

San Francisco Accordion Club

NOVEMBER 2013

NEWSLETTER



**Playing
November 17,
2013
at 2 p.m.**

We are thrilled to feature the **Peter DiBono Trio** at this month's meeting. **Peter DiBono**, accordion, **Harriet Newhart**, violin, and **Steven Hanson**, bass, have been entertaining audiences for over 25 years.



Harriet Newhart and her husband, Byrne, have been enchanting national and international audiences with their thirteen-piece strolling orchestra, the San Francisco Starlite Strings, for over two decades. They enjoy playing the musical treasures of the American Song Book, Viennese Waltzes and Continental favorites.

Steve Hanson has played his bass as well as the tuba and trombone all over the world. In 1973, while part of the US Navy Band, he was out in the Pacific for Skylab III's return to earth. Two years later his brass ensemble performed at the Vatican for the canonization of the first American saint. He also appeared all over Europe and Japan. Closer to home, he spent several years in New York, playing with Puerto Rican salsa groups, Italian festivals and other ethnic events. One of his groups, a Chinese funeral band, appeared in the film, *The Year of the Dragon*. He also played tuba in Woody Allen's Dixieland group.

Peter DiBono requires little introduction to SFAC, but deserves lots of acclaim. Peter has played accordion for people of all backgrounds and callings: from presidents, royalty, Supreme Court Justices, Hollywood actors, opera stars, to families who want something special for their daughter's wedding or parents' anniversary. According to Peter, "It doesn't matter where I play or for whom... Playing music is such a joy both for me and my audience. Music is a way to communicate with one another, on a deeply personal level."

Peter started playing when he was 9 years old when his older brother started playing accordion. He became hooked, and throughout his career as a police inspector, he never abandoned his passion for playing. In time, Peter left the police department to pursue his love of music full time. He also teaches at the CMS Community Music Center and gives private lessons in his home.

Please come and enjoy these three fine musicians when they play together for us at our meeting on November 17.

JAM BAND
from 1:15 - 2 p.m.

cont.

Skyler Fell, an Accordion Babe

Skyler Fell not only plays beautiful music, often on her Dallape 1920 vintage accordion, but is also the proprietress of **Accordion Apocalypse** located in the SOMA district of San Francisco. Skyler studied with Vince Cirelli and Boaz Rubin. Her music choices often reflect her Ukrainian roots. This year Skyler took a 3,000 mile road trip with the **Accordion Babes Revue**, and played for audiences from Vancouver to Los Angeles.

Skyler also plays in a seven-member band called the **Hobo Gobelins**. At her store she repairs, sells and rents accordions, rebuilds antique accordions, and does precision hand tuning. Her shop is filled with intricate vintage accordions, many of which are Italian and several dating back to the late 1800s.

Skyler finds playing the accordion pure fun. Music is also deeply ingrained in her heritage. Her great-grandfather played the clarinet and did horseback riding tricks in the circus.

"I think I was drawn to the accordion because of the carnival sound," she told the San Francisco Chronicle in 2010. "And, I love parades, and it seemed like a great instrument to be in parades with and to use for rabble-rousing a crowd."

She is also enamored with the history of the accordion in San Francisco where immigrants operated accordion shops and schools of music thrived in the 1920s and '30s.

We are excited to have Skyler playing for us again this month. See page 6 for the latest on the **Accordion Babes Calendar** which is for sale now!

Reno Di Bono

Reno is an extremely talented accordionist who plays and sings Italian and French melodies with great flair and warmth. Reno will be playing his brand new Victoria accordion which was made for him in castelfidardo. It is the same model which Frank Marocco played.

Reno is in great demand at weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and other occasions where he can perform Italian songs he has memorized in Sicilian, Napolitan, or Piemontese

dialects. He has produced two CDs: *Songs of My Father*, an Italian CD and *The Jazz Accordion*. We look forward to hearing Reno play for us again at our November meeting.



Frank Turns 90!

Please join us in celebrating **Frank Montoro's** birthday. Frank was a past president of the San Francisco Accordion Club. He began playing the accordion at age 11, and has had a long career as an accordionist playing in San Francisco and Marin at various venues. He also participated in the ACE ensemble for many years, and was instrumental in the beginnings of the San Francisco Accordion Club. In fact, he recruited Lynn Ewing, our current president, into the club when he was the membership chair back in 1995. Frank and his partner Jonelle still serve the club by doing the mailing of the newsletter every month - he picks it up at the printers, folds, stamps, labels and mails 120 copies!

We will enjoy a big cake and plenty of candles! Frank will play a short set of his all-time favorite music. So glad you are still going strong, Frank!

October Program

Review by Lynn Ewing

I'm always amazed at the talent we have in the San Francisco Accordion Club. Our October meeting was put on completely by our members, with a little help from their friends.

The meeting opened with **Serena Skye**, with accordionists **Jean Moshofsky Butler**, one of our intrepid Board members, and **Caroline Grannan**, supported by violinists **Stephanie Costanza** and **Naomi Aizawa Ralph**. They are self-described as "eclectic" and choose to play whatever interests them! It was most enjoyable to experience their selections.

Their set began with a traditional 18th century polka from Sweden, and then moved into a Balkan dance piece called *Jivano Jivanke* and then the song *One More Hour* from the movie *Ragtime*, by composer Randy Newman. They continued with a Bulgarian song from Jean's teacher Nada Lewis, in which Naomi played the ukulele, and then moved into more modern music with *Be-oves Psalm* composed by Accordion Tribe member **Lars Holmer**, which was composed for his uncle's funeral, and finally a **Yann Tiersen** song from the movie *Amelie*.



Next up was **Kay Patterson**, who took up the accordion expressly for the purpose of playing at her husband's winery. Kay also contributed a bottle of Nichelini family Vineyards wine to our raffle - Thanks Kay! Kay's historic Italian Swiss family heritage has encouraged her to develop a European repertoire, which she fills out with standards. Kay thanked her teacher, Peter Di Bono, who was there cheering her on and said she is his most insubordinate student! Insubordinate or not, she did a lovely job, playing Eduardo di Capua's *Serenata a Rose* and Jobim's *Corcovado*, as well as *More, Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered*, and *You Made me Love You*. In a nod to Oktoberfest, she concluded with *Edelweiss*.



Our final performer for the first section of the meeting was my very dear friend **Jana Maas**, longtime president of the Good Times Accordion Club in Modesto. I got so wrapped up in listening to Jana's beautiful tone and technique that I forgot to take notes! Luckily, her performance was memorable. She opened with one of her Mom's favorite songs, *Bionda* and followed it with a charming Swiss piece called *Bergolan*. Jana's Mom has not only been a huge help with her Club, but she is also famous for her homemade biscotti, which Jana has brought to events far and wide. Jana then played one of her signature songs, *White Ribbons*. Next, we had a lot of fun with a "name

cont.



that tune” medley that Jana arranged, which included the theme songs from Bonanza, Gilligan’s Isle, The Addams Family, My Three Sons, and the Andy Griffith Show. I think we guessed them all! The audience demanded to hear *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*, which Jana sings in the character of a 6 year old, before they would allow her off the stage!

After the break, **Tangonero** came up to play, and they were absolutely great! Member Alex Roitman plays Bandoneon and has a wonderful band consisting of violinist **Michele Walther**, guitarist **Zac Selissen**, and bass player, **Richard Duke**. They looked sharp in their dark grey outfits. Alex took lessons on accordion from Peter Di Bono and gave him gracious thanks, but then taught himself Bandoneon which he has been playing for only 4 years. We heard Alex when he was just starting on Bandoneon, and his progress in mastering the instrument in such a short time is amazing. He describes the traditional bandoneon keyboard as “designed by a mad man”, with no discernible pattern to the arrangement of the buttons. The buttons on a Bandoneon are mounted on the sides of the instrument, and each button has a different pitch on the in and the out. What gives the Bandoneon its distinctive sound is that the reeds are mounted on metal plates, like a Bayan. The band played many pieces, some of



which were *El Amanacer*, *Mal De Amores* (sick of love) several pieces by Astor Piazzola, and the traditional tango, *El Choclo*. Alex also performed a lovely solo, *Pobre mi Madres Querida* which I believe translates “My poor dear mother.” This performance is just more proof that there is no better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than at the San Francisco Accordion Club!

Frank Montoro reached up to a dusty top shelf and pulled down two odd-looking objects. One looked like a finely decorated book, with pleats for pages. The other had buttons on either end, with delicate decorations and the same pleats in between. He played a tune on the larger one. "It still works!" he said. I was looking at



two 81-year-old children's accordions, the very first he had ever played, a present from his older sister. "She lived to be 103!" he told me. "My parents wanted me to play the guitar. But they loved listening to me play the accordion. My mother would ask me to play certain pieces, and they were always bragging about me."

It was at a factory picnic where Frank first fell in love with the accordion. "A woman was playing the accordion, and she was so happy, she was just bouncing around." He got to know her and eventually she helped him find his first real accordion, a Wurlitzer. His parents purchased it for him.

Frank was the son of Spanish immigrants and one of eleven children, only six of whom survived. "It was a hard life," he said. "My mother died when I was sixteen and my father died when I was eighteen. Their story is much more interesting than mine." He stopped playing for some time when his mother died. "The family was in mourning. You didn't play music when you were in mourning," he said. He joined the service, and despite very tight quarters he managed to bring his accordion on the ships where he was stationed. He was used frequently as a morale booster by the officer in charge of morale. "Montoro! Play the accordion!" he'd be ordered. "They liked my playing." One day he was climbing down a ladder, accordion in hand, when it slipped from his grasp and fell to the steel deck below. In desperation he went into New York City in search of a replacement. There in Greenwich Village he found Pietro Diero Accordions. He knocked on the door, and a

young man answered. They chatted and the man asked Frank if he'd like to meet his father, the great Pietro Diero. He was thrilled. Diero came up the stairs. His voice was hoarse and his hearing was bad. "Where you from?" Diero asked him.

"From San Francisco."

"Are you Italian?"

"No. I'm Spanish."

"I couldn't think of anything else to say!"

Frank said to me. "I was frozen because I was meeting this great guy! Pietro Diero! Finally he turned around and went back downstairs. I was awestruck. Awestruck! I was only 20 at the time."

When he came out of the service he worked at restaurants as a strolling player. "I hated it, but the money was good," he said. "Sometimes they would ask for tunes I didn't know. One time a guy asked me if I knew this one tune. I didn't. He asked me if I knew this other tune, which I didn't know either. He went down a list and I didn't know any of them. Finally he said to me, 'Where have you been?' 'In the North Atlantic!' I said. That finally shut him up."

Not long after a friend started lecturing him. "What are you doing? Go to college and get a music degree." So with the help of the GI bill, he studied music and eventually migrated to teaching elementary school, where his love of music and accordions infused everything he did in schools. He would use his accordion in the classroom, teaching children how to harmonize and learn chords. "I got my Masters thesis on what I was doing with my students with music and the accordion," he told me. Frank then moved up the ladder to become a principal, and always made sure there was music in his schools.

Playing the accordion has been his passion throughout his life, and for many years he played jazz and popular music in trios and quartets. Frank attended the very first meeting of the Accordion Club, not long after a resolution was passed proclaiming the accordion as the official City Instrument. Twice he has been president of the Accordion Club, and his continued presence in the Accordion Club is one which is treasured by many. He will be ninety years old this month, and with any luck he will outdo his sister's 103 years.

Jean Moshofsky Butler

Accordion Exchange

If you are seeking an accordion, or have one to sell, you are now welcome to submit the details to the newsletter. This is strictly a service to our members, and SFAC cannot take responsibility for the condition of any accordion advertised.

1980's Iorio Syntara

120-bass 4/5 with LMMM configuration wet-tuned. Second owner. Appears and plays virtually as new. Hasn't had much play time. Just used for a few gigs in the 1990's. Acoustical part of the accordion works perfectly. Electronics were also working fine the last time I used them a few years ago. This is a good value even if you never use the electronics. Asking \$750. Call **Mike Zampiceni at 408-734-1565, or send email to eclecticguy@comcast.net**

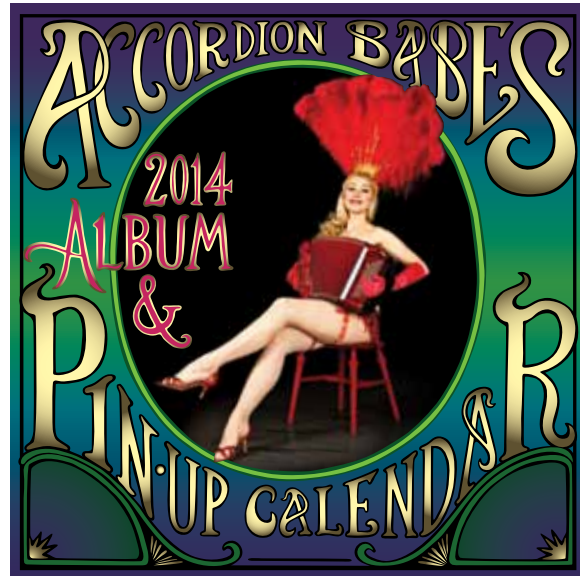
Second-Hand Accordion Wanted for a small child beginning to learn. She has outgrown her 12-bass model but she only weighs 50lbs, so I'm looking for the smallest possible! Seeking 120 bass with reduced-size keyboard measuring 15 1/2 inches from the low F to the high A, such as Sonola's Rivoli "little maestro" model. If you have or know of such an instrument that we could purchase, please contact **Barbara Bruxvoort: bbrux@att.net; 650-219-6487.**

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Accordion Babes Calendar for SALE

It is that time again when the newest, coolest and most awesome calendar is for sale! Purchase yours at the upcoming meeting and help spread the word. Many of the BABES in this calendar are members of our club and most all have played for us at one time or another.



Time to Renew your MEMBERSHIP

Membership Renewals are now due! It is your membership that keeps our club functioning! If you have not renewed, please return your form to : Corinne Chandel, 1910 Mount Vernon Ct, #19, Mountain View, CA 94040.

SCHOLARSHIPS are awarded twice a year, in April and October. The Scholarship program is funded with proceeds from the 50/50 raffle we have each month. The only requirement is that the recipient be studying with a teacher who is a member of SFAC, and that there is a financial need. Scholarship guidelines are available at the monthly meetings, or contact secretary **Mike Zampiceni, eclecticguy@comcast.net, 1220 Tasman Dr #106. Sunnyvale. CA. 94089.**

Message from the President by Lynn Ewing

Here is a great article written by **Gordon Kohl**, President of the San Diego Accordion Club (ALSI) and a current member of the ATG Board:

“The study of music and the playing of a musical instrument can be rewarding, thought provoking, and challenging to your mental and physical abilities. The endless time to learn musical concepts and being creative in making music will always be inspirational and satisfying to the student musician.

The accordion is an instrument that challenges our body and mind. Hand coordination, and muscle mechanics in our arms, shoulders, back and fingers, are vital to our success with playing the accordion. Hearing, feeling and vision are sense skills which are essential to the development of a high level of playing ability. The ability of our mind, which allows one to memorize a song, count rhythm, hit the correct notes, and keep all this information at a conscious level, is a spectacular feat for all musicians.

Today, studies in genetics have given us knowledge of the DNA code in humans. During the past seven years, many marker genes for proteins and enzymes have been studied in relation to medical conditions. By playing and studying a musical instrument, “good” proteins and enzymes are produced that help slow or reduce conditions in the body such as stress, mental diseases, memory muscle disability and heart conditions, according to clinical studies. As these music therapy benefits are more thoroughly recognized, music programs can be implemented to help alleviate these various conditions in people. “

SFAC is a place where once a month we can gather together and share and express our feelings through music. The yearly membership is a rewarding and educational value to be expe-

rienced and enjoyed. Please bring guests to our meetings to enjoy each others company and meet new friends. A musical “Accordion Jam” is always fun and satisfying in our mutual desire to share music with others. Join in and play chords, harmony, melody, or just listen to others play music. It is great for just relaxing and forgetting the cares of life! Please bring your accordion or other musical instrument to our next pre-meeting Jam on Nov 17th, and join in the fun.

Lynn Ewing will be playing at Filoli Gardens Holiday Traditions Event on Friday, Dec 6, from 2 - 4 PM. This lovely event is their biggest fundraiser of the year, and the turnout is terrific, so it is recommended to get tickets in advance. You can find more information online at <http://www.filoli.org/> or call (650) 364-8300.

Welcome New Members

Janet and Carlyn Jensen joined us at our last meeting. They live in Berkeley and heard about us from friends. They play the accordion, and enjoy all types of music. We hope to see them often!

Condolences

We send sincere condolences to the family and friends of Barbara Ann Barnett who died on October 10, in Soquel, California. Barbara was a beautiful, talented musician and a good friend to many people. A memorial is being planned for next May. For more information or to leave a message for her friends and family, you can go to <http://babdesert-flower.blogspot.com/>

There are also links to her music and videos at this site.

Performing Around the Bay

Steve Balich • North Bay
www.stevebalichband.com

Ron Borelli • San Mateo
rborelli@aol.com

Renée de la Prade
Culann's Hounds, San Francisco
www.sfhounds.com

Richard Denier • Carmel
rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono • San Francisco
www.peterdibono.com

Reno Di Bono • South Bay
ourhike@aol.com

William De Michelis • South Bay
wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich • South Bay
www.capricious-accordion.com or
www.alpinersusa.com

Due Zighi Baci, (Sheri Mignano)
San Francisco
www.eurocafemusic.com or
zighi@sonic.net

Skyler Fell, Hobo Gobbelins
Oakland
www.myspace.com/hobogobbelins

Ed Gorzynski, Jr. • East Bay
edspolkas@yahoo.com

Bruce Kirschner & The Klezmakers
kirschner@aol.com
www.klezmakers.com

Big Lou, aka Linda Seekins • San Francisco
www.accordionprincess.com

Mad Maggies • San Francisco
themadmaggies.com

Don Nurisso • Pacifica
don@nurisso.com

Rob Reich • East Bay & San Francisco
robbyreichmusic@gmail.com

Diana Strong • Pacifica
don@nurisso.com

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Please Remember!

To leave our meeting hall at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Clean up food or drink spills and recycle all trash.

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card-size) for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$10 per issue or \$100 per year.

Monthly ad prices for members:
quarter-page ad \$25.00; half-page ad \$50, and a full-page ad \$100. Non-member rates are double the member rates.

A flyer (no larger than 5" x 8") advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

PLAY FOR US!

Playing warm up or during the break is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Although our featured performers are scheduled almost all the way through March, we have lots of opportunities during the first part of the meeting for people who would like to play a short 10 or 15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs. Contact Dominic Palmisano at 415-587-4423 or email accord47@gmail.com, or Lynn Ewing, 650-453-3391, or ewinglynn@gmail.com

ACCORDION EVENTS

There are events happening all over the US. Check out *AccordionUSA.com* for all kinds of cool festivals and performances.

Marco Lo Russo **Eclectic Accordion World Tour** by Kevin Friedrich

Internationally acclaimed accordionist, composer, and recording artist Marco Lo Russo continues his 2013 Eclectic Accordion World Tour in the USA and Canada this month.

New York City sets the stage for Marco at Universal Studios, and several engagements in Manhattan performing with Julio Botti, saxophonist and 2013 Latin American Grammy Nominee, and Diane Cameron from Atlanta.

(read the rest of this article on the website)



SAVE THIS DATE

The ATG (Accordionists and Teacher's Guild) festival is coming to San Francisco from **July 23–26th, 2014**. There will be orchestras to participate in, wonderful concerts, workshops, and competitions for cash prizes! <http://www.accordionists.com/atg>



The Connecticut Accordion Association featured renowned Jazz accordionist **Joe Cerrito** in concert at their recent gathering on Sunday, September 29th, 2013. Joe was joined by fellow Jazz musicians Ralph Corbo on bass, Mitchell Guido on sax and Mike Rasimas on drums.

Joe Cerrito began studying accordion at age 12 with Joseph Petteruit and then with Joseph Biviano and also Bob Wilbur. He began playing small jobs at age 14 and has played professionally since. Joe was a member of the 1st Army Jazz Band directed by Claude Thornhill and also played in the 56th Army Band while in Korea. Throughout his career, he backed up greats such as Sarah Vaughn, Steve Allen, Harry Belafonte, Bob Wilbur and most recently, Dick Hyman.

(read the rest of this article on the website)

Nearby Club Meetings

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Hermann Sons Hall • 860 Western, Petaluma, CA
\$3 admission donation Contact: Tony Mustaro—
President (707) 318-0474 dcdacapo@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

President/CEO: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359
gsaccordionclub@netfirms.com

The Vacaville Chapter meets monthly on the second Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at Pietro's No. 2 at 679 Merchant Street, Vacaville, CA 95688 707 448-4588

The Humboldt Chapter meets monthly on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta.

The Sacramento Chapter meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova. Contact for all three Chapters: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets monthly on the first Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at Lutheran Church Hall, 6365 Douglas, Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay, CA. Contact: Jerry Choate (530) 345-2031

Silicon Valley Accordion Club (SVAC)

meets 1st Sun. of each month at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose, corner of Kiely. 1 p.m. \$5, under 16 - no charge.

Accordion Instruction

Bart Beninco (707) 769-8744
Ron Borelli (650) 574-5707
David Chelini (916) 428-8764
Peter Di Bono (415) 753-1502
Lynn Ewing (650) 453-3391
Skyler Fell (415) 596-5952
Lou Jacklich (510) 317-9510
Marjorie Konrad (707) 539-5308
Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896
Vincent Rinaldi (415) 824-7609
Big Lou (Linda Seekins) (415) 468 5986
Joe Simoni (650) 867-1122
Sharon Walters-Greyhosky (650) 731-6010
Richard Yaus (650) 832-1740
Mike Zampiceni (408) 569-2579
Norma Zonay-Parsons (408) 246-3073

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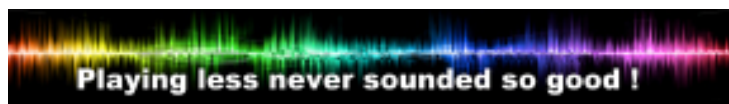
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626-807-8147

Don Savant, donsavant@yahoo.com,
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**Join us on (almost every!) third sunday of the month
at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd, South San Francisco**

**Club & Musical Meeting • next meeting
November 17 @ 2 p.m.
Admission: \$6 members, \$8 guests**

DIRECTIONS:

From 101 traveling either North or South, take the Oyster Point exit. Turn right onto Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right onto Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.) Continue past the gate house to the sign Oyster Point Yacht Club. There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

SFAC Membership is

\$30.00 per year for individual or family.
For membership renewal, please send
a check to: S.F.A.C., c/o Corinne Chandel
1910 Mount Vernon Ct., #19
Mountain View, CA 94040
NEW MEMBERS, please include your name
and address along with your check, as well as
a phone number and email address, if you wish.

**JAM BAND
from 1:15 - 2 p.m.**

**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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