

Sunday, March 16, 2025

♪ ♪ **East Bay Accordion Circle!** ♪ ♪

PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CENTER

800 MAGNOLIA AVENUE, BUILDING B

PIEDMONT, CALIFORNIA

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm PST

\$5 Contribution (Youth free with parent)

SFAC MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE ZOOM LINK VIA EMAIL

Our March Accordion Circle meeting will take place at our "home away from home" - the historic **Piedmont High School Student Center, Building B, 800 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611.**

*Free parking on Magnolia Ave. and adjacent side streets
Magnolia Ave. is a one-way street with very limited parking*

Please allow at least 20 minutes for parking

We hope all members, wherever you live in the Bay Area, will participate. For those 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 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 are 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 be a few tunes to sing along with.

Sheet music will be provided to 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@sfiaccordionclub.com so that there is an opportunity for everyone that would like to perform.

For those who may wish to practice from your own copy of the "jam book", we will again start with the following songs:

- ◆ Beer Barrel Polka
- ◆ Blue Skirt Waltz
- ◆ Boogie Woogie Swing
- ◆ Five Foot Two
- ◆ *Heidi's Waltz (*New for March)
- ◆ Julida Polka
- ◆ Just Because
- ◆ Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer
- ◆ Norwegian Wood
- ◆ Somewhere My Love
- ◆ Tennessee Waltz

March, 2025



February 23rd Accordion Circle: One of our best ever!

Ken Schwartz

February's Accordion Circle was attended by a small but enthusiastic group of club members and guests. The jam session included 12 playing simultaneously, excellently led by **Joseph Martin**, with another 10 Club members participating on-line via Zoom. The jam band has been practicing and it shows, with most noticeably improved musical skills and group cohesion with each session.

We celebrated 2 birthdays that occurred in the week prior to the meeting. Honoring Rosemary Busher, **Mike Zampiceni** serenaded her with traditional songs. **Maxwell**, son of **Sergiy** and **Bonnie Turchyn** was born on Friday evening, February 21st. No doubt, he will soon become our newest (and youngest) member! Congratulations, Sergiy and Bonnie!



Prior to the intermission, each attendee was offered the opportunity to speak a bit on their musical background. Three of the attendees were attending their first meeting with us, including teen Evan Zhou (accompanied by his dad), Philip Hofman (San Jose), and Hirshini Jayaram.

Tony David joined the SFAC in late November, last year. He had been playing regularly for 20 years until being sidelined pretty recently with "bellows shoulder", requiring surgery 13 weeks ago. We were both surprised and delighted by his rapid return, enjoying his Club.

Evan is currently in 8th grade at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette. He's been playing the accordion since age 6, inspired by his grandfather, who has played for many years. He describes himself as an intermediate player, favorite piece *Radetzky March*!



Philip Hofman has been playing accordion since 2015. Both his parents and uncle also played. After having taken a break from playing in 2017, he's says it is nice to be back! This was his first SFAC meeting.

Rosemary Busher is a member of our Board. She enjoys everybody and of course playing accordion.



Mike Zampiceni is a professional accordionist and teacher. His father was a well-known accordion music publisher and composer in the 1960's.

Joseph Martin played from ages 8 to 15, then quit for 47 years. Resuming his playing and taking lessons 2 years ago, he loves the Club!

Colette Ogata started accordion in her teens, taking lessons with Lou Jacklich in her 20's, and then took a hiatus to raise her family. She resumed lessons with the Maestro in 2014.

Shirley Roller Lee enjoys the Club and likes playing in "slow mode."

Scott Anderson also studied with Lou Jacklich, and wore a Lou Jacklich School of Music shirt to the meeting. Earlier that day he had played at Elder Ashram in Oakland a memory facility, where his 95 year old father resides.

Don Savant was born and raised in Oakland. He started playing around 1947. After retirement, he resumed his accordion interests and was tutored by Mike Zampiceni. Don is grateful for all Mike has taught him and to our Club.



Yakov Puhachevsky was born in Moldavia, where he attended music school and played for a long, long time. He is now retired.

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Hirshini Jayaram is new to the Club. Her boyfriend performs with the SF Civic Symphony. Hirshini wanted to play something for a series of concerts. She's been playing 6 weeks and has already performed in front of 250 people! Hirshini has a music background, having studied and played piano for 16 years.

Individual Solos

Scott Anderson led off with 2 great solos, including *Besame Mucho*, with a surprise – he sings! Muchas gracias, Scott! Scott followed with another Latin song: *Amor, Amor, Amor*



(*Beguine*). Well done, Scott! Next was the duo of **Colette Ogata** and **Joseph Martin**, who have been playing monthly in the Oakland International Airport Terminal. They performed *Que Sera Sera*, followed by an equally lovely *La Paloma*. Fabulous, Colette and Joseph! Oakland International loves you! New member **Philip Hofman** performed a very nice version of *Hospůdka*, an old pub song from the Czech Republic.



Next, 13 year old **Evan Zhou** wowed us with his rendition of *Radetzky March* (Johann Strauss, Sr). Well done, Evan, you have a great future ahead!

Hirshini Jayaram performed *La Vie en Rose*, nicely done with only 6 weeks of learning!! How many of you could play so well after only 6 weeks? **Don Savant** next took us back to one of his favorite nostalgic songs – a jazzy version of *Blue Moon*, which he and his wife had danced to in college. **Duane Quenzel** thrilled us via Zoom with some Pop – his terrific rendition of *Aquarius*, from the Broadway musical *Hair*. As usual, his performance was



beautifully played with lots of harmonics and complex chord changes. Next, **Ken Schwartz**, borrowing Mike Zampiceni's accordion, played *That's Amore* (no doubt getting ready for June's Festa Italiana in San Francisco), followed by a short rendition of *Tonight*, and a few bars from *I could have Danced All Night*. **Ed Spondike**, on Zoom from Ohio, beautifully performed an Irish tune, *Man on the Moon*, which he picked up in Ireland while visiting his daughter last summer. Finally, **Mike Zampiceni** played and sang *Life is a Cabaret*, followed by *Samba de Orfeo*, and finally *The Shadow of Your Smile*. After we concluded,



while Duane and Ken were doing a sound test of some new equipment, Duane performed a short portion of Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony*.

Thanks, everyone, for a wonderful, most musical afternoon!



WELCOME OUR NEWEST SFAC MEMBER!

PHILIP HOFMAN



The credit for jump-starting my journey with the accordion goes to Weird Al Yankovic, strangely enough. The accordion always had a presence in my life, though it was in the background for most of it. My family is from the Czech Republic, and my aunt played for a very long time. I remember experimenting with her accordion when I was about five or six; no real music, I was just fascinated with the multitude of buttons. Jumping forward sixteen years (*with about eight years of choir and four years of piano thrown into the mix*), in college I happened to see a YouTube video of Weird Al playing a short song on an accordion app for the iPad. This sparked a cascade of events: I downloaded the same app myself and became hooked. We happened to visit family in the Czech Republic that summer so I had the opportunity to try out my aunt's accordion again, that led to almost my entire vacation being spent in the barn practicing, and that resulted in my folks purchasing one as a Christmas present from Smythe's Accordion Center in Oakland.

I practiced and played regularly for about four years, incorporating it into my artistic career as much as I could (*I studied acting at CalArts down in Southern California; the picture is from a production of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice*). I played all kinds of genres, with a preference for Czech polkas and Viennese waltzes. As so often happens, life eventually got in the way, and I stopped playing. But a few months ago, an old high school friend of mine mentioned that he had started playing and suggested that I check out the SFAC. I'm very glad I did and look forward to rekindling my love for this unique instrument.



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New Member Profile: Ed Spondike – Painesville, OH

Submitted by Pamela Tom



Ed Spondike took accordion lessons from age 10 to 14. He enjoyed classical music and playing music composed and arranged by accordionists such as Charles Magnante. He wanted to attend college to become a high school music teacher, so he stopped taking accordion lessons and took up the bassoon. He continued playing the accordion for his own enjoyment and on gigs with other musicians. At college his teaching plans changed. He became a physics and mathematics instructor who played the bassoon in the college's concert band, symphony orchestra, pit band, and wind quartet. He kept his accordion skills honed by playing for his parents.

Moonlighting to supplement his teaching salary and support his family, Ed played his accordion in several groups and also taught at a local music store. After 8 years of high school teaching, Ed took up a new career developing pressure-sensitive adhesives. Music remained a hobby, playing with small groups for weddings, parties and the like. He dabbled with composing polkas, waltzes, and other types of dance music.

Now retired, Ed has more time to devote to composing and arranging music. He credits Joe Natoli for renewing his interest in composing and arranging music for the accordion. Ed has performed both his original compositions and arrangements of other composers' music at accordion club Zoom meetings across the US.

Ed Spondike Composes Accordion Music

By Laura Niland

Ed is a prolific composer and has written a number of accordion pieces for his former band group as well as for his own personal enjoyment. His interest in Irish and Eastern European music comes from his cultural background. At many of the online meetings, he has presented waltzes, ballads, and polkas, but he is not limited to these styles or genres. He enjoys taking music that may have only 16 – 20 bars and enhancing them by adding variations on their theme, or simply adding a new key signature or style within the music. As a dance band leader, he needed music that could keep the dancers on the floor but not tire them. Over the years he has amassed quite a collection of his own music creations. He has been sharing these with interested accordionists across the USA. Critiques of his music have been very positive, as Ed writes music that you can easily adapt to your own style of play.



In addition to writing new music, Ed has arranged other music when music for accordion cannot be found. He enjoys the challenge of working on themes for his music and especially loves sharing with others in his retirement years. If you want something different, Ed can find that style or genre for you. He also has mp3 files for you to listen to a piece. So think about what you might enjoy learning and chat with Ed! He can be reached at edspondike@gmail.com, where you can ask about a special piece you might want to include in your repertoire.



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

Accordion Ambassador Adventures

By Pamela Tom

Bonnie Birch, SFAC member located in the Pacific Northwest, has annually chaired and participated at two great accordion events in Washington State: “Day of the Accordion” and the “Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration”. She just completed organizing and participating in “Day of the Accordion” which was started about 30 years ago by Ken Olendorf. She became chair about 20 years ago. Bonnie notes “The purpose is to show the public what a great and versatile instrument the accordion is.”

“Day of the Accordion” is a 3-day weekend event held at Crossroads Bellevue in Bellevue, WA. The Bonnie Birch Trio and guests performed last month on the final day, Sunday, February 23, 2025. Her band with tuba (donning an Elvis mask), guitar, accordion (Bonnie), horns, and baritone singer were doing a rendition of “Wooden Heart/Muss i denn”.

The Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration will occur June 25 – 29, 2025. Along with great local players, nationally known accordion artists [Matt Tolentino](#) and [Hank Thunander](#) will be performing. For details visit: www.accordioncelebration.org.

New SFAC member **Tony David** performed with the “Goodtime Band” on March 2 at [Mac’s at 19 Broadway](#) in Fairfax. The band performs on the first Sunday of the month and specializes in swing, jazz, and blues from the American Songbook (20s, 30s 40s) and more. (For Tony’s recent profile, see last month’s SFAC newsletter.)



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

Accordion Happenings

Online/Virtual Events:

Monthly: 1st & 3rd Monday - Joseph Natoli
JANPress University - Topics vary monthly (\$) janpressmusic@yahoo.com

Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:30-6:30 PM (free)
Hosted by Laura Niland LauraJNiland@outlook.com

Monthly: 3rd Sunday - Gordon Kohl Workshop
Topics vary (\$) gkohl5890@gmail.com

Members - If you know of an accordion-centric festival or event in 2025 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact us at info@sfiaccordionclub.org

Assistance Requested for May Meeting

This is a request for one or more members to assist with our audio-visual (Zoom) streaming at the May 18 meeting to be held at the Chetcuti Community Room in Millbrae.

Ken Schwartz may not be present, and so a volunteer would be needed to manage the Zoom program (start meeting, admit attendees, position camera).

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact info@sfiaccordionclub.com

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!

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



ACCORDION JAM!!!

**MARCH, 24
4:00 - 6:00**

**Sports Basement 5th Floor
1590 Bryant Street**

BRING A FOOD/DRINK TO SHARE
RSVP to heidiseretan@gmail.com

come out and play with your friends!

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!



*May your thoughts be as glad as the shamrocks
May your heart be as light as a song
May each day bring you bright, happy hours
That stay with you all the year long*

🎵 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, 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, Natalie Lyukevich, Nora Mazzara, Gerald McMahon, Steve Mobia, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Prurucker, Rich Rinaldi, 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.

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@sfacclub.com

Who Threw The Overalls In Mistress Murphy's Chowder

Accordion Arrangement by
CLIFF SCHOLL



George L. Geifer

Lively

Full

f Who threw the o - ver - alls in Mis tress Mur - phy's chow - der?

On M

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7 M

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M 7 M M M

o - ver - alls in Mis - tress Mur - phy's chow - - - der.

M M M 7 M



Ron Borelli, Accordianist

Contact information:

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

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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

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) available

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

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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

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

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@saccordionclub.com

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

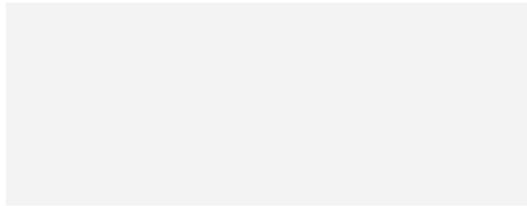
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Upcoming Events:

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

April 27, Soloist Bobby Dietsch! - Chetcuti Community Center—Live & via Zoom

SFAC Sunday Program

East Bay Accordion Circle!

Open Mic/Solos + Group Play/Jam Band

Participate In-Person + Online Access

Sunday, March 16 - 2pm-5pm

Piedmont High School Student Center, Building B

800 Magnolia Avenue

Piedmont, California

2pm—5pm (Zoom ~2:15)

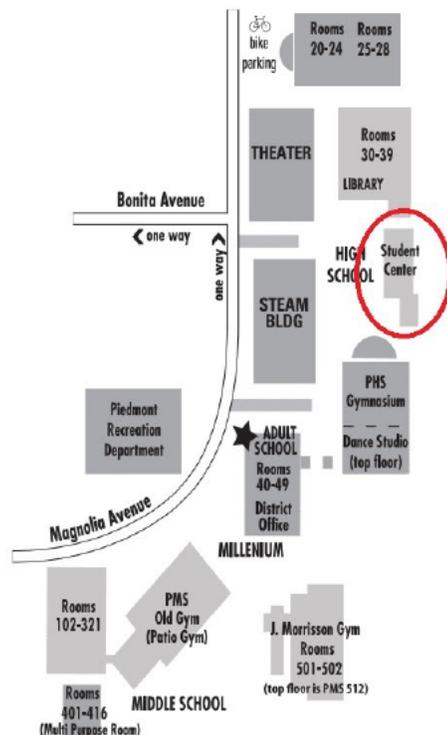
\$5 contribution (< 18 free with adult)

-Exact change appreciated-

SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email

See email for details, or

contact info@sfaccordionclub.com



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