

February, 2021



Sunday, February 21, 2021

♪ ♪ **SFAC ACCORDION CIRCLE!** ♪ ♪

ONLINE-ONLY MUSICAL GATHERING

VIA ZOOM - 2:00 PM

SFAC MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE ZOOM LINK VIA EMAIL
from KENNETH.E.SCHWARTZ@GMAIL.COM



Our February meeting will return to our traditional small, informal Accordion Circle format, which will be totally open mic and virtual via [zoom](#).

Please come armed with your accordions and eager to put your names on the play-list as soloists to play a tune or two! Simply send an email to [Ken Schwartz](#) that you would like to play a song or two (about 5-8 minutes of performance time). Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome – from beginners to seasoned experts, and everything in-between.

And, if you don't play the accordion, join in anyway and cheer the players on. Regrettably, there will be no jam session due to the limitation of an internet-based meeting.



You will need a [zoom](#) meeting link, which members will receive via email from Ken Schwartz. We hope you'll also want to play a piece or two, so please also note whether you would like to be on the playlist to perform.



January Event Summary

By Paul Cain

Our January event welcomed the New Year with very special performances by two of the Club's scholarship recipients and the dynamic Creosote Accordion Duo. again ably emceed by our own **Colette Ogata**.

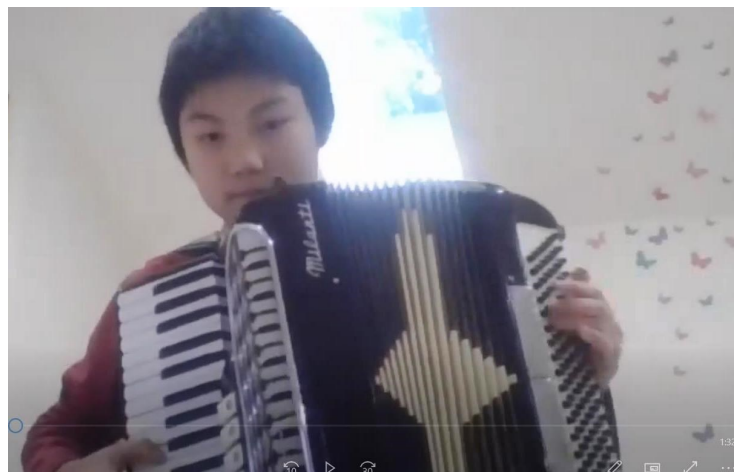
Colin Kennedy, age 10, with his red Scandalli, was introduced by his teacher, **Mike Zampiceni**. Colin started playing the accordion at age 8, less than two years ago, after having first started piano instruction. He was smitten with the accordion after he attended the 2019 Cotati festival, and even had a chance to meet Cory



Pesaturo, who has become Colin's musical idol. Mike started working with Colin just a year ago and recommended him for a scholarship from our club, which he received recently. Colin beautifully performed *Gypsy Polka*, followed by *Parade of Clowns* (composed and published by Mike's late father, Joseph Zampiceni). Colin has progressed rapidly in his skills and technique under Mike's guidance, even since his performance last October! Well done, Colin! Please keep up the great work; we're looking forward to your return!

Siyuan Donnelly, with his black Milanti, has been studying with Mike Zampiceni since he was 5 years old, and now at the advanced age of nearly 11, he's currently working on selections from Palmer-Hughes book 9 of a 10-book course. Mike entered him in the Cotati student competition when he was only 6, and he was one of two award recipients. Siyuan has competed each subsequent year thereafter, receiving scholarship awards each time. Siyuan beautifully performed 3 pieces, including: *Medley of Strauss Waltzes*, *Washington Post March*, and finally, a difficult rendition of *Dark Eyes* from Palmer-Hughes book 8.

Siyuan's accordion style has matured significantly since his last appearance. Well done, Siyuan! Many thanks for your wonderful performance! We look forward to your return again!



Continued on next page ...

January Event Summary — continued from page 2

CREOSOTE is the accordion duo of **Jamie Maschler** and **Gabe Hall-Rodrigues**. Together they play a dynamic array of original and world music.

Jamie Maschler is based in Seattle, where she studied accordion under three-time Latin Grammy nominee Jovino Santos Neto at Cornish College of the Arts. Brazilian culture inspires her current projects.

Gabe Hall-Rodrigues is an Arizona-native accordionist, pianist and vocalist currently residing in Seattle. He began playing the piano at age 7 and quickly realized his love for music and performing. In 2010, after only studying the accordion for a year, Gabe won the American Accordionists' Association's Virtuoso Solo Competition. Gabe has been teaching privately for over 10 years and, in 2016, became Music Director for Gateway Academy, a private school for K-12 students on the autism spectrum.



Gabe Hall-Rodrigues & Jamie Maschler on Petosa instruments

The duo performed an eclectic mix of Brazilian tunes, all intricately and flawlessly performed, in duet no less, and even included original compositions by both Gabe and Jamie, as well as accompanying vocals by them for several of the songs.



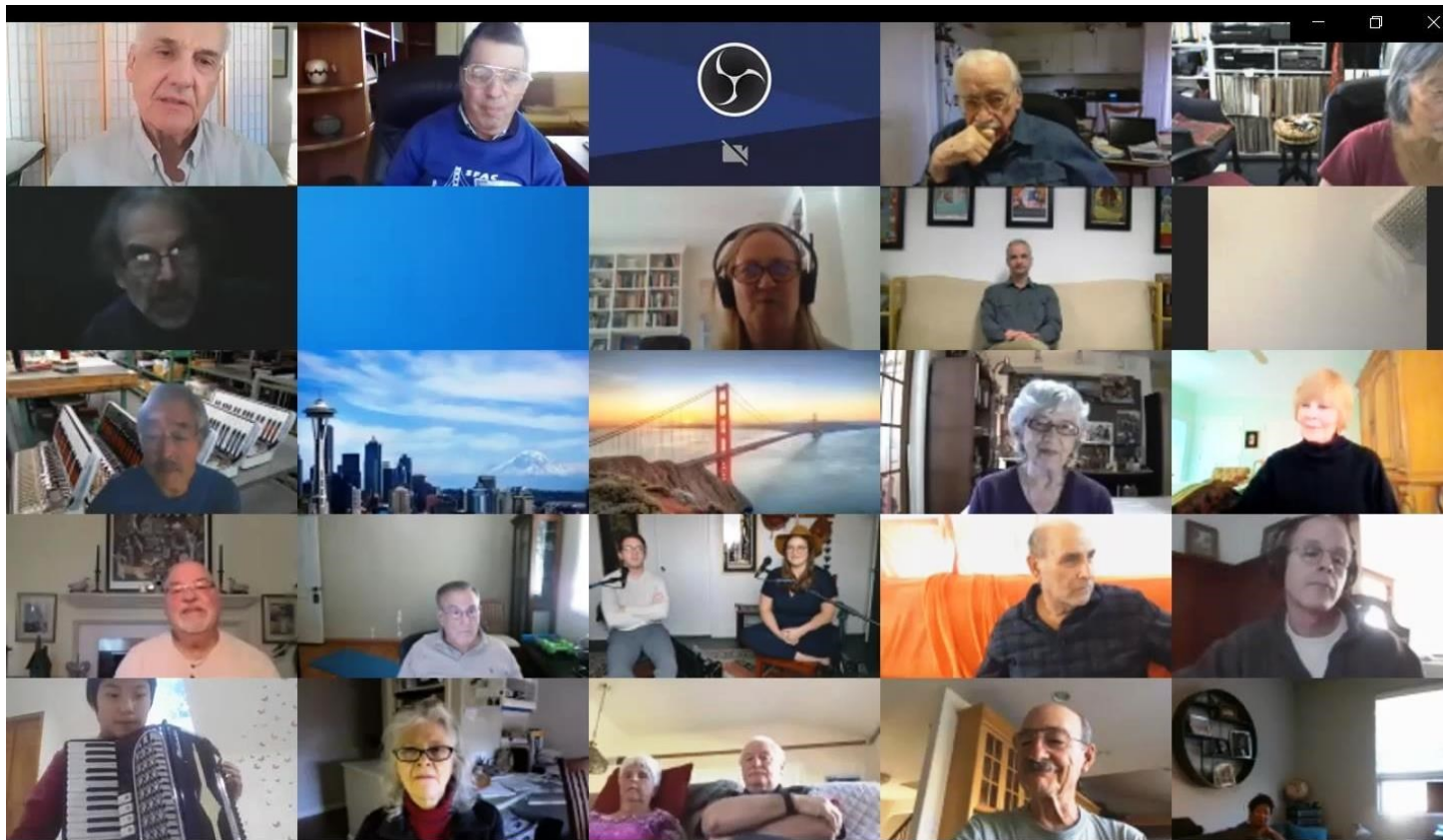
The duo performed an amazing series of duets, including: *Gateado* by Bebé Kramer; *Forró medley, Canhoto* by Camarão; *Sem Segredo* by Camarão; *Forró em Rolândia* by Dominginhos; *Jeito Barroco* by Oswaldinho; *Rua do Farol* by Gabriel Hall-Rodrigues; *Creoxote* by Jamie Maschler; *Forró Tema* by Camarão; *Te Faço Cafuné* by Dominginhos; *Festejos* by Camarão; *Dominginhos de Bombacha* by Bebé Kramer; *Alaska* by Jamie Maschler and Gabriel Hall-Rodrigues; and *Velho Zé* by Paulinho Fagundes. Creosote's performance was awesome! Many thanks, Jamie and Gabe!

Again, many thanks to Colin, Siyuan, Jamie and Gabe for a marvelous afternoon of great musical entertainment. Your performances demonstrated, yet once again, how dynamic and versatile is our favorite instrument!

Paul

Faces of the SFAC

January ZOOM Event



Event Reviews:

Volunteers are *very much* needed to assist with the monthly event summaries. This is a great opportunity to express your creative writing skills while assisting your club! Please volunteer to write up a meeting review for an upcoming newsletter.

Please contact Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

"Accordion Star International 2021" Virtual Contest/Festival, April 2021



Accordion Star International 2021 (ASI 2021), the first US international **online** festival/competition, is a unique opportunity for young and adult talented accordionists from all over the world to showcase their art to a wide audience of music lovers, professional musicians, show business representatives and producers from around the world. The festival aims to promote and develop the performing arts, popularize the accordion as a concert musical instrument, as well as acquire new connections and open unlimited opportunities in a wide circle of accordion lovers around the world. In addition to the competitive program, the festival will feature concert performances, master classes, interviews and presentations by members of the jury and guests of the festival.

An international jury includes leading world-class performers, teachers, composers, conductors, producers from the USA, Canada, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Italy, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Scotland, France, Israel, South Africa and more. President of the jury is Vyacheslav Semenov, Russia. The jury will name the winners in 11 categories (including Bach Music Award, Accordion Star 37+ years) and age groups. Prizes for winners will be awarded. All **ASI 2021** competitors will be awarded diplomas for their participation in the competition indicating the average score and position in **ASI 2021**'s world ranking.

Join **Accordion Star International 2021** on Facebook and YouTube on April 16-25, 2021. The detailed program and schedule of the competition will be published on the **ASI 2021** Facebook page. Competitors should upload their video to YouTube, pay a fee and apply by April 7, 2021. The president of the festival is Sergei Teleshev (USA), winner of international competitions.

For further details, contact Sergei via: accostarfest@gmail.com



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SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

RON BORELLI *San Mateo* - RonBorelli@aol.com
www.ronborelli.com

RICHARD DENIER *Carmel* - rjd.denier@gmail.com

PETER DI BONO *San Francisco* www.peterdibono.com

RENO DI BONO *South Bay* - ourhike@aol.com
www.italianaccordion.com

JOE DOMITROWICH *South Bay*

www.alpinersusa.com

or www.capricious-accordion.com

ED GORZYNSKI, JR. *East Bay* - edspolkas@yahoo.com

IL DUETTO MUSICA (aka Paul Aebersold & Gloria Gazave)

mazurkaman@yahoo.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Il-Duetto-Musica-992981207392410/>

ROBERT KENNEDY

robertkennedymusic.com

missionhotclub.com

TANGONERO (Alexander Roitman)

www.tangonero.com

PAMELA TOM *Yolo & Solano Counties*
accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI *East Bay & South Bay*
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www.mikezamp.com

Accordion getting heavy?

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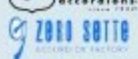
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JOEL WEBER (510) 655-4398

<https://joelstbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/>

MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579 MikeZamp.com

A Brief Guide About Slow Practice

By Gary Dahl (written some time ago)

I decided when I started teaching thirty seven years ago that each student would be required to demonstrate “slow practice tempos” in selected sections of a piece assigned a week earlier. At first, these tempos are extremely slow, rather like slow-motion and gradually increase only when the skill level is ready. I have never regretted this decision, because it has produced many confident, satisfied accordionists. What are the benefits of this kind of practice?

- A. The student actually learns the piece **faster**, because the brain has the time to read the correct notes, time values, dynamics, etc.
- B. Performance slips are greatly reduced (a slip is not a mistake) A mistake is playing the same wrong notes at every performance, while an occasional slip is human.
- C. Slow practice eliminates practice mistakes. Why should we practice a mistake? Not too logical, is it?
- D. Control, especially on fast rhythmic pieces is much more secure. This is especially true on long scale-like passages.
- E. Because dynamics are exaggerated at slow practice, they retain their color at tempo.
- F. Slow practice and many repetitions of short passages are essential to increase learning speed and eliminate mistakes.

There are many more points I could list, but these are the basics. Together with slow practice, there are many practice techniques to include: another article will explore this arena. Occasionally my students think I am some sort of wizard because I can tell immediately if they have not done their slow practice. If it is a new or fairly new piece, the fingers are searching everywhere for the notes. Slow practice will enable you to learn quickly while fast practice will produce very slow results and usually none at all. Slow practice is not particularly “fun”, but it is part of the discipline we refer to when we talk about “studying the accordion.” I tell my students I am not asking them to practice slowly because it is fun...it can be boring. You have to “bleed a little” or “pay the price” to realize the exciting benefits. You can’t learn the accordion in your sleep.



Newsletter Contributions Needed

The newsletter staff would like to invite club members to help us put out our monthly newsletter, which is more important than ever as our club’s membership becomes more diverse, with new members joining up from all over the country! It’s something that binds us together while we are still limited to virtual musical programs.

We know that SFAC members spend varying parts of every day immersed in accordion culture, attending musical events, fixing their accordions, reading about accordion history, sharing tips with other accordion aficionados about practicing, playing and performing accordion music, and creating a setup for going virtual with their playing. Many of you, whether you realize it or not, are writing little articles in your head everyday, but don’t realize how easy it would be to upload your thoughts to our newsletter staff!

Articles should not exceed 800 words, or less taking into account photos being included. Other submissions might be half of that, or even less for simple announcements of various kinds. Our team can clean up little errors and get your contribution in publishable form, so don’t hesitate to give it a shot – we can help!

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Leavenworth International Accordion

Northwest Accordion Society

June 17 - 20, 2021

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"

www.accordioncelebration.org

Elena Fainshtein—Light classical AND Pop

Not Just OOM-PAH! Online Workshops & Concert

Monday & Tuesday Feb. 22-23, 5:00—7:30 pm Pacific

Registration www.NotJustOompah.org (\$65 incl. materials)

Elena & Gregory Fainshtein - Facebook concert

Sunday, February 21, 2021, 1:00-2:00 pm Pacific

<https://www.facebook.com/elena.fainshtein.5>

Squeezeplay Concert of the Month Club

Kim & Dan Christian

Enroll at: <https://squeezeplay.samcart.com/products/squeeze-play-concert-of-the-month-club/>

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*The San Francisco Accordion Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization 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 or by mailing your contribution to the SFAC Treasurer, Elaine Cooperstein, 539 Elsie Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577*

SFAC — Looking Ahead!

- ◆ **February 21, 2021**
SFAC Accordion Circle! Member participation
 - ◇ Open mic
 - ◇ via ZOOM
- ◆ **March 21, 2021**
SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring (via Zoom)—
 - ◆ **Kim & Dan Christian**
- ◆ **April 18, 2021**
Accordion Circle! Member participation
 - ◇ Open mic
 - ◇ via ZOOM
- ◆ **May 16, 2021**
TBD

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Area Accordion Groups/Clubs

Most clubs are on hiatus or meeting virtually (online). Check each club's website and/or club contacts for meeting schedules

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

Contact: Tony Mustaro, President

(707) 318-0474, dcdacapo@gmail.com

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

Humboldt Accordionaires

humsqueez44@yahoo.com

Napa Valley Accordion Party

gbachich@accordionrevival.com

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Sacramento Jammers

accordiondave1@gmail.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

www.svasociety.org

William Schimmel to Present His New “Tributaries” on YouTube

Adapted from source materials by Pamela Tom

“TRIBUTARIES,” a set of seven pieces that explore the accordion in all facets, moods and styles composed by William Schimmel, D.M.A. will be performed by Dr. Schimmel in a series of 7 separate 1-hour concerts live via YouTube on: February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, and 20 from 3-4 PM EST (Noon to 1 PM Pacific Time). A tributary can have many things - small rivers flowing into large rivers, composer tributes, sprays of references from all accordion history fusing with the history of western - and in some cases - eastern music: 1. *Flow*, 2. *Tributes I*, 3. *Collide*, 4. *Calm*, 5. *Estuary*, 6. *Current*, and 7. *Tributes II*. Reservation and PayPal information are posted at: www.facebook.com/william.schimmel. Suggested donation \$15 or what is affordable. You can reach Dr. Schimmel at: accordionbill@gmail.com.

Otto Luening (American composer and conductor) told Dr. Schimmel: “You’re doing what Liszt and Busoni were doing in the 19th Century but in a contemporary way.” Dr. Schimmel decided to call his works “Realities” instead of “Fantasies”.

Dr. Schimmel recently curated a week-long event “Accordion Mixology” at Lincoln Center where his compositions, writings and recordings are being archived along with his video collaborations by his wife, Micki Goodman.

Dubbed “The World’s Greatest Accordionist” by National Public Radio, his collaborations range from Tom Waits, Sting, Elliott Sharp, Wynton Marsalis, Berio and Leopold Stokowski who conducted his music. He has performed with the New York Philharmonic for 45 years as well as the Met, every contemporary music group in New York and symphonies throughout the world. Schimmel wrote numerous scores for theater and film and is seen most famously as the accordionist in the acclaimed movie “Scent of a Woman.” His annual seminar series, celebrating 27 years, cover an array of styles, combinations, and angles. He is founder of “The Tango Project” (Stereo Review Album of the Year and #1 on the Billboard Charts) which has helped ignite the worldwide resurgence of the tango. He holds BM, MS and DMA degrees from Juilliard.



My Punny Valentine



New SFAC Member Profile

Laura Niland

Laura Niland is an outstanding and dedicated accordionist and leader in North America's accordion community. She began accordion lessons in 1962 with former Accordionists and Teachers Guild International (ATG) President, Tony Rozance. She is director and lead accordionist of the Yellow Rose Accordion Band, formed in 2013, specializing in eclectic accordion music. She is president of the San Antonio Accordion Association and editor of the SAAA newsletter, "Bellow Tones." During 2020-21 she has held SAAA meetings on ZOOM.

Nationally Laura serves as a board member for Accordion Renaissance, a Virginia-based non-profit; chair of the Education and Access Committee for the North American Accordion Collaborative; and member of the Accordionists and Teachers Guild International (ATG) Accordion Youth Summit Committee, led by Joe Natoli (ATG Past President). She was a consultant for the National Accordion Association from 1994 to the 2017 and was the 2016 NAA convention coordinator. She is also a member of the American Accordion Association and of numerous accordion clubs throughout the country.



In 2017 Laura Jean Niland and Shirley Johnson co-founded **Not Just Oompah!** (notjustoompah.org) which hosts accordion workshops and concerts. The NJO motto is "Music that entertains, educates and inspires every audience." The next NJO concert, with Elena and Gregory Fainshtein will be on Feb.20, 2021. A NJO workshop on "Light Classical & Pop" will be presented by Elena on Feb. 22-23, 2021.

Laura earned a B.A. in Mathematics and Earth Science and an M.A.T. in Mathematics from St Mary's University in San Antonio, TX. She retired in 2008 as an outstanding high school educator. She taught basic high school mathematics to AP Statistics and AP Calculus for 34 years, and served 4 years as Math Dean. Additionally, she presented local, regional and national workshops for secondary mathematics teachers on various topics including: graphing calculator, statistics, trigonometry, geometry, Science-Math relationships, student projects, etc. She was presented the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan, and has received numerous additional national awards.



Membership Update *by Robert Cooperstein, Membership Director*

SFAC members, join me in welcoming our two newest members! Joe Sluga resides in Parachute, Colorado – a pretty good-looking town, if you ask me! He says he “was a student of Angelo Sparacino at Figone Music in Willow Glen, CA 1964-67;



competed with Mike Zampiceni in those days.” Our other new member, Judi Engel lives a lot closer to the home of the SFAC, in Half Moon Bay, another stunningly picturesque town!

Thank You, Donors!

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. We would like to thank the following members who have made donations during our current membership year October 2020 - September 2021.

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott T. Anderson, John Baylo, Anthony Bologna, Dave Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Gail Campanella, Stephanie Capodanno, Raymond Celentano, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Richard Denier, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Dominic Granelli, Gus & Sharon Greyhosky, Ron & Mary Harris, Carlyn & Janet Jensen, Jerry Keifer, Christina Knapp, Franco & Susan and Lorenzo Lucchesi, Michael A. Marotta, Jr., Sharon Marotte, James Monfredini, Anna Nicora, Gisele B. Oakes, Colette Ogata, Robert & Dil Pisani, Michael Sanossian, Tibor Sarkany, Don & Mary Savant, Jeanine Savello, Ken Schwartz, Joe Simoni, Georgia Sutherland, Pamela Tom, Bill & Gloria Tapogna, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, Barbie Wong, Mike Zampiceni, & Marlen Zhagel

If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized.

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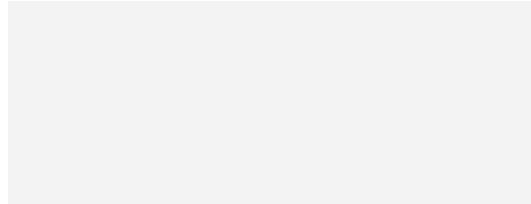
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Members may place one small ad (business-card size) free of charge for one month, once a year. Additional ads are \$10/issue or \$100/year. Monthly ad prices **for members**:

1/4-page: \$25; 1/2-page: \$50; Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



3rd Sundays – Monthly Musical Meetings

SFAC Sunday Meeting

SFAC Accordion Circle!

Online Musical Gathering

Members' performances

Sunday, February 21 - 2:00 pm

Join us for fun and great music!

Online Accordion Circle

Watch email for **ZOOM** link

RSVP Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

