March, 2021

Sunday, March 21, 2021

SFAC Accordions Live!

Online-only Concert Performance
Accordion Duo Dan & Kim Christian
via Zoom - 2:00 pm

▶ SFAC MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE ZOOM LINK VIA

EMAIL from Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com



themselves as among the premier accordionists in the world. Their unique ability to play together with exact precision is unparalleled anywhere else on the planet.





They have excellent technique and mastery of the accordion. Performances are charged with vibrant energy and a passion and love that create an experience that will be cherished.

Dan and Kim met when Kim was just 5 years old and Dan began taking lessons from Kim's father. Both Dan and Kim grew up competing yearly at music festivals where they both won many awards and trophies. Both Dan and Kim have taught music lessons for over 35 years, educating hundreds of people in the art of music, and directed award-winning accordion orchestras.

Dan and Kim have performed extensively throughout the US, with engagements in Canada and as far away as Beijing. For two years they performed in their own musical production entitled *Music Makes the World Go Round* on stage in Branson, Missouri. They continue to play over 200 gigs a year and thoroughly enjoy each and every performance.

You can learn more about the Christians at www.squeezeplay.biz





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

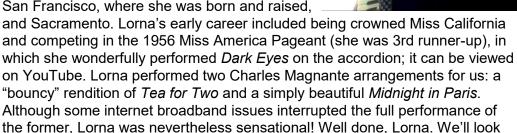
February Accordion Circle Summary By Ken Schwartz

February's Accordion Circle was a resounding success with great performances by talented members and a diverse group of attendees from all over the country, via ZOOM. Ken Schwartz, Pamela Tom, and Mike Zampiceni co-emceed the event.

New member Mark Greathouse is a talented accordionist and equally talented composer. Mark performed two of his pieces, entitled Hey, Friend and Copy Cat. Both were charming and are available through Sheetmusicplus.com (please see our February 2021 newsletter); this writer is looking forward to learning them. Mark gave a sensational performance!

New member Lorna Anderson was introduced by Pamela Tom. Lorna re-

sides in North Carolina, but her roots go back to San Francisco, where she was born and raised,



forward to having you back again soon to complete *Tea for Two*.

Pamela Tom introduced new member Lou LeBrun. Lou is currently based in Missouri but grew up in California and trained under Anthonly Galla-Rini as a classical, virtuoso accordionist from a very young age 9. Ninety years young, Lou has had a distinguished musical career, first as a teacher and performer tor two

Hollywood studios in Los Angeles. She's been a stroller and performer recognized by the ATG, the National Accordionist Association, the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention, and others for her artistry. Lou demonstrated for us why she has been so popular, with wonderful, spirited performances of two favorites: Softly as in a Morning Sunrise (Sigmund Romberg), which she started straight and then "jazzed" up. Then, The Man I Love (Gershwin), Charles Magnante arrangement. Lou's rendition was stunning. We're so glad to welcome you as a member and enjoyed your first performance for the club. Please hurry back!



Both Lou and Lorna will be featured on the front and back covers of Accordion Stars, April '21 issue.

Pamela Tom next introduced our new member Laura Jean Niland, from San Antonio. Laura's career has

been distinguished, both as an educator in public schools (she was honored by President Ronald Reagan at the White House!), and with numerous accordion associations, including president of the San Antonio Accordion Club, and Not Just Oompah which she co-founded, and others. It had been a challenging week in Texas with the winter freeze, so Laura performed a beautiful, peaceful Irish song *The Road to Loch*, which was perfect. Thank you, Laura!



New member Robert Kennedy was already an accomplished pianist and or-



ganist when he approached Mike Zampiceni to embark on learning the accordion, some 20 years ago. Robert performed from his impressive sound studio and started with a nice French waltz, Bistro Fada (featured in the movie "Midnight in Paris"), followed by Robert's original, complex composition: Autre Dirección, which he beautifully performed. Member Terrie Frankel complimented Robert on the interesting tempos of his composition; Robert replied it's based on a Brazilian Partido Alto and also a bit of a Cu-

Continued on next page ...

(continued) February Accordion Circle Summary by Ken Schwartz

ban clave rhythm. This was Robert's first time ever performing solo in public. You were impressive, Robert, so please come back again soon!

Mike Zampiceni introduced **Don Savant**, with whom he's been working for over 20 years. Don likes American standards (*The American Song Book*) and Duke Ellington songs. Mike works with Don on arrangements;

Don already had a good background in music theory and chord progressions.



Don performed two songs to celebrate Black History Month, including a song by The Ink Spots, *We Three,* and even gave us a special treat – he sang it! Next, Don performed and sang *What a Wonderful World* initially performed and sung by Louis Armstrong. Loved your accordion playing, Don. And we heard it today, a first – Don's singing debut. Nicely done!

Pamela Tom was introduced by Ken. She worked at UC Davis for 40 years in outreach and later in her career took up the accordion over the last 10 years. Pam has devoted considerable efforts to accordion outreach and has invited a number of the club's newest members. She's been studying for 10 years with Mr. Lou Jacklich and has become an accomplished accordionist, widely known in the Davis



area for her performances at parties, special events and celebrations, etc. Pam beautifully performed *A Gay Ranchero*, (sung by Roy Rogers in the movie of the same name), complete with bellows shake. Then, *Lover* by Richard Rodgers, complete with yet another bellows shake at the finale! Pamela arranged it with Lou Jacklich and Lou LeBrun; today was the first time she's performed it in public. It featured numerous tempos, starting slowly with a dream-like waltz, next a foxtrot, and then a more spirited finale. Pam – you were awesome, so many thanks!

Mr. Lou Jacklich, our final performer today, was introduced by Pamela Tom. Mr. Jacklich has received countless honors for his excellence in accordion performance and leadership, including honorary director of the Cotati Accordion Festival, SFAC Lifetime Achievement Award, the Art Van Damme award from the Las Vegas Accordion Convention, and others. He's been teaching for over 75 years, including over 1000 students. Mr. Jacklich performed *Tico Tico* and *Nola*. Both were typical Jacklich performances, flawless and always inspiring!



We hope you enjoyed our February Accordion Circle and will be inspired to participate in our future Circles as well.

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

contact Ken.







UPDATED LIST OF ACCORDION TEACHERS

With so many opportunities for remote learning of every kind these days, we decided to reach out to accordion teachers to find out how this experience is going (or not going!). We received quite a range of comments: "I currently have 5 students, but would consider a couple more." "Geography doesn't matter. In fact time zone can work in [your] favor sometimes and nobody has to leave home." "I prefer live lessons with beginners to be sure that the accordion is properly adjusted before transitioning to ZOOM." "It's better than no lesson at all. Many students need regular lessons to keep up with practice." "[Teaching on line] turned out better than expected, [I'm] happily accepting new/returning students."

Anyone considering working with an accordion teacher might check out the updated list below or at the club website (<u>sfaccordionclub.com</u>).

Why hire an accordion teacher, you ask? A few reasons include revisiting the basics with tried and true Hanon exercises or arpeggio work, improving dynamics, and avoiding the dreaded "air-cutting." And for a beginner, it's especially important to start out right with a good foundation. Music lessons can be a great gift. Maybe a youngster you know shows musical talent on another instrument but hasn't yet been introduced to the fun of an accordion.

Because there are only so many accordion teachers, and potential students may not live near one, virtual lessons will likely continue to be a valuable alternative even as our teachers resume in-person lessons. Formal instruction, regardless of whether it be in-person or virtual, provides students with the fundamentals and skills for a solid foundation in performance on the instrument and a lifetime of musical enjoyment!

NAME (*= REMOTE LESSONS VIA ZOOM, FACETIME AND/OR SKYPE)	Contact	Location
Alicia Baker-Straka*	www.aliciajostraka.com/teaching-studio	Denver
GAIL CAMPANELLA*	GailCampanella@gmail.com 805-895-0457	Santa Barbara
DAVID CHELINI	djchelini@sbcglobal.net 916-428-8764	Sacramento
PETER DIBONO	415-699-8674	San Francisco
RENO DIBONO [£]	OurHike@AOL.com [Request link to participate in 30-minute online group lessons, Sundays 11am]	Cupertino ([£] Senior Center only)
LOU JACKLICH*	510-317-9510	San Lorenzo
MARIAN KELLY	650-954-3711	San Jose
JOE SIMONI*	jsimoni2000@gmail.com 650-867-1122	San Mateo
PAMELA TOM*	accordionpam@gmail.com	Davis
JOEL WEBER*	www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/ 510-655-4398	Oakland
MIKE ZAMPICENI*	www.mikezamp.com	Hayward

A Year to Remember: How the SFAC Coped with a Pandemic Shutdown

by Robert Cooperstein

While planning our March 2020 musical program, although lockdowns in California were not yet in place, the SFAC board members discussed whether it was safe for our members to meet in person. As we began exploring platforms to meet virtually, soon thereafter the managers of the Chetcuti Center officially put on indefinite hold assemblies at their venue. Under extreme time pressure, we <u>had</u> to go virtual.

Well, how did the rest of the year go? We carried on hosting monthly musical programs, as usual. Our virtual attendance sometimes surpassed that of our typical live events. Our club membership greatly increased, exceeding the usual annual attrition rate – that is, we flourished and grew. Many of our new members, including some well-known accordion stars, live outside the Bay Area. The flip side of that was our performers, since the virtual world had lifted the constraint of travel, became way more geographically diverse, coming from all over the United States and even from Europe. And let us not forget our amazing club members and performers, many of them senior citizens, who conquered the challenges of deploying software and hardware to stay connected. As one bellwether of success, the sound quality just kept on getting better as the year progressed!

Sure, we all missed the excitement of live performance and the sociability of in-person gatherings, but we made the best use we could of technology and kept on keeping on. At the risk of seeming self-congratulatory, the understaffed SFAC Board stepped up, meeting (virtually) each month and planning months ahead for all club functions. We must single out Ken for his great skill in masterminding and emceeing most of our ZOOM events; Elaine (with help) for continuing to copy edit and publish our amazing newsletter; Rosemary for keeping the communications pipeline running in so many different directions; Randy for continuing as our webmaster and bookkeeper; and Robert for maintaining the membership database and running our annual renewal drive.

As of this writing our country is pushing ahead toward herd immunity. Normal life is breaking out everywhere we look. As for the SFAC, we are cautiously anticipating our club's return to live events, even as we recognize the many ways COVID-19 changed how things work. We would like to continue recruiting accordionists who cannot easily travel to Millbrae, while developing the skills to make our events accessible to our many members who reside outside the Bay Area. Year 2021 and beyond, here we come!

♦ March 2020

Just before our March musical program, we learned we had to go virtual. Under time stress, we feverishly put together a plan: our musical guests, Lithuanians touring the United States, would live-stream on Facebook right from Rosemary's living room! Our new Lithuanian friends graciously took it all in stride. **Tutto a Dio** consists of a young viola and accordion duo, Greta Staponkutė and Augustinas Rakauskas; they were accompanied by singer Neringa. Amidst all the travel uncertainties that had unexpectedly set in, and not without some dramatic reversals of fortune, the trio miraculously made it

home safely just after their Sunday performance.



♦ April

With the lockdown firmly in place, we planned our April meeting, in our Accordion Circle format, to be virtual. Although we feared there might be little interest, we were astonished to find 78 people attended our April *Virtual Accordion Shindig*

Continued on next page ...

(continued) A Year to Remember: How the SFAC Coped With Pandemic Shut-down

Together (VAST) (mercifully, that clumsy acronym never caught on). It starred the SFAC's own Don Savant, Mike Zampiceni, Colette Ogata, Alex Roitman, Dima Oliinychenko, Reno DiBono, Paul Cain, Paul Aebersold, and Dina Gutkina.

May



Another big audience attended our May musical program, with featured performer **Gail Campanella**. In addition to her brilliant playing, Gail paid tribute to the former president of the SFAC, Lynn Ewing, who always made her lovely home available to Gail during her frequent trips to the Bay Area. Accordion virtuoso and tenor singer Mike Zampiceni once again performed for the club, as well as his extremely talented and most precocious student Siyuan Donnelly. Rounding out the show was the Maestro himself, Mr. Lou Jacklich – as Ken wrote at the time, "a tour de force for this virtuoso accordionist!"

June

Our Virtual Father's Day/Summer Solstice Accordion Circle was also well attended and featured stellar performances by 10 of our members. Ken Schwartz and Pamela Tom were co-hosts. We were very pleased to have **Lorna Anderson** of Pinehurst, Carolina join our club, part of a developing trend for new members to come from places well beyond the Bay Area. Lorna was Miss California in 1957, her talent being – what else? – the accordion!



Miss America Pageant, 1957

July



As Mike Zampicini wrote in our August newsletter, although the pandemic has displaced live music, one upside is that virtual performances now enable us to enjoy artists from anywhere on this planet. With Elaine emceeing, we were entertained by the great **Gary Blair**, at an ungodly time from his residence in Scotland. We were also entertained that day by bandoneonist and tango virtuoso **Adrian Jost**.

August

Although in keeping with previous years we deferred meeting during August to not conflict with our friends conducting the Cotati Accordion Festival, we will always remember the ZOOM event celebrating the 92nd birthday of the one and only Lou Jacklich, attended by so many of his students, including a host of SFAC members.



September



Alicia Jo Straka took over our September program. Her performance was a living embodiment of something of a personal credo for her: "My current passion is spreading joy through music and trying to show more of what the accordion can do. It's the only way I like to do music and the styles that I like to listen to and play!" In the spirit of banding together with our kindred spirits over at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS), whose new president had just become none other than SFAC member Colette Ogata, the two clubs joined together to enjoy Ms. Straka's delightful performance — what a wonderful way to shoo away any semblance of the COVID blues!

Continued on next page ...

(continued) A Year to Remember: How the SFAC Coped With Pandemic Shut-down

October

We had the novel idea of hosting something of an Oktoberfest event this month . . . it was, after all, October! Winning the virtual award for most appropriately dressed was the **Bonnie Birch Bavarian Band**, featuring Bonnie Birch, Nick Heiting, and Paul Ostler. Among other club members to perform, we were treated to a reunion concert by none other than **Rhythm Kings** (twin brothers, Ken and Richard Schwartz), who performed a 1960's retro fest, including *Light My Fire* and *A Hard Day's Night*.



November

Our featured star performed in November was the one-of-a-kind **Cory Pesaturo**. His unique interpretations of songs we already know never fails to amaze, but his on-the-spot improvisations are impossibly fantastic. In Ken's apt words, "In his grand finale, Cory finished with



musical fireworks: *Techno Im- provisation in All Keys*, improvised on-the-spot just for the
club, covering all the keys, punctuated with multiple rhythms,
sound blasts, digital percussions,



whose grasp of timeless (mostly) American music, including many showtunes, is without parallel among Bay Area musicians.

December

Bonnie Birch returned in December, with the **Bonnie Birch Bavarian Trio**, including the Bavarian-garbed Nick Heiting (vocalist and guitarist), and Paul Oster (tuba). This holiday program also featured Rosemary presenting an SFAC scholarship to Colin Kennedy, one of Mike's students; a World Premier of Marilyn Val-



entino's Lady of Spain Video consisting of SFAC players at the August 2020 virtual Cotati Accordion Festival; and an interview with Mr. Harvey Tarter, who had been Ken's teacher in Long Island NY when Ken was just a teen. Rounding out our holiday program was another thrilling performance by the Maestro, **Mr. Lou Jacklich**.

My fave: a tribute to George Gershwin, featuring *Rhapsody in Blue, The Man I Love, S'wonderful, I Got Rhythm,* and *An American in Paris.* We could not think of a better way to conclude a somewhat challenging year than having Lou remind us that hope springs eternal . . . it always does.





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

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Members-only online community, Song-of-the-Month downloadable music, Technique-of-the-Month exercise to improve technique, Monthly concerts & more.

Accordionist Reno di Bono

Plays 6pm to 8pm each Saturday evening at:

Tre Monti Italian Restaurant 270 Main Street Los Altos, CA 94022

Reservations recommended: 650-935-2197



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Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Pamela Tom

Scholarship

Mike Zampiceni (408)569-2579, eclecticguy@comcast.net

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

SFAC - Looking Ahead!

• March 21, 2021

SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring (via ZOOM)—

- Kim & Dan Christian
- + April 18, 2021

Accordion Circle! Member participation

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

SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring (via ZOOM)—

Alex Meixner

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, dcdacapo@gmail.com

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

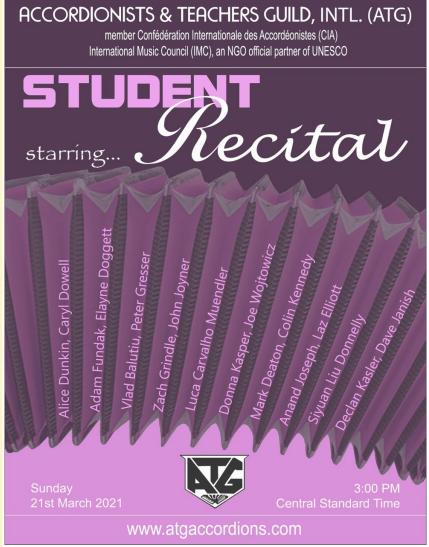




Mike Zampiceni's Involvement Launching ATG's March 21 Zoom Recital

Starring SFAC Members: Siyuan Liu Donnelly, Anand Joseph & Colin Kennedy

By Pamela Tom



The Accordionists and Teachers Guild International (ATG) is hosting a free Zoom recital featuring students of ATG teacher members on March 21, 2021 at 1 PM (PST). ATG is one of two premier US-based accordion organizations fostering the advancement and education of the accordion. ATG membership includes some of the nation's and world's finest professional accordionists and teachers.

Mike Zampiceni, teacher/performer and SFAC volunteer leader, holds dual membership in SFAC and ATG. Three of Mike's talented students who are also SFAC members will perform at the recital:

- Siyuan Liu Donnelly
- Anand Joseph
- Colin Kennedy.

The program includes all levels, from beginner to advanced students, from young of age to young of heart! Other US and Canadian ATG teachers presenting their students include: Joe Natoli, Beverley Fess, Gordon Kohl, Esther Lanting, Diane Young, Elena Fainshtein, Richard Albreski and Mary Ann Covone.

Mike Zampiceni shares insight with the inception of the ATG Student Recital and his leadership role:

"The ATG president and I spoke late last year about having an inaugural student recital featuring the students of ATG teachers. I was part of a 3-member committee to generate a recital this spring of which the event on the 21st is the result. We decided that it would be best to submit videos rather than trying to produce this as a live performance given the uncertainties of Zoom connections and so forth. However, the event will be moderated by one of our teacher members."

To attend the ZOOM event, pre-registration is essential. Please register via EVENTBRITE (an on-line ticketing provider): https://www.eventbrite.com/e/student-recital-tickets-144627084503 .

You are encouraged to share this link and email with all your friends and family! Let's give a strong show of support to our SFAC performers and Mike Zampiceni by logging into the ATG Student Recital!



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



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

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 <u>www.peterdibono.com</u>

RENO DI BONO South Bay - ourhike@aol.com 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/II- Duetto-Musica-992981207392410/

ROBERT KENNEDY

<u>robertkennedymusic.com</u> missionhotclub.com

TANGONERO (Alexander Roitman) www.tangonero.com

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI East Bay & South Bay eclecticguy@comcast.net www.mikezamp.com





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SFAC Membership Update

by Robert Cooperstein, Membership Director

Our newest member is **Alicia Jo Straka**, who is very well known to our club members and in fact worldwide. Alicia not only stole the show, but *was the show* at our September 2020 meeting. If you haven't read it before, don't miss Ken's write -up for that program in the October 2020 newsletter, available at <u>sfaccordion-club.com</u>. Don't be shy about clicking onto <u>aliciajostraka.com</u>, where you can view and donate to Alicia's favorite charities through her live-streamed charity concerts, in real time and archived, purchase her sheet music, videos, etc.



→ 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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San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

${\bf 3rd~Sundays~-Monthly~Musical~Meetings}$

SFAC Sunday Meeting

SFAC Accordions Live!

Online Concert Performance

Kim & Dan Christian

Sunday, March 21 - 2:00 pm

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



