



Meeting Feb 12

American Federation of Musicians Local 660  
Central Pennsylvania Musicians Association

# MUSICENTRAL

Jan 2011

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

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## AFM Local 660 Contact Info

### President

[Chris Lee](#)

### Vice-President

[Phil Jensen](#)

### Secretary

[John Thompson](#)

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[Debbie Trudeau](#)

### Newsletter

[Eli Byrne](#)

### Website

[www.afm660.org](http://www.afm660.org)

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814.466.9266

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106 N. Monroe St.,  
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## Annual Luncheon & General Meeting

Saturday Feb 12, 12:30pm to 4:00pm, South Hills Business School  
Members and one guest each eat free. RSVP to Debbie Trudeau by Feb 4!

## President's Message: AFM 660 To Market Our Members!

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

AFM 660 has done "efficient." Now, onward to "effective!" So the guy very efficiently climbed the ladder up the wall. But was he climbing the right wall? That's the difference between efficient and effective -- doing the thing right, or doing the right thing. AFM 660 is remarkably efficient at executive board meetings, filings of dues to New York, newsletters, bylaws revisions, wage scale, code of ethics, survey of musicians' needs, etc. But what is effective? What is the best measure of success? ([see President, p.2](#))



## Negotiations Underway for New Sound Recording Agreement

by Ray Hair, AFM International President, [rhair@afm.org](mailto:rhair@afm.org)

via John 'JT' Thompson, Secretary, AFM 660, [jtblues@comcast.net](mailto:jtblues@comcast.net)

On January 11, 2011, the Federation opened negotiations with the Sound Recording Industry for a successor Sound Recording Labor Agreement. The agreement currently in effect was reached in 2006 and expired one year ago. The agreement is one of the most important contracts the Federation has because it protects our members' recordings from unauthorized exploitation in other mediums, it provides additional special ([see Negotiations p.4](#)).



## New Sustainable Venue: C. Barton McCann School of Art

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

A new venue is on the regional radar at the C. Barton McCann School of Art in Petersburg, PA. It's located a mile or so off Route 26 between Whipple Dam and McAlevy's Fort. A short drive off the main road, the setting is a tranquil woodlands with several timber lodge style buildings including art studios, a sculpture garden, a pond and gazebo, a full catering kitchen, a guest cottage, and outdoor pavilion. ([see McCann School, p.2](#))



## AFM Board Member John Kovalchik Retires from SCASD

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

John Kovalchik has been effective as a music educator, a musician, and a union member throughout his laudable career. As an educator, he joined the State College Area School District in 1975, and I had the privilege of playing with him in the first ever State College High School Stage Band. It was also the first year in the school district of band director Rich Victor, who started the stage band upon his arrival. ([see John Kovalchik, p. 3](#))



### **McCann School** – *continued from page 1*

I have been tasked with putting together a first rate classical chamber music series late summer 2011. The mission for Music at McCann is to blend music, nature, and artistic exploration in a setting that will replenish the spirit. Weather permitting, concerts will be outdoors under the pavilion, or moved indoors if the weather is inclement. Concerts may be followed by a catered box picnic dinner (reserved in advance) and perhaps some wine, then an opportunity to stroll the grounds.

McCann School has agreed to meet the terms of a Sustainable Music Venue which stipulates that written contracts will be issued and musicians will receive at least minimum scale. In support of this partnership all performers are expected to be members-in-good-standing of the American Federation of Musicians. McCann expects top quality and believes the union is the place to find the serious professionals.

McCann is also renting the grounds for weddings and other events which may potentially involve live musical entertainment. If you would like to be added to the referral list of musicians to contact, send me your group details at [trumusic@comcast.net](mailto:trumusic@comcast.net).

### **President's Message** – *continued from p1*

The 2008 musician needs survey showed written contracts and good wages as important unmet needs of musicians, as well as local venues where the focus is on listening to live music. We're trying to achieve that little by little with the Sustainable Music Venue program that certifies cooperating venues such as the Autoport, the Saloon and Penn State's "Music at Penns Woods." Flash mobs have been fun, too!

When I talked with a past AFM 660 president at a Chamber After Hours, I told him I felt AFM 660 was sort of adrift now – what to do to help musicians effectively? His answer was quick and simple – "Market musicians." --- Of course!

So, AFM 660 will market its members – and only its members. This will be a benefit of membership. We're looking for your suggestions about how to do this, both by email to me and at the upcoming annual luncheon meeting on Saturday, February 12. So far, elements may include:

- 1) Advertising channels: the Yellow Pages, HappyValley.com, NittanyWeddings.com, printed programs at Eisenhower Auditorium and State Theater performances, etc.
- 2) AFM 660's own web site will be revamped to feature a client-friendly musicians' directory under the name of the Central Pennsylvania Musicians Association.
- 3) Market surveys: We surveyed musicians about what were their unmet needs to fill. Now we want to survey venues/employers and audiences to find out what their needs are and how live music can best fill those needs.
- 4) Music scene networking events such as August's popular pot-luck, "Boalsburg Bash To keep State College Weird" and the "Listen To The Music" events.
- 5) Venue cultivation: look for upcoming venues that will hire only AFM musicians and for a venue that is AFM 660 friendly where we can go regularly to meet each other. No plans yet for the traditional "Union Hall," but who knows?

What is the message to advertise? It could be as simple as "Live Music is Best!" with contact information for the Central PA Musicians Association, aka AFM660, our logo and our web site address with the musicians' directory of AFM 660 musicians. But all of us on the board need and want your ideas!

Let us know how we can help market you, and how you can help market all of us. United we stand.

### **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](mailto:byrnetworks@gmail.com).

**John Kovalchik** – from p 1

director Rich Victor, who started the stage band upon his arrival. We did not have any student jazz bassists our first year so John stepped in with a smile on his face as he has done time and again when the buck had to stop somewhere. As long as I've known John Kovalchik he has been a man of discipline and of wry, understated humor, an observation I'm sure is shared by 35 generations of middle school and high school students, who will also tell you that they (we) learned a sense of discipline from Mr. Kovalchik because he lived up to and beyond the standards he held for us, and that kind of leadership is something everyone, young and old, respects. His students all enjoyed his sense of humor as well, once we realized he was joking! Everyone who knows John is surely impressed with the excellent physical condition he has kept himself in over the years and he has exercised the same discipline on his tuba as well. Just about every time I've gone to his house I've heard him drilling arpeggios, etudes, and other challenging pieces of music to maintain his command of the instrument.

As board member for AFM 660 John has stepped up to the plate time and again when the union needed him, whether for the Olin Butt fund management, for knowledge of union practices and protocol, and the experience of past lessons learned. John brought his sense of humor to the board and exercised another kind of discipline in that setting – the discipline of calm respectful communication. All of us on the board were inspired to pay John tribute upon news of his retirement – I conclude with a few of their comments:

“As a past president and long-time board member of AFM 660, John Kovalchik is a trusted source of wisdom and experience about music in central Pennsylvania. He also serves as AFM 660's 'corporate memory' since his years of service extend back to the days of the presidency of the elder Skip Wareham and even to the days when AFM 660 was headquartered in Tyrone. John's combination of common sense and common courtesy have served AFM 660 and the local music scene well for decades. I feel privileged to be his friend and co-worker.” ~ **current AFM660 President Chris Lee**

“My experience with John Kovalchik is limited to the most recent 6 years since first meeting him in his role as a Local 660 board member. I admire his calm tone of respect, his wisdom, and thoughtful advice. He is a teacher beyond the classroom. His willingness to return to the board to facilitate difficult discussions is a testimony to his good heart. It is a privilege to be part of his circle. After seeing his life-size “paper doll” standing in the Nittany Valley Middle School orchestra room, it was impressive to contemplate the number of lives he has affected so positively. Music ensembles can teach more about life than just the notes when done with his style and good humor.”

~ **Debbie Trudeau, current AFM660 Treasurer**

“I would like to make a tribute to John Kovalchik for his many years of service to the AFM. John and myself, along with Rich Victor, had the pleasure of serving together in the Penn State Marching Blue Band for four years in 1968 thru 1974 and as representatives in the College of Arts and Architecture Alumni Board. I salute them in their 35 years supporting music in the Central Pennsylvania area and State College Area School District and the students whom they have served in the music programs in support of the youth in Centre County.”

~ **Dr. Andrew Jackson, Sr., current board member and past President, past Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer, AFM660**



**John Kovalchik**



## AFM660's JT Thompson in Memphis Blues Competition ~ Eli Byrne, AFM660 Board Member

Local 660 member John "JT" Thompson will be in Memphis TN the first week in February for the 27th International Blues Challenge, sponsored by the Blues Foundation ([www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org)). Thompson will sing and play piano while competing in the Solo/Duo category against 82 other Blues acts from all over the world. He earned the trip by winning the Billtown Blues Challenge last March in Williamsport, sponsored by the Billtown Blues Association ([www.billtownblues.org](http://www.billtownblues.org)). The Billtown Blues Association will also be honored in Memphis as the 2011 winner of the "Keeping The Blues Alive" Award for Blues Organization. "It's a great honor and opportunity to be selected to go to the IBC," says Thompson. "No matter what happens in the competition, I'll meet lots of great people, and I'll get to hear a lot of really good Blues. And I'll probably get to jam a lot, too."

The 27th International Blues Challenge consists of 110 Bands, 83 Solo/Duo & 28 Youth acts, adding up to 709 musicians representing 41 states & 13 countries. Contestants are judged on Blues Content, Instrumental Skills, Vocal Skills, Stage Presence, and Originality by a panel of Blues professionals - musicians, radio hosts, and Blues society officials.

We wish John "Good Luck" at the IBC. Anyone wishing to help support his trip can go to his website, [www.jtblues.com](http://www.jtblues.com), and make a donation.



## Negotiations – from page 1

residual payments to recording musicians as well as funding for the Music Performance Trust Fund. Our negotiating team, which includes International Vice President Bruce Fife, Vice President from Canada Bill Skolnik, Secretary Treasurer Sam Folio, International Officers Vince Trombetta representing Local 47, Tino Gagliardi representing Local 802 and Dave Pomeroy representing Local 257, Recording Musicians Association President Marc Sazer, rank and file representative Neil Steubenhaus, together with attending rank and file musicians and representatives from our Toronto and Chicago Locals, caucused on January 10, one day prior to the commencement of discussions with Industry. We were joined in the caucus by American Federation of Radio and Television Artists representative Randy Himes who attended as an observer. We finalized a reasonable but progressive set of proposals that featured, among other things, improvements to wages and benefits, a tightening of restrictions for Low Budget recording and looked to significantly increase contributions to the Sound Recording Special Payments Fund and to the Music Performance Trust Fund. Unfortunately, Industry responded by proposing conditions that would eliminate all future MPTF contributions and reduce Special Payments, change the method of payment for certain new uses, and significantly reduce the cost of symphonic recording. In making their concessionary proposals, Industry pointed to a drop in total revenue of more than 50% over the past decade, the changing nature of recorded product and a receding customer base that Industry says has resulted in a decline in total music spending. Despite the regressive attitudes encountered during this first round of bargaining, I am confident that the new spirit of unity prevalent in our negotiating team will serve to preserve, protect and defend the interests of the Federation and our talented recording musicians as we move forward in what is shaping up to be a very difficult set of negotiations. We will continue our talks with the Recording Industry on March 28, 2011, and I will report back to you on the results of those meetings.

Fraternally Yours, Ray Hair, International President, American Federation of Musicians of the US and Canada, 1501 Broadway, Suite 600, New York, NY 10036 212-869-1330, ext 1212, [rhair@afm.org](mailto:rhair@afm.org)

~ by Ray Hair, AFM International President, forwarded by John Thompson, AFM660 Secretary

## 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/>