



PITTSBURGH MUSICIAN

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

2nd Quarter 2024

YOU ARE THE UNION!

www.afmpittsburgh.com

Overture

By George Clewer
President/Secretary

It's April and the warmer weather is most welcome here in the 'Burgh. I always appreciate that when I have to make Local deposit trips to the bank or look for food for lunch. April marks the final month in MPTF's fiscal year and it appears that we will have performed just under 60 MPTF projects, a new high water mark for the past four decades at least. This is indeed a labor of love as I work with MPTF and our members to create more work in the Pittsburgh area for musicians of all kinds from classical to R&B to big band jazz and more.

We also have some negotiations on the near horizon as we go to the table for PSO contract talks and also River City Brass. Pittsburgh Musical Theater is also due for a successor agreement. Plenty of activity around the Local headquarters this time of year. As always, it is our hope to broker the very best deals for all members of the affected bargaining units. The Local will employ attorney **Kevin Case** regarding the PSO and RCBB CBA's. As mentioned in earlier journals, Kevin is not only an excellent labor attorney, but a fine musician as well who knows the musical landscape here in the 'Burg very well. We are lucky to have Kevin on our side of the table!

Don't forget that May 1st begins the new fiscal year for MPTF with a fresh supply of dollars for the Local to spend on more gigs. Looking forward to hearing from you! Take care,

George

MEMBERSHIP DUES

REGULAR 2ND QUARTER DUES ARE DUE IN
APRIL IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$45.00**

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE IN
APRIL 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 COL-
LECTING THEM. THANK YOU.**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY MAY 6TH AT 7:00PM

GAETANO'S RESTAURANT ON BANKSVILLE

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

AGENDA: VOTE TO BE TAKEN ON MISC. SCALE
RECOMMENDATION BY PRICE LIST CMT.

PLEASE E-MAIL OR CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

president@afmpittsburgh.com 412-855-5137

'BURGSOUNDS

MPTF

As you must know by now, MPTF stands for Music Performance Trust Fund and no matter what you may call it, it stands for live music! **We have set some new records** going back nearly 40 years with the number of musical projects played here in the Pittsburgh area this past fiscal year of MPTF. We saw a healthy jump to almost 60 projects and over \$65,000.00 in scale wages paid to professional musicians. As grand as this is, we are shooting for even more projects in the 2024-25 fiscal year. You can help us reach that goal by applying for MPTF dollars for a community, educational, or senior center/medical facility gig from May 2024 thru the end of April in 2025. FYI- there are certain projects that may be funded at 100% by MPTF such as some educational gigs, or gigs during Jazz Appreciation Month which occurs in April, and Black History Month which is the month of February. As always, if there are any questions concerning this process, just give us a call @ 412-855-5137 (George's cell) or shoot us an e-mail at president@afmpittsburgh.com for more information. **LET'S MAKE THIS HAPPEN!!!**

FRANK OSTROWSKI

I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Frank Ostrowski this past February 23rd. It was Al Wruble-

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sky, who was very close to Frank, calling to tell me. Frank had been in failing health the past several years having gone through a number of medical procedures. The last one was a heart valve replacement just a couple of months before his passing. Even though it left Frank in a weakened state, he was still living at his home on Morningrise Dr. and getting along with some help. Kind of strange that, knowing Frank's health concerns, I was still shocked that he was gone. I knew Frank since I joined the Local back in....well let's just say some time ago. In fact, one of the first Union gigs that I ever played included the PSO's



Frank and Joan Ostrowski

Frank Ostrowski on trumpet! Frank was with the symphony for about 15 years I believe having played with the Boston Pops under Arthur Feidler along with smaller orchestras and serving in the military at Fort Meade and also overseas. Frank became the contractor for CLO back in the sixties and continued in that position for many, many decades. I want to say 60 years! He also served as the musical coordinator for Pittsburgh Opera and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater. These were, of course, completely separate orchestras and CBA's from the PSO. Frank contracted many shows at the Benedum and at Heinz Hall before the Benedum was even opened. He was gracious enough to hire me for some CLO back in the day and for shows like Sammy Davis Jr., Johnny Mathis, Steve and Eydie, and others that I can't even recall. I probably would not have had one minute of that work were it not for Frank O. Anyway, it was always great fun to be around Frank if just for the stories that he had to tell and tell them he did! He once played a Bar Mitzvah for a dog at the Rivers Club downtown. Al Wrublesky informed me that he was on that gig which doesn't surprise me in the least! There was never a dull moment, as they say. I liked to get to any card game involving Frank and I can't even play Old Maids! It was just fun being there. Frank probably put more musicians to work than anyone that I could possibly think of. There are so many of us who owe Frank a debt of thanks for work offered by him over the many years. Ironically, I spoke with him the day before he passed and he was considering contracting an orchestra for a show at Heinz Hall later this year! Well, Frank was only 94 so why not!!! Frank would call me at the office frequently to see how things were with me and the Union. If he liked what he heard he would give me the old "atta boy". If things weren't going so well he would just say, "well, what the hell are you gonna do!" If I needed to call Frank and apologized for calling too early he would tell me not to worry that he "was up at the crack of ice!" I should mention that Frank served on the Local 60-471 Executive Board for many years and really knew a great deal about the

inner workings of the Local. He was a check signer for all expenses here at the Local in those days. A very savvy guy. I will miss Frank on many levels, as a fellow musician, leader, and at times a mentor in my early days in office, and someone whom I considered to be a friend. A very real character the likes of which we see very few of these days. Frank, may you rest in peace.

AFSCME

We don't often address issues involving other labor unions in our newsletter. We are taking a slight departure and will point out that unionism is far from dead not only in the music industry but in other workplaces as well. The union known as AFSCME which stands for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees has just ratified a new contract with Eastern Illinois University. This falls within the jurisdiction of Local 981. All wages covered in the new CBA will increase 15% and 24% over the next four years. And the lowest paid staff will now see their wages start at \$16.00 per hour, a 13% increase over current rates. The contract also included four weeks of paid parental leave and more harassment protections.

"Together we won an agreement that takes important steps in the right direction." Kim Pope, an office manager in the EIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the president of AFSCME Local 981, said. "We're committed to supporting students and the whole campus community. This contract will allow us to keep doing that by insuring the improved wages and benefits we deserve."

I do believe it's a good thing to keep up with what is going on in elsewhere in the labor movement. We will continue to do so as we move along.

LA TRAVIATA

Pittsburgh Opera presented La Traviata in late March at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts. (BTW-spell check tried to change this to Travolta. Spell check has no sense of culture!) This is a most famous of all Verdi's operas and I believe was the most performed of all of Verdi's operas during his lifetime. Verdi composed this in three acts and it premiered on March 6, 1853 at the La Fenice Opera House in Venice. No, I was not in attendance that evening. I looked it up! Anyway, this is one of Verdi's romantic operas based on the 1852 play by Alexandre Dumas "La Dame aux Camelias". La Fenice had been clamoring for a new opera but Verdi was afraid that the singers there would not do his opera justice. Apparently he was right. Of the primary cast members, only the soprano who played Violetta was adequate. Unfortunately, I read that she was a bit too old for the part and overweight. When La Traviata opened, audience members openly mocked the idea that she could possibly be a desirable courtesan and certainly not one wasting away from tuberculosis as was written. Well, the opera was performed at the Teatro San Benedetto in Venice a few months later and with some different singers and small revisions proved to be a great success. As for Pittsburgh

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Opera's version, I thought the quality in keeping with almost all of the company's efforts. I had seen this at Pittsburgh Opera at least once before and found it most enjoyable. I do thank Pittsburgh Opera for turning me into a fan of the musical genre. Some friends have expressed their concern that the only thing that spoils opera for them is the singing! Well, I guess in that case, opera may not be for you. You might want to give it one more try in the spirit of adventure and see if it doesn't grow on you. At any rate, the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra did their usual outstanding job ably conducted by Maestro Antony Walker. When I first began attending these productions and knowing very little about any of it, I would hear a familiar piece of music and think to my self now I know where this comes from. Kind of fun really. I won't get into the story line here but, as always, I strongly recommend that you take in a Pittsburgh Opera Production sooner than later. It's LIVE MUSIC at it's best and makes for a most enjoyable evening. I see our member and FAC Committee member **Hal Weiss** there from time to time but I know that he never misses a Pittsburgh Opera production. See you there soon!

GREAT OAK WINERY

I ventured out to Finleyville not long ago to catch **Lou Lucarelli's** trio at the Great Oak Winery. The trio consisted of Lou on vibes and vocals, the Vice-Prez **Andy Yalch** on keys, and drummer **Rich Scampone** whom I had not seen in over thirty some years. I really liked the sound of the new trio even over the previous version with a saxophone. Might sound a bit odd as a saxophonist myself, but it seems to work really well. Lou is doing some singing these days to add another dimension to the group. Lots of great tunes over the course of the evening. I should mention that I met guitarist and Local 60-471 member **Jim Hudzik** and his lovely wife **Marianne** there for drinks. Nothing like good company, good music, and a good glass of merlot. Lou plays a very wide variety of music and it all swings. The winery serves cheese plates, small pizzas and the like so if you're really hungry, you might want to grab a bite elsewhere be-



fore heading to Great Oaks. They offer a variety of musical styles during the week so you might want to check their website before you go. I will say that the wine is excellent! And when you go to a winery, isn't that most important!

PAT O'DONNELL GROUP

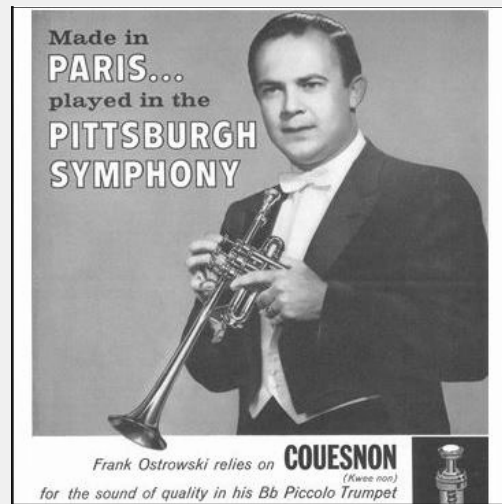
I took a walk downtown after work to catch the **Pat O'Donnell** Group at the newly remodeled Lounge at the Greer Cabaret Theater on Penn Avenue. The brand new sextet was excellent featuring Pat on drums, **Andrew May**, upright bass, **Jeff Kunkle**, keyboard, **Mike Tamaro**, sax, **Joe Badaczewski**, trumpet, and **Reggie Watkins**, Trombone, and, of course, Pat on drums. This is a band modeled after the Jazz Messengers band of drummer Art Blakey of years ago and well worth hearing. Pat moved to Pittsburgh a few years ago from the New York area and has been active on the jazz scene performing with his quartet and sextet at venues such as Con Alma and the Manchester Craftmen's Guild. He will also be involved with an upcoming innovative project with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Education Department debuting in the Spring. While living in the NY area, Pat played drums and percussion for more than 20 Broadway shows and performed at landmark venues including Radio City Music Hall and Lincoln Center. Pat has music utilized on such shows as NBC Sports, House Hunters, and Blue Bloods and has earned multiple Emmy nominations for his work. On the night I caught the band, the musical offering included music arranged by Bob Mintzer, Gordon Goodwin, Bill Cunliffe, and the band's pianist Jeff Kunkle and Pat. The band sounded tight, swinging, and extremely professional with excellent soloing all around. I ran into drummer/percussionist **Al Wrublesky** in the house who's always fun to hang with and it was great speaking with fellow saxophonist Mike Tomaro who is still heading Duquesne's jazz program and playing great. I could only catch the first set as I had to be elsewhere a bit later but I do wish that I could have stayed for the entire gig. I would strongly recommend the band to anyone looking for something a bit different on the Pittsburgh jazz scene.

ONE MORE THOUGHT OR TWO

I do want to point out that this Union exists for the betterment of all musicians, not just those who may perform under a collective bargaining agreement. It is imperative that the AFM be relevant to all who join! If you are a musician performing under collective bargaining, you have the advantage of having the Union negotiate your scale and working conditions on your behalf. You do not go it alone. If there is language in the CBA that is not being followed to your detriment, the Union will go to bat for you by filing a grievance with management to resolve the issue. Now if you are not performing under a CBA, what then does the Union do for you? Well, number one, we still represent you and will go to bat for you if you run into a workplace problem and have a contract between your ensemble and the music purchaser. I should hasten to add that if no contract exists, nobody will

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'BURG SCENES



Just a bit of a tribute for the late Frank O. Trumpeter Steve Hawk and Frank Ostrowski. An old ad for Coueson trumpets featuring none other than Frank. A very fuzzy photo of Frank O. and Fred Rogers from Mr. Rogers Neighborhood. just a few years or so ago.

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be able to help you. It is imperative to protect yourself with a signed AFM agreement which the Local can provide for you. I do not have to remind you that the Local is a portal to MPTF gigs that you may apply for through the Local. These are usually 60 to 90 minutes in length depending on circumstances. Senior care and educational gigs are almost always 60 minutes while community ones usually run a bit longer. No one makes less than miscellaneous scale which comes out to \$143.63 with the leader making a larger leader fee. This is the best deal in town for an easy gig which we can help you with. There are countless senior homes and cen-

ters throughout the Pittsburgh area as well as schools where educational performances may be scheduled. Community events include park concerts sponsored by the local township or even a holiday parade. Most communities and senior facilities are happy to hear that they can have a performance held for half the actual cost since most are running a very tight budget and have very few dollars for entertainment. In fact, during certain months of the year, there are opportunities for a free concert or performance while the musicians are still paid the actual scale amount. MPTF is a great perk and a great reason to be an AFM member. The AFM offers

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PITTSBURGH MUSICIANS' UNION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

10/2/23

Called to order 8:20pm

Gaetano's Restaurant

Pledge of Allegiance lead by President/Secretary Clewer.

Roll Call was led by President/Secretary Clewer.

Executive Board-All Board members were present except for Joe Herndon.

Minutes were read by Vice President Yalch. There was a motion to accept by Rick Purcell and seconded by Sasha Shapiro. Motion carried unanimously.

Deaths-There were no deaths to report.

MPTF-President Clewer stated we have had up to 40 projects on the books so far. We have used \$27,000.00 of our \$29,000.000 allocation. We may be offered more. If there is any interest in this project, please call the office.

CBA's- We have negotiated 3 new CBA's in the past 6 weeks. RCB-6% increase for one year. Pittsburgh Public Theater-4% per year for a 16% increase for life of contract. Pittsburgh Playhouse-4% per year or 16% for life of contract.

Finances -Our financial situation has seen little change since our last negotiation.

For the Good of the Local- Elliott Ratliff made suggestions for future locations for meetings and other functions.

A motion to adjourn was made by Andy Yalch and seconded by Tom Evans. Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President.

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freelance musicians discounted legal services as well. The Union Plus Legal Service makes it easy for Union members and their families to get the legal help they need. In fact, research shows that 75% of Union Plus Legal Service matters are handled free of charge. It would depend on the scope of the legal matter but sometimes all it takes is a free consultation and follow up. There are also the discounted insurance products through the AFM such as instrument insurance and liability insurance. The AFM offers immigration assistance as well. For cross-border engagements, the AFM works with governments of both countries to obtain work visas in either location covering single engagements or tours. Of course there is the International Musician with its informative articles regarding all Union matters and audition ads from everywhere. There is the Lester Petrillo Memorial Fund for disabled musicians to help financially for such members. The AFM offers an AFM MasterCard with no annual fee and a low interest rate on purchases. Lots of reasons to belong to the AFM.

OLD TIMERS PARTY

Don't forget our OLD TIMERS PARTY sometime in late summer. We do not have an official date but we will send out an e-mail blast when we have finalized all. We will also place a notice in the 3rd qtr. newsletter. You must be at least 50 years of age or have been a member here for at least 20 years to attend. **Either one works!** We hope to secure the Lou Lucarelli band once again to entertain and I can guarantee that the food will be excellent. We suspect that some members were caught off guard by the switch in months for last year's OTP so this year we will send out an e-mail blast to remind about the party. Really hope to see you there where ever and whenever it will be!

Let me close here with a big thanks to all of you for your membership and loyalty to this Local. We are here **FOR YOU**. Please do not forget, **YOU ARE ALL THAT WE'VE GOT!**

Take care.

George

OFFICIAL PRICE LIST COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE YEAR 2025

THE PRICE LIST COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE MISCELLANEOUS SCALE REMAIN AT THE CURRENT RATE FOR 2024.

PERFORMANCE: 3 HOURS OR LESS	\$120.00
REHEARSAL: 3 HOURS OR LESS	\$105.00
SPECIAL 2 HOUR REHEARSAL;	\$80.00
TRANSPORTATION;	\$15.00
SATURDAY PREMIUM	\$10.00
OVERTIME;	\$20.00 per half hour
LEADER SCALE:	side musician rate + \$8.00+ \$4.00 for each sideman
PENSION:	7.194%

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR INPUT AS MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL PRICE LIST COMMITTEE:

JOE HERNDON
KEVIN MCMANUS
REBECCA ROTHERMEL
HAL WEISS
ANDREW P. YALCH

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

OUR OFFICE MOVED CLOSE TO ONE YEAR AGO. POST CARDS WERE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS INFORMING OF THE NEW ADDRESS. AFTER MAY 15TH, NO MAIL SENT TO THE WRONG ADDRESS WILL BE FORWARDED TO OUR CURRENT OFFICE. WE ARE NOW LOCATED ONE FLOOR UP ON THE 11TH FLOOR. HERE IS THE NEW ADDRESS ONCE AGAIN.

PITTSBURGH MUSICIANS' UNION
564 FORBES AVENUE
SUITE 1112
PGH. PA 15219

THANK YOU,
MIRIAM LESIKIEWICZ
OFFICE MANAGER



BECKY AND GEORGE?????

PITTSBURGH MUSICIANS' UNION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

1/9/2024

Called to order at 6:00pm via
Zoom Internet

Attendance-All Board members were present except for Tom Evans who was excused.

Minutes read from Previous meeting. Motion to accept by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Elliott Rtatliff. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial statements were reviewed.

New Members-There were 3 new members. Motion to accept by Andy Yalch and seconded by Joe Herndon. Motion carried unanimously.

Justin T. Carson-01/08/2024, Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet, Piccolo

Yun-Ya-Lo-01/09/2024, Cello, Piano

Mark Huggins, Violin

Resignations_ There were 3 resignations. Motion to accept with regrets by Andy yalch and seconded by Elliott Ratliff.

John A. Bowman

Cara Garofalo

Maya Norman

Deaths- None to report.

Membership Drive- Still doing research of pro's and con's of a membership drive.

General meetingpGaetano's on February 5, 2024 beginning at 7:00pm. Meeting at 8:00pm.

PSO negotiations to begin in April

For the Good of the Union- Stephanie Tretick complemented the CMU pipers who performed at the Christmas Pops Concert.

Motion to adjourn-Andy Yalch and seconded by Elliott Ratliff. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 6:37pm

Next Meeting 2'20/24 at 6:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch, Vice-President.

"The first thing in life is to do with purpose that which one proposes to do." ~ Pablo Casals

**Pittsburgh Musicians Union
Executive Board Meeting
2/21/24
Called to order 6:02 pm
Via Zoom Internet**

Attendance-All board members were present.

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

Financial statements were reviewed.

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

Resignations -There were 10 resignations. Motion to accept with regrets by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Elliot Ratliff. Motion carried-unanimous.

Janelle R. Burdell- effective December 31, 2023

Daniel G. Heasley-effective December 31, 2023

Ryellen D. Joaquim-effective December 31, 2023

Christine M. Mazza-effective December 31, 2023

Matthew L. McCormack-effective December 31, 2023

David P. Meyer-effective December 31,2023

Stephon R. Owens-effective December 31,2023

Ronald G. Scholl-effective December 31,2023

Lovie D. Smith-effective December 31, 2023

Therese West-effective September 30, 2023

Deaths- Their was 1 death to report. A Moment Of Silence was held for Stanley Kline.

Reinstatement-There was 1 reinstatement. Motion to accept -Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Tom Evans, Motion carried-unanimous.

Christopher M. Cox (student) 01/24/2024, Trumpet, Organ

David A. Riggs (student) 02/05/2024, Trumpet, Cornet

Matthew D. Simpson (student)-02/05/2024, Trumpet, Cornet, Flugelhorn

Concert And Show Scales-PMU class A scales are much lower than those of similar sized locals. After discussion,a motion was made by Marybeth Schotting to raise PMU class A venue scales to \$175.00 for rehearsals and \$200.00 for concerts,per 3 hour sessions. Seconded by Joe Herndon. Motion carried-unanimous.

Motion to adjourn-Marybeth Schotting and seconded by Elliot Ratliff- Motion carried-unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 6:44 pm

Next meeting 3/26/24- 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President

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reserves the right to refuse

any advertisement

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.

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Closed Weekends & Holidays

Officers for 2020-2022

President/Secretary — George A. Clewer
Vice President — Andrew P. Yalch

Executive Board
Thomas E. Evans
Joe Herndon
Elliott Ratliff
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 Musicians must be signed by the person submitting same and that these opinions are strictly those of the signers. Publication does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Union.