



PITTSBURGH MUSICIAN

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

3rd Quarter 2024

YOU ARE THE UNION!

Overture

By George Clewer
President/Secretary

It has been a very busy time around the Local the past month or so. Half of our ten CBA's are in need of a redo and we've been working to get all negotiations completed by the fall. The contracts in question are Pittsburgh Symphony, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, Pittsburgh Festival Orchestra, (formerly Opera Theater of Pittsburgh), Pittsburgh Musical Theater, and River City Brass. You can add Latshaw Productions to that list even though there is little if any work till the holiday season. As you must surely know, the collective bargaining agreements that we maintain are the lifeblood of this Local. It is very important to get the very best deals possible for all the agreements. While we can't openly discuss any of the contract negotiations, simply know that we call upon every resource available, financial and otherwise, to secure the best possible agreement for all of our bargaining units.

As always, we are very busy booking MPTF projects all around the Pittsburgh area. With less than 2 months gone in MPTF's fiscal year beginning in May, we have approximately 30 projects on the books either played or to be played. That puts us ahead of last year's record setting year. Call or e-mail with questions or requests for MPTF funding. Just keep in mind that

(Continued on page 2)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

REGULAR 3RD QUARTER DUES ARE DUE IN JULY IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$45.00**

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE IN JULY 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.

OLD-TIMERS PARTY

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

6:30PM - 9:00PM

GAETANO'S

BANKSVILLE ROAD

COCKTAIL HOUR

LIVE MUSIC AND JAM SESSION

DOOR PRIZE

RAFFLE

GOOD FOOD

PLEASE CALL 412-855-5137 TO
MAKE YOUR DINNER RESERVATIONS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2024

GAETANO'S RESTAURANT

BANKSVILLE ROAD

7:00PM SOCIAL

7:30PM DINNER

8:15PM BUSINESS MEETING

Please call 412-855-5137 to make your dinner reservations. See you there!

Burgounds

JAZZ IS ALIVE AND WELL

I caught some of Pat

O'Donnell's 6 piece band in a North Side park a few weeks ago and it was excellent. I had heard his group a few months ago elsewhere so I was expecting something really good. There were some changes in personnel from the first gig. Eric DeFade played tenor sax, Alex Perez was on



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'BURGSOUNDS CONTINUED

trumpet, and **Kevin McManus** did the trombone honors. Jeff Kunkel was on keys and all played exceptionally well! Lots of good sounding charts and a fun time.

Pat had another gig at Con Alma downtown in June with different personnel. There was a great crowd on hand to hear Pat's quartet featuring saxophonist **Jason Kush**, pianist **Victor Garzatto**, and bassist **Kurt Lorence**. The group played original compositions by Pat including a world premiere at the event. They also played tunes by Sonny Rollins, Miles Davis, Steely Dan and saxophonist, arranger Bob Mintzer. Pat has another gig coming up at Kingfly Spirits in the Strip District next month featuring **Mike Tomaro** on sax.

We do wish to mention that the Local has conducted a successful ratification vote on a successor agreement with Pittsburgh Musical Theater. There

(Continued from page 1)

OVERTURE CONTINUED

these performances MUST be free and open to the public. Venues such as schools, libraries, senior centers, and parks are all legitimate performance locations. Normally, MPTF will cover 50% of the cost of the performance with certain months such as Black History Month (Feb.), Women's History Month (March), and Jazz Appreciation Month (April) fully funded at 100%.

Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

George

THIRD QUARTER DUES

JUST A REMINDER THAT 3RD QUARTER DUES ARE NOW DUE TO BE PAID IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

REGULAR MEMBERS \$45.00

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS \$25.00

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THIS YEAR THERE WAS A DUES INCREASE HERE OF \$20.00 PER YEAR FOR REGULAR MEMBERS AND \$6.00 PER YEAR FOR HONORARY LIFERS. STILL A BARGAIN!

PLEASE BE ON TIME. WE REALLY DO NOT LIKE TO COLLECT LATE FEES BUT WE ARE REQUIRED TO DO SO ACCORDING TO OUR BYLAWS.

were \$10.00 increases in each of three years for Rehearsals and performances which constitutes our overall best gain there ever. I want to publicly thank **Joe Herndon** for his help with this theater agreement. PMT performs both at the Byham Theater in downtown Pittsburgh and at the Gargaro Theater located in the West End.

CBA'S AND BARGAINING

From time to time I'm asked how our contracts get negotiated. Kind of like who does what? Each of our CBA's is unique. No two are alike. Each contract is approached differently with the end game being to achieve the best result possible for the members of each and every bargaining unit that Local 60-471 represents. First of all, I make it a point to be present for all negotiations whether I'm the lead negotiator or there in a supportive role. As mentioned previously, we just bargained the Pittsburgh Musical Theater agreement. There were two of us present at the bargaining table representing the Union. I asked Joe Herndon for his help with the negotiations since Joe has performed at PMT many times over many years and knows the landscape there well. Things went very smoothly and only one bargaining session was required to achieve a proposal to take to the bargaining unit that we felt was a good one. As mentioned there were \$10.00 raises per service in each of the three years and the contract ratified quickly and easily.

For our theatrical contracts, I make a point to have members of the pit orchestra present at the table. It's not always easy to identify the bargaining unit since, in most cases, the personnel floats a bit with various musicians getting the call for shows. We tend to look back over the life of the agreement to see just who played the most services to establish who will be voting come ratification time. We do this at CLO, Pittsburgh Playhouse, PMT, and Public Theater.

Of course, we have agreements which offer tenure for the musicians performing under those CBA'S and that makes identifying the bargaining units quite easy. These agreements would include Pittsburgh Symphony, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Ballet Theater, and River City Brass. For the PSO, we always employ a labor attorney to lead the negotiations along with the Orchestra Committee. The PSO agreement is quite involved and can become problematic in so many ways. This is the only full-time bargaining unit in the Local and the contract exemplifies this with touring language, paternity leave, health care, string rotation, electronic media guarantee and so many items absent

from most other agreements. Very happy to have Kevin Case and an outstanding orchestra committee present for all proceedings.

Pittsburgh Opera and Pittsburgh Ballet Theater are similar agreements with a great deal of overlap in the bargaining units. Both of these orchestras are well represented by strong committees employing members who have a great deal of experience at the bargaining table and are invaluable when negotiations come around. We often consult our attorney when at the bargaining table with these two contracts. Legal matters come up that require a legal mind and Kevin can be relied on to provide the best answers to anything that comes our way.

As of this writing, we still have the PSO agreement in process along with Pittsburgh Festival Orchestra, RCBB, and Pgh. Ballet Theater to be tackled before fall. Again, it is our hope to achieve the best possible financial and work place terms possible in each negotiation.

JOHN MCCARTHY

John McCarthy along with soprano **Rosemary Pavlovsky** presented a recital at the Citizens Library in Washington, PA in early July. John is a violinist and violist who has performed with the Pittsburgh Opera and Ballet Orchestras for many years along with countless other gigs of all kinds. On this occasion however, John was the piano accompanist for Rosemary and, I must say, did an outstanding job of it! Rosemary has performed with the Undercroft Opera, Pittsburgh Savoyards, The Austrian American Cultural Society and the Crittenden Opera Studio in Washington, D.C. She is an alumnus of the prestigious AIMS in Graz, Austria opera studio and has since returned to Austria as a featured recitalist at Schloss Greillenstein in Horn with pianist Pierre El-Doueih. Rosemary has also been a guest soloist with the Clarksburg Symphony performing arias by Puccini and Dvorak. She is also a frequent soloist with various churches in the Pittsburgh area where she has performed with members of our own Pittsburgh Symphony. Included on the well attended recital were 3 Arias from Rosina by Shields, 2 arias from The Marriage of Figaro by Mozart, and Shubert's Ave Maria. John demonstrated his pianistic skills with a performance of Beethoven's Fur Elise. This was an outstanding performance that I'm happy to say I was able to attend. Again, I only knew John as a violist with the Opera and Ballet Orchestras, Now I know him as an excellent pianist as well. Very nicely done!

MPTF

As you know, the Music Performance Trust Fund has become a major part of what we do here in Local 60-471. I'll just give it a brief mention here this time around. The most important thing to remember when considering whether or not a particular gig qualifies for an MPTF project is whether it is open to the public or not. Private affairs are not MPTF projects. Weddings and banquets of any kind are not MPTF projects. Club gigs likewise do not qualify for dollars from the Fund. Clubs are on their own here. They don't get help from MPTF. As mentioned many times here, schools, senior and medical facilities, and community events are all MPTF favorable. Libraries are often good venues for an MPTF project. We've had a number of members requesting funding for programs in libraries. There are so many retirement communities and senior centers in and around the city that we couldn't list them all here if we tried. As stated in a prior journal, we set a new record last year for MPTF projects and it does appear that we will break that if we continue our current pace. I'll remind you that we put about \$65,000 in scale wages in the workplace this past MPTF fiscal year including the co-sponsor share. As always, if you have any questions about how to apply for such an MPTF project, please e-mail me at president@afmpittsburgh.com or call me at (412)-855-5137. I should mention that these gigs are usually an hour long in length and pay over \$140.00. The community type projects can run 90 minutes with a good 10-15 minute break included. Hope to hear from you soon.

PITTSBURGH FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

We are working on updating our agreement with Pittsburgh Festival Opera, formerly known as Pittsburgh Opera Theater. It was quite a few years ago that **Paula Tuttle** and I negotiated the very first agreement with Opera Theater. When COVID hit, that company fell completely off our radar. There have been internal changes with the company as well as the name change. Now known as Pittsburgh Festival Opera and with operatic singer Marianne Cornetti very much involved, we are seeing much progress in terms of their business model. Their first big production is coming up in the fall with a large orchestra contracted by **Jeff Mangone**. We hope to have a full fledged CBA in place relatively soon and with a much higher scale than was utilized previously. I would think the chances are quite good for that all to happen. We will keep you posted.

(Continued on page 4)

'BURG SCENES



Jim Whipple, Bassoonist, leader of Renaissance City Winds and renowned teacher and lecturer. Rick Matt, one of the 'Burg's finest sax and woodwind players. Paula Tuttle, cellist and member of the Pittsburgh Opera and Ballet Orchestras and leader of various groups including the Diamante Trio and Diamante Orchestra.

(Continued from page 3)

DAN HEASLEY

For those of you not familiar with the name **Dan Heasley**, Dan is one of our finest saxophonists and woodwind doublers and has played countless shows in and around Pittsburgh as well as work in the Cleveland area. Dan recently suffered a horrific injury to fingers on one hand while working with a table saw. There is currently a GiveSendGo set up to help Dan with expenses as he is unable to work at this time. You can go to his page at GiveSendGo and make a dona-

tion to help with Dan's medical bills, etc. There is also a link to that page on our website. I do understand that Dan's instruments are being modified to help him return to playing once again. The PMU is helping with Dan's dues and encourages others to offer whatever they can.

PSO CBA

As of this writing, the Pittsburgh Symphony CBA negotiation is still in process. While I can't really address any particulars here in the newsletter, I will

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say that the bargaining atmosphere is much more conducive to getting a deal done than that of eight years ago! Remember the strike? I am spending a bit more time at Heinz Hall than I have in awhile but hoping it will be time well spent! I'd much rather be sitting in the hall listening to our great orchestra than in the Mozart Room at a table! I am greatly appreciative of the Orchestra Committee of Committee Chair **Brandon McLean, Jeremy Black, Rhian Kenny, Alexandra Lee, Nicholas Meyers, Dylan Naroff, and David Sogg**, who, along with attorney **Kevin Case**, have been working diligently for the members of that bargaining unit. Much progress has been made but there is more to do. Hoping for an acceptable proposal to take to the bargaining unit for ratification soon.

OLD TIMERS PARTY

As noted on page one of the journal, this year's OLDTIMERS PARTY is scheduled for Monday, September 9th and will be held once again at Gaetano's on Banksville Road just off the parkway. We have had serious discussions about the future of this party but we would like to keep it going with the hope that we can generate more attendance moving forward. We have also decided to move it from late August to early September in the hope that more members will be back from late summer vacations and available to attend. There were at least a half dozen folks who were out of town for last year's party. In an effort to boost attendance, I am sending postcards to

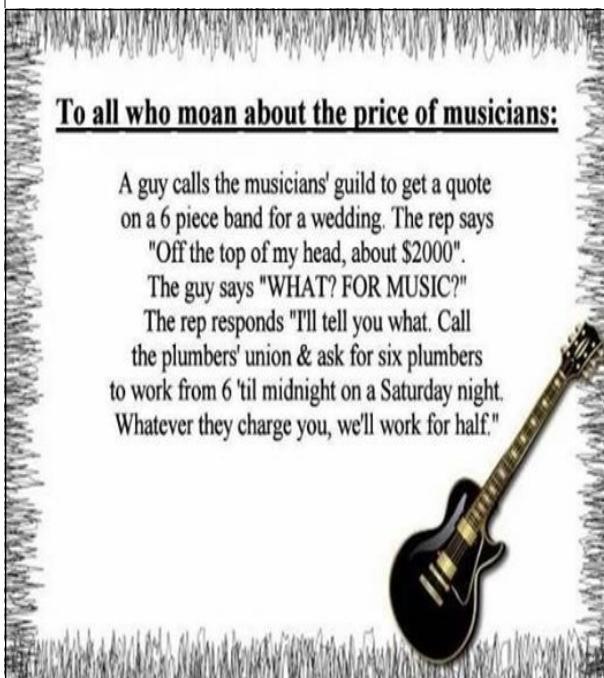
eligible members as a reminder. Lou Lucarelli's band will host a jam session from 6:30pm-7:30pm with an excellent buffet dinner served at or around 7:30pm. Adult beverages are on the house along with soft drinks. We will have a door prize for all and will conduct a raffle offering some other gifts as well. Please keep in mind that the requirements are not all that stringent to be in attendance. One must either be a member for at least 20 years or be at least 50 years of age. I do believe this would include more than a third of our membership at this time. If you have any doubt as to your eligibility, please get in touch with Miriam at 412-215-9545. Truly hoping to see you there if you meet the requirements.

UNION MEMBERSHIP

I'm always a bit disheartened when we get a new member and within 6 months to a year they resign or simply disappear from our roles. I never like losing a member but it's much more than that. I always feel like that young member gave up on the Union or maybe even themselves. That is disturbing. This is a tough business with less work than I've ever seen. Our show work employs less musicians in the pit than ever before and string players are continually replaced with synthesizers. We do our best to fight for more work for more musicians but it is a losing battle as evidenced by what we see all around the AFM. No matter what, I would encourage all of our members to hang in and tough it out. It is discouraging to see fewer employment opportunities than ever but those who persist will certainly make the most gains! That's logic that you can't refute no matter how hard you may try. The most important word in our dictionary in my mind is "persistence". I don't care what the odds are out there, persistence pays off way more than "insistence" that there is no work. Want to argue that? It's an argument that you can't win. This business favors those with persistence. It's for those with solid talent but also with an indomitable spirit that won't let you throw in the towel. To me persistence is every bit as important than whatever talent an individual may possess. Some folks give up on the Union and what it can mean to them after 6 months to a year. Please keep in mind that, in the grand scheme of things, that's not very long. Way too soon to say "forget it". Don't give up on the Union and more importantly yourself! You've come this far. Keep going. You never know what's just around the corner.

Truly hope to see you next time!

George



To all who moan about the price of musicians:

A guy calls the musicians' guild to get a quote on a 6 piece band for a wedding. The rep says "Off the top of my head, about \$2000".
The guy says "WHAT? FOR MUSIC?"
The rep responds "I'll tell you what. Call the plumbers' union & ask for six plumbers to work from 6 'til midnight on a Saturday night. Whatever they charge you, we'll work for half."

**Pittsburgh Musicians Union
Executive Board Meeting
3/26/24
Called to order 6:05 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 no new members .

Resignations -There were 2 resignations. Motion to accept with thanks by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Elliot Ratliff. Motion carried-unanimous.

Deaths- Their was 1 death to report. A Moment Of Silence was held for Frank Ostrowski.

Reinstatement-There were no reinstatement.

PSO-Negotiations are ongoing.

Concert and Show Scale-Class A hall-\$165.00 per performance-\$25.00 per quater hour overtime.\$80.00 holiday add on scale.

Rehearsal Scale-\$125.00 per rehearsal-\$20.00 per quarter hour overtime.

A motion to accept these scales was made by Joe Herndon and seconded by Elliot Ratliff. Motion carried unanimous.

Motion to adjourn-Andy Yalch and seconded by Stephanie Tretick- Motion carried-unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 6:41 pm

Next meeting 4/23/24- 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President

**Pittsburgh Musicians Union
Executive Board Meeting
4/24/24
Called to order 6:05 pm
Via Zoom Internet**

Attendance-All Executive 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 2 new members . Motion to accept by Stephanie Tretick and seconded by Elliott Ratliff-Motion carried -unanimous

Maeve R. Berry (student)-04/12/2024, Piano, Organ, Harpsichord, Vocals

Alexander J Perez- (student)04/22/2024, Trumpet

Resignations -There were 3 resignations. Motion to accept with thanks by Tom Evans and seconded by Joe Herndon. Motion carried-unanimous.

Leslie L. Dean

Joseph F. Lagnese

Erin E. Schmidt

Deaths- Their were no deaths to report.

Reinstatement-There were no reinstatement s.

PSO-Negotiations for a new CBA are on going.

RCBB-Negotiations for a new CBA are on going.

Pittsburgh Musical Theater-We are in the final year of our agreement.

Eastern Conference-Elliott Ratliff talked about the coming Eastern Conference and topics that will be discussed.Elliott is the Vice President.

Motion to adjourn-Andy Yalch and seconded by Stephanie Tretick- Motion carried-unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 6:41 pm

Next meeting 5/24- 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Andy Yalch-Vice President

Pittsburgh Musicians' Union Board Meeting
May 28, 2024
Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

In attendance: President/Secretary George Clewer, Stephanie Tretick, Tom Evans, Elliott Ratliff, Joe Herndon, MaryBeth Schotting. Vice President Andy Yalch was excused.

Last Board meeting's minutes were not available today, but will be reviewed later, probably at the next Board meeting.

The Financial Report was reviewed.

President/Secretary's Report:

New Members (2).

Motion to accept the new members made by Evans & seconded by Ratliff. The Motion carried unanimously.
Dale Jeong (student)-05/17/2024, Cello
Charles R. Lampert (student)-05/12/2024

Reinstatements (1).

Emily Tarantino

Motion to accept made by Schotting & seconded by Tretick. The Motion carried unanimously.

Resignations (13).

Helen M. Andrascik-effective December 31, 2023
Ryan M. Bassett-effective December 31, 2023
James Cunningham-effective December 31, 2023
Cassandra Eisenreich-effective December 31, 2023
Stephen L. Hawk-effective December 31, 2023
Suzanne H. Levinson-effective December 31, 2023
Ian Mayton-effective December 31, 2023
Kyle A. Mustain-effective December 31, 2023
Samantha Nelson-effective December 31, 2023
David T. Premo-effective December 31, 2023
Anne Schneller-effective December 31, 2023
Kaylyn Shearer-effective December 31, 2023
Lynn A. Speakman-effective December 31, 2023

Motion to accept, with regrets made by Herndon & seconded by Schotting. The Motion carried unanimously.

There were no deaths to report.

President/Secretary Clewer reported on status of local CBAs which are either being negotiated or need to have meetings scheduled: the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Pittsburgh Festival Opera, River City Brass Band, and the Pittsburgh Musical Theater.

The Old Timers' Party will occur later in the summer. The PMU office may send out postcards to all eligible Union members to get the word out. The venue is still TBD.

It was agreed to post a notice on the Union website/send out an email to the PMU list regarding Member Dan Heasley's Go Fund Me campaign which was set up to help defray his medical costs following his recent accident.

The next Board Meeting will occur on June 25, 2024 at 5:00pm via Zoom.

A Motion was made by Schotting to adjourn, seconded by Herndon. The Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 6:49pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Tretick, Board Member



WEBSITE LIST OF MUSICIANS AND TEACHERS

If you go to www.afmpittsburgh.com you will see two areas where our members may list themselves under "HIRE A MUSICIAN" or "FIND A TEACHER". You can have yourself listed in either or both categories with just a quick e-mail to the Local letting us know that you would like to be listed on site. We will then send an attachment containing a website questionnaire for you to fill out and return to us. Simply do so and we will quickly get you up and running on our website. There is certainly no extra charge for this. It's a benefit of your Pittsburgh Musicians' Union membership. Let us hear from you.

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

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George A. Clewer.....Editor
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Pittsburgh Musicians' Union
Local 69-471, A.F. of M., AFL-CIO
541 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 1112
5219
Phone: 412-281-1822
Fax: 412-281-7866
Website: www.almpitstop.org/com
Office Hours:
Monday Through Friday 9AM to 5PM
Closed Weekends & Holidays
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in order to protect the interests of the Union. We hold that the options of the Union
and the bargaining strength of the Union must be strengthened.
tion does not necessarily reflect the option of the Union.