



Time For A Squeeze!



by: Sue Hirigoyen

Accordions, also referred to as “squeezeboxes,” are alive and well and are still here in our community delighting crowds with happy music by The Golden State Accordion Club. The Golden State Accordion Club is a very active musical club that promotes the accordion family of instruments—piano, chromatic and button box accordions—and perpetuates the enjoyment that this instrument gives to all. The club is very proud of its scholarship program which offers financial support and instrument availability to young players 18 and under. To date, the club has awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships.

Accordions have been a popular instrument across many countries, many continents and various cultures. Many people think that accordions are all about polka music. That is one form of music that the accordionists play, but the accordion can play just about any type of music in any style and any key! Have you ever been to a Cajun dance or attended a “Weird Al” Yankovic performance? Have you attended an André Rieu concert? Yes, an accordionist soloed on his stage! Have you watched *Lawrence Welk Show* reruns on public television which are, to this day, being aired? There’s Myron Floren, with his accordion! Have you attended an Oktoberfest in your community? Yes, all of these programs and performances included one or several accordionists! You get the idea. Accordions, and the lovely music they produce, are still used and enjoyed.

The common thread throughout the musical styles listed above is that most of the music is happy, toe tapping, dance music! You might ask “Why?” That’s because the accordion is a “band in a box” and was used for dances. It is a portable instrument and is capable of

playing solo since it can carry the melody as well as the backup rhythm and chords using the left hand button rows.

Accordions were quite a common instrument for children to learn music from the 1930’s - 1950’s. There used to be door-to-door accordion salesmen that would sell accordions to people who had children in their household. It was more reasonable than purchasing a piano. That’s why even today there are many households that still have an accordion tucked away in their attic or closet. Seriously, now is the time to bring them on out!

If you’d like to see an example of what accordions put in the hands of musicians can do, you are welcome to learn more about The Golden State Accordion Club. The club is a thriving group of accordionists and accordion enthusiasts. Yes, one can sit and enjoy the music, no performing required, but, if you play the accordion and would like to play, you can certainly join in the fun.

The Golden State Accordion Club has three chapters which hold regular meetings:

Vacaville meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at Pietro’s No. 2 located at 679 Merchant Street in Vacaville. Sacramento meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 12401 Folsom Blvd. in Rancho Cordova. If you’re ever up in the Humboldt area, the Humboldt meeting is the third Tuesday of the month with music starting at 7 pm at the Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road in Loleta.

If you would like more information about the Golden State Accordion Club, contact Carole at 707-864-2359. Also, check out the Club’s web page at gsaccordionclub.netfirms.com. ■