



Party Nov 7!

**American Federation of Musicians Local 660
Central Pennsylvania Musicians Association**

MUSICENTRAL

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Founded in 1913 – Tuned for the 21st Century

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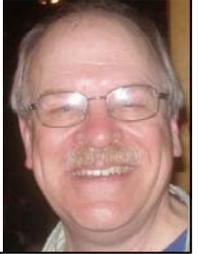
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President's Message: Rome is Under Construction

by Chris Lee, President, AFM660, chris@boalmuseum.com (814)466-9266

At a meeting of local union leaders, I described how AFM660's Sustainable Music Venue program strives to make a bigger pie for everyone by the Union joining with bar owners to cooperate. Another union leader rebutted enthusiastically, "We punish!"

Phew! I kind of edged away from him. But it did make me wonder if we are being effective as a union, defined as "music employees bargaining collectively with music employers." ([see President, p.2](#))



AFM660 Elections for 2011 Offices

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

It's that time again - email boxes are flooded with political spam, robo-calls are disturbing your dinner, TV talking heads are screaming at each other, then the commercials tell you what a snake the other guy/gal is, and how they will ruin Our America. Well, prepare for another round – Local 660 offices are up for election, too! President and Vice-President of Local 660 are up for election, as they are every year. Three-year ([see Elections p.3](#)).



AFM660 Reaches Out to Students at Common Hour

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

One of our many goals is to educate future musicians about the value and efforts of the AFM. On Sept. 3 Chris Lee, John "JT" Thompson, and yours truly led a forum with music students at the PSU School of Music Common Hour at the invitation of Local 660 member and PSU oboe faculty Tim Hurtz. Chris Lee began by asking what the students already thought about unions generally and the AFM in particular. This provided ([see Common Hour, p.4](#))



AFM660's Eli Byrne Acts As Musical Ambassador to Ghana

by Eli Byrne, AFM 660 Board, byrneworks@gmail.com

Members might enjoy knowing just how far around the globe AFM660 is networking. If you're making connections in interesting places, let me know and I'll put it in future newsletters. In the past two years I have been making friends with musicians from Ghana. In Sep 2008 Ronnie Burrage introduced me to Okyerema Asante. Asante has been a master drummer in Ghana since age 10 and is best known to U.S. audiences for his work with Paul Simon (*Graceland*, *Rhythm of the Saints*) and several live tours with Fleetwood Mac. On Oct 1, I performed with Asante at the Ghanaian Embassy in Washington, D.C. ([see Ambassador, p. 3](#))



NEW DAY COMIN' by Archie Blue Re-Released in CD Format! – Eli Byrne

Those of you who have not been around Happy Valley as long as I may not know that AFM660 member Arthur Goldstein once had a Rock-Jazz Fusion group something along the lines of Steely Dan, featuring Arthur on keyboards and lead vocals, Barbara Reeves on keyboards, Duane Carlins on guitar, Harry Werner on bass, and John Raiser on drums. In 1982, the group, along with several supporting musicians, made the record *New Day Comin'* of Arthur's original compositions.

The album, originally on vinyl, was just re-released in CD format with two bonus tracks and is available at www.CDBaby.com, Robert M. Sides, the Music Mart, and from Arthur at his live shows. I highly recommend it as a great piece of music and a nice piece of local music history!.



President's Message – continued from p1

First off, the AFM 660 process is in very good shape, thanks to the work of our Secretary John Thompson, treasurer Debbie Trudeau and very active board. But what about our product? Here's what AFM660 is doing for the community:

The Sustainable Music Venue program: the SMV program is cooperative, not punitive, and it is making steady progress towards market pay rates for musicians and written contracts to avoid misunderstandings and/or improper treatment. Our next step is to survey the bar owners to find out what their needs are, because we need more of their participation and identifying their needs lays the groundwork for win-win business relationships.

Music parties: Social networking and camaraderie was cited by many in last year's survey as a need local musicians looked to the union to help with and AFM660 has been experimenting with different event formats to answer that need. The Musician's Night Off party at the Boal Mansion Aug 30 (see photo above) was a great success and the **next event is a potluck at Eli & Caryl Byrne's house (121 Willow Circle) on Nov 7, from 3 to 9pm, following the Nomination Meeting (see p3). Come meet musicians, jam, share ideas and have fun! PA, keyboard, drums, & bass amp provided.**

AFM 660 Flash Mobs: Also fun, and exciting! To see our first two go to youtube.com and search for "state college pa flash mob". Shall we flash mob your next gig? chris@boalmuseum.com

Economic Development: Ultimately, we want to raise the quality of music locally so State College and central Pennsylvania are a music destination upgrading its current identity as an alcohol destination. We want people to experience the buzz of unity and connection more through music and a little less through alcohol. Does this put us in conflict with the economic needs of bar owners? Not if the music draws paying audiences. As one union leader from out of town said to me, "Give us a list of your Sustainable Music Venues. We want to direct our union members to those bars!"

Music has power. If you don't think so, go to this internet video link for a story about the effect of music on the front line in World War II: <http://vimeo.com/9761188> Our power is only as limited as our imaginations. Join, get others to join AFM 660, and see what we can do, united for music and our community. See you November 7 for a powerful good time!



Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter is published quarterly in months 1,4,7,10. Send articles, announcements, or just photos with brief caption to Eli Byrne, Editor, 121 Willow Circle, State College, PA 16801, byrnetworks@gmail.com.

Elections – from page 1

terms of Secretary, Treasurer, and two Executive Board positions are also coming open, making this an exciting campaign season - six positions are open for election. Our process, according to AFM660 bylaws, begins with a nomination meeting, and all members will be notified of this meeting at least 15 days in advance. This notification is given below. Candidates must be members of the Local in good standing, must be present at the meeting, or have submitted a signed statement of acceptance. Candidates can only be nominated and run for one office at a time. Immediately after the nominations, the President shall appoint an Election Committee composed of three persons who are not candidates. The Committee will then appoint a Chairperson and handle all details of the election, including establishing a date for the election. Information about which offices are up for election is listed below and is available online at www.afm660.org/officers.html. The bylaws are online at <http://www.afm660.org/documents.html>.

Notice: Annual Meeting for Nominations to Board

The annual general meeting with the sole purpose of nominating officers for positions for the AFM 660 executive board starting January 1, 2011 will take place at 2:30 pm November 7 at the home of Eli and Caryl Byrne, 121 Willow Circle, State College, PA 16801. **PARTY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS AT 3PM! Meet musicians, jam, share ideas and have fun! PA, keyboard, drums, & bass amp provided. Food & beverages are potluck – think open house style grazing rather than sit down dinner.**

Please refer to the AFM 660 bylaws at afm660.org (under “Documents”) for details. Current positions up for election include:

- President, one year term, currently held by Chris Lee
- Treasurer, three year term, currently held by Debbie Trudeau
- Vice-President, one year term, currently held by Phil Jensen
- Board member, three year term, currently held by Bruce Young
- Secretary, three year term, currently held by John Thompson
- Board member, three year term, currently held by John Kovalchik

Ambassador – from p 1

I was the sole representative of the United States in a memorial tribute also featuring musicians from Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria.

The tribute was for legendary Ghanaian trumpeter Mac Tontoh, founding member of Osibisa, widely regarded as the group that created the genre that came to be known as “World Music” – a fusion of African and American/European pop and rock. Osibisa did for Africans around the globe what Carlos Santana’s band did for Latinos – brought them a great sense of cultural pride that rock music, which had seemed to take over the popular culture of the world, now included music and musicians who were true to their ethnic roots and became vastly popular even while singing roughly half their songs in their native language and half in English.

I met a dozen African musicians as well as professors of African studies from Howard University and University of Maryland. I was received with great good will and happy surprise that Americans (in addition to Paul Simon) have taken an interest in African music.

The embassy performance was not my first foray into African music. I recorded a soon-to-be-released album with Asante and several other Ghanaian musicians plus Venezuelan pianist Benito Gonzalez in the Bronx, NY, earlier this year – one track of which, entitled “Black Stars,” was dedicated to the Ghana national football team and was broadcast on FM radio throughout Ghana during the World Cup last summer. Music truly is a universal language and State College is visited by musicians from around the world. I encourage AFM members to meet them and build relationships that one day might help bring about world peace through music.

Photo: on stage at the Ghanaian embassy



Common Hour *from p. 1*

the opening for the panel shed some light about the AFM role in supporting working musicians and our Local 660 efforts in particular. After the many questions and lively discussions, Chris Lee asked “Did you learn something you didn’t know?” Everyone in the crowd raised their hands. The response was very positive and we’ve been invited to return each fall. Local 660 is pleased to welcome music students to the community both locally and nationally as working performers.

Penn State Jazz Club Promotes Music through Relationships with Artists – *Eli Byrne*

The Penn State Jazz Club was founded in 1954 and produced its first concert March 19, 1955, hosting the Dave Brubeck Quartet in Rec Hall. The concert was recorded and pressed on vinyl by Columbia. In the 1960’s the club hosted John Coltrane, in the 70’s the Miles Davis’ Bitch’s Brew band, in the 80’s as a student I helped bring Kevin Eubanks and John Blake. Since 1989 I’ve been the faculty advisor to the club. We continue to host concerts and we seek out artists interested in mutual investment in lasting relationships. In this way our shows have value beyond an evening’s entertainment. We work with artists to help their careers as they work with us to educate the students and the whole Penn State community



and develop an understanding of jazz culture from the inside – not just a superficial picture filtered through critics, academics and movies, though all of those can be helpful in the proper context. But by getting to know artists personally and help them further their art, Jazz Club students become a contributing part of the jazz scene – not just spectators. We find win-win arrangements with artists who are happy to hang out with the students and sponsors and engage in the kind of dialog that fosters lasting relationships. Our website, www.pennstatejazzclub.org lists the artists we have brought under my tenure and we are getting emails all the time from Jazz Club alumni helping us fill in past history. In recent years we have been working closely with multi-instrumentalist and composer Ronnie Burrage (AFM Local 802), who the club first brought to PSU and who is now teaching for the departments of African and African American Studies and Integrative Arts. Ronnie has put us in touch with many more artists and he has been able to get many students and AFM660 musicians involved in the performances thanks to his relationships with the artists. Just for community spirit, the Jazz Club loves to march in the PSU Homecoming Parade, with a New Orleans style 2nd line band featuring AFM660 Vice President Phil Jensen, Board member Eli Byrne, Ronnie Burrage, Chris Gamble and the Jazz Club students.

Flash Mobs Attack the Autoport in State College Chanting “Live Music!”

AFM660 secretly organized two flash mobs at the Autoport on South Atherton Street in State College in August and September in support of AFM660 musicians playing at this local Sustainable Music Venue (which has the SMV certificate posted on their wall!).

It was a thrill to crowd the stage and surprise the musicians there while chanting “live music!” You can see them both by going to youtube.com and entering the key words: “state college pa flash mob.”

AFM660 Jurisdiction, Membership and Dues

AFM Local 660 includesa 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/>