



MUSICENTRAL

January 2010

Founded in 1913 – Tuned for the 21st Century

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FOR MEMBER
& ONE GUEST
LUNCH INCLUDED
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Business School

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AFM Local 660 Contact Info

President
[Chris Lee](#)

Vice-President
[Phil Jensen](#)

Secretary
[John Thompson](#)

Treasurer
[Debbie Trudeau](#)

Newsletter
[Chris Byrne](#)

Website
www.afm660.org

Phone
814.466.9266

Post
106 N. Monroe St.,
Bellefonte, PA 16823

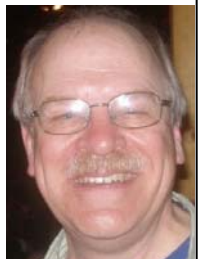
President's Message

by Christopher Lee, President, AFM660, chris@boalmuseum.com

"We must all hang together, or we will all hang separately."

-- Benjamin Franklin as he signed the Declaration of Independence

Musicians in central Pennsylvania struggle to find places to play and even when they find a venue, they are often abused and poorly paid. Must this be the character of our local music scene? Elsewhere, musicians unite to improve their working conditions. This is the what American Federation of Musicians Local 660 (AFM 660) is doing in Central Pennsylvania. In the past, unions have often been known for identifying enemies and fighting them, but AFM 660 identifies friendly venues and partners with them to increase their audiences and make a bigger pie for venues and musicians alike. To this end, AFM 660 has created the Sustainable Music Venue (SMV) program. In the last couple of years, AFM 660 wrote a Code of Ethics and completed a survey of musicians to identify needs and priorities. ([see President, p.2](#)).



Local 660 Sponsoring Junior Baroque Music Festival

by Debbie Trudeau, Treasurer, AFM 660, trumusic@comcast.net

The 3rd Junior Baroque Music Festival will be held in State College on March 26-28, 2010. With guest artists of the Aulos Ensemble and other world class master teachers from across the country, students age 10-19 will have a weekend of hands-on, intensive introduction and immersion in Baroque performance practices with a particular focus on the music of Handel. On Friday evening the festival begins with a public presentation of the different instruments and demonstration of their sounds and technique. Saturday activities are master classes for strings, keyboard, voice, winds and brass in the morning, then rehearsals and ([see Baroque Fest, p. 3](#))



Local 660 Sponsoring Omega Psi Phi Talent Show

by Andrew Jackson, Sr., AFM660 Board, fatherlighthouse2000@yahoo.com

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Iota Lambda Lambda Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Iota lambda Lambda Chapter #912 is proud to host their sixth Annual State College Talent Hunt with support from AFM Local 660 and other organizations and contributors of ads and patrons in the State College and Centre County area. The Talent Hunt has hosted two first place Second District winners an recipients in the past for piano (Larissa Woskob of State College High, in competition in Baltimore, Maryland, and Rochester, ([see Talent Show , p. 2](#))



President (from p.1)

The two greatest improvements to help local musicians playing in bars are

- 1) a living minimum wage
- 2) written contracts.

Now a dozen bars and other venues have agreed with AFM 660 to pay all musicians at least the minimum wage identified in the AFM 660 survey and posted at afm660.org.

These bars also have agreed to offer written contracts to all musicians. Despite musician fears and rumors to the contrary, many bar owners have stated a clear preference for written contracts because they state pay, hours, etc., up front in writing.

This minimum wage is the minimum, not the average market rate. Please be aware that the Autoport changed their rates for certain groups only because of their own economic situation and audience sizes. If anything, the Union's actions prevented the Autoport from dropping their rates further. Still, no good deed goes unpunished and some have criticized the Union about all this. These same people complain about sudden cancellations, too, something that would be prevented by their asking for written contracts.

It is an essential role of AFM 660 to fill the crying need for improving the relationship between bars and musicians. Look for the AFM 660 Sustainable Music Venue certificate posted where you play or visit. These bars are where you can expect a decent wage and a written contract. They are good places to work. If they aren't, let us know promptly.

All musicians benefit from but not all musicians are helping with these AFM 660 efforts. Now is the time for unattached musicians to act not as consumers but as producers by joining AFM 660 and our campaign. Tell your musician friends to go to afm660.org and join up to be part of the story of working together to improve the local music scene as it unfolds.

Those who join now for calendar year 2010 can attend our annual luncheon meeting on January 16 with a guest for free (\$30 value). In fact, why not bring an unaffiliated musician guest to the luncheon meeting? We will discuss changes in the Sustainable Music Venue program such as requiring SMV bars to have signed contracts with all musicians, affiliating with regional Union counsels and other actions to improve the local music scene.

Everyone is invited to attend and be part of the solution to improve working conditions for all our musicians. Come hang with us!

Talent Show (from p. 1)

New York) and for Dance (Kyle Lumpkins, State College High, in the competition in Atlantic City, New Jersey). Hotel, per diem and transportation is provided for all participants and chaperones representing each chapter in the Second District for competition in Dance, Instrumental, Vocal, and Creative Arts. Iota Lambda Lambda Chapter #912 participants have generated two First Place winners in the past during its Second District Regional competition between New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. AFM660 continues over 20 years of support for youth music programs via the Olin Butts Scholarship Program, as well. For more information on the talent show, contact Wayne Gersie, Chairperson, at wmg109@psu.edu. Contact John Kovalchik or Chris Byrne for information on the Olin Butts Scholarship program.



AFM660 Members jam at Café 210 West at a Listen to the Music Event. Clockwise from left: JT Thompson, John Kovalchik, Andrew Jackson, Sr., Dave Mudgett, Stacy Glen Tibbetts

Discussion Forum: Proposed Changes to the Sustainable Music Venue Program

by Chris Byrne, AFM 660 Board, drchrisbyrne@gmail.com

The sustainable music venue (SMV) program was instituted last year and many local bars and other venues joined. Based on feedback from members, the board is recommending important changes to the program as we solicit venues to renew their participation for 2010, and these changes will be voted on at the upcoming general meeting. The most important change would be to require that written contracts *be used*, not simply require that they *be offered*, which was the 2009 SMV language. This change was motivated by concerns raised by members at the last general meeting that if use of contracts is not required, then musicians are still on their own to ask for them. The proposed change will mean that the union is asking for contracts all at once so that individual musicians are not on the spot. Participating venues would have to use contracts with non-union musicians as well to keep a level playing field between union and non-union musicians, and at a higher level at that in terms of professionalism. By using contracts we not only protect ourselves, we also protect the venue and we protect our relationships with the venues. When taking the SMV program to the bars, AFM660 President Chris Lee found that some bars already prefer written contracts. Zeno's always puts everything in writing via email to proactively avoid disputes. The counter argument to insisting on contracts is that some venue managers might decline to participate if they were required to use contracts. Therefore, we must decide what we want: broader participation or a more substantive agreement with the venues who do participate. The other proposed change in the SMV program would be to require venues to post the SMV certificate in public view within two weeks of signing up. This is to advertise the union presence in general, to inform musicians that this is a club where written contracts are used, and to help the club with the AFM Local 660 endorsement. The certificate will be redesigned to be more effective as an advertising device.



AFM660 members discuss the Sustainable Music Venue program during September's general meeting at Café 210 West. Clockwise from left: Andrew Jackson Sr., Dave Mudgett, Debbie Trudeau, Bruce Young, John Kovalchik, Chris Byrne, John Thompson, Phil Jensen, Chris Lee

Baroque Fest (from p. 1)

coaching of the Handel Royal Fireworks music. Saturday night features a public performance by Aulos as part of the PSU Center for Performing Arts series in Schwab Auditorium. On Sunday, participants will again coach with the experts, then present a public performance in the afternoon at the State Theater. More information is available at juniorbaroque.org and students may apply until spaces are filled. Adults may also participate on a space available basis.

Local 660 is pleased to support this educational and live performance event with a donation to help sponsor a Master Teacher. Our local professionals recognize that events such as these keep music alive. State College is again fortunate to have masters from all over the world come to us to share their expertise. The public is invited to attend. As the song says "everything old is new again."

Newsletter Submissions

Have a story or a opinion to share with the membership? Send newsletter submissions to Chris Byrne, Editor, 121 Willow Circle, State College, PA 16801, drchrisbyrne@gmail.com.

General Meeting and Luncheon at South Hills Business School January 16

The general membership meeting begins with lunch at 12:30 pm. The lunch is free to members and one guest each. Additional guests are \$15 each. Following lunch will be discussion and voting on important issues including changes to the sustainable music venue program. Please RSVP to Chris Lee so we have a good estimated head count. No one will be turned away for lack of an RSVP, but do your best.

Ballroom Dance Music

by Peggy Campbell and Philip Jensen, Vice President, AFM660, pjj2@psu.edu

There's music you can dance to and then there's music that moves you to dance. As ballroom dancers we enjoy music that inspires us to get up and dance. As a dance band playing at a ballroom event you should aspire to create the latter. Your goal should be to provide an enjoyable array of tunes that are danceable and fun. Ballroom dancers are a little more specific in their requirements for certain rhythms than what you would expect from your audience at a wedding or other social engagement. As a musician you probably already know many songs that work well for ballroom dancing, but songs do not work well even though they might be crowd-pleasers at other functions, .

As a ballroom dance band you should familiarize yourself with the most popular rhythms favored by ballroom dancers. Foxtrot, waltz, cha-cha, rumba, east coast swing and tango are the most popular and should be the core repertoire of a danceband. Samba, mambo, quickstep, west coast swing, bolero, Viennese waltz, polka, and hustle are also danced and songs with these rhythms should be interspersed with the more popular rhythms. Song length should not exceed three minutes and songs should have a clear ending. False endings or tempo changes tend to confuse dancers. It is often a good idea to vary the tempos from song to song. A typical hour-long set is about 15 songs including several of each core rhythm, along with a few of the other rhythms. Traditionally, a set is ended with one of the slower, more romantic dances such as waltz or foxtrot. For example, a set could be as follows: foxtrot, east coast swing, rumba, waltz, hustle, tango, foxtrot, cha-cha, bolero, samba, tango, east coast swing, rumba, cha-cha, waltz. Then take a break, chat with the dancers, and get ready for your next set.

These websites list dance tempi for ballroom dances: www.dancemetonight.com/dc_temposi.htm, www.qbds.ca/tempo.htm, and www.uwmbda.org/forum/showthread.php?tid+32.

In State College, there are a number of Ballroom and Swing Dance groups. Both the Central Pennsylvania Ballroom Dancers Assoc. (www.cpbda.com - a Sustainable Music "Venue") and Town and Gown (www.townandgownonline.com) hold monthly dances at the Elks Clubs and feature live music – mostly non-local bands!!!!!! On campus there are two clubs open to the general public, the Ballroom Dance Club (www.clubs.psu.edu/up/ballroomdance/social_ballroom.html) and the Swing Dance Club (www.clubs.psu.edu/up/swingdancingclub). The Swing Dance club often uses live music.

So here's an active music scene right in our own backyard that gets overlooked by local musicians. Choose songs in which the rhythms are easily recognizable. There are many popular songs that fill the bill. You can't go wrong with some of the obvious choices, a Benny Goodman song for a swing, a Santana song for a cha-cha, or Frank Sinatra for a foxtrot. For contemporary music listen to Michael Buble or Norah Jones, or consider movie music if it has the required rhythm and feel, such as the sound track from Shall We Dance.



AFM660 Jurisdiction, Membership and Dues

NOTE: 2010 dues for current members are due by Jan 31!!!

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. All of Columbia County except Centralia, which is in Local 140. AFM Dues information is at <http://www.afm660.org/>. Pay online or send checks payable to AFM660 to Debbie Trudeau, AFM660 Treasurer, 1755 Cambridge Drive, State College, PA 16803 (814) 237-0979, trumusic@comcast.net. Also contact Debbie to change your listing in the AFM660 directory, available exclusively to members.