

Also Performing in March

Dima Oliinychenko

Dmytro “Dima” Oliinychenko joined the SFAC in October 2018 and blew us all away with his wonderful playing! We are so pleased that Dima will perform an opening set for the March meeting!

Dima describes himself as an amateur accordion player, but all of us would like to be such a wonderful amateur! Dima is a theoretical physicist at Lawrence Berkeley Lab. He was born and raised in Ukraine, studied physics in Moscow (Russia), and did his PhD in Frankfurt (Germany). He learned to play accordion at a free music school in Rivne (Ukraine). He has also played accordion in a Dubna music school orchestra in Russia, in Akkordeonorchester Frankfurter Berg in Germany, and in a Balkan-folk group Batutas, also in Frankfurt. Dima’s favorite styles are classical music, European folk music, and tango; he is currently trying to learn a little bit of jazz. We are delighted to have him join us for the March meeting!



Siyuan Donnelly



Siyuan started playing accordion at pre-school in Shanghai at age 4. Since moving to California at age 5, he has been a student of Mike Zampani for over 4 years. Mike regards Siyuan as one of the two finest students he's ever worked with, and is exceptionally gifted. He's dedicated to the instrument, works diligently, and has a voracious appetite for learning new music. Most adults don't play this well unless they're professionals. In the 10-book Palmer-Hughes course that many of you are familiar with, he's currently working on selections from book 8!

Siyuan has performed at the San Francisco and Silicon Valley accordion clubs several times, and was awarded a scholarship by the San Francisco club in 2019. He has competed in the Cotati student stage in each of the last 4 years, winning a prize each time. In August last year at Cotati, he was the first recipient of the annual Anthony Facciuto award, a \$500 scholarship given to the student who earns the top score in the student stage competition.

February Accordion Circle Summary by Kenneth Schwartz

It was Valentine's Day weekend, and love (musically speaking) was in the air for this month's Accordion Circle.

We had a wonderful jam session, led by Maestro Lou Jacklich and performed from the club's terrific jam books. The jam sessions are increasing in popularity; 14 members participated in this month's jam session!

We were also fortunate to have talented members perform solos during today's 2nd half, including solos by Scott Anderson (*Two Guitars*), Don Savant (*But Beautiful* and *Scotch and Soda*), Ken Schwartz (*Gitanerias* and *O Sole Mio*), and Dima Oliinychenko (*Moldavian Fantasy* by O. Bloch, *Spinning Wheel* by I. Rohlin, and *French Fried*, by F. Marocco). Lastly – Lou Jacklich performed his own arrangement of *Misty*, followed by *What is This Thing Called Love*, *How High the Moon*, and *All of Me*.

Thanks to all who made this such a successful Accordion Circle!



Jackie Jones, SF street entertainer, delighted crowds with her dancing cat puppet

Jackie Jones, longtime San Francisco musician and member of the San Francisco Accordion Club, died at age 93 on 1/20/2020 in San Francisco.

Born in 1926 in Pensacola, Florida to a Navy family, Jackie yearned to play music from an early age, but her parents refused to pay for an instrument or lessons. Jackie saved her 35 cent a week allowance until she accumulated \$75 to buy an accordion from the Navy Exchange store. She spent hours in her room, teaching herself to play.

In 1946, Jackie moved to New Orleans to pursue her dream of making music. Living in the city's colorful French Quarter, she would

beg bands to let her sit in, just to get experience. Jackie's first paid gig was \$3 a night, playing her accordion for eight hours straight with a country band. She learned other instruments – guitar, then drums and vibraphone – and by the late 1940s, she was supporting herself as a working musician.

In 1952, Jackie drove her 1948 woody station wagon west, settling in San Francisco. To pay the rent, she held a variety of day jobs (taxi driver, assembly-line worker, US postal mail sorter), but she never stopped making music, working with anyone who'd hire her. She played accordion at the 1954 opening of San Francisco Airport's International Terminal, the city's Russian festivals and Columbus Day celebrations, and at the Fairmont Hotel with a Latin trio.

When her work in bars and nightspots dried up in the 1980s, Jackie reinvented herself. She learned the musical saw, created a lavender tap dancing cat out of wood and bike parts, and became a one woman band. For 25 years, Jackie entertained at S.F. street fairs, farmers markets, festivals, and children's events. She continued performing gigs into her 90s, bringing music and joy to thousands.

Jackie always kept a warm place in her heart for the accordion, playing it with her last band, the Vintage Swing Ensemble. She joined the SF Accordion Club in the 1990s, and was a featured performer at monthly meetings at least twice. A celebration of Jackie's life, held in San Francisco on February 1, included music by two local accordionists, Jean Butler and Caroline Grannan.



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

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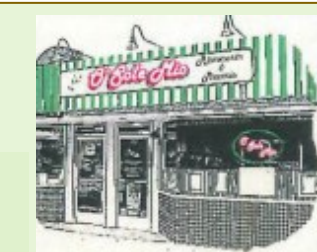
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If you have donated and your name doesn't appear here, please contact elainedc@sbcglobal.net. We greatly appreciate your support and we want to be sure you are recognized.



See you March 15!

“Tutto a Dio”

Greta Staponkutė (viola)

Augustinas Rakauskas (accordion)

Winners of several International Competitions (Switzerland, Italy, France, etc.), this fabulous Lithuanian duo of viola and accordion will be in San Francisco just in time for our March meeting!



Check them out at [Facebook.com/tuttoadio](https://www.facebook.com/tuttoadio)

Accordions at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix - by Mike Zampiceni

Being an avid auto buff, in mid-January I attended the vintage car auctions held annually in Scottsdale. While scouting for an Airbnb close to the venues, I noted a landmark on Google Maps for the Musical Instrument Museum. I initially thought this would be an inconsequential, relatively small display of popular vintage instruments. I was totally incorrect in my assumption. The museum is an expansive, two-story, modern facility arranged by continents, with sections for every country within the continents, instrument types, and noted performers. The display for each country featured instruments prominent in that country's history.

A placard in the lobby near the entrance proudly states that this collection is regarded as one of the best 15 museums in the country. More than 10,000 instruments are contained within, and most displays have a video screen with four different programs running continuously. You're given headphones and a module upon entry, and it acts as a self-guided tour. When you're near the screen, you're able to hear the audio portion. When I determined that there was no way I could cover everything in the museum when I arrived mid-afternoon on a Friday, I upgraded my ticket to return for just another \$10, which I did the following day.

Not surprisingly, the first question I asked after purchasing my ticket was "Where are the accordions?" The cashier pointed me in the direction of the Europe continent floor upstairs. Sure enough, a few feet inside this floor revealed a display of accordion curios, ranging from obscure, primitive instruments from the early 19th century to contemporary accordions. Besides the instruments in the accordion display, many others were located throughout the building within the individual country displays in which the accordion was part of the culture. I saw a couple of oddities, such as the accordion with an attached horn, and one with foot-operated bellows.

I discovered a room marked "Mechanical Instruments," which displayed a plethora of passively played instruments, mostly from the early 20th century. I always thought that instruments powered by rolls were limited to pianos, but as the picture shows, several unlikely instruments could be operated from rolls, of which the vintage concertina was one. The room also contains an Orchestrion, also operated by paper rolls as shown in the accompanying picture. It was built in 1926 for dance halls, and is essentially a small theater-style pipe organ. As you can see, two accordions are prominently positioned above all of the lesser musical machinery. I was fortunate to see a live demonstration of the instrument, and the accordions function quite well.

I had no idea such a museum existed in Phoenix, but I'm glad I followed up on my inclination to visit. If you're ever in the area, I highly recommend a visit.



Chromatic Button Accordion Concert



It was a superb performance by Hanzhi Wang at Stanford Live last month. She played masterfully making it appear easy, the mark of a true professional. The appreciative audience sat mesmerized and enjoyed three encores. It was also nice to see several club members in attendance.

<https://www.sfcv.org/events-calendar/artist-spotlight/hanzhi-wang-is-introducing-classical-accordion-to-america>

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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



On the Go in 2020 Starring Lou Jacklich - by Pamela Tom



Lou Jacklich (left) at the ALSI club meeting in Chula Vista with SFAC members.

Bay Area maestro accordionist, **Lou Jacklich**, is on the road this year as an invited guest artist performing his virtuoso solo arrangements of accordion classics and jazz standards much to the delight of appreciative audiences at several California accordion clubs.

On the afternoon of February 9, Lou's tour started with the **Accordion Lovers Society International** (San Diego Accordion Club) luncheon meeting at the occasional meeting location, **Mangia Italiano** restaurant in Chula Vista. His personal fan club (active SFAC members Pamela Tom, Steve Marshall, and Elaine and Robert Cooperstein) were on hand to cheer him on. Pamela was one of a few who played during the open mic portion of the meeting. Gordon Kohl, ALSI president, summarized Lou's performance in the March issues of the ALSI's newsletter, *Reedblock*: "We had a fantastic afternoon. Mr.

Jacklich played a phenomenal hour of accordion classic songs. His music was uplifting and charismatic in style. He is a treasure to accordion music audiences." A review by Bob Warner in the newsletter noted: "Outstanding, artistic, wonderful! I could go on and on with adjectives regarding the performance of Lou Jacklich. Before he was done we knew we were in for a terrific afternoon. It was performed with appropriate emotion, sometimes delicately, sometimes forcefully. His bellows control was smooth and effortless. And, he played the entire program from memory ... a truly wonderful afternoon. I am really glad I had the chance to hear this grand musician play."



Lou Jacklich (4th from left) at the Hermann Sons Hall in Petaluma.

About a week later during the Presidents' Holiday weekend, Lou was back on stage. This time he was at the evening meeting of the **Accordion Club of the Redwoods** which met at the *Hermann Sons Hall*. He brought along some of his advanced students to also entertain the audience: Kaisu Lankinen, Colette Ogata, Pamela Tom, Jane Tripi and Daoyuan Wang (Lou's invitee). Duets were performed by Kaisu and Jane, Jane and Lou, plus Colette and Lou. Solos were performed by Kaisu, Pamela and Daoyuan. Other SFAC members in attendance also included: Scott Anderson, Robert & Elaine Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Gwyneth Lister and Steve Marshall.

Lou's upcoming schedule includes: **June 7** at the Silicon Valley Accordion Society (Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos, CA) with Colette Ogata, and **November 15** at the SFAC with several of his students.



(Left) Lou Jacklich. (Right) Gordon Kohl, ALSI President, presenting ALSI's Lifetime Honorary Music Achievement Award in recognition of Lou Jacklich's longtime dedication and promotion of the accordion.



Lou Jacklich performing duets with Jane Tripi (left) and Colette Ogata (right) at the Accordion Club of the Redwoods, February 17, 2020.



2020 ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Rose City Accordion Camp

Collins Retreat Center - Eagle Creek, Oregon

June 7 - 12, 2020

rosecityaccordionclub.org

Leavenworth International Accordion

Northwest Accordion Society

June 18 - 21, 2020

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"

www.accordioncelebration.org

Not Just Oom-Pah Accordion Concert & Workshop

Austin, Texas

June 26-28, 2020

Featuring: Alicia Baker, Kevin Solecki

www.accordioncelebration.org

American Accordionists' Association (AAA) Festival

Holiday Inn & Suites, Alexandria, VA

July 8-12, 2020

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

Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG)

2020 Festival

Los Angeles, California

August 5—9, 2020

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

Cotati Accordion Festival

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/>

Coupe Mondiale 2020

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October 2 - 4, 2020

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SFAC Meetings — Looking Ahead!

- **March 15, 2020**

SFAC Accordions Live! - **Tutto a Dio**, from Lithuania!
[Augustinas Rakauskas, accordion; Greta Staponkutė, viola]

- **April 19, 2020**

Accordion Circle, participation meeting

- **May 17, 2020**

SFAC Accordions Live! - **Steve Albini**

- **June 21, 2020**

Accordion Circle, participation meeting

- **July 19, 2020**

SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring—

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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



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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*]

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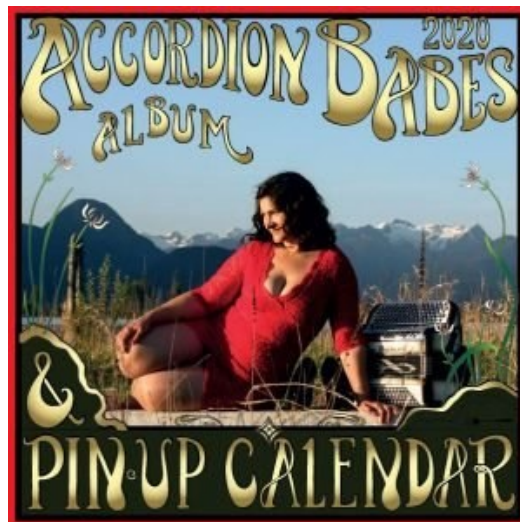
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1/4-page: \$25: 1/2-page: \$50: Full-page: \$100.

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3rd Sundays – Monthly Musical Meetings

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordions Live!

Sunday, March 15

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2pm – 5pm

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with Soprano Neringa Radėnaitytė

+ Dymytro “Dima” Oliinychenko

+ Siyuan Donnelly

SFAC Jam, final ~30 minutes of the meeting, time permitting

All are encouraged to participate!

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