

Sunday, January 15, 2023

SFAC Accordions Live!

SQUEEZE BOX OPERA

PAUL AEBERSOLD (ACCORDION)
CHRISTINE CAPSUTO-SHULMAN (SOPRANO)

CHETCUTI COMMUNITY ROOM — MILLBRAE, CA 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm PST

THE SFAC "JAM BAND" WILL GATHER BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Squeeze Box Opera, the duo of accordionist Paul Aebersold and multi-faceted performing artist Christina Capsuto-Shulman, will entertain us live at the Chetcuti Community Room on January 15th. This talented duo will perform arias in Italian and other languages, as well as classical vocal works and Broadway show tunes. It promises to be a lively adventure in great music, so please plan to join us live in Millbrae!

Paul Aebersold learned to play accordion as a child



when his accordionplaying mother took him to lessons. During this time his parents took a trip to Paris and brought back Edith Piaf records. Later he took clarinet lessons and dropped accordion to

play clarinet in junior and senior high school bands. Only in graduate school at UC Berkeley in his late 20s did he pick up the accordion again, when he developed a repertoire of French songs to play at a French restaurant in Alameda, CA.

In the years that followed, while working in the Washington DC area, Paul established many multicultural ensembles, including German, Italian, and French, the latter specializing in the French music sung by Edith Piaf. Paul was honored to perform for the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Since 2015, Paul has split his time between Redwood City and Washington DC. In the Bay Area, he connected with opera singer Gloria Gazave and the two played at Angelica's restaurant and farmers' markets for a number of years until her family moved out of the Bay Area. Fortuitously, Gloria and Paul met **Christine Capsuto-Shulman** at a local farmers' market, when she started singing along with them from the audience. Since then, Paul and Christine have developed their own repertoire of arias, classical pieces and Broadway show tunes.



Christine Capsuto-Shulman

performs in opera and musical theater. Some regional credits include: Mamma Mia! (Tanya), Jekyll & Hyde (Emma), Bridges of Madison County (Chiara), Chicago (Velma), A Little Night Music (Miss Nordstrom), Aladdin! At Disneyland (Jasmine), Light in The Piazza (Franca), Le Nozze di Figaro (Contessa), Carmen (Frasquita/Micaëla), Rigoletto

(Gilda), La bohéme (Musetta), and Die Zauberflöte (Queen). She is also an esteemed concert soloist, educator and proud mom/wife. Christine earned her degrees from AMDA and SJSU. Offstage, she loves directing/choreographing, laughing, cooking and spoiling her family, friends and dog. christinecapsuto.com.



December Musical Event Summary 'Twas the Season to be Jolly!

By Ken Schwartz

Yes, 'twas was the season to be jolly, and indeed, December's Holiday Accordion Circle was filled with musical merriment and cheer.

The meeting was hybrid, in-person at Millbrae and live-streamed with Zoom. It started with a holiday jam session, led by **Maestro Lou Jacklich**, featuring our Club's special holiday jam books (maintained by the Coopersteins, Elaine and Robert). There were 42 participants, counting both in-person and virtual attendees, probably a high mark for a hybrid musical program.

During Intermission, our door prize drawing was supplemented with numerous holiday items in addition to the usual bottles of wine. After enjoying an assortment of holiday refreshments, the intermission was followed up with member performances.

Paul Aerbersold and **Shirley Roller** opened with a duet of *Ave Maria* (Bach/Gounod) followed by the lovely duet of *Barcarolle* (often referred to as *Belle Nuit*) from The **Tales of Hoffmann** (Offenbach). Thanks for a wonderful performance, Paul and Shirley!

Dr. Scott Anderson opened with a famous Philippine song, *Dahil Sa 'Yo (Because of you)*, loved by Imelda Marcos. Perhaps it sounded familiar? If so, it might be because it was also loved and recorded by Nat King Cole (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wm3LIMXAi7k). Next Scott switched gears and played *Amour Amour Amour Beguine*. Well done, Scott! Dr. Scott will be spending the holidays visiting the Philippines, his wife's native country, with her and their 2 children on a mission. We look forward to Scott's return and encore performances for the Club!

Paul Cain opened with an amazing arrangement of *The Little Drummer Boy,* played in his own complex, syncopated rhythm featuring an almost percussive nuance. He followed with a powerful rendition of *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful,* which included a beautiful introduction. Paul performed using his magnificent Petosa Antico Custom, circa 2001, a replica of the Giulietti Traviata, circa 1930s.

Nora Mazzara performed *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle*, a traditional Sicilian Christmas song. It's believed Handel heard this song being played on bagpipes when he was passing through Naples, explaining why one of the hymns that he composed sounds a bit like this song. Lovely, thank so much, Nora!

Sergiy Turchyn followed with *An Evening in Paris*, which was arranged by Joseph Zampiceni. Surprise surprise, Sergiy is a student of Mike Zampiceni!

The Schwartz Brothers, Richard and Kenneth, also known as The Rhythm Kings (from their teenage years!) performed 3 short songs: *Jingle Bell Rock* and 2 songs for the Hanukkah season: *Hava Nagila* and the popular Israeli folk dance *Mayim*, *Mayim* (Hebrew for *Water*, *Water*).

Mr. Jacklich, our first featured performer, opened with his wonderful interpretation of *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2* by Franz Liszt. Next was his virtuoso performance of the incredibly difficulty *Kitten on the Keys* by Zez Confrey, composed in the 1920s and known for having established a new level of difficulty. Lou nailed it! His next song was equally complex and difficult, *Holiday for Strings* by David Rose. He once said, more or less, that each "note" is actually a chord. On a roll, Lou amped up the tempo with portions of *Flight of the Bumblebee* by Rimsky-Korsakov, segueing into *Bumble Boogie* by Jack Fina. Shifting gears, Lou closed his set with a blues medley: *Basin Street Blues, Blues in the Night*, and *St Louis Blues*, all adroitly melded together. Thank you, Mr. Jacklich for an outstanding performance!

Completing the holiday event was out second featured performer, Mike Zampiceni, another true master of the instrument. Mike opened with his traditional Christmas holiday opening song: a frenetic *We Need a Little Christmas* (made famous by Johnny Mathis). Next was *My Favorite Things* (Rogers & Hammerstein, from **The Sound of Music**), played and sung. It was articulated with terrific chord changes, a Mike Zampiceni specialty. He followed with a jazzy arrangement of *The Christmas Song* (commonly subtitled *Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire* (Robert Wells and Mel Torme).

(continued) December Event Summary By Ken Schwartz

Mike next took requests from the audience. First up, of course, his terrific vocal on Jingle Bells. Then Sleigh Ride - Mike cautioned the horses not to get too fast, and indeed, Mike rendered the song as a musical trot! Wonderful! Greensleeves also featured a jazzy style, even including a key change. In honor of the upcoming Hanukkah holiday, Mike played and sang The Dreidel Song, followed by Hanukkah Song, and finally a traditional 13th century Hanukkah song, Rock of Ages (Ma'oz Tzur in Hebrew, אָם עוֹד צוּר (Ma'oz Tzur in Hebrew, אוֹר (Ma'oz Tzur in Hebrew). Next was Mike's Let It Snow. Of course, what Christmas holiday would be complete without Irving Berlin's White Christmas — and Mike did not disappoint, it is one of his specialties! Mike ended his brilliant set with We Wish You a Merry Christmas. Bravo, Mike, and what a way to conclude our musical year!

Thanks to all of you who made this event such an amazing musical success!





Door prize winners!

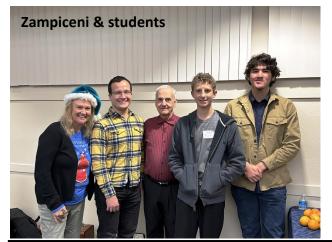




Jacklich & students











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Year 2022 - A very good year for the SFAC!

By Robert Cooperstein

The year 2022 was the year social life pretty much went back to normal, both for the SFAC and most of America. Our Club emerged from the darkness stronger than ever, having retained the great majority of its members, despite being limited to virtual programs until the month of May. Not only did many of our members learn to love Zooming in, they let the Board know they looked forward to retaining that option even as the Chetcuti Community Center allowed us to return live. As of today, the hybrid live/virtual format has proven to be a winner, with virtually equal numbers of live and virtual attendees.



January started our year with a bang, featuring the incomparable Canadian virtuoso **Michael Bridge**, who gave a tour de force performance. Incredibly talented, Michael performed a diverse program featuring genres ranging from classical to jazz, first on an acoustic chromatic button accordion and then on a digital chromatic button accordion.

Our own members took over in February: **Jim Shoemaker** (Sacramento), **Colin Kennedy**, **Lou Le Brun** (Springfield, MO), **Christine Boris Esteban** (San Diego area), **Bonnie Birch** (Seattle, WA), **Ken**

Schwartz, and **Paul Cain**. For a special treat, Paul followed his set with an extended tour of his **Greater Prunedale Accordion Museum**, his personal collection currently comprising 101 accordions of various vintages and styles.

The SFAC has been blessed with the opportunity to feature several world-renowned accordionists, made easier with the advent and increasing popularity of live-streaming. In March It was truly special to host **Two Accordions**, Sergei Teleshev and his daughter Maria Telesheva. They are World Accordion champion; and winners of international accordion competitions in the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Italy, and France. **Duo Two Accordions** is unquestionably one of the most striking duos in the world.



In April our own members took over again: **Nicholas Plasichuk**, **Lou Le Brun**, **Sergy Turchyn**, **Scott Anderson**, **Laura Jean Niland** (Texas), **Pamela Tom**, **Nora Massara**, and closer and Club president **Ken Schwartz**. Nora's *Just Say I Love Him* may have been the highlight as she recited some of the lyrics: "*Just say that I need him as roses need the rain and tell him that without him my dreams are all in vain."*



May marked the return of live programs for the SFAC. Of course, we featured our beloved Maestro, Mr. Lou Jacklich, teacher to so many of our members. As emcee Scott Anderson put it, "On May 22, Lou Jacklich showed the SFAC what our beloved instrument is capable of, at our reunion meeting at the City of Millbrae's David J. Chetcuti Community Room. In a sense, Lou answered the call to pick up the baton after a two-year pandemic-induced hiatus. It seemed fitting that our first live, in-person featured performer was a man who has played since the Golden Age of the Accordion." Lou also led our venerable jam band, and Elaine and Robert Cooperstein were awarded SFAC Lifetime Membership "in recognition of their outstanding service and long-time commitment to the Club."

Our June Accordion Circle jam event had 4 outstanding players step up: Scott Anderson, Lifetime Member Don Savant,

Pamela Tom, **Paul Aebersold**, and **Ken Schwartz**. A few highlights: Scott's romantic *Fascination*, Pam's incredibly long triple bellows shake in *Stars and Stripes Forever*, Paul's beautiful musette sound on *More*, and Ken's *Tico-Tico* as arranged *by* Frank Gaviani.

In July we held a picnic at a San Mateo park in lieu of meeting at Chetcuti. Yes, we had the usual picnic food and some unusual wet weather, but the main thing we had was a bunch of happy, engaged Club members playing and hanging out in the park.



Continued on next page ...

(continued) **2022** Wrap-up — by Robert Cooperstein

We also forewent hosting an August musical program, as we do every year to avoid conflict with the Cotati Accordion Festival, which also occurs in August. Our Club was well represented there, hosting a canopy with lots of members coming and going, with accordion-themed figures and sheet music available for the strollers, including a passerby named Cory Pesaturo.

In September it was back to Chetcuti for a reunion program featuring long-time Club members and Bay Area accordion celebrities Reno and Peter Di Bono. With Olaf Schiappacasi on drums and Bob Rizzetto on upright bass, the quartet opened with an accordion classic, *Beer*





Barrel Polka, and closed with yet another, The Girl from Ipanema. There was still enough time for the jam band to pop up to join in on the fun.

Our hybrid October meeting had somewhat more virtual than live participants. The jam band opened the festivities, and then our own soloists took over: **Scott Anderson, Lou Le Brun, Gay Castellano, Anand Joseph** (and his daughters **Juni** and **Annabelle**), **Pamela Tom, Don Savant, Ken Schwartz**, and finally Maestro **Lou Jacklich**. The very eclectic selections ranged from Scott's wistful *Für Elise* to Lou Le Brun's rousing section from the *William Tell Overture* (the theme song in **Lone Ranger** productions); from Pamela's very difficult *Maple Leaf Rag* to Ken's

rendition of Carreno's complex arrangement of *Begin the Beguine*, one of the most famous and popular pieces of the entire swing era. Lou Jacklich brought the house down as only he can with a Gershwin medley and more.

In November **Beverley Fess**, who once taught Michael Bridge, live-streamed from San Diego from aboard her 50' motor yacht **Duet** with her husband, Ron. Beverley is well known to many Club members as a virtuoso accordionist, master teacher,



officer of the ATG. Her skillful

interpretations of talented arrangers and composers included Magnante, Frosini, and Gart. Ron joined Bev for a terrific series of duets, including their renditions of *Under Paris Skies* and *Oblivion*.

Our holiday-themed December jam band session was led by the Maestro and guided by our own Christmas music jam book. Following the Circle part of the meeting, Mike Zampiceni and Lou Jacklich each performed amazing sets. Frankly, although we are very familiar with the vast repertoires and superlative skill level of these well-

renowned Club veterans, their playing never fails to shock us each time! It appears Lou, having paid sufficient homage to the Holidays during the jam session, had selected his most difficult and awe-inspiring pieces to play (See the event review on pages 2-4).

Finally, our thoughts on year 2023 . . .



New Accordion Book!

This beautiful book is an informative and well-illustrated historical account of how the accordion earned a special place in the American musical culture.

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Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year.

Monthly ad prices for members:

1/8 page: \$10; 1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100. Non-member rates are double.

Contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

- ♦ Gail Campanella* GailCampanella@gmail.com
- ◆ Reno Di Bono 30-minute group lessons* Sundays 11am, request link from <u>OurHike@AOL.com</u>
- ♦ Lou Jacklich* 510-317-9510
- ♦ Marian Kelly 650-954-3711
- ♦ Joe Simoni* jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122
- ♦ Pamela Tom* <u>accordionpam@gmail.com</u>
- ◆ Joel Weber* www.joelseastbayacordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ♦ Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com
- * = remote lessons (ZOOM, Facetime, Skype) available

Friends of SFAC— Accordion Groups/Clubs

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

Accordion Club of the Redwoods ¹ (Santa Rosa) Meetings 3rd Wednesdays—Cibo Rustico Pizzeria (707) 318-0474, dcdacapo@gmail.com

Accordion Lovers Society International (ALSI) ³ 2nd Sundays—Mt. Miguel Covenant Village Spring Valley, CA

gkohl5890@gmail.com (619) 427-4344

Accordionaires of Los Angeles

Online 4th Sundays ³ - Meetings 3rd Tuesdays ¹ Victorio's Ristorante, North Hollywood, CA <u>dnorferi@aol.com</u>or "Accordionaires" on Facebook

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

2nd Saturdays—Roseville, CA Lutheran Church of the Resurrection <u>cvalashan@aol.com</u> (610) 209-4496

San Antonio Accordion Society²

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

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sundays, online (in person schedule TBD) Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos, CA (pending) www.svasociety.org

- In person meeting only
- ² mixed: in-person and ZOOM meeting
- ³ZOOM only meeting

Accordion Sheet Music by Maestro Don Quattrocchi

Don Quattrocchi has contributed most of his life to promoting the piano accordion. During the 70s he had the largest music school in country the state of Victoria, Australia. Now retired, he enjoys writing arrangements of popular songs for the piano accordion. His website (https://www.donquattrocchi.com/sheetmusic) offers

arrangements free of charge, with easy to intermediate arrangements. Most of the arrangements include a link to a video featuring someone playing his actual song version – not a lifeless midi version! Importantly, all the songs are in the public domain and available for educational and historical purposes.



Your <u>support</u> (<u>https://www.buymeacoffee.com/accordionsheets</u>) helps Don maintain and host his website. (See page 8 for one of Maestro Quattrocchi's arrangements!)

Take Five

Arr. Don Quattrocchi

by: Paul Desmond



Take Five is one of the more challenging arrangements available on Maestro Don Quattrocchi's website (see page 7). A demonstration of this arrangement may be viewed/heard at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AH_rKDy5Yc

Take Five, along with Blue Rondo a la Turk, is a tune that is forever branded with our association of Dave Brubeck. However, Brubeck did not write the tune. It was written by his legendary saxophonist, Paul Desmond.

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Thank You, Donors! «

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. We thank these members who have made extra donations during our current membership year (Beginning October 1, 2022).

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

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President's Report



Welcome back, everyone! Thanks to all who helped us achieve a successful 2022, including the SFAC Board, who worked diligently all year, our Club members for their encouragement and support, and of course our invited performers.

We're already planning entertainment and activities for the coming months, much of which is already posted on our website at www.sfaccordionclub.com. Please stay tuned.

And finally, we welcome your suggestions and hope you will be encouraged to volunteer for our Club.

2023 awaits you!

Cold Weather Limits Busking

Covid 19 silenced the live music at the Davis Farmers Market. For the first time in two years, live music was revived at the Market during last month's holiday season via Pamela Tom and her Sonola Rivoli accordion. The DFM posted a short audio clip of Pam on Instagram

(https://www.instagram.com/ reel/CmKrNF-LD8B/).

Her repertoire covered a wide range of joyous holiday tunes to celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas. Pam noted, "I learned my tolerance level for cold weather. Playing at 44°F is just too uncomfortable. I played the rest of my December DFM gigs at temperatures of 50°F or higher."



Pam donated her tips to the Elaine R. Fingerett Learning by Leading Endowment of the UC Davis Arboretum (https://give.ucdavis.edu/AARB/125040). Elaine was the accordionist in the Davis Klezmer Orchestra (https://youtu.be/3NpaQTWUdd0) that regularly performed at the DFM.

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.

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

LIVE IN-PERSON & ONLINE/VIR TUAL EVENTS

3rd Sunday each month - Gordon Kohl Workshop (Virtual) Topics vary monthly gkohl5890@gmail.com

Jan 14 Houston Accordion Orchestra Concert With Stas Venglevski, "Modern Movie Magic" Live-streaming Meghada33@gmail.com

Jan 24 - 26 NJO Workshop + Concert with Shirley Johnson http://NotJustOompah.org

Mar 15 - 19 NAA Accordion Convention Hilton Hotel Richardson, TX http://accordions.com/naa

May 17 - 20 Kim & Dan Christian's Accordion Extravaganza & Band Camp Branson, MO http://SqueezePlay.biz

Jacques Mornet Workshops, New Orleans, LA May 22 – 27, May 29 - June 3 http://cnima.com/usa

June 4 - 9 Rose City Accordion Club Accordion Camp, Eagle Creek, OR maddoxfran43@gmail.com

June 22 - 25 Leavenworth (WA) International Accordion Celebration http://accordioncelebration.org

July 12-16 American Accordion Association Festival Conshohocken, PA, http://www.ameraccord.com/

July 19-22 Accordionists & Teachers Guild, International Festival, Lisle, IL https://www.atgaccordions.com/

July 28-30 2023 Accordion Seminars: In the Shadow - In The!! – Virtual (On-line) accordionbill@gmail.com

JANPress University Press Release

Joseph Natoli announces that JANPress University sessions are underway and it is not too late to subscribe and attend via Zoom sessions the 1st and 3rd Monday's of each month at 7pm EST. For details on subscription fees and how to join these sessions write to Joseph at janpressmusic@yahoo.com. All sessions are recorded and archived for continual future reference while your subscription is active.

JANPress University is like a condensed ongoing university course for accordionists, structured with a very diverse and detailed curriculum, with each session doing deep dive studies on various topics, including all aspects and genres of performance, theory, chord progressions & reharmonizations, composition, arranging, ensemble performing, studio quality recording techniques, music notation, applicable music & accordion history, music technology and much more followed by applied knowledge exercises. Each topic is approached as closely as possible to a college course in a music degree program yet presented in a relaxed fashion at each attendee's level and speed for the most efficient and complete knowledge share. If you feel there are gaps in your performance or musical skills, then please join us to become an all-around better musician and accordionist.

Here is what some have said after attending the classes:

"Wonderful class, Joe! Thank you for starting from 'the beginning.' I am already a better accordionist after last night!"

"I truly appreciate your desire to include history, trivia, theory, composition, technique, & performance in order for us to become more complete players. The variety is very stimulating and keeps us on our toes! Your supplementary exercises are a true gift."

Joseph Natoli possesses Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in music composition, theory, and electronic music from the University of Toronto Faculty of Music.

Joseph also studied in Toronto with renowned Canadian accordion artist, icon, and Order of Canada recipient, Joseph Macerollo, and he has also been a winner in numerous national and international accordion competitions.



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San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Upcoming-Monthly Musical Meetings: January 15, February 19, March 19

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordions Live!

Sunday, January 15

Come for fun and great music! 2pm-5pm

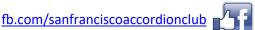
Squeeze Box Opera

Paul Aebersold § Christine Capsuto-Shulman

The SFAC Jam Band will begin the meeting
All are encouraged to participate!

\$20 general public/\$10 SFAC members
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(Chaci to free with a





Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza 450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA SFAC Monthly Meetings:

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