



American Federation of Musicians-Local 660

# MUSICENTRAL

July 2007

Founded in 1913—Tuned for the 21st Century

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## Message from the President

**SHARPS & FLATS — Music, Summer's Greatest Feast!  
Don't Miss the State College Jazz Festival, July 19th-21st**



Recently I spent some time in San Francisco and got to see and hear many fine musicians. In places like North Beach, they express their love of Jazz quite profoundly. The photo on the left happens to be a giant mural painted on an apartment house near San Francisco's landmarks—Coit Tower and Washington Square. We in central Pennsylvania also love our Jazz, and July is the month for it!

July 19th through July 21st, the third annual State College Jazz Festival will celebrate many forms and styles of Jazz. This event is sponsored in part by several organizations including the Central PA Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Centre County Commissioners, a grant from the Recording Industries Music Performance Trust Funds, and co-sponsorship arranged by our AFM Local 660. Visit the SCJF07 website for current information:

[www.statecollegejazzfestival.com/](http://www.statecollegejazzfestival.com/)

This month's issue also provides members with an overview of AFM's 97th Convention held in Las Vegas, NV. Our delegate Andrew Jackson, Sr. provides us with both written and visual accounts of the event. On page 4, this month we highlight AFM-660 member Rob Nairn, Double Bass Professor at Penn State. Rob also shares a story about his students attending a recent International Society of Bassist Convention and their travels. He also makes us aware of plans for the next Society Convention to be held State College in 2009 at Penn State.

AFM-660 wishes everyone great weather for the many fine and special musical events to be held in Central Pennsylvania. Here's hoping that you will enjoy...

**Music, Summer's Greatest Feast!**

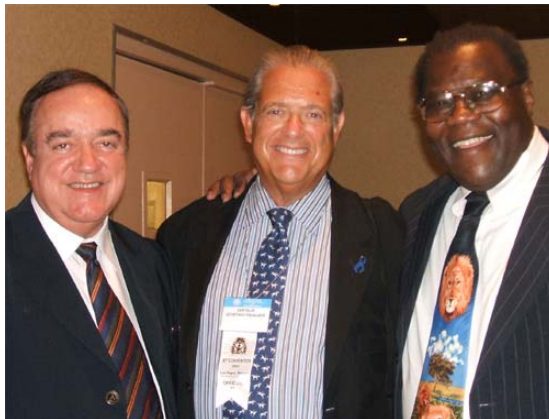


## Support Live Music

### July Events

- \*July 4th Fest Bryce Jordan
- \*40th Central PA Arts Fest  
11-15 State College
- \*People's Choice Fest  
12-15 Boalsburg
- \*South Hills Sunday Picnics
- \*3rd Annual Jazz Festival
- \*The New State College  
Music Fest in Central  
Parklet
- \*The Lemont Summer  
Concerts

## Drum Beats — 97th AFM Convention



The 97th AFM Convention of the United States and Canada took place June 17th through 21st in Las Vegas, Nevada's Riviera Hotel. I had the privilege of being our voting delegate from Local 660.

Delegates re-elected AFM President Tom Lee and Secretary-Treasurer Sam Folio pictured with me during the convention. Other election results included: Re-election of Harold Bradley, from Nashville, TN as Vice President of the AFM International; IEB, re-elected Ray Hair and Joe Parente; Newly elected IEB members were Bob McGrew, Billy Linneman, and Erwin Price; and David Jandrich was elected Vice President from Canada.

Tom Lee's campaign slogan was "Full Time All the Time and Always Available." Lee spoke to 317 delegates representing 197 locals throughout the U.S.A. and Canada. Lee told members: "Musicians need an organization that looks out for their interests. The AFM with more than 110 years of experience has a long history of working on behalf of its members. As the years have gone by the needs of the freelance musicians have changed. Therefore, the AFM must change its business model into one that meets the needs of modern day musicians. While it can't be done overnight, we are well on the way to creating a new AFM that will have a place for every musician."

**AFM Helping its Members**

Dr. Andrew Jackson, Sr., Delegate and Secretary/Treasurer



- 197 locals and 317 delegates were represented—some locals had more than one delegate for every 100 members (Chicago, Illinois, New York, Los Angeles and Canada had the most delegates)
- Resolution #1 by the Joint Law and Finance Committee was defeated
- Recommendation #2 by the Good and Welfare Committee was adopted
- Recommendation #3 by the Good and Welfare Committee was adopted  
Media ownership rules should enhance broadcast localism and diversity
- \$2.00 per capita increase was voted down
- Recommendation #7 on page 13 was adopted—Organization and Legislation on Music Piracy
- Voted on the next AFM convention to be in three years rather than two years—done for cost saving reasons
- Retained African American right to vote based on 1966 Constitution and By-Laws (see *expanded story below*)
- Seated Local 406 in Canada

For more information contact AFM website or Andrew Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer



## AFM faces challenges — non-union musicians & diversity

“The AFM must be concerned about losing work to non-union orchestras and musicians both in the US and foreign countries. This problem cannot be solved by limiting the number of participants in the room when the discussion takes place. **Inclusiveness rather than exclusivity** is the only way to address problems common to all musicians. For the duration of my administration, I've believed that both the employed and the under-employed should be part of any discussion regarding lost work opportunities. While some have called this a divisive tactic, I believe there is nothing to fear from having a larger representative group participating in discussions about loss of work. Inclusiveness ensures a well rounded discussion with all points of view represented, and it offers those who suffer from loss of work the chance to work through the system with their brothers and sisters in a cooperative effort to resolve the issues. Otherwise, the group with the most to lose feels alienated and must fend for themselves in ways that are destructive to union solidarity.

The concept of a union is one in which everyone works for the common good. No person or group is more important than the next. Each member of the union should be focused on how to make life better for the rest of its members. This kind of positive team spirit will solidify the membership, contribute to AFM power and allow the AFM to gain the kind of recognition necessary to help musicians at all levels.



Andrew with Matthew Cascioli (Local 45) Allentown, PA

**The AFM must recognize that the global economy has changed the world in which we live.** NAFTA is not going away in the near future. The AFM must adapt to the world as it is today, not the world we once knew. Therefore, we must examine the way business is done today and be prepared to change when necessary. This organization cannot allow our market share to continue to dwindle in the area of national agreements. We must be prepared to take the necessary steps to capture work rather than see it go to non-union musicians or to distant shores not in the USA. The AFM cannot become paralyzed by holding on to the past. We must learn from the past to prepare for the future.

### Article 17 section 4b

One highlight of the conference was the Threatening of the African American vote legislated by Article 17 section 4b of the AFM Constitution after the AFM counselor explained the threat of a possible voting election challenge of a reverse discrimination law suit if a complaint was filed to the Department of Labor. The African American vote was guaranteed by special election in 1966 after the forced Desegregation merger of all African American locals into the AFM. After losing their Secretary/Treasurer, President and Officers by the forced AFM desegregation mergers of AFM locals in the Department of Labors forced desegregation 1966 merger, the African American delegates were guaranteed a vote at the convention as a reparation for their loss. This right to a vote and representation of African American members of each merged local was threatened by a letter from the Department of Labor May 21, 2007 or one month before the June 17 through 21, 2007 elections at the 97th convention. Prior to that there had been no complaints or threat to the constitution prior or since the 1966 convention over 31 years ago. The article 17, 4b was voted out of the constitution at the convention by the seating delegates and the convention delegates approved the African

American delegates (10) total represented out of 397 delegates and 197 locals represented and with the right to vote at the 97th convention also.

Another highlight was when the candidate delegates from Montreal were threatened to not be seated at the 97th convention due to a debt from the previous administration. This matter, however, was resolved when the 97th AFM International convention delegates voted to have the Canadian local from Montreal seated by approving their indebtedness as a loan approved by the IEB.”





# Photo highlights of the 97th AFM

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Humberto Martins, Toronto, Canada  
(Manager, Pension Benefits—AFM & EPW Fund, Canada)

Vidrey Blackburn and Nick Cutrone from the Music Performance Trust Office in  
AFM New York who assist Locals with the MPF Contracts



Andrew pictured with John Leite, (Local 300) Chairman of the Small Locals Committee with AFM Canada members



Secretary/Treasurer, Sam Folio and his wife sponsored a Jam Session for musicians from across the USA and Canada to jam with each other at the 97th AFM Convention. Granddaughter Lilly, age 19, also showcased her vocal talents. Lilly is already a recording artist having cut her 1st CD.

Below, Oklahoma delegate and recording artist, guitarist Joe Settlemires (Local 375-703) newest CD, "Canadian Sunset and Other Jazz Standards," and President of the Southern Conference of Locals (2005-2007) together with Andrew and a delegate from a New York Local for a Jam Session in the Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada



Front row include winners of the 2007 AFM Diversity Awards — saxophone player, (Local 101-473) Tyrone L. Martin, Jr. Youth Award, and trombone player, (Local 4) Fred Wheatt, Adult Award, between them include Charles W. McDaniel (Local 15-286) and Deacon John Moore (Local 174-496)

Back row with delegate Jackson are Debra Dansby Wells (Local 389) Orlando, Florida and Bennie Keys, Jr., (Local 56) Grand Rapids, Michigan





## Member with an international flair, Rob Nairn

**Robert C. Nairn**, member since 2000, teaches studio double bass for the Penn State School of Music and also directs the University's Baroque Ensemble. The Penn State Baroque Ensemble is the newest of the University's performing ensembles. It is a mixture of faculty and string students. Professor Nairn is a native of Australia, he received his Bachelor of music with distinction from the Canberra School of Music and a post-graduate diploma from the Berlin Musikhochschule by courtesy of a two-year DAAD German Government Scholarship.



His teachers have included Klaus Stoll, Tom Martin, and Max McBride. He has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the London Sinfonietta and the Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique. He has acted as guest Principle Bassist with the Halle Orchestra, the London Mozart players, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and held the position of Principle bass with the Australian Chamber orchestra and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. In the Early Music world he has also worked with the Handel Haydn Society, the Washington Bach Consort and performs regularly in London as a member of 'Florilegium' (Baroque Ensemble-in-residence at the Wigmore hall) and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. He has performed in such international festivals as Salzburg and Glyndebourne.

As a soloist he has performed several concerti with the Australian Chamber and Adelaide symphony orchestras (including Bottesini's *Passiona Amoroso* with Gary Karr) and has given many recitals in Europe and Australia.

Rob anticipates the release of 2 new CDs in early 2008. The first entitled, "Bach, Beethoven and Barsom," the second a "Classic Bass and Cello Duo." Besides double bass, Rob also plays a mean bass guitar.



## Bassists visit Graceland after International Convention



AFM-660 member Rob Nairn (in the light blue shirt with sunglasses) is the Double Bass Professor at Penn State University with ten of his Penn State students in front of Graceland, Memphis TN.

What were they doing there? They were on their way home from the 2007 International Society of Bassists Convention in Oklahoma City - a seven day event where over 1,000 bass players gathered from over twenty countries around the world.

The students had to choose often between three or four simultaneous events - recitals, workshops, master-classes, lectures, demos from an exhausting line up of presenters. The headlining acts for the week, who performed in the evening concerts were Stanley

Clarke (AFM member), Rob Hirst (AFM member), Avashi Cohen (Israel), Renae Garcia-Fons (France), Ed Barker (AFM member), Joel Quarrington (Canada), Jeff Braditech (AFM member) and Thierry Barbe (France). There were also Bass and bow makers, case and accessory makers, instrument dealers and many other vendors from all over North America and Europe.

Rob and the students were involved in fund-raising for most of the year to afford the trip and drove almost 3,000 miles through 11 States to make it. The next International Society of Bassists Convention will be in June 2009. It will be hosted at **Penn State University**. Rob is now president-elect of the Society. Anyone willing to help out and get involved for 2009 please contact him at [rcn3@psu.edu](mailto:rcn3@psu.edu). Imagine, over 1,000 bass players descending on State College will be quite something to see and definitely to hear!



AFM Local 660 service territory: All of Centre, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Montour, and Snyder Counties. Northumberland County except Snyderstown, Shamokin, Ralpho, Zerbe, Little Mahanoy, Jackson, Herndon, Lower Mahanoy, West Cameron, East Cameron, Mount Carmel, Kulpmont, Marion Heights and Coal, Columbia County except Centralia.

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Chartered October 29, 1913

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