

November, 2016

ACCORDIONS BY THE BAY

♫ ♫ **RON BORELLI (TRIO)** ♫ ♫

AND

♫ ♫ **AURORA MANDOLINS** ♫ ♫

2:00PM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

[directions on back page]



San Francisco Accordion Club Presents a pre-Thanksgiving Accordion Special!

The San Francisco Accordion Club is pleased to present back-to-back featured performances on November 20 with a very special *Accordions by the Bay* Thanksgiving celebration!

The **Aurora Mandolin Ensemble**, under the direction of Josephine Pelligrini, will be featured during the 1st half of our November gathering. Our 2nd half will feature a trio of fine musicians: **Ron Borelli** on accordion, **Andrei Bostan** on violin, and **Steve Auerbach** on the bass, who will entertain us with musical favorites.

Please join us for this special musical feast! Admission: \$8 SFAC members/\$10 non-members

The **Aurora Mandolins** are directed by Jo Pellegrini, and the Orchestra is the largest of its kind in the San Francisco Bay Area, consisting of up to thirty professional and amateur musicians (including mandolin, mandola, mandocello, guitar, string bass, flute, percussion, and SFAC member Patricia Brown on accordion) from around the Bay Area. What makes the Aurora Mandolins unique is their varied repertoire including traditional and semi-classical Italian, Spanish, Russian, specialty ethnic and contemporary orchestral compositions. They have given public performances to thousands of music lovers



Aurora Mandolins—featured in November

and are especially proud to have played Davies Hall at the San Francisco Symphony's opening night gala in 1984. The Aurora Mandolins have also performed at the Academy of Sciences at Golden Gate Park, Santa Clara University, and is a regular at the annual San Francisco Mandolin Festival.

Gino Pellegrini, a member of the original Aurora Mandolin Orchestra in the 1930's, represents the thread of continuity to the present organization which he reorganized in 1970. He became the Director and Concertmaster of this group of musicians and was its heart and soul for 35 years. After Gino's passing, his wife Josephine, affectionately known as "Jo," assumed the vacant role of Director/Conductor at the request of and with the full support and encouragement of the members of the group. Her dedication, ingenuity and energy have enhanced performances while successfully preserving Gino's legacy of bringing the vibrancy and passion of the mandolin to more and more people.

The **Aurora Mandolin Ensemble (AME)** is a subset of performers from the larger Aurora Mandolin Orchestra, making it possible for the Aurora Mandolins to perform for venues ranging from the concert hall and outdoor festivals, to restaurants, clubs and private parties.

Continued next page...

♪♪ Ron Borelli — also featured in November ♪♪



Ron Borelli, San Francisco native and son of well-known bandleader Al Borelli, began playing the accordion at age seven. Ron began his professional career at age 13 playing for many Italian parties and now performs at a wide variety of local and international venues. He has appeared with

the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, the Berkeley Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony and Diablo Ballet, and was the accordionist for the Three Tenors in their 1999 Bay Area concert. He has worked with noted composer Stephen Swartz in his production of *My Antonia* at Theatre Works. Ron instructed and performed at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention from 2001 to 2009. In 2010, he was honored to perform with the Art Van Damme Quintet at Art's memorial service. Ron appeared on the TV series *Trauma* in 2011, playing accordion for a wedding scene. In 2015, he performed the accordion part of the Godfather movie with San Francisco Symphony as well as the SF Opera's production of *Two Women*. Ron also performs for private, corporate and public events; he was a regular at actor Robin Williams' family house parties for 15 years. Ron plays a wide variety of jazz, opera and American standards, as well as Italian and French music, and is a featured artist on many professional CDs. Ron and his quintet perform monthly at the Doubletree Hotel in Burlingame, featuring the music of Art Van Damme.

Accompanying Ron will be bass player Steve Auerbach, and Andrei Bostan on violin.

Steve Auerbach (bass) contributes his 55+ years of professional experience. Over the years, Steve has performed as sideman with Claire Fischer, Laurindo Almeida, Joe Henderson, Dick Contino and many, many more. He has been a member of the Jazz Garden and Full Faith and Credit big bands and is a



staple among Bay Area commercial groups and big bands. Steve performs regularly with the Bay Area's premier community orchestra, Redwood Symphony, and has also enjoyed playing for many Bay Area musicals over the years.

Andrei Bostan began studying violin at the age of seven and obtained his Master's Degree in Violin Performance from the Cluj-Napoca Conservatory of Music at the Academy of Romania. After Graduating from the Conservatory, Andrei's exceptional musical ability secured him a first violin section position with the State Opera of Cluj-Napoca (1972-1976).



Andrei is a highly professional classical violinist with the unusual combination of abilities in both the classical as well as the improvisational (jazz) arenas. In the United States, Andrei has performed and recorded with numerous musical organizations, including the Monterey County Symphony, Oregon Festival Orchestra, Santa Cruz Symphony, West Bay Opera, BlackTie Jazz Orchestra, Arioso String Quartet, Caffezino Jazz Quintet, and MonTango.

October Accordion Circle

[See Accordion Circle photos on pages 4-5]

October 16, 2016 will go down in the history of the San Francisco Accordion Club as a day that began a new tradition – the advent of our bi-monthly Accordion Circle. This was the first musical gathering in our new format, in which members themselves play the instrument, either as an ensemble, taking turns as soloists or duet. It was all that we thought it would be and more. The beauty of the event was that it marked a departure for the SFAC, from being mostly a great concert promoter, to a return to its character as a Club in the spirit of accordion aficionados who re-established the SFAC in 1990 and of the accordion pioneers who founded the original SFAC in 1915.

Turnout exceeded expectations, given that we could not know in advance how popular this format would be, and that it was a rainy day to boot! It did not appear that anyone attended expecting the typical musical program format, testifying to the fact that our members are reading newsletters and emails to keep abreast of SFAC activities.

For the first half of the afternoon, the Accordion Circle players assumed, appropriately, a perfect circle and played piece after piece. Outgoing SFAC President Lynn Ewing more or less assumed the Director's role and also gave a very instructive lesson on proper accordion positioning, strap adjustments, and bellow technique. A typical intermission – with a raffle and lots of goodies to eat. – led us to the second half of the afternoon; the players, still in circle format, took turns playing 1 or 2 pieces each, as soloists or in some cases as part of a duet. Players included Jim Rebhan (amazing Klezmer music on the Roland), Allan Schwartz, Alan Venable, Scott Anderson, Ed Salvador and Jeanny Wang in duet, and Yakov Puhachevsky and Grigoriy Krumik in duet. Ken Schwartz did a great job of passing around a sign-up sheet earlier in the afternoon to provide structure to the session. He also served as emcee to introduce the players and comment on their pieces. Near the end, Gus Greyhosky chose to toss out a few suggestions on technique, rather than perform songs. He illustrated some additional fine points about bellows work, as well as timing intervals for bass chords.

The next Accordion Circle will take place December 18, 2016. The SFAC Board decided to devote the first half of that meeting to the Circle, and the second half to a performance of the **Accordion Chamber Ensemble (ACE)**, directed by **Joe Smiell, Jr.** *Hope to see you there!!*

Scholarship Spotlight!



My name is **Micaela Martinez**, I'm from Chiclayo, Peru. My family is full of artists and I've always loved music, since my dad has worked at the radio most of his life. They could never afford to pay for any musical lessons so all I knew about music I taught myself. I came across the accordion for the first time when I was fourteen, with songs from a Norwegian band. It immediately became my dream to be able to play the accordion, to even own one someday felt like a goal I wouldn't achieve until adulthood. I would always visit my grandmother in SF growing up, so I decided to go to a university here. My education has always been a priority to me, and since my parents couldn't pay for it I decided to take it upon myself. I now work everyday I'm not going to school. For my birthday this year, my best friend had saved up a lot of money and surprised me with something that brought me to tears: my own accordion. I soon found Lynn Ewing's email in an accordion newsletter and began lessons. Sadly, the cost of tuition and supplies rose, and I wasn't even able to afford taking the Bart to school. I couldn't continue my accordion lessons anymore and it was the saddest realization I ever had. It truly felt like it was the one thing that kept me happy through all my hard work, so I told my instructor. She suggested I apply for a scholarship from the SFAC and so I did. It has been the happiest moment of this year to know that it was accepted and that I will be able to continue learning, I am infinitely thankful. -Mica





SFAC co-founder Jim Holliday would have liked the Accordion Circle concept!

Accordion Circle



More News

Meeting Admission Fee Increase with November Meeting

The SFAC Board of Directors is asking a little bit more for admission fees, commencing with November, in order to continue to provide quality entertainment in a comfortable space. Beginning with this month's meeting, the new admission prices for the monthly musical meetings with featured performers (odd-numbered months) will be \$8 for members and \$10 for guests. Admission for the *Accordions Circle* meetings, on even-numbered months, will remain at \$6 for members and guests. This is the first change in admissions fee since January 2011, so we hope you will understand and thank you for your support.

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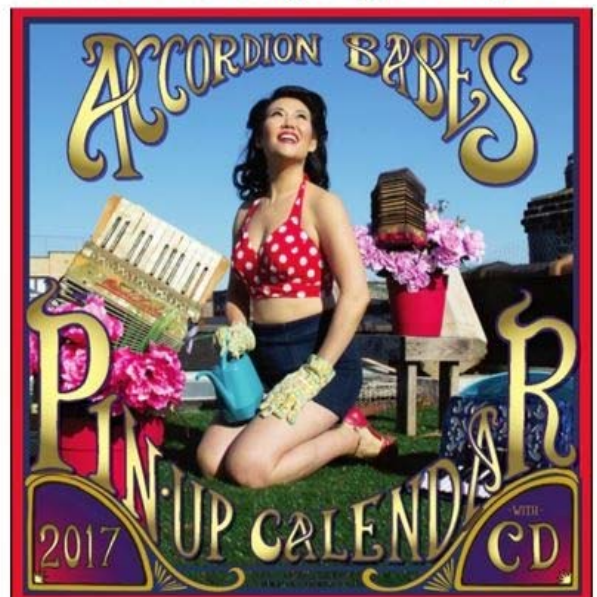
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The Accordion Babes Revue takes place on **Saturday, December 10, 2016** from 8-11:PM at Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Avenue, Alameda, CA.

The cost is \$25/advance, \$30/day of show. All seating is General Admission. Tickets are non-refundable. For information: info@rhythmix.org, (510) 865-5060.

Our Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to the Club. With each new membership year (Oct. 1—Sept. 30) we start a cumulative list of donors. To date, we have received \$1380. If you have donated and your name doesn't show up in this column, please contact Elaine at elainecd@sbcbglobal.net or 510-921-9323 and let her know. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized. We gratefully acknowledge donations from: Karol Blackaby, Ron Borelli, David Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Xavier de la Prade, William Demichelis, Marja Gullmes, Bruce Kirschner, Franco Lucchesi, Mr. Mike Marotta, James & Lee Ann Monfredini, Anna Nicora, Kenneth Nimmo, Gisele Oakes, Paul Pasquali, Douglas & Kay Patterson, Joseph Petosa, Diana & Bruce Prurucker, Vinny Rinaldi, Alexander Roitman, Ed Salvador, Don & Mary Savant, Leslie Selfridge, Hilbert & Hilde Werner, and Barbara Winter. Thank you, all!

A 2017 pin-up calendar featuring 13 accordion-playing women in sexy and fun poses, which includes a compilation CD of their music. Will soon be available at SFAC meeting for approximately \$17.



MEMBERSHIP

At the midpoint of our annual membership renewal drive, I am very pleased with our progress to-date. Of our 177 family memberships, 137 (77.4%) have renewed for 2017. On the other hand, 40 (22.6%) have not yet renewed. If you are reading this and happen to represent a family in the latter group, we hope you can take care of business in the very near future, at minimum to spare yourself of any future reminders to renew! If on the other hand, you have decided to call it quits – and you don't need to provide a reason for doing so, – then please let us know so we can use our time efficiently. If you intend to renew, and cannot find the self-addressed envelope we sent several weeks ago, either go to the SFAC webpage to renew or mail a check payable to SFAC for \$35 (mailed newsletter) or \$30 (online newsletter) to:

Robert Cooperstein, Membership SFAC
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Baseball, Bluegrass, and Accordion

As this SFAC November newsletter goes to print, the last game of the world series between the Chicago Cubs and the Cleveland Indians is in progress (3rd inning). It turns out that baseball and bluegrass music are both about as American as you can get - right up there with July 4th picnics, hot dogs and apple pie. Indeed, to "The Father of Bluegrass," Bill Monroe, the affiliation between these two forms of American entertainment was so natural that, for half a dozen years in the 1940s, he sponsored two baseball teams - the Bluegrass All-Stars, which toured with his band, and the Bluegrass Ballclub, which played in Nashville [credit, Society for American Baseball Research.]



Sally Anne Forester is featured with her accordion in the photo with Monroe's Bluegrass Boys, 1948. But she could not play baseball, by all accounts.

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10 per issue or \$100 per year. Monthly ad prices **for members**:
1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.
Non-member rates are double.

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Eastbourne Accordion Festival in England!
The Queens Hotel, Marine Parade, Eastbourne
01606 270148 (February Friday 10th - Monday 13th)
<http://www.carillonstudios.com/>



THE NORTHEAST SQUEEZE-IV

Over a quarter century of fabulous weekends, Free Reed Squeezing in the Berkshires



NESI-2017 will be 9/22-24/2017

...NESI came and too soon went...them that were there had a great time, maybe we'll see you there too next year?

SFAC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2016-17

Members who have renewed their membership through September 2017 have received a letter or email advising them of their status so they may safely ignore further announcements concerning this year's renewal drive. We do hope each and every current member of the SFAC will continue their support of the club into the next and future years.

We are proud of the value provided by our musical programs, including the new *Accordion Circle* format for even-numbered months' meetings, the Newsletter, and the myriad of ways the SFAC continues to support the accordion culture in the Bay Area and beyond. We hope you agree!

Renewal forms for continuing membership in the SFAC were mailed in September. Members can renew either by mailing a check, or through our webpage at <http://www.sfaccordionclub.com/membership.html>.

Join In the Fun!

Helping with the monthly music programs is a great way to meet new people and make the program run smoothly. We welcome people to help emcee the program, take photos or write a lively report about the music program. You don't need experience—just a willingness to help while you have fun with the group.

Discover your inner entertainer, photographer or writer and help us host our monthly events.

Contact Lynn Ewing, ewing-lynn@gmail.com, 650-867-2633 to find out how to get in on the action!



ACCORDION LOVERS' TRIP OF A LIFETIME MAY 16-20, 2017

Trips Depart London Heathrow

UK/USA Visit to Castelfidardo

For more information, contact:

Peter Le Geyt (member of Guildford Accordion Club UK)

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This is a bucket-list trip for all true accordion aficionados! Come to Castelfidardo, Italy—the spiritual home of the accordion—and renew your love affair with this amazing instrument. Wander the streets and sample the culture of Castelfidardo. Learn more about the artistry of accordion design and manufacture. Revel in the company of accordion lovers from all over the world. Enjoy jam sessions with your fellow travelers.

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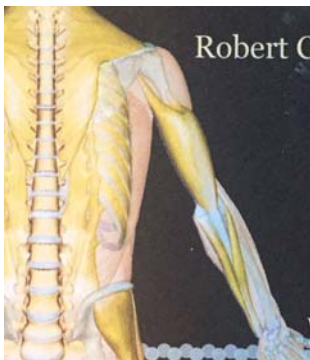
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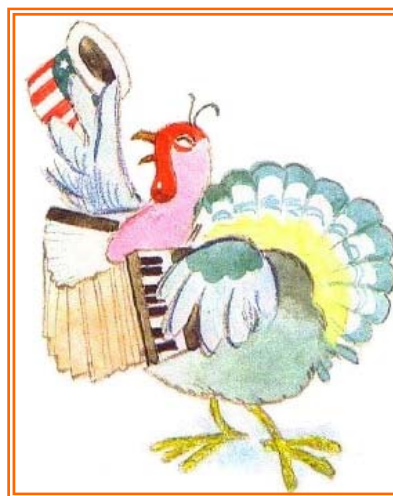
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Bay Area Accordion Clubs

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm. — \$3 admission
Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma
Contact: Tony Mustaro, President (707) 318-0474 dcdaca-po@gmail.com

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC)

gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com
Contact: Jean Stevens, President (916) 872-8081
accordionriffs@gmail.com

Vacaville Chapter

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm.
Pietro's No. 2,
679 Merchant Street, Vacaville

Humboldt Chapter

3rd Tuesday at 7pm.
Humboldt Swiss Club
5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

Sacramento Chapter

4th Wednesday at 7 pm.
Old Spaghetti Factory,
12401 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. Escalon Community Center 1055
Escalon Ave, Escalon
Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall,
6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay
Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sunday at 1pm. Harry's Hofbrau,
390 Saratoga Avenue (corner of Kiely), San Jose
www.svasociety.org

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
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WILLIAM DE MICHELIS *South Bay*
accordionist.sanjose@comcast.net

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PAMELA TOM
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MIKE ZAMPICENI *East Bay & South Bay*
eclecticguy@comcast.net



Contact a member of the board to volunteer. See February Newsletter for descriptions of tasks, small or large, remote or on-site, that you can do to help the SFAC continue its excellent programs and activities!



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(Positions open, volunteers needed!)

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 eclecticguy@comcast.net

PLAY for your club!

Playing warm up or during the break for our Sunday music program is a great, casual way to share your talent and hone your performance skills. Our scheduled performers are drawn from professional players and groups, and from talented amateurs as well. Call us—we're happy to add you to the schedule to play a 10-15 minute set, or even just a couple of songs.

Contact:

Dominic Palmisano
 (415) 587-4423 accord47@gmail.com OR

Lynn Ewing
 (650) 453-3391 ewinglynn@gmail.com

Play with the Jam Band

Join us 1:15-2:00 pm for a traditional jam session before the 3rd-Sunday music programs at Oyster Point Yacht Club.

Our informal jam band is open to everyone, regardless of experience. Learn new riffs, make new accordion friends and have **WAY TOO MUCH FUN!**

Please Remember...

Help keep our meeting space at the Oyster Point Yacht Club clean! Wipe up food or drink spills and recycle all trash. **THANK YOU!**

Join us the third Sunday of each month at the
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SFAC SUNDAY MUSIC PROGRAM

Come for fun and great music!!

November 20 at 2pm

**Ron Borelli, in Trio &
Aurora Mandolin Ensemble**

Admission: \$8 members, \$10 guests

1:15pm Jam Band

Jam band 1:15-2:00

Dec. 16, 2016—*ACE Ensemble & Accordion Circle*



SFAC 2016-17

Club membership year is Oct.-Sept.

Join or renew with PayPal or credit card at:

www.sfaccordionclub.com/membership.html, or send

check payable to "SFAC" to Elaine Cooperstein, 539

Elsie Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577

- ◆ \$35 per year for individual or household
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OYSTER POINT YACHT CLUB

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Turn right onto Marina Blvd and continue 0.7 mile, past the Oyster Point Marina gatehouse to the Oyster Point Yacht Club on the left.

San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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