



October, 2020



♪ ♪ *SFAC Accordion Circle* ♪ ♪
Online-only member participation event
Sunday, October 18, 2020
via Zoom - 2:00pm
Members will receive email with Zoom link
from Kenneth.E.Schwarz@gmail.com



Our October meeting will return to our traditional small, informal Accordion Circle format, which will be totally open mic and virtual through [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. Accordionists of all skill levels are welcome – from beginners to seasoned experts, and everything 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 the limitation of an internet-based meeting.

You will need a [zoom](#) meeting link, which members will receive via email from Ken Schwartz, or you may contact us at: info@sfiaccordionclub.com, indicating that you would like to attend. 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 or are attending to cheer the players on.



SFAC September Event Review: Alicia Jo Straka

By Ken Schwartz

“My current passion is spreading joy through music and trying to show more of what the accordion can do. It’s the only way I like to do music and the styles that I like to listen to and play!” Alicia Jo Straka



September featured the SFAC’s first-ever joint event with the Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS), welcoming our special guest artist, **Alicia Jo Straka**, and the start of the event seasons for both clubs. Colette Ogata, SFAC member and newly-appointed president of the SVAS, emceed.

Alicia’s performance was smooth, light, and featured terrific performances of contemporary pop, jazz, French jazz, ballad, and polkas accompanied by her

wonderful singing in French. It was a marvelous end-of-summer afternoon performance in which this multitalented artist spread so much joy. She also demonstrated just how versatile the accordion can be! Also joining us as special guests were Alicia’s parents Sandra and John Baker, grandparents Bill and Alice Gemmet, and in-laws Betsy Straka and husband.

Alicia has been playing accordion since age 6, when she first encountered the instrument while her family was traveling on vacation and happened upon an accordion festival at the KIOTAC [Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships] accordion festival in British Columbia, Canada. Serendipity – she was hooked and was introduced to her teacher, the late Eileen Hagen, of Portland, OR who taught her until she was 17 year old. Alicia has her master’s degrees in vocal performance, for which she mostly studied opera. She loves to sing French jazz as well as standard jazz. She also loves polkas! In this time of COVID, Alicia recently embarked on a series of Facebook Live concerts to raise money for various charitable causes; she recently raised \$3000 in April for the CDC prevention and immunization registry conference. Please see her recent interview with KOIN 6 TV at <https://www.aliciajostraka.com/>.



Alicia performed for the full hour before an enthusiastic virtual audience. Her repertoire included diverse styles, including French medleys with accompanying singing, jazz, polkas, and even her own compositions.

Alicia opened with a terrific rendition of the French tune *Indifference* followed by a spirited, jazzy rendition of the pop tune *J’attendrai* with a bonus of Alicia’s great vocal in French as well! Next, she performed a fast version of *Tyrolean Echoes Polka* followed by her interpretation of *Shake It Off* (written and sung by pop phe-

Continued on next page ...

September Event Review (Alicia Jo Straka) - continued

nomenon Taylor Swift). Alicia played and sang her own arrangement. She recently posted her “Shake It Off” video on her Facebook page – it got 100,000 views in a week! Hello young people – the accordion is really cool!!!

Next, Alicia sang and performed *Wink and a Smile* (it was made popular in the movie “Sleepless in Seattle”) followed by *Valse D’Amelie* (from the movie “Amelie”), then *If the Stars were Mine* (by Melody Gardot). Alicia next performed a real treat: *Milk Dance Polka*, which she composed while in high school! While she was using a video recorder to help remember the new melody, her dad came in with a glass of milk and began dancing to it, singing and spilling the milk on the floor. That’s how the tune got its name!

Next was *(I love You) For Sentimental Reasons* (Alicia’s husband found it in the music book and asked if she would include it in her repertoire) followed by *Valser Musette* – lovely, one of those “gold mine” accordion tunes so often out of print. It was given to Alicia by her teacher; her parents found it, dormant in the garage, and she recently re-learned it. *Menilmontant* – a joyous French tune, sung absolutely beautifully in French, of course! Irish Medley - *Drowsy*



[Milk Dance Polka on YouTube](#)



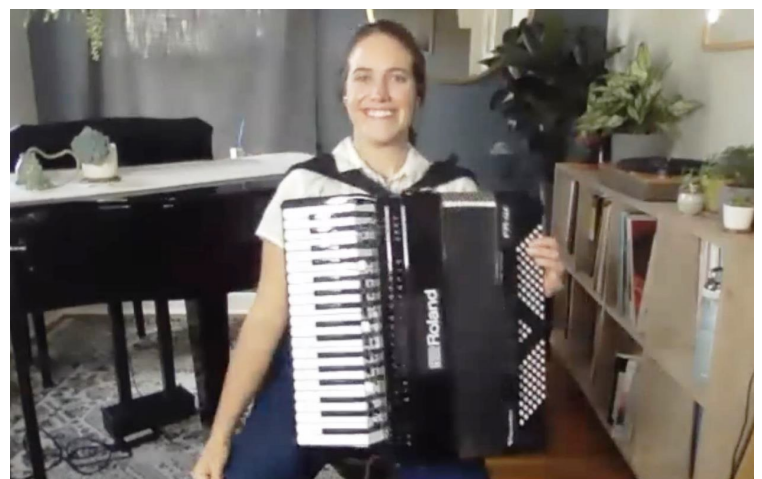
Maggie + “Minute 5” by Beoga; *You Make My Dreams*, and in closing, Alicia performed *Musette Soeur* – Another original French tune, composed by Alicia Baker Straka! A lovely waltz!

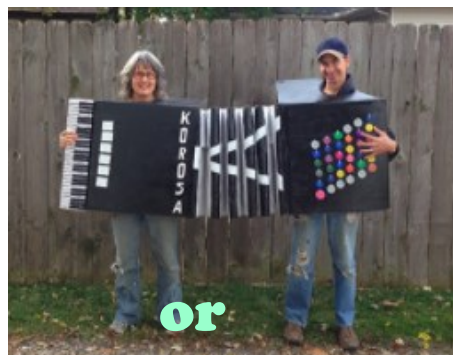
Alicia performs on the Roland digital. Everything is live, including all the instrumental sounds. Accordion bass layers on additional instrumental and percussion sounds to make it fun. If you would be interested in playing some of Alicia’s arrangements, her original sheet music is available for purchase from her website. You may also participate in her workshops, in

which she often distributes her music for instruction. Many of these covers and her original music compositions can also be found on her YouTube channel.

Please also click onto aliciajostraka.com, where you can view and donate to Alicia’s favorite charities through her live-streamed charity concerts in real time and archived, sing-a-longs, purchase her sheet music, videos, etc. [[https://www.aliciajostraka.com/live-streaming-concerts.](https://www.aliciajostraka.com/live-streaming-concerts)]

Thank you, Alicia for bringing us so much joy and so many smiles!





New member, **Richard Schwartz, MD**, is no stranger to the San Francisco Accordion Club as the identical twin brother to SFAC board member Ken Schwartz, MD. Richard started playing piano at age 5 ½. Like his brother, Richard mixed chemistry by day with music by night and earned his way through college (UCLA), playing numerous parties and weddings with Kenneth on accordion in the West Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley areas. Although his professional career is in medicine (hematology/oncology) and biotechnology drug development, Richard has never wandered too far from his musical roots. He continues to play piano, has just purchased a digital keyboard (with lighted keys, it's a blast!) for internet jazz lessons which he is now taking, and has even professionally played Holiday parties, including twice for a local Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party at a nearby golf club (played *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* when Santa arrived, tips welcomed)!



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



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.

Accordionist **Reno di Bono**

Plays 6pm to 8pm each Saturday evening at:

Tre Monti Italian Restaurant
270 Main Street
Los Altos, CA 94022

Reservations recommended:
650-935-2197



SFAC — Looking Ahead!

- **October 18, 2020**
Accordion Circle
(virtual) participation meeting
- **November 15, 2020**
SFAC Accordions Live!
Pre-holiday Extravaganza
Featuring (via Zoom)—
 - ◇ **Peter Di Bono**
 - ◇ **Alex Meixner** www.alexmeixner.com
- **December 20, 2020**
Holiday Accordion Circle
(virtual) participation meeting
- **January 17, 2021**
SFAC Accordions Live!
Featuring (via Zoom)—from Seattle—
 - ◇ **Creosote Accordion Duo:**
 - ◇ **Jamie Maschler & Gabriel Hall-Rodrigues**

Membership Update by *Robert Cooperstein, Membership Director*

As of October 1, we have had 27 new members join our Club this calendar year! Please join me in welcoming our newest members: **Colin Kennedy** (Los Gatos), **Hugh Vosti** (San Jose), **Nancy Leonard** (Silver Springs, MD), and **Richard Schwartz** (Burlingame).

Renewal letters went out about a month ago. We made a direct appeal to renew if possible using PayPal, which spares our volunteers from opening letters, handling checks, and visiting the bank to deposit checks. So far about half of renewals did use the PayPal platform, much more than any other year. This is a bit safer for us, but also saves a lot of time. At this time we are about 2/3 renewed, way ahead of previous years only one month after our first invitation to renew.

Many thanks to all who have already paid 2020-21 SFAC dues via US Mail and PayPal! We kindly request members who have not yet had the opportunity to renew to please take care of this in the near future, sparing our staff the task of sending additional reminders.

To celebrate the start of a new membership year (October 2020—September 2021), this newsletter features profiles of some of our newest members.

New SFAC member **Colin Matthew Kennedy** started playing the accordion at age 8 in March 2019. His accordion-music aficionado, Belarus-born mother Natalya Lyukevich, suggested the accordion as a second musical instrument after Colin's half-year piano studying with his teacher, John Vidovic. Natalya searched music schools in the area of Los Gatos, but there were no accordion teachers. Google search suggested the closest accordion teacher was in Oakland (100-mile round trip commute), and this was not encouraging.

In March 2019, Natalya posted an inquiry for an accordion teacher in the area willing to teach an 8-year-old beginner. For two weeks, there were no replies to the posting, and Colin's mother was about to give up. Finally, Natalya received a message from Kevin Fernandez, who had been playing the accordion for 50 years and would like to teach a new student.

Colin and Kevin liked each other immediately, and Kevin, with his kind personality, was able to encourage Colin's love for the accordion. Colin finished Palmer-Hughes Book 1 with Kevin in just one month, and he quickly outgrew a 12 bass accordion.

Natalya found an excellent accordion restorer, Valdet Jakubovic. Colin's accordion of choice happened to be a 1960's hand-made Italian 120 bass Scandalli accordion, sitting motionless in a case for more than a dozen years after its previous teacher-owner passed away. It smelled of mildew, but Colin's enthusiastic efforts ensured that the classic accordion was quickly aired-out and brought back to life.

Natalya took Colin to the 2019 Cotati Accordion Festival, where he was privileged to listen to Cory Pesaturo, Gary Blair, The Great Morgani, and many other excellent accordion players.

Valdet Jakubovic, after appreciating Colin's video presentation at a 2019 Christmas recital where Colin demonstrated a multi-talent performance on both the piano and the accordion, recommended that we meet Mike Zampiceni, a renowned professional accordion teacher. Colin quickly developed an excellent rapport with Mike Zampiceni. Colin also received a few Zoom sessions with Cory Pesaturo, who has been an inspiring resource. Now Colin regularly continues accordion lessons with both Kevin Fernandez and Mike Zampiceni and piano lessons with John Vidovic.

Colin often says that he is a bit sad that not many Americans play, know, and love the accordion, a beautiful instrument. During his 3rd-grade school sharing, Colin played his accordion several times for his classmates. He educated them that this instrument is the "Official Instrument of San Francisco." He enjoys playing a variety of music genres, such as patriotic songs, waltzes, polkas, jazz, cowboy motifs, and many others. One of the main reasons why Colin loves the accordion is, "It is easy for me!"



Emoji Accordions in 2020!

Pamela Tom

Emoji are small computer images of faces, objects, symbols and more. Emojis are available for iPhone, iPad, Mac, Android and other computer devices. The word was invented in 1999 in Japan by Shigetaka Kurita. Translated from Japanese, emoji means “picture” (e) and “character” (moji). Some established emojis have included familiar symbols such as



For release this fall, 117 new emojis have been approved and includes the accordion! Depending on the device, the accordion will have a different appearance.



As your operating system is updated this month and next, look for the new emojis! To see all of the emojis and learn more about them go to: <https://emojipedia.org/>



New SFAC member **Nancy**

Leonard is based in Washington, D.C. and Palm Beach, FL. Nancy is an active member with the American Accordionists' Association and has performed with the Washington Metro Accordion Society (WMAS) in Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Gettysburg, Orlando, Philadelphia and the Washington and Baltimore Metro areas.



She has performed in 12 orchestras under 5 conductors and has performed as a strolling accordionist in Las Vegas; Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.; French Alliance, Washington, D.C.; Palm Beach County, FL; and many states throughout the U.S. Nancy's repertory includes selections of French, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Russian, and Polish, Ballads, Show Tunes and Waltzes. Her music is available on her two (2) CD's. Welcome, Nancy!

ATG e-Learning Series—Online Master Classes



The Accordionists & Teachers Guild International (ATG) was founded in 1940, and its mission is to promote, sustain and create visibility for the accordion in its many forms through stellar teaching. A yearly festival is held in different locations and draws people from all over, including everyone from the professional to the adult hobby player. Some events are competitive, but not all. As current active accordionists they seek to nurture, develop and grow subsequent generations of aspiring accordionists for the future of this great instrument. For more info: www.atgaccordions.com.

Last month the ATG offered an opportunity to virtually sit in on an accordion master class taught by the formidable Joan Sommers, whose list of accomplishments and whole-hearted musical dedication cannot be stressed enough. She's an accordion VIP! Many attended her coaching session as the proverbial fly on the wall, where four brave subjects (I mean students) performed. She spoke about fingering, keeping tempo and basically added other valuable input gained from her vast experience. It was a great chance to see a pro doing what she does best, in complete command of her instrument. Passive viewers were in awe of the brave students who agreed to a public lesson.

The next ATG online master class (Oct 24 at 2pm, Pacific time) will be taught by Cory Pesaturo on the topic of improvisation. Count on Cory to demonstrate his wizardry.

Musical Years in Europe

by Mark Greathouse (new SFAC member)



My wife Helena and I travel each year to the Czech Republic to visit her family and friends we have known for many years. This yearly venture to Europe involves musical projects and performances as well as visiting a health spa in neighboring Slovakia, something Helena has done nearly every year since 1981.

When we traveled to Prague last March, we had no idea that we were in for an extended stay. A suspicion arose when Helena's brother-in-law told us soon after our arrival that we should immediately go with him to their family farm located in a rather sparsely populated area. We packed everything quickly including my accordion, which I have had in Prague for many years. Little did we know that we would be at the farm for about ten weeks!

We have been performing in different locations in the Czech Republic each year since 2004. We always perform as a duo. I play solos on the accordion and accompany Helena's singing and dancing. Her vocal performances began as a child and her gymnastics career paved the way for her dancing.

For the past fifteen years we have performed at a large independent living facility in Prague, sometimes together as guest artists with an orchestra or other performers. One of my choir pieces was performed at a concert sponsored by Prague district 3 city hall. Other venues where we have entertained include churches in small towns, remote living facilities located in castles, and even the city hall in the small town of Krizanky. We have also performed many times at the health spa in Slovakia.



Since we are both fluent in German, we have performed our original comedy show, "You Do Speak English, Don't You?" in Ebersdorf, Germany. The show consists of dialog and accordion accompaniment to Helena's singing.

One of our primary musical objectives has been to record many of my piano compositions for CDs or downloads in Prague. We know a sound engineer there with contacts to many top musicians in the Czech Republic who have recorded for us five CDs called "Originals from Prague" played mainly on the piano. I am just now busy rewriting these compositions for the accordion some of which are posted on www.sheetmusicplus.com.

Due to the coronavirus our travels back home to Oregon were interrupted. After four flight cancellations we finally arrived in Portland on May 22 instead of the originally planned date April 20.

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

RON BORELLI (650) 574-5707

DAVID CHELINI (916) 428-8764

PETER DI BONO (415) 699-8674

LOU JACKLICH (510) 317-9510

MARIAN KELLY (650) 954-3711

JOE SIMONI (650) 867-1122

PAMELA TOM (530 AREA) accordionpam@gmail.com

JOEL WEBER (510) 655-4398

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

MIKE ZAMPICENI (408) 569-2579 MikeZamp.com



GIULIETTI

There's a professional quality Giulietti for everybody!

Light-weight size,
Heavy-weight performance

New Designs!



- P48 (26/48) 13 pounds
- P72 (34/72) 17 pounds
- M37 (37/96) 19 pounds
- M52 (41/120) 21 pounds

petosa
accordions
SINCE 1953

GIULIETTI

Bugari-evo

Roland

ZORO SOTTO
ACCORDION FACTORY

HOHNER

YAMAHA

BUGARI
ARMANDO

www.petosa.com

206.632.2700

petosa
accordions
SINCE 1953

Music Lessons

Peter Di Bono

415-699-8674

peterdsf@gmail.com



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

BRUCE KIRSCHNER & THE KLEZMAKERS
kirschner@aol.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

ACCORDION HAPPENINGS

Music with Mary Accordion Academy

Virtual Accordion Event 2020

November 14-15, 2020 (register by Nov. 6)

Music Director: Mary Tokarski

Guest Artist: Guy Klucevsek

For information contact mary.tokarski@comcast.net
or (Meg) meghada33@gmail.com

Houston Accordion Orchestra Retreat

Designed for serious accordion ensemble musicians

January 14-16, 2021

For information contact meghada33@gmail.com

Leavenworth International Accordion

Northwest Accordion Society

June 17 - 20, 2021

Leavenworth is Washington's "Bavarian Village"

www.accordioncelebration.org

AAA Festival

American Accordionists' Association

Marriott Philadelphia West—Conshohocken, PA

July 14-18, 2021

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

Squeezeplay Concert of the Month Club

Kim & Dan Christian

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

Members-only online community, Song-of-the-Month downloadable music, Technique-of-the-Month exercise to improve technique, Monthly concerts & more.



Ron Borelli,
Accordionist
*Music for Dancers,
Entertainment, and
Fine Artistry*
Ronborelli.com
415-203-6700



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 membership year October 2019 - September 2020. Donations received during the current membership renewal will be acknowledged beginning in October 2020.

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott T. Anderson, John Baylo, Anthony Bologna, Dave Braun, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Bruno, Stephanie Capodanno, Raymond Celentano, Xavier & Candace de la Prade, Richard Denier, Ed Gorzynski Jr., Dominic Granelli, Gus and Sharon Greyhosky, Franco and Susan and Lorenzo Lucchesi, Michael A. Marotta, Jr., Sharon Marotte, James Monfredini, Anna Nicora, Gisele B. Oakes, Colette Ogata, Robert D. and Dil Pisani, Michael Sanossian, Tibor Sarkany, Don and Mary Savant, Jeanine Savello, Joe Simoni, Georgia Sutherland, Jane and Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter, 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.

SFAC Directors

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

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

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

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

Dominic Palmisano (Honorary Director) accord47@gmail.com

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 & Robert Cooperstein, Rosemary Busher, Pamela Tom

Scholarship

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

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

Support the Businesses That Support the SFAC!

BRUCE KIRSCHNER, M.D.
OPHTHALMOLOGY
LASER VISION CORRECTION



1828 EL CAMINO REAL
SUITE 404
BURLINGAME CA 94010

PH: 650-692-8788
FX: 650-692-8798

WWW.DRKIRSCHNER.BIZ

Castiglione

Accordion and Distributing Co LLC

JOHN CASTIGLIONE Director

13300 E. 11 Mile Rd. Suite A
Warren MI 48089-1367

Tel: 586 755 6050
Fax: 586 755 6339

Email: johncast@bignet.net
www.castiglioneaccordions.com



Smythe's

2511 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
510-268-4084



Kimric
Smythe

Accordion Center

Accordion Repair Shop San Jose

Professional, high quality work with warranty

Prof. Valdet Jakubovic
Owner

1888 Macduee Ct
San Jose, Ca., 95121
Tel. 408-903-9290

Fax. 408-238-7637
vjakubovic@yahoo.com
<http://www.accordionrepairshopsanjose.com>



CONCERTO - COLOMBO - PIERMARIA

Accordions International

"Home of the Concerto"

- ◆ Italian artisan accordions
- ◆ Large Showroom
- ◆ Straps Cases, Music
- ◆ Factory Repair Facility

(801) 485-5840

1760 South 450 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84115
www.AccordionInfo.com
Email: Paul@AccordionInfo.com

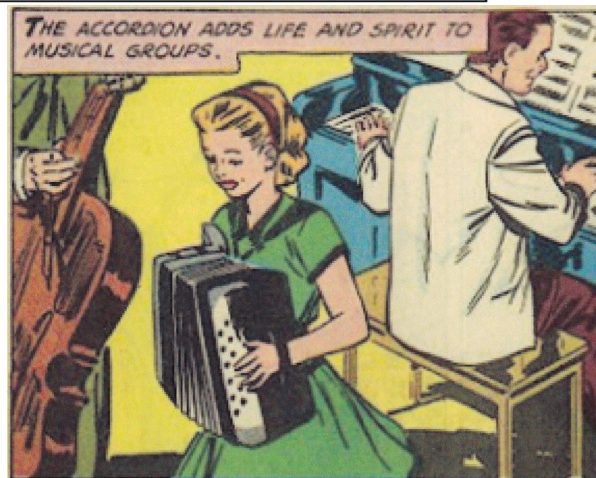


SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

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:

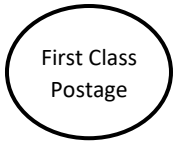
1/4-page: \$25: 1/2-page: \$50: Full-page: \$100.

Non-member rates are double.

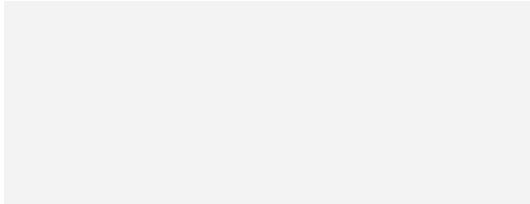


San Francisco Accordion Club
Newsletter

c/o 539 Elsie Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577
www.sfaccordionclub.com



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



3rd Sundays – Monthly Musical Meetings

SFAC Sunday Meeting
<i>Virtual</i> Accordion Circle! Member participation meeting
Sunday, October 18



Join us for fun and great music!
Online at Zoom.com
Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 2:00pm
Watch email for details, or
contact Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

