



# MUSICENTRAL

Founded in 1913—Tuned for  
the 21st Century  
May 2008



American Federation of Musicians - Local 660

## Membership—Communication—The Future

In this issue...

President Lee's Message

AFM policy changes affect s  
Musicians' Performance Fund

Penn State's School of Music and  
AFM's Local 660

AFM 660 Music Achievement  
Grants to 5 Centre County Youth  
from Olin Butt Scholarship Funds

Music as a career

AFM Member Spotlight  
Roger Munnell

Penn's Woods & other events

Are your dues current?

Membership is the heart of any organizations. Since the Board reorganized in January 2008, I want to take this opportunity to tell you how happy I am to represent our members in Local 660 as your president. In fact, I have done so, by having our newsletter editor, John R. Vincenti, place the photo of me in my tux for this issue.

Our local has grown over the past twelve months, and with that growth is a need to better understand our members, not who they are, but what they want from the Local to meet their professional needs as musicians.

This is not a local where the majority of members are full-time musicians, nor is it one that contains a majority of casual players. To me this local represents a highly music-educated and trained group of professionals that recognize the demands of being able to support their financial goals and needs. Therefore, as you know, the Board commissioned a "Quantitative Survey" of its members back in January 2008. The results of this survey are still under review, but I want you to know that results will be published in the coming issues. The Board will then begin to develop strategies and actions from what we have learned. Your input was needed and to those who participated, Thank You!

Another important part of our Local is making sure one's membership is current. Being a "Member in Good Standing" means that you belong and are responsible. I encourage you to pay your annual dues to our treasurer, Debbie Trudeau. If you are on the semi-annual dues plan, please recognize that your 2nd half dues responsibility will be coming soon.

We will make an effort to publish a monthly newsletter, but that is only as good as the copy and/or ideas that we receive from our members. I encourage you to send the editor or myself articles, photos, ideas, or comments to ensure that we can make the newsletter interesting, informative, and represent our Local to members and readers toward supporting and promoting music—today and tomorrow. Please help us with newsletter information.

This month's articles on Penn State Schools of Music point out the value of Local 660; the Olin Butt Scholarship awards celebrate the future of music, our youth; and AFM's member spotlight on Roger Munnell prove that age is no barrier to talent and professionalism. **Keep in touch!**

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[AFM Local 660 Internet](http://www.afm660.org)  
John Thompson, Webmaster

<http://www.afm660.org>

## Changes in MPF Resources *By John I. Thompson, AFM Secretary*

The Music Performance Fund and the Recording Industries of America are funds that help pay for live performances in venues where they might not occur otherwise. For many years the Musicians' Performance Fund was a regular source of funding for many local performances. But, since the MPF's resources are dependent on a percentage of record/CD sales, and sales of recordings have dropped precipitously in recent years, the MPF has had to drastically cut back on allocations. To illustrate, in 1991 there was almost \$9 million available for performances in the United States and Canada, for the upcoming year there is only \$1.2 million. To deal with this, the Fund has changed several policies:

- Allocations are no longer granted per local but rather per state based on per capita membership, so Local 660 has to draw from \$74,505 that is available for all performances in Pennsylvania.
- The minimum co-sponsorship is 75%; school programs require 50%.
- Senior citizens' homes are no longer eligible for allocation except for veterans' facilities which require 50% co-sponsorship.
- Do not submit co-sponsor's checks with the application; wait until the performance has been approved.
- Major locals are strongly urged to reduce their programs to a minimum so smaller locals have an opportunity to share in the allocations.
- If a local does not submit any proposals by October 31, 2008, they will be removed from the list of eligible participants.

• If you are able to receive 100% co-sponsorship the MPF will cover all administrative, insurance, and licensing costs by managing the green sheet payroll forms and issuing paychecks.

The MPF urges musicians to help them find new sources of funding by contacting business, educational, and political leaders and showing them how their contributions can enrich their communities by bringing live music free to the public. MPF application forms are available from me or via [AFM 660 on the Internet](http://www.afm660.org).

Email: [secretary@afm660.org](mailto:secretary@afm660.org), Phone: 814-355-9444



*"Facing... change, and negotiating it as it happens, is one of the biggest challenges for independent music businesses. The best way to navigate in such interesting times is to really understand what's going on around you, so you can adapt and respond appropriately."*

Andrew Dubber, "The 20 Things You Must Know About Music Online."

<http://newmusicstrategies.com>

AFM Local 660 includes: All of Huntingdon, Snyder, Union, Centre, Mifflin, Juniata, Union, and Montour Counties. All of Northumberland County except Snyderstown, Shamokin, Ralpho, Zerbe, Little Mahony, Jackson, Herndon, Lower Mahanoy, West Cameron, East Cameron, Mount Carmel, Kulpmont, Marion Heights and Coal. Also all of Columbia County with the exception of Centralia, which is in Local 140 Wilkes-Barre area.



What kind of music would you imagine that includes flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, string bass, and percussion? These diverse performers from the PSU School of Music Faculty are all members of the AFM Local 660. These world class musicians live, perform, and teach here in Happy Valley. They are also active in the greater outside professional music world nationally and internationally as soloists, ensemble performers, and clinicians. In addition to faculty recital appearances, these musicians appear locally as members and soloists with the Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra, the Altoona Symphony, the Nittany Valley Symphony, Music at Penns Woods (scheduled to return in June 2008), and in the downtown State College club scene.

On the PSU faculty since 1985, horn player Lisa Bontrager is currently active performing, touring and recording with Millennium Brass, the Brass Band of Battle Creek, the Pennsylvania Quintet, and Mirror Image, a horn duo with colleague Michelle Stebleton. Lisa's union membership allows her to perform "with the Harrisburg Symphony, the Chautauqua Symphony and anything else that comes up where a union card is a necessity."



Tim Hurtz, Associate Professor of oboe, joined the faculty at Penn State in 1993 and is a member of the Pennsylvania Woodwind Quintet. Hurtz has performed with the Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the San Francisco Opera and Ballet, Joffrey, Bolshoi, and American Ballet Theater Orchestras, the Santa Fe Opera, and Mannheim Steamroller. He has given recitals and clinics across the U. S., Europe, Canada, Taiwan and Japan. In Tokyo he was a frequent performer at the Moon Beach Festival in Okinawa. He travels extensively giving clinics for Fox Products. Tim says "I joined the union because I like to get the International Musician AND I play the Hershey Theatre Broadway shows and they only use union players."

String Bass teacher and Director of

the Baroque Ensemble, Rob Nairn was featured recently in a Local 660 article. A big project in his future is hosting the June 2009 International Society of Bassists Convention here at Penn State. Rob is

one of our two newest Executive Board Members and looks forward to bringing the benefits of his national and international experience to serve the needs of our Local 660.

Smith Toulson has been teaching clarinet at Penn State since 1966 and is preparing to enjoy retirement at the end of the spring 2008 semester. He was featured as



a soloist with the Nittany Valley Symphony performing the Mozart Clarinet Concerto. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Quintet.

"Here in State College, one has to create one's own musical opportunities." Smith recalls playing at Spat's Café as a union member. He also performed concerts funded by the MPTF. "I belong to the union because I feel it is worth investing in and supporting the local musical community." He supports unions in principle when those workers offer the best services. For example, in York, PA where Smith occasionally performs, the stagehand union runs the theatre. When the musicians arrive, the facilities are ready. "These people are hired for their expertise and are a valuable asset to the end product. Compare that to a non-union situation where the musicians arrive at a hall with no staff present, have no idea how to work the lights, regulate the temperature, unlock the facilities, find stands and chairs, and do set up and strike." You don't get what you don't pay for. There is extra value when specialized work is done by the best workers. "That includes musicians whose work is to 'play'."

Bassoonist and teacher Daryl Durran has been a member of Local 660 since joining the PSU School of Music in 1983. Prior to that, he was a member of the AFM Local 8 of Milwaukee, WI where he was a

regular performer on the freelance scene. Daryl's union membership benefits his students who have access to his copy of the monthly International Musician posted on the bulletin board outside his studio. Daryl remembers a presentation offered many years ago during the PSU Common Hour (usually reserved for student recitals) by AFM officers from the New York office. The presentation drew some excellent questions from students about how the AFM serves members. Daryl encourages his students to use professional organizations including the AFM and International Double Reed Society as tools to launch a budding career. He observes that only the AFM organizes musicians to serve our needs. He says "This is the professional organization that provides a decent living for musicians."



Flutist Eleanor Duncan Armstrong teaches flute, coaches chamber music, and also performs with the Pennsylvania Quintet of PSU faculty. She first held AFM membership as a flutist with the Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra where she began her performing career. Her professional opportunities were largely free-lance for the first nine years, and she played many chamber music concerts funded by the Music Performance Trust Fund. Throughout her thirty-six year teaching career, she has remained very active as an

orchestral flutist and chamber music player. She writes "My union affiliation was important in establishing my credentials as a young professional musician, and I continue to have the utmost appreciation for the advocacy, assistance, and stewardship the union provides for its membership."



Dan Armstrong has been Director of Percussion Studies at Penn State since 1982. His orchestral career has taken him across the country including summers in Boulder with the Colorado Music Festival.

As the Armstrong Flute and Percussion Duo, Dan and Eleanor present recitals and master classes, and commission new works. Their latest CD entitled "Creative Mix" was released last year by Gasparo Recordings.

Dan is an enthusiastic union supporter. In his own words, "Membership in the AFM makes it possible to perform with the highest professional musicians both in State College and across the country. In addition to my gigs locally as drummer with the Arthur Goldstein Jazz Quartet, my union affiliation has made it possible for me to perform with various professional groups such as the Chestnut Brass Company out of Philadelphia, the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra out of New York, and numerous symphony orchestras in Pittsburgh, Scranton, Dallas, Ft. Worth, and in Colorado and Florida. I also regularly read AFM's "International Musician" magazine. It provides invaluable information regarding both the practical and the artistic aspects of making a living in the field of music performance. I'm proud of my union affiliation and appreciate the assistance and protection it has provided to me as a professional performing musician for the past thirty-four years."



# Five Centre County Youth Receive AFM 660 Grants by John Kovalchik



AFM-660 is proud to have presented five youths with this year’s Music Achievement Grants from the Olin Butt Scholarship Fund at the conclusion of the Centre County Band and Choir Festival held at Park Forest Middle School on March 7, 2008. The youths were each presented a \$100 voucher for music lessons. The presentations were made by John Kovalchik, AFM member and past president/board member. Guest band director for this year’s program was Roger Munnell, featured this month as AFM-660’s member highlight.

This year’s Music Achievement award winners were selected by their music directors and come from school districts in Centre County: Bald Eagle Area—Emily Wertz , choir director and Eric Hahn, band director; Bellefonte—John Zimmerman, choir and band director; Mount Nittany—Samuel Rocco and Jill Tocket, choir directors and John Kovalchik, band director; Park Forest—Molly McAninch and Amy Myers, choir directors and Kim Lenaway, band director; and Phillipsburg-Osceola—Diana Krause, choir director and Valerie Stiner, band director. The winners pictured with John Kovalchik are: (left to right)



- Bridget Canning, Penns Valley
- Rebecca Busichio, Bellefonte
- Sara Jablonski, Phillipsburg-Osceola
- Abby Gettig (vocalist), Bald Eagle
- Tyler Weakland, State College

The members of AFM-660 are proud to celebrate and encourage young musicians by being able to present the Music Achievement Awards through the Olin Butt Scholarship Fund.



## Music Careers — An Exciting Future Resource: <http://www.kenfoster.com/Articles/>

Today’s world has many challenges as far as choosing an education, training, job opportunities, or career for the future. Music is no exception. Reading AFM’s “International Musician” you learn much, not only about the music industry, management, and the challenges of the union protecting its members, but also the lives of musicians and how they began and continue to work on their careers.

When a young person talks of a music career, the majority speak in terms of being an entertainer or performer such as a vocalist or playing an instrument. However, there are many fields of music people can go into.

In the resource cited in the title box, there were many career opportunities for people who wish to be associated with the music field. They were: TEACHING, MUSIC THERAPIST, PERFORMANCE, CHURCH MUSICIAN, TELEVISION/RADIO/SCREEN/STAGE INDUSTRY, MUSIC LIBRARIAN, AUDIO, ENGINEERING, MUSIC ARRANGING, MUSIC COMPOSITION, MUSIC SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, CONDUCTING, FILM SCORING, RECORDING EDITING, VIRTUAL REALITY SOUND ENVIRONMENTS (INTERNET/GAMES), AND MUSIC THERAPY.

Besides the resource there are also careers in music history, writing articles and books, researching music and developing biographies of famous musicians, retail and wholesale of products, and music instrument development and technology.

Today’s world does have many challenges, but it also has many opportunities. Music careers are abundant and can be quite successful for those who prepare and do diligence into their chosen profession.

John R. Vincenti, Editor’s Note





## Spotlight on Roger Munnell



Teacher, musician, conductor, and jazz preservationist—some connotations associated with Roger Munnell, long-time AFM Local 660 member.

Originally from Washington Pennsylvania, Roger spent four years as a Navy musician before entering Penn State University. After receiving two degrees in Music Education, he spent ten years as the Bellefonte High School band director and 25 years as a junior high School band director at Westerly Parkway and Park Forest.

Since retirement, he has played in the Nittany Valley Symphony, Victorian Brass Quintet, Banjovial, Keystone Society of Swing and an all-star Dixieland Band that plays for cruises and jazz festivals. He was the original leader and trombone player with the Tarnished Six Traditional Dixieland Band which just celebrated their 40th anniversary.

Roger teaches Elderhostel classes at Jekyll Island, Georgia. He is also involved with the local CALL/Ollie Life Long Learning group. He was honored in 1996 by the Pennsylvania Jazz Society for contributing the most to the preservation of traditional jazz in Pennsylvania. Roger has also adjudicated and conducted several Honors Bands in Centre County, and was the guest conductor for the 2008 CCMEA Centre County Band and Choir Festival.

Photos below include conducting at the CCMEA event on March 7, 2008, plus photos with the Tarnished Six.

### AFM-660 Salutes Roger



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

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AFM Local 660 May 2008

## Coming events and other news

**Music at the Boal Mansion** in historic Boalsburg will open the season on May 3, 2008, with music from two award-winning young vocalists, Danya Katok and Margaret Lee from the Centre Region.

The evening's selections range from classical works by Schumann, Copland and Handel, through the jazz of Gershwin and Shearing, to Broadway songs by the likes of Sondheim and Rodgers. The vocalists will be accompanied by pianists Svetlana Rodionova and Jasmine Hegie on the Boal Mansion's 1929 Steinway grand piano. <http://www.boalmuseum.com/>

### **Penn's Wood Revived** by Debbie Trudeau

Music at Penn's Woods will be returning this June after a six year hiatus. The ensembles will feature some of the finest professional players from the region. This year's Festival will take place at four performances on June 14, 15, 21, and 28 in Esber Hall in the Penn State School of Music. The first two events will be chamber music performances on June 14, and 15. Music Director Gerardo Edelstein will conduct two orchestras in concerts on June 21 and 28. Many of the musicians performing are members of Local 660 and other AFM locals.

Several out-of-town musicians may need housing in the community during the Festival. Anyone with a spare bedroom willing to host a musician for the 1st, 2nd or both weeks may contact housing chair Grace Ormston at 814-355-9424.

The revived Festival is made possible by the collaboration of very generous community members with the Penn State School of Music Director, Sue Haug. This Festival promises to be a highlight of the classical music concert year! The organizers of this year's festival plan to capture the enthusiasm of this year's audience and build the program for future seasons to include more outreach, education, and innovative programming with an orchestra of increasing size and stature. Plans for 2009 are already under way. <http://www.music.psu.edu/cms2/?q=node/93>

**2008 Summer Jazz Celebration** Saturday, July 26, 2008, Downtown Bellefonte, PA. Featuring Tom Malone (Trombone) and Byron Stripling (Trumpet) for more information visit <http://www.jazzpa.com>

### **DUES Matter** by Treasurer, Debra Trudeau

**Regular Members** dues are \$80 per year. Dues paid in six month increments are \$45 each period.

**Student Members** and **Life Member** dues are \$60 per year. To be a **Life Member** one must be over age 65 and have at least 35 continuous years of membership in the AFM.

**New and Transfer Members** local dues of \$80 per year will be pro-rated for the first year only by calendar quarter. Those joining in January-March will pay 100%, April-June will pay 75%, July-September will pay 50%, and October-December will pay 25%. In addition, there is a one-time local \$10 initiation fee. New Members only must also pay a one-time \$65 Federation Initiation fee. Both initiation fees are waived for new Student members.

**Late Fee** is \$10 for dues received after the deadline. Dues more than 6 months in arrears will result in expulsion from the union.

Reinstatement fees will be required to regain membership in good standing.

**Reinstatement Fees** for those who have been expelled for non-payment of dues are \$155.

