

May, 2021

♪♪ Virtual Accordions Live! ♪♪

ALEX MEIXNER

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2020

VIA ZOOM — 2:00 PM

♪ MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE ZOOM LINK VIA
EMAIL FROM KENNETH.E.SCHWARTZ@GMAIL.COM ♪



The SFAC is pleased to present, on Sunday May 16, *Alex Meixner*, one of the most dynamic accordionists on the scene today. Meixner has performed around the world, notably at American festivals like The National Folk Festival and Central Park SummerStage, as well as at uncountable community celebrations and accordion-centric events. His virtuosic yet delightfully quirky style has made him a sought-after collaborator (he worked alongside Jack Black in the 2017 Sundance pick *The Polka King*), spokesperson (Hormel and Ford have used his music and performance to promote their products) and educator. As a recording artist, he has worked with renowned avant-garde accordionist/composer Guy Klucevsek, popular Irish entertainer Seamus Kennedy, and Texas indie rockers The Krayolas. His recording *Polka Freak Out* with Brave Combo's Bubba Hernandez won him a GRAMMY nomination.

Alex's shows mix all of these musical styles into the exuberant Central European party music that's family tradition, letting die-hard polka fans enjoy and embrace the evolutions and letting the hipsters discover all there is to love in the underappreciated, innately fun genre. Whether playing for concert or dance audiences, Alex and his band strive to entertain, connecting joyfully with audiences of all ages.





Accordion Community Fondly Says Goodbye to Gwyn Lister (1929 – 2021)

Pamela Tom

With a heavy heart I am sad to report that following a short illness, San Francisco native **Gwyneth Jean (Bond) Lister** (SFAC member since its formation) was called to the Lord on April 20, 2021. Gwyn was a long-standing SFAC member and participated in the SFAC Fun Band. (Among her four children, **Pamela and John Lister** play the accordion and are SFAC members.) Gwyn was multi-talented professionally and musically. With her nursing and MBA degrees, she had an amazing career. She specialized in comfort care and also emergency care, cardiac care, and home health care nursing. She was Executive Director of the Marin chapter of the American Cancer Society. She authored a book on fund raising. She was an adjunct professor teaching several course topics at Golden Gate University and the University of San Francisco. And, she was a business woman and owner of a successful fund raising business, AIM (Accelerated Income Methods). Her musical legacy includes founding the 25-year-old Corte Madera Town Band which marches in the town's 4th of July parade, and entertaining audiences on her saxophone and accordion. Accordion friends locally and nationally pay tribute to Gwyn in this article.

Dominic Palmisano, Founding Member and SFAC Executive Board - The passing of Gwyn Lister is a loss for all of us who knew her. During the beginning days of SFAC Gwyn became a Charter member in 1990 and gave her dynamic energy at all our meetings and events. We always could count on her to do her part and more to advance the club. She wouldn't pass up any opportunity to play at the meetings, be part of our sponsored band/orchestra groups, and she loved every minute of it! Looking back through the years, Gwyn shined with her gracious personality and wonderful skills in playing the accordion as a soloist and with others. We will miss her!

Randy Hicks, SFAC web editor - I had great times playing in the San Francisco Accordion Club Band with Gwyn. The band was officially known as the San Francisco Accordion Club Band but was more lovingly known as the "Fun Band", led by Val Kieser. We rehearsed each week and Gwyn would come all the way from Corte Madera to Oakland to share in the fun. To spice things up on occasion, Gwyn would bring along her sax to compliment the other "reed" instruments. Each year the band had a float in the San Francisco Columbus Day parade and played at the December San Francisco Accordion Club's December meeting. The band also did outreach performances around the Bay Area and I will always remember playing in the summer "Concerts in the Park" series in Corte Madera, and the picnics afterwards, hosted by Gwyn at her home nearby. Sadly many members of the band have preceded Gwyn, but I know they have saved a seat for her in the new "Fun Band" in the sky!

Gus and Sharon Greyhosky - Gwyn used to come to SF to take accordion lessons from Sharon. She used to invite us to her house to the parties that she had. She also played the saxophone in her local town band, and also brought it to several accordion camps. She made hitting a sour note on the sax fun. Gwyn was a fun-loving people person. At Christmas time, she would take her accordion-playing visitors on a tour around her neighborhood and play carols to serenade the neighbors.

Joan Cochran Sommers, University of Missouri - Kansas City Professor Emerita and Conductor - I am so sorry to lose such a dear sweet friend! We always got along really well. We met at one of the Galla-Rini Camps in San Diego and just got to be friends quickly. I think it was because we were older than some of the others and also that we had both worked in a state university system. I will indeed miss having Gwyn in all the orchestras. She always had a smile for everyone!



SFAC members at Stas Venglevski's 2019 Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat: Lynn Ewing, Stas, Gail Campanella, Gwyn, John Lister, Pamela Tom & Gay Castellano.

Continued on next page ...

Sharmon Kenyon - I met Gwyn the first time I attended the Rose City Accordion Club Camp in Silver Falls, OR about 10 years ago. She played a duet with a friend on her saxophone. In the intervening years, both John and Pamela started to come with Gwyn and they would play duets/trios with her on her accordion. Gwyn had a great sense of humor and always had a great spiel when she played with John and Pamela. Several times she sat next to me when we played with the orchestra and she was fun to play next to. She also enjoyed bantering with the orchestra leaders. It won't be the same without seeing her at the next camp that I attend.



2018 Las Vegas Accordion Convention Orchestra conducted by Joan Cochran Sommers. Gwyn is on the right.

Gail Campanella - Gwyn brightened my day when I entered the rehearsal spaces at the Marocco Camp and Rose City Camp ... and there she was. Her positive attitude with a joke "at the ready" endeared her to me. How I will miss her!!!

Pamela Tom - I met Gwyn circa 2013 at the Las Vegas Accordion Convention and enjoyed chatting with her during subsequent years in LV as well as at the SFAC and other accordion events. She was gracious, pleasant, thoughtful and talented. She had many successful roles in nursing, business, teaching, motherhood and music appreciation. She was highly accomplished, an exemplary role model and an extraordinary renaissance woman! Gwyn was very devoted to the accordion and often traveled out-of-state to support a variety of accordion events. Gwyn will be missed by accordionists throughout the US.



Cotati Accordion Festival, 2016



Pamela, Gwyneth & John, Cotati Accordion Festival 2017



Pamela & Gwyneth, First prize Roaring 20's Contest, 2019 Las Vegas Accordion Convention

April 2021 Accordion Circle Summary

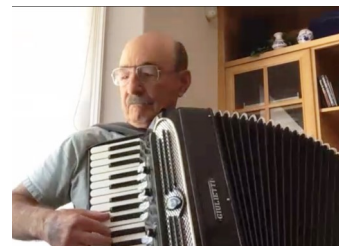
By Ken Schwartz



Our April Accordion Circle was well attended and featured terrific member performances. New emcee, Rosemary Busher, was also terrific!

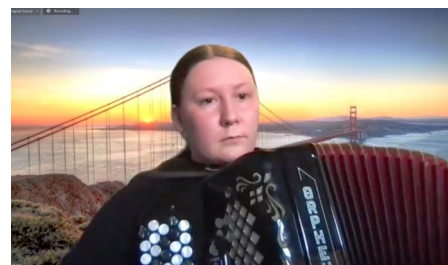
Don Savant (Cupertino, CA) performed 2 Hoagy Carmichael compositions, *The Nearness of You* and *Georgia on My Mind*, a 1930 song written by Hoagy Carmichael and Stuart Gorrell

and first recorded that year by Hoagy Carmichael. As always, Don's playing was smooth and featured great harmonics and chord changes.



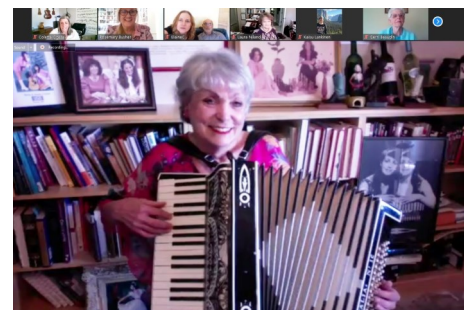
Lou LeBrun (Springfield, MO) entertained us with 3 wonderful songs. She started out with a delightful, light-hearted vocal/accordion of *I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate*, followed by an absolutely beautiful waltz entitled *Ambiance Musettienne* (Renato Bui). Lou has recently been interested in ragtime and zydeco music. She played *Louisiana Blues* perfectly. Lou, you're so hip!

Kaisu Lankinen (originally from Finland, now Boston, MA) trained as a classical accordionist but nowadays focuses mostly on jazz. She's studying with Lou Jacklich. Kaisu performed a smooth *Deep Purple* (as arranged by Art van Damme), with great chord changes and beautiful riffs on her chromatic button accordion. Next, Kaisu performed a very bouncy *In the Mood* (Joe Garland, Charles Magnante arrangement). At least 1 couple in the virtual audience could be seen dancing!



Laura Jean Niland (San Antonio, TX) beautifully performed 2 spirited pasodobles: *Contigo aprendí* (Armando Manzanero) and *Pardo de Requena* (Gerard Sevilla and Pablo Caliero). Both were spectacular. Laura, co-founder of Not Just Oompah (notjustoompah.org), told us about upcoming NJO events, which will feature Cory Pesaturo and Mario Pedone on ZOOM (see page 6 for information on these events).

Terrie Frankel (Sedona, AZ) and her sister were the original Doublemint Twins! Her current accordion is wonderful except for the fact that the bass key with indentation is not C, rather it's G. Terrie looked so radiant on her new accordion! Since she hasn't played for a while, she simply performed brief snippets from *La Paloma*, *America the Beautiful*, *Double Your Pleasure* (one of the most familiar theme songs ever) and closed with *Perfidia*. Thanks for the great stories, Terrie, and please hurry back with another performance!

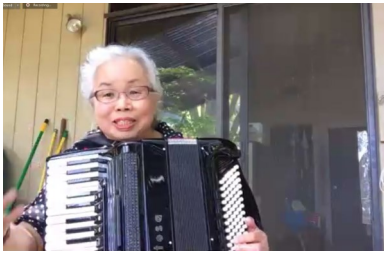


Mark Greathouse (Portland, OR), talented accordionist/composer, performed 2 original compositions: *Jugglers Rag* and *Macek Rag* (named after his late cat). Both were terrific and are available for download from Amazon Music; sheet music is available for purchase on www.sheetmusicplus.com.



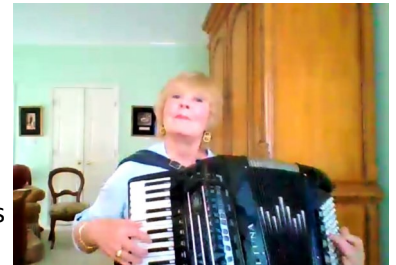
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(Continued) **April 2021 Accordion Circle Summary**



Pam Tom (Davis, CA) performed 2 songs. She heard the first at age 14 at the Sacramento Club in SF, where *The Holy City* was sung and accompanied by the piano. Pam beautifully performed a Galla-Rini arrangement of the song, with ~12 switch changes and beautiful harmonics and chords; all of which brought out the lovely deep sounds on her Petosa. Lovely, Pam, sensational! Next, Pamela performed a song that inspired her from the Warner Brothers Road Runner cartoon series. She played a Magnante arrangement of *Dance of the Comedians*, from *The Bartered Bride* (Smetana). Pam was superb on this technically challenging piece; so much so that Laura rang her bell for this one!

Lorna Anderson (Pinehurst, NC) loves music from the 20's (she's not that old but loves that era). She has visions of the circus ring, so she performed *The Accordionist*, as arranged by Pietro Diero, which features a circus sound. Fabulous!! Next, she took on the challenging *Dizzy Fingers*, also beautifully done.



Gus Greyhosky will be celebrating his 94th on, coincidentally, World Accordion Day, May 6th. The group treated Gus to a joyous *Happy Birthday*. He reminded us that he has socks older than some of us!

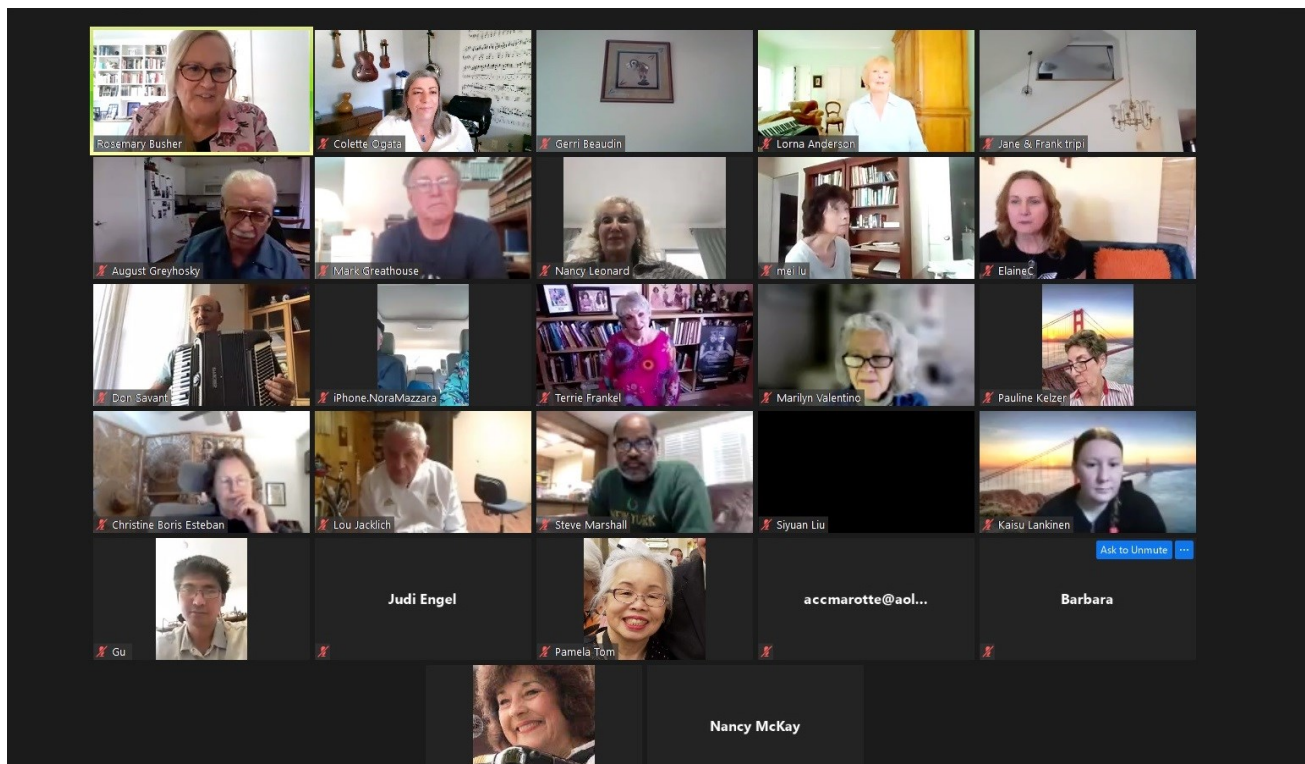


Lou Jacklich capped the Accordion Circle program with an impromptu blues set, what a delightful surprise! Always special, Maestro Jacklich performed his own arrangement of *Basin Street Blues*, followed by *Blues in the Night* and *St. Louis Blues*. Lou finished with an original composition, a rapid, finger-busting tune. He claimed he had made it up as he played it, and yet he made it look so easy!

Thank you to everyone for making this month's Accordion Circle such a success!

Got the writing spirit?

We'd love to have additional writers contribute event summaries. Please contact Ken.



Not Just Oompah! Accordion Concert & Workshop with Cory & Mario

June 21-27, 2021

The June 21-27, 2021 **Not Just Oompah! (NJO) online Concert & Workshop Series** will feature Master Accordionists: **Cory Pesaturo and Mario Pedone**. Cory will present *Italian Folk and Retro Styles* while Mario will focus on *South American Rhythms*.

The Facebook Concerts are **FREE** (donations appreciated to support the artists). The workshop fee is \$100/accordionist and includes course handouts. Sessions will be recorded for later viewing.

| NJO Schedule – June 21-27, 2021 (Central Time) | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Mon. 6/21 | Tue. 6/22 | Wed. 6/23 | Thur. 6/24 | Fri. 6/25 | Sat. 6/26 | Sun. 6/27 |
| | | 7-9 PM Workshop | 7-9:30 PM Workshop | 7-9 PM Workshop | 1-3:30 PM Workshop | 1-3 PM Workshop |
| 7-8 PM Concert, Mario www.facebook.com/ mario.pedone.14 | 7-9 PM Meet & Greet | | | | 7-8:30 PM Concert, Cory https:// www.facebook.com/ corypesaturoofficial | |

NJO is offering one **Youth Scholarship** to an interested accordion youth 18 years old or younger. Check the Scholarship Application to see if you qualify and if so, please apply TODAY! **Scholarship Application Deadline is June 15**. Registration, Youth Scholarship Application, workshop payment options, artists bios, and more detailed information about the NJO workshops is available on the website: www.NotJustOompah.org.

NJO continues to offer exciting concerts and workshops that promote the accordion. NJO offers “Music that Entertains, Educates, and Inspires Every Audience.” Join in celebrating the accordion and learning together with other accordionists from across USA and beyond!

NJO is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department. Additional support is from Texas Folklife, Accordion Renaissance (a Virginia based non-profit), Accordions for Kids USA, and the San Antonio Accordion Association. NJO was cofounded by Shirley Johnson and Laura Jean Niland from Texas. For more detailed information contact:

Shirley Johnson 512-680-0422 E-mail: ShirleyJ@Vjeverica.com or accsaj@gmail.com

Laura Jean Niland 210-651-4359 E-mail: Ljniland@texas.net

Cory Pesaturo



Italian Folk & Retro Styles

Mario Pedone



South American Rhythms



SFAC Accordion Guy Visits Yosemite!

By Ken Schwartz

Our recent trip to Yosemite last month reminded us of an adventure way back on December 23, 2015. We were just coming out of the draught at that time and it rained and even snowed for the first time in 4 years of December visits!

We had attended a Wednesday evening Ranger talk and found the ranger greeting guests at the door to the Yosemite Lodge Community Room, while playing a few notes on an accordion! My brother Richard commented that I could play a bit more than a few notes. The ranger noted that in his 14 years as a ranger, Kenneth was the first accordionist attending his lecture (perhaps others had but just didn't admit to it!) and asked if I'd be interested in playing his accordion during the program.

Ranger Erik Westerlund plays the guitar and introduced us to yodeling to warm up the crowd (it was raining) and then gave an interesting lecture on Nature and Art. Throughout the talk, Ranger Erik invited audience members onto the stage to spin a giant wheel (think *Wheel of Fortune*). The arrow would land on a topic, and he would dive in, discussing topics such as bee pollination, shooting stars, Yosemite wildflowers, fires and sequoia seedlings, bird communications, etc. Every talk would be a different audience adventure.

On our evening, Ranger Erik gently nudged the wheel to land on the pie-shaped area which was blank, and then introduced "Kenneth," a member of the audience, who would play the accordion! A musical adventure! I played some Christmas songs (*Rudolph* and *Jingle Bells*) accompanied by singing from adults and children, and finished with *The Jolly Caballero* (standing ovation). I prefaced *Caballero* by noting that it was composed by Pietro Frosini, an early member of the San Francisco Accordion Club, of which I'm a member, and invited all who might be interested in the accordion to attend our meetings, which feature wonderful live music performed by notable accordionists. I expressed hope that some of the children in attendance might be inspired to take up the accordion. In fact, two attendees indicated they would be interested and took down our web address.

By the way, a visitor to the park had sold the accordion to Ranger Erik for \$20 (yes, \$20), including case. It was a real gem (Federfisa Neronde Junior) with full 41 treble and 120 bass, and very light, weighing perhaps 16-17 lbs. With the exception of one sticky bass key, it was in great shape!

Ranger Erik Westerlund Talk — Yosemite Lodge — December 23, 2015



➤ Continued on next page ...

(continued) **SFAC Accordion Guy Visits Yosemite!**

Fast forward to April 19, 2021

We've visited Yosemite every year (2020 excepted) since that December 2015 encounter and asked about Ranger Erik often, but we never came into alignment, that is, until this week! There he was, outside the Visitor Center, masked and behind plexiglass (of course). He remembered me immediately ("You're the Accordion Guy!").

Ranger Erik remains interested in the accordion (he mostly plays guitar, however) and invited me to jam with him, should we re-visit during the summer. I've also invited him to visit our SFAC meetings via ZOOM!

Yosemite Visitor Center — April 19, 2021



We had both been vaccinated and resumed wearing our masks immediately following this photograph.

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SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

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.

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.

Membership Report — Robert Cooperstein

We are happy to welcome two new members to our Club this month, Jialiang Gu of Berkeley and Christine Esteban of Carlsbad, CA.

Christine was born and raised in the Sacramento area. She seriously practiced and played the accordion from age 6–15, competing in Northern California Accordion Association festivals each year, under the direction of Frank and Dolores Studios in Carmichael. Christine has played the accordion sporadically over the last 40 years. Owing to retirement and travel restrictions, Christine writes that she joined an ensemble of accordion players in San Diego and discovered a new passion in this versatile instrument! On following up this last point with Christine, we were able to confirm, as suspected, that this San Diego ensemble was led by none other than our friend Gordon Kohl.

SFAC — Looking Ahead!

- ◆ **May 16, 2021**
SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring (live via ZOOM)
 - ◆ **Alex Meixner**
- ◆ **June 20, 2021**
Accordion Circle! Member participation
 - ◇ Open mic
 - ◇ via ZOOM
- ◆ **July 18, 2021**
SFAC Accordions Live! Featuring (live via ZOOM)
 - ◆ **Joe Natoli**



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

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

Alicia Jo Baker-Straka* www.aliciajostraka.com/teaching-studio

Gail Campanella* GailCampanella@gmail.com

David Chelini dichelini@sbcglobal.net

Peter DiBono 415-699-8674

Reno DiBono To participate in 30-minute online group lessons, Sundays 11am, request link from OurHike@AOL.com

Lou Jacklich* 510-317-9510

Marian Kelly 650-954-3711

Joe Simoni* jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122

Pamela Tom* accordionpam@gmail.com

Joel Weber* www.joelstbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/

Mike Zampiceni* www.mikezamp.com

*=remote lessons via ZOOM, Facetime and/or Skype available

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

Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Pamela Tom

Scholarship

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

Submitted by Pamela Tom

ATG WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS

5:00 PM Pacific Time (30 minutes duration)*

May 12 – Stas Venglevski: “Tips on Practicing Efficiently”

Stas will share some experiences he has achieved over the years on how to approach and improve your study and practice habits of new compositions you are learning. One of his students will perform one of Stas’ original compositions and will share her experience of studying with Stas.

May 19 – Madalynn Neu & Liz Finch Co-Host: “Plays Well with Others”

A discussion and overview of accordion performances with other instrumental ensembles, featuring video clips of great examples from around the world.

May 26 – Larry Goldings Presents: “Making Your Right Hand Melodies More Interesting/Emotional”

Larry Goldings, a Grammy-nominated pianist and composer, recording artist and songwriter (www.larrygoldings.com) will discuss: counter melodies, clusters, right hand chording ideas and the importance of ear training.

Other Scheduled ATG Programs

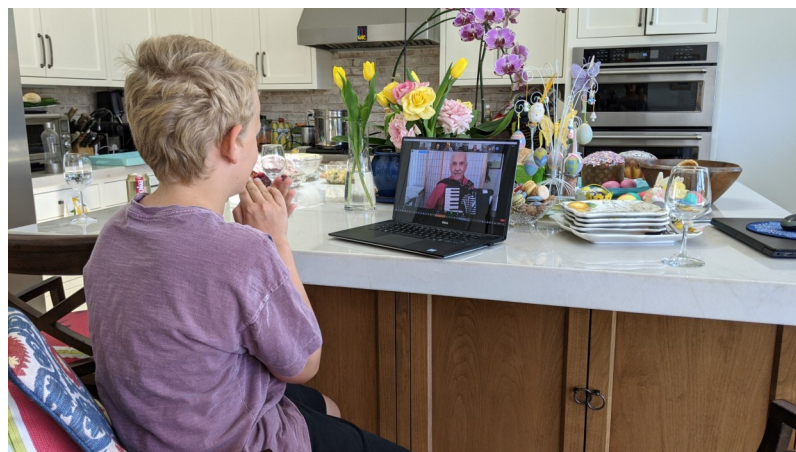
- ◆ **May 16 (Sunday)** at 1:00 PM PDT (3:00 pm. CDT) - ATG Presents: “Toby’s House” in concert. This was the late Jeff Lisenby’s trio that is being continued by Jeff Taylor.
- ◆ **JULY 18 (Sunday)** – SAVE THE DATE FOR A VIRTUAL CONCERT: Michael Bridge and Stas Venglevski

Watch the ATG website (<http://www.atgaccordions.com>) and social media for the announcement of when tickets will be available on Eventbrite and additional information.

All previous Wednesday workshops and related handouts are available to ATG members in the “members only” section of the ATG website:

- Bellows Masterclass 04/21/21 (Grayson Masefield)
- Friedrich Lips' Life Achievements 04/14/21 (Herbert Scheibenreif)
- The Anatomy of the Accordion Workshop 04/07/21 (Frank Busso)
- Streaming Live on Zoom Workshop 03/31/21 (Joseph Natoli)
- ◆ Alternative Stradella Chords Workshop 03/24/21 (Joseph Natoli)
- ◆ How to Accompany Oneself While Singing & Playing the Accordion 05/05/2021 (Murl Allen Sanders)

*Workshops are free to ATG members. Membership is currently offered at \$60/regular, \$25/student (high school age & younger). Visit <https://www.atgaccordions.com/new-member>.



SFAC member Colin Kennedy applauds after one of Mike Zampiceni’s songs performed for the San Diego club on May 2, 2021. Colin viewed his teacher’s performance at a friends house.



SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

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

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

DAVID CHELINI *Sacramento area, Soloist & Duo,*
dichelini@sbcglobal.net

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*
eclecticguy@comcast.net, www.mikezamp.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.

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408-569-2579

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Accordions for Rent

Do you know someone interested in renting an accordion? The SFAC has four instruments available for members to rent. See our [June 2020 newsletter](#) for descriptions and rental terms.

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:

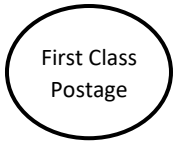
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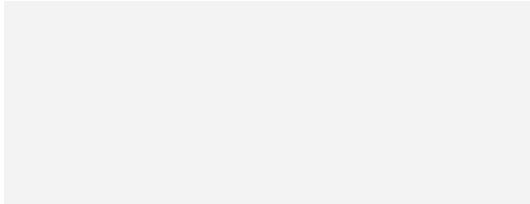
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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



3rd Sundays – Monthly Musical Meetings

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordions Live!

Alex Meixner!!

Sunday, May 16, 2:00 PM

Join us for fun and great music!

Online Accordion Performance

Watch email for **ZOOM** link



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