

Sunday, March 15, 2026

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

PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CENTER

800 MAGNOLIA AVENUE, BUILDING B

PIEDMONT, CALIFORNIA

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm PST

\$10 Contribution SFAC members / \$15 non-members

Youth free with parent

SFAC MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE ZOOM LINK VIA EMAIL

March, 2026



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@sfacclub.com so that there is an opportunity for everyone that would like to perform.



Mark Your Calendar!

Performing for SFAC April 19



Photos: SamReidermusic.com and MadsTolling.com

Sam Reider

Sam Reider is a Latin GRAMMY-nominated pianist, accordionist, composer, and educator from San Francisco, California. He blends American jazz, folk, popular song, and contemporary composition and has appeared as a bandleader and soloist at major festivals and venues worldwide. His performances and original works have been featured on NPR, PBS, and the BBC. Reider has performed, recorded, and collaborated with artists including Jon Batiste,

Jorge Glem, Sierra Hull, Laurie Lewis, and Paquito D’Rivera. From his genre-bending acoustic ensemble **The Human Hands** to his duo with Venezuelan artist Jorge Glem, his distinctive compositional voice and melodicism permeate his projects. His 2022 solo piano album of original music, *Petrichor*, received four stars and was named to DownBeat Magazine’s Best of 2022 list. Reider and Glem’s album *Brooklyn-Cumaná* was featured on NPR’s Tiny Desk and nominated for Best Instrumental Album at the 2023 Latin GRAMMY Awards. He is also a prolific composer and arranger, writing for ensembles and soloists including the San Francisco Girls Chorus, Time for Three, Trinity Alps Chamber Music Festival, Del Sol Quartet, and Tessa Lark.

As a musical ambassador for the U.S. Department of State, Reider has toured China, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Estonia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan, collaborating with local artists. Folk songs and stories from these journeys inspired many of the pieces on his first record, *Too Hot to Sleep* (2018). He holds a B.A. in American Studies from Columbia University and an M.A. in Music Composition from San Francisco State University. Reider serves on the faculty at St. Mary’s College in Moraga, California, where he teaches jazz, improvisation, and composition. In every role—performer, teacher, and composer—he shows deep dedication to his craft and a contagious love of music. SamReidermusic.com

Mads Tolling

Mads Tolling is an internationally renowned violinist and composer, originally from Copenhagen, Denmark, and now based in San Francisco. A former nine-year member of both bassist Stanley Clarke’s band and the **Turtle Island Quartet**, he is a two-time GRAMMY Award winner and received a third GRAMMY nomination in 2015. He won the 2016 DownBeat Critics Poll Rising Star Violin Award and has performed with Chick Corea, Ramsey Lewis, Kenny Barron, Paquito D’Rivera, Leo Kottke, and Sergio & Odair Assad. Tolling is currently a member of **Bob Weir’s Wolf Bros & Wolf Pack Band**.

After graduating from Berklee College of Music in 2003, he joined Stanley Clarke’s band on the recommendation of Jean-Luc Ponty. He has been featured on NPR’s Morning Edition, and his recordings have earned praise in the Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Strings Magazine, and DownBeat Magazine. Tolling has performed for Danish royalty at the Danish Embassy’s 50th Anniversary celebration. Since 2021 he has toured the U.S. with Bob Weir & Wolf Bros, performing at venues such as Red Rocks, the Greek Theatre, and Radio City Music Hall, and he is featured on Weir’s album *Live in Colorado*. He has arranged numerous Grateful Dead tunes for the band, several of which also appear in the **Mads Men** repertoire.

Tolling has twice been commissioned to write violin concertos for the Oakland Symphony and Pacific Chamber Orchestra and has performed his symphonic works with orchestras in the U.S. and Japan. He leads the **Mads Tolling Quartet** and **Mads Tolling & The Mads Men**. His album *Playing the 60s* reimagines classic 1960s film, TV, and radio songs and spent two months in the top 30 of U.S. jazz radio. With his groups, he has played more than a thousand concerts worldwide, including appearances at the Hollywood Bowl, the Library of Congress, and the Bay Area’s Paramount and Herbst Theatres. As a featured Yamaha Artist, Tolling presents clinics and masterclasses in the U.S. and internationally.

MadsTolling.com

RIP Mary Tokarski - Accordion Advocate Par Excellence

Robert Cooperstein



Mary Tokarski, born December 13, 1946, in Derby, Connecticut, was a celebrated American concert accordionist, devoted educator, respected leader, and passionate advocate for the accordion and the arts. She passed away on February 20, 2026, at age 79 in Jackson, Tennessee, after many years in Hamden and Northford, CT.

From a musical family, Mary began accordion studies at age seven with her brother, Michael Fernino, in Ansonia, CT. She quickly excelled in local, state, and national competitions, becoming a U.S. national champion. A cherished highlight of her career was performing with her siblings—sister Julie Kasprzyk Cardona and brother Walter Kasprzyk—in the acclaimed **K Trio**, where family bonds, discipline, and affection blended with their artistry.



As a soloist renowned for technical brilliance and expressive warmth, Mary performed widely across the United States and abroad, including tours in China, Europe, and New Zealand. She appeared with symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, and at major venues, showcasing the accordion's versatility in classical, contemporary, and collaborative repertoire. In May 2010, she was a featured guest at the San Francisco Accordion Club's May meeting at the Oyster Point Yacht Club in South San Francisco, enchanting the audience with Maddalena Belfiore's *Scherzo in B^b minor* and sharing thoughtful insights on the composer. Her recordings include the CDs **Mary Plays Gary** (featuring works by New Zealand composer Gary Daverne) and **Music With Mary...With My Friends**.

For decades, Mary taught through her "Music with Mary" studio, mentoring students of all ages with high standards, encouragement, humor, and compassion. Her studio became a nurturing musical home, and many of her students went on to become accomplished performers and educators, carrying forward her love of the accordion's intimate, resonant sound.

Mary's leadership profoundly shaped the accordion community. She co-founded and co-versed over the Connecticut Accordion Association, served on the board of the American Accordionists' Association and as its president from 2015 to 2018, and represented the United States as a delegate and jury member at the Coupe Mondiale World Accordion Championships. Through these roles, she worked tirelessly to elevate the accordion's place in concert music. Mary's legacy endures in the melodies of her students, the vitality of the organizations she strengthened, and the Mary & Frank Tokarski Musical Arts Fund, which continues to support accordion initiatives close to her heart.



This account of Mary Tokarski's life and passing was in part based on an [obituary](https://accordionusa.news/obituary-mary-kasprzyk-tokarski/) written by Joan Grauman (<https://accordionusa.news/obituary-mary-kasprzyk-tokarski/>).



ACCORDION AMBASSADOR ADVENTURES

by Pamela Tom

Bonnie Birch (accordion) performed with Matt Mcleod (tenor) a night of light opera last month at the **Pink Door** located in Pike Place Market of Seattle. Operatic and classic Italian favorites included *Non ti scordar di me*, *La Donna è Mobile*, *Torna a Surriento* and *Volare*.

Bonnie was also involved in organizing and performing crowd pleasing tunes at the Crossroads Bellevue “Weekend of the Accordion”.



Bonnie Birch and Nick Heiting (guitarist)
Photo Credit: Monika Heiting



Covell Atria Gardens, a senior assisted living facility in Davis, invited **Pamela Tom** to help ring in the **Lunar New Year of the Fire Horse** last month. A Fire Horse is a year in the Chinese zodiac, occurring only once every 60 years. Her set list included folk and popular Chinese tunes such as *Mo Li Hua (Jasmine Flower)*, *Liang Zhu (The Butterfly Lovers)*, *Yue Liang Dai Biao Wo De Xin (The Moon Represents My Heart)*, and *Mei Gui Mei Gui Wo Ai Ni (Rose, Rose, I Love You)*, which Frankie Laine popularized in 1951. Also, the set list featured Chinese-associated tunes from the Golden American Songbook, including *Chinatown*, *My Chinatown*, *China Boy*, *Grant Avenue*, and others.

The **Guy Klucevsek Memorial Concert: Comin’ On Home** is now available to view on YouTube. The 2½ hour video pays tribute to Guy’s legacy and music. See last month’s newsletter for further information on Klucevsek:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6i0sV2sLE>

Southwest Florida Scene 🍷

By Robert Cooperstein

In the October SFAC Newsletter, I mentioned it had taken Elaine and me quite some time to find a



local accordion scene here in Southwest Florida after having moved some three years ago. We had met an accordionist named Chris Brett playing at a German restaurant, who plugged us into two repeating accordion gatherings, one in Sarasota (a one-hour drive for us) and another closer one, in Port Charlotte. Above is a picture of Chris, who introduced us to the local players, and is superlative on the button side, with stunning, unexpected riffs that put life into some old standards that remain popular



but can show their age. We attended this latter meeting last month and continue to be impressed with the musicality of the players. Mostly polka, some waltz, and one fellow [Glenn, far left in group photo] that likes to play and sing (what shall I call it?) vaudeville pieces, occasionally bawdy.

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ATG 2026 FESTIVAL HEADS WEST

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

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- COMPETITIONS
- ATTEND A TABERNACLE CHOIR PERFORMANCE
- LUNCHEONS AND BANQUET

JULY 8-12, 2026 atgaccordions.com

Ron Borelli
Accordionist

Supporting the
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Did You Know?!

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 may arrange to pick them up at a Club meeting, and 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@sfaaccordionclub.com.

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Noon-8pm Thurs

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smytheaccordion@gmail.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.sfaaccordionclub.com

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

Accordions Happenings

◆ 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](https://www.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](https://www.rosecityaccordionclub.org)

◆ Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration

June 25-28, 2026 — Leavenworth, WA

Sponsored by the Northwest Accordion Society

www.accordioncelebration.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.

◆ 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@sfaccordionclub.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

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Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

Anand Joseph (614) 329-9384

Roy Zheng roycraft3@gmail.com

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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@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*
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, Cat Reilly, 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.

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

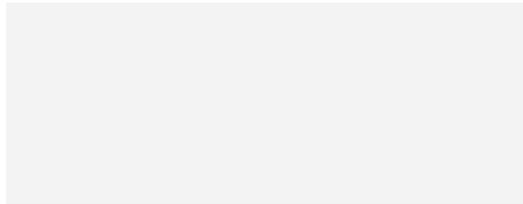
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Upcoming Events — Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ *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)---