

March, 2017

♪ ♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪ ♪

Sunday, March 19

Chetcuti Community Room, Millbrae, CA
2:00 pm



Hello Accordion Friends!

Sunday, March 19 will mark a new era in the history of the San Francisco Accordion Club, when we host our first meeting ever in our new venue, the **Chetcuti Community Room, 450 Popular Ave, Millbrae**. This lovely venue is just a stone's throw away from the Millbrae Public Library at 1 Library Avenue, and shares several spacious parking lots with it. For detailed instructions on how to get to the Chetcuti Community Room, see page 2 of this newsletter (public transit directions on page 3).

Our musical program begins promptly at 2 o'clock, Our featured artist, graciously coming all the way from Southern California, is the highly esteemed **Gail Campanella**. The festivities begin with a sterling set from the SFAC's very own squeeze box man par excellence, **Mike Zampicini**. After the master playeth, then cometh the student, his young protégé **Siyuan Donnelly**. He is the seven-year-old lad who dazzled us back in January. Gail takes over following a short intermission, during which you can score some refreshments and maybe, if it is your lucky day, win a raffle or door prize!

Bring a friend, bring a neighbor, bring your niece or nephew! We hope you will make history with us as the SFAC celebrates its new meeting location. Admission at the door for this special show is \$8 adults, \$4 teens (free for those under 12).

We begin at 2:00pm and will conclude before 5:00pm, including a short intermission. We are excited about our new spot and hope you can be there for this exciting kick-off!

Gail Gardetto Campanella will be our featured performer in March!

Growing up in a large Italian family in northeastern Colorado, **Gail Campanella's** interest in music naturally led her to the only musical instrument in their home - her mother's old accordion.

Gail started lessons at the age of 10, and by 14, was teaching in her local community. As a testa-



ment to her dedication and love for the instrument, each month Gail made the 80-mile train trip to Denver to study with Anthony Pennetti and play in his accordion orchestra.

In college, Gail majored in piano, but continued studying classical accordion and has made a career as a music educator, certified in the Orff and Kodaly methods of music education. Presently Gail is a member of the Los Angeles Accordionaires Orchestra, teaches private accordion and piano lessons and maintains an active national performance schedule on both accordion and piano.

We are delighted that Gail has traveled up from Santa Barbara to play for us!

Again please note that March 19th will be our **first** meeting at the new location - **the Chetcuti Community Room in Millbrae**.

Continued next page...

♪♪ Also performing in March ♪♪



Mike Zampiceni

Mike Zampiceni was raised with accordions from birth; his father, Joseph Zampiceni, was a noted accordionist, teacher, composer, arranger, and music publisher several decades ago. At age 8 Mike began formal accordion studies, and by 11 was playing for paid engagements. He joined his father's orchestra at 14, playing

accordion and drums, and by 17 he joined the musicians' union and became the leader of his own band. Mike went on to earn both a Bachelors and Masters degree in music from San Jose State University, with performance concentrations in voice and classical organ. Throughout his career as a technical writer, from which he recently retired, Mike found time to continue performing and teaching. His passionate genres revolve around classical music and jazz, but he also has a penchant for Latin music, particularly Brazilian jazz. He also has a repertoire of ethnic European music.

Siyuan Donnelly started playing accordion in his kindergarten class in Shanghai less than three years ago when he was four years old. Since moving to California, Siyuan has become a student of Mike Zampiceni. Siyuan and his parents feel very lucky to have found Mike and think he's a wonderful teacher. Siyuan displays musical discipline and maturity beyond his years, and Mike is



Siyuan

always pleasantly surprised with what Siyuan has undertaken on his own at each lesson. Siyuan enjoys playing, and likes the strong sound an accordion makes. He is also something of an extrovert, and likes playing for people, most recently at the February gathering of the Silicon Valley Accordion Society in San Jose. Siyuan has played for the SFAC and appeared on the student stage at the Cotati festival in 2016.

Driving to Chetcuti Community Room

(Public Transit directions on page 4):

From Highway 101 North:

- Take the E. Millbrae Avenue Exit (#421) and continue west on E. Millbrae Avenue, crossing over Highway 101 (red light/**full stop** right turn camera at this intersection)

From Highway 101 South:

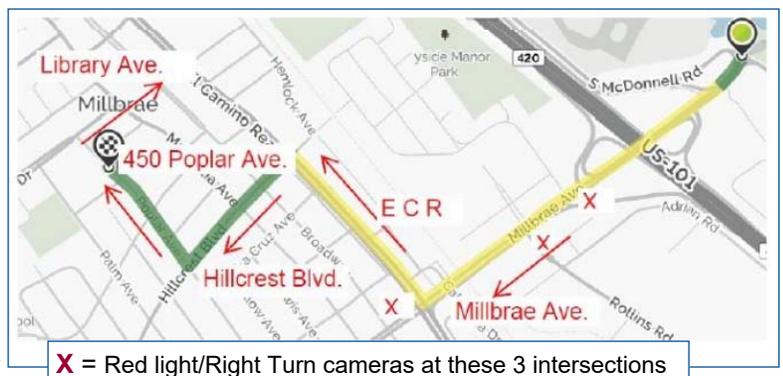
- Take the Millbrae Avenue Exit (#420) and continue right onto E. Millbrae Avenue. (red light/**full stop** right turn camera at this intersection)

Continuing on from either direction:

- Go past Rollins Road/BART station (red light/**full stop** right turn camera at this intersection)
- Travel approximately 0.7 miles to El Camino Real
- Turn Right on El Camino Real (red light/**full stop** right turn camera at this intersection)
- Travel north 0.3 miles to Hillcrest Blvd. stoplight (just prior to the Safeway store on the left)
- Left on Hillcrest Blvd. Proceed west on Hillcrest up the hill 0.27 mile to Poplar Avenue
- Right on Poplar Avenue. Proceed 0.22 miles to Millbrae Library parking lot (parking lot is just north of Taylor Blvd. intersection).

Additional free parking is available on the north side of the library. Proceed past the library, right turn on Library Drive to the parking lot. There is a ramp adjacent to the library building.

*The **Chetcuti Community Room** is directly across the small plaza from the library entrance.*



Please Remember...
Help keep our meeting space clean! Wipe up food or drink spills and recycle all trash. **THANK YOU!**

February 2017 meeting review

Our 3rd Accordion Circle event was at the OPYC on Sunday, February 19th and was enjoyed, once again, by those in attendance. While it was a bit cold and wet out-of-doors, the newly renovated OPYC was warm and friendly.

Lynn Ewing coordinated the session and invited each of the participants to introduce themselves and briefly discuss how she/he became involved with an interest in the accordion. Each of us shares a strong interest in things accordion, but it was interesting to hear our stories of how we arrived at this common destination and to learn a bit about our fellow members!



The circle then played as a group various songs from the jam book. Lynn quizzed the group – what's the key of 1 sharp, 2 sharps, 1 flat, 2 flats, etc.? Nora was adept at providing answers, thanks to the follow-

ing mnemonics she provided for easily determining Major keys in flats or sharps:

- ◆ Flowers Bloom Early And Die Gradually for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 flats (i.e., keys of F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb)
- ◆ Good Deeds Are Ever-Bearing Fruit for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 sharps (i.e., keys of G, D, A, E, B, and F#)

Lynn followed with a teaching session, building upon her recent workshop in Florida, and instructed the group in a series of triad exercises in Scale Form, developed by Joe Cerrito, which are intended to help the student of the accordion develop finger strength and flexibility, and ability to improvise. As you ascend the scale in triads, there will be a pattern of Major, minor, minor, Major, Major, minor, and half diminished chords. For example in C, you would play the following chords: CM, Dm, Em, FM, GM, Am, B Half dim and CM. Joe suggests using fingers 1, 2 & 4 for this exercise. To challenge yourself, you can use fingers 3, 4, & 5! For good technique, practice the exercises with fingers curved, wrist horizontal to the fingers, and raise the fingers and

strike the keys as though on a piano. These triads were presented in all sorts of arpeggiated ways to really have the student grasp which notes are in which chord. This exercise can be done in all keys. For example, the key of F - FM, Gm, Am, BbM, CM, Dm, E half dim, and FM. We all benefited from this unique lesson.

The intermission was greatly enhanced by refreshments, kindly provided by Rosemary Busher (cheese, crackers, fresh fruits, coffee) and Nora Mazzara (chocolate cookies in abundance), and - for the raffle - bottles of white and red wine, courtesy of members Phillip and Cheri Marcucci. Gus Greyhosky exhibited parts of his collection of original Sedlon Accordion Methods and other instructional books.



Rosemary Busher, our newest member of the SFAC board of



directors and a relative newcomer to the accordion, adeptly performed *My Buddy* by Gus Kahn and Walter Donaldson and *Du Du Liegst Mir Herzen* a German folk song, which translates to "You, You Are In My Heart." This was Rosemary's first public performance! She has been studying accordion with Mike Zampiceni for about a

year and a half. Next, Gwyn and Pam Lister distributed a color brochure featuring singer/actress Julie Andrews as she turned age 79. To commemorate her birthday, Julie had made a special appearance at New York City's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was a take-off on the lyrics of *My Favorite Things* from the musical *The Sound of Music*, modified for an AARP audience (Botox, aging bones, etc.). The group totally enjoyed singing along to Gwyn's accordion and Pam's accompanying vocal. Ken Schwartz then played *Golden Leaves Waltz* and *The Jolly Caballero*, which was composed by Pietro Frosini, who was a member of the



[February meeting photos by Steve Mobia]

Continued next page...

♪♪ February meeting review (cont'd) ♪♪



SFAC early in the early 1900's. Following Ken, Johnny Fiore entertained the group with short musical stanzas from theme songs for famous television series way back when. He challenged the group to "Name that Tune!" For example, Johnny played excerpts from the theme

songs from *Dallas*, *Looney Tunes*, *The Love Boat*, *Jeopardy*, and others, followed by *Singin' in the Rain* and *Blue Moon*.

Johnny is an accomplished performer, and this was an enjoyable stroll along Memory Lane.

Finally, Lynn Ewing performed several delightful pieces, including (in honor of Valentine's Day) *La Vie En Rose*, *My Funny Valentine* (both Frank Marocco arrangements), *Moon River* & *Baby Elephant Walk*, (both composed by Henry Mancini) and lastly, *Flight of the Bumblebee* - (not exactly a Valentine's Day tune but, as Lynn noted - a nice challenge to perform for our informal group).



In closing, Lynn reminded the group that our next meeting will be in Millbrae at the Chetcuti Community Meeting Room.

[Transit directions at right. Driving directions & map, page 2.]



As the show ends and the room empties, Gus Greyhosky's melody haunts our reverie; what may have been the last of the SFAC's accordion notes struck at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, in the stardust of a song.



Guess Who?

His parents got him started in music, buying him an accordion just before his seventh birthday. This photo was taken in 1970 when he was 10 years old and while other Woodstock-era kids were strumming their Fenders to emulate Jimi Hendrix or Jimmy Page, he was learning *Dipsy Doodle* with Mrs. Fesenmeyer. What famous accordionist does this describe?? (Answer on page 11)



Access the Chetcuti Community Room By Public Transit (BART/CalTrain/Bus): [See page 2 for Driving directions]

BART/Caltrain Station to 450 Poplar Avenue:

SamTrans runs north on El Camino Real approximately every 20 minutes on Sunday afternoon. Service run by SamTrans

- **Millbrae BART/Caltrain Station, 200 Rollins Road, Millbrae, CA**
Exit station from the CalTrain west side *southbound* platform
Walk 1 short block west to El Camino Real
- **Walk north on El Camino Real (ECR) to Linden**
3 mins, 0.1 mi
- **Board Sam Trans northbound bus ECR headed to Daly City BART**
2 stops 1 min
- **Exit at El Camino Real & Hillcrest Blvd**
Walk west to 450 Poplar Ave, Millbrae
9 mins, 0.4 mi

450 Poplar Avenue to BART/Caltrain Station:

- **Walk east to El Camino Real & Taylor Ave**
7 mins, 0.3 mi
- **Board SamTrans southbound bus ECR headed to Palo Alto Transit Center**
1 stops 1 min
- **El Camino Real & Victoria Ave**
Exit bus
- **Walk to Millbrae BART/Caltrain Station, 200 Rollins Rd, Millbrae, CA**
7 mins, 0.3 mi

You can also check out other public transportation options at 511.org

KEEP CALM
AND
VOLUNTEER

Contact a member of the board to volunteer. See February 2016 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!

Accordions for Peace

By Allan Schwartz

Where is the world accordion center? American, Italy, France, Russia? The answer just might be North Korea.

Most Americans probably know North Korea (officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) from the war. If not that, perhaps as a dark, watchful place where neighbor denounces neighbor. Or maybe they conjure a land eternally frozen. Perhaps it is for its guns before butter politics that render much of its population malnourished in preference to inter-continental ballistic missiles. Or any one of a number of delights.

And what about that leader of theirs? Corpulent, frothing, thirty-ish, nearly comical looking. But he does not leave everybody amused. Kim Jong Un is reputed to be both grimly savage and a bad drunk. Reports are that after having one too many he had his uncle and five associates stripped and fed alive to wild, starving dogs. He put the deputy defense minister behind bars for "insufficient grieving" upon the death of his father. Tens of thousands starve in concentration camps. He likes Dennis Rodman.

Kim Jong Un assumed leadership in 2011, after his father, Kim Jong-II, succumbed to a heart attack. Kim Jong-II took the reins upon the demise of his father, Kim-Il Sun, whose rule dates to 1949.

The mystical qualities attributed to Kim Jong Un pale to the stories about his father. North Korean legend holds that Kim Jong-II had the power to change weather. One particularly amusing tale to me, a recovering golfer who has chopped through more grass than a lawn mower, is that he only picked up golf clubs once, shot a 35 and then retired from the sport.

Whatever you think of all this, they may have one thing right we can all agree on. Playing accordion seems to be a national preoccupation in North Korea. For instance, through the 1990s

all school teachers were required to learn the accordion. They had to pass an accordion test as a prerequisite to obtaining a teaching credential. Would somebody mind calling the Teachers' Union and asking if it would be OK if we tried that here?

It is challenging to uncover the full truth of events in a secretive country that harbors antagonism to ours. But there are stories; and photos and videos of some of the North Korean players. There have even been performances; at least in China, Russia and Norway. And through that window a hazy picture emerges.

Accordion is considered "the people's instrument" there. It is portable and can be used to entertain workers in the field. It is featured in propaganda posters and works of art, like the accompanying photos, as something of a national symbol.

Accordion is taught in, we do not know how many North Korean music schools. What we see of it tends to spotlight the national obsession with uniformity. For instance, the video of "Take on Me", has brought accordionists of that realm about as much exposure as anything else. It shows five young men and women evenly dispersed and symmetrically spaced. They tend to play the same accordion, either a Korean or Chinese model I think, although that is not a requirement. The women usually dress the same and sport nearly the same hairstyles. They generally play in a closed sitting posture, wearing long skirts with their accordion sitting above both legs. The men wear long pants, and have an open sitting posture; with their accordions braced against an inner thigh. They usually play in a clean, sparse room with nicely buffed wood plank flooring. They sit in what appear to be matching chairs.

Most of the accordions there are keyboard, although button accordions are also in requisition. Almost all are black. The players like to sit when playing. They have good fingers. They sway and smile, but in a way that seems coached as to "the right way for an accordionist to smile or move".

In China there are a number of North Korean restaurants run by the North Korean government. The income generated is a welcome revenue stream for it. The waitresses are from North Korea. After dinner they perform and, you guessed it, accordion takes center stage.

Some very accomplished North Korean accordionists have escaped and play in South Korea, or elsewhere in the region. North Korea is becoming a reluctant exporter of accordion talent.

Many of the photos show North Korean Accordionists in group lessons. They sometimes look quite unhappy. But being unhappy



Continued next page...

(continued) ACCORDIONS FOR PEACE



at a lesson is something I can relate to all too well. I cast no stones at anybody for that.

I think you will have fun exploring this. North Korea is producing some tremendous accordionists. I recommend you start on YouTube. A further recommendation is to start with "N. Korea Amazing Accordion Presentation". Then try "Concert of North Korean Accordionists" and

follow that with "North Korean Kids Outrageously Performing." Take it from there and let us know what you find.

Will we ever see the day when we can look past our differences to this shared love? If all our leaders played, perhaps we would see what history would record as "The Accordion Accord." or "The Reedy Treaty." While it would be nice to hear more bellows and less bellowing, I have to wonder just how it would sound if we did.



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SFAC Scholarships

The SFAC awards two scholarships a year to accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact Mike Zampiceni for a scholarship application.

Mike Zampiceni
eclecticguy@comcast.net
408-569-2579



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. If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact Elaine (elainedc@sbcglobal.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: Chris & Tor Arild, Evelyn Baulch, Karol Blackaby, Ron Borelli, David Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Gail Campanella, Xavier de la Prade, William Demichelis, Lynn & Gail Ewing, 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, Barbara Winter, & Mike Zampiceni. Thank you, all!



Lynn leads the SFAC Accordion Circle workshop in February

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Accordion Concert, Davis, CA

Local accordionist, **Pamela Tom**, returns to **Atria Covell Garden** on **Saturday, April 29, 2017, 7 PM** with a versatile musical program of American and international rhythmic flashback favorites. Ms. Tom's hour-long program includes crowd pleasing rhythmic, toe tapping tunes. She has performed on numerous occasions at the Davis Farmers Market and national accordion events. Atria Covell Gardens is hosting Ms. Tom's performance at **1111 Alvarado Ave., Davis, CA**. The public is invited.

SFAC members are invited to list local performances in our monthly newsletter. Send print-ready information, 100 words or less, at least 6 weeks in advance, to newsletter coordinator Rosemary Busher (rosemary@busher.org). Size and detail of the notice will depend upon space available in the issue.



North American Accordion Collaborative

BIG NEWS FOLKS! A newly formed organization with national/ international outreach has been formed to promote the accordion. Officers of this organization include Karen Lee and Frank Petrilli. www.theNAAC.org

WHAT IS the NAAC? North American Accordion Collaborative The NAAC officially announced that it is now actively seeking members and that membership is free. The non-profit corporation (informally referred to as "The NAAC" – pronounced "the knack") was formed by representatives from across the continent to focus on building opportunities for all accordionists.

The needs of the membership drive the immediate and long term direction and programs of the group. The driving force behind The NAAC is the collaboration of the members. Although the organization operates in the cloud, the programs aim to be adaptable to accordionists' local environments.

Existing programs focus on meeting three identified needs. 1 - Help meet the need for access to instruments; 2 - Meet the need for performance exposure for accordionists; 3 - Develop a wide range of performance and teaching opportunities for accordionists from abroad and locally. The NAAC has plans underway to support these needs, including:

- ◆ Conduct a used instrument drive to support music education in the Los Angeles area;
- ◆ Establish an on-line platform for compiling members' videos and recordings, whether soloists or group members and no matter what genre; and
- ◆ Further interaction with international accordion artists. The NAAC has joined with the *International Accordion Initiative*. The first multiperformer accordion concert is planned for April in the Philadelphia area. The President of the organization, Dallas Vietty, stated, "The entire Board of Directors is excited to be involved with this opportunity to build strong relationships and connections between accordionists across the continent. We also look forward to working collaboratively with other organizations in the accordion, music education, and entertainment worlds. We invite each and every one of you to check out our website at <http://theNAAC.org> and hope that you will join us in this collaborative effort!" (Submitted by Karen Lee)

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS AROUND THE WORLD



Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 15-18, 2017

Leavenworth, Washington

Sponsored by the Northwest Accordion Society

www.accordioncelebration.org

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American Accordionists' Association

www.ameraccord.com
www.ameraccord.com/festival.html

Join the AAA for the 2017 Festival at
The Westin Princeton, Forrestal Village, New Jersey
July 12-16, 2017

August 19 & 20, 2017 www.cotatifest.com

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

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For more information, contact:

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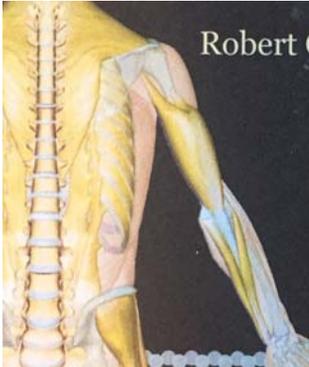
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 Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10 per issue or \$100 per year. Monthly ad prices **for members**: 1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100. Non-member rates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



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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
dcdacapo@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
\$5 for adults, no charge under 16

Play with the Jam Band

Bring your accordion, other acoustic instrument, or your singing voice, and join the traditional jam session held during our 3rd-Sundays music program.

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

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www.italianaccordion.com

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

JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay* www.alpinersusa.com
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ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

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Answer (from page 4): **Weird Al Yankovic**

He is one famous accordion player!



Weird Al has sold millions of albums and has outlasted many of the stars he once spoofed. He frequently appeared on MTV back in the day doing comedy/musical skits of everyone from Michael Jackson to Ricky Ricardo from the I Love Lucy Show. Irreverent and silly in the extreme, this accordion playing nerd is not shown playing accordion much. Some amount of familiarity with original songs/artists is strongly recommended or the jokes get

lost in translation, they are very clever when you do "get it." Today he has a huge YouTube following and you can read all about him in this Washington Post article: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/style/2017/02/16/how-weird-al-eclipsed-almost-every-star-he-ever-parodied/>

Q: Is Al related to the famous accordion-playing Polka King, Frankie Yankovic?

A: No, although they were friends for many years. (In October 1998, Frankie passed away at his home in Florida at age 83.)

Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 15-18, 2017

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Mike Zampiceni

Siyuan Donnelly

Jam Band

\$8 (\$4 ages 12-18, Under 12 free)

2:00pm – 4:30pm

Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA

Plenty of free parking, ramp access.

Close to public transit

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: *Page 2*

VIA PUBLIC TRANSIT: *Page 4*

MAP: *Page 2*



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