

February, 2025

♪♪ SFAC Accordion Circle ♪♪

Sunday, February 23, 2025

♪♪ SFAC Accordion Circle ♪♪

“OPEN MIC” SOLO OPPORTUNITIES

SFAC “JAM BAND”



ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Chetcuti Community Room — Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm PST

\$5 members / \$10 non-members / ≤ 18 free with adult

Grab your accordion and join the **February Accordion Circle** live from the Chetcuti Community Room!

Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome! Be you a very beginner, someone dusting off that accordion after a "life" break or a seasoned expert, we want you to join the Circle as we all make music together. If you don't play the accordion - come anyway and enjoy the music. There will probably even be a few tunes to sing along with.

Sheet music will be provided that we can all play and enjoy as a group, or you can obtain a PDF file by emailing info@sfaaccordionclub.com if you'd like to have your own copy and practice ahead.



We also invite and encourage any person or group who has prepared a piece or two to perform in front of an audience to do so - just let Ken Schwartz know at info@sfaaccordionclub.com so that there is an opportunity for everyone that would like to perform.

The Circle will meet in-person in Millbrae and will also be open to participants via ZOOM.

🎵 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, Nora Mazzara, Gerald McMahon, Steve Mobia, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Prurucker, 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 greatly appreciate the support and want to be sure you are recognized.

January Event Summary

Bandoneón Performer Adrian Jost Combines Live Performance with Historical Seminar

Review by Scott Anderson, SFAC Member — Jost photos by SFAC member Steve Mobia



San Francisco Accordion Club members received a two-for-one special at our meeting on January 26, as accordionist Adrian Jost played the bandoneón, while offering a seminar on his preferred instrument. As our guest explained, this Argentine instrument of the Tango derives from the German concertina of a century ago. Born in Switzerland where he still resides for six months annually, Adrian evolved from being a precocious toddler who liked to push buttons, into an adult whose life is dedicated to pushing buttons on this remarkable instrument.

The concert began with *Tango Canción*, by Carlos Gardel, a singer-composer, who perished in a plane crash at the height of his fame. A 1934 composition, this piece influenced Astor Piazzolla, who would become the father of the more symphonic and free form Nuevo Tango, that emerged in the mid-twentieth century.



The next piece, *El Motivo*, a World War I era tango by Carlos Gardel, aptly demonstrated the bandoneon's capacity to give rise to vibrato, using both bel-

lows manipulation and knee movement. Adrian demonstrated the tremendous length of the instrument, which seemed to challenge the performer's arm span. The seated posture, with a specialized black cloth on the left knee, was the default posture. We learned that Astor Piazzolla often stood with his left knee on a supporting chair or box.



Corazón de Oro, by Francisco Canaro, followed. This waltz demonstrated one of three classic rhythms, the three-quarter time signature reminiscent of Viennese waltz, played a bit faster. The tango initially developed as a beckoning instrument of bars and brothels, in poor neighborhoods of Buenos Aires. It achieved a veneer of legitimacy when the French enthusiastically embraced tango performance art in cabaret settings. Indeed, the cultural interplay between France and Argentina is reflected in the Parisian-style architecture of Argentina's capital, a reminder of wealthy French ex-patriots who pursued

tango rhythms to South America. Carlos Gardel himself was born in Toulouse, France, we learned, reflecting this trans-Atlantic cultural relationship.



Oblivion, one of Astor Piazzolla's compositions, followed. *Lamento de Acordeon* came next. Adrian explained that the bandoneón plays individual bass notes. To achieve a major third triad or minor chord, one must depress individual keys. The keyboard arrangement on the right hand is semi-circular, reflecting evolutionary additions of additional sharp and flat keys. There is no logic to the keyboard, we learned.



The best accordions were made in Germany in the 1930's through 1940's. Adrian always carries his main squeeze box, and a spare, as these precious instruments are prone to breakdowns, air leaks, and other problems. Unfortunately, the new ones may not capture the same classic sound, Adrian reported. Bandoneóns are bisonoric, giving rise to different keys when pushing versus pulling the bellows. A large air-escape button allows the player to favor unidirectional outward-going movements. Corresponding inward pressure might give rise to a less desirable sound. Adrian re-

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ferred endearingly to his bandoneón, using human pronouns, explaining that she bleeds air, for example.

Additional pieces reflected the influence of Italian composers, including Puccini and Verdi. Adrian played *Milonga El Porteño*, a 1903 composition by M. Angel Villoldo describing the life of poor children living around the ports of Buenos Aires. Milonga is a form of earlier music that influenced tango's development.

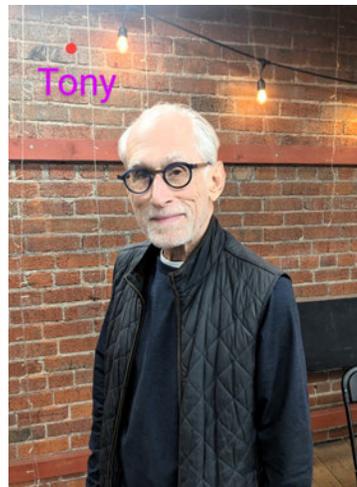
Returning to the French influence, he played *Comme Il Faut*, by Eduardo Arolas, followed by *Gricel*, by José Contursi, composed in 1942. This song explores the longing of an aging man for a long-lost love. *Tango Griseta* (music by Enrique Delfino) followed. It was inspired by the grey-clad models of the fashion industry of a century ago, who were also frequently encountered in the world of tango musicians. Did I mention that Jost sang beautifully in English, Spanish, and French?

Our audience demanded an encore, and received Piazzolla's *Libertango* performed on a standard Pignini Stradella-style accordion. Club President Ken Schwartz reminisced about his long-standing admiration for Adrian Jost, over the better part of a decade. Earlier invitations to perform in person were derailed by the pandemic, and other eventualities.

Adrian Jost treated us to a performance reflecting both his mastery of bandoneon, and his historical knowledge. We hope to see him back, perhaps performing with *Trio Garufa*.



WELCOME OUR NEW SFAC MEMBERS!



Tony David

This is the backstory of my interest in the accordion. As a kid, I took classical piano lessons for about 6 years. When I told my parents I wanted to quit because I didn't like the teacher, including his refusal to teach me Elvis and other rock & roll songs, my parents asked me what else I might like to play. They pointed out that since I could read music and had a good ear, I ought to play some kind of instrument. They said I could pick anything, and they would support me. They also said that if I wanted to abandon that instrument after trying it out, that would be okay with them.

Their advice to keep me playing something seemed reasonable to me. The closest thing to a piano I could think of was the accordion, though I managed to overlook the existence of the bass keyboard when I selected it. I continued accordion lessons through high school and then put the accordion away for about 40 years. When I was in my early 60s, a band leader friend of mine asked me if I played any instrument other than the piano. I retrieved my childhood accordion from the garage and joined the band playing jazz standards. Since that time I replaced the accordion with a lovely Zupan purchased from the Canadian dealer attending the Cotati Accordion Festival. We continue to perform once a month at a dive bar in Fairfax. The age range of our band members is 70 to 93. I am now 82.

About 7 weeks ago, I underwent left shoulder joint replacement surgery. Since I am right-handed and my right shoulder is fine, it was puzzling why my left shoulder joint was bone-on-bone with zero cartilage remaining. Since the surgery, it dawned on me that with the left arm pumping the bellows for a couple of decades, that might be enough repetitive stress to have caused the injury. My surgeon has ordered the accordion off-limits until the rehab process is more advanced.

I look forward to learning about the Club, getting to know other members and participating to the extent I have time.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year,
Tony



Walker Junge

Hi! My name is Walker and I'm currently a senior at Gateway High in San Francisco. I have experience with playing the guitar, and a bit of experience with the piano. I love to branch out when it comes to different musical genres and instruments, and I wanted to turn to an area that's always intrigued yet fascinated me - the accordion was always something I wanted to play, but it was hard to find good places to really get started. That's when I came across the SF Accordion Club and saw an opportunity to try something new.



Accordion Ambassador Adventures

by Pamela Tom



The **San Francisco Banjo Band** performed at the Belmont Farmers' Market (www.belmontfarmersmarket.org) on January 12. Band member, Joseph Martin (accordionist) reported: "We had a great time and the vendors at the market are such nice and amazing people. We were so surprised how many people came up to share their appreciation for having live music at this farmers' market. The Banjo Band got so excited about the positive response that now they want to do more farmers' markets!"

In January Pamela Lister and Gail Campanella participated in Texas at the annual Houston Accordion Retreat directed by Stas Venglevski.



Pamela Lister & Gail Campanella



Gail during open mic



Pamela & Stas

Last month SFAC members logged on to monthly accordion Zoom sessions across the US.



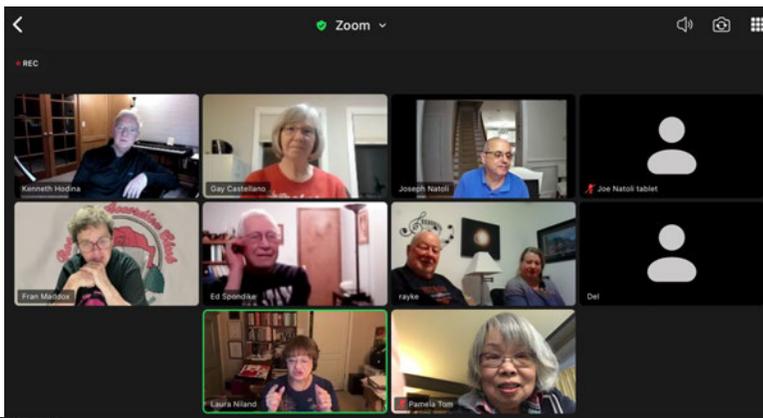
The **San Antonio Accordion Association** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and starts at 4:45 PM PST. SFAC members include: top row - Pamela Tom, Laura Niland; middle row - Ed Spondike, Tseli Wu; and bottom row - Duane Quenzel, Gay Castellano (video off line). Laura Niland is the SAAA President and Zoom host. For information about the SAAA Zoom gathering, contact:

Laurajniland@outlook.com.

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The **We Love Accordion Club** Zoom session meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and starts at 4:00 PM (PST). Joseph Natoli is the WLA club president and Zoom host. SFAC Members include: top row- Gay Castellano; middle row – Ed Spondike; and bottom row – Laura Niland and Pamela Tom. For information on participating with WLA, e-mail: WeLoveAccordion@gmail.com.



For **Accordionists & Teacher Guild** members, free popular online Zoom workshops are offered every two weeks during the fall and spring on Wednesdays at 5 PM PST. Recordings of these workshops are available for members in the members only section of the website, www.atgaccordions.com.

The most recent January Zoom workshop featured one of SFACs’ guest artists, Gordon Kohl (top row along with Pamela Tom) which included SFAC members logging in. Row 2 - Gail Campanella (ATG Board Member and host). Row 3 - Mike Zampiceni.



On her 17th birthday **Maria Telesheva**, gifted international accordion champion, launched her eponymous YouTube channel. Her first posted video is a duet of the Beatles’ *And I Love Her* with her world-famous dad, accordionist Sergei Teleshev. Maria and Sergei performed for SFAC in 2023 as **Duo 2 Accordions**. If you wish to support Maria, please subscribe to her [channel](https://www.youtube.com/@MariaTeleshevaAccordion) (www.youtube.com/@MariaTeleshevaAccordion) where she will be sharing her musical journey! Additionally, Maria recently gave two interviews. The first interview will be aired in March with Classical King FM, Seattle (classicking.org/playlist). The second interview is with the prestigious National Public Radio's "From the

Top" (to be aired late summer fromthetop.org/listen/broadcast-schedule/). She made recordings as a soloist and in a duo with Peter Dugan (acclaimed pianist and host of "From the **Top**"). As a fellow of the **From the Top Maria Learning and Media Lab**, Maria was selected as a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award, which includes a \$10,000 scholarship. She is applying the scholarship towards a new light-weight accordion. Maria’s recent experiences are highlighted on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/hN2xkZOGyPM): www.youtube.com/shorts/hN2xkZOGyPM .

CONGRATULATIONS, Maria! The accordion community is proud of your accomplishments and bright future as an accordion star!

Editor’s comment: We welcome your photos and stories of SFAC members performing and sharing the joy of the accordion.

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

Community Building Meet-Ups

The San Francisco Sports Basement Meet-up is building community. This casual get-together is free and open to players at all levels. It's fun!

On January 13th a few hearty souls appeared for an informal session of music.

Pictured below (January 2025): Big Lou, Ron, Rosemary, Colette, Heidi, Joseph, Tony, (bottom row) Sasha, Serena & Noah.



Upcoming Meet-Up - Mark your calendar! Monday March 24, 4-6pm

Location:

5th Floor Sports Basement
1590 Bryant St, San Francisco

RSVP appreciated but not required.

To be added to the list, RSVP or ask questions contact Heidi: heidiseretan@gmail.com

Request for Duet & Ensemble Sheet Music:

Luciano Quattrocchio from Italy is searching for Pietro Deiro arrangement scores for either Duet or Band in particular. Can any of our SF Accordion Club members deliver?! He is a professor and accordionist requesting a PDF of duet or ensemble sheet music for *Beautiful Days* and *Pietro's Return* or any other Deiro ensemble arrangements. If you happen to have any in your library be sure to let us know so we can direct it to Luciano. Thanks!



Rosemary, Colette, Joseph, Heidi, Tony



" Your car has been keyed. The good news is that the damage appears to B minor. "



Ron Borelli, Accordionist

Contact information:

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

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JoeDLive.com

Scanning the QR code will direct you to Joe's website and to his Facebook and Instagram posts as well as YouTube videos

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

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

East Bay

- ◆ **Joel Weber** www.ioelseastbayaccordionlessons.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, Skype) available

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

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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 (and credited contributors each issue)

Accordion Rentals: Rosemary Busher

Live Meeting Sound & Amplification: Paul Cain

Live Meeting ZOOM camera & sound: Ken Schwartz

Membership Drive & Recordkeeping: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia

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.

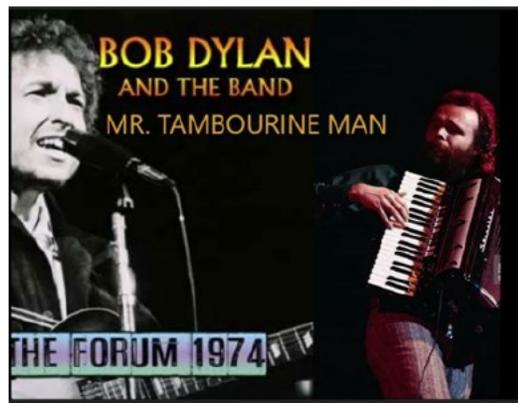
Contact info@sfaccordionclub.com



Garth Hudson, of The Band, has Died

by Robert Cooperstein

Multi-instrumentalist Garth Hudson (age 87) died on January 21, 2025. He was the founding and last surviving member of **The Band**, you know, one of those traditional country, folk, old-time string band, blues, and rock music bands. He was playing accordion in a country band at age 12. Hudson developed his method of playing by ear, relying heavily on improvisation due to his dislike for practicing. His accordion playing is featured in many of The Band's most well-known songs, such as *Up on Cripple Creek* and *The Weight*. He played with Dylan and at Royal Albert Hall. He played the accordion everywhere, including in places it wasn't considered cool.



Happy Presidents' Day!



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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.sfaccordionclub.com

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

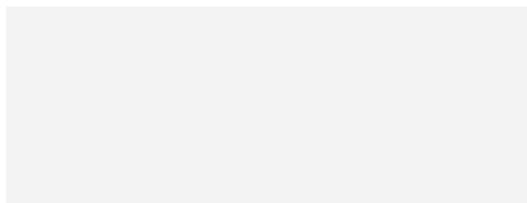
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Upcoming Events: *February 23* Accordion Circle, Millbrae-Chetcuti Community Room
March 16, East Bay Accordion Circle, Piedmont High School Student Center, Building B

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordion Circle

Millbrae - Chetcuti Community Room

Sunday, February 23

2pm – 5pm

\$5 member/\$10 nonmember (< 18 free with adult)

-Exact change appreciated-

Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA

SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email

See email for details, or

contact info@sfaccordionclub.com



Come join us for fun & great music!

Millbrae - Chetcuti Community Room

SFAC Monthly Meetings:

Plenty of *free parking in Library lot*

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