



MUSICENTRAL

September 2007

Founded in 1913—Tuned for the 21st Century

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Message from the President

SHARPS & FLATS—Challenge, Change, and Sadness

In Italy, as in several other European countries, August is traditionally a summer holiday month. I remember being in Rome in mid August, a significant part of the city was vacant. People went to beaches, mountains, or visited their relatives. In America, people make August a vacation month before September or the start of school. This was not the case for me this year. By mid August, the month became a series of challenges, change, and sadness.

Sadness came at learning that one of our members, **Drew Menzies**, had died. Drew was a young man, who had just joined our Local in March. His death was unexpected and unfortunate, but it was music that was the cornerstone of his memorial service in mid August. I was also deeply touched by the poem that was read by all in attendance as we released butterflies at Drew's memorial service. I hope you will read it in our remembrance of him.

Our Local experienced several changes and challenges: an administrative change; a communication dysfunction; Bylaw rewriting, review, and a meeting to modify, adopt, or scrap nearly three months of work. Our Board has set out a challenge to reunite our former members and ask them to reconsider coming back to Local 660. Why? Because we need you, plain and simple. Local 660 cannot function with a handful of people. Only a vibrant Local of committed musicians willing to question, listen, talk, but most importantly work together to reformat the Local and ensure that it is a proactive, fair, and positive Local that works to improve the quality of life of all types of musicians in Central Pennsylvania, from the casual player to the musician who makes his or her living providing live music for all types of venues.

After last month's Jazz Festival 2007 in State College, **Russ Kassoff, Bill Mays, and Marvin Stamm** sent AFM 660 emails thanking us for the August newsletter write-up of the 2007 Jazz Festival. We appreciate that kind of response, because it tells us that we are read and appreciated by those we write about.

Our good friend from Rochester, New York, who AFM 660 has been in correspondence with many months, Ned Corman, Member-in-Good-Standing from Local 66, did add a zero to his affiliation with the AFM by also joining our Local. Welcome dual member Ned!

This month will also highlight two members. **Rick Hirsch**, a young and dynamic musician, who works hard to make music not only his profession, but also voices his feelings in making the Local a place to serve his needs as well as other professional musicians. The other person is someone who is no stranger to our Local, **Andrew Jackson, Sr.** This month was a benchmark for Andrew, after many years as an officer in Local 660, Andrew decided to give newer members the helm of the Secretary/Treasurer position. Andrew nominated John Thompson and Debra Trudeau to be Secretary and Treasurer respectively. He also supported the Bylaw changes to make the one position into two. Andrew also told the Board that he would be making other changes, but we got a glimpse of that because he was highlighted in the August issue of *Town & Gown*, where he is quoted as saying, "What's next?" We salute Andrew, a gentleman, great musician, activist for young musicians, and a volunteer in many community organizations and a Member-in-Good-Standing, who is still on the Board as a director. Thank you Andrew!

Finally, there is an interesting and thought provoking article entitled, "Is it perception or reality?" It was written after an email was sent to our current Treasurer, Debra. She also forwarded a copy to me. After reading it, I responded. My comments included thanking the writer for the communication. It has been my opinion that far too many organizations go into a historical funk and become part of the phrase "perception is reality." I hope you will read this and think about the power of perception, poor communication, and a lack of reconnection and what it can do to erode trust and a returned viability of an organization and cause people to bale out and never return.

AFM 660 is working hard to develop a positive and proactive Local that will serve its members to the best of its ability. On a lighter side...it's football season, at least for those of you who like football, I say **GO BLUE!**

John R. Vincenti



September Song

"Oh it's a long, long while from May to December—But the days grow short, when you reach September, when the autumn weather turns the leaves to flame— One hasn't got time for the waiting game. Oh the days dwindle down to a precious few. September, November! And there few precious days I'll spend with you, these precious days I'll spend with you."

Kurt Weill from
Knickerbocker Holiday
1944





Photos by Greg Greico, PSU

I'M FREE

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path that's been laid out for me. I
took Fate's hand when I heard the call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things, I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish to you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seems all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

Remembering Drew Menzies

On August 6, 2007, while participating in the Endless Mountains Music Festival in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, the life and times of one of our members, Andrew Nigel Menzies came to an end.

Drew came to State College from New Zealand in 2003 to study at the Penn State School of Music where he completed his Masters of Music degree and was a student of Associate Professor Robert Nairn and later a teaching assistant to Professor Dan Yoder.

"Drew's was a special spirit -- he had the ability to brighten a room just by walking in, his smile and infectious humor lifted those around him. He was hugely popular with his fellow students at Penn State, always generous with his time, taking care to help many people on countless occasions. He was a conscientious mentor to many of the younger students in the Studio, they all looked up to him. His warmth and selflessness endeared him to faculty and the community at large. There were many people whom he touched and who loved him." (Rob Nairn)

Drew was an exceptional Bass player, who specialized in jazz and classical music. In addition to playing with numerous bands, Drew also played with the Nittany Valley Symphony and Pennsylvania Center Orchestras in State College. He also free lanced in the Washington DC area and performed with the Delaware, Lancaster and Key West Symphonies.

Barry Kernfield, editor of the "New Grove Music Dictionary of Jazz" spoke at Drew's Memorial Service. Kerfield complimented Drew for his extensive knowledge and research on jazz. He called Drew a "Musicologist." He also spoke of Drew's sense of humor that many others mentioned during the service. Drew had a great love of fine food, good wine, and was especially knowledgeable of coffee beans. Drew had a propensity to seek out the best coffee shops throughout his travels from Wellington, New Zealand to State College, Pennsylvania.

Drew's preference for performing was quoted in an 2004 Collegian article. Drew said, "Bars get smoky and noisy, but this is very intimate space where we can play undistracted and where we can interact with the audience."

The poem "I'm Free" was read aloud outside by attendees after Drew Menzies Memorial Service at Eisenhower Chapel on August 13, 2007. As the poem was read, butterflies were released. Contributions are gratefully accepted, and may be made to the Andrew Menzies Memorial Fund at PNC Bank in State College.



AFM Local 660 board meeting highlights

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors of AFM 660 met on August 8, 2007. The following is an overview of that meeting:

- The Board discussed the various versions of the Bylaws that had been developed since the last meeting on April 30th.
- The Board noted that the new version had its foundation in an AFM model posted on-line. The purpose was to be in compliance with AFM International and also define and adopt local needs to the Bylaws.
- The Board discussed the position and role of Secretary/Treasurer. Two options were presented: one person serving as Secretary/ Treasurer; the other, two people in separate roles as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.
- Andrew Jackson, Sr. and current Secretary/Treasurer resigned his position and moved to adopt a dual role and suggested John Thompson as secretary and Debra Trudeau as treasurer.
- The motion was passed unanimously by Roll Call vote. One person was absent but accounted for.
- Andrew Jackson, Sr. was asked if he wished to serve on the Board as a Director, he accepted and his position was approved by the Board.
- The Board discussed and approved the new type of membership, "A Friend of Music." This type of membership would be open to non-musicians. They would be non-voting members who wished to support scholarships and other educational programs within AFM 660. The dues would stay locally except for a subscription to *International Musician*. This item must be approved by AFM International as will our new Bylaws document.
- The Board then discussed the study committee's work on Wage Scale and other collective bargaining matters. This item was not brought to the table in final format, as was the general Bylaws.
- The Board voted on the Bylaws as discussed. The Bylaws were approved unanimously. Document would be sent to members for comment with a deadline date.
- Board approved a campaign program to bring former members back.



Andrew Jackson, man with many talents

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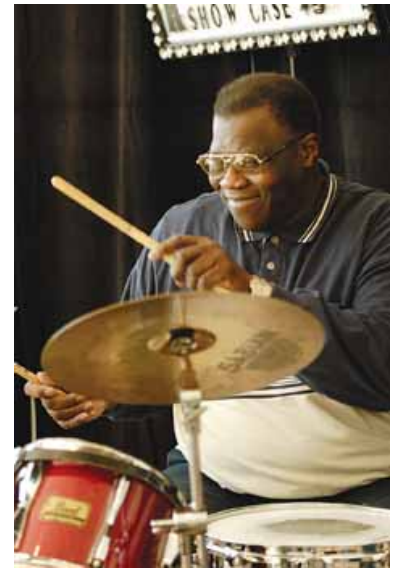
Dr. Andrew Jackson Sr. has been a musician and volunteer icon in the State College Area for over twenty years. On August 8th, Andrew formally resigned as Secretary/Treasurer after being an AFM officer for at least a decade. This issue salutes Andrew. T&G (Town and Gown), August 2007 edition says it all. With *Town and Gown's* permission, we have reprinted the article by: Mara Wallace, page 84, SNAPSHOT-
"Jackson looks to unite people through words — and music."
(Photos by Greg Greico [right] and Annemarie Mountz [below] Penn State)

Andrew Jackson Sr.

Hometown: Chester, Pennsylvania; Family: Wife, Victoria, daughters, Victoria Andrea and Mia Maria; son Andrew Jr.
Interests: Penn State sports, including football, basketball, gymnastics, and rugby

"Whether it be through advising students on what courses to take or performing with his bands at multiple venues in downtown State College, Andrew Jackson Sr. has certainly made his mark on Happy Valley. But after serving the past 20 years as an academic adviser in Penn State's College of Education, completing his PhD in multicultural education in 2004, and having his first book published in March, he finds himself wondering: What's next? Jackson, 56, says he is looking forward to retiring sometime in the near future, even though he admires those like Joe Paterno who are still going strong at the age of 80. But like JoePa, Jackson doesn't seem to be slowing down just yet.

For now, he pursues his passion of helping students, faculty, and staff embrace and understand other races and ethnicities. Inspired by fellow members and scholars in the National Association for Multicultural Education his first book, *James A. Banks and the Evolution of Multicultural Education*, was published this spring. "I wrote about multiculturalism and multicultural education because, in my opinion, the academic community wasn't sure if it should be part of the curriculum or required," he says. "It's a struggle creating a safe space to have a comfortable dialogue where people are free to disagree." The book uses the work of James Banks, director of the Center for Multicultural Education, as a basis for a case study on a pilot multicultural-education course during the summer of 2001 at Penn State. Although it hasn't caught on quite as he had hoped, Jackson's proposed course would serve as a forum for discussion of various issues and generate ideas for solving social problems.



What can each of us do to increase the comfort level for someone who looks different? This is a question Jackson says is worth considering every day. Originally from the Delaware County/Philadelphia area, he experienced firsthand what it was like to stand out when he came to Penn State as an undergraduate in 1970. At one point, he remembers being the only African-American member of the Blue Band and one of the few on the campus security staff. "It was a lonely, isolating experience at first," he says. But he did not let the predominantly white population discourage him. Instead, it heightened his interest in his rural surroundings and cultural studies. He joined the Black Caucus; Omega Psi Phi, the first African-American fraternity at Penn State; and the United Soul Ensemble.

During his freshman year, he was looking to create more musical opportunities for himself, so he started his own band called Creed. He quickly found other musicians who shared a common musical interest, and an instant energy was generated between the performers. "Sharing music is sharing feelings, emotions, and a part of yourself: your spirit, culture, and heritage," he says. "It has allowed me to meet with and talk with other people from around the world and across the country regardless of political, social, or economic differences." He says music has a unifying effect that makes it easier to tackle tough issues like race, gender, and ethnicity, and he often quotes Bob Marley, saying that music is the healing force for all people. Jackson can be found performing with his bands, playing the drums, almost every weekend in downtown State College. He plays with the Blues Moon Band monthly and The Andrew Jackson Jazz Showcase every Saturday at Bar Bleu in addition to the Jackson Byrne Band every Friday at Tony's Big Easy.

With his professional career winding down, he says he is happy with what he's accomplished and is eager to see what else life has in store for him. "Everything I've set out to do is done," he says. "I've been blessed to have had the opportunity to contribute to Penn State, and now I have to figure out what else I want to face."

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LIVE MUSIC NOTES...a hit for free Local advertising

- Have a gig or event coming in the near future?
- Free Advertising
- Write an article and include a picture or two
- Send it to the Editor of the MusicCentral



Rick Hirsch—a multi-tasking member

Saxophonist Rich Hirsch and his wife Rebecca relocated to State College in 1999 from Madison, WI, where Rick was a member of AFM Local 166. They moved here with their daughters to be closer to extended family members that live in Newark, DE and Clarion, PA. Since that time, Rick has become a local go-to guy for all-things-jazz. Through his endeavor Rick Hirsch Music (www.JazzUpYourParty.com), Rick books and manages several bands—all of which he performs in. *Quintessence* (his wedding band), *the Rick Hirsch 3*, and *the Hirschtet* are his busiest groups, working a combined 100+ dates a year, most of which are at weddings and private parties. You may also know Rick as the co-leader of the recently disbanded Valley Jazz Orchestra.

Photo below: Rick working with the University of Nebraska Jazz Ensemble in 2006)



When performing, Rick enjoys bringing his music to people who are not aware that they like jazz. And what better way to do it than with an undercover cover of a classic rock anthem. His one-of-a-kind big band arrangement of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* became a signature tune of the Valley Jazz Orchestra. You can listen to it on their CD *Free Food*, which is still available on CDBaby.com. The Hirschtet (his current quartet) improvises on themes by the Police, Nirvana, the Doors, Eric Clapton, Simon & Garfunkle, and Billy Joel.

Rick is also an award-winning composer and arranger. You can find out more and listen to many of his jazz and chamber music works on his website (www.HirschMusic.net). And he's even a

staff arranger for the Penn State Blue Band. This season the Blue Band will feature Hirsch's brand new arrangements of *Rockin' Robin* and *Soul Man!*

Rick also enjoys his opportunities to give back to music education. Since 2003, Hirsch has been on the roster of *Galaxy* artist through the PCA's Arts-in-Education initiative. Through this affiliation, Rick works with school-aged musicians throughout PA. Rick is also engaged in community issues beyond his musical life. For five years he has served as a Transportation Commissioner for the Borough of State College. And he's looking forward to being an assistant girls' soccer coach this fall (9/10 year old age group).

For more of Rick Hirsch on-line, check out:
<www.JazzUpYourParty.com> (Hirsch's bands)
<www.HirschMusic.net> (Composition) and
<www.myspace.com/HirschToons>



Is it Perception or Reality?

During our campaign for new and former members, one former member wrote our Treasurer and commented on why has had a problem with Local 660. The person stated:

"The problem is...have not seen any benefit from being in the union. There has been a small clique of musicians that have received all benefits. We don't even find out when meetings are held and they go to Las Vegas on paid trips - they use funds for their shows - we don't even find out about funds that may be available—go figure...Please provide...details on how things will change and...reconsider."

First of all, again, thank you former member for your comments! Communication is the Key to Understanding!

- Organizations are only as good as the people in them and those who operate them.
- Benefits are many through AFM, but they need to be better defined at the Local level, I agree.
- No one in this Local is paid. The only exception is reimbursement for expenses for operation.
- The recent AFM meeting in Las Vegas is part of Bylaws. Funds received were for travel and room only.
- Bottom-line, want to learn more—ask questions, get involved, and be an active member, attend meetings, consider being an officer or board member.

Things get worse when Perception becomes Reality!



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.

American Federation of Musicians
Local 660
Central Pennsylvania Musicians Association
Chartered October 29, 1913
Tuned for the 21st Century

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President
Gene Tournour
Field Rep

Local 660—Officers
John R. Vincenti
President /Editor
Dr. Christopher C. Byrne
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John I. Thompson
Secretary
Debra Trudeau
Treasurer

Board
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