



# MUSICENTRAL

March 2007      Founded in 1913—Tuned for the 21st Century

## Message from the President



### SHARPS & FLATS      Weather or Not, March is Music

Whether Punxsutawney Phil was correct or not, March is usually one month in central Pennsylvania that can provide us with unpredictable weather. Will spring arrive early or will winter continue? Phil says "early spring", but one may find that the only things one can expect or rely upon are a good book and good music in the late night hours during the month of March.

Speaking of music, many wonderful musicians were born during the month. Celebrating their music is this month's message. Composers and musicians such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Bela Bartok, Pierre Boulez, Frederic Francois Chopin, Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet deLa Guerre, Franz Joseph Haydn, Bedrich Smetana, Antonio Vivaldi, Johann Strauss, Sr., Nicolai Rimsky Korsakov, Max Reger, Samuel Barber, and Pearl Bailey were born in March between the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20<sup>th</sup> Century periods of music.

Though I do not have the space to note their individual compositions or styles of music, the above named musicians provided us with a plethora of types of music from individual compositions, symphonies and operas that used many styles of music including avant-garde, church, folk, impressionistic, instrumental, improvisational, and programmatic music.

Music is a great sounding board of the times, and each of the forms and styles of music reflected their respective society's age and culture. Music is a great sounding board of the times. We can teach our youth history through music and learn much from its sounds. March's composers, known to many, provide us with a rich legacy of noteworthy music during those periods of history.

Musicians have the power to move the listener in a real and physical way. This month the AFM-Local 660 will have the opportunity to enhance the musical lives of five young people with a grant from our Olin Butt Scholarship Fund. We are looking forward to the Centre County Band and Chorus festival where we will present five students, one-each from the five public school districts in the county with funds for music lessons up to \$100 each.

AFM Local 660 wants to reach to our youth and encourage music appreciation, music education, and expanding their opportunity toward a musical career. Music surrounds us everyday from all types of media—Internet, television, radio, individual music listening devices, and finally to our own methods of making music via our voices and various instruments. Music is a medium that does much for us in our lives. [johnvincenti@comcast.net](mailto:johnvincenti@comcast.net).

**John Vincenti**

## Drum Beats Beware the Ides of March!



### St. Patrick's Day Celebrations will be plentiful in Central Pennsylvania.

Local 660 Central Pennsylvania encourages all musicians to be responsible during this annual occasion to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. New President John Vincenti is off and running in his third month as the band Leader for the Local 660. Secretary/Treasurer was elected as the Delegate to the convention and President John Vincenti as the alternate delegate. The New Directory should be ready and the musicians' directory will be made available to all members. The monthly electronic newsletter has been well received. Please send all articles, email and phone updates to me or President John. All Officers and Board members will have their emails listed in the Monthly newsletter. We will print a bio of selected Life Members in coming newsletters as well as develop a local history on the Central Pennsylvania Musicians Association. But, we will need your help with that history. Do you know the names of currently living musicians on the 1980 Local 660 Charter from Tyrone, Pennsylvania formerly chartered October 29, in 1913?

The Pen-Del-Mar Conference will be receiving several resolutions from our local to be presented at the AFM Convention June 16 thru 20, 2007 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact me if you have any questions. Email, [axj119@psu.edu](mailto:axj119@psu.edu) **Support Live Music!**

**Dr. Andrew Jackson, Sr., Secretary-Treasurer**

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### This Month

- General Meeting photo-story
- Black Music Research Center
- Meet JT Blues
- On March 30 during the Centre County Band and Chorus Festival at the Bald Eagle HS Auditorium five youths from Bald Eagle, Bellefonte, Penns Valley, Philipsburg, and State College school districts receive \$100 each in grants for music lessons
- AFM-660 Bylaws and a new comprehensive membership form on-line at [afm660.org](http://afm660.org)

### February 8, 2007 Board Meeting Action Outline

- Vision for Olin Butt Scholarship—expansion to all Centre County schools
- Board reorganizes – adds two new members
- Dues and Directory are tied together, AFM membership rolls are out-of-date
- Works dues on the horizon

*"Music is the only language in which you cannot say a mean or sarcastic thing."*

John Erskine



The January 27, 2007, General Meeting of AFM Local 660 was held at "The University Club," a 98 year-old privately-owned building on the campus of Penn State University, University Park. Nearly 25 members and their guests attended. Photos by Christopher Lee and John Vincenti.



The University Club's roof line with three inserts of distinctive lampshades from in its first-floor rooms that provide residents and visitors with a unique historical view of its past



Hubie and Marilyn Haugh hosted AFM-Local 660 at the University Club. Others include Victoria and Andrew Jackson, Cyndi and John Vincenti and Dick Adams



John and Joan Kovalchik



Christy and John Thompson

Dean and Juliet Arnold



Philip Burlingame and Gordon Law



Debbie Trudeau - Christopher Lee - George Trudeau



Don Keat --Life Member attainment certificate presented by President John



Andrew Jackson reports on 660 financial status



The Annual General Meeting of Local 660 may have been sparsely attended, but there was no scarcity of topics of discussion and matters presented, including a two-part resolution that was sent to the Executive Board which included more efficient ways to use MPF funds. The other part of the resolution was about developing new membership programs, especially for high school and university young people. The resolutions were passed unanimously.

President Vincenti also gave out several certificates, including Don Keat for becoming a life-member. Marilyn and Hubie Haugh were given a Certificate of Appreciation for making The University Club available to members with a reasonable and fine luncheon menu. John Kovalchik and Andrew Jackson were given certificates for their service to Local 660 and John and Joan Kovalchik were also were presented a check for \$100 in the name of John Glenn Kovalchik and the Centre County Community Foundation from Local 660 through the Olin Butt fund.

Other important issues were discussed by members. They included the pay scale and whether or not it should be changed. Another topic was the Local's ability to reach further into Penn State and high schools by running programs in conjunction with existing or new programs.

John Thompson, MPF Chair, reported that \$547 was remaining of the 2006-2007, \$1300 MPF fund allotment. He noted that proposals had to be prepared and sent to the AFM with approved and funded sponsorship by April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be reviewed and approved. Several members spoke to the issue of how musicians are paid via MPF programs and wondered if it could be changed.

Christopher Lee, PR Chair, discussed the recent AFM newspaper articles in the **Centre Daily Times** and **Lock Haven Express**. John Kovalchik spoke to the Olin Butt Scholarship fund and Dr. Andrew Jackson provided members with an overview of the club secretary and treasurer matters. The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.





# Beyond Black History Month – The Center for Black Music Research

Though February is designated as Black History, this issue would like to follow-up by that awareness by informing our members and our readers about an interesting and educational website called the Center for Black Music Research <http://www.cbmr.org>. The Center is unit of [Columbia College Chicago](http://www.columbia.edu) devoted to research, preservation, and dissemination of information about the history of black music on a global scale. According to the site, the mission of the center is to collect, preserve, and disseminate information about black music. It was founded in 1983 by Samuel A. Floyd, Jr. to support and originate study in the areas of black secular and sacred folk music, blues, black rock, samba, ragtime, jazz, gospel music, rhythm and blues, musical theater and dance, opera and concert music, reggae, son, meringue, bomba y plena, salsa, calypso and other genres from the Caribbean, traditional and contemporary music from Africa, and hip-hop and other contemporary music.

From the Website: "The Center for Black Music Research distinguishes operationally between "African-American music" and "black music." In the CBMR's lexicon, African-American music emanates directly from the black experience in the United States. Black music, on the other hand, is music in any style or genre composed by people of African descent—including European and European-derived concert-hall music by black composers—as well as vernacular music created and performed by African-descended people the world over, including African-American music, African music, and Afro-Latin American or Afro-Caribbean music."



## Letter to the Editor Response to Eric Bryne's February Newsletter article

Chris Bryne's analysis of the State College music scene according to game theory was remarkable, partly due to its lack of any sense of how to solve the problems of the current reality.

The vision for the future is local musicians hanging together (rather than hanging separately) and creating quality music at a sustainable price. I look forward to continuing dialog about how to get there. Chris's article was an important, if incomplete step in that direction.

Chris Lee



I applaud Dr. Chris Byrne for his article in the last newsletter. It is obvious that a lot of thought went into it. I, myself, don't have too many answers. In fact, I have one more question. Where do we go from here?

In the many years that I have served as an executive for local 660 I have been involved in many debates about our scales. Almost everyone agreed that we weren't being paid enough. That part was easy. The hard part was establishing a minimum scale that everyone agreed was fair, but it wouldn't be too high to price musicians out of the market.

Add work dues to the equation. Work dues have to be based on our local scale and it is illegal to charge more than that simply because some "headliner" comes to town and charges thousands of dollars for limited engagements.

Music Performance Funds require a separate "Public Service" scale. The International Federation of Musicians established work dues on those funds. Our local split the proceeds with the International.

Our scales have not changed in many years and we are past due in reviewing them. Dr. Byrne started the dialogue and this article is asking for direction. Yes, I know the direction should be upward. How far and what percentage for work dues? Send us your suggestions so that an informed decision can be made for these important topics.

John R. Kovalchik

PS I also have the instrument insurance touted by Debbie Trudeau in her article. It has come in handy a couple times. It's just one of the benefits of union membership.

## Minutes of February 8th Board Meeting

**Attendance:** Marilyn Haugh, Andrew Jackson, John Kovalchik, Chris Lee, and John Vincenti. Absent, but accounted for: Hubie Haugh, Don Keat, Christopher Byrne, and Debbie Trudeau. President John Vincenti opened the meeting at 7:15 pm. The Board unanimously waived Article 4. Section 1(E) of the AFM-660 ByLaws in respect to John Vincenti in the position of president. Minutes of the January 18th meeting were approved as submitted. **Secretary/Treasurer**

**Report:** Andrew Jackson reported on all of the recent bills, new members, and funds in bank. As of Feb. 1, a total of \$3,000.00 in our checking account—included Olin Butt CD interest. The Olin Butt Certificate of Deposit (CD) amounted to \$10,000 plus \$1,000 in interest. The CD was cashed and then renewed into a new \$10,000 certificate with a higher interest 4.5% over the former 3% interest. The remaining funds were placed in the general checking account to pay for the 6 grants, one for \$100 to Centre County Community Foundation in the name of John Glenn Kovalchik Scholarship. The other \$500 would be used for 5 grants \$100 each for the Centre County Music Festival on March 30, 2007, Bald Eagle HS Auditorium youth grants for lessons. **Public Relations:** Chris Lee chair, spoke of the two articles about AFM-Local 660 in the **Lock Haven Express** and the **Centre Daily Times**. Other committee reports were received by members via Email, received, discussed, but no action taken. The Board encourages members to go to the club website administered by John Thompson at <http://www.afm660.org> **New Business:** Andrew Jackson was named delegate and John Vincenti alternate to 2007 AFM Convention. The current Board was reorganized. Christopher Lee was added to the Board under Article 3 Section 4 as the sixth member. The Board also name Debbie Trudeau as a non-voting member of the Board. Ex-officio positions were retired. The Board tabled discussion on Pay Scale and other agenda items. The Board approved an investigation into collecting work dues within our Local's jurisdiction. The Board also reviewed and discussed several items including the resolutions passed on January 27th at the General Meeting. **#1-MPF** System should consider a more friendly procedure by making allowances for co-sponsors to pay the musicians in advance rather than having to wait three to four weeks for payment after a performance. **#2-Locals** should be allowed to participate in the pension fund by allowing independent musicians to act as contractors also. **#3-** A formula for work dues increase should be uniform at 3% to 4% to make it cost effective consideration the AFM gets 50% of all work dues. 1% work dues do not cover the cost of time and effort at the current rate.. Music education and encouragement through programs at Penn State and within schools in our jurisdiction was also discussed. The Board felt that more time was needed to study this matter. Board noted that a sixth Board meeting, as per Article 3. Section 4(B) should be on calendar. The Board suggests a dual meeting of the Board and General Membership at the University Club on a Saturday afternoon in the fall of 2007. The officers and board are also working on a new directory to clear up the errors in the AFM directory. Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.





**American Federation  
of Musicians-Local 660**  
Chartered October 29, 1913

**Andrew Jackson, Sr.**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
460 Douglas Drive  
State College PA  
16803  
814-865-1499  
Email: [axj119@psu.edu](mailto:axj119@psu.edu)

**AFMD International**  
Thomas F. Lee,  
President  
Gene Tournour,  
Field Representative

**Serving Musicians in  
Central Pennsylvania**

AFM is an advocate for  
**MUSIC  
MUSICIANS  
JOBS  
CAREERS  
NETWORKING  
ENCOURAGING MUSIC IN  
OUR COMMUNITIES**

**AFM-660  
MARCH 2007**

**660 BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 19, 2007**

ON THE INTERNET  
<http://www.afm.org>  
**AFM  
INTERNATIONAL**

<http://www.afm660.org>  
**AFM-LOCAL  
WEBSITE & BLOG**  
<http://myspace.com/afm660>

<http://www.homewebservices.com/660presidentcorner.htm>  
**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**



**AFM-Local 660—2007 Officers**

John R. Vincenti, President and Newsletter Editor  
Leslie L. Shaw, Vice-President <lls5@psu.edu>  
Dr. Andrew Jackson, Sr., Secretary / Treasurer

**Executive Board Members**

Randall A. Baker <bakerra@comcast.net>  
Dr. Christopher C. Byrne <cbyrne@psu.edu>  
Hubert H. Haugh <artandmusic2@aol.com>  
John R. Kovalchik <KT6Tuba@aol.com>  
Donald B. Keat, II <keat2@psu.edu>  
Christopher Lee <chris@boalmuseum.com>  
Debbie Trudeau, Non-Voting <trumusic@comcast.net>

**Committee Chairs**

Membership Committee—Dr. Christopher C. Byrne  
Public Relations—Christopher Lee  
Olin Butt Scholarship Award—John R. Kovalchik  
MPF and Webmaster—John I. Thompson <jtblues@comcast.net>  
Election Committee—Debbie Trudeau  
Engagements and Bookings—Andrew Jackson

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.

**660 Notes**

- **April Issue-meet the winners of the Centre County Olin Butt Scholarship Grants**
- **AFM meeting dates:  
April 27, 2007 – Penn-Del-Mar Conference Pittsburgh, PA**
- **June 17-20 – International Conference in Las Vegas**



**Meet JT Blues**

One of the members of AFM 660 is keyboard player and vocalist John "JT" Thompson. Since moving back to the area in 2002, he has become a fixture on the downtown State College music scene, playing regularly with three different bands, and performing solo throughout the area.

Inspired by musicians like Doc Sevrinsen and Al Hirt, JT began his career playing trumpet for a local community band. In 1969 he hooked up with friends playing electric guitars and covered songs by bands like Chicago and Blood, Sweat and Tears. He soon migrated to keyboards where he has been comfortably seated since then.

After matriculating as a Penn State Music major long enough to become an alumni, he spent several years touring with different show bands before moving to Baton Rouge LA where he became immersed in Southern Soul music and Blues. From there he toured throughout the South and Southwest, then relocated to Atlanta GA, where he played rock, dance music, more Blues, and earned a degree in English from Georgia State University.

Nowadays JT earns his living mostly by entertaining Penn State students and other music fans who frequent State College's favorite watering holes. Wednesdays you'll find him at the Phyrst churning out a mixture of classic rock, blues, funk, original and alternative music with the party band Maxwell Strait, featuring vocalist Molly Countermine. Fridays he's at Zeno's with guitar virtuoso Andy Tolins and The Triple A Blues Band, playing their unique brand of eclectic and original Blues while enjoying the benefits of a smoke-free venue. On Saturdays JT keeps busy with the commercial rock band Body & Soul. Fronted by dynamic singer Chrissy Miller, they're usually at The Saloon, but perform often at other venues like Café 210 and The Arena. Occasionally you'll see JT playing solo somewhere like The Allen Street Grill or The American Alehouse, where he often fills in for popular entertainer Tommy Wareham.

Thursdays, however, are generally JT's teaching days, when he hops in his car and goes to his students' houses giving piano lessons. This arrangement works well for busy parents and others who can't find time to drive to his studio in Bellefonte. When he's not teaching or performing, JT stays busy practicing, writing songs, spending time with his wife Christy, and walking his dogs Ginger and Phydeau.

More information about JT's upcoming performances, along with song clips, can be found at [www.itblues.com](http://www.itblues.com).

