



PITTSBURGH MUSICIAN

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF LOCAL 60-471, AFM
PITTSBURGH MUSICIANS' UNION

1st Quarter 2024

YOU ARE THE UNION!
www.afmpittsburgh.com



Overture

By George Clewer
President/Secretary

I want to wish each and every one of you a most joyous, prosperous, and HAPPY NEW YEAR in 2024. When I stop to think about it, it's difficult to wrap my head around the idea that it is 2024! I guess that comes from being around for awhile! Well anyway let's have the very best 2024 possible. That includes the music business and everything going on with each of us personally as well.

If you are a regular reader of the newsletter, you know that we had a number of successful negotiations during this past year. This year brings us more opportunity for gains in yet more of our CBA's including the PSO, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, and River City Brass once again.

We are having a great year with MPTF having played over 50 projects so far in MPTF's fiscal year which began last May and ends at the end of this coming April. It's really gratifying to be able to put so many musicians to work through the Music Performance Trust Fund. So far we have seen over \$45,000.00 in scale wages paid to musicians representing all styles of music from classical to pop and jazz. We utilized all of our \$29,000.00 allocated to our Local and are still doing more projects using other Local's allocations. When other Locals do not use all their allocated dol-

(Continued on page 2)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

REGULAR DUES FOR 2024 IF PAID IN JANUARY ARE \$175.00. (5.00 discount for the year)

REGULAR 1ST QUARTER DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$45.00**

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$25.00**

PLEASE BE ON TIME WITH YOUR DUES. IT SAVES YOU A LATE FEE AND SAVES US THE ADDED WORK OF COLLECTING THEM. THANK YOU.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH@ GAETANO'S ON
BANKSVILLE ROAD

7:00PM	SOCIAL
7:30PM	BUFFET DINNER
8:15PM	BUSINESS MEETING

PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL THE OFFICE TO MAKE A
RESERVATION FOR DINNER. 412-855-5137. (cell)
president@afmpittsburgh.com

'BURGSOUNDS

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

The October General Membership Meeting was held on Monday, October 2nd at Gaetano's Restaurant on Banksville Road, the site of the August Old Timer's Party. The October meeting is the nominations meeting during election years but we won't see that until October of 2025. That being said, we did have a nice gathering including some newer members to our Local. On hand to perform was Sterling and Strings, a trio featuring **Melissa Lessure**, flute, **Rebecca Rothermel**, viola, and **Suzanna Reilly**, cello. The trio had just recently performed for the Tree of Life congregation at a Rosh Hashanah service held at Calvary Episcopal Church in Shady Side where that congregation has held services since the horrible shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue. That is a whole other story in itself. Calvary Episcopal having taken the Tree of Life congregation in, as it were, to hold services in their church is such a beautiful gesture. Back to the meeting, the trio performed an array of music on

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

lars, the money is up for grabs and goes to Locals who are able to put it to good use. That's us! I am hoping to set new records for the most dollars used here in Local 60-471. We do hope when the allocations are announced for the next MPTF fiscal year, we will have a larger allocation of dollars than this time around.

We continue to rebound from COVID which really reduced our membership when work totally disappeared for a time and came back oh so slowly. Our numbers are continuing to improve. I remain optimistic!

Let me end the column on that positive note. Please continue to enjoy the newsletter!

George

(Continued from page 1)

the lighter side and received a fine reception from the members. There was the usual buffet dinner provided by the Local with soft drinks, beer, and wine courtesy of the Local as well. The food was excellent and included meatballs and hot sausage, chicken Florentine, beans and greens, roasted potatoes, and pasta marinara. There was cake, pumpkin pie, and more for dessert. Our thanks to Marybeth Schotting for arranging for the dessert for us. As for the business end of the meeting, minutes from the last General Membership Meeting were read by Vice-President Yalch and approved. I gave a President's Report on MPTF, of course, which is a pet project of mine around the office. I also referenced the three contracts that were most recently ratified. They include Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Playhouse, and River City Brass. I further pointed out upcoming in 2024, we will tackle Pittsburgh Musical Theater and the Pittsburgh Symphony and another RCB session as this most recent CBA was a one and done. We discussed possible venues for future Old-Timers Parties and General Membership Meetings. As Rock Bottom located in the Homestead Waterfront has closed, we are kind of nomadic in search of a good meeting place. Gaetano's seems to offer a viable location but we will continue to search for others as well. Board member **Elliott Ratliff** has taken on some of that responsibility and has compiled a list of possibilities to be investigated and considered. We do want to find venues that are more or less central to most of our members. No point in having members travel any farther than necessary to attend our meetings. Truly hoping to grow the attendance at these meetings and that of the Old-Timers Party as well. That was also discussed at the meeting with suggestions offered by some of our members. **Ron Bickel** expressed his concern regarding a perceived lack of communication with many of our members. We have been e-mailing the newsletter to all

members for whom we have valid e-mails. Also, the newsletter is posted on line at www.afmpgh.com. As mentioned often in this journal, to access the newsletter you click on newsletter, then enter the username **afmpgh** and password **mancini60471**. This gets you to the members area where the newsletters reside. Generally, the quarterly newsletter will be posted and e-mailed during the first week of each quarter. I do know that receiving the newsletter in your mailbox via USPS was much better for all. The reason we are doing things differently is simply a matter of economics. We are saving approximately \$6,000.00 per year by not printing and hard copying the newsletters to the membership. It's a move that had to happen. Board member **Stephanie Tretick** has been of immense help to the Local through her work on the website and getting newsletters posted and e-mailed to members. Again, we are only able to send the newsletters to you if we have a valid e-mail address to send it to. We do have members who have not even updated us when they physically move from one location to another. We get "return to sender" mailings back at the office that are undeliverable. We are trying to fix every glitch that we encounter in an effort to keep the membership up to speed with all. The next General Membership Meeting will take place on Monday, February 5th beginning at 7:00pm. We will be at Gaetano's once again. Come on and be a part of what's going on in your Local! Hope to see YOU there!

PSO-JOHN WILLIAMS

On a Tuesday night this past December, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performed a benefit concert for the orchestra and engaged composer and conductor **John Williams** to conduct the orchestra performing some of his classic compositions and featuring violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter**. Williams has adapted some of his film music especially for Anne-Sophie turning some of these themes into concertos for her. Mutter has performed with the PSO many times here and abroad when this great orchestra is on tour. Cellist **Pablo Ferrandez**, also performed along with Mutter and the orchestra. This was music from "The adventures of TinTin" which was an animated feature film. Also on the program was a performance of Beethoven's "Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Piano" which also included pianist **Yefim Bronfman**. Among the pieces featuring Anne-Sophie were Rey's Theme from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and Hedwig's Theme from "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone". There was much more of William's music featuring the orchestra. If you haven't been to Heinz Hall in a while to hear this world class orchestra, you truly owe it to your self to get there as many times as you are able. Here is one of the world's best at your doorstep! As for John Williams, he has composed the music and served as music

(Continued on page 3)

"You don't get to choose everything in life. You only get to choose what you do about it." ~ **Marc and Angel Chernoff**

(Continued from page 2)

director for more than one hundred films. Williams has received five Academy Awards and fifty-one Oscar nominations for his work. Just incredible. Together, the orchestra and Williams create an electric atmosphere not to be experienced all that often. I had the privilege of playing an after concert reception with **Rick Purcell** for John Williams at Heinz Hall many years ago. Hearing the orchestra perform all the great movie themes he has composed is an experience not to be forgotten. Hope you were in the house for the latest John Williams appearance in the 'Burg. If not, please do yourself a favor and attend any PSO performance at "the Hall". You will be glad that you did! Hope to see you there soon! Heinz Hall is a short walk from just about anywhere in town. BTW, we have a negotiation coming up between the PMU and PSO management later this year as this is the final year of the current contract. It is our sincere hope to get the kind of agreement that the members of the orchestra are so richly deserving of. This is most important for the musicians, the Local, and the entire Pittsburgh region. It is imperative that we keep these outstanding musicians here in the 'Burg. Every effort WILL be made to do just that! Stay tuned.

BARBER OF SEVILLE

I took in a performance of the Pittsburgh Opera's production of Barber of Seville this past October at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts. Right up front let me say how excellent the orchestra sounded. Not surprising but worth a mention here. For those not familiar with "Barber", let me enlighten you just a bit. First, the opera was written by Gioachino Rossini and premiered on February 20, 1816 at the Teatro Argentina, in Rome. The opera recounts the events of the first of three plays by French playwright Pierre Beaumarchais that revolve around a character named Figaro, the barber in question. As you may know, Mozart wrote an earlier opera, The Marriage of Figaro in 1786. This opera is based on the second part of the Beaumarchais trilogy. Rossini, by the way, is said to have completed an average of two operas per year for 19 years, and in some years writing as many as four. Musicologists believe that the music for Il barbiere di Siviglia was written in just under three weeks. Pretty astounding! According to all accounts, the premiere of the opera at the Teatro Argentina was a complete disaster with the audience hissing and jeering throughout with several on stage incidents as well. I should interject here that I witnessed no such outbursts at the Benedum. The opera is in the style of a comic opera or opera buffo composed in two acts. It is considered to be one of the greatest masterpieces of comedy within music, and has been described as the opera buffa of all "opera Buffe". After two hundred years, it still remains a most popular work. I won't attempt here to give a synopsis of any kind as the story line is, at least for me, way too complicated to put into words. If you enjoy opera and have not seen this one performed, I strongly suggest that you make a point of attending a performance of "Barber" at either a future performance here in Pittsburgh or

elsewhere. It was a most enjoyable evening out and, again, the orchestra was truly excellent, conducted by maestro Antony Walker. Hope to see you at a future Pittsburgh Opera production. A huge fan is Financial Advisory Committee member **Hal Weiss** who rarely misses a production of Pittsburgh Opera. I can honestly tell you that I have become quite a fan of opera since being elected to this office. I, like Hal, rarely miss a production. Really hope to see you at one soon!

MEMBER CONTACT INFO

I can't tell you how deeply frustrating it is when we send a mailing to our membership only to have 20 or more pieces of mail come back to us as "undeliverable". We have two ways of communicating with the membership here. One is through postal mailings and the other is through e-mail or our newsletter. We are continually seeking updates for both home addresses and e-mails. While our newsletters are always posted on our website, we still make an attempt to e-mail them to every member's inbox in their PC. I guess if I didn't care so much about the Local having the means to reach out to all of our members, I wouldn't become as frustrated by it all. We make every attempt to keep our membership well informed as to what may be taking place in the Local and also dates of General Membership Meetings and the Old-timers Party. We can only send e-mails to those who provide them to us. We can only do mailings to those whose correct home address we have. If you have any doubt as to whether or not we have your correct e-mail or home address, please just send us an e-mail with your correct home address and then we will have both. Thank you for reading.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

As you might expect, we are asked many questions here at the Local involving just about anything you can imagine. I've decided to publish some here in this newsletter in the hope that some questions that you may have are answered. Here are a few of them with appropriate answers.

Question: What's the best way to contact the office? I called but no one was there.

Answer: Often times our phones are busy with previous callers. You may leave a voice mail but I would strongly suggest an e-mail at president@afgmpittsburgh.com for George or mandy6454@hotmail.com for our office manager Miriam. You may also call my cell at 412-855-5137 or for Miriam you may dial 412-215-9545. **Miriam is the best contact for dues questions, address changes, and general information.** Miriam is kept quite busy with the items just mentioned and so much more. I will discuss her role in depth in a future newsletter.

Question: Why are the dues being raised in 2024?

Answer: The simple answer is to enable the Local to continue to do business without unduly dipping into our cash reserves such as our Vanguard Fund. While we have found it necessary to do so over the past several years, we would

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

prefer to find other means of remaining financially stable. The only raise in dues over the past 21 years was the result of a \$10.00 tax placed on all members by the Federation well over 10 years ago which resulted in a \$10.00 increase for all members. The Local has not raised dues during that period of time other the aforementioned tax by the AFM.

Question: What's the best way to learn more about MPTF funding for gigs?

Answer: There is much info regarding MPTF in past newsletters. You may contact me (George) to get all the particulars on how to apply for MPTF funding.

Question: How many people work in the Local's headquarters?

Answer: There are two people employed by the Local on a full-time basis. One is the President-Secretary and the other is the Office Manager. We also have a Vice-President and five Directors or Board Members. The Officers and Directors make up what is known as the Executive Board which is the ruling body of the Local. I should point out that our vice-president and directors do not keep office hours at the Local, only Miriam and myself. At one time there were as many as 8 full-time employees at the Local including officers and also 7 Directors instead of the current 5 on the Board.

Question: I am nearing the age where I wish to begin taking my pension. How do I go about this?

Answer: The best and really only way do this is to either visit the AFM-EPF website at www.afm-epf.org or call the Fund at 1-800-833-8065. The Local is unable to answer any personal questions as to what your pension may look like or address any beneficiary issues. These can only be answered by the Fund and must be directed there.

Question: What duties does the President-Secretary perform?

Answer: This question pops up frequently and was last asked of me a matter of weeks ago. Here is the short answer. The President-Secretary is responsible for making sure that all ten collective bargaining agreements in our Local are negotiated and maintained. In addition, the President-Secretary is responsible for the QuickBooks accounting program, minus cutting checks done by Miriam, publishing the quarterly newsletter using Microsoft Publisher, and administering the Music Performance Trust Fund in our Local which is done on-line. Additionally create agendas for all monthly Executive Board and General Membership Meetings and preside over the meetings. Also deal with workplace grievances and any arbitrations that may arise. In a nutshell, the President-Secretary executes the previously mentioned duties and supervises the general business of the Local. In a future newsletter I will outline the duties of our

office manager **Miriam Lesikiewicz** which are many!!! Please feel free to e-mail us with any questions that you may have. We will respond to your e-mail and print the answer here in the journal.

NORTHMONT UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Speaking of MPTF projects, there was one that took place on Sunday morning, November 5th at Northmont United Presbyterian Church on Perry Highway. The Academy Orchestra, contracted by **Warren Davidson**, performed the Faure' Requiem for a large group of parishioners there at the 10:00am service. Churches represent another venue other than senior centers, schools, and other types of community celebrations where MPTF gigs may occur. This project also included a rehearsal held the day prior. The payday included the \$105.00 for the rehearsal, \$120.00 for the performance, \$15.00 transportation for each day, and pension. The appropriate cartage was paid as well. Over \$270.00 per musician half of which was paid by a grant from MPTF. We are doing what we can to generate live music in the Pittsburgh area. BTW, the 13 piece Union chamber orchestra did a great job as evidenced by the enthusiastic response by many church goers following the service. The orchestra included the following Local 60-471 members: **Warren Davidson, Matt Litterini, Paige Riggs, Becky Rothermel, David Sinclair, and Jennifer Sternick.** Bravo to all!

WHEELING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

This past October, on a Thursday evening, I made the trip across I-70 to Wheeling West Virginia to catch the WSO in concert featuring the **Violins of Hope**. Now, I have to admit that I really didn't know what the "Violins of Hope" really were. I'm sorry to say that I had no idea what this represented. Well, the Violins of Hope involves string instruments played by Jewish concentration camp prisoners during the Holocaust which, of course, was one of the darkest of all times in our world history. Each surviving instrument has a unique and inspiring story that connects both young and old to the history of the Holocaust in a deeply emotional, personal, and relatable way. I believe there were a dozen or so of these instruments played during the concert that night in Wheeling by members of the orchestra. Very emotional and inspiring to be sure. As to the concert, the orchestra sounded excellent as usual while performing a variety of relevant music. Clarinetist **Roi Mezare**, whose family was directly impacted by the Holocaust, performed a concerto by Paul Ben-Haim that featured himself and the string section of the orchestra. Roi is a member here in our Local as well as Local 42, Wheeling and sounded marvelous. It was my first time hearing Roi perform a solo piece and was truly worth waiting for. Also on the concert was a work by Walter

(Continued on page 7)

"The way someone perceives what you do is a result of their own experiences (which you can't control), their own preferences (which you can't predict), and their own expectations (which you don't set). If your choices don't match their expectations that is their concern, not yours."

~ James Clear

**Pittsburgh Musicians Union
Executive Board Meeting
8/21/23
Called to order 4:04 pm
Via Zoom Internet**

Attendance-All board members were present.

Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Mary Beth Schotting. Motion carried-unanimous.

Financial statements were reviewed.

New Members-There were 3 new members-Motion to accept by Andy Yalch and seconded by Stephanie Tretick. Motion carried unanimous.

Ran Cheng-08/15/23, Violin, Viola

Nicole L. Meyers-08/02/23, Cello

Douglas F. Rosenthal-08/15/23, Trombone, Euphonium, Trumpet

Resignations-There were no resignations.

Deaths-A moment of silence was held for guitarist Frank Sharbo

Old Timers Party- The party will be held at Geatanos Restaurant on Monday August 28th at 6:00 pm.

Pittsburgh Public Theatre- Members did not accept the new proposal offered by management. Negotiation will continue.

Pittsburgh Playhouse-all members have been paid in full for flood damages.

River City Brass-The Union will continue to negotiate ongoing Grievances . Kevin Case will be involved with securing a new CBA.

General Meeting-The next general meeting will be held at Gaetanos Restaurant on 10/2/23 at 6 pm.

Motion to adjourn-Andy Yalch and seconded by Elliot - Motion carried-unanimous

Meeting adjourned 4:51 pm

Next meeting 9/18/23- 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President

“I plan to live forever or die trying!” ~ Groucho Marx

**Pittsburgh Musicians Union
Executive Board Meeting
9/28/23
Called to order 6:03 pm
Via Zoom Internet**

Attendance-All board members were present.

Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Elliot Ratliff. Motion carried-unanimous.

Financial statements were reviewed.

New Members-There were 2 new members-Motion to accept by Andy Yalch and seconded by Tom Evans. Motion carried unanimous.

Michelle L. Hembree-09/20/23, French Horn

Alex Kenrick-Kupiec (Student)-09/20/23, Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Ukulele, Elec. Bass

Resignations-There was one resignation. Motion to accept with regrets by Joe Herndon and seconded by MaryBeth Schotting. Motion carried unanimous.

Aaron R. Blackham-03/31/23

Deaths-Their were no deaths to report.

Old Timers Party- The party was held at Gaetanos Restaurant on Monday August 28th at 6:00 pm. Members who attended had a good time and thought the venue was acceptable. We will continue looking for alternate places to conduct our functions.

Pittsburgh Public Theatre- Bargaining unit has ratified new CBA.

River City Brass-The Union with the help of Kevin Case secured a 1 year CBA.

MPTF-President Clewer summarized the continuing success of this program. Many of our members benefited from the Trust Fund.

Motion to adjourn-MaryBeth Schotting and seconded by Joe Henderson. Motion carried-unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm

Next meeting 10/24/23- 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President

“The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed.” ~ Martina Navratilova

(Continued from page 4)

Bricht featuring pianist Dominic Cheli. Bricht, a Jew, was so popular in Germany during the first half of the 20th century that in 1938 he was offered honorary Aryan status by none other than Adolph Hitler himself should he pledge allegiance to the Third Reich. Bricht declined and fled to the United States settling in West Virginia where he taught at a conservatory in Charleston. This concerto was discovered in Vienna, Austria by Michael Ellis Ingram who guest conducted the performance. Also on the program was Felix Mendelssohn's Third Symphony. The music director is John Devlin and **Robin Driscoll** serves as personnel manager of the WVO.

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

I made another trip to the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts in November to take in a performance of Wagner's The Flying Dutchman. This is an Opera where I would challenge anyone to try and catch up on any sleep! Well, I did a little research on this opera as I like to do, especially if I'm not very or in some cases at all familiar with the work. This opera of course was written by Richard Wagner who due to an extravagant lifestyle and his actress wife's retirement found himself bankrupt. While Wagner was writing Rienzi he and his wife devised a plan to escape to Paris and put that opera on stage at the Paris Opera. However, their passports were seized by the authorities at the request of their many creditors. This required them to make a dangerous and illegal crossing over the Prussian border. They boarded a ship whose captain agreed to take them without passports. After a dangerously stormy trip they ended up in Paris where Wagner was unable to get work as a conductor and the Paris Opera did not want to produce Rienzi. It was then that Wagner hit on the idea to write a one act opera based on the theme of the Flying Dutchman. A result of the stormy sailing trip? To make a long story short, the opera was completed in 1841. The score was intended to be played continuously in a single act but Wagner later divided the piece into a three act work which is how it is performed today most everywhere. As always, the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra did itself proud with a stirring performance of what many consider to be one of the most difficult of operas to play. Even Al was duly impressed! As always, I would encourage you to take in a performance of Pittsburgh Opera. It is truly an experience that you will remember. I have friends who will attend a PSO concert, a CLO show or a Pittsburgh Ballet Theater production but will not attend an opera because they do not like operatic singing. Well, I would say that it may be an acquired taste for many but if you don't go you will never know if you like it or not. Believe me, taking in a live performance of anything is so much more exciting that popping a CD into a player and hearing music that way. Just try the opera once, give it a fair chance and see if you don't return to the Benedum again for yet another production. I do not go there due to any real or imagined obligation on my part to do so. I go because I do take great pleasure in being

there. You just might do the same.

UNION MEMBERSHIP

I do want to address the issue of Union membership in this journal. If you were to look at any of our Collective Bargaining Agreements, under UNION SECURITY you will see the following language:

"As a condition of employment, all musicians covered by this agreement who are members of the Union on the execution date of this Agreement shall maintain their membership in the Union as a condition of employment, and those who are not members shall, no later than thirty-one (31) days following the date of execution of this Agreement, become a member of the Union and maintain such membership in good standing. All musicians hired after the execution of this Agreement shall, no later than the thirty-first (31st) day after the commencement of their employment, become members of the Union and maintain such membership as a condition of employment."

Now the Union referred to here is none other than Local 60-471. Here is the language:

"This agreement is made and entered into the ___ day of _____ by and between Acme Opera, Inc (hereinafter referred to as "Opera" and the Pittsburgh Musicians' Union, Local 60-471, AFM (hereinafter referred to as "Union"). There can be no mistake about what Union signifies. It is clearly Local 60-471, Pittsburgh Musicians' Union. We have countless members who are contractually required to belong to multiple Locals. My wife, for example, belongs to Local 60-471, Pittsburgh, PA, Local 136, Charleston, WV, Local 142, Wheeling, WV, and Local 269, Harrisburg, PA. There are many such members in our Local and in most every Local throughout the Federation. It's simply the cost of doing business. There are also rebates for any AFM member who belongs to 3 or more Locals. You need simply apply to the AFM to receive them. I will add that this Local will enforce the language requiring Union membership, or better put, membership in Local 60-471 as a condition of employment. The Union is here for the protection of every member musician and we take that very seriously. I do hope this sets the record straight for some who feel that they are "above the law" so to speak. Please know that this Local is here for the betterment of all of our musicians and will continue to negotiate and fight on behalf of all our members.

STERLING AND STRINGS

The trio known as Sterling and Strings performed a concert of Christmas music at W & J during the lunch hour recently. The dining area was quite full of faculty members who were most appreciative of the holiday music. The trio consists of **Melissa Lessure**, flute, **Rebecca Rothermel**, viola, and **Susanna Reilly**, cello. The performance highlighted Christmas music through the ages beginning with some little known very early short pieces and ending with the most popular White Christmas. There was even a Ha-

(Continued on page 8)

'BURGSCENES



Lou Lucarelli can be seen and heard at Great Oak Winery in Finleyville. Jim and Patty Guerra somewhere where I'd love to be! Two of my favorite woodwind performers, Rick Matt and Dan Heasley.

(Continued from page 7)

nukkah selection among the pieces and why not? An excellent performance by the trio. This ensemble has performed on more than one occasion at a General Membership Meeting of Local 40-471. **If anyone would like to have their group perform at a meeting, please let us know and we will schedule you for such a performance. We would like to keep the size of the group at 4 or less as this would strictly be background music and not necessarily a full fledged performance as such. We are unable to offer monetary compensation for your services but can indeed offer you a good meal, an entertaining General Membership Meeting, and your name in the newsletter!!**

HOME ALONE

I rode over to Youngstown, Ohio with my wife to catch a performance of the Youngstown Symphony playing the score to the movie Home Alone along with the film. This format has become quite popular in recent years and we've seen the PSO do this a number of times as well as other orchestras. I mention it here due to the fact that there were a number of Local 60-471 members performing with the orchestra. **Rachel Stegeman** serves as concertmaster. Along with Rachel were members **Sara Schaft, Dena Miller, Leah Givelber, Sarah Gudbaur, Rebecca Rothermel, Susanna Reilly, Rob Kaufman, Tara Yaney, Justin Bendel,** and

Bryan Adkins. A nice representation from Local 60-471. The orchestra sounded really good and Home Alone was fun to see again after many years!

JUST A FEW WORDS

In closing, let me reiterate some items which have been mentioned before here in the journal but bear repeating. We continue to follow our path of fiduciary responsibility which was begun years ago here in our Local.. Along with cutting back our staff to 50% of what it was, we have moved to another less expensive suite, eliminated the printing and USPS mailing of newsletters, saved dollars on our healthcare, found less expensive venues to hold our General Membership Meetings, retained less expensive legal counsel who knows the music business inside and out, which is anything but the norm, and continue to explore other areas where dollars may be saved to be better spent on our membership vs. employee salaries and benefits. I personally believe that this financial responsibility and oversight is the single most important action that we can take to ensure the future of Local 60-471. I do hope that you agree! Until next time, be well! Remember, you're all we've got!

George

Pittsburgh Musicians Union
Executive Board Meeting
10/24/23
Called to order 6:06 pm
Via Zoom Internet

Attendance-All board members were present.

Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept as amended by Elliot Ratliff and seconded by Joe Herndon. Motion carried-unanimous.

Financial statements were reviewed.

New Members-There were 11 new members-Motion to accept by Tom Evans and seconded by Stephanie Tretick. Motion carried unanimous.

Colby Batchelor (student)- 10/17/2023, Tuba
Joshua S. Carr-10/17/2023, Trumpet
John D./ Dhaissou-10/01/2023, Trumpet
Emily Hayes-10/10/2023, Harp
Charles G. Law-10/17/2023, French Horn
Ryan C. McMasters-10/01/2023, String Bass, Elec. Bass, Guitar, Drums, Cello
Samuel K. Nemec-10/17/2023, Oboe, English Horn
Julia E Noone- 10/10/2023, Violin
Ryan O'Hare-10/01/2023, Trombone
Lynn A. Speakman-10/01/2023, Saxophone, Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, Drums
James M. Wilson-10/17/2023, Saxophone, Bassoon

Resignations-There were 2 resignations. Motion to accept with regrets by MaryBeth Schotting and seconded by Elliot Ratliff. Motion carried unanimous.

Bradford R. Courage-effective September 30,2023
Vanessa J. Lopez-effective September 30, 2023

Reinstatements-there was 1 reinstatement. Motion to accept by Andy Yalch and seconded by Joe Herndon. Motion carried unanimous.

James Germann

Deaths-There were no deaths to report.

RCBB- A one year agreement has been made with the help of Kevin Case.

MPTF- The funding for MPTF exceeded the December budget. We asked for more funding and it was approved.

Union endorsement for Allegheny County Commissioner- PMU has not had a history of support

Possible Membership Drive- President/Secretary Clewer thinks this should be done effectively, and asked the board to think of ideas on how to proceed.

Motion to adjourn-Stephanie Tretick and seconded by MaryBeth Schotting. Motion carried-

unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm

Next meeting 11/17/23- 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President

A REMINDER

PLEASE BE CERTAIN THAT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE IN OUR DATABASE. IF YOU HAVE HAD A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE LET US KNOW THE NEW INFO. THIS IS OUR ONLY WAY OF STAYING IN TOUCH WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP AND IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE ABLE TO DO SO. OUR NEWSLETTERS ARE ON LINE BUT ALSO E-MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS FOR WHOM WE HAVE A VALID E-MAIL ADDRESS. OFFICE MANAGER MIRIAM LESKIEWICZ IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES TO YOUR INFO. YOU MAY CALL MIRIAM AT 412-215-9545 OR E-MAIL HER AT mandy6454@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU

JUST FOR LAFFS!



Pittsburgh Musicians Union

Executive Board Meeting

11/21/23
Called to order 6:06 pm
Via Zoom Internet

Attendance-All Board members were present.

Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept by Joe Herndon and seconded by Elliott Ratliff. Motion carried-unanimous.

Dues Increase- Stephanie Tretick will put a reminder notice of 2024 increase on front page of the PMU website. Reminder cards are also being sent out from the Union office.

Financial statements were reviewed.

Membership numbers will be tabulated for the record at the next board meeting as the data was not at hand tonight.

Membership Drive-President/Secretary Clewer asked for ideas from the Board, to be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Pittsburgh Opera-A brief report was given regarding grievances on last minute sicknesses and COVID 19 protocols.

Deaths-There were no deaths to report.

Ongoing efforts are being made to ensure players in the CBA orchestras have joined the Union where necessary.

Motion to adjourn-Andy Yalch and seconded by MaryBeth Schotting. Motion carried- unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm

Next meeting 12/19/23 at 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Tretick and Andy Yalch-Vice President

“You will find men who want to be carried on the shoulders of others, who think that the world owes them a living. They don’t seem to see that we must all lift together and pull together.” ~ Henry Ford

Pittsburgh Musicians Union

Executive Board Meeting

12/19/23

Called to order 3:05 pm

Via Zoom Internet

Attendance-All Board members were present except Vice President Yalch, who was excused.

Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept as amended by Joe Herndon and seconded by Elliott Ratliff. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial statements were reviewed.

New Members – A motion to accept two new Members was made by Tretick and seconded by Evans. The motion carried unanimously.

Kyung Won Jeon-12/19/23, Cello

Galen A. McKinney-11/17/23, Trumpet, Flugelhorn

Membership Reinstatements - There was one membership reinstatement. A motion to accept was made by Tretick and seconded by Evans. The motion carried unanimously.

Clayton R. Heath

Membership Resignations - There were five resignations. A motion to accept with regrets was made by Schotting and seconded by Ratliff. The motion carried unanimously.

Samuel J. Huss-effective 12/31/23

James D. Lischner-effective 06/31/23

Gregory S. Macaluso-effective 12/31/23

Stephen P. Smietana-effective 12/31/23

Andrew Taylor-effective 12/31/23

Membership Deaths – There were no deaths to report.

Membership Drive-President/Secretary Clewer will seek input from other Locals regarding their methods of running Membership drives.

Pittsburgh Opera Grievances: Resolution has been achieved regarding substitute players in cases of absences. Other matters are still pending.

Pittsburgh CLO: Contractual effects of a production moving from one venue to another were discussed.

President/Secretary Clewer reminded the Board that PSO contract negotiations will occur in 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm

Next Board meeting: 1/9/2024 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Board Member Stephanie Tretick

Pittsburgh Musicians Union
Local 60-471, A.F. of M., AFL-CIO
564 Forbes Avenue
Suite 1003
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2903

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 268

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pittsburgh Musician

Advertising Rates — Display Ads
Payable in Advance
Deadline — Two Weeks Prior to Publication

MEMBER RATES	
FULL PAGE.....	\$100.00
HALF PAGE.....	50.00
QUARTER PAGE.....	25.00
EIGHTH PAGE.....	15.00
NON-MEMBER RATES	
FULL PAGE.....	\$120.00
HALF PAGE.....	75.00
QUARTER PAGE.....	40.00
EIGHTH PAGE.....	25.00

Ads Must Be Camera-Ready!

*The Pittsburgh Musicians' Union
reserves the right to refuse
any advertisement*

Pittsburgh Musician

Published six times a year in the interest of the members
of the Pittsburgh Musicians' Union.

George A. Clewer.....Editor

The right is reserved to reject any advertisement
or material submitted.

Pittsburgh Musicians' Union
Local 60-471, A.F. of M., AFL-CIO
564 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1003
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2093
Phone: 412-281-1822
Fax: 412-281-7866
Website: www.afmpittsburgh.com

Office Hours:
Monday Through Friday 9AM to 5PM
Closed Weekends & Holidays

Officers for 2020-2022

*President/Secretary — George A. Clewer
Vice President — Andrew P. Yalch
Executive Board
Thomas E. Evans Joe Herndon
Elliot Rauliff Mary Beth Schottling
Stephanie Trelick
Office Manager Miriam Leskiewicz*

In order to protect the interests of the Union, we hold that the opinions, statements,
articles or paid advertisements appearing in the Pittsburgh Musician must be signed by the
person submitting same and that these opinions are strictly those of the signers. Publica-
tion does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Union.