April 2021

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Sunday, April 18, 2021 SFAC ACCORDION CIRCLE!

ONLINE-ONLY MUSICAL GATHERING

VIA ZOOM - 2:00 PM

SFAC MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE ZOOM LINK VIA

EMAIL from Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com



Our April meeting will return to our traditional small, informal Accordion Circle format, which will be totally open mic and virtual via 200m.

Please come armed with your accordions and eager to put your names on the playlist as soloists to play a tune or two! Simply send an email to <u>Ken Schwartz</u> that you would like to play (about 5-8 minutes of performance time). Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome – from beginners to seasoned experts, and everything in-between.

And, if you don't play the accordion, join in anyway and cheer the players on. Regrettably, there will be no jam session due to the limitations of internet-based meetings.

This is a great opportunity for our members to polish their stage skills and share a few favorite pieces. Even a few minutes of performance will be enjoyed by all!



You will need a **200m** meeting link, which members will receive via email from Ken Schwartz.

March Accordions Live! Event Summary

Squeeze Play — Kim & Dan Christian — Accordionists Extraordinaire

By Ken Schwartz

The Club was pleased to present **The Christians - Dan and Kim** - who are among the premier accordionists in the world. Frequent performers in Branson, MO and on the national and international stage and teachers to multiple generations of accordion students who have gone on to their own careers, Kim and Dan performed for the SFAC with the energy, precision, wonderful harmonies and joy for each other that have gained them international recognition. Appropriate for the first day of Spring, these champions treated us to a thrilling, mesmerizing afternoon of their signature songs. Complementing today's event was Colette Ogata's perfect emceeing.



The Christians opened with a riveting Kim Bone Boogie

(written by Kim Christian) followed by a spirited *Mike's Polka*, written by Mike Aman (Kim's father). Mike taught Dan as a youngster; Kim was all of age 5 when she met Dan. Partners in music and marriage, the rest, as they say, is history! Next, they performed in perfect unison a *Dixieland Style Rag*. Next, was the theme song from the Disney film *Beauty and the Beast*, arranged by Dan, followed by their incredible arrangement of *The Snow Train Shuffle* (John Gart), performed with perfect precision and faster than a speeding locomotive. Worried about the pandemic? They performed Dan's arrangement of Stevie Wonder's *Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing*. Kim and Dan often engage their audiences in live challenges, so next they performed musical trivia with a "Name that Tune" contest and for extra credit – guess the composer! *There's No Business Like Show Business, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Puttin' on the Ritz*, and *Blue Skies* (Irving Berlin). Next was Dan's beautiful arrangement for Kim of Hoagie Carmichael's *The Nearness of You*. The song featured lovely harmonics, arranged expressly for the accordion! They even hit their switches and masters at the same time; such wonderful precision!

Colette then singled out three of Mike Zampiceni's students – Siyuan Donnelly, Colin Kennedy and Anand Joseph, who performed earlier today for the ATG student recital and joined today's event after that event. They were terrific! Well done all 3 of you and thanks to Mike for such great instruction!

During a brief intermission, Colette noted the Christians usually play every year at the *Las Vegas International Accordion Convention* and are one of the many draws for which she attends every year. They usually have 250 or so gigs/year, but all were cancelled during the past year because of Covid-19. So, the Christians started a concert-of-the month club, each a fully produced concert, including beautiful sound quality and screen effects to produce a music video. For best audio and video quality, they are pre-recorded. They also have weekly on-line mini workshops and lessons; Dan has arranged a dozen new songs, as has Kim, available through their website: https://squeezeplay.biz/digital-sheet-music. Their April concert will feature themes from movies, Broadway and TV shows, including John Williams, Superman, Ghostbusters, and many more. Every Tuesday at 10 am MT, they also present a new song-of-themonth with their own arrangement, repertoire list, technique tips, teaching different finger exercises, speed and dex-

Continued on next page ...

(continued) March Event Summary by Ken Schwartz

terity. Dan also throws in a food recipe of the month (Shepherd's pie in March for the Irish). Plus an extra bonus – the Big Band Concert and their 3 most popular Technique Tips for increasing speed and developing fantastic articulation to anyone who joins from the San Francisco Accordion Club. Many of the arrangements from today's songs today are available through their website. Many thanks to their colleague, Josh Weber of Cloud Dancer Studios, for hosting today's audio/video.

Returning to today's music, next was a quiz on music from around the world – guess the country! Included were *Theme from Zorba the Greek, Domino*, an energetic *Sabre Dance*, an Irish jig, *España Cani*, and a wonderfully danceable *Bandstand Boogie* (Charles Albertine), which was made famous as the theme song for Dick Clark's American Bandstand - do you remember dancing to this?. Next was country rock style with *Sweet Home Alabama* (Lynyrd Skynyrd) and Dan's arrangement of the jazz standard *Take the "A" Train* (written by Billy Strayhorn while traveling on the A

train in New York City to see Maestro Duke Ellington!). And, as their finale, the Christians played Dan's arrangement of *Superman March* (John Williams). The original Williams version is scored for 36 parts, Dan has re-scored it to 2 parts for the accordion, including for his "Wonder Woman!" It soared!

Once again, many thanks to the remarkable Dan and Kim for today's out-of-thisworld performance! You are awesome!

PS: Got the writing spirit? We welcome SFAC members to contribute event summaries. Please contact Ken.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE from CAF Director Scott Goree Via Facebook - March 28 at 10:20 AM

The team at the Cotati Accordion Festival would like to update our fans as to what the status is of the festival this year. First of all, we have August 21 & 22 listed as the dates of our "live" event. This declaration is made in case the possibility of a live event, in some form, is allowed to take place. We are fully cognizant of the perilous nature of that date being a reality.

We would like everyone to know that the decision is not ours as to whether or not a festival takes place. It is up to Sonoma County and the City of Cotati. If the city refuses to issue a permit then we have no event. At this point in time the city has refused to even accept an application for a permit, but has not ruled anything out. They have told me that they have no idea if we will be able to apply for a permit or not. Our hands could not be tied behind our backs any more securely.

Meanwhile, we have frozen other dates in La Plaza Park. We froze the 25th & 26th of September and the 16th & 17th of October as back-up possibilities.

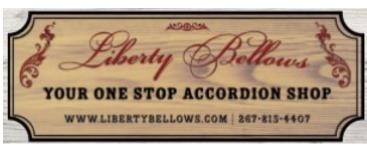
We also have the possibility of a virtual show on August 21 & 22. However, even that is at risk. While we have to wait on the city to decide what they will do we have our accordion acts getting booked all over the US this summer and fall. A sought-after act is not going to play a virtual show while they are getting offerings of bookings at live events during the same time in other countries and states.

We are fully aware that this statement does not help anyone who wants to make plans around our annual treasured event. We apologize and pledge to keep the public updated as to any additional information that is revealed in the near future.

Comparison of 10 Musette De-tunings Dry to Wet

by Mike Bulboff, Owner of Liberty Bellows Accordion Shop, Philadelphia, PA

The following description and video (link) were created to help improve the vocabulary of musette de-tuning which can be very difficult to understand without hearing the differences side by side. We tried to make a thorough comparison covering the wide variety of de-tunings available. A 12-minute demo of the 10 wet tuned sounds on YouTube by Stanislav "Stas" Culcicovschi (fulltime teacher at Liberty Bellows Accordion Shop and ATG U.S. Champion - Sr. Division) is at: https://youtu.be/Z9VzzHaopcc.



What does musette de-tuning mean?

In the same way that we thicken the accordion sound vertically by adding octaves, we can thicken the sound horizontally by adding additional reeds at the same octave. Typically this is done by adding reeds to the middle octave M = 8 reeds although on a few accordions you will find double bassoon options where the L = 16" reeds are doubled.

Multiplying the reeds at the same octave will make the instrument louder and fuller. However, what gives an accordion its distinctive sound is the fact that middle reeds can be intentionally de-tuned to create a slow or fast tremolo effect. The speed of tremolo is determined by the number of "beats" you hear per second when the de-tuned sound waves cancel out.

German 2 Reed Tremolo Tuning:

- ♦ M = A440hz
- ♦ M+ = A444hz
- Number of Beats = 444hz 440hz = 4hz = 4 beats per second

We use the term musette loosely to refer to this effect in a general sense but a true French musette will have 3 middle reeds which are typically configured as follows.

French 3 Reed Musette Tuning:

- ♦ M- = A435hz
- ♦ M = A440hz
- ♦ M+ = A445hz
- ♦ Number of Beats = 445hz 440hz = 440hz 435hz = 5hz = 5 beats per second symmetrically doubled

Other Types of Tremolo and Musette Tunings:

Some typical tunings are listed below. Note that many people refer to tuning in "cents" which refers to percent detuning from the next half step. For example, a German Tremolo A440hz to A444hz = 4 beats per second = 15% de-tuning = 15 cents. The conversion is roughly 1hz = 3.5 cents in the middle of the keyboard.

- ◆ Ohz = O cents = Unison (Dry, Secco) Classical, Balkan
- ♦ 0.5hz = 2 cents = Concert (Violin, Swing Secco) Jazz, Tango, Cleveland Polka
- ◆ 1hz = 4 cents = Swing (Swing Mosso), Gypsy Jazz, Brazilian, Klezmer
- ◆ 2hz = 7 cents = Demi-Swing (Mezzo Swing), Irish





ATG Launches New Workshops

The Accordionists and Teachers Guild (ATG) is hosting new 30-minute online Wednesday Workshops. 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time [7:00 p.m. Central Time]

Workshops are free to ATG members, \$15 for non-members. To request a Zoom link, email: atg.accordioniststeachersguild@gmail.com

April 14 – "Friedrich Lips' Life Achievements" by Herbert Scheibenreif

The Brooklyn Accordion Club Hosts Free April Zoom Workshops

The following two April events are being hosted on Zoom by the Brooklyn Accordion Club (BAC):

Sunday, April 11th at 11 AM (PDT) [2 PM EDT]

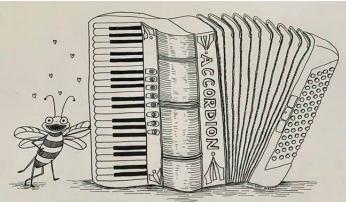
- Bachtopus Accordion Quartet "Musical Collaborations During the Pandemic"
- Robert Duncan, music director of the Bachtopus Accordion Quartet, will talk about recognizing the unique affordances of presenting art online, applying for a grant, working with composers, collaborating together, recording, mixing, and learning to make videos during the pandemic.

Sunday, April 25th at 11 AM (PDT) [2 PM EDT]

- ♦ Sadys R. Espitia "Colombian Squeezebox 101"
- Sadys of the WKCR 89.9FM NY Columbia University talks about Columbian music, his radio show "Sonidos Columbianos," and the diatonic button accordion.
- Everyone is welcome to participate on the Zoom session. To receive a Zoom link, send an e-mail including the workshop date, your first and last name, and e-mail address to the BAC: <u>brooklynaccordionclub@gmail.com</u>



Making the rounds on Facebook:



"It has long been hoped that a common speech might be evolved which would be used by people of all the countries of the world, but thus far this idea has met with little success. Perhaps, the best substitute we shall ever have for a universal language is accordion music, which is understood and loved by people in every corner of the globe: which is appreciated equally by prince and peasant, by millionaire and laborer; a language, not of the mind but of the soul and the emotions."

-- The Accordion World Magazine, 1937

Handout created by Joan Grauman, AAA Historian & illustrator of "Buzz Treble" the bee, main character in the book "An Accordion! What is That?" by Mary Tokarski. For more details about the book and to order, see www.accordions.com/mary.



A Family of Accordion Champions: "K" Trio

By Pamela Tom



Three amazing accordion siblings hailing from Connecticut, Mary Kasprzyk Tokarski, Julie Kasprzyk Cardona, and Walter Kasprzyk, represented a US family dynasty that dominated accordion championships nationally in the 60s and early 70s. Individually the Kasprzyk sisters were US delegates to five(!) elite world championship Coupe Mondiale competitions. Julie, the younger sibling, participated in Holland (1967), England (1968) and New York City (1969) while Mary competed in Belgium (1971) and France (1973). Walter was the three-time Connecticut Accordion State Champion (1966, 1967 and 1968) and competed at national championships many times thereafter. Also, the undefeated sisters brought home national duet championships for 12 consecutive years! Collectively they have earned 450 trophies!

After 25 years of establishing their careers in different parts of the US, the siblings returned to Connecticut, formed the "K" Trio and began performing professionally in 1997. Mary and Julie are well-known outstanding leaders in the accordion community with Mary serving many leadership roles (including President) of the American Accordionists' Association and Julie having served numerous years as the AAA Administrative Assistant.

With great sadness, the "K" Trio retired as the accordion world lost Julie this past January.

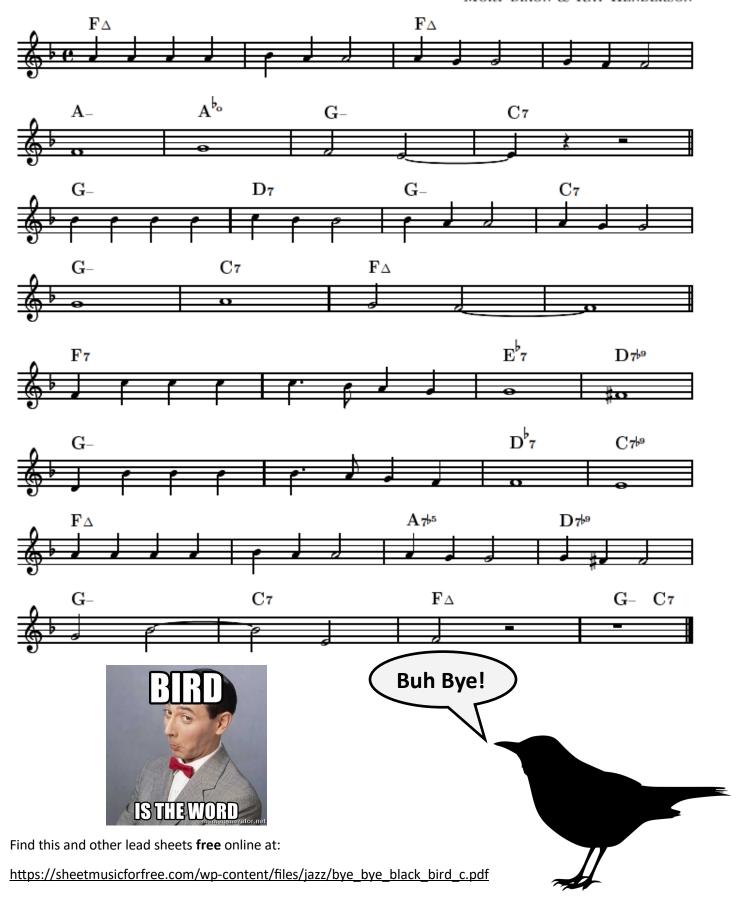
The talent and brilliance of the "K" Trio is electronically captured on video and CD. The Connecticut Accordionists' Association recorded a live concert performance in 2005 at the Seven Angels Theater in Waterbury, CT: https://youtu.be/KXiGPKWXwhc (35 min). I am confident that accordion aficionados will want to watch the video more than once! The world-class "K" Trio performed a spectacular program of many Golden Age of the Accordion standards before their appreciative audience. The three champions performed with precision, expression and virtuosity. The "must view" video was professionally recorded and epitomizes elite accordion technique and presentation. The "K" Trio successfully magnified the difficulty of three accordions synchronized into one blended sound. Watch them with open eyes. And for a heightened audio experience play an encore of the "K" Trio with closed eyes and appreciate the complex arrangements of each performance. To give you an idea of how seasoned this trio was, their opening act was an electrifying Dizzy Fingers! The rest of their set list featured virtuoso favorites including: Danse Macabre, Accordiana, Scherzo, Claire de Lune, Jolly Caballero, Bolero (C Major), and Casey Jones.

- ◆ The "K" Trio released three CDs of classic and contemporary accordion music.
- ◆ Details on CD contents plus a sample of audio clips are available at: www.accordions.com/ktrio/trio-recordings.htm
- ◆ To order the CDs, e-mail Mary for details: <u>mary.tokarski@comcast.net</u>.



Bye Bye Blackbird

MORT DIXON & RAY HENDERSON



>Thank You, Donors!≪

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. We would like to thank the following members who have made donations during our current membership year October 2020 - September 2021.

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott T. Anderson, John Baylo, Anthony Bologna, Dave Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Gail Campanella, Stephanie Capodanno, Raymond Celentano, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Richard Denier, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Dominic Granelli, Gus & Sharon Greyhosky, Ron & Mary Harris, Carlyn & Janet Jensen, Jerry Keifer, Christina Knapp, Franco & Susan and Lorenzo Lucchesi, Michael A. Marotta, Jr., Sharon Marotte, James Monfredini, Anna Nicora, Gisele B. Oakes, Colette Ogata, Robert & Dil Pisani, Michael Sanossian, Tibor Sarkany, Don & Mary Savant, Jeanine Savello, Ken Schwartz, Joe Simoni, Georgia Sutherland, Pamela Tom, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, Barbie Wong, Mike Zampiceni, & Marlen Zhagel

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact <u>elainedc@sbcglobal.net</u>. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized.



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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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ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Leavenworth International Accordion

Northwest Accordion Society
June 17 - 20, 2021
Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"
www.accordioncelebration.org

Squeezeplay Concert of the Month Club

Kim & Dan Christian

Enroll at: https://squeezeplay.samcart.com/products/ squeeze-play-concert-of-the-month-club/

Members-only online community, Monthly concerts, etc.

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Peter DiBono 415-699-8674

Reno DiBono To participate in 30-minute online group lessons, Sundays 11am, request link from OurHike@AOL.com

Lou Jacklich* 510-317-9510 Marian Kelly 650-954-3711

Joe Simoni* jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122

Pamela Tom* accordionpam@gmail.com

Joel Weber* www.joelseastbayacordionlessons.weebly.com/

Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com

*=remote lessons via ZOOM, Facetime and/or Skype available

SFAC - Looking Ahead!

• April 18, 2021

Accordion Circle! Member participation

- ♦ Open mic
- ♦ via ZOOM
- May 16, 2021

SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring (live via ZOOM)—

- Alex Meixner
- June 20, 2021

Accordion Circle! Member participation

- ♦ Open mic
- ◊ via ZOOM
- ♦ July 18, 2021

SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring (live via ZOOM)—

Joe Natoli

Area Accordion Groups/Clubs

Most clubs are on hiatus or meeting virtually (online). Check each club's website and/or club contacts for meeting schedules

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

Contact: Tony Mustaro, President

(707) 318-0474, <u>dcdacapo@gmail.com</u>

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

Humboldt Accordionaires

humsqueez44@yahoo.com

Napa Valley Accordion Party

qbachich@accordionrevival.com

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Sacramento Jammers

accordiondave1@gmail.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

www.svasociety.org

The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization whose purpose is to enhance, promote and stimulate an appreciation for the accordion within the membership and throughout the general public. Donations are tax-deductible and gratefully accepted by using the Donate button at www.sfaccordionclub.com or by mailing your contribution to the SFAC Treasurer, Elaine Cooperstein, 539 Elsie Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577

HARTS and AWAM Host 3-Day Accordion Festival, May 6-8, 2021

(Helmi Strahl Harrington, Ph.D. Curator, Executive Director HARTS and AWAM)

Harrington ARTS Center (HARTS) and A World of Accordions Museum (AWAM) will be hosting a live-music accordion festival at 1401 Belknap St., Superior, WI. Music and lectures will be ongoing from 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM with refreshments available on May 6-7. A polka service will held on May 8. AWAM's large concert hall allows for 6' seating distances, masks will be required. Tickets can be ordered or paid at the door for \$75 per day, or \$125 for the first two days. The polka service is free. Many of the performances will be live-streamed on AWAM's Facebook and YouTube channels. The links and schedules will be posted soon on AWAM's Facebook page and web site: http://www.worldofaccordions.org (choose "Events and News"). For more information call (218) 393-0245 or email: aworldofaccordions@gmail.com.

May 6 AWAM events align with international celebrations of World Accordion Day and will be emceed by Kevin Friedrich, CIA Ambassador. AWAM presents Stas Venglevski in concert premiering his "Full Moon Suite" composed for Joan Cochran Sommers, UMKC Professor Emerita. Stas will also perform solo and in duet with Joan. Joan will also perform in a trio with accordionists Betty Jo Simon and Jane Christison. Via video lecture, Judy Campbell Contino will pay tribute to her legendary husband Dick Contino. Dick Contino's estate displays will be opening at AWAM by 2022. Accordion star, Dr. Michael Middleton, will perform a concert of Contino favorites. Because the Pandemic prevents international travel, guest Japanese artists, Mihoko Goto and Chiharu Ebihara, will be live-streamed. Dr. Brett Jones, Chairman of the University of Wisconsin Music Department, AWAM's new Artistic Director, Stas Venglevski and Alex Sandor, UW-Superior Piano Instructor will perform William Susman's original work "Three for Keyboard," for bayan, marimba, and piano.

<u>May 7</u> HARTS will host the Ninth Annual Dr. Willard A. Palmer Festival featuring Willard A. Palmer III, Dance Attic: Susi and Jimi, Joanna Darrow (NJ) and Dee Langley (MN), Paul Vargason (WI), and a roundtable discussion on composing and arranging music for accordion including J. Sommers, S. Venglevski, T. Gibbens, D. Langley, H. Harrington and Megumi Hada. The day closes with a performance by the World Accordion Music Band conducted by Tracey Gibbens.

<u>May 8</u> The World Accordion Day program ends with a special hour of folk music in the format of a polka service. The Norsk Høstfest Polka Service Band (a subgroup of the Norsk Høstfest Accordion Club of Minot, ND) will perform. This informal and fun experience is free and open to the public.



Stas Venglevski (pictured above), Bayan Virtuoso and AWAM Artistic Director



"Full Moon Suite" by Stas Venglevski for Joan Cochran Sommers (pictured above) debuts on World Accordion Day.

SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI San Mateo - <u>RonBorelli@aol.com</u> www.ronborelli.com

RICHARD DENIER Carmel - rjd.denier@gmail.com

DAVID CHELINI Sacramento area, Soloist & Duo, djchelini@sbcglobal.net

PETER DI BONO San Francisco www.peterdibono.com

RENO DI BONO South Bay - <u>ourhike@aol.com</u> www.italianaccordion.com

JOE DOMITROWICH South Bay <u>www.alpinersusa.com</u> or <u>www.capricious-accordion.com</u>

ED GORZYNSKI, JR. East Bay - edspolkas@yahoo.com

IL DUETTO MUSICA (aka Paul Aebersold & Gloria Gazave)
mazurkaman@yahoo.com
https://www.facebook.com/Il- Duetto-Musica992981207392410/

ROBERT KENNEDY

robertkennedymusic.com, missionhotclub.com

TANGONERO (Alexander Roitman) www.tangonero.com

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI East Bay & South Bay <u>eclecticguy@comcast.net</u>, <u>www.mikezamp.com</u>

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



Accordions for Rent

Do you know someone interested in renting an accordion? The SFAC has four instruments available for members to rent. See our <u>June 2020 newsletter</u> for descriptions and rental terms.

We're seeking members to perform during the 1st half of upcoming performance meetings. This is a great opportunity for our members to polish their stage skills and share a few favorite pieces. Even a few minutes of performance will be enjoyed by all!

My contact information is: Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com



Ron Borelli, Accordionist Music for Dancers, Entertainment, and Fine Artistry Ronborelli.com 415-203-6700

San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

c/o 539 Elsie Avenue San Leandro, CA 94577 www.sfaccordionclub.com



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

3rd Sundays - Monthly Musical Meetings

SFAC Sunday Meeting Accordions Online!

Accordion Circle - Open mic style

Sunday, April 18

Join us for fun and great music! Online Accordion Circle Watch email for **ZOOM** link RSVP Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com





Anne Summer - www.deviantart.com