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# COTATION ACCORDION FESTIVAL

## **PERFORMERS**

#### **MAIN STAGES**

Alejandro Brittes Trio
Balkan Laikas
Califas
Cory Pesaturo
Discos Resaca Collective
Future Stars
Jelena Milojevic
Junk Parlor
The Mad Maggies
Michael Zampiceni

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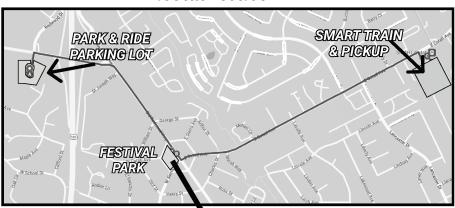
## The Cotati Accordion Festival is a non-profit organization which donates all monies earned to local music groups

FREE Smart
Train fare for 18
& younger and
65 & older with
FREE shuttle

## (707) 664-0444 www.cotatifest.com

Tickets online at www.cotatifest.com

Call & Text: (707) 664-0444 Email: info@cotatifest.com www.cotatifest.com



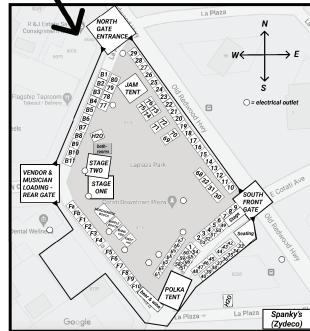
Non-Stop Shuttle to and from the Park & Ride parking lot at the North end of Redwood Drive

#### **SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

- Shuttle, in addition to the Park & Ride, will take you to and from the Cotati Smart Train Depot and the 2 parking lots there.

**Handicapped, Musician** & Vendor Parking
102-104 W. Cotati Avenue & in front of Korean
Baptist Church at 81
W. Cotati Avenue.

**Spanky's Bar** on the corner of La Plaza and Old Redwood Hwy will be hosting our annual **Zydeco Dance Party**.



Booths, Ads, Editor, Web & Ticketing: Rachel Goree



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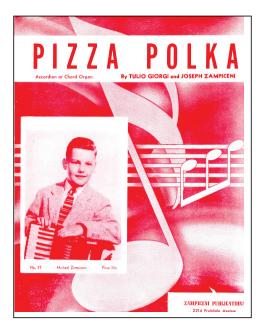
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## The Cotati Accordion Festival is proud to name our 2024 Honorary Director

## MICHAPIL ZAMPICENI

We are proud to present Michael Zampiceni as our 33rd annual Cotati
Accordion Festival Honorary Director. We select members of the accordion
community that have spent their lives promoting the accordion, as
a brief look at our past list of Honorary Directors will attest.

Michael is not only a top level accordionist, but he gives back by being one of the very
top accordion teachers in the Bay Area. It is because of accordionists like Michael
Zampiceni that the accordion is going to continue to flourish in the Bay Area.



Son of Joseph Zampiceni, a noted accordion composer, publisher, teacher, and performer during the Golden Age of accordions, Michael was weaned on accordions as a youngster growing up in San Jose, California. Joseph published 83 songs, several of which were his own compositions, during the 1950s and 1960s. Beginning formal study of the piano at age 7, then

the accordion at age 8, Mike had his first series of paid engagements at age 11 when he played for San Jose area parades on the back of a promotional flatbed truck. By age 14 he advanced to his father's orchestra, playing either the accordion or drums, and then began leading his own group at age 17 when he joined the musician's union.

While he was in junior high school, Mike joined the school choir, and others noted his pleasant voice and singing abilities.
While in high school, his choral teacher



encouraged him to compete in a regional high school music competition. After winning first place in the vocal category, Mike started taking voice lessons at age 16 from a San Jose State vocal professor. He received the Bank of America Achievement Award in music upon graduating from high school.



After initially intending on working on a degree in journalism, Mike decided to become a vocal major in the San Jose State music department with a secondary

concentration in classical organ. After graduating with a B.A. in music, he returned after a year and worked on an M.A. in music. During this time, he was chosen as tenor soloist with the San Jose Symphony in a performance of a Bach cantata.

After teaching, performing, and selling keyboard instruments for several years, Mike decided to develop his concurrent writing skills and eventually become a Silicon Valley technical writer, working at HP, IBM, and Oracle for thirty years before retiring several years ago. Nevertheless, he never abandoned the music profession and continued to play engagements and teach students. Besides playing for private party events and restaurants, Mike played for special performances with accordion selections in the San Jose Symphony and San Jose Civic Light Opera.

Mike returned to his roots after retiring from industry, and is now fully teaching and performing in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. He teaches all levels, from beginner to advanced, with particular attention to proper bellows usage. Mike enjoys listening to classical and jazz music, and has developed his improvisational skills in the last few years. He teaches advanced theory and harmony for those interested in learning.

He has also been traveling around the country more recently, appearing at festivals as a featured performer,



clinician, and adjudicator at the Leavenworth Accordion Festival, Accordionists and Teachers Guild, and Las Vegas Accordion Convention. Mike is pleased to return to the Cotati stage after performing here in 2018 and 2021. His repertoire is broad and diverse, including American standards, European, Latin, classical, and jazz music. He will be playing some of these genres during his performance at this festival.

For information about booking Michael or for lessons, please see www.mikezamp.com.



## The Accordion Apocalypse Stage

The Apocalypse Stage was created by Skyler Fell over ten years ago. It grew from presenting a few alternative acts that had incorporated the accordion into their music to the third main stage we now have at the south end of the venue. It is an intimate

setting where different groups and soloists are using the accordion to express their

creativity. In an acknowledgment of the contributions of Skyler Fell we have renamed the south stage the "Apocalypse Stage.'

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AMBER LEE BAKER pg. 36

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## The Accordion Apocalypse Stage

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS AT THE ACCORDION APOCALYPSE STAGE We're just inside the south gate!

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

10:30AM - 11:10AM Andrew Cohen

Nathan & Jessie 11:30AM - 12:10PM

12:30PM - 1:10PM The Wind Weavers

1:30PM - 2:10PM 5 Cent Coffee

2:30PM - 3:10PM Zla Vila

The Art Peterson Trio 3:30PM - 4:10PM

Duckmandu 4:30PM - 5:10PM



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## SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

10:30AM - 11:10AM Two Tribes

11:30AM - 12:10PM Zla Vila

5 Cent Coffee 12:30PM - 1:10PM

Nathan & Jessie 1:30PM - 2:10PM

2:30PM - 3:10PM Innuendo

Cila Puccadella 3:30PM - 4:10PM

Amber Lee Baker 4:30PM - 5:10PM







## Alejandro Brittes Trio

Hailed by The Boston Globe as a "premier exponent of Chamamé", Brazil-based Argentine composer, accordionist, and researcher Alejandro Brittes explores his chamamé heritage, an ancestral rhythm connecting us with the Earth and the Universe through music and dance, which was born of the encounter between the ritual musicality and cosmovision of the Indigenous Guaraní and Baroque music within the context of the Jesuit missions in a cultural microregion encompassing Argentina, central and southern Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay which extends through the watersheds and fresh water sources in these nations. as described in Brittes' book A Origem do Chamamé. Chamamé is declared as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

Following the success of his 2023 U.S. East Coast tour – being featured at Library of Congress - Alejandro Brittes returns in 2024, this time to the West, performing at festivals, universities, historical sites, libraries, museums, etc., giving trilingual lecture-demonstrations, and engaging in musical collaborations with diverse border Roots Music masters. The trio of Alejandro Brittes is composed of André Ely on the 7-stringed Brazilian guitar, Carlos de Césaro on electric bass/ contrabass, and Alejandro Brittes on González system button accordion.

From August to October 2024 Alejandro Brittes will be featured at venues such as: San José Jazz Festival (CA), Music In Corrales (NM), Tucson Meet Yourself (AZ), Stanford Live (CA), Cotati Accordion Festival (CA), etc. and will also perform at historical sites



such as the Sonoma Mission (CA), San Miguel Chapel (NM). This tour will be a bridge and exchange between the rich multicultural heritage of California and the Southwest and that of southern South America, regions with shared legacies of Indigenous cultures, Missions, colonialism and conflict, borders, cultural mixture, etc.

The trio resides in the capital of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil - Porto Alegre – a region that has been affected by the recent catastrophic flooding that has been making international news. In this tour Brittes is calling attention to the relation of chamamé with rivers, seeing that rivers have served as inspiration for some of the most beautiful chamamé compositions, and symbolize the coming together of cultures and borders, that now due to the catastrophe in Rio Grande do Sul, are uniting everyone in solidarity and teaching us that we are all equal, now more than ever.

## Alejandro Brittes Trio(continued)

On this tour, Brittes is collaborating with the Brazil California Chamber of Commerce in obtaining financial support for Santa Barbara, CA-based non-profit, Direct Relief, in delivering medical and other aid to the flood-affected regions of Rio Grande do Sul. Brittes will also promote a donation campaign to help the artistic sector of Rio Grande do Sul which is acutely

affected by the floods and cancelling of events and performances. The campaign *S.O.S Música do RS* is aimed at human and cultural reconstruction

This 2024 tour is a realization of the Ministério da Cultura Brasil - Governo Federal - União with sponsorship of Arroz Prato Fino, through the Lei de Incentivo à Cultura - Rouanet.

## Netta Skog

Netta Skog is one of the most famous names in the world for her own instrument – the digital accordion. No wonder, as over the years Netta has created a remarkable career, playing with the world's top artists.

Nightwish, Children of Bodom, Ensiferum, Mokoma, Turisas, Turmion Kätilöt, Cirque Du Soleil. That's just a few names in whose ranks this digital accordion world champion awarded artist has played with. Netta has performed in the US several times with her former bands Turisas and Ensiferum. She also did a huge tour with Cirque Du Soleil, as part of the Cirques band and her fanbase in the States is solid. March 2024 Netta was awarded the accordion artist of the year by the Finnish Accordion Association.

At her live gigs, Netta's repertoire is something completely original. As a one-woman band, Netta plays all the instruments on stage with her digital accordion. And also even sings! This extremely

adaptable artist is suitable for big festival stages as well as for the most intimate clubs and big concert halls.

P.H. Fle.

Netta convinces live, showing what you can get out of the digital harmonica. A wide range of songs from Nightwish to Sibelius to Rammstein can be heard live in her set.

## The Mad Maggies



Pronounced I - KO - YAH-YAH!

On the scene now for over 10 years now, we've been flooding dance halls with the Louisiana-influenced music that gets folks on their the feet – what we like to call "swamp 'n roll!"

Enjoy a full plate of our favorite New Orleans flavored dance gumbo—blues

& boogie, Cajun/Zydeco, R&B, Second Line, and even a lil' Country—all delivered with a Mardi Gras vibe!

From the San Francisco Bay Area, Iko YaYa's members are veterans of some other bay area favorite dance bands, including Danny Poullard's California Cajun Orchestra, SwingThing, CZ & The Bon Vivants, The Poyntlyss Sistars, Medicine Ball Band, Mark St. Mary, & The Mangroves.

Cheryl McBride – vocals & percussion Jim Scott – guitar Sam Siggins – drums & vocals Lance Houck – bass & vocals Andre Nigoghossian – accordion & vocals Susan Copperman – saxophone

## Junk Parlor

With a track-record of impressive studio work under its belt and a local reputation for colorful live performances, Junk Parlor is a musical act that invites its audiences down a joyful - often raucous - path. It's moody melodies and poetic storytelling conjures up a fantasticallyedgy and intoxicating dreamscape. The band's signature sound is multi-faceted; spattered with traditional Eastern-European melodies and rhythms, Bohemian janglings and exotic vintage belly dance melodies. Modern musical stylings are interwoven with 50s Rock and 80s Punk influences to concoct a heady, haunting and almost cinematic experience. Both while



performing on stage as well as via its recorded works, Junk Parlor sways back and forth between earnestly upbeat, and time-warping lullabies and tales of debauchery and horror.



Hard to Describe, Easy to Love

The Mad Maggies' are celebrating 20 years of music-making!

We all start somewhere. Time flies. Before we know it, we've grown up to be musicians playing in a "genre-fluid" band working on its 10th album.

A special thanks to all the wonderful fans and friends who have made this musical adventure an existential pleasure since 2004.

Johny Blood: tuba Ray Fernandez: saxophones Ian Luke: drums Maggie "Mags" Martin: accordionist, vocals, composer, fearless leader Mark Nemoyten: trumpet

Tim Sarter: bass
Ned Stone: trombone

The Mad Maggies are:

Gary "GDub" Wium: guitars

"Death" is the Mad Maggies skeleton beanie baby mascot. Look for Death somewhere on the stage whenever the Mad Maggies play.

For booking and more information visit the Mad Ms' website https://themadmaggies.com



Pete Contino is an accordionist, vocalist, and drummer. His father was legendary accordionist Dick Contino. Pete started playing drums in his father's band at a young age touring throughout the United States playing Italian Festivals and nightclubs. In addition to his father's band, Pete has performed on the Las Vegas Strip in various shows including "Show in the Sky" inside The Rio Hotel, "House of Blues" inside Mandalay Bay, "Brendan's Irish Pub" inside The Orleans Hotel, The Paris Hotel, and The Venetian Hotel. After a few years he formed his own group, fronting the band on accordion and vocals. The Pete Contino Band performed around the U.S. playing blues festivals and clubs, as well as internationally throughout Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, and Bulgaria.

A versatile and prolific producer, composer, and musician. His style of music

blends melodic fusion, americana blues rock and jazz. In his 2017 release J. Jaffe and the Dark Room Band charted and performed live. Jaffe has been a session player on pedal steel, dobro, guitar, and Mandolin as well as singing. He has recorded with a multitude of Artists. He has performed with Liz Kennedy, Maria Muldaur Roberta Donnay to name a few. His Pedal steel was on the Marlboro Cowboy Commercials in Europe. He has performed live in the Bohemian Grove with a 10- piece group performing music from Central Valley Country artists at the Grove and Club on pedal steel.



## Two Tribes



Two Tribes (Laurie Lippin - accordion, Chris Eccles- mandolin) are an instrumental duo that enjoy playing klezmer and Irish music as part of their cultural heritage. Realizing the power of the accordion-mandolin combination they've branched out to include Italian, French, Mexican and other tunes that reflect our interconnected world.



Stas Venglevski - His artistry, dazzling technical command, and sensitivity have brought Stas Venglevski, a native of the Republic of Moldova, part of the former Soviet Union, increasing acclaim as a virtuoso of the Bayan. A two-time first prize winner of Bayan competition in the Republic of Moldova, Stas is a graduate of the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow where he received his Master's Degree in Music under the tutelage of the famed Russian Bayanist, Friedrich Lips. He has toured extensively as a soloist throughout the former Soviet Union, Canada, Europe, and the United States, including numerous performances with Doc Severinsen, Steve Allen and with Garrison Keillor on the Prairie Home Companion Show. Additionally, he has performed with the Chicago, Tacoma, Milwaukee, Racine, Jefferson, Nuremberg (Germany), Pueblo, Sheboygan and Seattle Symphony Orchestra. He is a regular participant the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Arts in Community Education Program (ACE).

## Cila Puccadella



Cila Puccadella is the musical project of Elena Ricciardi who was inspired to play songs her ancestors may have listened to. Although a little dusty, these traditional tunes from all corners of the Mediterranean are equally, if not more, entertaining today. Rather than limiting themselves to music from a single nation, Cila Puccadella draws links between Southern Italian, Balkan, French, Greek, Arabic, and other styles of music to create a fun, inspiring, and beautiful show.

Born to parents who made crafts art to sell on the street in San Francisco Elena got her start playing accordion on the street in the Bay Area and in New Orleans, LA where she has spent much of her time. This is where she met Chris Pablo and Zachary Thomas with whom she collaborated on her first EP.

The musical partnership between Zhenya Rock and Yuri Fedorko began in 1995 in Los Angeles, California, as part of the electric folk band Limpopo. This collaboration was marked by a distinctive fusion of music styles, delivering an energetic mix of folk, rock, and world music influences. For Zhenya and Yuri, the ultimate aim was to create a unique sound

that seamlessly blends different accordion styles, a hallmark of their performances.

Over the years, Zhenya and Yuri have performed across the United States and Canada, gracing various venues, events, and festivals with their presence. With



each performance, they approached their audience with seriousness and respect, elevating the art of music performance by closely tuning into the crowd's response and delivering an unparalleled musical experience.

## Discos Resaca Collective Featuring Mariposa del Alma & Deuce Eclipse



Discos Resaca Collective brings a lot of energy to the stage, mixing traditional sounds with some modern elements. They can play anything from Rancheras, Cumbias, Soul to Salsa. They

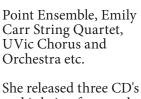
bring a level of authenticity and pride themselves at maintaining musical traditions. Mariposas Del Alma grew up in a home with a musician father, and a lineage (Maternal Grandfather) that traces back to the days of the Trios all throughout Latin America - it was only natural that the sisters became the amazing vocalists they are today. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, bilingual Emcee/Rapper Deuce Eclipse and cofounder/vocalist of Bang Data, draws influence from both his Nicaraguan heritage as well as the culture of Hip-Hop he grew up with in the United States. He has released a variety of albums and countless songs, some of which have been featured on many TV shows, commercials, and movies.

Jelena Milojević is one of the foremost accordion performers of today. She studied both in Croatia and Serbia and ultimately received her Master's Degree in Accordion Performance and Education, in one of the most recognized accordion centers in the world, Music Academy (FILUM) in Kragujevac, Serbia, where she is now completing her Doctoral Degree in accordion performance.

Being a versatile musician with an extensive performing history, she has played numerous concerts in Europe, North America and Asia as a soloist, chamber musician and a soloist with various orchestras. She performed in some of the most prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Berlin Philharmonie.

She is the winner of some of the most prestigious international accordion competitions, such as the CMA World Trophy, International Accordion Competition in Castelfidardo, Italy, International Accordion competition in Pula, Croatia, Roland V-Accordion Competition etc. Her performances have been acclaimed as "an explosion of cosmic sensuality" and she has been praised for her "brilliant virtuosity."

Jelena Milojević has a successful collaboration with internationally recognized composers, such as Ana Sokolovic, Chris Jarrett, Douglas Schmidt, Farangis Nurulla-Khoja etc, and performs and records new music with Vancouver Symphony, Berlin Symphony, Aventa Ensemble, Turning



She released three CD's and is being frequently featured at the TV and radio stations in Europe and North America. She has worked with acclaimed conductors, such as Bramwell Tovey, Bill Linwood, Leslie Dala, Giorgio Magnanensi, Clyde Mitchel, Yu Xuefeng, Symeon Ioannidis, Owen Underhill, Adam

Jonathan Con, Ajtony Csaba.

As an educator, Jelena has been contributing greatly to the accordion development in Canada by organizing International Accordion Festival, hosting major accordion events; Coupe Mondiale de l'Accordeon (2013) and World Accordion Trophy (2018), inviting numerous international accordion artists to Victoria and by pioneering the acceptance of the accordion at the Vancouver Community College, Camosun College and University of Victoria.

With more than 20 years of teaching experience, her students have won numerous prizes at various international competitions, have played with symphony orchestras and developed successful performing careers.

She is the Artistic Director of the World Accordion and Tango Festival in Victoria and a frequent adjudicator at the biggest international accordion competitions.

#### Innuendo

### "Last Of The Vaudeville Cowboys"

The terrifically talented duo of Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong combine lively roots music-making and vaudevillian-style comedy for "a rollicking evening of outrageous humor and song" (Sacramento Magazine). These two seasoned entertainers have some serious musical chops, playing everything from the guitar, banjo and ukulele to the accordion, steel guitar, musical saw and harmonica. Lending their heartfelt singing voices to a wide range of great originals and tunes from the '20s and '30s. Western swing, country blues, vintage jazz and cowboy classics. Then they top that off with timeless comedy bits, serving up a truly entertaining evening of family-style fun.

Sourdough Slim & Robert Armstrong have had the pleasure of sharing their lively roots music with audiences at Carnegie Hall and The Lincoln Center to concert halls, festivals and fairs around the country. With a repertoire of western classics, country blues, vintage jazz and string band favorites from the 1920's and 30's, they share a passion for America's rich musical heritage and they know how to communicate that feeling to an audience. You'll hear raucous and often heartfelt singing accompanied by a dizzying array of vintage acoustic instruments including accordion, guitar, banjo, ukulele, national steel, musical saw and harmonica. All dished up with a hearty dose of vaudevillian stagecraft making for a delightfully entertaining experience. "Sourdough Slim and Robert Armstrong are flat-



out-entertaining fun....with perfect comedic timing and showmanship.... outstanding abilities on a variety of instruments, they dazzle audiences. Performances are always fresh and different....something for everyone." says Margo Metegrano of CowboyPoetry.Com. Sacramento Magazine calls their show "A rollicking evening of outrageous humor and song."

Sourdough Slim hails from California's gold country and is the recipient of the Academy Of Western Artist's "Yodeler of the Year" and a four time nominee for the Western Music Association's "Entertainer of the Year." String instrument virtuoso Robert Armstrong is a founding member of the infamous "Cheap Suit Serenaders" and an in demand studio musician who makes his home in Winters, California.



Innuendo plays music from the France of 80 years past. The band consists of Big Lou (accordion), Kit Robberson (viola da gamba), David Golia (guitar, married to Big Lou) and Bing Nathan (bass, married to Kit). Because we are two married couples, we like to think of ourselves as the Fleetwood Mac of French cabaret music.

### Wind Weavers







Wind Weavers plays original acoustic music and a range of eclectic repertoire, both traditional and contemporary.

The ensemble is led by accordionist Diana Strong and features fiddle (Leah Wollenberg), guitar (Christopher Jacoby), double bass (Daniel Fabricant) and percussion (Aziz Yehia). Wind Weavers brings together many threads of their collective musical backgrounds and interests, including American and northern European fiddle music, Brazilian forró, Scandinavian, Balkan, and even some nods to classical and jazz traditions. They share with audiences their passion for discovering new grooves, weaving together harmonies and rhythms of diverse folk traditions, and finding an ever greater range of musical

expression with well-crafted arrangements and spontaneous improvisations.

## Polka & Zydeco Dancing in the Tent

A huge wooden dance floor is provided for your dancing enjoyment both Saturday and Sunday.

Many people come to the polka tent to freely dance the polka on our huge wooden dance floor. However, just as many people find themselves dancing under the big tent who had no plans of doing so. They get swept up in polka joy, and off they go joining the dance.

Tent is near the South entrance on West Sierra

### ZYDECO:

SAT: Iko Ya Ya 5:15 pm - 7:00 pm SUN: Les Amis Zydeco 5:15 pm - 7:00 pm POLKA:

**BOTH DAYS:** 

Sheri Mignano & Steve Hanson 9:45am - 12:00pm The Steve Balich Polka Band 1:00pm - 5:00pm

### The Steve Balich Polka Band

STEVE BALICH JR. has been playing music throughout the Bay Area and North Bay for 40 years. He joined with his father Steve Balich Sr. and they formed the Steve Balich Sr. Polka Band. Steve Sr., along with Clifton Buck-Kauffman and our own Jim Boggio was one of the originators of the festival who pioneered this event in 1991. Over the past 29 years they have played different venues, cruises, and polka festivals throughout California and Nevada and recorded three CD's: The Golden Years, Steve Balich Plays All Italian Volume I and Volume II. In 2014 Steve Sr. retired and Steve Jr. is carrying on the tradition of

The Steve Balich Band, playing a variety of music, with band members Art Wood (trumpet/trombone) Lindy Mantova (accordion) Scott Von Heim (drum/vocals)



## Sheri Mignano Crawford & Steve Hanson



Sheri Mignano Crawford first appeared on the Cotati festival main stage in 2004 and has been back several times. She learned to play accordion at G & G Accordion studios in San Jose. As a flutist and as an accordionist, she has performed with bands and orchestras. Her love of Italian mandolin music led to performing with David Grisman among other mandolinists. She still performs at Caffè Trieste in North Beach with her acoustic ensemble. Her published books focus on Italian immigrant musicians in America.

When you stop by the polka tent, you will enjoy a wide variety of dance music from Parisian guinguettes, Viennese dance halls, and Italian villages. She includes Italian and American Pop Music like "Mambo Italiano," and classics such as Tom Jones' "Delilah"

and even Shostakovich's "Jazz Suite" waltz. You never know how you'll be surprised and delighted while dancing away Saturday and Sunday mornings with Sheri and Steve Hansen.

https://www.zighibaci.com

This is Steve's second time in the polka tent! Multi-talented bassist Steve Hanson grew up in Minnesota. While living in Italy he performed throughout Europe as a soloist with the U.S Navy NATO Band. During his time In New York City, he performed with Woody Allen, George Segal and Burl Ives, was in an off-Broadway production with the New York Repertory Company and was in the Movie The Year of the Dragon. Steve is currently



active as a bassist in the San Francisco Bay Area and overseas. Stop by and watch as he plays the Hi-Hat while plucking on his bass!



Thank you to Gene Rose and Celebrations in Flight



in front of the main

stages both

JOPY - DNIA-A-NIA92 70

for providing our beautiful white doves.

Celebrations in Flight is a locally owned and operated loft. Gene has been breeding and showing birds for 65 years, 50 years in the Napa Valley.

Weddings

1:35 pm both days

in front of the hexagonal stage

THANKS to Celebrations in Flight.

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- Special Events
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## **Spectacular Grand Finale**

the 9th annual Cotati Accordion Festival Grand Finale Sunday, August 18 6:40pm

11 accordionists, on stage all at once, ready to party. What could go right? This year's super talent includes:

Jelena Milojevic
Alejandro Brittes
Zhenya Rock
Yuri Fedorko
Cory Pesaturo
Pete Contino
Big Lou
Heidi Wohlwend
Nathan Rivera
Sergei Teleshev &
Maria Telesheva





SonoMusette Califas

Featuring Parisian singer Mimi Pirard, SonoMusette authentically recreates the moody and evocative sound of the café music scene of mid-1900s Paris. SonoMusette weaves musette accordion, guitar, piano, bass, and drums into a musical tapestry that evokes the provocative and melancholic music of mid-20th Century Paris. This music has retained its power to charm listeners of all generations and SonoMusette taps that nostalgia with artistry in both vocals and instrumentation. This is the Paris that lives in our memories.... and in our imaginations. Close your eyes and be transported to the heart of Paris.

Mimi Pirard - vocals Robert Lunceford - accordion Jan Martinelli - bass & piano



Isaac Vandeveer - guitar & bass Kendrick Freeman - drums

Visalia, California may be known for being the gateway to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, but it is also called home for one of the most versatile and talented bands it has ever seen. From the heart of the San Joaquin Valley and recently celebrating their 20th anniversary, Califas continues to bring their fans an ever-evolving live musical experience that will always keep them on the dancefloor. Dating back to 2003 when the

band was established, their unique and soulful Tex-Mex-infused music has been reached throughout the United States and Northern Mexico. With band member roots reaching deep into the heart of South Texas, their unique West



Coast Conjunto style of music blended with other genres such as Tejano, Country, Oldies, and Old School will have you enjoying some feel-good music that truly highlights their diverse musical influence and Chicano roots.

## U.S. Air Force Band, Galaxy



GALAXY is a 7-piece, high energy popular music ensemble that is part of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West stationed at Travis AFB, CA. This dynamic ensemble shares America's musical heritage at every performance, covering genres from today's Top 40 hits, to Classic Rock, Latin music, as well as smooth R&B. Galaxy keeps an active schedule performing concerts all over the west coast of the U.S.

representing the men and women of the USAF Air Mobility Command, promoting military recruiting, and community relations objectives. A Galaxy performance will leave you wanting more of today's most recognizable songs, as well as take you back in time to the great hits of the past.

#### ZLA VILA



ZLA VILA ENSEMBLE were drawn together by a mutual love of nerding out over Eastern European folk tunes with odd meters and ornaments. They learned tunes in Serbia, Romania, from friends, old recordings, and at band camp-then they started making up new ones and heading into orchestral / theatrical / Danny Elfman-type territory.

Started by multi-instrumentalist superstar Fiddlin' Mickey

(of Sour Mash Hug Band) and his accordionist wife, Nicolette. Mickey does the composing, violin, guitar, and main vocals. The sound is strengthened and supported by self-taught shredder Nicolette on accordion and backup vocals, and the truly amazing musicianship of Leo on the upright bass.





### California Blue Runners



Andrew Carriere: a French speaker from Lawtell, Louisiana, accordionist and singer. Andrew brings a long family tradition into his playing. His father was the legendary Creole fiddler "Bebe" Carriere, his uncle was accordionist Eraste Carriere, and cousins Chubby, Calvin, and Roy Carrier are popular in the zydeco arena.

Haywood Douresseau is a native of Swords Louisiana. He grew up in a Creole environment where French was the spoken language in everyday activities and in the home. Tom Stewart is one of the goto rhythm guitarist in the Bay Area's Cajun band community.

Fiddler, accordionist, and singer, Andre Nigoghossian is one of the most sought after musicians in the Bay Area Cajun scene.

David "Killer" Hymowitz has been the premier percussionist to the Cajun/ Zydeco music scene for the past 30 years.



The American Accordionists' Association Festival

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## Dick and Judy Contino Accordion Scholarship

## Les Amis Zydeco



Dick Contino was born on January 17, 1930, in Fresno, CA to Pietro and Mary Contino. His love of the accordion started about 7-8 years old after eying his dad's accordion in

the home. Dick initially took local lessons. Pietro promised that if Dick could play 20 songs without sheet music, he would buy Dick a more sophisticated accordion. Within a couple of weeks, Dick played the 20 songs for his dad. Dad and Dick went to Guerrini (one of a few makers of highend customized accordions at the time) in San Francisco and bought an accordion for Dick who was 12 years old. Thereafter Dick primarily studied accordion with wellknown accomplished accordionists: Angelo Cagnazzo (San Francisco) and occasionally with Guido Deiro (Los Angeles). Dick had a great affection for Mr. Cagnazzo and it was reciprocated. Dick graduated from Fresno High School as senior class president and attended Fresno State College. Fame came to Dick in winning the National Grand Prize (1948) of the Horace Heidt Show which began his extensive musical career. His 48 appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show were unprecedented. At the height of his career, 180,000 accordions were shipped from Italy to the US. After his service in Korea, Dick continued his professional music career at the Mocambo, a world-famous nightclub on the Sunset Strip in West Hollywood, CA (1952) where celebrities filled the audience. In 1956 Dick married actress Leigh Snowden and had a wonderful marriage and family until her death in

1982. Dick was again lucky in love when he married Judy Campbell later in life. Dick had a successful musical career and inspired generations of accordion students. He is best known for his million sellers (e.g., "Lady of Spain," "Granada" and "Tico Tico") and his versatile repertoire of standards and Italian music. He enjoyed entertaining an audience throughout the USA, from showrooms in Las Vegas, NV, to many Italian events. He entertained on the "Dick Contino" stage for 35 years at Festa Italiana in Milwaukee, WI. Dick liked performing at the Cotati Accordion Festival where he was a popular accordion legend and appeared on the main stage 25 times. Dick was named the 1995 Honorary Director of the Cotati Accordion Festival. Sadly on April 19, 2017 the world lost

one of the most famous accordionists of all times. In Dick's memory, the Dick and Judy Contino Accordion Scholarship supports talented vouth and their accordion pursuits. (Biographical sketch submitted by Pamela Tom.)



Dick and Judy Contino's favorite photo. Dec. 1990 at Dick's mom's 80th birthday in Fresno.



**LES AMIS ZYDECO** has its roots in the swamps of deep South Louisiana and in the Bay Area Cajun/Zydeco dance scene. We strive for an authentic sound whether we're playing Cajun, Creole, or Zydeco.

We love playing for dancers and hopefully that shows. Some band members are long-time Cajun/Zydeco dancers. We focus on dancer enjoyment by drawing on

our own ingrained knowledge of what makes for an enjoyable dance evening.

We draw mostly from traditional roots, and some more modern, including, but not limited to: Amede Ardoin, Beau Jocque, Boozoo Chavis, Chubby Carrier, Clifton Chenier, Danny Poullard, Geno Delafose, Jeffery Broussard, John Delafose, Pine Leaf Boys, Roy Carrier, Rockin' Dopsie, etc.



Dwight Shackelford has been a member of Sonoma-based Funk/Zydeco band Gator Beat, DP and the Rhythm Riders, Sauce Piquante, and currently fronts Les Amis Zydeco. He is originally from the deep bayou community of Houma, LA and has studied with such musicians as accordionists Paul Daigle, Ed Poullard, Jeffery Broussard, Wilson Savoy, Ray Abshire, and Cedric Watson. Dwight "plays

the classics" of Cajun, Creole, and Old

School Zydeco, with some originals thrown in. Dwight is also working on a traditional, cajun-only, sideline project band called Bayou Noir.

**Linda Hutchinson** is a veteran of the local zydeco scene, having spent 25 years with Gator Beat & then Gator Nation, playing clubs, parties, wineries, & festivals up & down the West Coast & into Canada as well. She currently enjoys playing bass with Les Amis Zydeco,

> the Rhythm Rangers, & Cheap Date 13 and also sings with the Sonoma-based community choir The Free Spirits.

Nazar Eljumaily - SF Bay Area scene veteran. Has played with Dino Valenti, Gator Beat, T-Luke and

the Tight Suits, Jami Jamison and a host of others.

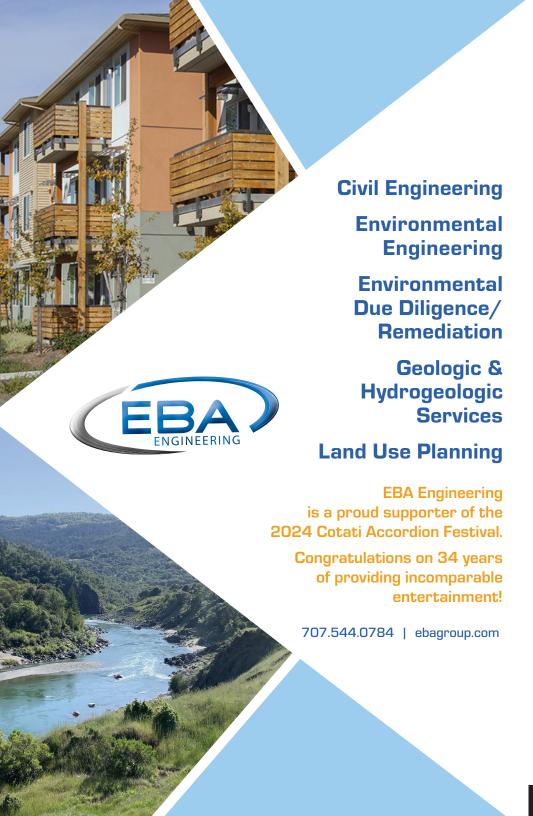
Kevin Dillon, born in Napa, California, studied drums privately for 15 years and began playing professionally at the age of seventeen. He has been an active member of the Northern California music community for over 40 years. In his extensive career he has played everything from Rock and Roll, to Jazz with Blues and Zydeco thrown in. Maintaining a busy schedule of clubs, festivals, private and corporate events. While keeping this busy schedule he has been teaching drums pri-

vately for over 35 year in Napa and Marin counties.





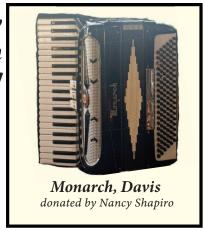
Dana Mandell is a veteran of the local Cajun/Zydeco scene, having spent 25 years with Danny Poullard and friends, DP & the Rhythm Riders, Gator Beat, Mark St. Mary Louisiana Blues & Zydeco playing clubs, parties, wineries & festivals up and down the west coast & into Canada. He can also be seen subbing on bass and accordion for many of the local C/Z bands including Motordude Zydeco, C/J and the Bon Vivants, Iko Ya Ya, and others. He currently enjoys playing bass with Les Amis Zydeco, and Accordion and trumpet with the Funky Gators.



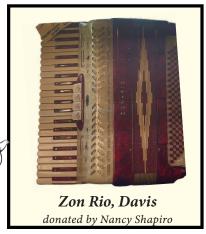
## **Buy Raffle Tickets!**

Help support the festival by entering for a chance to win one of five accordions!

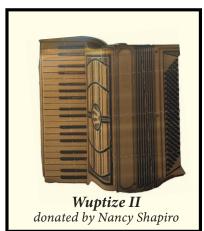












## schedule of events Saturday, August 17

9:45am – 10:20am	Ron Borelli
10:25am – 11:05am	Sourdough Slim & Robert Armstrong
11:10am – 11:55am	Sergei & Maria Teleshev
12:00pm – 12:45pm	Stas Venglevski
12:50pm – 1:40pm	United Air Force Band of the Golden West "Galaxy
1:40pm – 1:45pm	Student Scholarship Awards
1:45pm – 2:00pm	Lady of Spain
2:00pm – 2:45pm	Jelena Milojevic
2:50pm – 3:35pm	Cory Pesaturo
3;40pm – 4:25pm	Discos Resaca Collective Featuring Mariposa del Alma & Deuce Eclipse
4:30pm – 5:10pm	Pete Contino
5:15pm – 6:00pm	The Mad Maggies
6:05pm – 6:40pm	Netta Skog
6:45pm – 7:45pm	Junk Parlor

## POLKA / ZYDECO TENT

9:45am - 12:00pm	Sheri Mignano & Steve Han	ison
1:00pm - 5:00pm	The Steve Balich Band	
5:15pm-7:00pm	Iko Ya Ya	

#### ZYDECO DANCE PARTY AT SPANKY'S BAR - 8201 Old Redwood Hwy

#### **SATURDAY**

1:00PM - 5:00PM MARK ST. MARY SUNDAY

1:00PM - 5:00PM CALIFORNIA BLUE RUNNERS

## Schedule of events Sunday, August 18

•		
	9:45am – 10:25am	Future Stars
	10:30am – 11:05am	Mike Zampiceni
	11:10am – 11:55am	Alejandro Brittes Trio
	12:00pm – 12:40pm	Jelena Milojevic
	12:45pm – 1:30pm	Sonomusette
	1:30pm – 1:35pm	Honorary Director Presentation
	1:35pm - 1:45pm	Lady of Spain
	1:45pm – 2:25pm	Netta Skog
	2:30pm – 3:10pm	Cory Pesaturo
	3:15pm – 4:00pm	Califas
	4:00pm – 4:10pm	Raffle
	4:10pm – 5:00pm	Balkan Laikas
	5:05pm – 5:40pm	Sergei & Maria Teleshev
	5:45pm – 6:25pm	Discos Resaca Collective Featuring Mariposa del Alma & Deuce Eclipse
	6:40pm – 7:45pm	Grand Finale

## POLKA / ZYDECO TENT

9:45AM - 12:00PM Sheri Mignano & Steve Hanson

1:00PM - 5:00PM The Steve Balich Band

5:15PM-7:00PM Les Amis Zydeco

## ACCORDION APOCALYPSE STAGE LOCATED INSIDE THE SOUTH GATE

SATURDAY 10:30 AM - 5PM SUNDAY 10:30 AM - 5PM SEE PAGES 8-9 FOR FULL LINE UP

#### Future Accordion Stars

#### The Future Accordion Stars on stage Sunday, August 18th 9:45 am to 10:25 am **BE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM**

These Future Stars are not just keeping the accordion alive in Sonoma County, they are playing music just like their name. This lineup is an example of the fact that the young players are getting more numerous and playing better every year we present them on the mainstage.

The Cotati Accordion Festival is always spreading joy in the

beloved event. We began the Future Stars program in order for young players to get a taste of playing before a large musically-

present, while forever having an eye on the future of our

educated crowd. These young players now get to see how much their hard work and special talents are appreciated. Because our team feels that it is important to take part in the development of young accordionists, we have also established the Student Scholarship Program. It is also why we have developed the Accordion Apocalypse Stage at the south end of the park, where musicians spanning a wide

age range can come together and display their creativity.

Today we may enjoy our event, while simultaneously

assembling the building blocks for many celebrations to come.



Nicholas Plasichuk Age: 17 (Mark Carlson)



Marion Seratan Age: 9 (Linda Seekins)



Colin Kennedy Age: 13 (Mike Zampiceni)



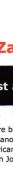
Daniel Kolbach Age: 11 (Jelena Milojevic)



Anabelle Selvaraj Age: 9 (Michael Zampiceni)



Michael Rogers Age: 9 (Marjorie Konrad)







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**Iennifer Aruldass** Age: 8 (Michael Zampiceni)



Featuring Accordion



Olivia Ma Age: 9 (Marjorie Konrad)

Andrew Cohen Ron Borelli

Andrew Cohen is on a mission with the accordion. After experiencing an existential crisis common among classically trained musicians, he decided to pick up the instrument and hasn't looked back. Andrew performed constantly for years as part of the rich Bay Area Balkan music scene, learning traditional folk music from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, and Turkey. After a time, Romanian Gypsy music, Muzica Lautareasca caught his attention. In 2019, after recording his album Californeasca featuring professional Romanian vocalist Ionela Guzic, Andrew was invited to study in Romania with master accordionist Ionica Minune, living for months with him, his wife, and their ten dogs in the village of Stefanestii-de-Jos. To date, Andrew is the first and only American musician to be given the opportunity to study with Ionica who is one of the national figures of Romania, and the experience has

inspired him to bring this virtuosic and little-known music to an audience here in the US. Andrew has performed at many venues around California and the western US, and at festivals including Outside Lands and Symbiosis festival.

Andrew has also studied for years with master musician Sergiu Popa, and has degrees in Music Education and Instrumental Performance from the Hartt School of Music in Connecticut. He currently runs a music school in San Francisco named Village Music and lives in Bolinas, California.

#### Amber Lee Baker

Since 2002 Amber's musical journey has been linked to the accordion. She grew up singing and playing piano, but it was the accordion that really unlocked her creative soul and inspired her to create original songs on a new level.

With two albums and multiple tours under her belt, she's found a fun niche scene as part of the Accordion Babe Pin-Up Calendar revolution, entertaining audiences all over the Bay Area of San Francisco.

Her style has been described as Folk Cabaret and Bawdy Singer-songwriter. A little bit show-tune,

a little bit blues, and a little bit folky rock-n-roll - and a whole lot of soulful fun!

You may find out more at www.amberleebaker.com.



Ron Borelli is a native of San Francisco. His interest in music and the accordion was received from this father, Al Borelli, a well-known bandleader. He

studied accordion with Dino Benetti and renowned, Don Haas. In his early teens he began playing with his father's dance band, and then gradually started his own bands. From 2001 to 2009, Ron instructed and performed at the Las Vegas International Accordion Convention, a lifetime experience. Ron continues to perform on accordion in a wide variety of musical settings. On the fun side, he has toured the Midwest and Italy with Those Darn Accordions. On the serious side, he has appeared with the San Francisco Symphony, the Berkeley Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony, Diablo Ballet, and was the accordionist for

the Three Tenors in their 1999 Bay Area concert. He is called to perform for the San Francisco Opera and most recently for the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra's performance of MADCAP featuring accordion. He has also performed for many celebrities throughout the San Francisco Bay Area including 25 years for actor Robin Williams' house parties. For the Cotati Accordion Festival Ron is planning a diverse program of music that includes compositions of Richard Galliano, French waltzes, Latin classics, Opera, and polkas. Ron sends out a special "thank you" to Cotati Festival for continuing their good work throughout the community and keeping the accordion a major instrument for all to enjoy. **Ph:** 415 203 6700

Email: ronborelli@aol.com www.ronborelli.com



### 5 Cent Coffee

37



Neo-skiffle junkyard blues, with 5 time accordion babe doodles la rue. A three piece featuring stand up bass, accordion, ukulele & banjo, 5 Cent Coffee writes songs that cast you back into another time. Inspired by sounds as diverse as the clang and thump of old jug and skiffle bands and early 20th c. American music to Tom Waits. Nick Cave, and the Tigerlillies.

## Student Scholarship Page



For the 33rd anniversary of the festival, we are thrilled to be able to award almost \$4,200 in scholarships to nine lucky students. To participate, students are required to submit videos of their performances for adjudication. On Saturday morning, the eligible students will perform with an audience of family, friends and festival goers to demonstrate their talents. Don't miss this opportunity to applaud these courageous young accordionists. The performance begins at 9:30A inside the Social Hall at the Church of the Oaks, located at 175 Page Street near the corner of West Sierra Street, just a short walk from the Polka Tent. It is a free event but we request donations-all proceeds go into the scholarship fund. On Saturday at 1:35P, the scholarship awards will be announced and presented on stage. On Sunday morning at 9:45A, you will likely see some of the of the students performing on stage under the banner of Future Stars on the main stage, followed by a gathering at the Jam Tent to play from 10:30A – Noon. We are pleased to be able to award the Dick and Judy Contino Accordion Scholarship to a junior or senior in high school who scores highest for this category. This \$1200 award will go a long way toward the student's musical and educational life. In addition to the Contino Award, we are honored to be able to offer a \$500 scholarship sponsored by the San Francisco Accordion Club. Of course, the festival

will be awarding up to \$2200 distributed to the students as well.

We are so proud of all their musical achievements! Don't miss your chance to encourage them. Over the years, we have watched them all develop into mature musicians. Many have aged out but they still play accordion. For example, Derek

Yuan is studying at Harvard University, and others have explored new interests but keep playing the accordion. Our current generation of accordionists is dedicated and hardworking despite obstacles. We hope to see them as professional accordionists on the Cotati Accordion Festival stage soon.

If you know a student who wishes to apply for 2025, tell them to contact the Student Stage Coordinator and to apply in early 2025 by downloading the application and guidelines available on the website. In the meantime, parents and teachers are encouraged to submit student applications. It is open to any student 18 years old and under. Teachers provide their best candidates; the judges calculate the earned points in four categories; students perform to the best of their abilities. We all enjoy seeing their teachers' and parents' investment turn into smiles from the student winners on stage and in the audience. The origin for the student stage competition began in 2014 when first introduced by Sheri Mignano Crawford. Each year we've seen it grow in popularity and with broader support. In 2021, the Cotati Accordion Student Scholarships began operating the Jam Tent. We invite all festival attendees and all abilities to hang out in the Jam Tent and play or enjoy listening to others. It's a great place to greet old friends and meet new ones. Help us to fundraise!. The volunteers at the reception desk

## Student Scholarship Page (continued)

located at the Jam Tent will accept cash donations and raffle tickets sales for an accordion or two. On Sunday afternoon at 4:30P, we announce the raffle winners at the reception desk. You must be present to win!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIPS!

So, check out the Jam Tent and be an ardent supporter for the younger generation. Show that you believe in the future of the accordion!

ACCORDIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Please contact:

CotatiAccordionStudentStageyahoo.com

### Jam Tent

## JANTERIA CORDION



Anyone who's stopped in at the Jam Tent knows that it's only for the hearty players! Although that is only a statement of pure jest, it can also sound a bit intimidating. There can be 10-20

accordions and other instruments playing at once. But, please, don't be intimidated. It's so much fun! You won't want to miss out on it. For more than a decade, the Jam Tent has served as an anchor to all accordionists in search of connecting with others. Under the auspices of the Golden State Accordion Club, it grew into the most popular hub at the festival. It's a great place to hang out, meet a friend, swap stories, and share the latest in the accordion world. Stop by and play for an hour or so. It's up to you. Make the most of your festival experience! Sign up to lead a session or kick back and just enjoy the music. When you visit the tent, you'll be able to chat with George Bachich, our

accordion repair professional who brings a lifetime of experience to restoring old accordions. He loves to share his stories and will offer tips about accordion repairs at the "Accordion Autopsy" table. If you like, you can stop by the Jam Tent headquarters and discuss the history of Italian accordion sheet music with Cotati's historian Sheri Mignano Crawford. She's available in the afternoons. The Jam Tent welcomes all musical instruments inside and encourages everyone to participate. Maybe you'll learn a new tune or see an old friend again. Music binders provide the sheet music, and you provide the musical excitement. A rotation of leaders keeps the enthusiasm high and organized. Small, featured groups may appear throughout the day to hold everyone's attention and provide respite from the jam sessions. Even if you don't intend to play, sit down and enjoy listening. The music is non-stop from 9:45A to 5:00P

both days. It is located at the north gate entry. See you there.

## In honor...

In honor of the accordionists who have passed on and whose contribution and devotion to the accordion have helped to sustain the accordion clubs, the future of the accordion and, of course, our beloved festival of great accordion music.

I am sure we have missed others in this mention, as so many in the accordion world give so much of their lives to the instrument and the community we have built around it.

This past year we lost the Bay Area's most renown master, teacher and accordionist, Lou Jacklich. Lou's career was 80 plus years and he taught over 1,000 students. Lou has been recognized nationwide with several Meritorious awards. However, we remember Lou as an Honorary Director of the Cotati Accordion Festival. His essence lives on his students playing with the joy he enthused in them.



#### Remembering Lou Jacklich: Master Accordionist and Teacher, 1928-2024

Pamela Tom and Kenneth E. Schwartz

Northern California's cherished accordion maestro, Lou Jacklich, passed away peacefully on World Accordion Day, May 6, 2024, after a brief illness. He would have been 96 years old in August.

Lou was an extraordinary musician whose accordion career spanned 80 years. He remained a vibrant performer and teacher to the end! A virtuoso and innovator from a young age, he had his union card at 16 years old as a vaudeville performer. Lou starred with and led numerous bands, recorded as an artist for Capitol Records, founded his own accordion school (Lou Jacklich

School of Music), co-owned a music publishing company ("Lou-Rich"), and was one of the first accordionists to master the new electronic accordions in 1960. Lou was a distinguished teacher, performer and contributor to the accordion community and was recognized nationwide with multiple meritorious lifetime achievement awards including Cotati Accordion Festival Honorary Director, 2016.

A valued mentor, teacher, and member of the San Francisco Accordion Club, the Maestro performed throughout California and beyond. His concerts were based on his own arrangements often with a jazz interpretation. Ernie Felice inspired Jacklich's jazz style as demonstrated by "I'm in the Mood for Love" and "Fly Me to the Moon" on YouTube hosted by "accordionpam" (youtu.be/TRnakLu55eM).

Lou Jacklich's career and audio samples of his innovative style on the electronic accordion are on the Music For Accordion web site (www. musicforaccordion.com/eTracks/inform/jacklich/index.htm).

Lou's music enriched many lives during his time with us. He will be deeply missed. May you rest in peace, Lou Jacklich!

## In honor...

#### Carl Schollmann 1938-2024

When you google "community service" there should be a picture of Carl Schollmann. There is no better prototype of a person who devotes himself to helping in every possible way to bring his community, and its events, up to the highest standards. Carl was a father, family man, and a successful businessman, all while he devoted the rest of his time to taking part in community affairs. Carl would be Santa at the tree lighting ceremony, helping in Kids Day, or getting the vacant lots in order for the Cotati Accordion Festival.

Carl always did whatever he could do to help with our festival, and as his spirit lives on in the community he loved, he will be sorely missed.

#### Eric Kirchmann 1955-2024

After the 2004 Cotati Accordion Festival had finished about ten of us went out to dinner for a wrap up meeting and an evening of great wine and food. I was not on the team, as I had always been too busy producing my own shows. However, the leaders of the C.A.F. were close friends and my wife, Michele, and I joined the dinner to celebrate.

About half way through the dinner, to my shock and surprise, the founder of the festival, Clifton, stood to make a toast to the retirement of the festival. I blurted out, "I am not so sure about that!". I looked at Eric Kirchmann, one of the most integral members of the annual production, and he just gave me a knowing smile. There was mention that I was crazy to think I could take it all on, but I said that horse had long left the barn and we would see what plays out.

In the following weeks I did not think much about that dinner and what had transpired. However, Eric Kirchmann immediately met with members of city hall and started the machinery rolling for a 2005 production of the Cotati Accordion Festival. After putting together a few building blocks Eric called me and reminded me of what I had blurted out. He asked if I would co-produce the 2005 festival with him and the rest is history.

The bottom line is that not only was Eric a fundamental part of the production of the Cotati Accordion Festival since its onset in 1991, and not only did he work as hard as anyone putting together the infrastructure for the festival each year, but he is the one who reached into the ashes and pulled the festival back out for yet another run

I might be the producer and the executive director of the Cotati Accordion Festival for the last 20 years, but Eric is the person who saved the festival. If it had not been for Eric Kirchmann being proactive, I would still be on the couch talking about what could have been.

Mark St. Mary was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, a self taught musician that has mastered the Piano Note and Diatonic Accordions. Mark has been playing the accordion and zydeco since the age of 15. A purveyor of the double pump beat ACCORDION STYLE, Mark toured with Clifton Chenier while mastering the idioms of traditional Creole-Cajun Zvdeco as well as Louisiana Blues, Jazz & R&B. He has performed from New Orleans to Houston and all through California where many Creoles settled during and after World War II. He has recorded for Goldband Records and performed with such notables as Doug Kershaw, Barbara Mandrell. Queen Ida and Big Mana Thornton, to name a few. He is a regular at zydeco dance halls, festivals and concerts, and has frequently performed in Las Vegas, /Reno/Spark, Disneyland,, performed at Travis Air /force Base "Welcome Home Troops" and a repeat performer at the California State Fair. Mark takes pride in continuing to work on the preservation of the Traditional sound of Cajun /Zydeco music created by his mentor Clinton Cienier and Boozoo Chavis, two of the earliest recording artists of what would become known as Zydeco in the early 1950s and of course the influencers of Mark's style of Zydeco/Cajun Music today. If you kike the sound of BooZoo, Marcel Dougas or Buckwheat or that double pump beat, you name it Mark says "I can Play it", because my pleasure comes from pleasing the crown and the dancers! Mark was honored once again when he accepted the award "Best Zydeco Band of the Year" at the Bay Area Blues Society



Hall of Fame Awards, has received numerous awards from the Cajun Music Association for the /dedication and Preservation of Zydeco Music and was privileged when Honer him on becoming a Honer Endorsee. ETOILE'

Mark St. Mary Louisiana Blues & Zydeco 916-729-6729







### Duckmandu

Aaron Seeman's onslaught of solo accordion and vocals has astounded audiences of all shapes and sizes. Maximum Rock 'n Roll, the premier punk magazine, pronounced him "over the top!" for his note-for-note renditions of the entire first Dead Kennedys album, Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables. His repertoire also includes, but is not

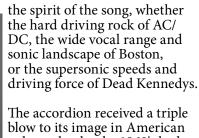
limited to, 70's rock, Broadway, klezmer, classical, country, Sousa marches, punk rock, and even a polka or two.

Rather than play hokey accordion versions of these songs, Duckman/ Seeman seeks to demonstrate that accordion and vocals alone can evoke



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Real Culture.



The accordion received a triple blow to its image in American culture that by the 1960's had done serious damage. First, millions of American children were forced to play the unwieldy instrument against their wills. Second, Lawrence Welk's widely watched show focused only on the geekiest, corniest aspects of

the instrument. Third, there was the rise of rock 'n roll and the electric guitar.

This is not to say that the Duckman renounces geekiness, far from it. But America and the world must be reminded what a powerful and versatile instrument the accordion can be.

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Having more accolades than we can list here, Mike has been gigging and teaching in the bay area for many decades. At 8 years old, he began taking lessons from his father, Joseph Zampiceni, a noted bay area accordionist and teacher during the golden age of the accordion. Today he is known for his musicianship and flawless technique and as a dynamite player that many aspire to emulate. As his long list of students would attest to, Mike values above all the proper use of the bellows. Indeed, students from his teaching career routinely appear on stage at this very festival to dazzle and

delight. He himself has been a featured performer multiple times at the Cotati Accordion Festival, Las Vegas Accordion Convention, and Leavenworth Accordion Celebration. He enjoys many musical genres, with jazz a favorite. An accordion teacher to treasure. Mike is the rare accordionist who happens to also be a vocalist, blessed with perfect pitch to boot. The San Francisco Accordion Club is proud to present the 2024 student scholarship award in your honor, Mike! www.sfaccordionclub.com

## Sergei & Maria Teleshev

## An Interview with Sergei & Maria Teleshev



Family DUO "TWO ACCORDIONS" is a unique collaboration between father and daughter, both renowned musicians, accordion champions from the United States.

Sergei Teleshev is a professional accordion player from Eugene, Oregon living and performing in the United States since 1996. He has Ukrainian roots and spent part of his childhood in Ukraine. Classically trained at the Academy of Music in Voronezh, Russia, Sergei Teleshev has won many regional and international accordion competitions. Being a founding member and accordion player of Trio Voronezh, Classic Klezmer Trio, Valinor Quartet and East-West International Project, he collaborates with many internationally recognized artists, ensembles, and orchestras, composing and arranging music, participates in recording projects of different genres. Sergei's personal YouTube channel (Sergei Teleshev) has more than two hundred music videos with his participation, and the most popular of them are gaining millions of views. Sergei is a jury member at International accordion competitions in Canada, USA, France, Italy, Russia and Ukraine. In 2013, Sergei won the U.S.

National V-Accordion Competition. As the champion, Sergei represented the United States at the 7th Roland International V-Accordion Festival, in Rome, Italy, where he received a special prize for most online votes on the festival's webcast. In July 2017 he won in two categories (Solo Open, and Ensemble) at the International Accordion Competition in Victoria, Canada. In May of 2020 Sergei Teleshev won two 3rd prizes in PIF Castelfidardo World Accordion Competition in Italy (Categories JAZZ Music, and Astor Piazzolla Music Award). In October 2020, Sergei was ranked #2 in the "International Open Trophy" World Accordion Contest in France. He is the organizer and the president of the most prestigious Accordion Competition-Festival "Accordion Star International" that brings together the best players and artists from all over the world (more than 30 countries were involved in 2021 and 2022 seasons). He was ranked #1 in Russia and #3 in the World as a most popular and influential Accordionist of the Year 2019 by "Accordion Stars Illustrated" Magazine, Time Press, New York. Sergei is providing online accordion lessons, master classes, and educational school programs for all ages.

Maria Telesheva was six years old when she started to play the accordion. Maria's teacher is her father Sergei Teleshev. Two months after Maria started playing, she won her first International Competition. Since then, she has won Accordion and Vocal International Competitions in the United States, Canada, Australia, Italy, Belarus and Ukraine. Maria's talent is not limited to her exceptional duet and solo accordion performances. She's also a talented singer. In November 2021, Maria got the title "Prodigy of the Year" and was selected to grace the cover of the "Accordion Stars Illustrated" Magazine, Time Press, New York (December/January Issue).

I first came into contact with Sergei Teleshev when he was part of a group called Trio Voronezh. This excellent combo, using traditional Russian folk instruments, played classical, folk, tangos, gypsy and bluegrass at the Cotati easier to create unique arrangements Accordion Festival almost ten years ago. Hence, when Covid hit and we put on two different live-streaming festivals, I reached out to Sergei to see if he wanted to be part of it. To my surprise he had a new act to propose. His new combo was Sergei and his daughter Maria.

Sergei and Maria were such a hit in our virtual festival, that I made sure to bring them to Cotati in 2021 for all to appreciate in a live concert. Because I could not resist watching the progress of their excellent chemistry I asked them to come back to our festival this August.

#### "How did this wonderful family project come about?"



Maria: When I was little, I always heard my accordion with different father, daughter act?" groups and in a variety of styles. I fell in love with its unique sound and versatility at a very young age. We always had a little accordion sitting in our living

room, and one day, I came up to my dad and said, 'Can you teach me?" At first he just taught me a few chords. However, I started progressing very quickly, and two months later, I won my first accordion competition in Leavenworth, WA., in the a more popularized instrument. category Ten and Under, seeing that I was six years old.

**Sergei:** For the last four years, we've been performing professionally, playing full concert programs (90-100 minutes) of music in different styles.

It's a lot of fun to perform as a family duo because we are not just partners, we can feel each other through the music. We choose our repertoire by mutual interests. That makes it that we both work on together.

#### "What accordions do you play, and what else are you adding to your act?"



**Sergei:** We both play B-system Chromatic button accordions with a free base feature (Jupiter Brand).

Maria: Besides playing the accordion, I also sing, play percussion. And I

incorporate dance into our program. The addition of vocals into our program provides a bit more diversity in our repertoire and I think it truly brings our show to a whole new level.

## father play music on the "What do you see in the future for your

**Sergei:** Of course, we play a lot for accordion lovers, accordion clubs, accordion festivals, etc. However, we are targeting general audiences in the first place by including popular music in different styles such as classical, tango, jazz, pop, rock, movie soundtracks and more into our repertoire. This way we are gaining interest from more people, playing in bigger venues, and making the accordion

We are grateful to be returning artists at the Cotati Accordion festival because this is one of the best accordion celebrations in the world which brings together thousands of accordion lovers of all ages.

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Entertainment

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- corn dogs (F1)

#### **Brothers Products SF**

*- humus, yogurt (B8&B9)* 

#### **Cotton Candy Central**

- cotton candy (B6)

#### **Flagship Tap Room**

-BBQ (F2)

#### **Good Vybes Lemonade**

- lemonade (B7)

#### Java Wagon

- coffee & treats (B1&B2)

#### **Lins Dim Sum**

- chinese food (F3)

#### **Lucky Pop Kettle Corn**

- kettle corn (B10)

#### **Mariapilar Ice Cream**

- Ice Cream (F8)

#### **Mommys Yummys**

- mediterranean (F7)

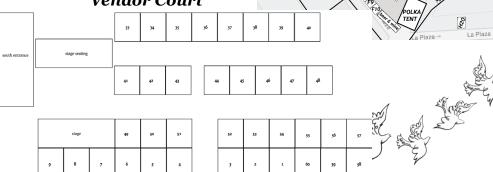
#### **Nothing Bundtcakes**

- bundtcakes (B4)

#### **Rose's Burgers & Brats**

- burgers & brats (F4)

#### Vendor Court



#### Sonoma Terivaki

- teriyaki chicken (F10)

#### Tacos don Pepe

- tacos (B<sub>5</sub>)

#### Sal's Pizzeria Cotati

- pizza (F6)

#### The Wurst

- hots dogs (F9)

#### **Tuckbox**

- indian food(F<sub>5</sub>)

#### Ultimate Souvlaki

- greek food (B11)

La Plaza

#### **Beer & Wine Tent**

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## Cory Pesaturo (continued)



Corv Pesaturo ("C Pez") is revolutionizing the Accordion. The only person to ever win the trio of World Championships on Acoustic, Digital & Jazz Accordion, and the only Accordion graduate of the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. In 2017, Pesaturo became a Guinness World Record Holder, as RedBull® flew him to Austria to break the Marathon Accordion Record, in which Cory played for 32 Hours & 14 Minutes. His performances at all 3 of his World Championships were played on accordions which were not his, and were generally 90% improvised; both aspects are unheard of in the accordion world. CPez has given 4 TED Talks, 2 Google Talks, an EG Talk, and spoken at various other conferences on the accordion & its history.

Pesaturo's extensive resumé includes appearances at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton on 4 different occasions, starting at age 12, and 8 other appearances for the Clintons. On one of those occasions, he became the youngest person to ever perform at a State Dinner. Some TV appearances include the Late Show with David Letterman, performing

with Johnny Depp, Jimmy Fallon's That's My Jam on NBC, Wayne Brady's Let's Make A Deal on CBS, and Nationally televised programs in New Zealand, Canada, Italy, Tunisia, France, and Finland. On an NYC broadcast, CNBC/FOX host Maria Bartiromo once said "No one is currently doing more for the Accordion than Cory". Pesaturo was also chosen as the Featured Accordionist in the Weird Al BIOPIC "Weird" in 2022. He has judged accordion competitions in the US, Canada, and Europe, in addition to other music competitions, and currently gives masterclasses at various universities throughout the US and Europe on Accordion and Improvisation.

For his Classical side which is lesser known, a win in a concerto competition at 16 years old gave Pesaturo the rare opportunity to perform with the Brockton Symphony Orchestra as a featured soloist, where he became the youngest accordionist to ever solo with a symphony orchestra in the US. He has since performed multiple times with Symphonies, including both the Boston Pops and Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Pesaturo is also involved and respected in the weather and motor sports worlds as well. He composed the Official list of records set by the record-breaking 2005 Atlantic

Hurricane season, and has done reports on Winter Seasons which have been featured on Accuweather & other sites. In sports, he has written sports blogs for sites such as Bleacher Report, articles in MESH Magazine, and has collaborated with members of the Red

Sox on the Fenway 100 Album. His music has been played on Formula 1 broadcasts, and additionally has an ongoing musical relationship with 98.5 The Sports Hub in Boston.



#### Art Peterson



It was literally a door-to-door salesman that got Art Peterson started on accordion when he was 8 years old until his teacher went back to Mexico 2 years later. "The Great Folk Music Scare" came along and he picked up the guitar and banjo, eventually doing tours of Germany and Austria as well as playing the San Diego Folk Festival and coffee houses up and down the state of California. Art was also in a show called "An Evening with Woody Guthrie" which sold out La Pena Cultural Center in Berkeley every other

month for 2 years. Ed Robbin, a great story teller and close friend of Woody's, gave the show it's personal tie to Woody.

Art picked the accordion back up at 35 and began playing in musical saw icon Charlie Blacklocks's band soon afterwards. A few years later he was a founding member of Those Darn Accordions and played with them for over ten years, riding all the way up to Dick Clark's American Music Awards, playing with such luminaries as Dick Contino and "Weird Al" Yankovich, and singing Macho Man on mic with Drew Carey.

After TDA, Art formed "The Polka Cowboys" and "Wildcat Canyon" and began playing for Western Dancing and Contra Dancing at many venues around the Bay Area, including a once a month Western Dance at a restaurant in El Sobrante for 18 years.

Art will be joined by stellar guitarist Greg Pratt. www.artpeterson.com



From the foothills of Southern California, comes the jazzy folk group Nathan & Jessie. Born of the individuals, Nathan Rivera and Jessie Andra Smith, this band is a unique blend of jazzy folk and blues on resonator guitars and accordion, along with interesting interplay between male and female vocals. Their performances not only

include unique all original music, but stories of their travels and interaction with the audience that make for an unforgettable experience. Love of sharing music has taken Nathan & Jessie all over the world, frequenting places like Mexico, Canada, France, New Orleans, and the Pacific NorthWest. The upbeat tunes they write reflect the cultural, emotional, and inspirational images of their life experience and are rooted in the spirit of jazz, improvisation, storytelling, language, and humor. Listen to their newest album, "OLD ADOBE HOME" on all streaming platforms!

Nathan and Jessie, a dynamic duo celebrated for their seamless blend of jazz, folk, and blues, deliver a mesmerizing auditory experience. Their music is a tapestry woven with rich harmonies and intricate guitar and accordion arrangements. The pair's chemistry is palpable, making each performance a unique journey filled with spontaneity and deep musical connection. Whether they are charming small venues or commanding larger stages, Nathan and Jessie captivate their audience with soulful storytelling and an undeniable musical synergy that transcends genres. Their innovative sound and heartfelt performances make them

a standout act in the contemporary music scene.

Nathan and Jessie epitomize the essence of true artistry, embodying the lives they serenade in their songs. From the saltwater beaches to the vibrant streets of New Orleans, their music transports you to different worlds. Witness the magic in their YouTube video, where their journey unfolds. For a deeper dive into their soulful repertoire, listen to "Till All The Gold Is Gone" from their latest album, "Old Adobe Home," and let their melodies whisk you away to an enchanting realm.





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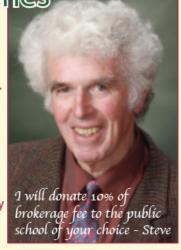
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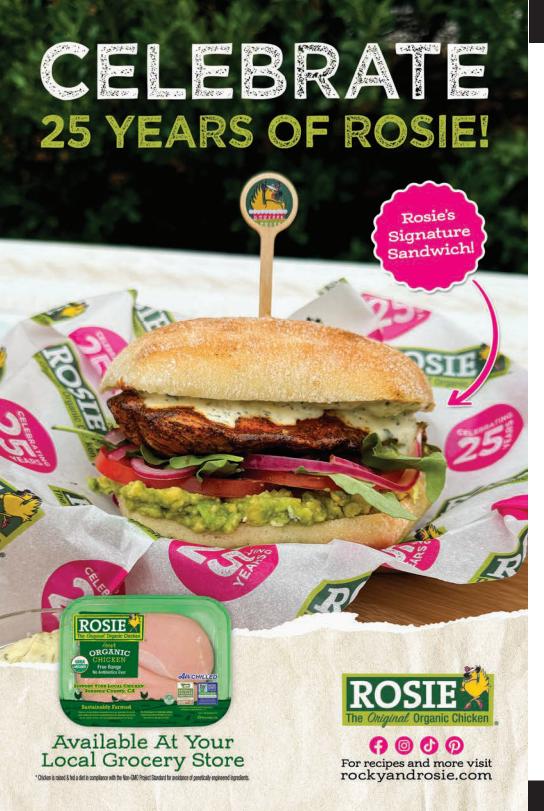
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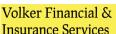
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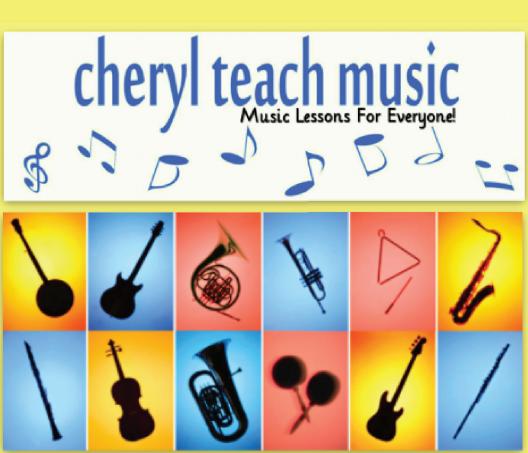


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