

NEWSLETTER OF THE



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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE 🎵

NEWSLETTER OF THE

# Silicon Valley Accordion Society

April 2021

SVAS Next ZOOM Meeting  
Bonnie Birch Trio  
Sunday, May 2, 2021 3:15pm PST



**Bonnie Birch** is one of the Northwest's finest accordionists performing a versatile repertoire of American, European Continental (French, Italian, etc), and classical music.

Bonnie performs as a soloist as well as working with a wide variety of local area musicians and singers. Her varied audience includes restaurants, weddings, corporate events, family events, and artistic organizations.



For over 20 years, Bonnie has performed as a trio consisting of Nick Heiting on guitar and Paul Ostler on tuba. Their unique talents add so much diversity to accordion music.

Bonnie C. Birch  
206-622-4786  
[www.bonniebirch.com](http://www.bonniebirch.com)

A world of Accordions Museum will hold a three-day Accordion Festival, May 6-8, 2021, in Superior WI. Many of the performances will be live-streamed on AWAM's Facebook page. Stas Venglevski, artistic director for AWAM. For more information, please visit <http://www.worldofaccordions.org>

Accordion Club in San Antonio Texas will be hosting summer workshops and concert series beginning June 22 through June 26, 2021. Two Free Concerts, links posted on website - Donations accepted to support the artists. Mario Pedone with South American Music and Cory Pesaturo with Italian Retro and Folk Music. Please visit [www.NotJustOompah.org](http://www.NotJustOompah.org), for more information.

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Hello SVAS Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you all to be doing well and in good health! Happy April... Alas, spring is in the air and we are warming up!

Thank you, Reno Di Bono, for playing for us in March on Zoom!!! You were AWESOME, as usual, and we all very much loved listening to you and spending time with you! You always have something to teach us and it is very much appreciated.

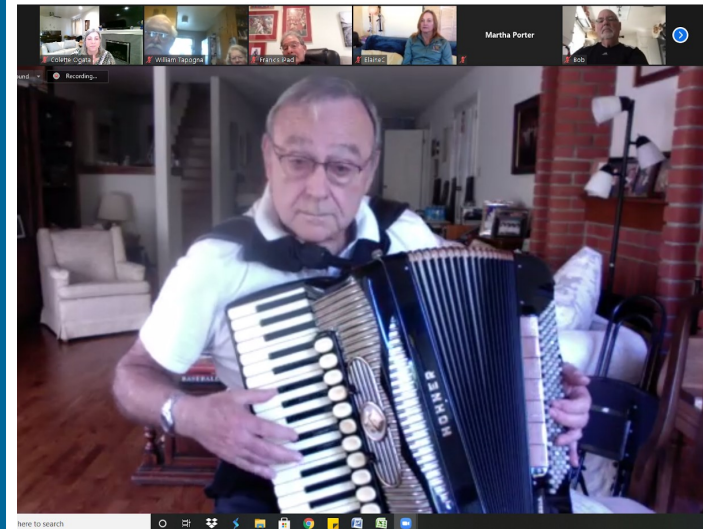
Speaking of teaching, Reno has offered to instruct a monthly Zoom forum for the SVAS and SFAC club members. Each month's session will cover a different topic related to music, chord structure, chord progressions and how to recognize them. This workshop will be held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm and is free of charge. Please RSVP in order to receive the link. Hope you take advantage of this great opportunity to learn, and thank you, Reno for offering.

Thank you, Pam Kawashima for your hard work in creating a Donate button on our website. It is my hope that for our future Zoom meetings, non-members would be willing to make a \$5 donation to our club through PayPal - a nominal fee for such wonderful music! Of course, we would love non-members to sign up to become members. One of the perks of becoming a member would be that our Zoom meetings are free!!!

Thank you, club members, board, and performers for your hard work and contributions to our club! Stay well and safe, and hope to see you in May, on Zoom.

*I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the backyard. I'm getting tired of the living room.*

Colette Ogata



At this meeting we were thoroughly entertained and educated by Reno Di Bono, one of the talented members of our club, and a long-time accordion band performer and educator in our area. Reno was introduced by Bill Tapogna, who said: "Reno plays pretty well and he speaks a foreign language." In fact, for the over three dozen people in attendance, Reno probably didn't need any introduction at all.

During his 70-minute performance, Reno played a whopping total of 34 songs, too many to list in this article. His songs included a polka or two, a number of Italian songs, a song from Brazil, some American music, some French tunes, and a whole medley of dance tunes. He accompanied himself singing in Italian and

made several references to his grandmother singing the Italian songs to him. He also did a marvelous impression of Maurice Chevalier singing "C'est Magnifique."

Reno's technique is wonderful to watch and hear. He has a light touch on the keys and uses a lot of variety in fingering and rhythms. Some songs were slow, some were fast, some were jazzy, and his opening song could have accompanied a horse race movie!

As an intro to his medley of dance tunes, Reno spoke a bit about his many years of performing around the Bay Area with dance bands. During those days, about two out of every ten jobs called for French tunes, and many of the others were for Italian weddings and events. Apparently, the end of that era occurred around five years ago. Sadly, there don't seem to be many Italian weddings anymore, and few other gigs are available either!

He enlightened us on several interesting topics. He told us that the Italians were famous for going from minor to major keys to set the mood and demonstrated by playing a bit of "Come Back to Sorrento." He mentioned that in the "old days" good dance tunes were written in the keys of E-flat, A-flat and B-flat, because of the "masculinity" of those times. But now, for the past 15 years or so, higher keys are more common. He mentioned that he has a lot of sheet music (none of which was visible during this performance) including a book of German songs. He confessed that in the days of playing at Oktoberfests, he sometimes made up 2-chord polkas on the spot, saying that the American audiences wouldn't know the difference!

Reno is very easy in front of an audience. He told us that jazz songs are his favorite because he can be creative and use his imagination when playing them. He mentioned that big block chords and octaves work well for solos in jazz numbers; "noodling" leaves lots of holes!

His big message to us was that the volume of air must change on every phrase; air pressure never stays constant. You should tug and then die on each phrase, like a vocalist breathing, and be sure to rest and fade out to nothing at the end of a song. His final words were: "Be an accordionist, not just an accordion player. Learn to use your left arm and wrist. Think about that while you're playing; and remember, I'll be watching you!"

Georgia Sutherland

In a few months, Misha Studenkov will be graduating from high school and heading off to college. He will most likely be studying Jazz Studies and jazz piano at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Misha's studio teacher will be Gary Versace, who is an accomplished accordion player in addition to being an outstanding jazz pianist.

On Saturday, April 24th, Misha will be having a virtual senior recital at the music school he currently attends. Misha will be mainly playing the piano, but he will play a song by Antonio Carlos Jobim on the accordion. I hope you will join me and

support our very talented young man via Zoom. Congratulations, Misha, you are off to an excellent start!!!  
RSVP - [music\\_school@svpc.us](mailto:music_school@svpc.us)

**Silicon Valley Accordion Society Currently holds virtual Zoom meetings the first Sunday of every other month. Our next meeting will be May 2, 2021, at 3:15pm PST. Check our Website and Facebook for future meetings. Zoom meetings are free to members and we very much appreciate a donation for non-members via PayPal on SVASociety.org. Donations are greatly appreciated and helps keep us Zooming during Covid. Thank you.**

**JOIN THE CLUB: Annual Memberships: Regular \$ 35.00, Gold \$ 125.00, Platinum \$ 200.00**