a small world.



Your Chewing Gum **Does** Lose Its Flavor on the Floor Overnight!

The meeting on Sunday, February 25th was a lot of fun and felt very joyous. Less joyous was discovering a great big wad of fresh chewing gum on the floor! This is totally NOT OK and left to yours truly to clean up.

~Rosemary



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

Searching for Lou Soper's Easy Musical Chord Retention Method, Volumes One & Two

If your collection of sheet music includes these volumes, please let us know. It would be greatly appreciated. (See page 6 for samples of Mr. Soper's material)

info@sfaccordionclub.com

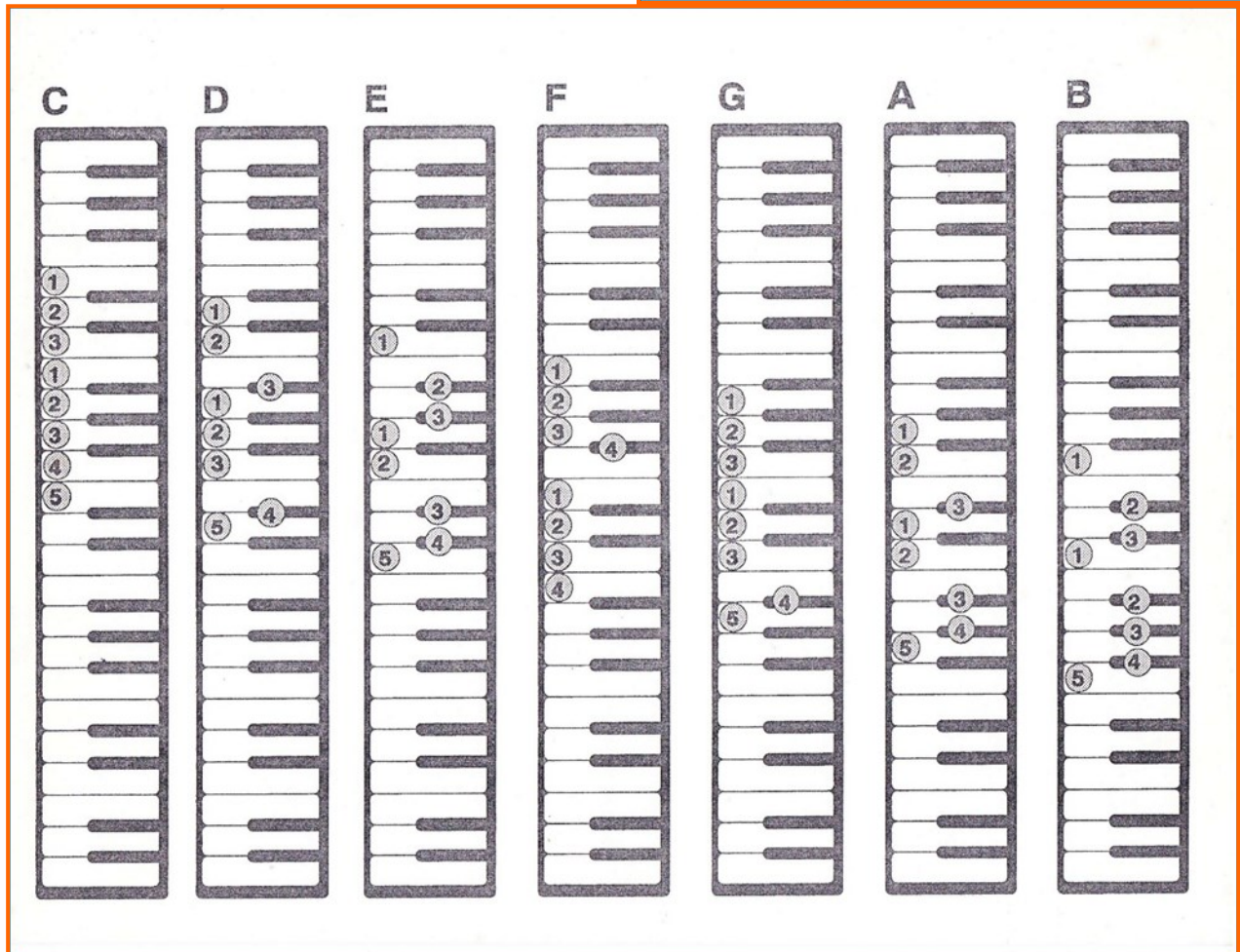
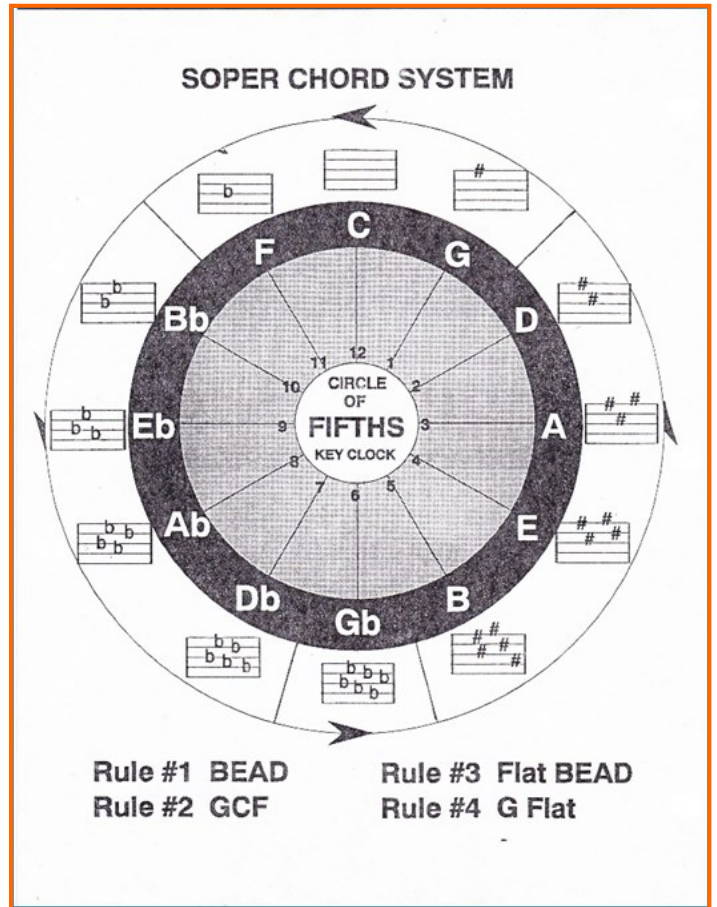
Lou Soper (center) — SFAC Founders



From left: Dominic Palmisano, Jim Holliday, Lou Soper, Rusty Bartoli, Walter Traverso

When asked what the highlights of his career have been, Lou cites four events: Co-founding the Bay Area Accordion Club (now called the San Francisco Accordion Club — ed). Helping to start the Cotati Accordion Festival; being a featured performer at Art Van Damme’s 75th birthday party; and playing a tribute to his buddy, Jim Boggio, at Jim’s funeral. (See photo of Boggio, page 7)

<https://cotatifest.com/2019/01/30/the-founders-of-the-bay-area-accordion-club-baac/>



Memories

From the files of SFAC Historian Frank Schlotter - selections from a donation to the SFAC from his Estate



Jim Boggio was a co-creator of the Cotati Accordion Festival



SAN FRANCISCO ACCORDION CLUB - FUN BAND
February 18, 2004

Front Row-left to right - Valerie Kieser, Janet Stechholtz, Gwyn Lister, Sharon Walters Greyhosky, Director, Lee Woodall, Anne Metais, Barbara Corsiglia. Back Row-left to right - Telmo Echeverria, Mel Schwing Sr., Bob Smith, Scott Williamson, Gus Greyhosky, Vic Corsiglia, James Firpo, Victor Amenta and Frank Schlotter, Band Manager & Administrator.

SFAC COMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!



March 17, 2024 – Alicia Jo Straka - Live online via **ZOOM**



April 21, 2024 – Steve Albini
(Live at Chetcuti Community Center!)

May 12, 2024 - Accordion Circle
Live at Chetcuti Community Center



June 16, 2024 - Gary Blair in person at Chetcuti!

July 28, 2024 - SFAC Club Picnic, Beresford Park

SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

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

JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay* -
www.alpinersusa.com
or www.capricious-accordion.com

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

PAMELA TOM *Yolo & Solano Counties*
accordionpam@gmail.com

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



ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

East Bay

- ◆ Lou Jacklich 510-317-9510
- ◆ Joel Weber* www.ioeastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ Anand Joseph* 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ Joe Simoni* jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122
- ◆ Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ Anand Joseph* 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ Gail Campanella* GailCampanella@gmail.com 805-895-0457 (Santa Barbara)
- ◆ Bonnie Birch* www.bonniebirch.com (Seattle)
- ◆ Pamela Tom* accordionpam@gmail.com (Davis)
- ◆ Lorna Anderson* 910-215-5757 (Pinehurst, NC)

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



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ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Rose City Accordion Camp

Conductors: Gabe Hall-Rodrigues & Gail Campanella
Instructors: Jamie Tischler & Courtney von Drehle
June 2 - 7, 2024

rosecityaccordionclub.org

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

Northwest Accordion Society
June 20 - 23, 2024

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"

www.accordioncelebration.org

Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG)

2024 Festival—Honoring Joan C. Sommers

Kansas City, Missouri

July 23 - 27, 2024

<https://www.atgaccordions.com/2024-festival>

Cotati Accordion Festival

LaPlaza Park, Cotati, California

August 16 - 18, 2024

<https://cotatifest.com/>

Online/Virtual Events:

Monthly: 1st & 3rd Monday - Joseph Natoli

JANPress University - Topics vary monthly (\$)

janpressmusic@yahoo.com

Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:30-6:30 PM (free)

Hosted by Laura Niland LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Monthly: 3rd Sunday - Gordon Kohl Workshop

Topics vary (\$) gkohl5890@gmail.com

Members - If you know of an accordion-centric festival or event in 2024 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact us at info@sfacaccordionclub.org



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



Rose City Accordion Club Camp

Register Now

Spots fill up quickly for the Rose City Accordion Camp, which will be held June 2-7, 2025 at Alton Collins Retreat Center in Eagle Creek, OR. Participants are reminded to secure their orchestra slot and room at the lodge early. This year marks the 25th anniversary for the RCAC. RCAC conductors are Gabe Hall-Rodrigues and SFAC Member, **Gail Campanella**. Courtney Von Drehle and Jamie Maschler are the RCAC workshop instructors. A non-refundable deposit of \$300 is required to hold your space. Contact Delette Huffman, RCAC Camp Director, if you have questions. E-mail: huffy0421@gmail.com



2023 RCAC Orchestra

Friends of SFAC— Accordion Groups/Clubs

Check websites or contacts to verify 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)¹
2nd Sundays—Mt. Miguel Covenant Village
Spring Valley, CA
gkohl5890@gmail.com (619) 395-0454

Friends of the Accordion (FOTA)
formerly Accordionaires of Los Angeles
MeetUps in North Hollywood & Long Beach, CA
dnorferi@aol.com or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1045691515515866/>

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)¹
2nd Saturdays—Roseville, CA
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Jerry Kiefer, President (916) 652-0836

San Antonio Accordion Society
2nd Tuesdays online³ - Meetings on last Tuesdays¹
Chester's Hamburgers, San Antonio, TX
LauraJNiland@outlook.com

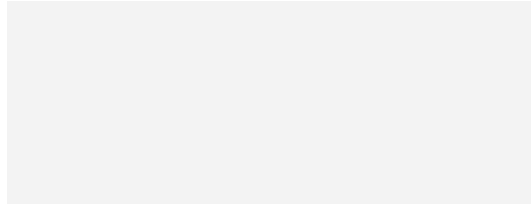
Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)¹
1st Sundays
Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos, CA
www.svasociety.org

¹ In person meeting only

² mixed: in-person and ZOOM meeting

³ ZOOM only meeting

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Upcoming: **March 17** Alicia Jo Straka *via ZOOM only*
April 21 Steve Albini - *Live, In-Person (Millbrae) & ZOOM*
May 12 Accordion Circle - *Live at the Chetcuti Community Center!*

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordions Live! (via ZOOM)

Alicia Jo Straka

Online only

Sunday, March 17

Join us for fun and great music!

SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email

Watch your email for details, or contact

info@sfaccordionclub.com

fb.com/sanfranciscoaccordionclub

