



# MUSICENTRAL

May 2010

Founded in 1913 – Tuned for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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Please answer yes or no  
to the  
president's question  
in the next week!

Reply to

[chris@boalmuseum.com](mailto:chris@boalmuseum.com)

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AFM Local 660  
Contact Info

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### Newsletter

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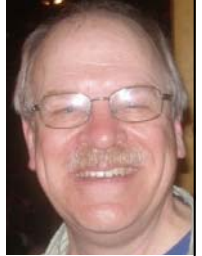
### Post

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## President's Question:

by Christopher Lee, President, AFM660, [chris@boalmuseum.com](mailto:chris@boalmuseum.com)

Q: If AFM 660 agrees to provide live music throughout a local wedding showcase, would you and/or your group play at such an event – probably in September, with you playing for 30-60 minutes for no fee either way? If yes, indicate whether you'd play solo or in a group and what type of music.



## Busy Classical Season for AFM660 Members

by Debbie Trudeau, Treasurer, AFM 660, [trumusic@comcast.net](mailto:trumusic@comcast.net)

The classical members have been busy this month. Although we are a relatively small community, we've had a lively classical scene in just a few short recent weeks. The weekend of March 26-28 the Jr. Baroque Music Festival convened for master classes, rehearsals, and performances with the Aulos Ensemble. Students and professionals shared the stage at the State Theatre for a gala grand finale performance. The young players were thrilled to be surrounded by the ([see Classical Concerts p3](#))



## AFM660 Members Perform for Penn State Black Caucus

by Chris Byrne, AFM 660 Board, [drchrisbyrne@gmail.com](mailto:drchrisbyrne@gmail.com)

AFM660 member Carl Ector led an ensemble of all union musicians in a jazz concert featuring all original music and dance as part of the Penn State Black Caucus' Black History Month celebration at the Hetzel Union Building on the Penn State University Park campus. Carl was joined on stage by AFM660 Dr. Andrew Jackson, Sr., Arthur Goldstein, Dr. Chris Byrne, Dr. Robert Gardner, and AFM local 802 member Ronnie Burrage, plus dancers BB Mure and Charles Brooks. Every member of the band contributed musical pieces and the band rehearsed with the dancers so they could choreograph dances to the music. ([see Penn State, p. 4](#))



## Important Changes to the Sustainable Music Venue Program

by Chris Byrne, AFM 660 Board, [drchrisbyrne@gmail.com](mailto:drchrisbyrne@gmail.com)

The sustainable music venue (SMV) program is at the center of the AFM660 approach to improving professional relationships between members and club owners. After its first year, members discussed the program and ways to improve it, resulting in changes that directly impact AFM660 approved business practices. In particular, AFM660 members must now use contracts for all gigs at SMV's. Highlights of the discussion that led up to this change are summarized in what follows ([see Sustainable Music Venue Program, p. 2](#)).

## Winners of the Omega Psi Phi Talent Show Sponsored by AFM660

by Andrew Jackson, Sr., AFM660 Board, [fatherlighthouse2000@yahoo.com](mailto:fatherlighthouse2000@yahoo.com)

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Iota Lambda Lambda Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Iota lambda Lambda Chapter #912 hosted their sixth Annual State College Talent Hunt with support from Local 660 AFM and other organizations and contributors of ads and patrons in the State College and Centre County area. Congratulations to Second District Representative James Jordan, the Second District Officers and Committees, Dr. Carleton Lampkins, the Second District 62nd District Talent Hunt Committee, Talenty Hunt Chair Wayne Gersie for another outstanding Program. 30 contestants from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland Omega Psi Phi Chapters competed in several categories: dance, vocal, contemporary and classical instrumental music, poetry and dramatic Interpretation, and visua arts.



Congratulations to Elaine Kang, a sophomore at State College Area High School, for placing 1st in Instrumental Classical Music, Saturday, April 17, 2010, at the Oncenter Complex at the Carrier Theater in Syracuse, New York. Elaine Kang represented Iota Lambda Lambda Graduate Chapter #912 founded, March 27, 2002 at Penn State University and Nu Undergraduate Chapter #13 founded March 15, 1921 at Penn State University.

Congratulations to Sue Young Kim, a sophomore at State Area High School for placing 3rd in the Visual Arts category. 1st Place, 2nd, and 3rd place Talent Hunt winners receive between (\$400 and \$300) in addition to hotel, per diem, and transportation.

Omega Psi Phi was joined in sponsoring the Talent Hunt by American Federation of Musicians Local 660, State College Evening Rotary, Nina Woskob, G and N Associates, Dennis Jackson, Sr., State Farm Insurance Independent Agent, and many others assisting with transportation, lodging, and per diem for the candidates. Students from Penn State University have received over \$20,000.00 in scholarships over the past three years from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The overall winner of the 62nd Annual Talent Hunt, Shamsuddin Abdul Hamid from Eta Pi Chapter, will compete again in Raleigh, North Carolina for \$1000.00 at the Bi-Annual Grand Conclave International Talent Hunt on Sunday, July 25, 2010, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Shamsuddin Abdul Hamid is a Senior at Arts High School in Newark, NJ; President of the Speech and Forensics Team; Editor of the Literary Magazine and journalist for the school newspaper; President of the Mayor's Youth Connection Council and Youth Advisory Board of Newark; and plans to study acting at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of Arts.

### Changes to the Sustainable Music Venue Program (from p. 1)

At the Jan 16 general meeting it was stated that bars are not offering contracts as the SMV requires, and musicians are uncomfortable asking for them. It was noted that contracts with musicians are not yet part of the bars' standard business practice as they are for Penn State, the Arts Festival, and South Hills. It was asked what impact requiring contracts would have on the relationship between bars and musicians. Some members noted that the union can watch your back and support you, but only if you have your deal in writing. One member suggested that we shouldn't require SMVs to use contracts if we can't enforce the policy, but another countered that we won't know if we can enforce it until we try.

A motion was made to require venues to post SMV certificates within two weeks of receiving them and this measure passed unanimously. A second motion was made to require SMVs to *use* contracts with all musicians – not just *offer* them. This measure passed by a 10-3 vote, making it a requirement for both bar owners and musicians to use contracts at all SMVs. All the Dante's clubs and Cafe 210 and Autoport continue as SMVs. Zeno's has dropped out and Tony's is out of business.

Editor's note: Contracts seem to be associated with mistrust in the minds of some, and nobody wants to tell their future contractor/employer that they don't trust them. But contracts can be regarded as a sign that you are so eager to avoid any possible misunderstanding that you want to write it all down. This is exactly the attitude that some club owner's have expressed to me when using email as a form of contract. So, while contracts include some assurances, these are not the primary motivator when a trusting relationship exists – rather it is the desire for clarity and continued smooth relations – i.e. professionalism.

## Classical Concerts (from p. 1)

in that music making experience. Other performers included student soloists chosen from the best of the master class performances.

On April 6 the Nittany Valley Symphony treated its patrons to the final orchestra performance of the 09-10 season with Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet, Strauss songs beautifully sung by PSU faculty Richard Kennedy, and Strauss Rosenkavalier Suite. A talented State High student won the raffle to conduct the orchestra and did a wonderful job leading the musicians in a movement from a Tchaikovsky ballet.

The Altoona Symphony performed on April 10 and 11 in a side-by-side concert with the Juniata College orchestra. Maestra Theresa Cheung led the monster double orchestra in Holst's Planets. Juniata faculty and ASO percussionist Jim Latten led the group in Copland's Outdoor Overture, and each group performed an additional piece alone on their home stage. ASO offered the Mozart Jupiter Symphony; JC offered the Bartok Romanian Dances.

The Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra presented its program at the Unitarian Universalist Church on April 18 in a program of chamber orchestra works by Haydn, Vivaldi and featured harp soloist Anne Sullivan.

The remarkable feature about several of these programs is the collaboration with young musicians. We must remember that our viability and future are interconnected with the next generation of players. It makes us more desirable as performers if we are also available as teachers. These hands on experiences create our future performers and future audiences. We are very lucky to have these opportunities here in addition to the obvious richness of Penn State's offerings.

Many of our union colleagues play in all of these groups. This is in addition to supporting themselves musically as teachers and freelancers. It occurs to me that we are often so grateful for the personal satisfaction of making great music with wonderful colleagues and conductors that we forget to address our more mundane (=financial) needs as well. I think we can do both. Music at Penn's Woods is a good example of how this can be accomplished. Before the festival revived in 2008, a committee of musicians met with the music director to lay out criteria that would satisfy both of our needs. The happy result is that the festival orchestra has willing players (with a contract at a rate above local scale) of the highest ability who feel valued by the community that hears them. As a result they happily make fabulous music together. Local 660 is looking for more ways to make that the standard instead of the exception. If you'd like to get involved, contact Debbie Trudeau at [trumusic@comcast.net](mailto:trumusic@comcast.net).

### AFM 660 flash mob to assemble – at your next gig?

At least once a month we want to choose a performance featuring AFM members playing at a Sustainable Music Venue (with a contract!), and call for as many AFM660 members who can possibly make it to show up and to spread the word and bring as many non-members there as possible, as well. We can call it an "AFM 660 Flash Mob." It will help the sustainable music venue program and the union's reputation in general to demonstrate that union musicians stick up for each other and the positive side of that is good for business. Keep Chris Lee informed of your gigs at [chris@boalmuseum.com](mailto:chris@boalmuseum.com) or 814-466-9266 and he will coordinate to mobilize us!

### AFM 660 Benefit:

#### PA Musician Subscription

On June 1, we are going to send AFM660 members' USPS mailing addresses to Pennsylvania Musician magazine, who will grant each of us a free six-month subscription.

If you do not want the subscription, by May 29 call AFM660 President Chris Lee at 814-466-9266 or email [chris@boalmuseum.com](mailto:chris@boalmuseum.com) with "No Subscription" in the subject field and your address will not be forwarded.

## 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](mailto:drchrisbyrne@gmail.com). Photographs with a brief caption are also welcome – it doesn't need to be a big project.



*You heard it here first...*

### **Music Rally in Boalsburg / “Musicians’ Night Off”: To Keep State College Weird**

Invited are all area musicians and their friends, bar owners/managers and all other providers or customers in the entertainment business including DJ's, bartenders, wedding planners, hotel managers, agents, and so on. The party is free and informal but you need to get a ticket from an AFM 660 member (made available closer to the date).

It's not a jam session or anything – it's Monday, a musician's night off – but bring an instrument if you feel compelled and certainly bring a friend or a fellow musician. AFM 660 is an inclusive and responsive organization that gets people together to facilitate relationships in the music world, to appreciate musicians...and to keep State College weird.

**Monday, August 30, 5:30 PM to ? at the Boal Mansion Museum in Boalsburg**

### **Penn State**



**Carl Ector**

The event was mutually valuable to the musicians and the students. Live music and dance provided an exciting grand finale to a week long series of educational and cultural events and the band was well paid for producing a program with a focus on original art.

Penn State has over 400 student clubs and allocates an annual activity budget of a few million dollars to these clubs for activities. Chris Byrne is the faculty advisor to the Jazz Club and has encouraged the students to hire AFM660 musicians for numerous events in the past. “Eco-Action”, another club, hires live music for Earth Day almost every year. The Ballroom Dance Club has a need for live music, and there is a folk dancing club, numerous international cultural clubs, and many non music related clubs that might like live music for a social event. The directory of Penn State clubs is online at [www.clubs.psu.edu/up](http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up).

### **2010 Olin Butt Scholarship Winners**



**Clockwise from back left: Teddy Smith (State College Area), Luke Besong (Bald Eagle Area), John Kovalchik (Presenter, AFM660) Mikayla Castellano (Penns Valley), Jessica Brown (Bellefonte), Danielle Kephart (Philipsburg Osceola)**

The Olin Butt Memorial Scholarship Fund was established many years ago in honor of a local musician and educator and entrusted to Local 660. At first the fund was hard-pressed to award a single \$100 scholarship. Thanks to the efforts of AFM660 members and especially treasurers, the fund now awards five \$100 scholarships each year. The officers decided that these scholarships help the most at the middle school level and the awards are made each year at annual Centre County Band and Chorus Festival.

### **AFM660 Jurisdiction, Membership and Dues**

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](mailto:trumusic@comcast.net). Also contact Debbie to change your listing in the AFM660 directory, available exclusively to members.