



# PITTSBURGH MUSICIAN

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

1st Quarter 2023

WWW.AFMPITTSBURGH.COM



## Overture

By George Clewer  
President/Secretary

### \*IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT\*

DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES WE DO NOT HAVE MEMBERSHIP CARDS FOR 2023-24 AT THIS TIME. THEY WILL BE SENT WHEN AVAILABLE. PLEASE KNOW THAT THE CARDS ARE NOT USED BY THIS OFFICE TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR DUES PAYMENTS. PAYMENTS ARE TRACKED BY OUR DATA BASE AND BY QUICKBOOKS.

First, let me wish all of our loyal members a very Happy New Year! Looks like we made it thru another one and really looking forward to bigger and better things in 2023. I do want to mention how much you all mean to this Local and to me for being staunch Union members of Local 60-471, of the AFM. It is more important than ever to show our support for labor and the working men and women of this great country. Belonging to our Local is the best way I can think of to do so!

I also thank you for your continued support for the Local and for me. I will work harder than ever for the next three years to try and get this Local back to where it needs to be.

I would also like to point out that the newslet-

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### MEMBERSHIP DUES

REGULAR MEMBER 1st QUARTER DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$40.00**

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER 1ST QUARTER DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$23.50**

YOU MAY PAY **\$155.00** FOR THE YEAR DURING JANUARY IF A REGULAR MEMBER.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS PAY **\$94.00** PER YEAR.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 2023  
ROCK BOTTOM BREWERY  
131 E. BRIDGE STREET  
HOMESTEAD WATERFRONT

7:00PM SOCIAL  
7:30PM DINNER  
8:15PM MEETING  
\*CASH BAR\*

Please call the office at 412-281-1822 to make reservations.

## 'BURGSOUNDS

### STATE OF THE UNION

As we move into 2023, I would like to take a moment or two to discuss the Local's finances and our plans for moving forward. First, let me say that our investments have generally done quite well and, in fact, have bailed us out on a number of occasions when our bottom line wasn't looking so good. We only have to take a look at the recent pandemic years to see this. When we lost members and work, our income fell off sharply while our expenses remained pretty much what they have always been. Only our investments along with a PPP forgivable loan allowed us to finish in the black. Now, of course, there are no more loans and the investment portfolio is not what it was. While the investment numbers are trending upward, we will undoubtedly be seeing red numbers when our audit is complete for 2022. At least, I'll be quite surprised if I'm in error here but would love to be wrong! BTW, we are invested in Vanguard Funds and also with Harvest Financial which have done exceedingly well up until the last couple of years. This is not unexpected as my personal IRA took a mean hit last year. I don't know too many folks who remained unscathed thru it all, do you? Anyway, I can't go into details since

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ter font size has been increased just a tad to help some of us who are not able to read the small print as easily as we once did. I do know that a lot of our older members do read and enjoy this journal. Related to this is the fact that the Local has been busy updating our data base with corrected contact info including e-mails. We want everyone to be able to receive and read the newsletter and as we are not generally snail mailing them, it is all the more important to have correct e-mails for our members. The last newsletter was mailed due to the importance of getting the word out regarding the election to our membership.

Let me close by saying that our Officers, Executive Board, Delegates, as well as Miriam, our Office Manager wish you all a **HAPPY and HEALTHY 2023!** Be well.

**George**

#### **LOCAL 60-471 ELECTION RESULTS**

##### **PRESIDENT/SECRETARY/AFM DELEGATE**

George Clewer\*

##### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Andrew P. Yalch\*

##### **DELEGATE TO AFM CONVENTION**

Stephanie Tretick\*

##### **ALTERNATE AFM DELEGATE**

Joe Herndon\*

##### **DIVERSITY AFM DELEGATE**

Elliott Ratliff\*

##### **EXECUTIVE BOARD (5)**

Stephanie Tretick 158

Mary Beth Schotting 128

Joe Herndon 119

Tom Evans 113

Elliott Ratliff 70

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Brian Buckley 56

Mark Jovanovich 47

\* Winner by acclamation

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I don't have our audit or any reliable numbers other than QuickBooks raw numbers which are really not that accurate. When our CPA, John Hancock, yes you read that correctly, finalizes our audit using the accrual accounting method, we will have a much clearer picture of our finances. The accrual accounting method basically means taking dollars that come to us and making certain that they are accounted for in the proper year, ie. dues for 2022 that didn't show up to 2023 must be moved to 2022 and so forth. Once the official audit is completed, we will know much more as to how we did this past year. I can tell you that the Local was forced to withdraw substantially from our Vanguard funds in each of the last two years.

As you all know, we are saving dollars by e-mailing the newsletter and by putting it on our website to be viewed as well. This results in an approximate savings of around \$6,000.00 including the printing and mailing of 4 newsletters per year or 1 per quarter. Our move to the 11th floor suite is another cost saving measure which will save the Local approximately \$600.00 per month or over \$7,000.00 for the year. By my dropping off the UPMC health care plan and signing up for Medicare, another approximately \$600 per month has been saved. Miriam was able to renegotiate our phone bill and now we are paying less than half of what we had been being billed for previously. That bill also includes our computer lines, credit card and fax machines. Thanks, Miriam!!

As you should know, this Local and any Local has only two sources of available income. One is membership dues and the other is work dues. Our membership dues are on the extreme low side with just about a break even deal related to our income from our Honorary Life members. Our work dues are considerably below many Locals and were actually higher at one time going back a bit before I took office. Former AFM President Tom Lee once told me that any Local with work dues lower than 4% is asking for problems! Well our symphonic work dues are now 2.05% (PSO, Pgh. Opera, Pgh Ballet) and our regular work dues are 2%, both of which, according to my math, fall well below the 4% Tom spoke of. I can think of one fairly close by Local that has a 4% work dues rate and that is Wheeling, WV. Local 142. Another is Philadelphia, Local 77 which sports a 3.5% rate. If our work dues were even 2.5% which they once were, we would have so fewer financial problems and a much better long term finan-

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cial outlook. One might think that our lower membership would be most accountable for our financial issues. I would disagree. While we are always attempting to grow the Local, there are other factors in play that wreak havoc. I refer back to our work dues rate, both symphonic and regular. Along with that I would cite our membership dues which have not been raised once since before I took office except for a Federation initiative to impose a \$10.00 rate increase on all AFM members going back over ten years now I would think. This took our dues from \$150.00 to \$160.00. I won't get into a long winded discussion here about what needs to happen to insure our future beyond the next 10 to 15 years but I will say that the Local does have a fiduciary responsibility to remain solvent. We will continue to work toward that end.

### **MPTF**

Now on to a topic very near and dear to my heart. I have been administering the Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) grant dollars here for the past 16 years since I took over that task when offices were combined back in 2007. To date, this fiscal year for MPTF we have processed over 40 live music projects and accounted for over \$20,000.00 spent on live music by MPTF. BTW, MPTF's fiscal year runs from May thru the following April. Since the majority of these projects are funded at 50% by MPTF, the end result is something like \$40,000.00 in actual dollars to our musicians. Not too shabby, huh? When we stop to consider that as late as 6 years ago, MPTF was on it's deathbed so to speak, these numbers are all the more miraculous! With new streams of income negotiated into national contracts by Ray Hair and the AFM and other funding, there has been new life breathed into MPTF which benefits all who take part in the program.

Now for those who are not very knowledgeable about MPTF, or who have maybe just heard about it but would like more info, here it comes. The following is VIS (VERY IMPORTANT STUFF) Here is a way for musicians to make money which does not cost the music purchaser nearly what it would if the purchaser had to pay the full tilt for professionally played live music. First of all, as mentioned, there is a co-sponsor. Now, who is this? Who can be a co-sponsor for these MPTF projects? Well, let's talk about who cannot be a co-sponsor. We are not speaking of wedding gigs here or any type of private party affair. We are not talking about clubs. The Local itself is not able to act as a co-sponsor either. This program is set up to create per-

formances at senior centers, medical facilities, community celebrations wherever they may be held, no alcohol please, churches, schools, assisted living facilities, etc. You get the idea. The gigs are paid at each Local's scale. Our miscellaneous scale is currently \$120.00 for up to 3 hours. If you were sleeping, this is a \$5 increase over last year as voted thru at the May General Membership Meeting. The scale also includes a \$15.00 travel rate, a hike of \$3 over last year which should be paid on any and all miscellaneous services MPTF or otherwise. The scale also includes pension contributions for all musicians on the date and that rate is 7.194% here in our Local. Local cartage rates also apply for any instrument that qualifies. I mentioned that this scale is for up to a 3 hour performance. Most MPTF project performances run for an hour or at the most an hour and a half. That can be discussed with the co-sponsor. All senior type gigs should be 60 minutes IMO. As to the type of music played, it runs the gamut. We have big band performances, duo and trio jazz or classical performances, basically anything financially and aesthetically viable for the co-sponsor. River City Brass has applied



for funding for mostly smaller groups. We have had small concert bands in years past also. Maybe someone should start up a 18 or 20 piece concert band and look for a co-sponsor for a celebration of one kind or another. Just a thought. HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS! You as a leader do not have to deal with any paperwork of any kind. That is all taken care of by the Local. We process all the MPTF applications on line. MPTF does require a W-9 and a Terms and Conditions form from the co-sponsor. Our office provides those. The forms can be e-mailed to our office by the co-sponsor or by you if the co-sponsor has provided you with those. A date is set and the gig is played. Now, what happens after that? We sign off on that project on line with MPTF and that alerts MPTF to send their portion of the dollars to the co-sponsor. This usually takes about 10 days to 2 weeks from personal experience. The co-sponsor then writes a check to the leader of the group who in turn pays the sidemen just as on most any other gig that you've ever played.

That's pretty much it. If you have any questions concerning any of the above, please feel free to

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e-mail me at [president@afmpittsburgh.com](mailto:president@afmpittsburgh.com) or call the office at 412-281-1822 for more information. I truly believe MPTF to be one of the best perks for being an AFM member. As an aside, we do try to spread the dollars around as much as possible. Of course, at the end of the day, the dollars go to those musicians who are the most proactive and seek out playing opportunities for themselves and their musical groups. **Why shouldn't you be one of them?**

### **MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**

One "duty" of my position here is attending as many member performances as I possibly can. The Pittsburgh Opera is one of the country's leading regional operas according to reliable sources. Very well respected in the industry. The Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra does a great job playing all the standard operas and those less heard and even playing some being premiered by Pittsburgh Opera. I took in a performance of Mozart's Marriage of Figaro in the middle of November and enjoyed myself immensely. I've seen this done at least twice before at Pittsburgh Opera but this might be the best one yet. The opera debuted at the Burgtheater in Vienna in 1786 with Mozart himself conducting the first two performances which was the custom of the day. If you're not familiar with the opera, I can give you a brief synopsis. Well, you know what. It does get just a bit convoluted as it moves along but it involves Figaro who learns that his fiancée Susanna is being sought after by their philandering employer, Count Almaviva. Then a guy named Bartolo wants his housekeeper, Marcellina, to marry Figaro to cancel a debt he cannot pay. But then Cherubino shows up and flirts with Barbarina, the gardener's daughter. As I said, I've seen this opera several times now and I still have a bit of difficulty keeping up with it all. You've got people dressing up as other people and hiding in closets and I don't know what all! At the end of the day, things turn out right for the two lovers and that is how it should be, don't you think? One thing that I can say for certain is that the orchestra did a fabulous job grinding out an almost 3 hour and 15 minute performance. Well, there was a 20 minute well needed intermission. Well needed mostly by me!! Anyway, that was my trip to the Marriage of Figaro and it was really great to be back in the Benedum. Looking forward to next time!



### **WARREN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

I rarely include anything here about an orchestra located in another Local not to mention another state. However, since we had a couple of our members performing with this orchestra and since I was in attendance, I have included something here. I had never even heard of the Warren Philharmonic but my wife told me that it was very good. Well, I had to see it and hear it for myself so I drove over to Ohio with Becky for the Sunday afternoon performance. First, the very first thing that I noticed was that the orchestra was on the small side with slightly under 40 members. More of a chamber orchestra in my mind. BTW beside Becky sitting principal viola, there was **Rachel Stegeman** serving as concertmaster. The orchestra is conducted by a lady named Susan Davenny Wyner who seems to have quite a resume. Her conducting credits include the Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, Odense Danish Symphony, LA Phil, Boston Lyric Opera, and concerts at the Hollywood Bowl. Among her guest soloists have been Andre Previn, Yo-Yo Ma, Peter Serkin, and Emanuel Ax. She was also the Music Director and Conductor for The New England String Ensemble in Boston. Well, this was interesting and I soon became a bit more engaged in the afternoon's performance. The program opened with Overture in C Major by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel who was the older sister of Felix. I have to admit to never having heard of her. My bad? Copeland's "Hoe Down" from Rodeo was programmed along with Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No.4 in A. Opus 90. I really have heard of Felix!! Also on the program was De Falla's Ritual Fire Dance which is fun. I would have to say that the Warren Philharmonic is an excellent ensemble no matter what size of an orchestra it may be. All in all it was a nice Sunday afternoon away from the Steelers and/or yard work and very entertaining as well. Highly recommended!

### **WHEELING SYMPHONY**

While I'm traveling out of state in this journal, I surely do not want to forget a most memorable night in Wheeling, WV. The Wheeling Symphony drew a throng of symphony goers to their concert in October which featured, among others, Yo-Yo Ma, world renowned cellist as if I need even say it here. I've been to probably a half dozen WSO concerts and even had the opportunity to perform a time or two as well on pops concerts there. Always great to hear this orchestra which includes a huge number of Local 60-471

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members as well as those from all points east and west. As well as Yo-Yo, the evening also featured Christylez Bacon, a hip-hop artist whom I had never seen or heard of but who exhibited great musicianship throughout his performance. He and Yo-Yo even did a thing together on stage which made me realize that Yo-Yo Ma is a truly ecumenical individual who sees and appreciates music in all of its many forms. Not only an incredible musician but an outstanding person as well. First, I do not believe that there was an empty seat to be had anywhere that evening in the Capitol Music Hall. Great crowd. Ran into Rick and Vera Purcell there who attended the gala dinner as this was a fund raiser as well. The opening piece composed by Caroline Shaw was most interesting. Entr'acte featured WSO musicians dispersed all around the concert hall. Very unusual and I would think a bit musically daunting as well. It was very effective but you had to be there to appreciate it fully as they say. Also on the bill was an arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner" by Enrico Lopez-Yanez. It was quite different with harmonies never heard before in that piece. Guess I'm a bit of a traditionalist when it comes to "The Banner" but an "A" for different! The highlight of the evening, of course, was Yo-Yo Ma's performance of "Concerto for Cello and Orchestra" by John Williams. I think the first thing that struck me about the piece was that if I didn't know that it had been written by Williams, I would have never guessed that it was. Way different than anything that I've ever heard from him but I thought made a great vehicle for Yo-Yo to show off his great musicianship and command of the instrument. When I ran into Rick Purcell after the concert, Rick just looked at me and said, "How do you make a cello do that?" I, of course, had no answer! What was just as amazing as the performance was Yo-Yo's great rapport with all on the stage. Think he must have spent ten minutes shaking hands with and hugging musicians at the close of his performance. I've attended hundreds of performances in my life of all kinds. I have to honestly say that this one performance in Wheeling, WV on this night was one of the most inspiring ever! It was so great that I wish I could get in my "way-back machine" and experience it all over again. I should point out that I'd never ever heard Yo-Yo Ma live before and it is an incredible experience that all of us should have at least once. Christylez Bacon did an incredible performance in its own right. "Migrations in Rhythm: A Concerto for Beatbox and Rhyme" was commissioned by conductor

John Devlin and the WSO. Most entertaining and as I mentioned the guy is no slouch musically. Actually took topics from the audience and rhymed them. Lot's of fun! Again, a wonderful night in Wheeling and an excellent orchestra! **Jeff Mangone** serves as personnel manager for the WSO.

### **LOU LUCARELLI TRIO**

Not long ago on a Sunday Afternoon, **Lou Lucarelli** and trio performed at the Great Oaks Winery located in Finleyville, PA. I was to be there and meet up with Jim and Marianne Hudzik. BTW, Jim is a member here and a fine guitarist. As fate would have it, I came down with some form of virus, I won't harangue you with the details, and was a no show. Be that as it may, and it may well be, quoting the late Steve Allen, the gig went on perfectly fine without my presence in the audience though I would have much preferred to have been there, believe me! The Lou Lucarelli Band can range in numbers from 3 up to 5 to the best of my knowledge and sounds great in whatever form it takes. I've always loved the sound of vibes which recalls the great sound of Cal Tjader's groups of years gone by. On this day, Lou had pianist **Andy Yalch**, the vice-prez, on keys along with saxophonist **Johnny Vann** who has been on the Pittsburgh music scene longer than even I can remember! Now, let me add here that Lou has a brand new CD out dedicated to his late brother, pianist **Jerry Lucarelli**, who wrote most of the tunes on the album. Lou made a gift of the CD to me and I can tell you that it's really fine playing from all on board. Along with Lou, Andy, and Johnny on the CD are **Rich Scampone** on drums and **Bob Patterson** on bass. Again, I just love the sound of vibes in a jazz group and when they are played as well as Lou plays them, it's all to the good! Let me add that the Great Oaks Winery was packed to the gills on that Sunday and all were in for a treat as the trio performed all the selections from the new CD. Would love to have the opportunity to play with this group. It's just so darn good! Yes, I am shameless! Catch the band and see for yourself.

### **LOCAL 60-471 ELECTION**

As you know by now, if you read the election results on page 2, we have retained all but one of the

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Executive Board members from the 2020-2022 term. We want to welcome **Elliott Ratliff** to the fold as he will now serve on the board for the next 3 years. I know all the candidates quite well including, of course, those who had served the past term or more. I also knew full well that we would end up in good shape no matter which of the 7 candidates made the top 5 and won a seat on the Executive Board. I will say that it's always appropriate for the PSO and Benedum orchestras to have representation on the Board and we still do have that in place with **Stephanie Tretick** (PSO) and **Mary-Beth Schotting** (Opera, Ballet, CLO) having been re-elected. Our other board members include **Joe Hern-don**, (CLO, Latshaw, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater, miscellaneous work), and **Tom Evans** (leader) who has been on our Pittsburgh music scene for many years and who takes a special interest in our younger musicians and those who may not yet be Union members. Tom works with various size groups throughout the Pittsburgh area including the Tom Evans Big Band. Tom will hire only Union musicians and that is as it should be for all of us as members of the AFM! I've worked a number of gigs for Tom over the years and have yet to see a non-member on an engagement. **Elliott Ratliff** is quite involved with Local 60-471, having been a member for over 15 years and leads his own band, the Steel City Jazz Katts. Elliott is also the vice-president of the Pen-Del-Mar-DC Conference, part of the Eastern Conference of Locals. He has represented our Local there for the past 6 years I do believe. He also has served as our Diversity Delegate to the AFM Convention where he serves on the Elections Committee and Credentials Committee and will most likely do so once again this coming summer. I want to wish **Brian Buckley** well and thank him for his service to this Local, having served on the board for the past 3 years. **Mark Jovanovich** has run for a seat on the Board the past 2 elections and has come up just a bit short each time. I would encourage Brian and Mark and other like minded individuals to stay engaged and do what each of you is able to do to help this local survive in these perilous times. There was never a time when we were more in need of "all hands on deck" as Elliott stated during the campaign. I do want to thank the membership for allowing me the privilege of serving as your president-secretary for one more term. An interesting facet of the election is the fact that out of almost 550 members, there were only 187 votes cast for a "voter turnout" of approximately

35%. When I say "YOU ARE THE UNION", I really mean it! So be it. I should point out that there were something like 30 newsletters returned to sender, meaning the Local, with bad addresses. This is so frustrating for me. It also means that these members did not receive a ballot either. WE DO NEED UPDATED ADDRESSES FROM MEMBERS WHEN A CHANGE OF ADDRESS OCCURS. So we will move forward with our Officers, Board Members, and Delegates along with our Rank and File to continue to make the Pittsburgh Musicians' Union, Local 60-471 the best that it can be. Here's wishing all of us much success as we continue to give our very best to that effort!

### **STARBUCKS**

As you should know, there has been an effort by Starbucks employees across the country to unionize. Recently, I attended a rally outside the Starbucks located in downtown Pittsburgh in Market Square. It has always been my tact to see our Union be interactive with other Unions in our area. We can't exist in a bubble and expect to achieve anything worthwhile. That's why we still belong to the Pa. State AFL-CIO and the Allegheny County Labor Council. We all have a stake in what other Unions are doing. If we don't see things collectively then we are missing the big picture. It was a year ago or so when the Starbucks' Union campaign went public. Since then, Starbucks has seen something like 175 stores file for a Union contract. Starbucks has sought to persuade workers not to unionize by holding anti-union meetings with workers and by having conversations between individual workers and managers. Starbucks has been accused of Union busting and, of course, denies these charges. You know, we have been lucky here over the years when attempting to organize certain workplaces. In fact, at times we have had managements ultimately come to us to ask for an AFM agreement with their organization. While this is certainly the exception, I can cite Pittsburgh Playhouse as an example of a company that seemed to relish the idea of a Union agreement. We certainly experienced no pushback from Latshaw Productions or Opera Theater when we gained CBA's in those places. Perhaps it lends credibility to the companies. In other cases, we were not so fortunate. I don't wish to dredge up any negative experiences but there was certainly great resistance to a Union agreement with one particular ensemble not long after I took office here twenty years ago. The name of the organization will go unmentioned! An NLRB election was

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held to secure a Union contract there. It's important to note that a well negotiated Union agreement benefits both workers and management as many rules and regulations may be negotiated benefitting all in the long run. The company gets Union workers or in the case of the AFM, Union musicians which we all know are the very best!!! The musicians agree to show up on time and play their best at all times along with following negotiated work rules. The musicians gain better working conditions and wages. In almost every case management gets a bargain price for the accumulated talent on stage or in the pit though this might not always be recognized by them! Well, I didn't mean to get so off track here. We do wish the Starbucks workers the very best as the unionizing of stores throughout the country continues. Now if I only drank coffee!

### WHAT'S NEW?

Those who know me well know that I enjoy reading a great deal. Ever since my wife got me a Kindle some nine or ten years ago, I take all my books with me when on vacation or traveling for any reason. Really a great way to have reading material at the ready no matter where you are in the world. I also like to pass along anything I find interesting. About two years or so ago, I stumbled upon a book by Joe Vitale called Zero Limits. As I began reading, I found that this book was about an ancient Hawaiian practice known as Ho'oponopono which is a method of forgiveness and reconciliation. Originally this was a group effort where parties who had issues with one another would sit and talk out their differences. Over time, the traditional practice underwent a metamorphosis of sorts and the newer, updated version of Ho'oponopono be-

came something that involves no one but the practitioner. No one else is needed. A lady named Mornna Simeona is mostly responsible for the transformation of the practice into it's more modern form. She was a kuhuna and healer of Hawaii who was actually asked to heal Pearl Harbor. I won't go into a long winded discussion of what all this means as I'm still sorting it all out myself. After reading this particular book, I found a sequel to it by Mr. Vitale entitled At Zero which further describes and expands the methodology involved in the practice of Ho'oponopono. First, this is not some kind of new religion or anything like it. I would simply call it a means of resolving issues which involves only you. In fact, as the author points out in the book, you and you alone are responsible for everything in your life. The outside world which you see is only a reflection of your inner self. Really not a new concept. He learned this from a Dr. Hew Len, a former psychologist at the Hawaii State Prison for the Criminally Insane. Dr. Hew Len is reported to have cured almost an entire ward of inmates without ever having seen one of them in a therapy session of any kind. Sound interesting or even a bit intriguing? Well, I highly recommend the two books mentioned here starting with the first one then proceeding to the second. Now I've included this in the column at the possible risk of being seen as just a bit kooky. I'll take that risk! Again, I highly recommend these two books to you. There are many other books on the topic but I think that starting with these is the best approach. Some will ignore this, others will take a look and maybe question why I bothered to include this topic in the column, and still others may one day thank me. I really don't know. I have read everything that I can find on the subject and am still researching Ho'oponopono.

I think this is a good time to close the column and get this journal to our membership. We post this online and e-mail to our members. We do ask for updated e-mails and, for that matter, any and all contact info for our members. It is truly for your benefit that we can keep in touch. Stay well. Please don't forget that you're all we've got!!

**George**



“Your eyes won’t believe what your mind can’t conceive.” ~ Lyrics from the Ronnie Laws’ tune  
“Always There”

**Pittsburgh Musicians Union**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**8/22/22**  
**Called to order 4:03 pm**  
**Via Zoom Internet**

**Attendance-All board members were present.**

**Minutes Read from previous meeting. Motion to approve by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by MaryBeth Schotting. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**Deaths-There was 1 death to report. A moment of silence was observed in his honor!**  
**Sylvan M. Sax--07-18-2022-Violin**

**Financial statements were reviewed.**

**New Members-There were 3 new members--Motion to accept by Andy Yalch and seconded by MaryBeth Schotting. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**David J. Banks Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Piccolo Trumpet**

**Emmett C. Goods- Trombone, Alto & Bass Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium, Tuba**

**Vanessa J. Lopez- FRLute, Piccolo**

**Resignations-There were no resignations.**

**Opera-Negotiations are ongoing.**

**Ballet-A tentative agreement has been reached.**

**PSO-A one year extension of the current contract has been approved. This includes a 1% raise in salary and extends the contract to 2024.**

**Bylaw Committees-Brian Buckley will send out committee information asking board members for their ideas and feedback.**

**Motion to adjourn-Joe Herndon, seconded Tom Evans- Motion carried-unanimous**

**Meeting adjourned 4:58pm**

**Next meeting 9/12/22- 4:00 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President**

*"If you haven't lived with at least one cat, you still have life lessons yet unlearned." ~ George C.*



**Pittsburgh Musicians' Union  
Executive Board Meeting  
September 12, 2022 via Zoom**

**Meeting called to order at 4:12pm**

**Attendance-All board members were present.**

**Minutes Read from previous meeting. Motion to approve by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Joe Herndon. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**Financial statements were reviewed.**

**New Members-There were no new members.**

**Reinstatements-There was 1 reinstatement. Motion to approve- Marybeth Schotting-seconded-Andy Yalch. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**Bruce F. Lazier**

**Resignations-There were 4 resignations. Motion to accept by Andy Yalch and seconded by Stephanie Tretick. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**Clinton Bleil**

**Robin M. Hasenpflug**

**Zachary R. Mathes**

**Mark E. Stroud**

**Opera-Negotiations are ongoing.**

**PPT-A new collective bargaining agreement is being negotiated with Pittsburgh Public Theatre. The union has a very good relationship with the PPT.**

**President Clewer brought us up to date on our new location move. He pointed out the benefits and savings regarding the move.**

**AFLCIO-The board discussed the pros and cons of continued membership.**

**Motion to adjourn-Tom Evans, seconded Stephanie Tretick- Motion carried-unanimous**

**Meeting adjourned 5:28pm**

**Next meeting 10/10//22- 4:00 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President**

**Pittsburgh Musicians Union  
Executive Board Meeting  
10/10/22  
Called to order 4:05 pm  
Via Zoom Internet**

**Attendance-All board members were present.**

**Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept by Brian Buckley and seconded by Stephanie Tretick. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**Financial statements were reviewed.**

**New Members-There were 5 new members. A motion to accept was made by Marybeth Schotting and seconded by Stephanie Tretick. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**James M. Benoit Timpani, Percussion**

**Brooke Boehmer French Horn**

**Yoland Collin Piano**

**Daniel J. Mihelerakis (Student) Guitar, Bass Guitar, Ukulele, Piano, Trumpet**

**Alyssa M. Pisola Flute, Piccolo**

**Reinstatements-There were no reinstatements.**

**Resignation -There was 1 resignation. Motion to accept by Andy Yalch and seconded by Brian Buckley. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**Yanchi Chen**

**Opera-A new contract has been ratified which includes a 5% salary increase over the life of the agreement. In addition hire the orchestra and pay for assistant principal string players was approved.**

**Deaths-A moment of silence was held for 2 members.**

**Bylaw Committees-Amendments to committees was postponed until after the election.**

**Business Agent-The board discussed using a member to act as business agent for the union.**

**Bach Choir-We are exploring the option of negotiating a CBA with the Choir.**

**Motion to adjourn-Joe Herndon, seconded Marybeth Schotting- Motion carried-unanimous**

**Meeting adjourned 5:29pm**

**Next meeting 11/7/22- 4:00 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President**

**Pittsburgh Musicians Union  
Executive Board Meeting  
11/7/22  
Called to order 4:11 pm  
Via Zoom Internet**

**Attendance-All board members were present.**

**Minutes read from previous meeting. Motion to accept by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Tom Evans.. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**Financial statements were reviewed.**

**New Members-There were 9 new members. A motion to accept was made by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Joe Herndon. Motion carried-unanimous.**

**Kathryn A. Bracewell - (Student) Viola  
Austin A. Brown- Flute, Piccolo  
Adam B. Gillespie-Trumpet  
Sheryl L. Hadeka-French Horn  
David T. McCarroll-Violin  
Alexander J. Price-Guitar, Violin, Bass Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Viola  
Kaylyn Shearer-Oboe  
Andrew Taylor-Trombone  
Yingchen Zhang-Violin**

**Reinstatements-There were no reinstatements.**

**Resignations -There was 1 resignations. Motion to accept by Tom Evans and seconded by Andy Yalch. Motion carried-unanimous.  
Charles J.C. Daval**

**Deaths- None to report.**

**Business Agent-The board suggested Paul Evans for the position because he previously expressed interest in reinitiating it !**

**Election- Ballots are being prepared.**

**Office Manager Duties - A complete job description was presented to the board by Miriam Lesikiewicz-Office Manager.**

**Office Manager Salary-A pay increase has been agreed upon for the next 3 years. percentage breakdown- Year one 4.5 percent. Years two 4.0 percent. Year three 4.0 percent.**

**Motion to adjourn-Tom Evans, seconded MaryBeth Schotting- Motion carried-unanimous**

**Meeting adjourned 5:16pm**

**Next meeting 12/19/22- 4:00 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President**

Pittsburgh Musicians Union  
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*President/Secretary — George A. Clewer  
Vice President — Andrew P. Yalch  
Executive Board  
Brian Buckley, Thomas E. Evans  
Joe Herndon, Marybeth Schottling  
Stephanie Trelick  
Office Manager Miriam Leskiewicz*

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