

August, 2026

♪ ♪ **No August SFAC Meeting** ♪ ♪

See you at the

The Cotati Accordion Festival **August 14-16**

Next SFAC Meeting: Sunday, September 27

The Noel - Hubbard Duo:

Richard Noel & Janice Hubbard

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 passersby, and generally take the opportunity to let this large gathering know about the SFAC. And, 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.

Be sure to stop by!





The Cotati Accordion Festival

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

SATURDAY, August 15

9:45am – 10:20am The No-Mads
10:25am – 11:05am [Sourdough Slim & Robert Armstrong](#)
11:10am – 11:50am [Hernandez Hideaway](#)
11:55am – 12:45pm Marta Cubas Hondal (*Spain*)
12:50pm – 1:35pm [Califas](#)
1:35pm – 1:40pm *Student Scholarship Awards*
1:40pm – 1:55pm *Lady of Spain-A-Ring*
1:55pm – 2:45pm Julia Masnicova (*Slovakia*)
2:50pm – 3:30pm [Cory Pesaturo](#) w/ Leah Zeger
3:35pm – 4:20pm [Discos Resaca Collective](#)
4:25pm – 5:05pm [Sergei & Maria Teleshev](#)
5:10pm – 5:55pm [The Mad Maggies](#)
6:00pm – 6:35pm Mary Knapp
6:40pm – 7:40pm [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](#)

ACCORDION APOCALYPSE STAGE

10:30am – 11:10am *Hobo Goblin!*
11:30am – 12:10pm [Cila Puccadella](#)
12:30pm – 1:10pm [Zla Vila](#)
1:30pm – 2:10pm Luz Gaxiola & Ilya Kreymer
2:30pm – 3:10pm [Nathan & Jessie](#)
3:30pm – 4:10pm [5 Cent Coffee](#)
4:30pm – 5:10pm Duckmandu

SUNDAY, August 16

9:35am – 10:25am [Future Stars](#)
10:30am – 11:10am Julia Masnicova (*Slovakia*)
11:15am – 11:55am Spaghetti w/ Sam Reider
12:00pm – 12:40pm Marta Cubas Hondal (*Spain*)
12:45pm – 1:30pm [USAF Band "Galaxy"](#)
1:30pm – 1:45pm *Lady of Spain-A-Ring*
1:45pm – 2:25pm [Stas Venglevski](#)
2:30pm – 3:15pm [Cory Pesaturo](#) w/ Leah Zeger
3:20pm – 4:15pm [Discos Resaca Collective](#)
4:15pm – 4:25pm *Raffle Winners*
4:25pm – 4:30pm *Honorary Director, Lou DiMaggio*
4:30pm – 5:20pm [Royal Jelly Jive](#)
5:25pm – 5:55pm Oddjobensemble
6:00pm – 6:40pm [Those Darn Accordions](#)
6:50pm – 7:50pm *The Grand Finale*

Sunday Polka Tent

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

Sunday Zydeco Dance Party

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

ACCORDION APOCALYPSE STAGE

10:30am – 11:10am [Two Tribes](#)
11:30am – 12:10pm [Nathan & Jessie](#)
12:30pm – 1:10pm Mary Knapp
1:30pm – 2:10pm [5 Cent Coffee](#)
2:30pm – 3:10pm [Zla Vila](#)
3:30pm – 4:10pm [Innuendo](#)
4:30pm – 5:10pm Auntie Emberly w/ Amber Lee Baker & Emily Zisman

2026 Cotati Accordion Festival presents Student Scholarship Fundraiser Concert Featuring

Christine Boris & Matt Cooper - Stas Venglevski - Mike Zampiceni



Friday, Aug 14, 2026 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 2026



Saturday, August 15th, 9:30am - Noon

Meet the Students - See them Perform



RIO 17



Jennifer 10



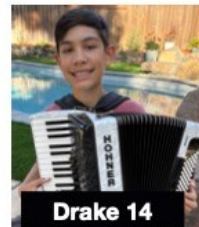
Michael 11



Levi 17



Annabelle 11



Drake 14



Peter 16



Olivia 12



MacKenzie 15



Luca 14

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



As usual, the SFAC will not be holding a meeting in August, to not conflict with the Cotati Accordion Festival (CAF), the **Greatest Accordion Show on Earth**, August 14-16. It will take place at La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA. It begins early on Friday evening with a fundraiser for student scholarships, followed by two glorious days of accordion music in the park. Our Club will host our own canopy and we do hope SFAC members and other accordionistas will come by and hang out with us from time to time. We will be announcing a generous donation for the CAF student scholarship fund.

The annual Cotati Accordion Student Stage (CASS) fundraiser concert takes place Friday, August 14, 4-6 PM at the Church of the Oaks Social Hall, 160 W. Sierra @ Page St. Admission is free (donations welcome). A wonderful group of talented accordion artists have volunteered to kick-off the 2026 CAF. The program of accordion artists will include **Mike Zampiceni**, Stas Venglevski, and the **Boris-Cooper Duo (Chris Boris and Dr. Matt Cooper)**. As for the Saturday & Sunday main stages, see page 2 for a full schedule with links.

For ticket information, questions, please see <https://cotatifest.com/>, email info@cotatifest.com, or call 707-664-0444.

- ◆ **One-Day advanced ticket \$23, at the gate \$27**
- ◆ **One-Day senior (65+) advanced ticket \$20, at the gate \$24**
- ◆ **Two-Day advanced ticket \$35, at the gate \$40**
- ◆ **Two-Day senior (65+) advanced ticket \$33, at the gate \$39**
- ◆ **Kids 15 and under FREE when accompanied by a paying adult.**

Cotati Accordion Student Stage Activities, Friday Evening & Saturday Morning

By Pamela Tom

The Cotati Accordion Student Stage will host two free events at the Church of the Oaks' Social Hall (175 Page St., Cotati, CA), featuring a fundraiser on Friday, August 14, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, and student competitors performing on Saturday, August 15, 2026, from 9:30 AM to noon. I personally find the performances at Church of the Oaks very entertaining and like to be there to support the performances on both days.

I enjoy the student competition as much as the pros on center stage in La Plaza Park where the Cotati Accordion Festival takes place. Many of these students are repeaters - and it shows through their confidence and technique. It is a delight to see how their playing has progressed and matured. Here is a [link](http://www.youtube.com/@cotatiaccordionstudentstage/featured) to the entries of these very talented student competitors: <http://www.youtube.com/@cotatiaccordionstudentstage/featured>.

For Friday's performance on August 14 at the Church of the Oaks, donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. There is no admission fee for the Church on Saturday morning, August 15. (See the fundraiser and student scholarship notices on page 3.) They each will play one or two selected tunes beginning at 9:30 on Saturday morning. If you can't attend the Cotati Accordion Festival, you can still hear and view the quality of performances these students are achieving.

If you are unable to attend Cotati this year but wish to donate to the scholarship fund (a 501(c)(3) public charity, (EIN): 68-0343110) here's a link to the submission form:

https://cotatifest.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/4_Donation-Form.pdf

A Mid-Summer's Picnic in the Park

Ken Schwartz

This year's picnic, our 6th, was among the redwood trees in Palo Alto's Rinconada Park on Sunday, July 26th. All who attended (33 of you in-person and 2 dropping in via Facetime) were treated to a day of great company, great food, and great musical merriment, with Joseph Martin leading a jam session under the redwoods. There were also solos, duets and trios. The day was simply wonderful!

Enjoy the photographs! Copies available on request. More picnic photos will be shared in the September newsletter.



Joe Domitrowich Celebrates July 4 and is Joined by Mike Zampiceni

By Joe Domitrowich



Last year on Independence Day, my driveway became a stage where I performed live patriotic music as the City of Cupertino's fireworks lit up the night sky. What began as a simple way to celebrate our nation's birthday turned into a memorable neighborhood gathering. Friends, neighbors, and many people who had come to watch the fireworks stopped to listen – even dance – and enjoy the music. The response was so enthusiastic that I decided to do it again this year – with the hope that it becomes a new Cupertino tradition.

In celebration of America's 250th birthday, again I performed from dusk and continued throughout the fireworks display. Friends, neighbors and passersby were warmly invited to stop by, bring a lawn chair, and enjoy patriotic accordion music while watching the show. I live only a short walk from the pedestrian entrance to Creekside Park, one of the area's favorite viewing locations for fireworks. We had about a dozen supporters join us for an evening filled with music, laughter, and audience participation.



One of the comments I heard was “It feels like we are an integral part of the event” and another, “I loved the music, it was mystical.” A highlight was an impromptu appearance by Bay Area professional accordionist **Mike Zampiceni**, who joined me in performing during the festivities. Thank you, Mike! Your surprise visit made an already memorable evening even more special! Add to that the many neighbors and passersby who stopped to listen, dance and enjoy the celebration; it truly became a community event.

When the fireworks started, I turned up the volume and played continuously segueing from one patriotic tune to another. The most notable selection was *The Washington Post*, which I had played at SFAC. Other songs included the various armed forces marches from the branches of the military, *Star Spangled Banner*, *America*, *God Bless America* and *America the Beautiful*. I look forward to continuing this spirited tradition annually.

Accordion Ambassador Adventures

By Pamela Tom

Pamela Tom performed an hour of French-inspired tunes to celebrate Bastille Day (July 14) at a local senior retirement community. She ended with a few sing-along tunes. She gave the residents a choice and they enthusiastically sang *Frère Jacques* and *Beer Barrel Polka*.



Joe Domitrowich (www.JoeDLive.com) will be preparing videos featuring many of the newer additions to his repertoire and looks forward to sharing those on his YouTube channel in the coming months. To view some of his signature selections, videos from his legacy repertoire are on his YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@JoeDomitrowich/playlists

Recent sightings of Joe were at the La Strada Italian Restaurant in San Pablo (July 24-26, 2026) as part of the restaurant's weekend 30th anniversary celebration. (See picture at left.) And on August 2nd Joe was to be the featured accordion artist at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society in Los Altos. His repertoire demonstrates the capabilities of the modern digital MIDI accordion in creating the rich orchestral sounds and special musical effects that have become a hallmark of his performances.



SF Banjo Band at Burlingame City Center 9

by Joseph Martin

Burlingame just completed its City Center Renovation and invited the **San Francisco Banjo Band** to play there. The Burlingame City Center is surrounded by shops and great restaurants providing a beautiful place to be and enjoy the afternoon. The SFBB played for two hours.

Pictured in the back row from left to right is: John Cooney, Robin Mendel Montoya, **Joseph Martin**. Front row: Andrea Bushnell, Bob Pasani, and Bill Portman.



It was a beautiful sunny day with a cool breeze blowing. People stopped by to listen to the music and we even had some young people dancing. The bubble machine added a Lawrence Welk vibe, for those old enough to know.

Songs filled the air with classics like *You Made Me Love You*; *Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey*; *Qué Será, Será*; *La Vie En Rose*; *Beer Barrel Polka*; *Anytime*; *Armed Forces Medley*, and many others.

The SFBB also plays the first Saturday of each month at **Molloy's Irish Tavern** in South San Francisco from 2-4pm. Keep your eyes open because the SFBB may be adding another accordion soon.

ACCORDION WORKSHOP CAMP

ALPINE, CALIFORNIA

DATES:
FRIDAY, OCT. 30 – SUNDAY, NOV. 1

Join us for a unique **Accordions Workshop Camp** set in the beautiful Alpine surroundings of Southern California. This immersive experience is perfect for players of all levels who want to deepen their skills, learn new techniques, and enjoy music in a relaxed, inspiring setting.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Hands-on accordion instruction
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gkohl5890@gmail.com

SFAC Members' Photos at Cotati Accordion Festival

♦ Saturday & Sunday 3:30pm

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!



Accordion Girlz Want to Have Fun

By Pamela Tom

Performing accordion artists and students of the late **Lou Jacklich - Kaisu Lankinen, Jane Tripi and Pamela Tom** - had a joyous reunion lunch in Berkeley at a Salvadoran restaurant and feasted on pupusas. They hadn't seen each other for two years. Cumulatively this gang of three ladies share over 50 years of accordion lessons with the Maestro. Both Kaisu and Jane have extensive experience as accompanists to dancers (Finnish and Swedish, respectively). Pamela is a soloist and beginning piano accordion instructor. Kaisu made a brief visit to California before departing to her native country, Finland later this fall. The three friends had fun getting caught up and chatting about Kaisu's relocation and future.



Left to right: Accordionists Pamela Tom, Jane Tripi and Kaisu Lankinen

Kaisu started playing her Finnish chromatic button accordion at age 11. When she started with Mr. Jacklich in 2014 to learn accordion jazz techniques and later composition, she was a post-doctoral researcher in neuroscience and biomedical engineering at Cal. Two years later she departed for the Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School as a post doc researcher. She then became a faculty member of Harvard University. Dr. Lankinen recently accepted an Assistant Professor position at Aalto University Department of Neuroscience and Biomedical Engineering in Helsinki, Finland. We wish Kaisu well with her new career. And the great news is she plans to continue playing the accordion and retain her membership with the SFAC and will be participating remotely via Zoom.

Lorna Anderson Gives Accordion "Show & Tell" Talk to Seniors

By Pamela Tom



Last month, SFAC member **Lorna Anderson** presented the "Senior Show and Tell" program hosted by the Southern Pines Public Library in North Carolina. Lorna, formerly of Sacramento, was Miss California 1957. She began playing the accordion at age nine, was 3rd Runner-up in the 1957-1958 Miss America Pageant. She told the seniors "The placement was due in great part to my accordion artistry with 'Dark Eyes' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFxRvI7SCqI> . Looking back, it seems impossible that a Swedish immigrant's daughter could somehow 'almost represent America' with her accordion."

Lorna shared memories from her professional musical past and her love of the piano accordion to an appreciative audience. Her talk went well and she has plans to give a talk and demo about the accordion at the library's future children's program.



Photos courtesy of Mary Howard (SPPL librarian)

Accordionists and Teachers Guild, International Report

By Pamela Tom



SFAC members **Chris Boris, Paul Cain, Gail Campanella, Paul Pasquali, Pamela Tom, Tseli Wu** and **Mike Zampiceni** attended the ATG Festival in Salt Lake City July 8-12, 2026. Musical entertainment at the Meet and Greet reception, lunch, and banquet included California accordion artists Gail Campanella, Mike Zampiceni and Gordon Kohl. Pasquali served as the master of ceremonies while Boris, Campanella and Wu participated in the orchestra led by Joan C. Sommers. The concert's sound quality in the Libby Gardner Hall, School of Music at the University of Utah, was amazing under the professional technical support provided by Paul Cain (**Cain Sound**) who has managed production services at the annual ATG festival for many years. The musical program included *God Bless America*, *El Capitan March*, *Medley*



from Oklahoma, *Dance of the Comedians* from Smetana's opera *The Bartered Bride* and *Gershwin - A Medley*. The professional accordion arrangements and performance with vocalist and percussion additions presented the audience an amazingly unforgettable musical experience.

A memorable highlight included presentations given by Heidi Floren, youngest daughter of Myron Floren. Her talks included "Myron Floren Memories and Preparation for a Professional Career," and "Q&A with Heidi Floren". The latter talk was so interesting that it exceeded its allotted time with a captive audience. Heidi



graciously provided insight and personal reflections about her famous dad's accordion career with the **Lawrence Welk Show** and brought amazing poster collages of Floren's family and professional photos, one of his Pancordions, music and other memorabilia for attendees to peruse. Photos of her display and Joey Miskulin playing on the Pancordion are included in the extensive 2026 ATG Photo Album, available for public viewing at atgaccordions.com/2026-festival-photos.

(The album has photos from numerous ATG activities and features photos of many SFAC members.) Heidi gifted a copy of the National Music Museum Newsletter describing the Myron Floren Archive and Accordion Collection located at the University of South Dakota. The gift also included an 8x10 black and white promotional photo and a wallet-sized color photo featuring the Optimist's Creed on the back. One prevailing theme about Myron Floren was his kindness. Heidi emphasized that he was always practicing!



Joey Miskulin, a Grammy award winner and featured accordionist with Frankie Yankovic, was elected to the [ATG Hall of Fame](http://atgaccordions.com/hall-of-fame).

ATG announced four new scholarships for student accordionists under the age of 25. Categories include Beginner Scholarship, Donna Dee Ray Intermediate Scholarship, Advanced Level Scholarship and Beginner "Crossover" Scholarship. The Intermediate and Advanced scholarships include a bonus for qualified free-



bass applicants. The student or his/her teacher must be a current ATG member. Over \$10,000 in total prize money will be awarded to competitors age 32 and younger. Details are available at: www.atgaccordions.com/scholarships. The 2027 ATG Festival returns to the Chicago area (Lisle, IL), July 14-18. Visit atgaccordions.com for more information.



Appreciation for our Donors!

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. These members have made donations during our current (October 2025 – September 2026) membership year:

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott Anderson, Anthony Bologna, Ron Borelli, Gail Campanella, George Chavez, Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Edward Crnich, Tony David, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Sarah Gronquist, Heidi Hansen, Lorraine Inaudi, Arleen Johnson, Jerry Keifer, John Lister, Linda Lonay, Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi, Nora Mazzara, Steve Mobia, Karen Marie Mokrzycki, Sabrina Moyle, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Purucker, Duane Quenzel, Richard Rauschmeier, Cat Reilly, Shirley Roller, Tibor Sárkány, Don & Mary Savant, Kenneth Schwartz, John Sullivan, Georgia Sutherland, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, Carol Whitehead, Andrew Zheng, Roy Zheng.

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.

Petosa Accordions, North America's premier accordion manufacturer and restoration center since 1922, will be **relocating** to Cashmere, Washington (10 miles east of Leavenworth).

Relocation Timeline & Addresses

- ◆ Lynnwood (Current): Sales and service at 19503 56th Ave W Ste B, Lynnwood, WA 98036 is to remain open until July 31.
- ◆ Cashmere (New): The new Cashmere, WA facility officially opens at the end of August.

Services & Offerings

- ◆ Sales: New inventories of custom-made models as well as certified pre-owned accordions.
- ◆ Repairs: Full-service repair and restoration for all brands of accordions.
- ◆ Policies: All newly purchased or certified pre-owned instruments come with a 10-day trial period and a 100% exchange guarantee.

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

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

Rosemary Busher, Vice-President,
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Paul Cain paulrussellcain@gmail.com

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

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

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Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

Anand Joseph (614) 329-9384

Roy Zheng roycraft3@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, Roy Zheng

Membership: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

San Francisco

- ◆ **Sam Reider** www.samreidermusic.com
sam@samreidermusic.com

East Bay

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

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com

Outside the Bay Area

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

* = remote lessons (Zoom, Facetime) available

Accordion Happenings

◆ Cotati Accordion Festival

August 15-16, 2026 (Fundraiser concert August 14)
At La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA
See Page 4 & <https://cotatifest.com/>

◆ Gordon Kohl's Accordion Workshop Camp

October 30 - November 1, 2026; See Page 7
Beautiful Alpine, CA - Just 20 miles East of San Diego
Information: gkohl5890@gmail.com, 619-395-0454

Online/Virtual Offerings:

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 2026 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact info@sfacordionclub.org



AUGUSTUS, FIRST ROMAN EMPEROR, INITIATED A LONG ERA OF PEACE CALLED THE PAX ROMANA. SENATORS STILL DEBATE IF HIS ACCORDION ADVOCACY HAD DISARMED WARRING PROVINCES, TRIBAL LANDS, AND CLIENT KINGDOMS.



Ron Borelli
Accordionist

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See Petosa relocation information on page 10!



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San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar:

- ♦ **August 14-16** Cotati Accordion Festival (see pages 1-4)—La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA (www.cotatifest.com)
- ♦ **September 27** The Noel-Hubbard Duo: Richard Noel & Janice Hubbard, Chetcuti Community Center!

Next SFAC Sunday Meeting:

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

September 27 - Millbrae Meeting

***The Noel -Hubbard Duo:
Richard Noel & Janice Hubbard***

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 quiescent, and absurdly large when filled with people! Be there for the Woodstock of accordion culture!



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

