



February, 2026

No February Meeting

*Our next meeting is March 15th, 2026
starting at 2:00 pm - Piedmont High School*

Grab your accordion and head to the **Piedmont High School Student Center** for an Accordion Circle event in **March!**

For March we will holding an Accordion Circle format meeting at our "home away from home" - the historic **Piedmont High School Student Center, Building B, 800 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.**



We hope all members, wherever you live in the Bay Area, will participate. For those members living on the Peninsula, the drive across the San Mateo bridge on a sunny Sunday afternoon provides a relaxing and scenic view of the San Francisco Bay. Just ask those of us in the East Bay who attend our meetings in Millbrae.

Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome! Be you a very beginner, someone dusting off that accordion after pursuing a career, 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, but we also invite and encourage any person or group who has prepared a piece or two that they would like 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.

International Music Festival at January Meeting

by Tom Lewellyn

We were treated to a wonderful afternoon of international music by brother and sister duo **Adam and Emma Dohner**. Adam played the accordion while Emma played violin - a beautiful melding of sounds. The duo's music took us on a tour of the world, with no long lines at check in, no TSA prechecks, no crowded leg room. Our journey began in the Southern Hemisphere with a brisk tango waltz, entitled *Corazón de Oro*. From there we were whisked back in time to their adaptation of a Felix Mendelssohn European folk song, a canzonetta, and a Gypsy style swing Gitan.

Leaving Europe, we made our way to the United States, where we listened to two zydeco style adaptations of Paul Simon songs, *That Was Your Mother* (with Adam's talented singing!) and *You Can Call Me Al*. We traveled back to the Southern Hemisphere to hear a Latin style bolero, *Obsesión* (Pedro Flores); *Tuyo* (Rodrigo Amarante, featured theme song in Netflix series **Arco**); and a Latin cumbia-style tune *Que Nadie Sepa Mi Sufrir* (Let No One Know My Suffering), Ángel Cabral. The Dohners wrapped up their set with their arrangement of Allison Russel's *Stay Right Here* and a tribute to their ¼ Greek heritage, *Odos Omirou* (Street of Dreams). The latter tune was played in 9/8 time, which is common in Greek music.



Following the Dohners' performance, there were two solo performances by a Club member and a visitor. The first was by Anand's young daughter, **Juni**, who played us two beautiful melodies on her free bass accordion. The second solo was performed by a 75-year-old visitor from China, Rengsu Song, who began taking lessons at age 70. He was here in the United States visiting his daughter Sunny in Saratoga who happened to notice our meeting through a Google search. He was thrilled to join us for our musical afternoon. What a nice finish to our fun international afternoon of music!



We would like to thank **Joseph Martin** for leading our jam session this month. We played some new tunes in addition to the oldies but goodies.



.... Continued on next page

.... Continued from previous page



Joseph also introduced us to playing with a backing track, which we used on a few of the songs. **Lorraine** and **William Inaudi** enjoyed the jam session *Heidi's Waltz* (Gary Blair) so much that they took to the floor to demonstrate their beautifully elegant dance. Lorraine even gave a brief dance lesson to an appreciative **Annabelle!** It was quite fun for the group to play along with a bass and drum accompanying track.

Thank you Joseph for a terrific jam session, and thank you, Adam and Emma for your sensational performance. Please come back soon!

ELEVEN LARGE LOBSTERS LOOSE IN THE LOBBY, by Guy Klucevsek

Pamela Tom

One of the late Guy Klucevsek's accordion compositions caught my attention for its title on lobsters because my career involved food safety training with the seafood industry. I intended to share this article in the March 2022 SFAC newsletter, but communications were overlooked as I was out-of-state at a seafood conference. I recovered this lost

writeup while preparing the "Comin' on Home" article (see page 4).



In 1991 Guy created a short (1-1/2 min) artistically novel composition called *Eleven Large Lobsters Loose in the Lobby* as the middle piece of the **Three Microids** suite dedicated to Bela Bartok. He transformed his accordion into a percussion instrument accompanied by his voice. The composition gives you the impression that lobsters are on the attack. This entertaining video captures Guy's brilliant creativity and wit: youtu.be/sMAemkFchQE.

The sheet music is available in **Vignettes (Short Pieces for Accordion)** which is a collection of Guy's 24 accordion solos scores and a bonus CD. The compositions span a thirty-year period from 1988 to 2019 and include his six most recent pieces. This package is available from Starkland (<https://starkland.org/catalog/gkm110/>).

Guy Klucevsek with Pamela Tom following his solo performance at Russ & Daughters Café in Manhattan, NY (2017).

Guy Klucevsek Memorial Concert: Comin' On Home, February 25, 2026

Pamela Tom



Guy Klucevsek (pronounced kloo-SEV-ek), 1947-2025, was one of the world's most versatile and highly-respected accordionists. He was known as a multi-genre virtuoso. His legacy was "elevating the accordion's often-maligned reputation with deft musicianship, and by writing and commissioning a wide range of music" ([New York Times](#), Jan. 27, 2026). In 2018 he was the accordionist performing in the chamber group accompanying world-famous soprano Renée Fleming on *Danny Boy* at the late Senator John McCain's funeral in the Washington D.C. National Cathedral.

Guy was a major contributor to the accordion renaissance of the last 25 years. He was one of America's outstanding leading accordion composers and artists. Guy was a visionary accordionist and composer whose work blurred boundaries between classical, jazz, and folk traditions. His career spanned five decades. He was known for his humor and inventiveness. Klucevsek redefined the accordion as a modern instrument of limitless possibility ([accordionusa.news](https://www.accordionusa.news)).

A live and video streamed memorial concert, *Comin' on Home*, will honor Guy Klucevsek on February 25, 2026, 5 PM PST at the **Roulette Intermedium** in Brooklyn, NY. The concert will celebrate his life and music, featuring works for ensembles, solo accordion, dance, and theater, performed by artists (often collaborators) who knew him well. About 32 accomplished musicians (accordion, piano, strings, woodwind, percussion, electric guitar, vocal and brass) will perform about 30 of Klucevsek's numerous compositions.

Free admission with RSVP: ci.ovationtix.com/36368/performance/11722599?performancelid=11722599

A livestream will be available free of charge at 5:00 PM, PST on the day of the performance. Just visit the link below. If you miss the concert or want encore viewing, the performance will be archived in the future for later viewing at Roulette Intermedium on YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/RouletteIntermediumNYC

East Bay Accordion Jam Invitation - Joseph Martin

EAST BAY
Accordions
Jam
MARCH - Tuesday 3RD - 4:00-6:00pm
at the **ROCKRIDGE LIBRARY** - Oakland
5366 College Avenue - Upstairs
(Paid parking in the lot - FREE Parking a block away)
Bring your music stand

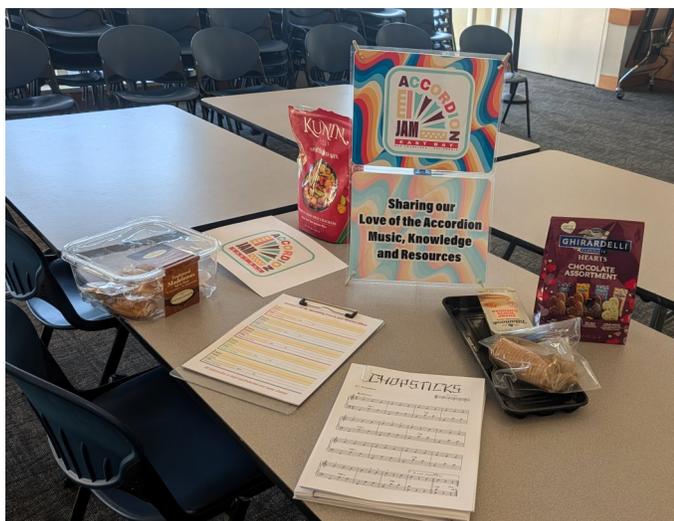
First East Bay Accordion Jam

By Joseph Martin

The very first **East Bay Accordion Jam** was held on Tuesday, February 3 at the Rockridge library in Oakland. Members of the San Francisco Accordion Club and of the Silicon Valley Accordion Society, as well as other folks, came to enjoy friendship, and snacks. **Mike Zampiceni, Colette Ogata, Tom Lewellyn, Linda Lonay, Robert Boyd, Curtis Hollenbeck, and Joseph Martin** filled the room with music and laughter.

Songs were sent out to play and some new tunes were put into our music stands to try to play on the spot. *Chopsticks, Come back to Sorrento, The Galway Shawl, Mairi's Wedding, The Wellerman*, and other songs were played.

The next **East Bay Jam** will be Tuesday, March 3rd, from 4-6 pm at the Rockridge Library in Oakland. Contact Joseph for music in advance. Email: josephmac50@gmail.com



Left to right: Colette Ogata, Curtis Hollenbeck, Tom Lewellyn, Mike Zampiceni, Bob Boyd. front Joseph Martin

Birthday Party for "Rapping" CEO has Accordion Quartet

Joseph Martin

The amazing birthday party for Arun Saigal, Founder of the AI app development company **Thunkable** was filled to the brim with well-wishers. Held at the **Trellis** in San Francisco, the 300-person event featured many live musicians and a full band.

Possibly the highlight of the evening was an accordion quartet featuring Arun's girlfriend **Harshini Jayaram**, her father Sankar Jayaram, and San Francisco Banjo Band members **Joseph Martin** and **Colette Ogata**. The large crowd enjoyed listening to the quartet play *American Folk Medley, Cielito Llindo, and Moon River*.

Harshini is not only a member of the SFAC, but also a member of the SFBB. She also is the proud new owner of a brand new Petosa Accordion, as seen in the picture. Both Harshini and Arun are multi-instrumentalists, with Arun also conducting the San Francisco Civic Orchestra. It was a fabulous evening!



ACCORDION AMBASSADOR ADVENTURES

by Pamela Tom

The **Northern California Accordion Society** (www.norcalaccordion.com/) which meets in Granite Bay (on the second Saturday of the month) invited renowned jazz accordionist **Ron Borelli** as its January 2026 guest artist. The NCAS members and guests were treated to a wonderful program of nostalgic favorites from **The Golden American Songbook**



(American jazz standards, and popular songs), Django Reinhardt tunes, and Richard Galliano compositions. The first half of Ron's repertoire consisted of accordion solos, the balance included his trio with Alan Ginter (string bass) and Tony Kaye (guitar). The sunny January day could not compete with the brilliance of Ron and his trio's outstanding performance at the NCAS meeting. Among the full room of appreciative attendees giving the performers a standing ovation were several SFAC members with joint NCAS membership: **Steve Marshall, Colette & Casey Ogata, Jim Shoemaker, Taffy Steffen** and **Pamela Tom**, along with **Joseph Martin**.

The **Day of the Accordion** is an annual free event and returns on February 20-22, 2026 in Bellevue, WA, at the Crossroads Market Stage at the Crossroads Bellevue shopping center. The event is hosted by the **Northwest Accordion Society** and coordinated by **Bonnie Birch**. A winning combination of great music, dancing and food vendors is on tap at the venue. During breaks of the Saturday performances, Bonnie will be one of the strollers. She also has double duty with the **Bonnie Birch Trio** (Sat. 1:30 – 2:10 PM) and the **Socialite Drifters Waltz Swing Band**, the final act (Sun. 1:15 – 2:30 PM). A total of 18 individual accordionists are performing among numerous groups in the program.

Membership Update

By Robert Cooperstein

SFAC members, please join me in welcoming some new members to our Club; January was an excellent month for making some new friends! We are so happy to say hello to **Sabrina Moyle** and **James Abdey**, of Hillsborough, CA. Also joining was **Joan Kram** of far-away Loveland CO. She submitted an accordion bio and photo, and here it is in Joan's own words.

"As I live in Northern Colorado, there are no "in-person" accordion clubs nearby. The closest is 1.5 hour drive and they require that you are taking lessons with them. The next closest is a 2.5 hours drive, I am grateful to the San Antonio Club for recommending your zoom sessions. I attended the SAAA Zoom session last evening. It's nice to have a community - even if it is only on-line for me . . ."

I started taking piano accordion lessons at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago in January 2020 and I have fallen in love with the instrument. Years ago, I studied piano in Jr. High and High School. I also played guitar in an all-girls rock band in high school. Then no music until I retired from my career as a health care executive. Currently, all my lessons are taken via Zoom. My husband plays the Cajun & Blues harmonica, and I sometimes play back-up for his Cajun tunes. I look forward to learning more from players in your club."



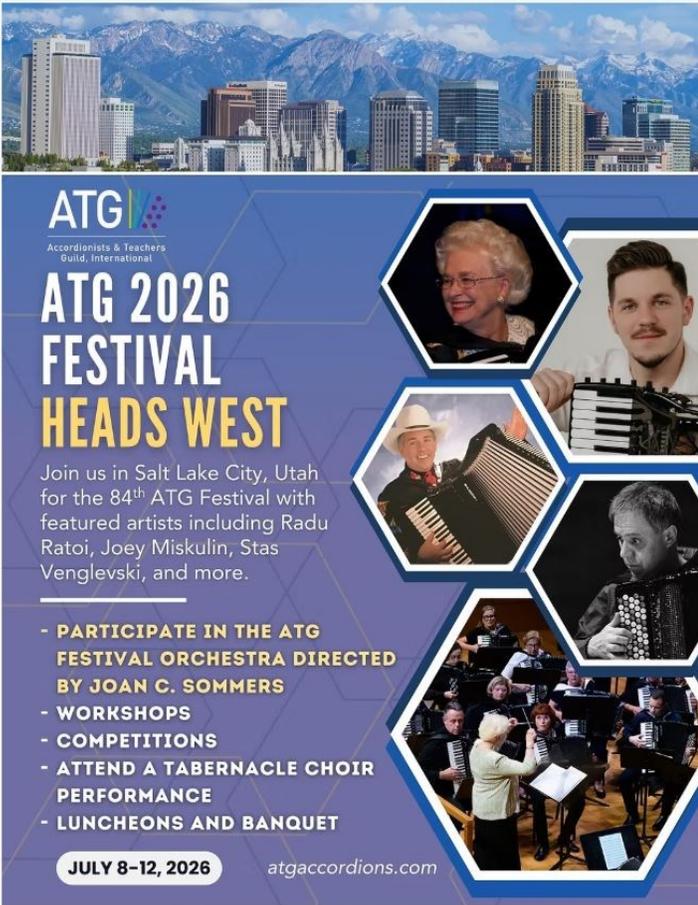
Leslie Griffin Robertson is also new to our Club. She also submitted a short accordion bio, and here it is.



"I've lived in Half Moon Bay for over 30 years. I was a member of the club a few years back when it used to meet at the Oyster Point Yacht Club, and I'm looking forward to joining you all again."

I taught myself the chromatic accordion, but I still consider myself very much a beginner. When playing my chromatic accordion, I lean toward Klezmer and Celtic tunes. I'm also now learning the diatonic accordion as part of a program formed to help our small farming community recover from the mass shooting that took place here in January of 2023. (<https://www.alasdreams.com/post/cultural-healing-in-the-fields-of-half-moon-bay>). I grew up in the former Panama Canal Zone, so I especially love playing cumbias — learning a new instrument entirely in my second language is proving both challenging and fun."

This photo is from our trip out to five Half Moon Bay farms in December to play and deliver treats and good cheer. It was very cold and made me appreciate our farmworkers all the more deeply."



ATG
Accordionists & Teachers
Guild, International

ATG 2026 FESTIVAL HEADS WEST

Join us in Salt Lake City, Utah for the 84th ATG Festival with featured artists including Radu Ratoi, Joey Miskulin, Stas Venglevski, and more.

- PARTICIPATE IN THE ATG FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA DIRECTED BY JOAN C. SOMMERS
- WORKSHOPS
- COMPETITIONS
- ATTEND A TABERNACLE CHOIR PERFORMANCE
- LUNCHEONS AND BANQUET

JULY 8-12, 2026 atgaccordions.com



Ron Borelli
Accordionist

Supporting the
San Francisco Accordion Club

Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM

TEXT/PHONE (415)203-6700



petosa
accordions
since 1922

Dedicated to serving the needs of accordions
... for over 100 years

www.petosa.com

19503 56th Ave. West Ste. B Lynnwood, WA 98036 206.632.2700

AMERICANA
GIULIETTI
Bugari-evo
PROXIMA
ZERO SETTE
Roland
HOHNER
HARMONIK

CONCERTO - COLOMBO - PIERMARIA

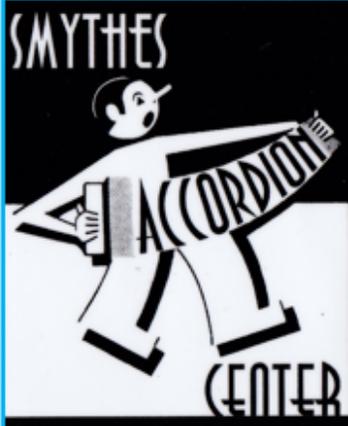
Accordions International

"Home of the Concerto"

- ◆ Italian artisan accordions
- ◆ Large Showroom
- ◆ Straps Cases, Music
- ◆ Factory Repair Facility

(801) 485-5840

1760 South 450 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
www.AccordionInfo.com
Email: Paul@AccordionInfo.com

Kimric Smythe

442 Petaluma Blvd North
Petaluma, California 95952

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

708-4084
smytheaccordion@gmail.com

The Club offers a **lending library of music books** available to SFAC members in good standing. It includes the two classic accordion sets, **Sedlon Accordion Method Books 1-A through 4-B**, and **The Palmer Hughes Accordion Course Books 1-10**. Any aspiring accordionist who would like to borrow one or both of these time-tested collections would need to arrange to pick them up at a Club meeting. And of course, arrange to have them returned for the next person ready to expand their repertoire. One rarely goes wrong with the classics, how about giving it a try?!

For further information: info@sfaccordionclub.com.

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

We continue to seek volunteers to assist with writing our monthly event summaries. Please feel free to contact us at info@sfaccordionclub.com

Accordion Happenings

◆ Comin' on Home - Guy Klucvsek Memorial

February 25, 2026, 5 PM PST. Roulette Intermedium
Brooklyn, NY - Admission is free with RSVP:
<https://ci.ovationtix.com/36368/performance/11722599?performanceId=11722599>

Livestream (archive to follow): 5:00 PM
www.youtube.com/c/RouletteIntermediumNYC

◆ National Accordion Association Conference 2026

March 18-21, 2026

TownePlace Suites by Marriott - Forney, TX

- ◆ Featuring: **The NAA Orchestra Experience**
With Gordon Kohl

<https://www.accordions.com/naa/cHandOuts.html>

◆ The Santa Barbara Symphony - Bella Italia!

March 28, 2026, 7:30pm & March 29, 2026, 3:00pm

Featuring Hanzhi Wang, Accordion

<https://ticketing.granadasb.org/20385>

Promo code: AIMS20 (20% discount)

◆ San Diego Accordion Extravaganza & Band Camp

May 13-16, 2026

SqueezePlay: Kim & Dan Christian

Contact via: SqueezePlay.biz or (719) 459-2061

◆ Rose City Accordion Club's 27th Accordion Camp

May 31 - June 5, 2026

Collins Retreat Center, Eagle Creek, OR

Conductors: Joe Natoli & Gail Campanella

Instructors: John Giuliana & Toby Hanson

rosecityaccordionclub.org

◆ GR8 IDEAS Digital Accordion Symposium 5.0

June 21-24, 2026. The Grand Resort - Warren, OH
www.thegrandresort.com Email : josephnatoli@gmail.com

No other digital accordion event focuses on digital accordion education as does **GR8 IDEAS**. You will be treated to in depth workshops on the Roland FR-4X & FR-8X, the Bugari Evo, and the Korg Fisa Suprema, as well as audio and video recording tools and music notation tools. Your registration also provides eligibility to perform in the GR8 IDEAS Orchestra on the Tuesday night concert 6/23/26 if you are so inclined. Also, the final night on Wed 6/24/26 will include a concert by some of the finest digital accordionists on the globe, including Matthias Matzke, Cory Pesaturo, Eddie Monteiro, and Joseph Natoli.

◆ Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 25-28, 2026 — Leavenworth, WA

Sponsored by the Northwest Accordion Society

www.accordioncelebration.org

◆ ATG Accordionists & Teachers Guild 2026 Festival

July 8-12, 2026

Salt Lake City, Utah

<https://www.atgaccordions.com/>

Online/Virtual Offerings:

Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:30-6:30 PM (free)

Hosted by Laura Niland LauraNiland@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 us at info@sfaceclub.org



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

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

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@saccordionclub.com

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

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

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties
accordionpam@gmail.com

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

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:

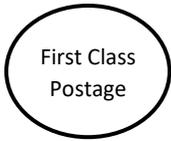
Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott Anderson, Anthony Bologna, Ron Borelli, Gail Campanella, George Chavez, Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Edward Crnich, Tony David, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Sarah Gronquist, Heidi Hansen, Lorraine Inaudi, Arleen Johnson, Jerry Keifer, John Lister, Linda Lonay, Franco & 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, Shirley Roller, Tibor Sarkany, Don and 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.

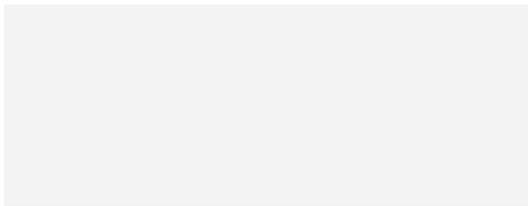
Searching for Lou Soper's Easy Musical Chord Retention Method, Volumes One & Two

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

info@saccordionclub.com



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ *March 15, 2026* Piedmont High School - Accordion Circle, Student Center, Building B
- ◆ *April 19, 2026* Sam Reider-Accordion & Mads Tolling-Violin! Chetcuti Community Center

Sunday, March 15

Piedmont Accordion Circle

East Bay - Piedmont High School

Open Mic/Solos + Group Play/Jam Band

2pm—5pm

\$10 members / \$15 non-members

-Exact change appreciated-

Youth free with parent

Come join us for fun and great music!

BYOS (bring your own music stand!)

SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email

See email for details, or

contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

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



Piedmont High School Student Center
800 Magnolia Avenue
Piedmont, California
(NOT Piedmont School in San Jose, CA)