



MUSICENTRAL

AFM Local 660 May 2009
Central Pennsylvania Musicians Association
Founded in 1913—Tuned for the 21st Century

Local 660



Christopher Lee, President
Email: chris@boalmuseum.com
Phone: 814-466-9266

President's Message

May 2009 Issue

- **President's Message**
- **Funds for Future Musicians**
- **SMV—benefiting members**
- **Yea or Nay**
Secretary of the Arts
- **Allegría Ensemble**
- **Jazz Beat**
- **Spotlight—Debbie Trudeau**

This month bring good news to our members -- positive growth with more Sustainable Music Venues (SMV) signing on. To date, the Sustainable Music Venues are: *The Autoport, Bar Bleu, Bar Q, Café 210, Hiway Pizza at Westerly Parkway, The Deli, The Saloon and Zeno's*. We are reviewing the participation in the SMV program by Tony's Big Easy at this time and should have determination of their compliance soon.

It is important that our member recognize these establishments and tell the management of our appreciation for becoming part of AFM 660's effort. We hope that members will continue to approach other establishments within our service area to gain their support for sustainable music venues. The details of the program are at www.afm660.org. This is a project which will benefit both the owner and the musician to enhance and improve music in Central Pennsylvania.

The Olin Butt Fund make headlines this month with five outstanding youngsters. I really appreciated the email thanks from recipient Brandon Houtz, not to mention John Kovalchik's good work in setting up this year's awards. Funding for the Olin Butt Fund comes mostly from our "Listen to the Music" events. We hope to continue them in the near future at Café 210 -- a Sustainable Music Venue.

This month's Spotlight is on our Local's Treasurer, Debbie Trudeau, who has been doing a really fine job in AFM 660's fiscal management. The bottom line is, we are solvent. Thank you, Debbie!

AFM 660 Newsletter

John R. Vincenti, Editor
johnrvincenti@comcast.net

AFM 660 on The Web

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

<http://sozoart.org>

A 'Listen to the Music' Partner

GROWING

In Support of
SMV
Sustainable Music Venues
The Central Pennsylvania
Musicians Association
Recognizes and Encourages
Patronage of:

- *The Autoport*
- *Bar Bleu*
- *Bar Q*
- *Café 210*
- *Hiway Pizza*
Westerly Parkway
- *The Deli*
- *The Saloon*
- *Zeno's*



2009 Olin Butt Scholars

Pictured 1st row, left to right:
Brandon Houtz, Bellefonte
Charlie Quick, Philipsburg-Osceola
Kyle Frost, Bald Eagle
Connor Hendorson, State College
Courtney Done, Penns Valley
2nd row: AFM members
Christopher Lee, President
John Kovalchik (Education Chair)

Funds for Future Musicians

Each student receives \$100 toward lessons from teachers of their choice paid for by a fund established in honor of Olin Butt, noted Centre County/Regional musician. AFM Local 660 maintains and manages the fund.

In its early years, the Local had a rather non systematic way of funding. It offered independent arrangements with each of the local high school band directors. Some directors used the fund regularly, while others were sporadic. The fund eventually languished over some time. Three years ago the idea for the current system was broached. When the executive board found that maintaining scholarships worth \$500 was sustainable, we contacted the directors of the five school districts in the county to inform them of our proposition.

Since regional schools have an annual festival (CCMEA) involving all the school districts in the county, the event created an automatic venue for awarding scholarships. This year's event took place on Friday, April 3, 2009, in Bellefonte, PA. While recognizing that \$100 per student isn't a lot of money by today's standards, AFM 660's award is still appreciated and, for some students is still a viable "jump-start" for students' lessons. Over the past three years, this has truly been the case. Music directors, students, and their families appreciate AFM 660's scholarship. The memory of Olin Butt continues in our Local enabling us to provide a recognition stipend to noteworthy youth for their musical talent.

A thank you note

Dear Mr. Chairman,
Thank you for awarding me the Olin Butt Memorial Scholarship. I am greatly honored to have received this scholarship. I am using the money for piano lessons to further my music career and education.
Many thanks,
Brandon Houtz, Bellefonte Area School District

"Music at the Boal Mansion" at 8 pm on Saturday, May 2nd, features champagne, extensive hors d'oeuvres and live music including Mozart and Bach performed by the Penn State School of Music faculty. For details, go to boalmuseum.com

First Tuesday Jazz returns to the American Ale House once again! Rick Hirsch sextet *Liquid Jazz* has come out of hibernation and will be starting up at the Ale House on Tuesday, May 5th.

Triple A Blues Band 7-9pm Happy Hour at Zeno's Pub featuring Pete "The Jukester" Sheridan, Fridays—May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and May 29th

Yea or Nay—Secretary of the Arts by John R. Vincenti

While many countries have had Ministers of Art or Culture, the United States has never created such a position as an executive department in our federal government. Since the election of Barack Obama as President, there has been a concerted interest in creating a Secretary of the Arts. In fact, "**The Up Beat**" official publication of the **Central Florida Musicians' Association, AFM Local 389** in their January-March 2009 issue, highlights this subject. President/Secretary Mike Avila wrote:

"Secretary Of the Arts While it has been, and still remains the policy of this Local to refrain from endorsing any particular political party or candidate, we occasionally bring issues to your attention that have potential to impact your career in music. This is one of those occasions. If you go to petitiononline.com/lesnyc1petition.html, you will find a petition which is being circulated regarding the appointment of a Secretary Of The Arts. I'm not asking you to do anything other than read the information and make your own decision. In my opinion, the appointment of any new government official or agency guarantees us nothing, other than the fact that more of our tax dollars will be spent on or invested in an idea. Some of these ideas work, others do not. On the surface, this appears to be a good idea, perhaps, time will tell. Happy investigating! In your service, Mike."

This issue of AFM 660 investigates the subject. It's purpose, like Local 389 is to educate its members and let you decide on whether or not you wish to support, reject, or remain neutral on the subject of calling for a new federal office called Secretary of Arts.

BACKGROUND

Violinist.com <http://www.violinist.com/discussion/response.cfm?ID=15245> is one site that includes a blog on the subject.

KadmustArts Blogs/Podcasts highlights the subject with comments from Quincy Jones at the following address: <http://kadmusarts.com/blog/?p=824> The website states, "Quincy Jones, who has created the most buzz (as usual) for this idea, is demure (unusual) about whether he would take the position if offered. According to Quincy's site, he first spoke about the need for Obama to appoint an arts minister when he was on a book tour..."

The subject of desiring a cabinet position for the arts is not new. Research has shown that the subject was in the minds of America for nearly 90 years. For example **Time Magazine's** 1923 issue report on the subject of creating a federal Department of Fine Arts. **Time Magazine's** synopsis on the subject at <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,727226,00.html> states:

"Walter Gilman Page, Chairman of the Massachusetts State Art Commission, has framed a bill for the creation of a federal Department of Fine Arts, which will be introduced in the next session of Congress by a Massachusetts representative. Agitation for such a Department is not new, and the American Federation of Arts and the American Association of Art Directors have recorded themselves in its favor. President Harding is said to be willing to consider the plan. The Department's duties, under the bill, would include oversight of the National Gallery of Art, including the Freer Gallery; close cooperation with the Commission of Fine Arts—the group of eminent artists who serve without compensation to advise and judge on construction of public buildings, monuments and other art matters; cultivation of international relations in the arts, and fostering of American artists' interests in foreign exhibitions; promotion of art education and improved taste, both among adults and in the schools."

Time Magazine <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,736214,00.html> continued with this story by adding the following:

"Once more a bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives calling for the addition to the President's Cabinet of a Secretary of Art to be in charge of a Department of Fine Arts. The present bill, sponsored by George Holden Tinkham of Massachusetts, was prepared by Walter Oilman Page, Chairman of the State Art Commission of Massachusetts. The bill calls for a Secretary who shall receive a salary of \$12,000 a year and "be learned and experienced in matters pertaining to the fine arts." The bill further states that "the purpose of the proposed Department of Fine Arts shall be to increase knowledge of the arts through official channels and to develop a taste for it, one of the greatest factors in the march of human progress." The Secretary shall "have charge of and control of the National Gallery of Art, including the Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C., and all other galleries of Art which may come under its control wherever situated." And he "shall also have direction and charge of international relationships in the field of Art." As regards the duties of this proposed Cabinet member, the bill says in part: "He shall collect, collate and report, at least once a year or oftener if necessary, full and complete statistics relating to the fine arts of the United States." Said Forbes Watson, able critic of *The New York World*: "Since the avowed object of the bill in general is to advance taste 'in America, and since the 'arts of design' constitute only a fraction of the arts, why should Governmental supervision go only half way? Let us have a Department of Poetry, directed by a \$12,000 Secretary of Poetry and assisted by an \$8,000 Assistant Secretary of Poetry. Let the United States Government add also a Department of Prose and a

Department of Music. . . . Why not a Department of Dance and Jazz?"

The **Los Angeles Times** <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/culturemonster/2009/01/note-to-obama-h.html> said the topic came up in a WNYC talk show last November. Music producer and songwriter Quincy Jones spoke about it during an interview. Following that the petition was initiated and has been circulating via the web. According to the article, as of January 2009, 63,000 have signed the petition. (Other articles state over 250,000.)

Psychology Today has tuned into the subject. <http://blogs.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-healing-arts/200901/secretary-the-arts-q-needs-you> Cathy Malchiodi in a January 15, 2009, article in "The Healing Arts" writes, "The idea of a Secretary of the Arts has captured the imaginations of my people-art, dance, music, and other creative and expressive arts therapists-and artists, art educators, arts administrators, and others who have placed their hopes in a possible national focus on the arts." There are potential downsides to the subject. Malchiodi notes that government involvement could also mean censorship, citing the example of works of Andrew Serrano and Robert Mapplethorpe, which were publicly labeled as "morally reprehensible" by members of the U.S. Senate. The article goes on to say, "So in a Department of the Arts, just whose definition of "art" would be used? As early as the 1920s, government funding and influence on the arts was questioned for this very reason." Malchiodi's article asks the question and states that in hard times the arts are in fact a healing activity. Currently the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) amounts to 50 cents for each American citizen. She concludes her article by stating, "The arts and what they represent will help us all to heal the pain, find hope and inspiration, and rediscover the wisdom to create a life that is better for all. Let the dreamers wake the nation."

A senior citizen advocate website entitled "Finally! 'a magazine for me'" offered some stern caveats to the initiative. <http://www.seniorcitizensmagazine.com/world-veterans-whitehouse-white-house/white-house-president-address-prime-minister/1442-secretary-of-the-arts-usa> It states: "As with any governmental aid or infiltration, both sides and all angles, need to be considered." "What's next? The Ministry of Thought? Be careful....On the surface this looks like a good thing. Our government should have mechanisms in place for supporting cultural development in America. If the machine ran correctly, this would be handled on the State level. But consider the past history of Federal support (or intervention for "our own good"). Can you say, "Mapplethorpe"? Many of our representatives were ready to pull the plug on the NEA after that one. I'm not sure if I want the Federal Government or the White House "chaining" my freedom of expression or deciding what is appropriate art to fund or endorse on our behalf. I don't really want the "Patriot Act" connected to my freedom of expression. Can you say "Dr. Steven Kurtz and the Critical Art Ensemble"? I implore you all to take this with a grain of salt. Weigh all the pros and cons on this one. In some countries a socialist approach to the arts can serve them well. Some countries already value their arts to the extent of lending economic support from the State to their artists." "Be aware, be informed, be pro-active enough to investigate all sides of an issue and take the best each has to offer and make it work."

Rolling Stone's Rock & Roll Daily <http://www.rollingstone.com/rockdaily/index.php/2009/01/16/quincy-jones-lobbies-obama-for-secretary-of-culture-post/> article on January 16, 2009, quoted Jones's comments from the **Washington Post**:

"I have traveled all over the world all the time for 54 years," Jones [told the Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com). The people abroad know more about our culture than we do," he lamented. "A month ago at my high school in Seattle, I asked a student if he knew who Louis Armstrong was. He said he had heard his name. I asked him about Duke Ellington and John Coltrane. He didn't even know their names. That hurts me a lot." Jones said he would like to see an education system that teaches the history and personalities of the arts, particularly music." The Daily article written by John Clarke, Jr. also commented, "Citing a weak economy and an already overtaxed government, critics say the post will likely not be created."

BigTen dean of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance and other faculty members from the **University of Michigan** wrote a guest opinion http://www.ur.umich.edu/0809/Mar02_09/letters.php supports the effort of creating a new post. The gist of their endorsement came in the final sentence, "...creating a Secretary of Arts or White House position, whose role would be to celebrate and connect the arts throughout society, could be a powerful step toward helping all to appreciate something much broader — our common humanity."

Herald Tribune on-line writes about Jones's effort, but also America's financial upheaval as a drawback to its inception. <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20090118/COLUMNIST/901180408/2142/FEATURES?Title=A+Secretary+of+the+Arts+it+s+music+to+his+ears> The **Herald Tribune's** author, Jan Handelman writes of the underfunded National

Continued on Page 3

The Allegría Ensemble — Chamber Music

The Allegría Ensemble, one of State College's premiere chamber groups has played for a wide variety of local venues including Music at Penn's Woods, First Night, the Palmer Museum, the Bellefonte Library Series, and First Thursdays at Schlow Library. The group pictured at the right consists of Debbie Trudeau, violin; Cathy Herrera, flute; and Claudia Koide, violoncello. Below, the group's photo was taken at Elmcroft of State College, an assisted living community.



Both Claudia and Debbie hail originally from California, while Cathy grew up in Iowa. Cathy and Debbie each had a musical parent who inspired them musically. Debbie claims her father played the violin badly, but the musical seeds were still planted deeply. Cathy's mother was very musical, constantly singing around the house, singing harmony with church hymns, as well as providing Cathy with spontaneous dance music on the piano at home.

Claudia's mother was touched by hearing her daughter sing around the house and play the piano with enthusiasm, so decided Claudia should try the cello (Mom's favorite instrument). Third grade school orchestra clinched it for Debbie's decision to become a musician. Not sure when she even heard a flute for the first time, Cathy somehow always knew she was meant to play the flute.

Both Debbie and Cathy added oboe to their interests early on, Cathy's was very short-lived (not nearly as free-flowing as playing the flute!); Debbie, however, had ulterior motives: there was this kid she wanted to sit closer to...

Each musician has had teachers that have left deep imprints on their lives and careers. Claudia names Gabor and Peter Rejto at Pomona College and Maragaret Rowell of the San Francisco Conservatory. Debbie singles out Dorothy DeLay, Hyo Kang, and Daniel Stepner of the New England Conservatory. Donald Peck (Chicago Symphony), Robert Cole (Philadelphia Orchestra), Charlie Delaney (FSU) and Jerrold Pritchard (UNI) are at the top of Cathy's list.

Claudia, who has made her home in State College much longer than the others, has played an integral part in the local music scene, dedicating years to performing with the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra, the Nittany Valley Symphony, Music at Penn's Woods, and a variety of chamber music performances. Of the three musicians, Claudia is the newest to discover the benefits of being a member of the AFM.

Article by Dr. Cathy Collinge Herrera. Photos by Cathy Herrera and Debbie Trudeau 



Jazz Beat by Rick Hirsch *Find out more about local jazz and creative music at www.HirschMusic.biz*

The jazz world marks the loss of another one of its legends with the recent passing of altoist and flutist **Bud Shank**. Shank was a stalwart of the West Coast scene for five-plus decades. There are several detailed and thoughtful remembrances online – take a quick peek.

Our local non-profit jazz presenting organization, **JazzPA**, has been hard at work preparing for the **2009 Summer Celebration of Jazz**. As in 2008, this year's event will take place throughout downtown Bellefonte, with performances occurring on High Street (near the Spring St. intersection), in the Talleyrand Gazebo, and in the unusually hip setting of the old Match Factory. The festival will kick off Friday night July 24 and take place all day Saturday the 25th.

Veteran reedman **Jerry Dodgion** is the featured artist this year. You may not have heard of Dodgion, but you've probably heard his music. He was an original member of the **Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Big Band**, and a stalwart of the New York scene for years.

You can find out more information at **JazzPA.com**. And if you happen to have a few extra bucks that you could contribute to the cause, I believe the website is configured to accept donations via PayPal. Word on the street is that contributions of all sizes are welcome and graciously accepted by JazzPA! 

Secretary of the Arts, Continued from Page 2

(Special thanks to AFM 660's John Kovalchik for sending Local 389 Newsletter and suggesting the topic)

Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which have seen their budgets slashed. He writes, "This nation needs more...building our appreciation and awareness of what the arts do for our souls and intelligence, and how we look at the world around us." Handelman goes on to say, "More importantly, at least in my mind, a Secretary of the Arts could be some sort of national cheerleader for the arts, to make sure that communities and school districts around the country realize how important arts are to our lives and our education system. I shudder to think of the number of children who haven't been exposed to any kind of music because their schools can't afford the teachers or the instruments, and what they lose out on in the future. Studies have frequently shown that students learn better if their studies include the arts."

This has just been a small sampling of articles that can be found in the press and on the Internet on this subject. We hope this will wet your appetite for more study, discussion, and action of your choice.

Other sites you may wish to review include:

<http://www.artsjournal.com/dewey21c/2009/01/secretary-of-the-arts.html>

http://rawstory.com/news/afp/Nearly_220_000_sign_petition_for_US_01302009.html

http://www.nntv.org/viewstory.php?story_id_key=2244

<http://spectator.org/archives/2009/02/12/the-art-of-cabinet-making>

<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2009/02/15/artistic-community-petitions-secretary-arts/> 

AFM Dues information at <http://www.afm660.org/> **Debbie Trudeau, Treasurer, 1755 Cambridge Drive, State College, PA 16803 (814) 237-0979**

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,



Spotlight on Debbie Trudeau



Musician—Activist— Network Specialist

LOCAL 660

Chartered
October 29, 1913
Tuned for 21st Century

President

Christopher Lee

Vice-President

Phil Jensen

Secretary

John Thompson

Treasurer

Debbie Trudeau

Executive Board

Christopher Byrne

Carl Ector

Andrew Jackson, Sr.

Donald B. Keat II

Bruce Young

Newsletter Editor

John R. Vincenti

Webmaster

John Thompson



Violinist Debbie Trudeau arrived in Pennsylvania in August 2005 with twin sons ready to enter Penn State after her husband, George, spent his first successful year as Director of the Penn State's Center for Performing Arts.

Born in California, Debbie spent most of her adult life on the east coast. She met her husband George at the Britt Music Festival in Oregon. She and George next spent several years in Boston, both graduating with a M.M. in Performance from New England Conservatory. While there, Debbie studied with Dorothy DeLay. George's next job took them to upstate New York where Debbie performed as a member of the Syracuse Symphony, the Utica Symphony, and as Associate Concertmaster of the Glimmerglass Opera Orchestra. With the move to Pennsylvania, she looked forward to meeting new colleagues for music making. She auditioned for the Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra, and sent resumes to Nittany Valley, Williamsport, and Altoona symphonies. Then the phone started ringing.

Her first gig in central Pennsylvania was with the **Altoona Symphony**. Before the first rehearsal, she found a cluster of classical musicians who car-pool. This group became her new social and musical network. With new friends willing to share their knowledge of the area and fill in the local Who's Who, Debbie soon developed a broad musical network.

The **Allegria Ensemble** (see article on page 3) was one of the first results of networking. Cathy Herrera and Claudia Koide agreed to get together to read some trios. "We clicked immediately!" she says. They've had great fun finding music for flute, violin, and cello, and if they can't find it, they arrange their own. The trio has composers writing works expressly for the ensemble in a variety of styles. They are featured performers at Music at Penn's Woods, Juniata College, First Night, First Thursday, and Bellefonte Historical Society.

Soon Debbie was performing regularly with **Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra** and **Nittany Valley Symphony** and chatting with local colleagues. She kept hearing about a festival called **Music at Penn's Woods** and asked "what was it and where is it now?" She kept asking until she finally caught up with Gerardo Edelstein and Sue Haug at the Penn State's School of Music. The seed to revive the festival was planted at a backyard dinner party. After months of phone calls, meetings with musicians, community supporters, funders, and other folks involved with logistics, the festival was reborn in June 2008 with great success and sold out concerts. Debbie is thrilled to have been an integral part of the push to make it happen and looks forward to performing again in the 2009 festival.

Teaching is a big part of Debbie's life here in State College. She has a full studio at home with violin and viola students ranging in age from 8 through grandparent age. **Juniata College** also has tapped her to teach violin and viola, work with the Sinfonia, and coach sectional rehearsals and the Honors String Quartet. "Since there are no music majors at Juniata, the competitive cloud is gone. These students simply love to make music as they study for 'real' jobs and it's a joy."

The newer trend to integrating Arts in Education is another aspect of Debbie's teaching background. While in New York, she trained and worked as a Teaching Artist for the Arts in Education Institute there. Here in Pennsylvania, she has worked for the **Galaxy Arts in Education** Program which serves Central Intermediate Unit 10 in three counties. She feels "it's a wonderful opportunity to share our work as performers, open young minds, and get creative with the students in the process of exploring the common threads between the academic subjects and the arts."

In her spare time (she chuckled), Debbie has also become an activist in **AFM Local 660** and a board member. After years of required union membership in orchestras with collective bargaining agreements, she assumed when she first arrived that it would also be standard practice in central Pennsylvania. Her experience on orchestra and contract negotiating committees had long ago enlightened her about the idea that working musicians would naturally participate in the only professional organization that looks after their common needs and interests. She has very much enjoyed the opportunity to get to know and work with the many dedicated members of Local 660. Past Presidents and current Board members have been most welcoming. "It's been a pleasure to see so much progress made lately to improve the organization and working conditions for our live music colleagues."



The Trudeau Family
Matt, George, Deb, and Ben

Get the
Latest
AFM 660
News at
www.afm660.org

NEWSLETTER
Articles
Deadline
20th of month

Articles
Photo-Stories
Special Events
ARE
WELCOME

