

November, 2019

Sunday, November 18, 2018

♪♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪♪

THE RON BORELLI TANGO TRIO

SPECIAL OPENING PERFORMANCES BY:

ED MASSOLO

LOU JACKLICH/COLETTE OGATA (DUETS)

DON SAVANT

Chetcuti Community Room — Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



To begin our November meeting, some of the SFAC's own members will play for us. **Colette Ogata & Lou Jacklich** will play some duets, followed by **Ed Massolo** and **Don Savant** playing solo pieces. After the intermission, which features delicious delectables and a raffle drawing, a tango trio featuring the SFAC's own Ron **Borelli** will entertain us with the music of Piazzolla. Over the years, Ron has been one of our most popular accordionists. The other players in his trio are clarinetist **Mathew Boyles** and violinist **Rachael Patrick**. Following the trio, the venerable jam band, led by Maestro Lou Jacklich, will take us to closing. It would be great to see some of the newcomers who have recently joined the club step up and play with us in the jam band! Hope to see you there!



Ron Borelli inherited his love for music and entertainment from his parents. As a young boy, Ron attended engagements of his father's popular band, the *Al Borelli Orchestra* performing throughout the San Francisco Bay area.

Ron began his study of music at 7 years of age. At 14, he made his debut as a professional musician, playing his first solo engagement for a New Year's Eve party and at 18, formed his own trio.

Ron had an interest in jazz piano and accordion from early on, which led to studying with local great, jazz pianist, Don Haas and having been influenced by pianists Oscar Peterson, Herbie Hancock and the great jazz accordionist Art Van Damme.

Ron will be performing with his latest new TANGO trio,

November SFAC —Accordions Live!

continued from page 1

playing the music of Astor Piazzolla and a touch of classical and more. For those attending this performance you will be hearing 10 tangos written by Astor Piazzolla and classical music interplay between accordion, clarinet and violin.

Ron Borelli met clarinetist **Matthew Boyles** and violinist **Rachael Patrick** in May 2019 in San Francisco, performing in the opera, *Abraham in Flames* (written by Niloufar Talebi, composer Aleksandra Vrebalov). [photo below]



Mathew Boyles performs with a number of orchestras and chamber music groups in the Bay area, including the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, California Symphony, Monterey Symphony, Modesto Symphony and New Century Chamber Orchestra. He performed at Carnegie Hall NYC with the New Haven Symphony.

Rachel Patrick performs with many Symphonic orchestras in the Bay Area and recently completed a European tour with the Vinifera Trio of which she is a founding member. She has recorded CD's for the Enharmonic, Crystal, Albany, and Toccata Classics labels.

Ron Borelli performs solo and with numerous ensembles throughout the Bay Area from venues as small as gatherings in private residences to Davies Symphony Hall with the San Francisco Symphony. Ron is also a highly sought after teacher and popular clinician and performer at the annual *Las Vegas International Accordion Convention*. Please visit www.RonBorelli.com to learn more about the versatile musician and where you can find him or one of his ensembles performing next.

2019-2020 Membership Update

Our first request to renew memberships in the SFAC were mailed on September 12, 2019. Almost 2 months into this annual drive, we are pleased to report that 77% of our members have renewed. If you intend to renew but have not got around to doing so yet, we sure hope you will take care of that without further delay. The volunteers who track memberships and who assume the responsibility for sending out 2nd and 3rd requests could use a little help from our friends. You need only send a check back using the envelope we enclosed with our first request to renew (To: *Elaine Cooperstein, SFAC Treasurer, 539 Elsie Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577*), or take a few minutes to pay at the [SFAC webpage](#) using either PayPal or a credit card. Thanks in advance for your continued support!

Robert, Membership, SFAC

October 2019 SFAC Meeting—Accordions Live!

by Michael Zampiceni [thanks to Robert Cooperstein for photos on page 3]

Synchronicity. That's the word that I thought of when I found out that **Sergei Teleshev and Natasha Popova** would be performing for us at our October meeting. It just so happened that this world-class musical duo would be touring in the area, and they reached out to our club through Facebook, asking if we might have an opportunity for them in this time frame. Happily, their visit to our area coincided with our upcoming October event, which ordinarily would have been the usual accordion circle meeting for this month, but who would pass up the opportunity to host two world-class musicians? Their appearance at our meeting exceeded our expectations, and the duo presented us with a varied repertoire covering several musical genres.

Both musicians have stellar resumes. Classically trained at the *Academy of Music* in Voronezh, Russia, Sergei has won many regional and international accordion competitions, and primarily plays a chromatic button accordion known as the bayan. As the accordionist for **Trio Voronezh**, the **Valinor Quartet**, the **Classic Klezmer Trio**, and **EWIP**, he has collaborated with many internationally recognized artists, ensembles, and orchestras. Natasha is a world renowned violinist, singer, actress, and dancer. Classically trained at the prestigious Gnessin Russian Academy of Music, she has won many regional and international violin competitions in Russia and Spain.

We very much appreciated that member Dr. Scott Anderson stepped up and volunteered to be our M.C. for the afternoon. After Scott introduced our performers, the dynamic duo began their program. Here are musical highlights of their selections:

- Libertango** – The duo engaged everyone from the start by performing a sprightly rendition of Libertango by Astor Piazzola, the illustrious bandoneonist and tango composer from Argentina. Libertango is likely the most performed Piazzola composition for professional-level accordionists. Many who play this composition also improvise based on the harmonic structure, and Sergei bestowed us with a wonderful improvisation.
- Indifference** - After playing this stirring rendition of Libertango, Sergei introduced himself and his partner, then played a fast French musette waltz in E minor, called Indifference. The synchronization between the two performers was perfect, as was the case for their entire program, indicating their commitment to perfection through abundant practice and rehearsal time.
- Fire Dance** -This Irish piece was different from what I expected in that it initially started as a reflective, plaintive piece, then progressed into an irregular meter jig. This is the first time I'd heard odd meter, such as 5/4 time, for Irish music.
- Lullaby Berceuse** -This was a classically-based composition. In accordance with its title, it was a soothing song in E minor.
- New York Tango** - This Richard Galliano composition was stylistically similar to Astor Piazzola tangos. Departed in the middle with a descending, atonal tone cluster of notes into a slow, plaintive section before returning to the upbeat recap of the first up-tempo section.
- All of Me** - This American jazz standard from 1931 was an unexpected departure from the preceding selection, and was played in a Django Reinhardt gypsy jazz style. Natasha's solo reminded me of Stephan Grapelli, the famous European violinist who founded a quintet with Django in 1934.
- Movie Suite** - Sergei performed his three-part movie suite: Trip to Vegas, Vegas Strip, and Ruby's Song. Trip to Vegas began in a Brazilian style with a jazz flair. Vegas Strip contained a steady stream of ascending eighth-note E-major arpeggios, and then alternating this pattern with syncopated chords based on the arpeggios. Ruby's Song was distinctly Klezmer-style in nature, and inserted hints of Bei Mir bis Du Schoen.
- Love Waltz** - This was a slow Swedish waltz in E minor with a beautiful, sonorous melody.
- Odessa Bulgarish** - Natasha announced this next selection, which was a traditional klezmer piece originating in the Ukraine. Bulgarish refers to a popular bulgareasca klezmer dance form. This was a very fast hora in D minor.
- Tico - Tico** - This famous Brazilian samba was written way back in 1941 and is often played by accordionists as a show piece to demonstrate their fast technique. Sergei incorporated an impressive accelerando towards the end to conclude the song.
- Kalinka** - This Russian folk song is also a type of Russian dance. It characteristically begins slowly, then builds into a frenzied hora-style in warp speed.
- Voronezh Cowboy** - This last piece was a fast, western-style American hoedown song by Leonard Cohen.

A standing ovation at the end of their program elicited calls for an encore, which they played in the form of a lovely, slow ballad in 6/8 time called Alleluia.

I had just returned from the Las Vegas Accordion Convention, and this performance was as superb as any I've experienced at the convention during the past several years. As a matter of fact, I'm going to recommend Sergei to the convention organizer for an appearance at next year's event. I'm hoping that Sergei and Natasha can appear for our club again in the future.

San Francisco Accordion Club meeting, October 2019



Many thanks to SFAC member **Frank Venturelli** for donating this vintage Iorio Accorgan and synthesizer/speaker system to the club. Frank has enjoyed entertaining his friends with great music for over 30 years. Thanks, Frank! This system is very much enjoyed in its new home.



CENTRAL WISCONSIN CONCERTINA FESTIVAL

April 17-18, 2020

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Location: **Les & Jim's Lincoln Lanes** - Merrill, WI 54452

Information: 715-536-9405



The Luttbeg Accordion

by Kimric Smythe

Smythe's Accordion Center, 2511 Broadway, Oakland, CA

I was going through several boxes of accordion sheet music when I stumbled across this. I had seen several dual keyboard accordions on eBay and elsewhere over the years, but never a book on one.

Max Luttbeg was a wrestler from Russia who later went on to play the accordion on the vaudeville circuit. He later gave up on the system and came up with a freebase button system with 36 buttons but it is not clear how this was laid out.

The book dates from 1935 but a little research seems to imply the the first one built by Soprani was from 1931. Apparently only about 12 were built and not all by the same company.

From the pictures you can see that a second strap inside the bass strap has been added to give more control and keep the hand in one place.

Since you only have about two octaves on the left you have a shifter bar that allows you to shift up for chords (see below).

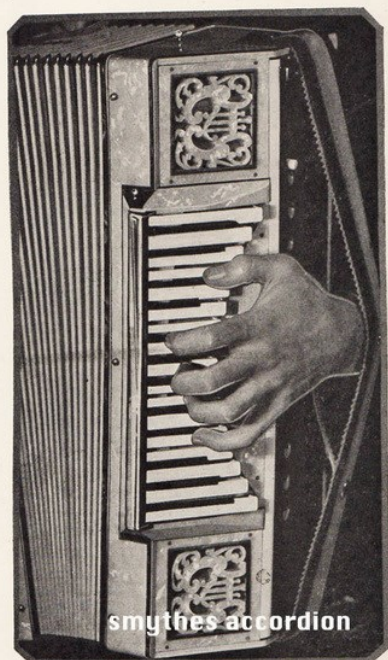
This is an important fact to keep in mind, because of the operation of the bass shift bar. The Bass Keyboard is so built that an octave is dropped out between E first ledger line below the staff and F fourth line in the staff. This enables the performer to play a bass note and then swing the hand a short distance for the chord, keeping the arm in practically a stationary position. Were it not for the fact that this octave can be dropped out, it would be practically impossible to chord with the left hand because of the travel of the left hand up and down the keyboard. This Luttbeg feature places all the notes needed for chording right under the hand.

When playing scales and arpeggios, however, the player can touch the bass shift bar and add this missing octave. This can be illustrated in the following manner. Start at low bass F and play up to E first ledger line, touch the bass shift bar and start back on the same keys and play right up the scale to A above the staff. This gives a continuous chromatic scale from low bass F to A above the staff. When the bass shift bar is touched, the lower octave from F to E is cut out, so that when the same keys are played after the shift bar is touched, only the upper octave sounds. The lower octave remains out until the bass shift bar is touched again, when the lower octave sounds and the intervening octave is dropped out, for purposes of chording. This is a unique feature of the Luttbeg.

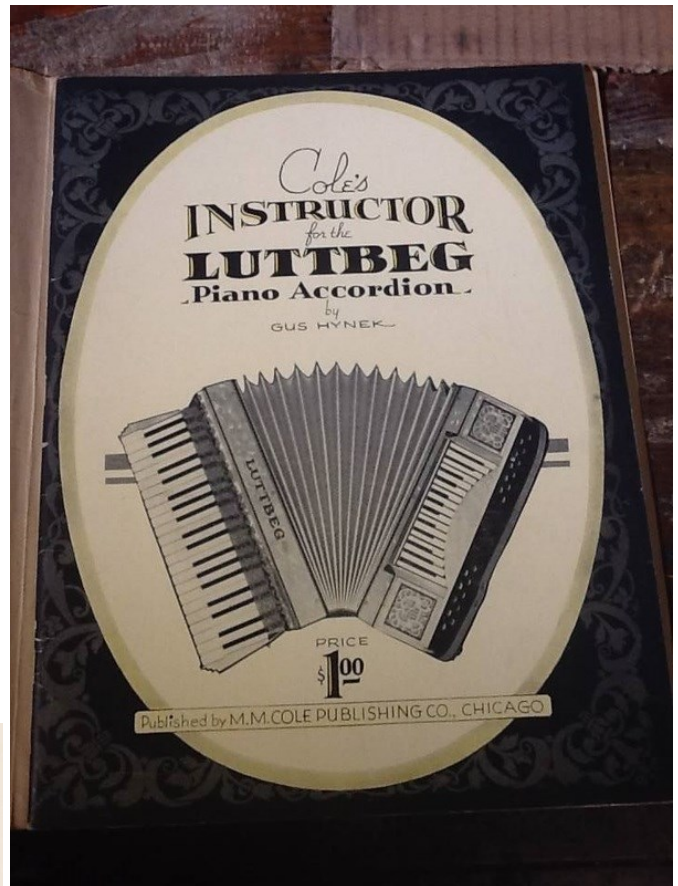
The position of the left hand in action is shown by the accompanying photograph. The hand when playing must have the feeling of holding a ball. The position of the thumb is the same as that used in piano playing three-fourths of the thumb nail on the key.

It is not advisable to have the fingers play too far back on the keys, as it takes more pressure to put the keys down and makes the playing more difficult.

The fingers are numbered from one to five, the same as for the right hand, the thumb being number one.



POSITION OF LEFT HAND. Note hand and fingers curved as if holding a ball. Note also position of arm through inner strap and position of fingers on the keys. At end of finger extending across keyboard is bass clef shift bar.



Depending on what you play I think you might have needed this more than was convenient.

The book also has a pullout by Edd Clark for a "Model A" that was a compact version with 25 keys on the right and 14 on the left and was called the "duo-organ" and he explains that this setup makes it possible to play piano music as it was written.

This type of left hand keyboard is an idea that has come and gone several times, and seems to make sense but in reality is pretty hard to master and does not bring any real benefit over the systems being used currently. Versions of accordions have been made with an inner row of bass buttons in the pattern of the black keys of a piano to simulate the black keys, and a row of white buttons for the white keys; this has been in use for many years on a small number of ethnic instruments in Serbia and but has never really caught on elsewhere.

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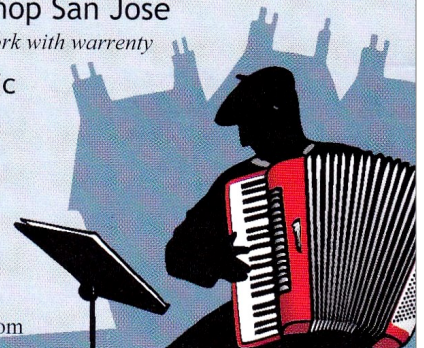
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Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year.

Monthly ad prices **for members**:

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

Non-member rates are double.

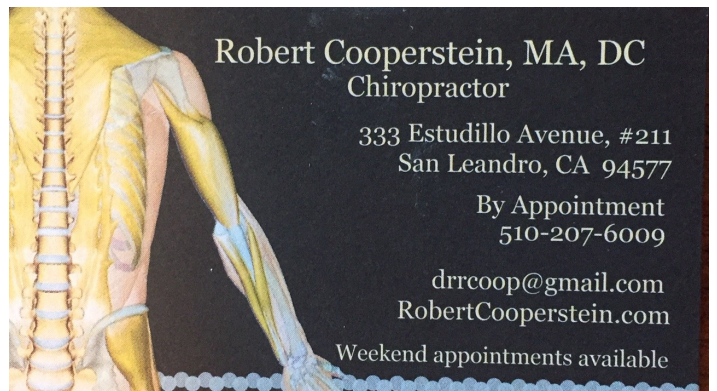
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drcoop@gmail.com
RobertCooperstein.com

Weekend appointments available



SFAC Well-Represented at 2019 Las Vegas Accordion Convention

by Pamela Tom [with thanks to Colette Ogata for additional pictures]

The 20th Anniversary of the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention (LVIAC) was celebrated by many San Francisco Accordion Club members and their families: **Gail Campanella, Gay Castellano and George Rice, Lou Jacklich, the Lister Family (Gwyneth, Pamela and John), Casey and Colette Ogata, Pamela Tom, and Michael Zampiceni**. Attendance was good and even better news... the LVIAC will reconvene October 26-29, 2020 at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas.



Accordion players and enthusiasts converged at the LVIAC for four days to enjoy workshops and hearing amazing accordion entertainment by a line-up of seasoned pros: Pete Barbutti, Gina Brannelli, Joe Cairo, Elena Fainshtein, Liz Finch, Gordon Kohl, Ginny Mac, Grayson Masefield, Paul Pasquali, Cory Pesaturo, Joan Cochran Sommers, Antonio Spaccarotella, Mary Tokarski, Steve & Michael Trucco, Stas Venglevski, and Michael Zampiceni.

Proud to note that all of the SFAC members in attendance contributed to the overall success of this year's LVIAC program by sharing their musical talent. **Mike Zampiceni** was an indispensable artist with 6X duty(!). Mike strolled and serenaded during the opening night's banquet, gave a solo

performance at the open mic session (a.k.a. Club Concerto), was a member in the LVIAC orchestra (directed by Joan Sommers), twice presented a workshop, "Playing Expressively & Musically" and sang *Shallow* (from "A Star is Born") in duet with Ginny Mac (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/157557744324142/permalink/2513387402074486/>)



Whew! Great job, Mike!!!!!!



Lou Jacklich played nightly at Club Concerto with his virtuoso solo arrangements. Like previous years, he was one of the very few open mic performers to receive a standing ovation. Lou was also accompanied by Colette Ogata who played duets with him during 3 nights. Pamela Tom played solos on two nights and launched her opening act with



Windy City Polka (2019 Greatest All-Time Cleveland-Style Hit Song) by two-time polka hall of fame star, Roman Possedi (<https://youtu.be/-VUkiZDFP-Y>).

A premier highlight of the LVIAC for the last 12 years has been the LVIAC orchestra that performs on the last evening. Accordionists in the orchestra from the SFAC included: Gail Campanella, Gail Castellano, and the Lister Family. This year's 58 minute concert included *Overture Furiant, Rocky Mountain Suite, Film Noir, Shallow, Thoroughly Modern Millie, and Farandole*.



I personally find the LVIAC a worthwhile accordion adventure. I've made wonderful

(continued) Las Vegas International Accordion Festival 2019

friends who share the love of the accordion with me and provide their experience and tips on improving my playing. This is an excellent venue where world-class accordionists convene and you can interact with them personally. The delicious meals are generous and the servers are very attentive. The LVIAC has an extensive collection of retail accordion music. I've always managed to find new books and sheet music to build my repertoire. I leave the LVIAC on Friday inspired and signed up for the 2020 LVIAC. I hope to see you there next year! For more information about next year's LVIAC, visit this web site: <http://accordionstars.com> or call Paul Pasquale at: (801) 485-5840.



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ATTENTION:

a Message from the **Cotati Accordion Festival**

Please note, we usually set our date for the third weekend in August but this year, due to the Sonoma County fair moving their dates, we will celebrate our 30th anniversary on

AUGUST 22nd & 23rd

If you've already made hotel reservations, now's the time to change them.

Tickets available online

Please visit cotatifest.com for tickets and more information.

Let the good times roll.

2020 ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

KOKKOLA Winter Accordion Festival

Kokkola, Finland

February 9-16, 2020

<https://www.talviharmonikka.com>

Rose City Accordion Camp

Collins Retreat Center - Eagle Creek, Oregon

June 7 - 12, 2020

rosecityaccordionclub.org

Leavenworth International Accordion

Northwest Accordion Society

June 18 - 21, 2020

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"

www.accordioncelebration.org

American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Festival

Holiday Inn & Suites, Alexandria, VA

July 8-12, 2020

<http://www.ameraccord.com/festival.php>

Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG) 2020 Festival

Los Angeles, California

August 5—9, 2020

<https://www.atgaccordions.com/2020-festival>

Cotati Accordion Festival

LaPlaza Park, Cotati, California

August 22-23, 2020

<https://cotatifest.com/>

Squeezebox International Accordion Festival

Frederikshavn, Denmark

September 10-13, 2020

<https://z-m-www.facebook.com/events/2543348092383455/>

Coupe Mondiale 2020

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

October 2 - 4, 2020

Algrave, Portugal

www.coupemondiale.org

SFAC Meetings — Looking Ahead!

• November 17, 2019

SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring—

The Ron Borelli Tango Trio

Opening: Don Savant, Ed Massolo, Lou Jacklich & Colette Ogata

• December 15, 2019

Holiday Accordion Circle, participation meeting

• January 19, 2020

SFAC Accordions Live! — with Seattle's **Bonnie Birch**

Opening: Il Duetto Musica (Paul & Gloria)

• February 16, 2020

SFAC Accordion Circle, participation meeting

• March 15, 2020

SFAC Accordions Live! - **Tutto a Dio**, from Lithuania!

[Augustinas Rakauskas, accordion; Greta Staponkutė, viola]

• April 19, 2020

Accordion Circle, participation meeting

• May 17, 2020

SFAC Accordions Live! - **Steve Albini**

• June 21, 2020

Accordion Circle, participation meeting

• July 19, 2020

SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring—

Adrian Jost/Bandoneon & Carlos Garcia/Guitar

<http://www.triogarufa.com/>

SFAC Scholarships

Your club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing.

Preference is given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion.

Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application.

eclecticguy@comcast.net

408-569-2579

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

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

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Area Accordion Groups/Events

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm, Hermann Sons Hall
860 Western, Petaluma

Contact: Tony Mustaro, President

(707) 318-0474, dcdacapo@gmail.com

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm, Escalon Community Center
1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon

Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

Humboldt Accordionaires

humsqueez44@yahoo.com

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

Napa Valley Accordion Party

gbachich@accordionrevival.com

2nd Thursday at 6:00 pm, The Runway Restaurant
2044 Airport Road, Napa

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

Sacramento Jammers

accordiondave1@gmail.com

(No events November-December 2019)

January 2020 location to be announced

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sundays at Christ Episcopal Church
1040 Border Rd., Los Altos, CA

Doors open at 1:30pm. www.svasociety.org



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Ron Borelli

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Double Tree Hotel, 835 Airport Blvd., Burlingame
Performance schedule varies between the following:

Hot Club of the Peninsula
Art Van Damme Tribute Band
Tango Night & Jazz Trios

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- ◆ email: ronborelli@aol.com



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*Honorary Director

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Elaine Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Pamela Tom, Robert Cooperstein *[volunteers needed]*

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Thanks to Our Donors!

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. We would like to thank the following members who made a donation in addition to regular dues during the current membership campaign (October 2019 - September 2020 membership year):

Dave Braun, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Aldo Didero, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Dominic Granelli, Gus & Sharon Greyhosky, Ron & Mary Jo Harris, Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi, Michael A. Marotta Jr., Stephen Marshall, Nora & Tony Mazzara, James Monfredini, Gisele Oakes, Colette & Casey Ogata, Alexander Roitman, Michael Sanossian, Don & Mary Savant, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, and Mike Zampiceni.

If you have donated more than a month ago 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.

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

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3rd Sundays – Monthly Musical Meetings

Performances by:

Ron Borelli Tango Trio

Massolo, Savant, Jacklich/Ogata

Sunday, November 17

Come for fun and great music!

November 17, 2019 2:00 pm

\$10 / \$8 SFAC members / under 16 free

Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA

SFAC 2019-2020 Membership Renewal

New Membership Year began October 1, 2019

Newsletter will discontinue as of January 2020 if dues unpaid

Please join or renew using PayPal or your credit card at:

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Chetcuti Community Room

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae

Plenty of *free parking in Library lot*

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