

♪♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪♪

Adrian Jost

January 26, 2025 - Doors at 2:00pm PST

LIVE! In Person

♪ From the **Chetcuti Community Room** ♪

SFAC Members will receive link for ZOOM option

Adrian Jost began his musical studies on accordion in Switzerland. At the age of 11, he began studying the Bayan with Fritz Tschannen and Stephane Chapuis. His formal collegiate studies were actually in the Sciences, earning a Bachelor of Science.

In 1996, with a grant from the global, electro-technology firm Landis & Gyr, Adrian pursued a master’s degree from Northwestern University, just outside of Chicago. It was here in the US Midwest that Adrian discovered Tango and began applying his musical talents to learning the instrument that epitomizes the sound of this Latin dance form - the bandoneón. In 2001, he co-founded **Trio Garufa**, a popular San Francisco based tango group that has enthralled audiences throughout the West Coast, Argentina, Colombia and Europe.

Adrian brings authentic emotional authority to tango music and is currently in collaboration with Argentinian pianist Pablo Estigarribia of Buenos Aires. Find out more by visiting: Adrian's Website at <https://adrianjost.com/>

Please note that January 26th is the **fourth Sunday** of the month.

🎶 **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 Aegersold, Scott Anderson, Ron Borelli, Gail Campanella, Raymond Celentano, Robert & Elaine Cooperstein, Edward Crnich, Xavier and Candace de la Prade, Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Arleen Johnson, 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.

Holiday Party!

December Event Summary

By Kenneth Schwartz

The Club's December Holiday Party was a huge success, with great turnout and an abundance of music, singing, and joy!

The Holiday Jam session was again led by **Joseph Martin** and was our largest jam in memory, with over 19 accordions and 1 tárogató (more on this later) performing in double rows to accommodate everyone. Our playing improves with each month; today was a perfect example of the enjoyment of group participation.

Intermission featured a large selection of wickedly delicious holiday snacks, abundant choices for caloric enjoyment - play now, pay later...!



A number of members performed solos. **Dr. Scott Anderson** led off with *Dahil Sa Iyo (Because of You)*, a beautiful Filipino love song, made famous by Imelda Marcos, followed by *Bésame Mucho*. Both were beautifully performed. Thank you, Scott!

Next, **Tibor Sarkany** and guest **Endre Balogh** performed a stunningly beautiful duet, *Jesu Bambino*. Endre played a tárogató, which is a woodwind instrument commonly used in Hungary. It features a beautiful, mournful sound, similar to a cross between an English horn and a soprano saxophone (Wikipedia). Thank you, Endre, for introducing us to this unique woodwind!



Pamela Tom next performed *Skatin' Waltz in Swing* by Myron Floren, a take-off on the well-known *Skater's Waltz*. Pamela's rendition opened with a terrific triple bellows shake and then proceeded to the waltz, which concluded again with a terrific bellows shake. Beautifully performed, Pamela!

Next was Pamela's guest **Jeanne Velonis**, who is with the Brooklyn Accordion Club. Jeanne was inspired to perform spontaneously "on the spot". She borrowed Pam's Rivoli and played *Spin Cycle* (composed by Guy Klucevsek for the accordion). Jeanne performed it beautifully, even more so considering her performance was impromptu! Beautiful, Jeanne, thank you! [editor's note: Klucevsek can be seen playing this, his most performed composition at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2SphZf7waQ>]



Next, the Rhythm Kings (**Richard Schwartz**, electronic piano and **Ken Schwartz**, accordion) performed *Life is a Cabaret* as a duet followed by a surprise – audience participation on Hanukkah songs. Richard

provided tambourines, wood maracas, and even a metallic triangle. This wasn't going to be just a duet, and, in fact, many in attendance participated as they played *Hava Nagila*; *Mayim, Mayim*; *Eso Enu*, and other Israeli folk songs.



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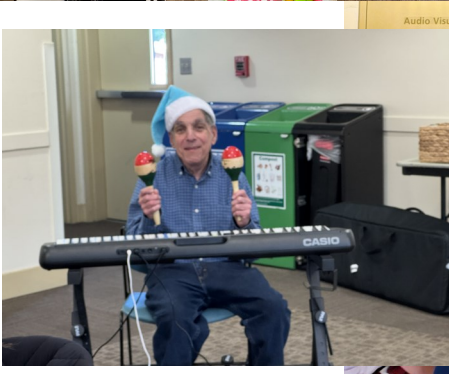
Ed Spondike (playing remotely from Ohio) performed a beautiful Austrian Christmas carol, *Still, Still, Still*, in a beautiful musette. It was truly stunning!

Next, **Duane Quezel** (from Pennsylvania) played an old traditional song, followed with a song in honor of Hanukkah, *The Latke Song* (Debbie Friedman). Both were terrific, Duane!



Finally, completing the holiday cheer, **Mike Zampiceni** rounded out the afternoon with his usual terrific solos and vocals, including *We Need a Little Christmas*, followed by *It's a Wonderful Time of the Year*, then *The Christmas Song (Merry Christmas to You)*, *Life is a Cabaret*, and *Jingle Bell Rock*, in his own unique style with syncopation and numerous key changes. Next was something Italian, *Finger Aerobics*, followed by *Sleigh Ride*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, and a few Hanukkah songs, including *The Dreidel Song*, *The Hanukkah Song*, *Rock of Ages*, and *Tsena, Tsena*. Finally, Mike played and sang a wonderful *Silent Night* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. **The Rhythm Kings** joined Mike to perform the last song followed by a repeat of *Tsena, Tsena* in a spirited rendition. Bravo, Mike! What a wonderful way, once again, to conclude our musical year!

Thanks to all of you who made this event such an amazing musical success!



WELCOME OUR NEW SFAC MEMBERS!

New member **Nelli Basina** began playing accordion at age 10 in Latvia.

About 25 years ago when she left, she was advised to leave her accordion behind instead of risking it being destroyed in transit and has been without one since! Fast forward to December 2024, her grandson Daniel was inspired to find an accordion for her to play and came upon the rental program with the San Francisco Accordion Club. Welcome to the Club, Nelli! We hope to see you soon at a club meeting.



Djuna Babiera is a San Francisco native, mother to 6-year-old identical twin girls. Piano is her first instrument, and she taught at SFUSD as an elementary music teacher for 14 years. She currently is a part-time caregiver to her 90-year-old mother. This is Djuna's first experience with the accordion and she's thrilled to be learning such a fun instrument where she can finally walk around, play, and sing with it, all at the same time!



Accordion Ambassador Adventures

by Pamela Tom

The accordion tends to be a novelty instrument as many people are unfamiliar with it. This is a stark contrast to the 1940s and 1950s when the instrument was in its heyday. SFAC members serve as ambassadors for the accordion when they play in public and private gatherings. Our SFAC members added musical merriment during the last two months of 2024 to a variety of audiences in the Bay Area and miles away.



While on holiday in November, **Tseli Wu** (pictured left) gave an impromptu performance of *Ricordo* and *Forbidden Dreams* on the street at Parco Do Comercio in Central Lisbon, Portugal. “We were on a walk after dinner and saw a guy playing his accordion. I asked if I could play his accordion. It sure was fun. I earned some tips for him and he was super happy too!”



Passengers at the Oakland International Airport (OAK) were entertained by duet accordionists, **Joseph Martin** and **Colette Ogata**, who busked semi-weekly during the holiday season.



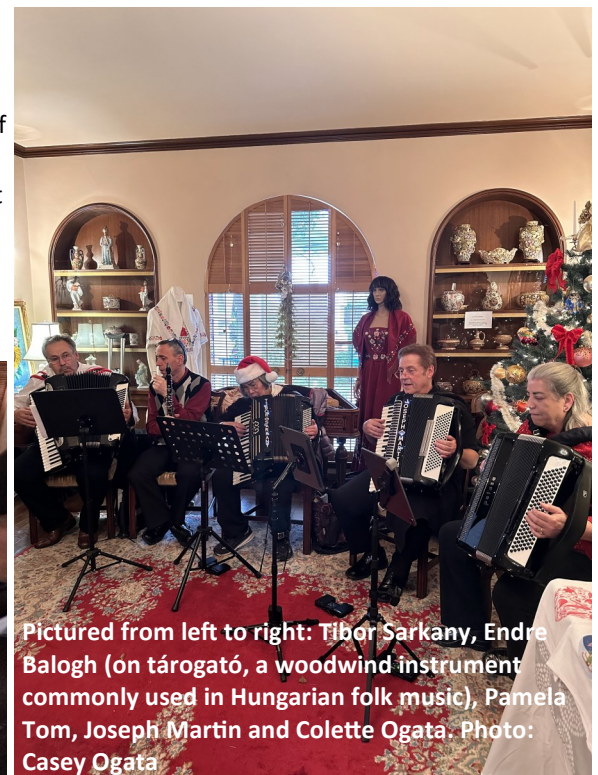
Anand Joseph is a solo accordionist who also regularly delights travelers with melodious accordion music at OAK.



Pamela Tom returned to the Davis Farmers Market and played Christmas and some early Chanukkah tunes during the first weekend of Advent. Later that week, Pam performed a variety of holiday tunes at the Sutter Davis Hospital Auxiliary Winter 2024 luncheon to an appreciative crowd. The organizer noted afterward that the music elevated the festive ambience and was well received.



Tibor Sarkany invited a few of his musical friends (which included accordion cohorts from the Lou Jacklich School of Music) to entertain at the Örlly Museum of Hungarian Culture’s annual craft and food market in Berkeley. Tibor coordinated Hungarian Christmas tunes for the ensemble to perform.



Pictured from left to right: Tibor Sarkany, Endre Balogh (őn tárogató, a woodwind instrument commonly used in Hungarian folk music), Pamela Tom, Joseph Martin and Colette Ogata. Photo: Casey Ogata

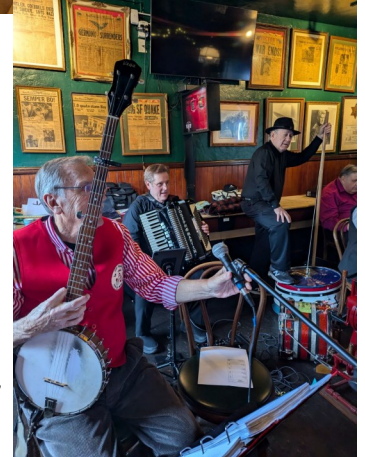


L to R: Joseph Martin, Scott Anderson, Pamela Lister, John Lister, Steve Marshall.

SFAC students and friends of Lou Jacklich would gather annually in his home in Alameda County for a pot-luck lunch and jam session to usher in the holidays. This year they continued the tradition by convening at a student's home in Marin County on the day of the Winter Solstice.

In 2024 Joseph Martin with his accordion became an integral part of the San Francisco Banjo Band (sfbanjoband.com) which entertains at Molloy's Irish Tavern in South San Francisco.

Starting in February, Steve Marshall (versatile accordionist and bassist who has played both double bass and tuba in the SFAC Accordion Circle) will be helping players keep time with his oompah tuba skills. Incidentally, Steve participated at the 2024 and 2023 Tuba Christmas concerts in Sacramento, part of a broader international network of tuba concerts across the world that gather during the holidays.



Below: SFAC members with joint Silicon Valley Accordion Society membership are seen performing in the SVAS Jam Band at the January SVAS meeting. www.svasociety.org. From left to right: Joseph Martin, Don Savant, Bill Tapogna, Tseli Wu.



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

Bella Ciao

arr: Don Quattrocchi

The image displays a musical score for the song "Bella Ciao". It is arranged for piano accordion and piano. The score is written in 4/4 time and the key of B-flat major (two flats). The piano accordion part is shown in the top system, with a treble clef and a bass clef. The piano part is shown in the bottom system, with a treble clef and a bass clef. The score is divided into four systems. The first system is labeled "Gm" above the treble clef. The second system is labeled "Cm" above the treble clef. The third system is labeled "Gm" above the treble clef. The fourth system is labeled "D7" above the treble clef and "Gm" above the bass clef. The score ends with a double bar line.

Bella ciao (Goodbye beautiful) is an Italian song dedicated to the partisans of the Italian resistance, which fought against the occupying troops of Germany and the collaborationist Fascist forces during the liberation of Italy. It was based on a folk song of the late 19th century, sung by female workers of the paddy fields in Northern Italy in protest against harsh working conditions. Versions of *Bella ciao* continue to be sung worldwide as a hymn of resistance.

Don Quattrocchi contributed most of his life promoting the piano accordion. During the 70s he had the largest music school in country Victoria in Australia.

In retirement, Don enjoys writing arrangements of popular songs played on the piano accordion. He offers his arrangements on <https://www.donquattrocchi.com/> free of charge, to promote the accordion and assist people around the world who would like to learn the accordion, with easy to intermediate arrangements.



Ron Borelli, Accordionist

Contact information:

- Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM
- WEBSITE: RONBORELLI.COM
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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

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www.ronborelli.com

JOE DOMITROWICH *Entire SF Bay Area* –
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PAMELA TOM *Yolo & Solano Counties*
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MIKE ZAMPICENI *East Bay & South Bay*
eclecticguy@comcast.net, www.mikezamp.com

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

East Bay

- ◆ **Joel Weber** www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ **Anand Joseph*** 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ **Joe Simoni*** jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ **Anand Joseph*** 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

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

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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

President's Report

Kenneth Schwartz



Dear All – We made it to the finish line with a great 2024! Now, it's on to 2025! Like last year, I've again compiled a "Wish List," which I hope you'll consider to help the Club continue to thrive and grow. We hope to see more of you attend in-person this year. It requires a team to enable these meetings year round, so please consider assisting the Club with your talents!

SFAC 2025 Wish List

- ◆ Meeting Volunteers – on a rotating basis for 1 or 2 meetings/year
- ◆ Assist with the sign-in desk
- ◆ Assist with setup/cleanup
- ◆ Bring snacks, such as small chocolates/cookies and bottled water
- ◆ Put your writing skills to work with an Event Summary, 1 or 2 per year. This would be greatly appreciated! We can work with you to create informative summaries.
- ◆ For those who are tech savvy, manage the Zoom live-cast: setting up the video camera and linking to Zoom (stipend available).
- ◆ Other ways in which you can volunteer will be appreciated
- ◆ Your suggestions for featured performers – local or nationwide – are always welcome!

**Please invite your friends to join the club!
Membership is a great gift that lasts all year!**



Kimric Smythe

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San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

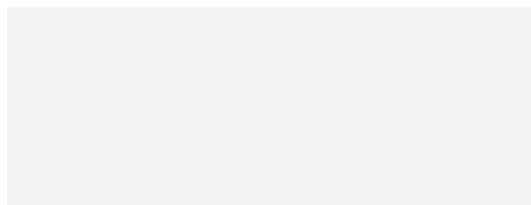
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Upcoming Events: *January 26** Adrian Jost, Bandoneón - Live at Chetcuti (**4th Sunday*)

February 16 Accordion Circle, Millbrae-Chetcuti Community Room

March 16, East Bay Accordion Circle, Piedmont High School Student Center, Building B

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordions Live!

Adrian Jost - Bandoneón master

Sunday, January 26

2pm—5pm

\$10 members / \$15 non-members

-Exact change appreciated-

Youth free with parent

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:

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