



MUSICENTRAL

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Founded in 1913 – Tuned for the 21st Century

In this issue

Features

[President's Message](#)
[2010 Summer Jazz](#)
[Keep Happy Valley](#)
[Weird](#)
[New Stacy Glen CD](#)

News

[AFM Convention](#)

Business Matters

[Flash Mobs](#)

[How To Join AFM](#)

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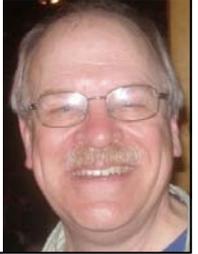
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President's Message: Union Here to Help Everyone

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

What a creative bunch the musicians are in our union (American Federation of Musicians Local 660) and the mob they hang with -- not just musically, but in general! Take a moment to consider the array of initiatives AFM660 musicians have created to make State College something really weird -- a high quality music destination: From "sustainable music venues" to "flash mobs," AFM660 is working to improve the music scene for all musicians, not just members, and for clubs and audiences too ([see President, p.2](#))



Recap of the 98th AFM International Convention in Las Vegas

by John 'JT' Thompson, Secretary, AFM 660, jtblues@comcast.net

Thank you for the honor of representing Local 660 at the 98th Convention of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, the 13th held in Las Vegas, NM. 271 delegates from 168 locals attended the four-day conference; I sat with the other delegates from our Penn-Del-Mar-DC conference. 43 recommendations and resolutions were discussed and voted on ([see Convention p.3](#)).



2010 Summer Jazz Celebration

by Don Keat, AFM 660 Board dbk1@psu.edu, & Catherine Dupuis
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For the past six years, State College-raised and New York City-based vocalist Catherine Dupuis www.catherinedupuis.com has undertaken numerous roles and overseen a host of activities to make the Summer Jazz Celebration (SJC) in Bellefonte happen (www.jazzpa.com). Catherine is the artistic director, performer, fund raiser, and overall organizer. Summer Jazz Celebration 2010 includes some true giants ([see Summer Jazz Celebration, p.4](#))



Flash Mobs Make An Offer You Can't Refuse

by Chris Lee, AFM 660 President, chris@boalmuseum.com

AFM660 is putting a new twist on the old model of unionization: the mob. Before you bar the door in the good old central Pennsylvania way -- we're talking about a flash mob. Once a month we'll 'flash mob' an AFM660 musician's gig. See <http://www.wordspy.com/words/flashmob.asp>, and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwMj3PJDXuo> for more on flash mobs. Be on the look-out for an email labeled "Flash Mob!" to learn where and when we are inviting you to join this thing. Of course, it will be at a union musician's gig in a "Sustainable Music Venue" (see President's message). If you want your gig to be the next one mobbed let Chris "The Enforcer" Lee know at chris@boalmuseum.com or 814-466-9266. Do it nice, and nobody gets hurt.

President's Message *(continued from p1)*

Sustainable Music Venues – AFM 660 has certified bars and venues that pay musicians enough to stay around and that give them written contracts so there aren't any late night arguments. You'll find a range of venues so certified by AFM 660, from the Autoport Lounge through Penn State's Music at Penn's Woods series and many venues in between. Patronize them, because they care about music and musicians in town! See the full list on the web site at afm660.org.

"Listen to the Music" parties -- at local bars filling the need of musicians to meet and play with other musicians and to expand their song lists.

Flash mobs! Yes, once a month we designate a band and a venue and assemble there at a certain time and do crazy things. I guess it's a return to the old days, when union members were mobsters!

"More music, less alcohol, please!" The music union has an important role in the present broader community effort to de-emphasize State College as a drinking destination – re-emphasize it as a music destination! Alcohol sales have huge external costs including police, hospital and property damage. Bars should either pitch in to fund these costs or redirect their focus from alcohol sales to the sale of high quality music which attracts people willing to pay a cover charge that will make everyone money without relying so much on alcohol sales and the related damages.

"Keep State College Weird." A "musician's night off" party for everyone in the music scene including musicians and the people they work with and around (like bar tenders), on the last Monday in August. Difficult to explain what this is about, but it's a blast! OK, so maybe it should be "To Get State College Weird." That's if State College isn't nearly weird enough already for you.

In summary: AFM 660 is making the music scene better for everybody, successful unaligned musicians included. We want to raise the level of pay and play for the sake of both musicians and audiences. We expect the musicians who now are the top of the local scene to stay there, but they and everyone else will be paid better and there will be less damage and more pleasure for audiences and the community that hosts them.

If you like this idea, by all means support AFM 660 by joining as a musician (easily done by going to afm660.org), or if you're not a musician, by supporting us in any other way you can think of, making you one of the creative ones!

"Musicians' Night Off: Boalsburg Bash to Keep State College Weird."

"Anybody who remembers wasn't there."

What: pot-luck dinner (beverages will be provided). PA provided but no need to play – it's your night off!

When: Monday, August 30, 5:30 pm to ?

Where: Boal Mansion, 163 Boal Estate Drive, Boalsburg PA 16827

Who: Musicians (any and all genres, ages, etc.), and the people they work with (any and all). If you need to ask if you're invited, I guess you aren't part of "any and all."

Why: Do you really need a reason to party? Are you sure you're a musician? OK, it's difficult to explain what this is, but here you go: All year long in the local music scene, musicians, bar and venue owners, sound men, wedding planners, bar tenders, festival organizers, etc., all get together to work. This is a get-together outside of that work, to party -- a "Musicians' night off."

RSVP by Aug 23 to Chris Lee at chris@boalmuseum.com, 814-466-9266. We have volunteers providing beverages – adult and otherwise -- for the thirsty music scene crowd, but they need to know how much to provide. And, if you don't RSVP or don't have any food to bring, that's weird, so it's OK to come anyway.

Out On The Town: Catherine Dupuis Sings New Songs by Stacy Glen Tibbetts

(Septmeber, 2010) will be the first new release by singer/songwriter/composer Stacy Glen Tibbetts since 2002's original folk/rock collection *Alleyways*, the disc *Critics and DJs* called "an eclectic, intelligent blend" and compared to works of Steve Forbert or Paul Simon. Now moving in a new direction, Stacy's latest effort features the astounding vocals of New York jazz singer Catherine DuPuis, music theatre pianist Markus Hauck, and The Hirsch Jazz Quartet plus a few special guests. The mood of *Out On the Town* is swinging, the songs are fresh, and the vocals snappy, light, and fun. (see *Out on the Town*, p4).

Convention (from p. 1)

Local 660 members will be happy to know that Recommendation #1, which advocated a \$10 annual increase in dues and fees, was defeated; a substitute recommendation asking for a \$5 increase over two years also failed. A third version with adjustments in fees paid by recording musicians finally passed, but without any dues increase. Discussion of this recommendation lasted almost three hours, with the administration arguing in favor of the increase to cover annual operating deficits of almost \$800,000.

The other heavily debated resolution involved transferring certain fees collected by the AFM from visiting foreign artists to the Musicians Performance Fund. The MPF, which gets its funding from sales of records and CDs (but not downloaded music), is in dire financial straits. They have cut their staff and moved to cheaper offices, but with the dramatic loss of revenue in the last decade it is doubtful that the fund will continue past 2012. Resolution #17 attempted to aid the Fund by injecting about \$750,000 annually, but this was defeated as most delegates believed that money should stay in the AFM's General Fund. John C. Hall, MPF Trustee, praised the delegates for supporting their union, and vowed to keep the MPF alive.

The election of officers resulted in a huge turnover in AFM administration. Tom Lee, president since 2001, was ousted by Ray Hair, President of Local 72-147 in Dallas, TX, and International Executive Board (IEB) member since 1989. Hair had the support of the big locals in New York, Los Angeles, and Nashville, among others, winning 408 to 324. Only three out of nine officers held on to their seats: Secretary-Treasurer Sam Folio, Canadian Vice-President Bill Skolnik, and IEB member Joe Parente (President of Local 77 in Philadelphia). Vice-President Harold Bradley was replaced by Bruce Fife (Local 99 President from Portland OR). New IEB members are Vince Trombetta (President of Local 47, Los Angeles), Dave Pomeroy (President of Local 257, Nashville), Tino Gagliardi (President of Local 802, NY NY), and Tina Morrison (Local 105 President, Spokane WA), the second woman ever elected to executive office of the AFM. Tom Lee and Harold Bradley were given Emeritus status in recognition of their service to the Union.

Most other recommendations and resolutions involved clarifying language in the AFM Bylaws and supporting things like Arts Funding, the Employee Free-Choice Act, Diversity, Health Care Reform, Network Neutrality, Music Anti-Piracy, and the Performance Rights Act, which will require radio stations to pay money to the musicians who play and sing on broadcasted recordings, not just to the copyright holders. These are not merely position statements, but authorize the AFM Administration to advocate on their behalf.

Also of interest to Local 660 members is that the reference to "Casual" musicians, since it seems to indicate a non-professional attitude, has been changed to "Freelance." Other recommendations and resolutions were adopted, defeated, or withdrawn; please contact me if you want to know details.

This was very much a working convention. My wife and I arrived at the Rivera Hotel in Las Vegas late Sunday, and my first meeting was 8 am Monday. After my last meeting wrapped up at 10 pm, I was only interested in sleeping; no big night on the town for me. Tuesday was a little later start at 10 am, and official business was over at 6:00. So we walked the Strip, saw the Pirate Show at Treasure Island Resort, did some shopping in Bally's Resort, saw a comedy show at the Riviera, and closed out the night watching the light show on Fremont Street, the original downtown Las Vegas. Yes, we gambled a bit, and no, we didn't win. By 9:30 Wednesday morning I was back with my fellow delegates, and really enjoying my coffee. Voting for officers was the last business of the day; I was called to cast my ballot @ 6:30. Time to party? Not quite - we had to leave for the airport by 8:30.

Meeting and conversing with other AFM delegates and officers, I felt proud to be your representative. Although we're a small local, I was respected by everyone I met. Many of them asked about Andrew Jackson and John Kovalchik, previous delegates to the convention, and sent them best wishes. Hubie Haugh was recognized during the memorial service for former delegates who passed on since the last convention.

So, would I do it again? Well, I wouldn't call it fun, so we are planning a trip to Las Vegas where I don't have to attend meetings all day. But would I attend the next AFM convention in 2013? You bet!

Summer Jazz Celebration (from page 1)

in the Jazz field. The gifted trombonist Wycliffe Gordon (www.wycliffegordon.com) is conducting a master class from 2:45-3:45 on the High Street Stage. Wycliffe has been to this area with the Wynton Marsalis Septet, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and in March of this year he helped prepare the State College High School Jazz Band for a competition. He is a regular on the Jazz Cruise where Don Keat has come to know him as a consistently spirited and animated performer. Wycliffe is also a vocalist and at this year's festival will perform scat duets from 7:30 to 9:45 at the American Philatelic Society with Jay Leonhart – the two have a CD together entitled "This Rhythm on my Mind"

Jay Leonhart (www.jayleohart.com) is considered to be one of the top bassists in the world and has played on dozens of CDs as both a leader and session player. Jay is also a talented singer and song writer. His songs tell stories and one of his shows is entitled "It's impossible to sing and play the bass" – in which he proceeds to prove that it is possible, of course. Jay's songs such as "Nukular," "Senators in the Bathroom" and "They're Coming To Get Me" are one of a kind combinations of cool music and poetry. Jay will perform at SJC with the Friends Big band at 1:30 and with the Russ Kassoff trio plus Wycliffe Gordon at 7:30.

Russ Kassoff (www.russkassoff.com) is yet another great artist featured at this year's SJC. Russ has combined his talents over the years by playing piano for major singers like Frank Sinatra and Lisa Minnelli as well as maintaining a jazz performance schedule which is captured in his two CDs entitled "Somewhere" and "Bird Fly By" (released June 14th of this year). Russ is currently the pianist/conductor of a 19 piece big band playing for the Broadway show "Come Fly Away", which is based on 35 songs recorded by Frank Sinatra. Sinatra's voice is dubbed but the big band performs live (Jerry Dodgion, the guest of last year's festival, plays lead alto in the band). The music is performed to provide the stimulus for the Twyla Tharp dancers. They performed "That's Life" on the CBS Emmy awards show on June 13th. Russ is joined by the wonderful drummer, Dennis Mackrel (www.dennismackrelmusic.com). Dennis will be playing for our SJC for the fourth year.

For the sixth straight year the Friends Big Band will play the SJC on July 24th at 1:30 on the High Street Stage and have an open rehearsal at 9:30 that morning. The Friends feature all original compositions and/or arrangements by several band members, including musical director and lead alto player Dan Yoder, baritone saxophonist and business manager Don Keat, pianist Russ Kassoff, and saxophonist Rick Hirsch. The proceeds from the sale of the CD "Free Food" are being donated to benefit of the Summer Jazz celebration. The Friends' performance will be supported by the Music Performance Fund (MPF).

Out On The Town (from p2)

NYC theatre critic Peter Filichia described Stacy's recent jazz- and theatre-tinged songs as "melodious" and "nice work". They were performed at *Don't Tell Mama* in Times Square, at the New York Sheet Music Society's annual Songwriters' Cabaret, at the State Theatre and other venues. *Out On The Town* includes 13 tunes including longtime staples of Stacy's live performances ("Listen," "Let's Spend a Weekend in Maine"), some new soon-to-be standards ("Snowbound," "Little Black Thing"), and two ("Gina Maria," "Waiting") from his scores for *Bella Sicilia: The Gourmet Musical* (2005) and *Dialing for Donna* (2009).

Sponsorship opportunities for this CD project are still available, and advance copies (\$10) can be ordered now. For more information, visit <http://www.stacyglen.com/outonthetown.htm>

AFM660 Jurisdiction, Membership and Dues

AFM Local 660 includes Huntingdon, Snyder, Union, Centre, Mifflin, Juniata, Union, & 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. More info at <http://www.afm660.org/>

Newsletter Submissions

Send newsletter submissions to Eli Byrne, Editor, 121 Willow Circle, State College, PA 16801, eli@byrneworks.net. Photographs with a brief caption are also welcome.