



MUSICENTRAL

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

Local 660

AFM—our Union and the Freedom of Choice

September Issue

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AFM 660 Newsletter

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AFM 660 on The Web

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AFM News
<http://afm.org>

Is your audience listening?

Playing a gig can be seen in two ways—a job or concert. A job is defined as “getter done” by just playing the music for yourself or musical group. The other way is to present your music to others as if it was a concert for appreciation. How can you tell if your audience is appreciating your music? There are four ways of judging.

- 1) Body language or reflection.
- 2) Attending responses.
- 3) Comments or applause
- 4) Silence or noted listening

Resource: http://www.responsehotline.org/Portals/0/Active_Listening_Skills.pdf
Response of Suffolk County, Inc.

ABOUT THE AFM

Founded in 1896, the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM), AFL-CIO, is the largest organization in the world dedicated to representing the interests of professional musicians.

With more than 90,000 members, the AFM represents all types of professional musicians, including those who record music for sound recordings, film scores, videogames, radio, television and commercial announcements, as well as perform music of every genre in every sort of venue from small jazz clubs to symphony orchestra halls to major stadiums. Whether negotiating fair agreements, protecting ownership of recorded music, securing benefits such as health care and pension, or lobbying legislators, the AFM is committed to raising industry standards and placing the professional musician in the foreground of the cultural landscape. www.afm.org

Support The Employee Free Choice Act

It's Time to Restore Workers' Freedom to Form Unions

America's working people are struggling to make ends meet these days and our middle class is disappearing. The best opportunity working people have to get ahead economically is by uniting to bargain with their employers for better wages and benefits. Recent research has shown that some 60 million U.S. workers would join a union if they could.

But the current system for forming unions and bargaining is broken. Every day, corporations deny workers the freedom to decide for themselves whether to form unions to bargain for a better life. They routinely intimidate, harass, coerce and even fire workers who try to form unions and bargain for economic well-being.

The Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 800, S. 1041), supported by a bipartisan coalition in Congress, would level the playing field for workers and employers and help rebuild America's middle class.



Letter to the Editor

(Letter to the Editor by AFM 660 Member John Kovalchik, August 11, 2009)

Debbie Trudeau wrote an excellent article in last month's newsletter. I will attempt to reinforce her most salient points, but I must admit that I must do so from memory. My copy of the newsletter lies somewhere between my old computer and my new one and my saved copy possibly exists somewhere else. Why am I bothering to do so? Money and support for music education.

A little over twenty years ago I attended a meeting of band directors at a Pennsylvania Music Educators Conference that was specifically concerned with soliciting support for music education. Obviously, the problem has been around for a long time and I do not believe it will go away. One of the directors proposed that we educators might approach the American Federation of Musicians for funds. A second director immediately shot down that proposal saying that the AFM could care less about music education. I wasn't going to say anything, but Rich Victor was sitting next to me and he said, "Excuse me, but the president of Local 660 is sitting right here next to me." I believe that the overall perception of this disinterest is pervasive. Local 660 has improved the situation locally, but we can't stop here.

Ms. Trudeau mentioned many points that illustrated the importance of public music education. The federal act that brought us "No Child Left Behind" has public schools testing the life out of students in math, English and soon, Social Studies. Next April should be designated as, "No Learning Necessary, We're Testing" month, because that's what will be happening. Students don't learn skills necessary for life while they are testing. Students learn to work together and to a higher level when participating in musical ensembles. Studies show that more of the human brain is in use during performance on an instrument than with any other skill or activity. Musical performance enhances thinking skills. Testing does not.

At this writing our state does not yet have a budget. One problem is that Gov. Rendell does not want to lower what he has promised to public schools. I realize that everyone has an interest in saving money and in this current economic situation, it is more important than ever to spend wisely. Please consider that money for education and by extension, music education, affects everyone.

Money and support is needed to continue to have strong schools. The fruits of these are evident in this area. We are fortunate to have a number of strong programs in central Pennsylvania, but please don't take these fruits for granted. For example, the music department budget at Mount Nittany Middle School has not increased since 1995, the year the building opened. To be fair, the school population is not quite as high as it was then, but still, almost 15 years with no increase! Please stay vigilant and supportive in the areas of public education and specifically music education. We all benefit from those aforementioned fruits.





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Chartered
October 29, 1913**

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**NEWSLETTER
Deadline
20th of month**

**Articles
Photo-Stories
Gigs-Events**

Happy Anniversary AFM 660—96 years old

What's it like to be 96 years old? I personally don't know, but I do know a man who is. He's from York, Pennsylvania. He was still driving a car when he was 90. His mental faculties were as the ole saying goes "sharp as a tack," However, a few years ago his hearing failed and he became physically frail. He moved out of his private apartment and is now in an assisted living environment.

Organizations are not like humans. An organization does not age like a human body. An organization can revive, rejuvenate, or reinvent itself. On Thursday, October 29, 2009, AFM 660 will be 96. What do our members and readers think about AFM 660 at age 96? Conversely, how has the business of performing music changed over the years from your perspective?

Send an email to the Newsletter editor. Subject: **Anniversary**. Deadline is September 20th.



Top-money makers in music scene

How much money do the top musicians make? According to an article in Forbes.com by Lou Hau, it is worth noting. Hau researched the field (data from June 2006 to June 2007) and came up with a list. Most of the top-earners have been around for quite some time. The 10 top money makers included: 1) The Rolling Stones, nearly \$90 million; 2) Jay-Z, nearly \$85 million; 2) Madonna, nearly \$75 million; 4) Bon Jovi, over \$65 million; 5) Elton John, nearly \$55 millions; 6) Celine Dion, \$45 million; 7) Tim Mc Graw, over \$35 million; 8) 50 cent, nearly \$35 million; 9) U2, \$30 million; and 10) Sean (Diddy) Combs, nearly \$25 million. <http://www.forbes.com/2007/09/19/music> by Lou Hau



Popular books about music and musicians this summer

If you still have the reading bug before fall begins on September 23rd, then the following list of popular books related to music and musicians will be something you may wish to consider. They are: "Music's Spell: Poems About Music and Musicians," edited by Fragos; "Playing from the Heart: Great Musicians Talk About Their Craft," edited by Bob Doerschuk; "Living the Jazz Life: Conversations with Forty Musicians About their Careers in Jazz," by W. Royal Stokes; "Great Musicians," by Robert Ziegler; and "Growing Up with Jazz: Twenty Four Musicians Talk About Their Careers," by W. Royal Stokes.

<http://www.shop.com/+a-books+about+musicians-p113287250-g1-k24-st.shtml>



Gigs & Events

Free advertising—send email to Newsletter editor. Subject: **GIGS**—deadline 20th of each month.

You could fill in this space!

DRUM BEATS

By Andrew Jackson, Sr.
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Now is the time to get your MPF Proposals in for School Concerts and Local Community Music venues. Contact Local 660 Secretary, John Thompson for the procedures and details.

I remember doing a Jazz concert at Mt. Nittany Middle School with the assistance of music teachers John Kovalchik and Eric McDonough and a concert at the State College High School with the support of music director Richard Victor.

I look forward to doing a MPF concert in 2009-2010 school year for the students.



Jazz Beat by Rick Hirsch Saxophonist, composer, and bandleader—

JazzPA's 2009 Summer Celebration of Jazz was another success: the range of talent, the use of the Match Factory space, the (mostly) picturesque weather, the wonderful audiences, and the tireless volunteers who all worked hard to pull it off. All this in a time when some of the biggest national jazz festivals are collapsing under the strains of a poor economy. Here's to next year's festival!

The taps continue... venerable composer & jazz theorist **George Russell** passed away a few weeks ago. He was an integral part of the so-called Third Stream movement, composing numerous important concert jazz works, including his landmark suite *All About Rosie* based on an African-American children's song and game. Drummer **Rashied Ali**, most noted for his collaborations with John Coltrane in the mid-late 60's, passed away earlier this month, too.

Lastly, **the big band is back!** That is, a new big band is getting up and running as we go to press. This new band (yet to be named!) will assume the **first-Tuesday-of-the-month gig** established by the late **Valley Jazz Orchestra**. Insider reports tell me that the make-up of this regional band is about 1/2 local VJO alumni and about 1/2 musicians from Williamsport/Lewisburg/Harrisburg. Should be a good one! **First gig is Tuesday September 1, 8 pm, American Ale House Restaurant.**

You can contact me through my website: www.HirschMusic.biz.



AFM Dues information at [http://www.afm660.org/](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 Snyder town, 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.