

May, 2025

Sunday, May 18

♪ ♪ **SFAC Accordions Live!** ♪ ♪
LIVE & In-Person!

Cory Pesaturo

Cory will lead a jam/workshop before the performance — Bring your accordion!

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

Chetcuti Community Room - Millbrae, CA

2:00 pm Doors Open for Jam Band

\$10 members / \$15 non-members

Youth free when accompanied by a parent

*SFAC Members will receive **ZOOM** link via email*



Cory Pesaturo (aka C Pez) is a World Digital Accordion (Coupe Mondiale) and World Acoustic Accordion (Primus Ikaalinen) Champion!

Cory graduated from the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music where he was the first musician ever to major and graduate in the accordion. Additionally, Cory is the only person to ever win World Championships on Acoustic, Digital, and Jazz Accordion.

Pesaturo's extensive resumé includes appearances at the White House on 4 different occasions, starting when he was only 12 years old. Cory has performed in 5 different continents, in countries such as Italy, Canada, New Zealand, Japan and Tunisia.

Cory is known as both a visionary and a rebel within the main United States accordion world, but his main contribution is his forward thinking on how the accordion should be used, played, and presented in the modern music world.

Please visit Cory's [website](#) to learn much more about this talented and fascinating force in the modern world of the accordion!

A Very Special Musical Afternoon with Bobby Dietsch

Ken Schwartz

Our April meeting was emceed by **Scott Anderson**, and as usual started with our venerable jam band, this month led by **Don Savant**. Thank you, Scott and Don!

Our featured special guests were **Bobby Dietsch** and family. To be with us, and solely for this occasion, they traveled to Millbrae all the way from Crestline, a resort mountain town in the San Bernardino Mountains. Bobby is classically trained, having taken up the accordion at age 7. He performed professionally for many years with the **Union Ensemble** and **Alpine Quartet** in Southern California, Las Vegas, and elsewhere, starting at age 15, no less! He's devoted the last 10 years to other passions (he's a pastor and leads an **Assemblies of God Church** in his area), so at the urging of our Club and his family, Bobby emerged from professional musical retirement to perform for the 1st time in a decade, just for us.

And what an afternoon it was, Bobby was sensational! He played an array of tunes, many familiar, others not so much; but all with a particularly smooth style that is so easygoing and enjoyable to hear. And, to boot, he's an excellent technician and singer. Bobby's technique and passion were abundantly evident, with great flare and bass solos. He was here to have fun with us! Putting it all together, we had a wonderful time!

Bobby opened on his Scandalli Super VI model N. Of the five that that are known to still exist, his is considered the best. He purchased it way back in the 1960s as a 15 year old teenager. It was the 1st accordion in the world to have 6 switches on the bass. His instrument features 11 switches on the left along with an octave coupler which "kills the piccolo", so it has a range of 4 octaves without the free bass, or 22 combinations.

American songs: Bobby opened with two songs made famous by **Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass**, *Spanish Flea* and *Tijuana Taxi*, followed by a great *Bye Bye Blackbird* and *Ain't She Sweet*, both with vocal accompaniment, no less! Bobby's unique arrangements, jazzy syncopation, and vocals provided both contemporary spin and were great fun!

Italian songs: Bobby is half Italian (Mom) and half German (Dad). So, in honor of his heritage, he next transitioned to Italian songs, including a beautiful, complex *Tarantella*, followed by *Funiculi, Funicula* and a 3rd Italian song. Next, was his own interpretation of *Come Back to Sorrento*, in honor of his 91-year-old Mom and her Italian heritage. It was touching and beautifully performed with the rich, deep tones/chords of the Scandalli. As Bobby's daughter Genesis noted in the chat window: "Thank you all for having Dad play, it was a pleasure to watch with Grandma! She laughed, cried and loved every minute." That's what it's all about, everyone!



Continued on next page ...



Irish songs: Next was *Danny Boy*, in honor of his late father, who passed away this January at age 97. Bobby's parents were married 73 years! Next was the famous *Irish Jig* with lots of great bass work. One could hear and visualize bagpipes, not surprising given that both the accordion and bagpipes are wind instruments.

At this point in his program Bobby switched to his Zupan accordion to play German, Swiss and other genres. His Zupan is a unique instrument, one of only three made by Valentin Zupan in his garage before he went to Italy. It was hand built for the number one accordionist in British Columbia. The black keys don't go under the grill; the switches are embedded in the keyboard, rather than the grill. It has extra keys in the bass. It weighs in at 26 lbs; by comparison the Scandalli weighs 30 lbs. There are only 3 similar Zupans: one in Texas, one at Epcot Center, FL, and Bobby's accordion.

Bobby played a terrific, bouncy German tune, *In den Bergen (In the Mountains)*. It was a polka, beautifully performed, and the Zupan gave it a Slovenian/alpine sound. This was one of my favorite songs of the day! Next was a beautiful waltz, *Tulips from Amsterdam* followed by a boarischer, a traditional folk dance, usually played on a button box accordion. Bobby played *Stillupa Simal Boarischer*, a terrific dance number! Bobby swayed from side-to-side, exaggerating the tempo and dance nature of this wonderful song. Next was another German waltz, *Das Kufsteiner Lied*; followed by a mazurka, a Polish folk dance in 6/8 time. Unlike a waltz in $\frac{3}{4}$ time where each $\frac{1}{4}$ note gets one count, a mazurka is faster, as each 8th note gets one count. This particular song, written by John Pezzolo, is titled *The Beautiful Butterfly* - so expertly performed! He closes his eyes; he's reading the music on his eyelids. This was a lovely, crisp, technically difficult waltz with a lovely bass line. Next was Bobby's arrangement of *Schnee Walzer (Snow Waltz)* followed by a polka called *When the Salmon Start to Run*.



Finale: Bobby's daughter Christine joined him with a stunning vocal performance! He's a pastor and has been an ordained minister of the **Assemblies of God** for more than 30 years. Some psalms sound like polkas, including the next song he played, *I am on My Way to Heaven*. Simply put, it was terrific!!! Bobby played and sang accompanied by Christine's vocals. Ken noted that while Bobby and Christine were "On their way to Heaven, those of us in the audience were 'Already in Heaven!'" thanks to this awesome duet, for which we were most grateful.

Finally, thanks to those who made today's program possible. Both the Coopersteins, who heard Bobby play at a meeting of the former Los Angeles **Accordionaires Accordion Club** several years ago, and Rosemary Busher, who spent time with and heard him play at the **Cotati Accordion Festival** last year, brought Bobby to our attention. They loved his playing,



and he told them he was willing to come to the Bay Area. Also thanks to Randy Hicks for manning the door; Don Savant for leading the jam; Scott Anderson for serving as emcee; and Curtis Hollenbeck and Rosemary Busher, for providing additional light snacks.



Festa Italiana 2025, San Francisco



SAVE THE DATE

FESTA ITALIANA

MAY 31 & JUNE 1

STATUTO RACE

JUNE 1

**SAN FRANCISCO'S ONLY
ITALIAN STREET FESTIVAL**

STOCKTON ST. (BETWEEN UNION AND FILBERT)

www.sfiacfoundation.org

SFAC will host a booth on Sunday, June 1st

We look forward to seeing you there!

Saturday, May 31

11:00AM - Nino Lane Band
12:00PM - Queen & Court Introduction and Announcements
12:20PM - Diana Quilici Tarantella Lessons
1:00PM - Tony Gemignani Pizza Toss
1:30PM - Ricco Dancers
2:00PM - Michela Musolino w/Steve Albini
3:00PM - Il Sole featuring Steve Albini
4:00PM - Ricco Dancers
4:30PM - 6:00PM – Sonamo

Sunday, June 1

11:00AM - Mike Trucco
12:00PM - Il Sole
1:00PM - That's Amore Sing/Play Along
1:15PM - Michela Musolino
2:30PM - The Mina Project
3:45PM - Bella Ciao, featuring Tom Torriglia

Several fellow travelers of SFAC have performed at the Festa. Shown here, Mary and Tom, of Bella Ciao.





President's Report

Ken Schwartz

Those of you who attended last month's meeting were treated to a wonderful afternoon of fine music and singing by Bobby Dietsch, who came out of professional retirement to perform for our Club!

This month marks one year since we lost our dear colleague, Mr. Lou Jacklich. Lou was a top performer, music arranger, innovator, mentor, teacher, gentleman, and family man. His solos and musical arrangements were the best, bar none, but he was equally talented in duets, including memorable performances with his students. Their many duet performances were riveting!

Lou wished the Club to continue presenting its programs into the foreseeable future and beyond and made a generous bequest to the Club to continue his legacy. Thanks to his generous donation and the support of our membership, the Club has been able to present live performances, such as Bobby Dietsch this past April and coming this month world-renowned accordionist Cory Pesaturo. Our Club also awards generous scholarships and offers affordable student accordion rentals. Mr. Jacklich would be very pleased!

Welcome our Newest SFAC Member! Hirshini Jayaram

SFAC members, let us welcome a new member, Hirshini Jayaram, of Los Gatos. She joined in March of this year. She writes "I started playing the piano accordion to surprise my partner with a little concert at his birthday this year, but was inspired to choose this instrument having seen my dad play it a bit when I was younger! ... I'm glad to be a part of the club." Although relatively new to the accordion, Hirshini has a music background – she's studied and played piano for 16 years. At the SFAC February meeting, apparently prior to having joined the club, Hirshini performed *La Vie en Rose*, having had only 6 weeks of learning!



March 2025 Sports Basement Accordion Meetup



Heads Up!

EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT — COMMUNITY-BUILDING ROSTER OPT-IN

From the SFAC Board

The SFAC plans to compile a members' directory of contact info, available to members only

We are thrilled that the SFAC has recently gained many new members, some of whom are accordion newbies and other older players with renewed interest. All of us are here to enjoy accordion music in a warm and friendly atmosphere. It's not just the music that brings us together, but also the *people*. And to help build community, we are planning to compile a member directory, available to members only, inclusion in which would be purely optional. Imagine how much easier it would be to find a nearby accordion enthusiast to arrange a car-pool to a club meeting, or to an accordion related event; or set up an at-home jam session to play a tune or two together in your own space. You get the idea! For security reasons this directory will be distributed in a print edition only.

We already have a complete database of members, so the only information we would need gather from you is your approval to be included, as well as which of the following contact information you would be willing to share: first name, last name, email address, phone number, residential address. We will reach out to you for this information when we mail out the annual request to renew your membership in September. Once it is created the directory will be shared among all those who opted in.

The tentative plan is to roll out the Club directory towards the end of this calendar year. The directory concept is still in its preliminary stages, and we welcome any feedback at this point.

Special Presentation of the San Francisco Accordion Club

In concert ... Cory Pesaturo!

May 18 Doors 2 PM
Millbrae Chetcuti
Community Room

3X World Accordion Champion

Further details: sfaccordionclub.com/

SFAC 2025 Summer Picnic Announcement



2024 SFAC picnic

Mark your calendar for the 5th annual Accordion San Francisco Accordion Club **Picnic in the Park!** We will start on Sunday July 27, 2025 at 11:30AM and end around 2:00PM, although there is no rigid ending time. All Club members are wholeheartedly invited!

What to bring: a potluck dish to share, and of course, your accordion!

Where to go: Same spot as last year, in Palo Alto. Group photo at about 12:30 PM. We will meet at the Sequoia Grove Group Picnic Area, 1120 Hopkins Ave, Palo Alto

This link should help you find exactly where we will be in this very large city park: [CVV4+Q9 Palo Alto, California](#)



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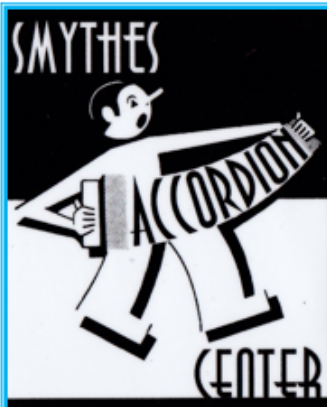
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Kimric Smythe

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Petaluma, California 95952

Noon-6pm Wed, Fri, Sat
Noon-8pm Thurs

510-268-4084
smytheaccordion@gmail.com



Ron Borelli, Accordionist

Contact information:

- Email: RONBORELLI@AOL.COM
- WEBSITE: RONBORELLI.COM
- TEXT/PHONE: 415-203-6700

Remembering Lou Jacklich 1928-2024

By Pamela Tom

Wishing Lou Jacklich a happy heavenly birthday on the anniversary of his passing, May 6, 2024, World Accordion Day. He was 95 and played the accordion for over 85 years. He was an active volunteer, performer, donor and distinguished life-member with the SFAC. A few students, and SFAC members share their memories below.

"Mr. Jacklich's generous bequest to the club enables us to feature performers, such as Cory and Bobby Dietsch!"
Ken Schwartz, SFAC President

"Lou Jacklich was a bright point in my week when going to him for lessons. I will remember everything he taught me."
David Kautz

"I'm most thankful that, despite his long history of teaching, he was not committed to any one method or series of books and was able to tailor the lesson experience according to the student's goals and needs. It was interesting that most of his students were adults in their 50's-70's, whereas back in the heyday of his music school, all of his students were school age. Maybe that's not so unusual for the accordion these days.

My favorite thing about Lou as a teacher is that he picked up his own accordion during my lesson and sometimes played almost as much as I did (!)...either to demonstrate the part I was trying to play, accompany me, or demonstrate embellishments for me to strive for after mastering the piece as written. After so many years of playing and teaching, he was still interested in every student's progress as well as their particular areas of musical and performing interest."
Elaine Cooperstein

"One of my best memories of Mr. J is how he opened his home to have celebrations with us. He truly had fun and so did we. All were welcome, even my mom and brother who weren't his students, were welcome to play music together, eat and drink. I miss these gatherings. We'd all await the moments when he'd play for us. He was truly generous with his gift of music."
Pamela Lister

"During his lessons, Mr. Jacklich shared his knowledge of music and experiences as a professional accordionist and teacher. His students received insight into the joys and challenges of being a professional musician and instructor. Mr. Jacklich had a great sense of humor and enjoyed sharing stories about his successes and mistakes which we could learn from. At his first public performance (12 years old), he enjoyed fried chicken but the results were slippery fingers on the keyboard which he struggled but managed to play! The lesson was... wait until after performing before eating.

Mr. Jacklich was humble about his career as an early pioneer of the electronic accordion using the Lovell Organ Unit (Ken Lovell, inventor, Southern California). As an entertainer and entrepreneur, in the early 60s he produced an LP record album, **Lou Jacklich Plays** which was available at his venues. In reference to a performance, **The California Lumber Merchant** (May 1963) published this laudatory statement: 'Lou Jacklich, one of the really great musical acts in show biz today. Uses an electronically amplified accordion with stereo speaker - now on a Columbia long play album.' "

Pamela Tom



Photo Credit: Joseph Martin



Robert and Elaine recently made the acquaintance of a talented musician - who happens to be a retired middle-school music teacher - at our Wednesday morning music circle in Englewood, Florida. Jacky mentioned that she too owns an accordion because she used to play along with one of her students, who later became a very famous jazz accordionist!

Now who might that have been?

Hey, Cory! Mrs. Carlson says 'Hi'

At right: Jacky Carlson, Elaine & Robert Cooperstein (Photo by Steve Carlson)



SFAC Members Performing Around the Bay

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

JOE DOMITROWICH Entire SF Bay Area –
Joe@JoeDLive.com or www.JoeDLive.com

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

PAMELA TOM Yolo & Solano Counties
accordionpam@gmail.com

MIKE ZAMPICENI East Bay & South Bay
eclecticguy@comcast.net, www.mikezamp.com

SFAC Board & Key Club Functions

Ken Schwartz, President,
Kenneth.E.Schwartz@gmail.com

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

Paul Cain paulrussellcain@gmail.com

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

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

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

Dominic Palmisano (Honorary) accord47@gmail.com

Scholarship Awards:

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

Webmaster & Bookkeeping: Randall Hicks

Newsletter: Elaine & Robert Cooperstein, Pamela Tom, Rosemary Busher, Ken Schwartz (and credited contributors each issue)

Accordion Rentals: Rosemary Busher

Live Meeting Sound & Amplification: Paul Cain

Live Meeting Zoom Camera & Sound: Ken Schwartz

Membership Drive & Recordkeeping: Robert Cooperstein

Event Photography: Steve Mobia

Appreciation for SFAC Donors!

Sincere Thanks to those who generously donate to support the SFAC. These members have made donations during our current (October 2024 – September 2025) membership year:

Paul Aebersold, Lorna Anderson, Scott Anderson, Ron Borelli, Gail Campanella, Raymond Celentano, Robert & Elaine Cooperstein, Edward Crnich, Xavier and Candace de la Prade, Ed Gorzynski, Jr.; Arleen Johnson, Jerry Keifer, Pamela Lister, Linda Lonay, Franco & Susan & Lorenzo Lucchesi, Natalie Lyukevich, Nora Mazzara, Gerald McMahon, Steve Mobia, Laura Jean Niland, Colette Ogata, David Perry, Robert D. & Dil Pisani, Diana Prurucker, Rich Rinaldi, Tibor Sarkany, Don & Mary Savant, Kenneth Schwartz, James E. Shoemaker, Bill & Gloria Tapogna; Pamela Tom, Jane & Frank Tripi, Frank Venturelli, Barbara Winter

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

ACCORDION INSTRUCTION

East Bay

- ◆ **Joel Weber**
www.joelseastbayaccordionlessons.weebly.com/
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ **Anand Joseph*** 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Peninsula/South Bay

- ◆ **Joe Simoni*** jsimoni2000@gmail.com, 650-867-1122
- ◆ **Mike Zampiceni*** www.mikezamp.com
- ◆ **Anand Joseph*** 614-329-9384 (beginner students)

Outside the Bay Area

- ◆ **Gail Campanella*** GailCampanella@gmail.com 805-895-0457 (Santa Barbara)
- ◆ **Bonnie Birch*** www.bonniebirch.com (Seattle)
- ◆ **Pamela Tom*** accordionpam@gmail.com (Davis)

* = remote lessons (Zoom, Facetime) available

San Francisco Accordion Club

Newsletter

c/o Cooperstein

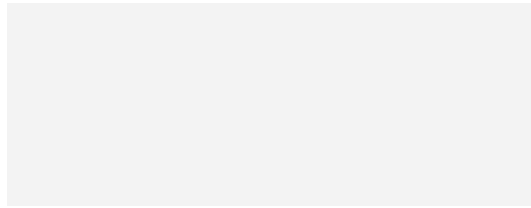
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Upcoming Events: *May 18*, Cory Pesaturo! - Chetcuti Community Center - Live & via Zoom

June 22, Robert Kennedy (solo) + The No-Mads! (Kennedy & Boynton) - Chetcuti Community Center

July 27, SFAC Club Picnic, Palo Alto - See page 7 for more information

SFAC Sunday Meeting

Accordions Live!

Cory Pesaturo

Sunday, May 18, 2:00 pm

Join us in Millbrae for fun & great music!

SFAC members will receive ZOOM link via email

Watch your email for details, or contact

info@sfaccordionclub.com

There's no substitute for live performance! Please plan to attend this event in person: \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members, 18 years and under free with parent. Doors open at 2:00 pm. Featured performer 3:30 pm. The Event will also be simulcast via Zoom, access for Club members only.



Millbrae Chetcuti Community Room

Civic Center Plaza/Library Plaza

450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae, CA

SFAC Monthly Meetings:

Plenty of **free parking in Library lot**

Accessible location

Close to public transit

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