

November, 2025

**NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



SFAC Holiday Party Potluck and Holiday Jam Session

December 14th in Millbrae 2:00pm - 4:30pm PT

Reminder – The Club is taking a Thanksgiving break to lighten the load for our hardworking volunteers.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, December 14th, in Millbrae and via Zoom.

Let’s celebrate the season together! **Our December Accordion Club meeting will feature a Shared Dish Celebration** — a time to enjoy music, good food, and great company. Please bring a favorite dish or treat to share. No alcohol. The Club will provide coffee (with spill-safe lids), paper plates, napkins, and flatware, but serving utensils are always welcome. We’re also looking for a few volunteers to help with setup and cleanup — thank you for helping us keep the space tidy and wrapping up on time.



- ◆ How to Sign Up: Add your name and dish to our online sign-up sheet (via link below) OR email **Monica Ambalal** at mambalal@hotmail.com and she’ll add your name for you.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OsJcJvfnlh3f434On2lifSrMuUuc4ZCIAiT8Fp0-nEI/edit?gid=1265002282#gid=1265002282>

In our **Holiday Jam Session** we will play from our Club’s Holiday Jam books. Please email us at info@sfaccordionclub.com if you wish to obtain a PDF copy in advance for practicing. Get ready, get set!



*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*

East Bay Piedmont Accordion Club Meeting Oktoberfest '25 Edition – October 19, 2025

By Ken Schwartz

October's Oktoberfest meeting was remarkably our 4th outing to the historic Piedmont High School Student Center building. It's our understanding this beautiful building was constructed in the late 1930's by the WPA (Works Project Administration), a New Deal agency. It features a full redwood ceiling and balcony and great acoustics. The meeting was well attended and enjoyed by all.



Mike Zampiceni led this month's Oktoberfest Jam Session with selections from the Club's Oktoberfest jam books and even sang to the songs, compiled by Robert and Elaine Cooperstein several years ago. Twelve of you participated in the live jam, in addition to our Zoom on-line participants. All enjoyed the festive spirit of the occasion!

During our meeting break time, featuring snacks and



Halloween treats, Club member **Duane Quenzel** entertained us with two sensational solos on his unique accordion: *Classical GAS*, by Mason Williams (Tommy Emmanuel arrangement); followed by The Beatles' *Eleanor Rigby*, Duane's arrangement.

Following the intermission, several people stepped up to solo.



Anand Joseph opened with 2 solos on his free bass accordion: *Chiquilin de Bachin* by Astor Piazzolla; and *Porz Goret* by Yann Tierser. Both were beautifully performed. **Scott Anderson**, in the spirit of Oktoberfest, performed *Für Elise* (Beethoven). Very nicely done, Scott! Next, **Roy Zheng** wowed us with thrilling, riveting renditions of two extremely challenging pieces: *Concertino in D* (Paul Norrback) followed by *Largo al factotum* (from Rossini's *Barber of Seville*). He placed 1st in his age group at this year's Leavenworth Accordion Festival. Roy has been studying with Reno DiBono and others for just 18 months; he previously studied piano, starting in the 4th grade! Thank you, Roy! Both Anand and Roy have recently joined the SFAC's Board of Directors and were difficult acts to follow, but **Ken Schwartz** bravely stepped up to play *In the Mood*, made famous by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, followed by a medley of polkas.



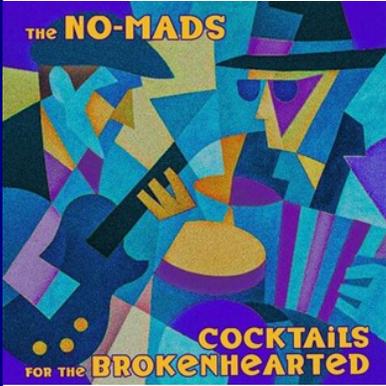
Reno Di Bono played the operatic favorite *Nessun dorma* (Puccini, *Turandot*) followed by an Argentine bossa nova, *O Barquinho*, and a jazzy *Pick Yourself Up!* (Jerome Kern, from the movie *Swing Time*) Thank you, Reno!

Finally, **Mike Zampiceni** rounded out the afternoon with his terrific renditions of *Serenata* (Leroy Anderson) and *Colonel Bogey March* (Kenneth J. Alford).

Thank you, everyone, who attended in-person and via Zoom to make our Oktoberfest meeting such a resounding success!



Note from SFAC Member Robert Kennedy



Faithful followers of my music know that my work with Ned Boynton has been one of my longest and most important collaborations. We have named our collaboration **The No-Mads**, and on November 7 of this year we officially released our album **Cocktails for the Brokenhearted!**

The album is available on Bandcamp as download, CD, and LP (<https://no-mads.bandcamp.com/album/cocktails-for-the-brokenhearted>) and is intended to be available on all the major streaming services as of the release date.

I'm very proud of what Ned and I, guest drummer Erik Cruze, and our production team have made. I look forward to hearing that you enjoy it, too! Watch this space for info on an upcoming album release event or two!

The No-Mads performed for the Club in June 2025.
It was a great meeting!

Editors' note: Upon laying out this column and seeing the beautiful CD artwork, Robert & Elaine could not resist just buying it for an instant listen! No regrets, it's really great!

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 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@sfaaccordionclub.com.



Membership Update

By Robert Cooperstein

We have now concluded our membership renewal drive for 2025-26. We are very grateful to those Club Members who renewed promptly, sparing us the tedium of sending out reminders. Several people have left the Bay Area and some have become involved in other accordion clubs now local to them; sadly, some members passed away.

Last year, the number of new members was very similar to the attrition rate. As of this writing, November 10, this is not likely to be repeated. We are currently 76% renewed; from previous experience, I would have expected 85%. It is puzzling to see among those whose membership has lapsed several names of people who had been quite involved in the SFAC. As a courtesy, we will send a link to our November newsletter to those whose membership has ended. If you are one of these individuals, and yet your intent was to remain in good standing, now is the time to take a few minutes to either renew or confirm you have decided to terminate your membership.

Accordion Ambassador Adventures

By Pamela Tom

Northern California accordion pros, Steve Albini and **Ron Borelli**, performed as “Dueling Accordions” on November 3rd at the 109th Anniversary celebration for Italian Community Services at the historic Club Fugazi in San Francisco’s North Beach neighborhood. The memorable evening also included singer Perry D’Andrea (Georgia’s Sinatra-style singer) and a live auction. Steve noted that “It was a wonderful evening.”



SFAC Members **Joseph Martin** (in red, above) and **Tseli Wu** (visor) went on the accordion tour hosted by Peter Le Geyt (UK representative for Petosa and Giulietti Accordions) and had an enjoyable visit in October to the accordion capital in Italy, Castelfidardo. They visited the **Castelfidardo Accordion Museum** and met Giancarlo Francenella, builder of the “Fisarmonica Gigante” (Giant Accordion), completed in 2001. This massive accordion weighs about 440 pounds and is playable. They took tours to several accordion companies, including the Bugari accordion factory (see group photo).



🎵 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, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Purucker, Duane Quenzel, Richard Rauschmeier, Shirley Roller, Tibor Sarkany, Kenneth Schwartz, John Sullivan, Georgia Sutherland, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, Carol Whitehead, 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.

Gig and Promotional Tips for Accordionists

By Ken Mahler



Ken Mahler (Mahler Music shop owner, accordion pro, teacher, repairman, appraiser, etc. of St. Paul, MN) offers insight and practical income generating tips for solo accordionists or small local bands. Ken's advice focuses on low-overhead, community-based, or scalable ideas. Ken Mahler's contact information: mahler@accordian.com, accordionheaven.com

Street Busking (Busker Permits): Perform in high-traffic pedestrian areas (with local permits). Use a sign with Venmo/PayPal QR codes. Peak times: weekends, festivals, tourist seasons. Earnings: \$50–\$300/day.

Private Events (Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays): Offer themed sets (French café, Italian folk, polka). Charge \$200–\$600 for 1–2 hours. Build a repertoire of 20–30 songs and market via local Facebook groups or Nextdoor.

Restaurant & Café Gigs: Partner with venues for weekly “dinner music” slots. Split tips + \$75–\$150 flat fee. Focus on non-amplified acoustic sets to keep costs low.

Senior Living & Retirement Communities: Monthly or bi-weekly shows. Charge \$100–\$250 per 45-minute set. Themes: 1940s–60s standards, sing-alongs. Build a circuit of 5–10 facilities.

Farmers' Markets & Craft Fairs: Book a booth or perform near entrances. Sell CDs/merch + tips. \$50–\$150 per market + merch sales.

Online Content & Virtual Tip Jars: Livestream on Twitch, YouTube, or Instagram (accordion covers, tutorials). Monetize via Super Chats, Patreon (\$5–\$20 tiers), or Ko-fi. Post 2–3x/week.

House Concerts: Host intimate shows in living rooms (10–20 guests). Charge \$15–\$25/ticket + homemade refreshments. Promote via local music Meetups.

Library & Community Center Workshops: Teach beginner accordion or “world music” classes. \$20–\$40/student for 4-week courses. Libraries often provide free space.

Seasonal Festivals & Cultural Events: Apply to polka fests, Oktoberfest, Bastille Day, or Italian heritage events. \$150–\$400 per appearance + merch booth.

Corporate & Holiday Parties: Offer roaming accordion for cocktail hours or themed holiday sets (Christmas carols, Hanukkah songs). \$300–\$800 for 1–3 hours via event planners or GigSalad.

Pro Tips to Scale:

- ◆ Create a one-page PDF rate sheet + 2-minute demo video.
- ◆ Use free tools: Bandcamp for digital sales, Canva for flyers, Square for card payments.
- ◆ Track gigs in a simple spreadsheet to follow up for repeat bookings.
- ◆ Local musician unions would also have a contract.

Many thanks to Pamela Tom for coordinating the SFAC's ability to provide this resource from Mr. Mahler!

SFAC members attending our September 21 meeting were offered gratis portraits, with or without their accordions, by Professional Photographer Ashley Thompson! (<https://www.athompsonphotography.com>) More to come in next newsletter!



Sports Basement Meetup Accordion Jam Session

- ◆ We received this invitation to the next **Sports Basement accordion jam session** from SFAC member Heidi Seretan. Several other SFAC members join in, so you are sure to see some friends there!

Hello Accordion Jammers!* We had such a fun time this month gathering to share a beer and play some Oktoberfest tunes — and we were thrilled to welcome two new musicians to our circle! It's always a joy to see the love of accordions spreading. You're invited to our next jam session and holiday party on Monday, December 15th at 4:30PM at the **Sports Basement**. It is at 1590 Bryant St., 5th floor. There is parking in the basement, enter on Florida St. Please bring something delicious to share, and feel free to invite friends! Non-accordionists are absolutely welcome — whether



Sports Basement, September 2025

they want to sing along, accompany us on another instrument; or just relax, enjoy the music, and have a glass of wine. We'll be celebrating the season with a Christmas/Hanukkah Jam, playing from our holiday songbook:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y1cavcuWmSlnAPn4g45KwK3HMOph0Dd/view?usp=sharing>.

Let me know if you'd like a printed copy!

RSVP heidiseretan@gmail.com so we can plan accordingly. Can't wait to see you there!

Best,
Heidi Seretan



San Diego Accordion Extravaganza & Band Camp

Kim and Dan Christian will be conducting **Squeeze Play** in San Diego, May 13-16, 2026. The event involves three days of in-depth rehearsals focusing on articulation and genre specific performance techniques, with open mic evenings. It will be capped off by the **Accordion Extravaganza Concert** on Saturday, May 16. Lodging is available at the event hotel: Days Inn by Wyndham, San Diego Hotel Circle. For further information, contact Kim and Dan via SqueezePlay.biz, or (719) 459-2061.

SFAC Members' Directory

To help build community, we plan to compile a members' contact directory, available to SFAC members only, inclusion in which is purely optional. A request for you to opt-in or opt-out of the directory was mailed with the annual dues notice. Once created, the directory will be shared among all those who opted in.

For security reasons this directory will be distributed in a print edition only.

You may email info@sfacaccordionclub.com if you have not returned the paper form with your dues payment. The only information we will need from you is your intention to opt-in or opt-out, as well as which of the following contact information you are willing to share: first name, last name, email address, phone number, social media (Facebook, Insta, YouTube, X, website, etc.), full residential address or city/state only.

The plan is to distribute the printed Club directory early in 2026.

Accordion Happenings

◆ National Accordion Association Conference 2026

March 18-21, 2026

TownePlace Suites by Marriott - Forney, TX

www.accordions.com/naa

◆ 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

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 2025-26 that your fellow SFAC members may be interested in, please contact us at info@sfaccordionclub.org



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smytheaccordion@gmail.com



Rare Opportunity!

Pancordion played by Myron Floren during the 1960 Season of the Welk Show. Later owned and maintained by his sister, Val Floren Brewer.

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Contact Jan Brewer for more details: (916) 987-1727

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www.AccordionInfo.com

Email: Paul@AccordionInfo.com



Ron Borelli
Accordionist

Supporting the
San Francisco Accordion Club

Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM

TEXT/PHONE (415)203-6700



These folks were thankful for accordions!

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

- ◆ 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)
- ◆ Pamela Tom* accordionpam@gmail.com (Davis)

* = remote lessons (Zoom, Facetime) available



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- 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

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



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, drcoop@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

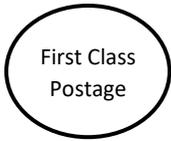
Live Meeting Sound & Amplification: Paul Cain

Live Meeting Zoom Camera & Sound: Ken Schwartz

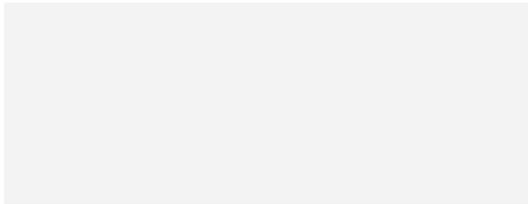
Membership: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia





FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ *November* **NO MEETING** –HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- ◆ *December 14 [Second Sunday]* Accordion Circle—Holiday Edition - Millbrae [See p. 1 for details]
- ◆ *January 25, 2026* Brother & Sister Duo, Adam & Emma Dohner, Accordion & Violin - Millbrae

Sunday, December 14

Holiday Accordion Circle

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Second Sunday in December

\$10 members / \$15 non-members
Youth free with parent
-Exact change appreciated-

Come join us for fun and great music!
 BYOS (bring your own music stand!)
 SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email
 See December email for details, or
 contact info@sfaccordionclub.com

SFAC MEMBER TO-DO LIST:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sign up for the December potluck (see page 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Be sure your 2025-26 dues have been paid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Be sure you've opted-in-or-out of the members' directory (see page 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Notify us if you've decided not to renew your membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request a holiday jam book PDF to practice the holiday tunes (see page 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Get ready for some holiday squeezing on December 14! |