

August, 2025

♪♪ **No August SFAC Meeting** ♪♪

See you at the

The Cotati Accordion Festival

August 15-17

Next SFAC Meeting: Sunday, September 21

The Reno DiBono Trio

Chetcuti Community Center



See you at Cotati!

Most years the SFAC is well-represented by many of its members attending this one-of-a-kind accordion festival. As soon we enter the park grounds it feels as though we had never left the previous year, such is the overwhelming feeling of continuity and community!

We will have an SFAC canopy toward the back of the park, where our members and fellow-travelers can hang out, mingle with passers-by, and generally take the opportunity to let this large gathering know about the SFAC. Oh, you can even play the accordion there!

We are very proud of our rich history, ongoing musical programs, and our commitment to propagating and supporting accordion culture best we can.

Make sure to stop by!





The Cotati Accordion Festival

NON-PROFIT – MULTI-GENERATIONAL – MULTI-CULTURAL – MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA – BENEFITS LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS

SATURDAY, August 16

9:45am – 10:20am Colette Ogata & Joseph Martin
10:25am – 11:05am [Sourdough Slim & Robert Armstrong](#)
11:10am – 11:50am Egle Bartkeviciute
11:55am – 12:45pm [United Air Force Band of the Golden West “Galaxy”](#)
12:50pm – 1:35pm [Gary Blair](#)
1:35pm – 1:40pm *Student Scholarship Awards*
1:40pm – 1:55pm *Lady of Spain-A-Ring*
1:55pm – 2:45pm [Sergei & Maria Teleshev](#)
2:50pm – 3:35pm [Cory Pesaturo](#)
3:40pm – 4:25pm [Discos Resaca Collective](#)
4:30pm – 5:05pm [Jet Black Pearl](#)
5:10pm – 5:55pm [The Mad Maggies](#)
6:00pm – 6:40pm [Ginny Mac](#)
6:45pm – 7:45pm [Junk Parlor](#)

Saturday Polka Tent

9:45am – 12:00pm [Sheri Mignano Crawford & Steve Hanson](#)
1:00pm – 4:50pm [The Steve Balich Polka Band](#)

Saturday Zydeco Dance Party

1:00pm – 5:00pm (at Spanky’s) [Mark St. Mary](#)
5:15pm – 7:00pm (at the Big Tent) [Iko Ya Ya](#)

RAY’S DELI STAGE

10:30am – 11:10am [Amber Lee Baker](#)
11:30am – 12:10pm [Nathan & Jessie](#)
12:30pm – 1:10pm [The Wind Weavers](#)
1:30pm – 2:10pm [5 Cent Coffee](#)
2:30pm – 3:10pm [Zla Vila](#)
3:30pm – 4:10pm [The Art Peterson Trio](#)
4:30pm – 5:10pm Junniper Djinn

SUNDAY, August 17

9:45am – 10:25am [Future Stars](#)
10:30am – 11:10am [Tamas Kemendi](#) (Hungary)
11:15am – 11:55am [SonoMusette](#)
12:00pm – 12:45pm Richard Noel “Bonhomie”
12:50pm – 1:35pm [Gary Blair](#)
1:35pm – 1:40pm *Honorary Director*
1:40pm – 1:55pm *Lady of Spain-A-Ring*
1:55pm – 2:35pm [Cory Pesaturo](#) w/ Julia Masnicova
2:40pm – 3:20pm Egle Bartkeviciute
3:25pm – 4:10pm [Discos Resaca Collective](#)
4:10pm – 4:20pm *Raffle Winners*
4:20pm – 5:00pm [Ginny Mac](#)
5:05pm – 5:50pm [Hernandez Hideaway](#)
5:55pm – 6:30pm [Jet Black Pearl](#)
6:35pm – 7:45pm *The Grand Finale*

Sunday Polka Tent

9:45am – 12:00pm [Sheri Mignano Crawford & Steve Hanson](#)
1:00pm – 4:50pm [The Steve Balich Polka Band](#)

Sunday Zydeco Dance Party

1:00pm – 5:00pm (at Spanky’s) [California Blue Runners](#)
5:15pm – 7:00pm (at the Big Tent) [Les Amis Zydeco](#)

RAY’S DELI STAGE

10:30am – 11:10am [Two Tribes](#)
11:30am – 12:10pm [Zla Vila](#)
12:30pm – 1:10pm [5 Cent Coffee](#)
1:30pm – 2:10pm [Nathan & Jessie](#)
2:30pm – 3:10pm [Innuendo](#)
3:30pm – 4:10pm [Cila Puccadella](#)
4:30pm – 5:10pm Junniper Djinn

2025 Cotati Accordion Festival presents Student Scholarship Fundraiser Concert

A FREE Friday Event Featuring:

Paul Betken Lou DiMaggio Mario Pedone
Sheri Mignano Crawford & Steve Hanson



Friday, Aug 15, 2025 4 - 6 PM

Church of the Oaks' Social Hall, 175 Page Street, Cotati, CA
Donate at the Door or On-line

Cotati Accordion Student Stage 2025

Saturday, August 16th, 9:30am - Noon

Meet the Students - See them Perform



Church of the Oaks Social Hall, 175 Page Street, Cotati, CA

SFAC Picnic in the Park

Randy Hicks

On Sunday, July 27th the San Francisco Accordion Club held our fifth annual "Picnic in the Park" at the Rinconada Park in Palo Alto with about 30 people in attendance. The weather was kind to us and it was a pleasantly warm day with just enough breeze to keep things comfortable.

The picnic started off with pre-music provided by Roy Zheng and Joseph Martin. Many guests brought extra food to share, so there was plenty to go around. While we were eating, we were serenaded by strolling musician Dr. Scott Anderson, Anand's daughters Annabelle and Juni and an impromptu ensemble of Thomas Seiter, Tseli Wu, Joseph Martin, Roy Zheng and Mike Zampiceni. Then it was picture time, and then those who brought their accordions got down to some serious jamming to the delight of the neighboring park goers. We very much missed the presence of Ken and Jane, and we send our best wishes to Ken for a rapid recovery from a recent fall.

We extend a big thank you to all who attended, and special thanks to Rosemary Busher for once again procuring this perfect spot at Rinconada Park; and to all who brought extra food and who provided entertainment during the picnic.

Next month, there will not be a meeting, but we hope to see you at the Cotati Accordion Festival and we will meet again as a group in September with Reno DiBono as our featured performer.

[We will reprint a larger version of the group photo in an upcoming newsletter, when space permits]



Sports Basement Meetup - How to Join?

Want to be added to the email list for details about the upcoming Accordion Meet-Ups in San Francisco? Send us word if there is a remote possibility that you can make one of these very informal jam sessions - you can be added to the email list to find out when the next gathering will be. Meet-Ups will begin again in either September or October, it largely depends on the space availability and the availability of participants. The meetups are held on the 5th floor at the **Sports Basement** on Bryant Street, San Francisco. Parking is free.

This photo was taken at the July meet-up, where 6 of us got together and played a little music.

Pictured: Curtis, Tony, Rosemary, Joseph & Harshini (not pictured is Roy)



SFAC Members' Photos at Cotati Accordion Festival

◆ **Saturday & Sunday 3:00pm**

Let's gather around the Jim Boggio statue for group photos with all who attend the Cotati Accordion Festival on either or both days! Please spread the word to any Club members you see at the festival!





www.kodalyfoundation.org

**AUGUST 31
2025**

5PM-6PM CONCERT
6PM-7.30PM DINNER

RESERVE YOUR SPOT:





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SUGGESTED DONATION: \$35

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TIBOR SARKANY
ACCORDION



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Accordion Ambassador Adventures

By Pamela Tom

Bastille Day, July 14, was celebrated in San Francisco with a three-course prix fixe dinner and music by veteran accordionist **Mike Zampiceni** at CATCH French Bistro. SFAC members Rosemary Busher, Tony David, Pamela Lister and Joseph Martin enjoyed the French music and dishes. "I played from 6-8 PM with a 15-minute break that enabled me to socialize with our accordion club table," noted Mike.



Rosemary Busher & Mike Zampiceni

SFAC Member & Student Involvement with Cotati Accordion Festival:

Saturday – August 16, 2025

9:30 AM – Noon. Cotati Student Stage Scholarship Program, Church of the Oaks Social Hall, 175 Page St., Cotati.

In July, eight California students competing for Cotati Accordion Student Stage scholarships uploaded their entries to the 2025 Cotati Accordion Student State YouTube web site (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVVihn5yH7YZeqLgdZNUrrQ15y_gyqhej) Each student uploaded four entries. Four entries from the Bay Area, comprising half the contestants, were both members of the SFAC and current and past students of **Mike Zampiceni**: **Jennifer Aruldass, Colin Kennedy, Mackenzie Freschi** and **Annabelle Selvaraj**.

9:45 – 10:20 AM **Che Bella Accordions** duo (SFAC members **Colette Ogata & Joseph Martin**)
Come early and help celebrate the duo's debut!



Che Bella Accordions

Sunday – August 17, 2025

9:45 – 10:25 AM **Future Accordion Stars include SFAC youth members**: **Jennifer Aruldass, Mackenzie Freschi, Colin Kennedy, Annabelle Selvaraj, Marion Seretan, & Evan Xu**

SFAC volunteers at Cotati include: **Pamela Lister** (ticket booth); **Joseph Martin** (delivering SFAC canopy, bringing song books for the jam tent, and hosting the jam tent on Saturday at 3 PM); **Elaine & Robert Cooperstein** (assembling and hosting the SFAC canopy).

Itinerary update on **Tibor Sárkány's** accordion guest artist visitor, **Tamás Kéméndi** from Mohács, Hungary. Questions? Contact Tamás, kemendi.tamas@gmail.com

- ♦ August 17, 10:30 AM US debut at [Cotati Accordion Festival](#)
- ♦ August 20, 6:00 PM: [Hungarian House](#), Los Angeles
- ♦ August 22, 7:00 PM: [Hall of Nations, Balboa Park](#), San Diego
- ♦ August 24, 2:15 PM: [House of Hungary Lawn Program, Balboa Park](#), San Diego
- ♦ August 31, 5:00 PM: [Hungarian Cultural Center](#), Newark

Recordings of the **2025 ATG Festival Accordion Orchestra** conducted by Joan C. Sommers are posted on the ATG's YouTube site: <https://www.youtube.com/@atg-accordioniststeachersg260>. SFAC member, Chris Boris (circled in gold) played in the orchestra and Paul Cain served as the technical director.

Guest artist performances at the ATG YouTube site include: **Duo Two Accordions** (Sergei Teleshev & Maria Telesheva), **Michael Bridge & Kornel Wolak** (clarinet), **Joaquin Munoz Donoso**, & **UMKC Community Accordion Ensemble**.



Photo Credit: Paul Cain

Vintage San Francisco Accordion Class Photograph Donation

Prof. A. Cagnazzo's Accordion School, Dec 15, 1926

By Ken Schwartz with Pamela Tom

The Club has received a donation of a historic photograph from Cassie McSorley of Salinas, CA. The photograph shows "Prof. A. Cagnazzo's Accordion School, San Francisco Dec 15, 1926" in what appears to be San Francisco, Civic Center Plaza. The print measures approximately 33" long x 8" tall on original, heavy grade paper. The reverse side features the photographer's stamp: "Chas. A. Hiller, Photographer, 1117 Geary St, San Francisco." Cassie's great-grandfather had a friend in the class, name unknown.

Professor Angelo Cagnazzo was a well-known San Francisco Accordion teacher. He taught countless students, including **Ernest Gloe** (teacher of **Steve Albini**), **Lou DiMaggio**, **Ron Harris**, **John Volpi**, **Steve Balich Sr**, and **Dick Contino**! Here are some representative remembrances from some former students, and also accordion historian Steve Albini.

- ◆ **John Volpi**, *Honorary Director, Cotati Festival 2013* — "My father took lessons from Professor Angelo Cagnazzo in the 1920s and later played with the Traveling Minstrels. Angelo Cagnazzo was also Dick Contino's teacher. He taught mainly in San Francisco and played in the Italian neighborhood of North Beach in the evenings." <https://cotatifest.com/2019/01/30/john-volpi/>
- ◆ "**Ron Harris** began his accordion career at the age of 4½, studying in San Francisco with Armand Oliveras (1941-1945); Joe Lazzarin (1946-1948); and **Angelo Cagnazzo** (1948-1951). While taking lessons with Angelo, he could hear fellow student **Dick Contino** practicing overhead, upstairs. These lessons took place in San Francisco (in the Haight/Ashbury area). Ron was about 12 years old when he began his lessons with Angelo and would ride the bus, carrying his accordion, from his family home in Daly City." *SFAC Feb. 2014 newsletter* [Feb 2014 NL OL.pdf](#)
- ◆ **Lou DiMaggio** — "Angelo Cagnazzo was my teacher for several years. After graduating from high school, I even lived with him for a year. He was very good on technique, bellow shakes, and expression. Technique comes from playing scales, chords, inversions of chords, arpeggios, inversions of arpeggios, in all keys. Angelo Cagnazzo was inspirational for me. He did not mix words. If you did not know your lesson, he would let you go as a student. I learned every lesson he gave me, and it really paid off." [Lou DiMaggio was a 1951 National Finalist in the Horace Heidt Original Youth Opportunity Program.]
- ◆ **Steve Albini**, [Facebook](#), <https://www.facebook.com/search/posts/?q=steve%20albini>
"Professor Cagnazzo taught my teacher Ernst Gloe. He also was Dick Contino's teacher. John Volpi and Steve Balich Sr. also studied with him. This is the way accordion schools used to be back in that era."

The photographer was **Chas. M. Hiller** of San Francisco. Some of Hiller's San Francisco prints are in the collection of the Library of Congress. Framed reproductions can be found on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Historic-Framed-Golden-Bridge-photographer/dp/BOF1LPKM5J>

The Club welcomes any comments and suggestions for an appropriate home for this historic print.



Original photograph by Chas. M. Hiller, 1926
Courtesy of Cassie McSorley
Adobe Photoshop Elements editing by Ken Schwartz

A Musical Journey with 33 Accordions, a Drummer and a Percussionist SqueezePlay Orchestra with Dan and Kim Christian

by Chris Boris [Photos by Kim & Dan Christian]



Christine—2nd row, 2nd from left

Donna Kaspar, Donna’s husband Jim, and I traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico to join Dan and Kim Christian and 31 other accordionists to form an orchestra and perform at the First Unitarian Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Accordionists from all over the country came to rehearse and perform with Dan and Kim. Some were seasoned performers with years of experience, while others were enthusiastic beginners eager to explore the limitless potential of their instrument. Despite varied skill levels, one thing united us all: our shared passion for the accordion and the dream of creating something spectacular together.

Before the main performance, the orchestra engaged in rehearsals Wednesday evening, Thursday and Friday morning for 2 ½ hours and again on Saturday morning for 1½ hours prior to our performance in the afternoon. During these rehearsals, bonds were formed, and a sense of community blossomed as we worked toward a shared goal under Kim and Dan’s direction, their sense of humor, their limitless patience, and their grace towards all.

After a morning of rehearsal, we traveled to a common lunch location and then spent time exploring our environs. One afternoon was spent touring old town Albuquerque, replete with artisans’ wares, a town square, and an 18th century Catholic church. Another afternoon found some of us touring the aquarium, zoo, and botanical gardens, or taking a well-deserved nap before the evening’s social gathering of open mic. We were treated to a variety of talent, genres, and creativity by accordionists who braved the microphone to perform for their peers. While Donna helped tremendously with administrative duties instead of joining the orchestra, she pleased audiences with her creative and memorized solos and played duets with me both evenings of open mic. I had the opportunity to play a solo for fellow accordionists and had the pleasure to play a couple duets in real time with Matt Cooper, my online duet partner. There were accordionists who teamed up with their duo partner for the first time in a year and there was a trio made up of an accordionist, a cellist, and a trumpet player. Even Rich, our resident drummer, got in on the action and played with any accordionist who desired a perfect drum accompaniment for their chosen music.



Christine is in the middle row, 4th or 5th from right, long-sleeved pink top

Continued on next page ...

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The performance on Saturday was a culminating event filled with rich compositions, some of which were arranged by Dan and/or Kim. We were treated to an hour of expert accordion playing by Dan and Kim for the first hour as they played traditional and standard tunes to the delight of the audience numbering over 125 in attendance. The orchestra then came on stage, including the drummer and a twelve-year-old grandson of one of the accordionists to play percussion, and we performed recognizable pieces including *I Feel Good*, by James Brown and the famous *Raiders March*, from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. A few select accordionists put their time and talent into *Teufelstanz*, a very fast and technically difficult classical music selection. At the end of our program, audience members showed their appreciation for all our hard work by giving us a standing ovation.

I have a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to play alongside so many enthusiastic accordionists and to work under the baton and instruction of Kim and Dan Christian. Their tireless efforts and hard work allowed for a grand collaboration of passion for our beloved instrument and the magic of music as a universal language. As we all packed our accordions and bid farewell, we were already planning on next year's SqueezePlay Orchestra experience!

June 2025 Leavenworth Report

By Chris Boris

The Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration festival just concluded its 25 year anniversary. I had the privilege of an invitation to join the Spokane Accordion Ensemble for their Thursday night concert performance. In addition to playing with a talented group of accordionists conducted by Beverley Fess, I attended workshops, including one on techniques for tango and another regarding zydeco music. Matt Tolentino offered a workshop on ragtime music from the early 1900's and performed a stunning concert on Friday night of music from the era. The town's Gazebo hosted many accordionists for solos and duets, so Matt Cooper and I played a polka, a German tune, and a French musette. Free concerts of accordionists were given on Friday and Saturday at King Ludwigs restaurant and audiences were treated to fine accordion talents on Friday and Saturday night at Festhalle, a large venue at the end of town. It truly was a delightful 3-day festival in a charming Bavarian town filled with accordionists from all over North America.



Accordion Happenings

Online/Virtual Events:

Monthly: 1st & 3rd Monday - Joseph Natoli
 JANPress University - Topics vary monthly (\$) janpressmusic@yahoo.com

Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:30-6:30 PM (free)
 Hosted by Laura Niland LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Members -

If you know of an accordion-centric festival or event in 2025-26 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact us at info@sfaaccordionclub.org



THE MONTH OF AUGUST IS NAMED AFTER EMPEROR AUGUSTUS, THE FIRST ROMAN EMPEROR. IN THE YEAR XVII BC HE SPARED THE LIVES OF XI GLADIATORS BY TAKING THEIR PLACE IN THE COLOSSEUM TO PERFORM TURN-OF-THE-MILLENNIUM POP STANDARDS ON THE ACCORDION.



The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization [EIN 94-3148553] 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.sfaaccordionclub.com



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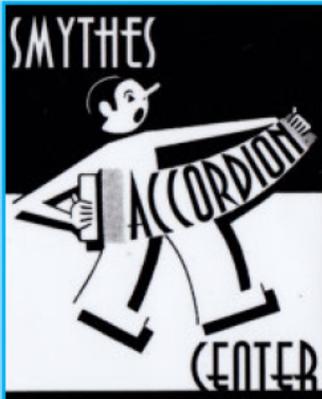
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 Petaluma, California 95952

Noon-6pm Wed, Fri, Sat
 Noon-8pm Thurs

510-268-4084
smytheaccordion@gmail.com



Ron Borelli, Accordionist

Contact information:

- Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM
- WEBSITE: RONBORELLI.COM
- TEXT/PHONE: 415-203-6700

Searching for *Lou Soper's Easy Musical Chord Retention Method, Volumes One & Two*

If your collection of sheet music includes these volumes, please let us know. It would be greatly appreciated.

info@sfaccordionclub.com

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.

Contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI San Mateo - RonBorelli@aol.com
www.ronborelli.com

JOE DOMITROWICH Entire SF Bay Area –
Joe@JoeDLive.com or www.JoeDLive.com

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

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties
accordionpam@gmail.com

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

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

Ken Schwartz, President,
Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

Rosemary Busher, Vice-President
(510) 220-2931, rosemary@busher.org

Paul Cain paulrussellcain@gmail.com

Robert Cooperstein (510) 207-6009, drrcoop@sbcglobal.net

Elaine Cooperstein (510) 921-9323, elainedc@sbcglobal.net

Randall Hicks (510) 750-6858, hickr01@sprintmail.com

Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

Scholarship Awards:

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

Webmaster & Bookkeeping: Randall Hicks

Newsletter: Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher, Ken Schwartz (and credited contributors each issue)

Accordion Rentals: Rosemary Busher

Live Meeting Sound & Amplification: Paul Cain

Live Meeting Zoom Camera & Sound: Ken Schwartz

Membership: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia

🎵 Appreciation for SFAC Donors! 🎵

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. These members have made donations during our current (October 2024 – September 2025) membership year:

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott Anderson, Ron Borelli, Gail Campanella, Raymond Celentano, Robert & Elaine Cooperstein, Edward Crnich, Xavier and Candace de la Prade, Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Arleen Johnson, Jerry Keifer, Pamela Lister, Linda Lonay, Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi, Natalie Lyukevich, Nora Mazzara, Gerald McMahon, Steve Mobia, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Prurucker, Rich Rinaldi, Tibor Sarkany, Don & Mary Savant, Kenneth Schwartz, James E. Shoemaker, Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter

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

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** eclecticguy@comcast.net for a scholarship application.

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

East Bay

- ◆ **Joel Weber**
www.joelstbayacordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ **Joe Simoni*** jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ **Gail Campanella*** GailCampanella@gmail.com 805-895-0457 (Santa Barbara)
- ◆ **Bonnie Birch*** www.bonniebirch.com (Seattle)
- ◆ **Pamela Tom*** accordionpam@gmail.com (Davis)

* = remote lessons (Zoom, Facetime) available

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

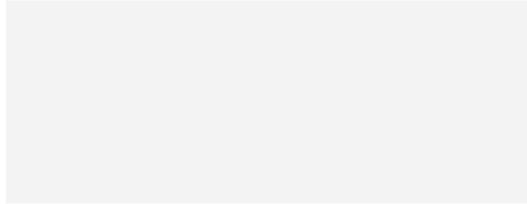
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Upcoming Events: *August 15-17 Cotati Accordion Festival* (see page 1-3)—*La Plaza Park* (www.cotatifest.com)

September 21 The Reno DiBono Trio Live, in-person at the Chetcuti Community Center!

October 19 Piedmont High School - Accordion Circle Student Center, Building B

SFAC Meets on 3rd Sundays

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

September 21 - Millbrae Meeting

The Reno DiBono Trio

RSVP for details info@sfaccordionclub.com



La Plaza Park, seen at right on a quiet day, will be teeming with accordion lovers and accordion players, getting together for one of the largest recurring festivals of its kind. The park looks impossibly small when quiet, and absurdly large when filled with people! Be there for the Woodstock of accordion culture!



<https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoAccordionClub/>

