

The Circle will be Live, In-Person in Millbrae and also Via ZOOM

Our next musical program will be on October 16 – a great day for an *Octoberfest* Accordion Circle

meeting! Maestro **Lou Jacklich** will be leading our vaunted Jam Band. Both an Octoberfest-themed jam book and our regular more eclectic jam book will be made available, so the group can tickle its own fancy in any direction it chooses.

Please come armed with accordions and eager to put your names on the playlist as soloists, duets, trios or more, as you please. Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome - from beginners to seasoned pros, and everything in-between. And if you don't play the accordion, come anyway to enjoy the show! To get on the playlist, it is best to email Ken Schwartz (<u>kenneth.e.schwartz@gmail.com</u>) in advance to let him know your intentions.

Light snacks will be provided, and there will be a door prize or two - or even three. Parking is always easy at Chetcuti, seating is ample, and Accordion Circle meetings are always refreshingly interactive. See you there!



September Event Summary

By Ken Schwartz



September's meeting featured a reunion of the **Di Bono Brothers, Reno and Peter**, accompanied by **Bob Rizzetto** on bass and **Olaf Schiappacasi** on drums. **Colette Ogata** emceed. All who attended, whether in-person or via ZOOM, were treated to an afternoon of wonderful, lively musical and vocal entertainment. Reno performed on his beloved Sonola; Peter on his equally beloved Giulietti accordion.

The group opened with a rousing version of *Beer Barrel Polka*, followed by *Samba Italiano*, and *Flight of the Angels* waltz. Next was the *Julietta Polka* by John Pezzolo (he was their teacher in San Francisco, way back when!), followed by yet another well-known polka, *The Clarinet Polka*. An avid fan of Puccini, Reno next performed a lovely solo of his famous *Musetta Waltz*. Next was another waltz which has a special family connection, the *Il Sirio Waltz*, which was their

maternal grandmother's favorite Italian waltz. The SS Sirio was a passenger ship carrying young Italian immigrants to the new world, which ran aground and sank. Most of the passengers, including women and their children, perished. Their grandmother had friends who perished on this ship, and performance of this song would regularly bring her to tears in remembrance of her friends.

Next was a jazzy version of *If I Had You*, followed by *Honey-suckle Rose* (composed by Fats Waller in 1915). Reno then soloed, performing *Do Nothing Until You Hear from Me* (Duke Ellington). Next, the quartet performed *Begin the Beguine* (Cole Porter), starting as a rumba and then changing the tempo to swing, a version made famous by Artie Shaw.



(continued) September Event Summary By Ken Schwartz

Next was a medley of tunes which the Di Bonos have performed at hotels and dinner dances over the years. Included were 'S Wonderful (George Gershwin), sung by Reno and featuring complementary musical harmonies from the brothers - great fun! Next were Dancing on the Ceiling; East of the Sun; Blue Room; It's Only a Paper Moon; and Dream a Little Dream of Me. Reno followed with a solo Trieste Overture, by one of his favorite composers, Pietro Deiro. Next, the group performed Willie Nelson's On the Road Again, complete with Reno's "Yee Haws!" Where's your cowboy hat, Reno! Next was Tica Ta with Reno's vocals.



Next Bob soloed, playing Mama on the mandolin (he's been a performer

with **The Aurora Mandolins** for years). Next was another collection of hotel medleys, including *Don't Get Around Much Anymore* (Duke Ellington); *There Will Never Be Another You*; *All the Things You Are*; *Cheek to Cheek*; *A Foggy Day in London Town*; and *Our Love is Here to Stay* (Gershwin). They next performed a bossa nova medley, including *The Girl from Ipanema* with a couple of snippets from *One Note Samba* and *Meditation*. Finally, they closed with *Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans*, accompanied by Bob's singing.

Thank you Reno, Peter, Bob and Olaf for a terrific afternoon, it was great fun!



Needed: New Home for the SFAC Stage

Remember when Oyster Point Yacht Club was the Club's meeting spot? In those days we used a portable wooden stage that Club member Ed Massolo built by hand. When not in use, the stage folds in half and becomes a storage unit, 64" x 49"x 28". As storage unit, the stage held sound equipment and snack-time paraphernalia (coffee pot, serving spoons/plates, etc.). This ultra-versatile stage was incredibly useful, and we are so appreciative of Ed's craftsmanship! It is painted blue with some adornments, and must be seen as a bit of SFAC history.



We would love to be in the position to continue using the foldable stage, but that would require having a meeting space that will allow it to be left at the facility between programs. Sadly, this is not the case at this time. And so our beloved stage needs to find a new home, perhaps to be used in the future. It can be transported locally in Rosemary's minivan. If you have a spot to store it, please contact the club at info@sfaccordionclub.com

WEIRD: The Al Yankovic Story

Free Movie Available Nov. 4, 2022, at ROKU.COM Submitted by Pamela Tom

WEIRD: The Al Yankovic Story is a 1-hr and 48 min movie (biography/musical/comedy) based on the life of Al Yankovic. Al Yankovic is a gifted musician who is known for his tune parodies. *Weird* will be exclusively streamed on-line via the

ROKU.COM Channel (free TV, live news, sports, movies, and more) starting on November 4, 2022.

Weird premiered September 8, 2022 at the Toronto International Film Festival and was the TIFF's People's Choice winner in the "Midnight Madness Award" category. The film's current "Rotten Tomatoes/Tomatometer®" rating score, with 27 comments, is 93% positive! Good news for the accordion perhaps? This movie may be of particular interest to SFAC members because the piano accordion is prominently featured in the film. The movie stars Daniel Radcliffe as "Weird Al" Yankovic. In my opinion the best quote in the movie is "Anyone got an accordion?".

Downloading the app on your Ipad or Android device or logging in on your computer is needed to view *Weird* at your convenience. Two short video sneak previews (trailers) can be viewed at: https:// www.rottentomatoes.com/m/weird_the_al_yankovic_story.



SFAC Members On the Go

Gail Campanella participated at AKKORDeMOTION Camp (August 6-14, 2022) held in Gonten and Ettiswil, both in Switzerland. The week-long camp included workshops, orchestra rehearsal and concerts. Camp leaders included Marc Draeger (conductor), Stas Venglevski (accordionist) and Patricia Draeger (accordionist).

Gail noted: "We were in the Appenzell region of Switzerland - a historic canton in the northeast of Switzerland, and entirely surrounded by the canton of St. Gallen. We stayed in the sweet town of Gonten . . . within walking distance of the church where our first performance was held. There was a second performance on the 14th in the town of Ettiswil, near the hometown of Cornelia Schmid, the camp director."

Gail describes her musical experience: "Stas Venglevski was a guest artist. We performed his composition, *Kottwil Rondo*. Stas was the soloist, accompanied by the orchestra conducted by Marc Draeger. It was wonderful. Stas gave a workshop and private lessons. Patricia Draeger was also a workshop leader. Her workshops on Far East music and improvisation were sensational. As someone who has played accordion for many decades, I have to admit that improvising still frightens me. Patricia gave us encouragement and confidence and practical scales to use. She was inspiring."

According to Gail: "One of the musical highlights was the men's chorus, Chrobeg-Chörli Gonten. The Men's Yodel Chorus was simply AMAZING . . . OUT OF THIS WORLD! Most of these men are farmers in the Appenzell region of Switzerland but they meet one evening a week to sing. They sing a special Appenzell yodel and local folk songs and have won many awards. Bass, baritone, tenor, and the spectacular countertenors are sure to give you goose bumps!! I can say that it was a wonderful experience to be a part of the AKKORDeMOTION Camp this year under the organization of Cornelia Schmid."

The date of the next AKKORDeMOTION has not been determined but it will not take place until 2024 at the earliest. Stay informed by visiting: <u>www.akkordeon-event.ch/index.html</u>

Pamela Tom (AKA Accordion Empress) played three unique gigs in September. She was a guest speaker at the Davis Rotary International meeting and gave an overview of the piano accordion in the US. She also performed snippets of standards to demonstrate rhythms and



the instrument's versatility (beyond oompah!). She performed her annual Oktoberfest program at Atria Covell Gardens senior living community. And she played at a private 80th birthday.

Seattle-based **Bonnie Birch** (Chair of the Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration) does a fantastic job as accordionist and ambassador in the Pacific Northwest. With Oktoberfest/ Wurst, Festa Italiana, and private gigs in the greater Seattle area, Bonnie (with Munich-born Klaus Heiting on guitar/ vocals and perfect-pitch Paul Ostler on tuba) will perform every day in September and October. Her performance schedule is at: www.bonniebirch.com.





SFAC/BAAC Nostalgía

Robert Cooperstein

Several years ago, our former Treasurer gave Elaine and me a box containing documents dating back to the first decade of the Bay Area Accordion Club (BAAC), which eventually morphed into the present San Francisco Accordion Club (SFAC). A few years later, the family of Frank Schlotter, an important figure and Board member of BAAC, provided us papers of his upon his passing. In these boxes were vintage issues of the Club newsletter, photographs, letters, meeting minutes, and flyers for Club functions. There were also invites to picnics and dances, business cards, newspaper clippings, and more. I've always appreciated the history of institutions; not just matters recognized as important but also even especially - what might be thought of as *esoterica*. That's how I learn about the nitty gritty, how it was, way back then. This newsletter includes 2 pages (7-8) devoted to some of these precious and timeless mementos or our Club and the pioneers of its rebirth in 1990.

Music On Schools Today

Music in Schools Today (MUST) is a nonprofit organization that develops and delivers music education programs with the goal of promoting students' academic achievement and emotional well-being. They happen to have a staff member who appreciates accordion music and recently reached out to the Club. One of their events is a musical "petting zoo" where youngsters can see and touch various instruments. This sounds like a perfect way to get kids interested in the accordion, and we will be contributing an instrument from the Club's inventory. Check them out at: https://www.musicinschoolstoday.org/

As we learn more about MUST, we will share it with you!

A Tutti!

I am pleased to announce the release of my latest album, **Limoncello Time**. It includes 10 fun and whimsical songs spanning a variety of musical genres, styles and themes.

Since 2005, I have been recording what I consider to be Italian-American music, and THIS album, the fourth album in this series, does not disappoint.

If you get a chance, I hope you will take a listen to Limoncello Time. Here is a YouTube <u>link: https://www.youtube.com/</u> watch?v=zzFPvZ109cs&list=OLAK5uy_myd3zwH1PBWNW9NGgo3vRZkVAH1dgKJWE&ab_channel=TomTorriglia-Topic

Limoncello Time is also available for download on Spotify, Amazon, Apple music, etc.

Tom Torriglia

www.tomtorriglia.com



I. Gelato Joe 2. The Girl Without Any Tatte Limoncello Song 4. La Lanterna 5. Mamma, Look at That Boy 6. The Zeneize Song What Do You See in Me 9, Maria Bella 10, Bella Ciao

THE BEGINING May Issue We did it! It's official ... we're BAAC..... On Monday, the 7th of May, a fine group of accordion people came together and decided to organize a club for the purpose of bringing together those who appreciate the accordion and want to enlighten the community of the versatility and magnificents of the official instrument of San Francisco. Our meeting began with members taking turns playing a few tunes. The members



FEB, 1 MIG. DESIBE TWO EXCELLENT PLAYED

Don Nurisso

Dominic Palmisano, bass accordion Joseph E. Smiell

Stas Wisniach Joe Smiell, Conductor and Arranger

3:00 P.M.

MARCH 7, 1993

\$10.00

3250 - 19TH AVENUE

SUNDAY

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL



Tonight's Performers

Accordionists Steve Albini Ron Borelli Lou Casanuova Jim Hillman Don Nurisso Roberto Rosa Lou Soper

Bass Dave Lario

Drums Mark Hinchman

Art Van Damme 80th Birthday Party BAAC - April 18, 2000 Patio Español, SFO



Among the newsletters I found sorting through **The Box**, there was what must have been a one page insert in the Nov. 2000 issue. I couldn't resist reprinting this short piece by the inimitable **Tom Torriglia**, a BAAC co-founder and leader of **Bella Ciao**, which most recently surfaced at the Italian Festival in SF last month. (RC)

ACCORDIONS AL DENTE, by Tom Torriglia, Nov. 2000

Being a guy is not easy. For example, people automatically expect that you know a lot about American spectator sports. Well, to tell you the truth, I have no idea how to calculate a baseball player's slugging percentage nor, when it comes to football, do I know the difference between an outside line-backer and an inside linebacker. But, don't tell anyone. The other day, I asked someone what a double chamber was. This person looked at me in disbelief and said that I should know that because I'm an accordion player. Well, I didn't. Do you? Another thing I've wondered about is what's a "set of reeds." You always hear people asking how many sets of reeds does this accordion have. Some people have told me to count the number of dots on the switches. If there are three dots, the accordion has three sets of reeds. That's great, except my accordion has names written on the switches, not dots. Another person told to pull off the grill, press a key and count the number of holes under the key's pad. When I told him the number of holes, he said that that can't be right. I was recently watching Dale Wise's Accordion repair video and he states that a "set" is the reeds on one half of a reed block. So, for example, if my accordion has three reed blocks on the treble side and there are reeds on each side of the block, my accordion has six sets of reeds on the treble side. On the bass side, it is common to have one side of a reed block blank. That's why you'll hear people say the accordion has five sets of reeds. Is everyone in agreement? If not, tell me your definition of a set of reeds.

You may recall that I asked all the clubs across America to find out about getting a museum-type installation in place at their local airport for National Accordion Awareness Month. Here's a snippet from the reply I received from Blake Summers at the San Francisco Airport. He writes that "all the exhibit galleries are scheduled until 2003". Wowl I knew the airport galleries were popular, but not this popular. So, I will try to get something scheduled for 2004. He also wants to know: "what the memorabilia would consist of, would it be three-dimensional objects or two-dimensional?" He also wanted to know about availability. This is where you come in. If you have a photo, accordion, figurine or other artifact that you think would be suited for an accordion exhibition, please let me know what you have. I will photograph and catalogue the items and meet with the airport people to come up with a concept of displaying the items. I bet some of you have some really cool stuff that would make the exhibition a big hit. Here in the Bay Area, we are treated to two accordion festivals; the one in San Francisco and the one in Cotati. I think it would be great if we had festivals throughout the state: sort of a California Accordion FestivaTM. Each year, a different city would vie for the honor of bringing the California Accordion FestivalTM to its town. Kinda like they do with the Olympics. Or, maybe five festivals on successive weekends; one up in Ukiah, one in Petaluma; one in San Jose; one in Los Angeles and one in San Diego. Area clubs could co-sponsor. Let me know your thoughts.

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.

A must-have for every accordion fan!

AN AMERICAN ACCORDION STORY



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order online at petosa.com or call 206.632.2700 \$35 + shipping Available Now

SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

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

RICHARD DENIER Carmel - rjd.denier@gmail.com

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>

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IL DUETTO MUSICA (aka Paul Aebersold & Gloria Gazave) mazurkaman@yahoo.com https://www.facebook.com/II- Duetto-Musica-992981207392410/

ROBERT KENNEDY *robertkennedymusic.com, missionhotclub.com*

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties <u>accordionpam@gmail.com</u>

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



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Message from the SFAC President

Ken Schwartz



Hi all! Fall is in full swing and we're actively planning for the remainder of the year and on into the new year. We welcome your suggestions for activities, programming, and any-

thing which may come to mind. We encourage you to take an active role in the Club, including assisting with our in-person events, writing event

summaries, and helping out with our live events (e.g., snacks, setup, cleanup, staffing the front table, etc.) It takes a village! Thanks, as always!



ন্স Thank You, Donors! ৰ্জ

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).

Lorna Anderson; Dr. Scott T. Anderson; Dave Braun; Gay Castellano; Raymond Celentano; Elaine & Robert Cooperstein; Edward Crnich; Xavier & Candace de la Prade; Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Nancy Leonard; Linda Lonay; Franco, Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi; Michael A. Marotta, Jr.; Ed Massolo; Nora Mazzara; Anna Nicora; Laura Jean Niland; Gisele B. Oakes; Casey & Colette Ogata; David Perry; Robert D. & Dil Pisani; Dr. Kenneth Schwartz; Georgia Sutherland; Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom; Frank Venturelli; Tseli Wu; Mike Zampiceni *If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact <u>elainedc@sbcglobal.net</u>. We greatly appreciate the support and want to be sure you are recognized.*

Event Reviews:

Volunteers are *very much* needed to assist with the monthly event summaries. This is a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your Club! Please volunteer to write up a meeting review for an upcoming newsletter. Contact: Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

SFAC Scholarships

Your club has scholarship funds available to support accordion students studying with teachers who are SFAC members in good standing. Preference is given to students who demonstrate dedication to pursuing the study of the accordion. Contact **Mike Zampiceni** for a scholarship application.

> eclecticguy@comcast.net 408-569-2579





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

Accordions for Rent

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

SFAC Board of Directors

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<u>Scholarship</u>: Mike Zampiceni (408)569-2579, eclecticguy@comcast.net

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place 1/8-page (business-card size) free of charge for one month each year. 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.

The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) taxexempt 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 <u>www.sfaccordionclub.com</u> or by mailing your contribution to the SFAC Treasurer, Elaine Cooperstein, 539 Elsie Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577

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

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

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)¹ 2nd Saturdays—Roseville, CA Lutheran Church of the Resurrection cvalashan@aol.com (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)²

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

¹ In person meeting only
² mixed: in-person and ZOOM meeting
³ ZOOM only meeting

Membership Update

by Robert Cooperstein

Most of our members paid their annual club membership fee within a month of receiving a request to do so. For those of you who have not yet done so, please take care of that so you can continue receiving our Newsletter, invitations to our live and ZOOM accordion programs, and other SFAC announcements that go out from time to time. Look for the return envelope you received from us, or renew at the <u>SFAC webpage</u>.

We are pretty proud of what our Club accomplishes each year, having superb and often world-famous accordionists play for us, being the only accordion club to maintain its presence at the Cotati Accordion Festival, donating to the Cotati Student



Scholarship fund and to other worthy students, and producing a monthly highly-regarded newsletter. Above all, we just do our best - with limited resources - to faithfully support accordionists, teachers, and listeners.

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

- Gail Campanella* GailCampanella@gmail.com
- Reno DiBono 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* <a>accordionpam@gmail.com
- Joel Weber* <u>www.joelseastbayacordionlessons.weebly.com/</u>
- ♦ Mike Zampiceni* <u>www.mikezamp.com</u>

* = remote lessons (ZOOM, Facetime, Skype) available

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS LIVE IN-PERSON & ONLINE/VIR TUAL EVENTS

Gordon Kohl Workshops (Virtual) <u>gkohl5890@gmail.com</u> 3rd Sundays each month - Topics vary monthly

Rose City Accordion Club Camp June 4 - 9, 2023 Eagle Creek, OR Contact: maddoxfran43@gmail.com

San Francisco Accordion Club Newsletter

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



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Upcoming: SFAC Accordion Circle (October 16, Chetcuti Community Room); Beverly Fess-ZOOM only (November 20, 4:00 PM); Accordion Circle Holiday Extravaganza (December 11, Chetcuti Community Room)

SFAC Sunday Meeting

ACCORDION CIRCLE

OPEN MIC/SOLOS + GROUP PLAY/JAM

LIVE IN-PERSON + ONLINE ACCESS

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Come join us for fun and great music! Chetcuti doors open at 2:00 PM Jam/band begins approximately 2:15 PM See email for link to online streaming See email for details, or contact <u>info@sfaccordionclub.com</u>



Chetcuti Community Room 450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae Plenty of free parking in Library lot Accessible location Close to public transit (<1 mile from BART) fb.com/sanfranciscoaccordionclub