

Sunday, January 25

♪ ♪ SFAC Accordions Live! ♪ ♪

LIVE & In-Person!

Adam & Emma Dohner

Chetcuti Community Room - Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm Doors Open for Jam Band

\$10 members / \$15 non-members

Youth free when accompanied by a parent



Adam is an electrical engineer by profession but loves playing piano and accordion in his spare time. His sister, Emma, is chemical engineer (it runs in the family) and shares Adam's passion for music. She plays violin in the community-based **Mission Chamber Orchestra** and also makes time to play with her brother from time to time. Their group, **Garf's Uncle**, has been on hiatus for the last couple of years, but hopes to get back to gigging around the peninsula soon. They specialize in a wide range of musical styles, from gypsy jazz to latin folk music, klezmer to pop covers, and beyond.

*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*

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!

Holiday Event Summary

by Rosemary Busher



The Holiday Edition club meeting that took place on Sunday, December 14th was just what was expected and more. The jam session had about 14 players, with Joseph Martin leading the group in playing holiday favorites. Demonstrations of not one but TWO new accordion developments happened. First, joining us all the way from China was Mr. Ju Yingdui, along with his 12-pound Hesedion keyboard instrument (see advertisement below). Anand Joseph gave us a demonstration of this versatile electronic accordion. This was our first time ever seeing this new musical instrument, pictured at left with Anand. Next up was Ramon Alvarado to show off his diatonic digital accordion, created using a 3D printer for the outer case; the inside houses the synthesizer. Weighing in at only 2 pounds, it mimics the size of a tablet, and the bass side has a joystick to mimic the in and out action of bellows. The inspiration came about because they needed a way to keep quiet while practicing Norteño style music (you know, neighbors).



Solo performances by young students Annabelle & Jennifer were terrific! Jennifer led with a delightful performance of *Clair de Lune tyrolien*, Annabelle debuted her first solo, *Spring*,

by Vivaldi from **The Four Seasons**, on a free bass accordion. Great job, Annabelle, keep up the good work!

Pamela Tom and her friend, violinist Joyce Copelan, played a duet medley of *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *What Child is This* and *Joy to the World* for us.

An ensemble consisting of Steve Marshall (string bass), Pamela Tom (accordion), Joseph Martin (accordion), Endre Balogh (tárogáto) & Tibor Sárkány (accordion)



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entertained us with three popular Hungarian Christmas carols: *Dicsőség mennyben az Istennek!* (*Glory be to God in Heaven*), *Fel nagy örömrre* (*Rise to Great Joy*) and *Pásztorok, keljünk fel* (*Pastors, Arise*). Additionally, Endre performed a Hungarian solo on the *tárogató*, a recreation of an ancient woodwind instrument often used in Hungarian folk music.

Nena Lovre first performed a solo of some wonderful Balkan music on her Roland accordion and then Valdet Jakubovic joined in and we were treated to a nice round of more music.

Mike Zampiceni played and sang Christmas favorites and a Hanukkah favorite, *The Dreidel Song* (*I Have a Little Dreidel*), to the delight of us all. Song sheets were made available for audience participation in *The Dreidel Song*, *Jingle Bells*, and *White Christmas*. Mike is so very important in the Bay Area accordion world, he's the local accordion instructor to so many of us.

The side table was set up with all kinds of good food to share! The holiday pot-luck was made complete with a couple of plates of Christmas cookies and more. Thank you, everyone, for making this Holiday Meeting such a resounding success!



ACCORDION AMBASSADOR ADVENTURES

By Pamela Tom

Mike Zampiceni (accordion) and **Endre Balogh** (tárogáto and flute) teamed up as a duo performing musical entertainment with jazzy selections during the annual St. Nicholas Hungarian Sausage Dinner in Newark, CA on December 6.



Accordion friends from the Lou Jacklich School of Music convened at **Pamela Lister's** home for their annual holiday potluck on December 6. Pamela was joined by her brother **John Lister** (photographed with Pamela), **Colette** and **Casey Ogata**, **Steve Marshall**, **Tibor Sárkány**, **Pamela Tom** and Laura Williams for an afternoon of accordion music, good food and friendship to usher in the holiday season.

The **Örly Museum of Hungarian Culture** invited **Tibor Sárkány** and his musical friends to perform an afternoon of Christmas carols published in English and Hungarian, and at the Mini Hungarian Holiday Market on December 13 in Berkeley. It was partly a concert and an enjoyable sing-along event.

Elvira J. Örly Machell (ÖMHC president, standing) is welcoming the standing room only audience. Performers included accordionists **Tibor Sárkány**, **Joseph Martin**, **Monica Ambalal**, **Pamela Tom** and string bassist, **Steve Marshall**. Hidden: **Endre Balogh** (tárogáto).



San Francisco's own **Those Darn Accordions** were back in their hometown on December 16 for a night of bellow-busting mayhem at **The Plough and the Stars** Irish pub in the Richmond District. Several SFAC members (**Ron Borelli**, **Tony David**, **Joseph Martin**, **Steve Marshall**, **Colette** and **Casey Ogata**, and **Pamela Tom**) were present to enjoy a wild, high-energy night of squeezebox rock, pumped up polkas and good old-fashioned pub fun (below).

Ron Borelli was one of the original members (see vintage photo, above, with Ron at the top in red shirt).

After the break, **Ron** (seated left) joined the cast and added to the zany accordion fun that evening.

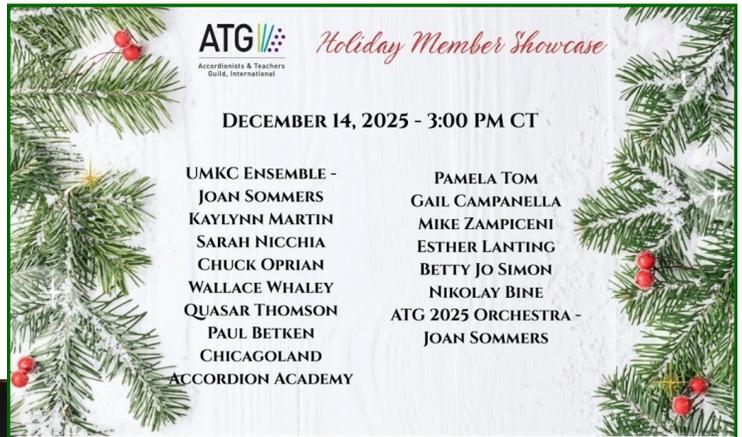
I came across this 2018 CH 12 video of **Ron Borelli**, serving as a true SF ambassador of the accordion with his unique jazzy style: <https://www.12news.com/video/news/local/wheres-gerke-going-san-franciscos-official-instrument-the-accordion/75-8132784>



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Several SFAC members with joint ATG membership participated in the ATG Holiday Member Showcase Video. The video originally aired on December 14 (which coincided with the SFAC's holiday party) and is now available for public viewing on YouTube (https://youtu.be/00N5DP5_qOs). ATG Board member, **Paul Pasquali** coordinated and hosted the holiday video. SFAC showcase contributors included: **Pamela Tom, Gail Campanella and Mike Zampiceni.**



2025 Holiday ATG Member Showcase

@atg-accordioniststeachersg260 73 views 1d ago ...more

Bonnie Birch performed post-holiday music with the World Band at the Crossroads Bellevue Shopping Center (Washington) on December 28.

Tim Miller (drums), Nick Heiting (guitar), **Bonnie** (accordion) and Paul Ostler (tuba).

[Below] The SFAC has received a note of thanks from our 2025 Cotati scholarship award recipient.

Membership Update

By Robert Cooperstein

Let us welcome our newest member of our Club, **Catherine (Cat) Reilly**, residing in Berkeley. Asked to say a few words about her background and interest in accordion music, she says "As for my background in accordion, I won't lie, I have never touched one. This has been on my bucket list, so 2026 is the year I want to try learning. I saw that the club does rentals, so thought it would be good to join so I could try playing before investing into my own (and because there are so many types out there) and also always good to get to know folks that actually have experience in what I'm going to attempt. Also since I haven't had any bites from the couple teachers I emailed, would be great to know if you have any recommendations from your list (I'm in the East Bay, so preferable someone that teaches on this side of the world, or by zoom). I probably won't be ready for prime time for a while for the videos, it will be fun to see what folks with other experience can do! Look forward to learning more about the group and wish me luck!"



12/18/2025
Dear San Francisco Accordion Club,
Please accept my sincere, albeit belated, thank you for the scholarship awarded following my performance at the Cotati Student Scholarship Stage.
I am excited to share that I used the scholarship funds toward the purchase of a Korg Fisa Suprema. This instrument is a significant step forward in my musical journey, and your support made it possible. I truly appreciate the club's encouragement of young accordionists.
I look forward to seeing you all and participating in the Student Scholarship again stage next year!

Sincerely,

Peter Swanson



In Memoriam—Joe Simoni

By Robert Cooperstein

Long time SFAC member **Joseph P. “Joe” Simoni**, 80, passed away on December 24, 2025, in San Mateo, California. A lifelong Californian and proud first-generation Italian-American, Joe was born in San Francisco and raised in San Mateo, where he dedicated his life to community, service, and music. He built a career in banking, specializing in risk and compliance, known for his integrity and thoughtful approach to every role.

During the Vietnam War, Joe proudly served in the military’s music entertainment service, playing clarinet and inspiring others through his talent. A devoted Catholic, he was deeply involved at St. Matthew’s Church in San Mateo, where he served as an usher and parish volunteer.

After retirement, Joe returned to his lifelong passion, the accordion. As leader of the Joe Simoni Orchestra, he performed throughout the Bay Area and shared his love of music as a teacher. As a member of the seminal Bay Area accordion orchestra **AbsolutAccord**, he performed at the October 2009 SFAC musical program along with fellow accordionists Lynn Ewing, Marian Kelly (subbing on bass for Sharon Greyhosky), Norma Zonay-Parsons, and Director Richard Yaus. Loved for his warmth, humor, and generosity, Joe brought joy to every room he entered. His spirit lives on through the music and memories he shared. He will be missed.

When I am creating an obituary for our newsletter for someone I did not know, as in the case of Joe Simoni, I am always transported to an unpredictable place while writing. This time it was to a song by country singer Vern Gosdin, a heartfelt tribute to Ernest Tubbs — the “Texas Troubadour” — called *Set ‘Em Up Joe*.



AbsolutAccord, October 2009. Lynn Ewing, Norma Zonay-Parsons, Marian Kelly, Joe Simoni, & Director Richard Yaus

🎻 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, 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, 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.

East Bay Accordion Jam Invitation - Joseph Martin

We are starting a JAM GROUP in the East Bay. Come and join us for music, sharing and fun.

Bring your Accordion and Music Stand - **February 3rd, Tuesday, 5-7pm** at the Rockridge Library in Oakland. We'll have JAM books available.

We're figuring out all the details and looking for input on future places, times and days.

Come and enjoy music and the people who love playing the accordion. Refreshment will be there to enjoy also. For more information or to share your ideas and questions, call Joseph Martin at 510-387-3328, or email JosephMac50@gmail.com

See you in February!



Come and Join Us for the East Bay Jam Circle

We are going to be jamming... on

**February
Tuesday 3RD - 5:00-7:00pm**

at the **ROCKRIDGE LIBRARY** - Oakland
5366 College Avenue - Upstairs
(Paid parking in the lot - FREE Parking a block away)

Bring your music stand and
SEND 2 pieces of music you would like
to play at the Jam Session...
Josephmac50@gmail.com

KCBS Radio brings Accordion Love to the Airwaves

By Joseph Martin



December brings great Christmas songs and Accordion Music to the Oakland International Airport. KCBS All News Radio on 106.9 FM and 740 AM came to the Oakland Airport and interviewed the creator of the Busking Program, Lakita Spencer. Lakita talked with KCBS about the music she brings to the Airport each week.

KCBS also interviewed me and broadcast live accordion music on their station. It was a great positive experience and I was glad to have the chance to share accordion love to the airwaves.



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JULY 8-12, 2026 atgaccordions.com

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

Accordion Happenings

◆ National Accordion Association Conference 2026

March 18-21, 2026

TownePlace Suites by Marriott - Forney, TX

www.accordions.com/naa

- ◆ Featuring: **The NAA Orchestra Experience**
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<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

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◆ 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

◆ ATG Accordionists & Teachers Guild 2026 Festival

July 8-12, 2026

Salt Lake City, Utah

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

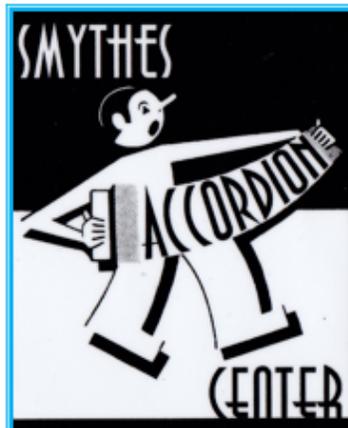
Online/Virtual Offerings:

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

Hosted by Laura Niland 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 us at info@sfaaccordionclub.org



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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

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@sfacaccordionclub.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
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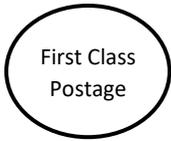
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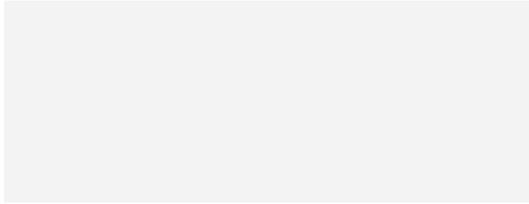
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ **January 25, 2026 [4th Sunday]** Brother/Sister Duo, Adam & Emma Dohner, Accordion & Violin - Millbrae
 - ◆ *February meeting - undecided - To be announced.* Will NOT be Feb. 15 due to conflict in Millbrae
 - ◆ *March 15, 2026* Piedmont High School - Accordion Circle, Student Center, Building B

SFAC Sunday Meeting
Accordions Live!
Adam & Emma Dohner accordion/violin
Sunday, January 25

2pm — 5pm

\$10 members / \$15 non-members

-Exact change appreciated-

Youth free with parent

Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza

***Jam Band* will precede the main performance**

(bring your own stand)

SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email

See email for details, or contact info@sfaccordionclub.com



Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

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