

June, 2020



♪♪ Virtual Accordion Circle ♪♪

Online-only performances via internet

Sunday, June 21, 2020

via Zoom

2:00 pm

Please email Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com to request the Zoom link and to sign up for the playlist.

June's SFAC get-together will be a virtual (Zoom) internet meeting on **Sunday, June 21st at 2:00 pm PDT** and will be in small, informal **Accordion Circle** format. It will be totally "open mic," so please come armed with your accordions and eager to put your names on the playlist as soloists to play a tune or two.

Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome – from beginners to seasoned experts, and anyone in-between. And, if you don't play the accordion, come anyway and cheer the players on.

Much as we would like, there will be no jam session, due to technical limitations of an internet-based meeting.

Again, June's meeting will be on Zoom only; we will not meet in person. We hope you will be interested in joining the playlist to perform or alternatively, to join in via Zoom.

Please email Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com (Ken Schwartz) to request the Zoom instructions and whether you would be interested in playing for the Circle.

The following SFAC members and guests have already contacted Ken to sign up for the June playlist! We hope you will sign up, too!

Paul Aebersold

Paul Cain

Reno Di Bono

Dima Oliinychenko

Don Savant

Ken Schwartz

*Pamela Tom**

*Special guests, brothers Andrew & Jason Wu**

** See biographies on page 2*

Pre-scheduled performers for June Accordion Circle

Andrew Wu

Andrew Wu was born in 2003 in the US, and lived with his grandparents in Chengdu, a capital city in Sichuan



Province in China before he turned 7-years old. After coming back to the US from China in 2010, he had to study English very hard to catch up with his classmates in his elementary school. He started to learn piano in 2011 when he was 8. He started to take accordion lessons in 2014 when he turned 11 from his grandfather, Shouzhi Wu, a retired accordion professor in Sichuan Conservatory of Music, China and a former president of the Chinese Accordion Association (<http://www.accordions.com/wushouzhi/>)

In November 2016, Andrew was invited as a first youth accordion player participating in the American Fine Arts Festival at Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall in New York City when he was 13 years old. Andrew was the first Chinese accordion player who played accordion at Carnegie Hall. After years of learning, Andrew competed and won numerous superior awards in his age group.

Jason Wu

Jason was born and raised in a musician family, and like his brother, is receiving accordion instruction from his grandfather Shouzhi Wu (see above). Jason started to



learn piano when he was 6 years old and has won numerous rewards since he was 7-years old. He just started learning accordion since September 2019 when he was 8. He would like to follow his brother, Andrew's path of learning Accordion. He also loves singing and has a perfect pitch.

Pamela Tom

Pamela Tom is a solo accordionist who has performed across California. She has a versatile repertoire touching upon multiple genres from French musettes, European, Latin, Beatles, and standards. She has appeared at numerous public



events in Davis and Sacramento. At the beginning of 2020 she was on the programs of the Accordion Lovers Society International in San Diego, and Accordion Club of the Redwoods in Petaluma. In recent years she has been on call for the Davis Farmers Market which suspended entertainment until April 2021 due to Covid-19. Her last gig involved seven outdoor venues (in 86°F weather) at Atria Covell Gardens, a senior assisted facility where she has been invited for the past several years to entertain the residents. Pam is an Academic Coordinator Emerita in the Department of Food Science and Technology at University of California, Davis. She teaches beginning accordion. She also takes accordion lessons via SKYPE with Maestro Lou Jacklich (San Lorenzo, CA).



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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.

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May Event Summary

by Ken Schwartz

May's virtual meeting featured extremely talented member-performers who so ably demonstrated their musical skills and wonders of the accordion before an extended virtual audience. Equally able, **Colette Ogata** served as our gracious emcee.



Gail Campanella



Santa Barbara based accordion virtuoso **Gail Campanella** has performed numerous times for us and is always a special treat; our May event was no exception. Gail last performed for us in March of 2018 when she was hosted by her very dear friend, Lynn Ewing. Gail paid tribute to Lynn and noted their special friendship which spanned decades; Gail would always stay with the Ewings during her previous club visits.



Gail performed *Die Spieluhr (The Music Box)* (Carl Heins - Arr Joe Natoli), a delightful piece which perfectly reflects its title. Next, she performed Astor Piazzolla's famous *Adios Nonino* (Frank Marocco arrangement), which he wrote in tribute to his late father. Next was a piece new to many of us: her thrilling version of *10Km After Finestrino* (Luiano Fancelli) (Italian for *10Km Through the Window of the Train*), inspired by a long train ride, including a whistle and train sound effects. Thanks for the musical choo-choo ride, Gail! Next was *Perles de Cristal* (Georges Hamel). Gail finished her terrific performance today with an appropriate encore to reflect these challenging times: *You'll Never Walk*

Alone (Rodgers and Hammerstein, from the musical "Carousel"). There was nary a dry eye in the virtual house when she finished! Thank you, Gail, for a thrilling performance!

Mike Zampiceni



Accordion virtuoso and tenor singer Mike Zampiceni has also performed for the club numerous times, and we are so fortunate to have him as a member! Mike's performances always demonstrate his virtuosity as an accordionist and accomplished singer. He opened with a zippy *Fly Me to the Moon*, followed by *Midnight Sun*, and a piece new to many of us: *Quick Silver*, a very fast novelty song composed by Pietro Deiro. Indeed it was quick! He then followed with a frenetic *Tico Tico* (Mike's adage: *Better fast than half fast*). Continuing the Latin theme, Mike performed *St. Thomas, A Samba*, followed by an audience request for *España Cañí* (Marquina), and a beautiful medley of Latin songs familiar to many, including *Brazil*, *Cumana*, and *El Cumbanchero*. Mike finished with *Beer Barrel Polka*, which he also sang (as did someone in the virtual audience). As an aside, Mike acknowledged knowing over 700 songs! Thank you, Mike, for a thrilling performance!



Siyuan Donnelly

Siyuan started playing accordion at age 4 while attending pre-school in Shanghai. Since moving to California at age 5, he's been fortunate to study with his wonderful teacher, Mike Zampiceni. Siyuan was first in-



Continued on next page ...

May Event Review (Continued from previous page)

roduced to the club by Mike and played for us way back in July, 2016 at the tender age of 6; he recently turned 10. Colette wondered how much time he carves out of his school days for practice? Answer: 1 hour/day and a bit more on weekends.



Today, on a program with seasoned virtuosos, Siyuan demonstrated how much he's achieved in a short period of time. He opened with a peppy *Perhaps Perhaps Perhaps*, followed by a terrific rendition of *Turkish Rondo* (Mozart), the tango *La Cumparsita*, an original Stas Venglevski composition *Summer Sunshine*, and finally an energetic kick-up-your-heals *Hungarian Dance No. 5* (Brahms). Beautifully done, Siyuan, with so much finesse and poise! It's testimony to all your hard work, practicing and exercises. Please come back soon!

Lou Jacklich

Colette introduced **Lou Jacklich**. Colette has known Lou, basically "forever!" She first met him when she was all of 17 years old and had joined his accordion band of about 25 students in Hayward, along with Casey Ogata, who later became her husband! The band played together for 2 years.



Mr. Jacklich has been performing for over 75 years!! His only profession has been "Accordionist" with good reason – he's that talented! His playing remains ageless. He even does his own arrangements. Even now, Lou continues to learn and go strong and teaches 20 - 25 students weekly.



Today, Lou thrilled us with the classic American composition, *Grand Canyon Suite* (Ferde Grofé), complete with harmonica-like tremolos; and his own arrangement of a tribute to George Gershwin, a medley including *Rhapsody in Blue* and snippets from other famous Gershwin hits. Next was one of this writer's favorite Jacklich pieces, another American classic – *Holiday for Strings* (composed by David Rose, it was the theme song for the Red Skelton TV show), which Mr. Jacklich performed effortlessly (there are few single notes; it's mostly written in fast, 5-fingered [pizzicato](#) chords and soaring melodies). Then he performed *Grenada* (Lara), *Malagueña* (Lecuona) and as an encore, *Misty*. It was a tour de force for this virtuoso accordionist! Thank you so much, Lou!

Thanks to Gail, Mike, Siyuan, Lou and Colette! Please congratulate them for making today's program such a resounding success!

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SFAC – Looking Ahead!

- **June 21, 2020**
Accordion Circle, participation meeting
- **July 19, 2020**
SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring—
 - ◆ **Adrian Jost/Bandoneon**
<http://www.triogarufa.com/>
 - ◆ **Gary Blair**
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 MARIAN KELLY (650) 954-3711
 JOE SIMONI (650) 867-1122
 PAMELA TOM (530 AREA) accordionpam@gmail.com
 JOEL WEBER (510) 655-4398
 MIKE ZAMPICINI (408) 569-2579 MikeZamp.com

Robert Cooperstein,

Membership Director's Report

The SFAC has been adding new members this year at an unprecedented rate – so far 12 members in less than 6 months! When I made the other members of the Board aware of this, Ken commented back "Wow! We must be doing something right!". We could not agree more. Our newest two members are **Pia Chamberlain** (San Jose, CA) and **Terrie Frankel** (Sedona, Arizona). Terrie is one of the original Doublemint Twins from the 1960s.

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Guest Artist: Joan Cochran Sommers

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 - ✓ Open mic and jam session every night
 - ✓ Final public concert at Theater (Jan 16)

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This retreat is designed for the serious accordion ensemble musicians. Limited number (**maximum of 35 accordionists-availability** on a 1st come, 1st serve basis). Contact Megumi to participate in the retreat and secure your spot.



Our good friend and SFAC member **Barbara Winter** sent us a nice donation after receiving a Zoom invite to our May virtual program. She called it an "entrance participation fee", but we just call it a lovely donation since there was no actual fee for joining in! Barbara complimented all the performers and wished that all of us stay well. Thanks Barbara, and you too!



For more information contact Megumi (Meg) Hada, meghada33@gmail.com



AAA Master Class and Concert Series (The Seminars) Go Virtual

By Pamela Tom

Dr. William Schimmel, DMA, is offering his 26th annual 3-day Master Class and Concert Series (**The Seminars**) this summer for the first time via the Internet. The Seminars, sponsored by the American Accordionists' Association (**AAA**), is dedicated to the exploration and establishment of an accordion culture. During July 31 - August 2, 2020 the Master Class/Lecture is at 12:00 noon (PDT) and the Concert is at 1-2 PM (PDT). The cost is \$25/1 hour segment, \$40 daily or \$110 for all three days. This year's theme is "Time Travel: Past, Present and Future, An Accordion Odyssey." To register, visit: <http://www.ameraccord.com/annualmasterclass.php>

Dr. Schimmel is regarded as "The World's Greatest Accordionist" by National Public Radio, "Gotham's Happy Warrior of the Accordion" by The New Yorker Magazine, and "The World's Most Important Accordionist" by Accordion Star Magazine. He is best known for his hit recordings with The Tango Project, number one on the Band Board Charts and for winning the Stereo Review Album of the Year Award as well as a Grammy nomination.

Among his prestigious awards he received a Composers' Citation from the AAA in honor of his composition, "The Spring Street Ritual," which was the test piece for the 1979 Coupe Mondiale World Competition. He received The Confederations' International Association Merit Award for his contributions as a composer, performer and philosopher on the international accordion scene. He received a Merit Award from the AAA for his contributions spanning fifty years, plus the "Accordionist of the Year" Award in 1988.

Dr. Schimmel is a phenomenal career accordionist with three degrees (Bachelor, Master and Doctorate) from the Julliard School. He works in New York City also as a composer, author and lecturer. He is credited as one of the principal architects in the resurgence of the accordion, and the revival of the tango in America. He and his band performed "Por Una Cabeza" in the movie, "Scent of a Woman" starring Al Pacino (https://youtu.be/F2zTd_YwTvo).

Source: <http://www.billschimmel.com/bio.htm>

PRACTICE TIP #2: PRACTICE NOTES

by Joe Domitrowich

www.capricious-accordion.com



When you have difficulty with a particular passage in a song, annotate the sheet music and, if on paper, place it in a bound or loose-leaf notebook. If you are playing by ear and the song has lyrics, you can annotate next to the lyrics that correspond to the trouble spot. At your next practice session, refrain (no pun intended) from playing the complete selection until you have first reviewed your notes to recall – even practice, if necessary - the troublesome parts needing your attention.

Your notes might remind you of a difficult passage or unusual fingering or a number of other things. Perhaps you repeatedly run out of bellows air and find yourself changing bellow direction on a long note or chord hold, or in the middle of a fast run of notes. Or you might be working on the song's dynamics.

As another example, you might be having difficulty with a roadmap issue on a song you are memorizing. By 'roadmap', I am referring to the prescribed sequence of the parts or sections of a composition or arrangement as you progress through the selection, e.g. repeats, endings, etc. You might forget to deploy a register switch change or a midi sound sample library patch change at a designated point in the arrangement. You might even get off to a false start by neglecting to make the correct setup before you begin the song. Yes, this too is a mistake.

In fact, if you are playing a midi instrument with a multitude of prospective settings, it's especially important to annotate your charts or your performance song list with the correct preset numbers to begin each song. It is disruptive to your live performance when you audibly verify or search for the correct starting setting prior to playing each of the songs in your program. And, this is one of the most difficult things to remember because in practice, you typically set up each song only once even through you might practice the song multiple times successively. It is helpful in your practice session, therefore, to repeat the setup each time you play the complete song from the beginning.

By identifying and documenting your trouble spots in a practice progress notebook, or in your iPad chart, and reviewing them in advance of beginning to play each song in your practice session, you will anticipate the trouble spot and approach it fully prepared vs. playing headlong into it and repeating the same old mistakes, only to remind yourself afterward that a particular spot needs more work. In the latter case, you will have played it yet one more time incorrectly, unwittingly reinforcing incorrect playing. If you do that consistently at each practice session, it should be no surprise when you make the same mistake in a live performance. After all, that's exactly how you practiced it; you have in effect "practiced in" your mistake! (Have you ever mused after a live performance, "I can't believe I made that mistake again despite how often I practiced to avoid it.>") In fact, a particularly advantageous time to make entries in your notebook is immediately after a performance, when the weak spots are fresh in your mind as you mentally review your performance.





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Area Accordion Groups/Events

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

3rd Monday at 7:30 pm, Hermann Sons Hall
 860 Western, Petaluma
 Contact: Tony Mustaro, President
 (707) 318-0474, dcdacapo@gmail.com

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC)

2nd Wednesday at 7 pm, Escalon Community Center
 1055 Escalon Ave, Escalon
 Contact: Ed Sciarini (209) 545-3603

Humboldt Accordionaires

humsqueez44@yahoo.com
 3rd Tuesday at 7pm, Humboldt Swiss Club
 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta

Napa Valley Accordion Party

gbachich@accordionrevival.com
 2nd Thursday at 5:30 pm, The Runway Restaurant
 2044 Airport Road, Napa

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS)

1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Lutheran Church Hall,
 6365 Douglas Blvd, off Hwy 80, Granite Bay
 Contact: Jim Shoemaker (916) 443-0974

Sacramento Jammers

accordiondave1@gmail.com

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS)

1st Sundays at Christ Episcopal Church
 1040 Border Rd., Los Altos, CA
 Doors open at 1:30pm. www.svasociety.org

Mike Zampiceni

Sunday evenings, 6:30-9pm
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RENO DIBONO South Bay - ourhike@aol.com
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JOE DOMITROWICH South Bay
www.alpinersusa.com
 or www.capricious-accordion.com

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IL DUETTO MUSICA (aka Paul Aebersold & Gloria Gazave)
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ROBERT KENNEDY
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PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties
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MIKE ZAMPICENI East Bay & South Bay
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- ◇ **Silver Roma** full size 120 Bass, 2 reed sets, 19 LBS - \$35/month for a 6 month minimum.
- ◇ **Black Imperial Chicago** 120 Bass, 3 reed sets. This is a **heavier** full-size accordion - \$50/month for 6 month minimum.
- ◇ **Scandalli mini** 120 bass, 2 reed sets. This is ideal for a child graduating from a 12-bass accordion. \$35/month for a 6 month minimum.

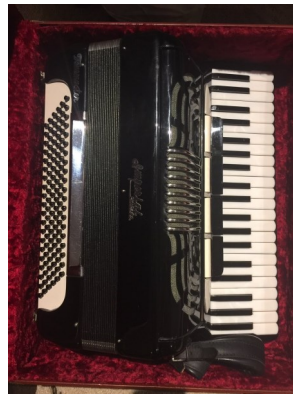
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Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. We would like to thank the following members who have made donations during the current membership year (October 2019 - September 2020):

Paul Aebersold; Chris & Tor Arild; Evelyn Baulch; Anthony Bologna; Dave Braun; Phil Carmo; George Chavez; Xavier & Candace de la Prade; Vince Cukar; Aldo Didero; Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Dominic Granelli; Gus & Sharon Greyhosky; Ron & Mary Jo Harris; Franco, Jerry Keifer; Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi; Michael A. Marotta, Jr.; Stephen Marshall; Nora & Tony Mazzara; Herb Meier; James Monfredini; Mary Nelson (in honor of Christopher Bronte); Anna Nicora; Gisele B. Oakes; Colette & Casey Ogata; Alexander Roitman; Michael Sanossian; Don & Mary Savant; Kenneth Schwartz & Jayne Tan; Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom; Jane & Frank Tripi; Frank Venturelli; Barbara Winter; Richard Yaus; 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.

2020 ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Many events are cancelled or postponed—
please check each event website for updates

Not Just Oom-Pah Accordion Concert & Workshop

Virtual (online)

June 26-28, 2020

Featuring: *Alicia Baker, Kevin Solecki*

www.accordioncelebration.org

Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG)

2020 Festival—**CANCELLED**

Los Angeles, California

August 5—9, 2020

<https://www.atgaccordions.com/2020-festival>

Cotati Accordion Festival—CANCELLED

LaPlaza Park, Cotati, California

August 22-23, 2020

<https://cotatifest.com/>

Squeezebox International Accordion Festival

Frederikshavn, Denmark

September 10-13, 2020

[https://z-m-www.facebook.com/
events/2543348092383455/](https://z-m-www.facebook.com/events/2543348092383455/)

Coupe Mondiale 2020

Confédération Internationale des Accordéonistes (CIA)

October 2 - 4, 2020

Algrave, Portugal

www.coupemondiale.org

Leavenworth International Accordion

Northwest Accordion Society

June 17 - 20, 2021

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"

www.accordioncelebration.org

American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Festival

Marriott Philadelphia West—Conshohocken, PA

July 14-18, 2021

<http://www.ameraccord.com/festival.php>

SFAC Directors

Rosemary Busher (510)220-2931, rosemary@busher.org

Robert Cooperstein (510)207-6009, rrcoop@sbcglobal.net

Ken Schwartz (650)344-6116, Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

Elaine Cooperstein (510)921-9323, elainedc@sbcglobal.net

Dominic Palmisano* (415)587-4423, accord47@gmail.com

*Honorary Director

Webmaster & Accounting

Randall Hicks (510)750-6858, hickr01@sprintmail.com

Newsletter team: *Content collection & writing, Layout, Copy Editing, Print shop pick-up, Labels/Stamps, Mailing*

Elaine Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Pamela Tom, Robert Cooperstein [*volunteers needed*]

Scholarship

Mike Zampiceni (408)569-2579, eclecticguy@comcast.net

We're seeking members to perform during the 1st half of upcoming performance meetings. This is a great opportunity for our members to polish their stage skills and share a few favorite pieces! Even a few minutes of performance will be enjoyed by all!

My contact information is:

Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

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

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

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

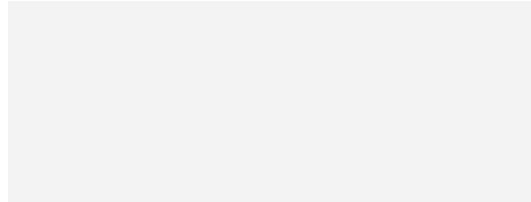
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SFAC Sunday Meeting

***Virtual* Accordion Circle**

Sunday, June 21

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Online at Zoom.com

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Sunday, June 21, 2020

2:00 pm



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