



# MUSICENTRAL

AFM Local 660 February 2009  
Founded in 1913—Tuned for the 21st Century

Local 660



## President's Message

### Fixing a Black Eye for the Community

You may have heard about the dust-up between the Phyrst Phamily band and the owners of the Phyrst bar. The musicians weren't AFM members so you might think the Union has no role to play, but I see it more broadly than that. A black eye is something our entertainment community can't afford. As Gene Tournour of the AFM headquarters in New York told me recently, "Students and families need a safe environment to enjoy music."

The Union can and must act to facilitate central Pennsylvania as a destination for high-quality, sustainable music that audiences can rely on for happy times in Happy Valley. The Union must show bars that they will have a competitive advantage when they agree to a minimum wage scale and written contracts and get themselves publicized to as a "Venue Supporting Sustainable Music." Bars have contracts with suppliers of food and beverages and they can have the same with suppliers of music. It's just good business sense. All this is good for the entire community. Our community's quality of life – including its music scene—attracts knowledge workers whose presence enhances our Penn State economic advantage in America's developing knowledge industry.

The Union's role is not to obstruct, but to facilitate good music and to help elevate the public image of our community's quality of life as a music destination.

I ask all Union members to attend our annual luncheon meeting on February 28 at 12:30 pm at South Hills Business School—Member and one guest Free—other guests \$15.00 each; register your attendance by February 22nd. Send your notice of attendance (name and number attending to AFM 660 Treasurer Debbie Trudeau). Menu will be Lasagna, Salad, Desert and Beverage. Help kick-off of our membership and wage scale campaigns, and, before February 28th get their fellow band members and other members to join the AFM. See you there for food and fellowship with other musicians!

*This is our moment – for you and me and the Union – to play a positive role to enhance the quality of life and ultimately the economy health of our community. Yes we can!*

Christopher Lee, President, Email: [chris@boalmuseum.com](mailto:chris@boalmuseum.com) Phone: 814-466-9266



### February 2009 Issue

Annual AFM 660 Membership Meeting  
**Mark Your Calendar—Feb. 28th**  
12:30 p.m. South Hill Business School  
480 Waupelani Drive, State College PA  
Deadline to Register—February 22nd

- President Lee's Message
- Jay Leonhart in State College
- World Class Bass Convention
- New Membership Flyer
- Remembering Joe Alessandro
- DUES Reminder
- Spotlight on Bruce Young
- Second Fiddle—Donations Wanted

### AFM 660 Newsletter

John R. Vincenti, Editor  
[johnrvincenti@comcast.net](mailto:johnrvincenti@comcast.net)

### AFM 660 on The Web

John Thompson, Webmaster  
<http://www.afm660.org>

<http://sozoart.org>

A 'Listen to the Music' Partner

### WORTH NOTING

International Musician  
Page 10, January 2009  
"Five Essentials of Music Career Success"  
By Peter Spellman

1. Hone your talent and realize there is a place for you.
2. Connect with as many people as you can.
3. Accept the new power in your corner and take responsibility for creating your own success.
4. Understand that every business is becoming a "music business" and so musical opportunities are multiplying.
5. Prepare to be versatile and wear several hats until your "brand" is established.

## Jay Leonhart in State College Convention of World-Class Bass Players – June '09

On Monday January 11th New York bassist, poet and singer Jay Leonhart put on his one-man show "The Bass Lesson" at the Zola New World Bistro as a fund raising event for the International Society of Bassists (ISB). It was a great night and drew many people's attention to the ISB event this summer. The evening was hosted jointly by Zola New World Bistro, Robert Denby who chose and provided the amazing wines. and the ISB.

The International Society of Bassists is a not-for-profit 3,000 member string society with members in almost 40 countries. Every two years ISB hosts a convention which brings together over 1,000 musicians from all over the world for six intensive days of concerts, recitals, clinics, lectures, master-classes and demonstrations. This year the event will be held June 8th-13th at Penn State. Many of the greatest bass players in the world will be there - jazz, classical, folk, contemporary - every style imaginable (and then some) - professionals, amateurs, teachers, students, Luthiers, bass dealers etc, etc.

Several highlights will be the big name jazz headliners appearing which include John Patitucci, Richard Davis, Dave Holland, Cecil McBee, Henry Grimes, and Rufus Reid. Classical headliners include Tom Martin from London, Klaus Stoll (principal bass of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra) and principal bass players from The Philadelphia Orchestra (Hal Robinson), Metropolitan Opera (Tim Cobb), Orpheus Chamber Orchestra (Don Palma) and others from the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Symphonies.

Many other great jazz players like Lynn Seaton, Steve LaSpina, Harvie S, Wayne Darling, Michael Formancek, and Phil Palombi will be there as well.

In June of this year, we are anticipating over 1,200 musicians in State College. It will be the largest gathering of bass players in history. In addition, many of the most famous contemporary 'free' players in the world will be here, such as William Parker, Joelle Leandre and Barre Phillips (from Paris), Mark Dresser and Peter Herbert (from Vienna) and Tepp Hauton-aho (from Finland).

There will be many live-streamed events on the web and a coalition of Luthiers from many countries will get together to build a bass during the Convention week, which will be auctioned off at the week's end.

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# AFM 660 Membership Flyer

## You should belong to the musicians' union because:

### 1. You save money

Fees to join this local, AFM 660, are less than elsewhere so, if you plan to leave town, join here and transfer your membership to your new location. Save money!

AFM membership qualifies you for a discount in instrument insurance with Clarion Insurance Company as well as a 10% discount on retail sales at Rainbow Music in State College (upon showing your up-to-date AFM 660 card).

### 2. You prevent hassles

AFM membership indicates that you are a professional musician, not a hobbyist. It especially indicates to the Internal Revenue Service that they should not challenge your claiming musician expenses as deductions.

AFM membership is not required to play gigs around State College, but if you go elsewhere – Harrisburg, Pittsburgh -- you may find yourself barred from performing unless you are an AFM member. Your membership here qualifies you to perform.

When you use a written contract registered with the local AFM (forms available from the local AFM), you get legal representation if your employer does not live up to his end of the deal. AFM help can save you a lot of time, effort, and money.

### 3. You connect for success

You join a group of musicians who network and refer gigs and group opportunities to each other. Frequent **Listen to the Music** jam sessions and other events.

You get a free subscription to **International Musician** filled with useful information including nationwide ads for musician auditions and work. You also get the local **AFM 660 Newsletter** highlighting local music news and spotlighting members.

*The union advocates for better wages and better conditions for all musicians, not just for AFM members.*

*The union does this better, if it has many members.*

***Join the effort – be part of the team – and make it happen!***

To join AFM 660, go to <http://afm660.org> and click on “Join AFM 660”

American Federation of Musicians, Local 660

Debbie Trudeau, Treasurer, AFM 660

1755 Cambridge Drive, State College PA 16803

Email: [trumusic@comcast.net](mailto:trumusic@comcast.net)

Tel: (814) 237-0979

(Please Post and/or Send to Prospective Members)



Leonhart and ISB Convention, Continued from Page 1

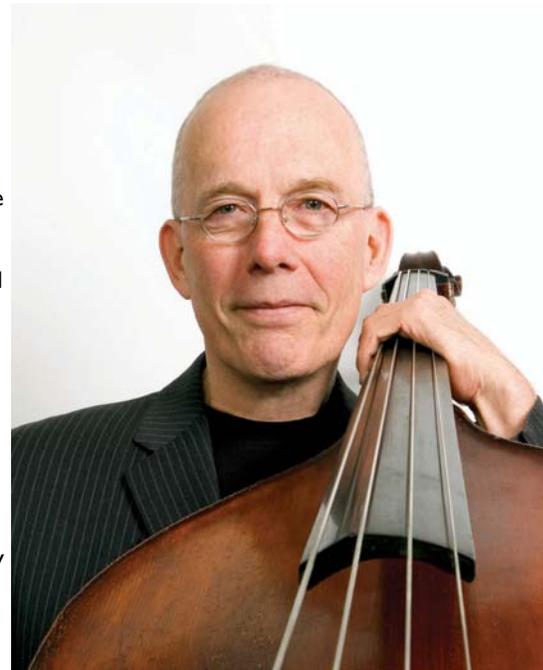
The ISB's Young Bassists program also brings almost 100 young students from all over the globe for a parallel convention which also brings together many of the greatest teachers of young bassists from many countries.

**B**ack to January 11th – we had a fabulous evening. Jay Leonhart was in great form—he is one of the most recorded bass players in history and after Ray Brown perhaps the player who has performed with more (and a greater range) of musicians than anybody. He is also a poet and very funny songwriter (or writer of very funny songs – he has written over 300, many of which appear on his 17 solo albums).

For those who don't know the Jay's background: When Jay was fourteen he started playing the bass in The Pier Five Dixieland Jazz Band in Baltimore and never looked back. After studying at The Peabody Institute, Jay attended The Berklee School of Music and The Advanced School of Contemporary Music in Toronto, before leaving school to start touring with the traveling big bands of the late 50's and early 60's. At 21, Jay moved to New York City to start his career and to proceed on his odyssey towards adulthood. He played lots of funky road gigs with big bands, small bands and singers (Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Mel Torme, Gerry Mulligan, Chick Corea) and visited all the little jazz joints around the world. In 1968, he met and married a lovely young singer named Donna Zier and settled down in New York.

The Leonharts have also raised two very musically inclined children, Michael and Carolyn, who perform with Steely Dan, among other notables. Upon moving to New York, Jay eventually began playing for many of the great jazz musicians, big bands, and singers who were to be found in New York - artists like Thad Jones and Mel Lewis, Tony Bennett, Marian McPartland, and Jim Hall. The list goes on and on, and Jay has continued to work with many of the great jazz musicians of the twentieth century. Jay became a very busy studio musician in New York City, visiting every musical genre from James Taylor to Ozzy Osbourne and Queen Latifah. Between 1975 and 1995 he was named The Most Valuable Bassist in the recording industry three times by the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Jay has now recorded 17 solo albums, all the while knowing that he would some day begin performing one man shows made up of these many songs about his life in music. "The Bass Lesson" is the first example. This show was received very warmly by critics and audiences, had a long run in New York, was aired on PBS and is available on video. Jay's next show "Nukular Tulips" will open later this year.



**Watch for more news about the extraordinary June convention of the greatest bass players in the world—June 8-13, 2009 at PSU.**

*Article by Robert Nairn, Associate Professor, Penn State University, Adjunct Faculty, The Juilliard School, Principal Double Bass, Handel and Haydn Society, President-elect, International Society of Bassists (814) 865 8339 <rcn3@psu.edu>*



	<p>Joseph Vincent Alessandro, of State College, died Friday, Dec. 12, 2008, at Mount Nittany Medical Center. Born in Curwensville, he was a son of the late Vincent and Julie Carfley Alessandro. He married Helen Hurd, who survives him. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Lieutenant. Joe attended Lock Haven and Franklin and Marshall Universities. He earned his Ph.D. in Education from Penn State. He was a former principal of the Pine Grove Mills Elementary School and was Professor Emeritus at Penn State. He worked as a consultant for the World Bank and the U.S. Agency for International Development. After his retirement, he dedicated his life to music and family. He was recognized by Penn State for his philanthropic contributions to the University. Along with his wife, he is survived by a son, Kent Thomas Alessandro, formerly of State College, currently living in Madrid, Spain.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>AFM 660 Spotlight, July 2008. We will miss you!</b></p>
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## AFM 660 2009 Dues

- \$84 Annual 660 Dues prior to February 1, 2009
- \$10 Late Fee for Annual 660 Dues after January 31, 2009
- \$90 Transfer to or New Dual Member in Local 660
- \$64 Student annual renewal
- \$155 New or Reinstated AFM Member
- \$64 Life Member, active
- \$62 Life Member, inactive

You have two ways to pay your dues: 1) via PayPal through the website <http://www.afm660.org/> includes an additional service fee or 2) U.S. mail with your check and current membership card. A receipt and updated membership card will be mailed to you when I receive your dues. I'm will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Those paying every six months your next installment of \$49 due June 30, 2009.

**Debbie Trudeau, Treasurer, 1755 Cambridge Drive, State College, PA 16803 (814) 237-0979 [trumusic@comcast.net](mailto:trumusic@comcast.net)** 



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.



## Spotlight on Bruce Young—Music Historian



Bruce Young has been singing and playing music for nearly 40 years. Playing his fiddle, dulcimer, guitar, bass, banjo, and mandolin, Bruce has performed such specialties incorporating historical renditions of Pennsylvania Mountain voices, rural southern blues, labor songs, sea chanteys, a cappella ballads, children's songs and games and school programs and workshops emphasizing our colonial heritage. In addition, Bruce also has performed English country and contra dance, including dance calling.

Bruce's educational background includes bachelor of science and liberal arts degrees from Penn State University in Biology and General Arts and Sciences; a three year stint at the Rhonda Cole Suzuki Institute at Catholic University of America, and workshops at the Davis and Elkins College—American Heritage Workshop for dance and leading of folk dance. Young is a Suzuki Association of America instructor and has a small violin and fiddle teaching studio in State College called "Fiddle Fantastick." Here students perform tradi-



### LOCAL 660

Chartered  
October 29, 1913  
Tuned for 21st Century

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tional Anglo-Irish American fiddle tunes. His studio includes recording capabilities and he publishes fiddle music.

Bruce has been the Learning Enrichment artist for Central Intermediate Unit (CIU) #10, Galaxy Program (Arts in Education) since 1997. In addition to his role with the CIU, he has been a artist resident in many schools throughout central Pennsylvania, freelance musician, actor, dancing master and caller, staff member at the August Heritage Center in Elkins, West Virginia, and scored several community and university theatre groups.

In 2006, Young was selected to the Pennsylvania Humanities Speakers' Roster and performed at many series programs. During the same year, he also had a song accepted for national release through "Oasis Acoustic: An Essential Library for the Acoustic Programmer."

Since 1994, Bruce has been selected to Pennsylvania Council for the Arts' three year Artists in Education roster of artists eligible for resident matching funds. In addition, Bruce's programs have also found him listed in Pennsylvania Heritage Affairs Commission's directory of people whose material reflects traditional folk culture in Pennsylvania and netted him a grant from the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission to study Colonel Henry Shoemaker's music collection.

Bruce Young serves as a member of AFM 660's Executive Board and is **truly a music historian.**

[http://www.geocities.com/bruce\\_young\\_pa/](http://www.geocities.com/bruce_young_pa/)

Photos by Bruce Young Article by John R. Vincenti



## Second Fiddle Shop requests musical donations

The Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra (PCO) is our local professional chamber orchestra made up of many PSU faculty and area classical professional players, many of whom are union members. PCO has initiated a new project to help financially support the orchestra. The Second Fiddle Shop located at 119 S. Fraser St., Suite D, near Mr. Tux, will offer new and used music related items to be sold to raise funds for PCO concerts and educational programs. Store open Wed-Fri 11am to 1pm and occasionally at PCO concerts. Currently they have a piano for sale, new and used classical CDs, music books, art work by violinist and union member Lois Durran, a small refrigerator, PCO mugs, and electric wine bottle opener and more. They will accept donations of CDs in good condition, new and used music and books, musical instruments in good condition and other treasures (no junk please). For more details call (814) 234-8313 or email [info@centreorchestra.org](mailto:info@centreorchestra.org). Please consider making tax deductible donations of music related items to this new endeavor as a way of ensuring live classical music by local professionals.



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IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES

Get the Latest AFM 660 News & Information On-line  
<http://www.afm660.org>

WANTED NEWSLETTER Articles Deadline 20th of month

### Reminder

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