

ACCORDIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Cotati Accordion Festival should be moving in the direction of establishing the accordion as a viable musical instrument in the classroom. For much too long, the accordion has languished and been ignored for its beneficial qualities to the school curriculum.

The goal is to take good, playable accordions that are sitting around and move them into the schools where they can contribute to a more accessible, inclusive, diverse, and vibrant community. We feel that accordion music is a way to make a difference in the world—all of us can *Make a Difference*.

Here are the questions we should ask ourselves as we contemplate how to provide and donate accordions.

- Where are the children who can't learn the accordion because it may be too expensive? Why not furnish them with a donated accordion that can serve as an academic year "rental"? Call your local school district and make inquiries.
- How can *you* make yourself available to assist teachers in the classroom? Volunteering as a senior would be most welcome in school districts. You would be investing in the future of the accordion.
- Many California school districts are without any full-time music teacher. They hold an itinerant schedule. How can *you* be of service to them?
- Perform in the classroom rather than attend another senior center event. The choice is yours. Show the different styles of accordion music from diverse cultures and countries. Be an ambassador for the accordion.
- Provide a much-needed community service. Begin by bringing an accordion to the Cotati Accordion Festival.

Interested in helping out in a meaningful way? Bring your pre-owned but no longer played accordions and donate them to Sonoma County classrooms. All sizes accepted, children sizes preferred. Thank you.

Contact Sheri Mignano Crawford, Coordinator for Student Scholarships at the Jam Tent during this year's festival.

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