

Overture

online



MAY

International Workers' Day

**MUSICIANS ARE
WORKERS**

**2nd Annual AFM Local 47
Jazz Festival Photo Gallery**

**Spring Membership Drive:
Spread the Word!**

Overture

online

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American Federation of Musicians Local 47 -

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Linda A. Rapka

**AFM LOCAL
47**

Message From the Editor

Please be aware that until further notice, AFM Local 47 will not be publishing, due to cost-saving measures, a print Overture Magazine. We will continue to publish our monthly digital e-magazine, Overture Online, and will continue email blasts and our Local 47 Beat email newsletter.

In order to better serve you, Local 47 is looking at every possible way to cut costs and save on administrative expenses. One simple yet effective step all members can take to help us reduce expenses is to add your current email address to your Directory profile. This allows us to ensure that you receive timely updates from Local 47 in the most cost-effective way possible.

Please update your Directory profile with your current email and notification preferences by filling out the update form at afm47.org/directory or call 323.993.3159. Thank you!

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Contents

Navigate back to Contents by tapping the "O"

Overture Online / Vol. 10 No. 5 / May 2024 / afm47.org



Columns

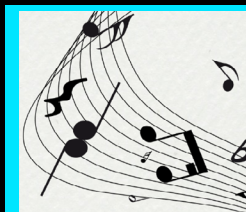
Features



2nd Annual AFM Local 47 Jazz Fest Photo Gallery



Member Spotlight: Pam Gates



Orchestration with Dr. Norman Ludwin: Free Classes for Members



Ensemble 2.0: Making Our Website Work Better for You



Volunteers Needed on May 11 to Help Stamp Out Hunger!

President Stephanie O'Keefe



“Only a fool would try to deprive working men and working women of their right to join the union of their choice.” - *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

May 1st is International Workers’ Day, a day marked by rallies, demonstrations, and the remembrance of the struggles of the early labor movement.

It is also a time to recognize the accomplishments and future goals of labor unions.

But what, really, is a union?

The Oxford dictionary defines union as “an organized association of workers formed to protect and further their rights and interests.”

The three key words in that definition seem to be: “organize,” “rights,” and “interests.”

In fact, one could say that the entire history of unionism is reflected in these three words.

Workers come together and **organize** to address workplace issues such as safety, overtime, adequate breaks, ventilation, freedom from harassment, and hate speech and protection from potentially toxic substances. These types of universal issues have come to be known as workers’ **rights**.

Other issues, such as seniority, job training, promotions, and wage increases, are more commonly thought of as **interests**. These issues are less universal, more specific, and may vary from one profession to another.

There is another key element at play; the organizing of multiple, different unions, to stand together, presenting a *solidarity* that communicates to employers that workers will not tolerate exploitation in their profession, or any other. This is the essence of the labor movement and has been highly effective. Union solidarity has created effective change for over one hundred years and continues to create that change right now, even as you read this column.

But what does any of this “union stuff” have to do with us?

Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on your viewpoint, quite a bit.

Let’s start with workers’ rights.

One might think that musicians, as highly skilled artists, wouldn’t need to organize and fight for basic rights, such as a safe workplace, freedom from hate speech or harassment, adequate ventilation, regular breaks, or even access to restrooms and clean drinking water.

Unfortunately, in the 3 ½ years I have been in office, I have dealt with every single one of these issues. While that might sound demoralizing, the strength of our AFM contracts and the labor laws that have been enacted – due to the struggles and victories of organized labor – allowed the Local to correct these situations and insist that musicians be treated fairly.

Our contracts also address the interests of professional musicians; hiring practices, just cause, tenure and probationary status, cancellations and substitutes, correctly calculated and timely paid wages, pension, and health insurance.

And again, I have dealt with contract violations involving every single one of these issues, but the strength of our contracts prevailed.

And what of solidarity, the joining together and support of many unions to further the goals of organized labor?

The solidarity and coalition building among the entertainment unions in Hollywood is exciting, unprecedented, and has resulted in breakthrough agreements. We are seeing a new age of communication, caring, and respect. Together, we are creating a network of protection for artists and for all the labor that creates the magic of Hollywood. And as our bonds strengthen, we also bolster the rest of organized labor, creating a growing network of workers, intent on a new tomorrow.

Happy International Workers’ Day to us all,

Stephanie

Vice President Marc Sazer



Whether it's the transformational threat we face from Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI), the billions of our tax dollars given to film/TV studios who take our music jobs overseas, or our ongoing battle to unlock fair radio airplay royalties from gigantic AM/FM broadcasters, we have big legislative goals.

All entertainment industry unions share a profound need to engage in the political processes of enacting legislation that benefits our members, and engaging with potentially harmful legislation. That all might sound dry and academic, but it's not — look at what our sister unions are involved in:

- SAG-AFTRA: “SAG-AFTRA’s [Government Affairs & Public Policy](#) (GAPP) Department develops and manages strategies to inform and influence public policy at city, state, federal and international levels.”
- I.A.T.S.E.: “[The Political/Legislative Department ensures that IATSE](#) members have a voice in the political process and a role in advancing policies that enhance their lives and work. If there is an issue that affects the IATSE, we seek to influence the outcome for the benefit of the IATSE membership.”
- Writers Guild: “[The WGAW’s Political Department](#) fosters member participation in the political process, including testifying before legislative and regulatory bodies, writing op-eds, blogs, articles and letters to elected officials in order to influence opinion and public policy. Working with coalition partners our goal is to enhance the WGAW’s independent voice on behalf of our writers/members.”
- Teamsters: “[This webpage provides information on the Teamsters Union’s](#) legislative advocacy at both the federal and state level as well as our field activity to support those policy positions and to get strong labor candidates elected to office.”

Our AFM sponsors a political action committee (PAC) called “TEMPO” that funds lobbying activities on behalf of musicians. TEMPO has played a key role in building relationships with California congressional representatives, and has been supportive of our efforts in Sacramento as well. (Please consider making a contribution to support this important work by scrolling to the bottom of [this page on afm.org](#).)

Local 47 has seen the value in “doing politics” in the public sphere for decades. In 1961 Local 47 President John Tranchitella worked alongside the Screen Actors Guild and other union leaders and the Motion Picture Producers Association for congressional hearings into “runaway production.” In 2017 Local 47 spearheaded a campaign for musicians “fair share” of our California film/TV tax credits.

It’s time to get to work again! Tax credits and AI are all about employment, and Local 47, working with the AFM, the Recording Musicians Association and other allies, is preparing to get involved.

All of these efforts involve our leadership, research, strategy and — most importantly — you! Moving legislators means face-to-face conversations, and the most powerful voices are those of musicians who are directly affected, and directly involved. If you are interested in joining in our long-term campaign for tax credits fairness, please email us at taxcredits@afm47.org.

Secretary/Treasurer Gail Kruvand



It's May Day! In the United States, the holiday was first celebrated in 1886 as part of the fight for the eight-hour workday. On May 1st of that year, hundreds of thousands of workers across the country went on strike, demanding better working conditions and shorter working hours. The theme of the May Day March 2024 in Los Angeles is "Solidarity is Power: The People United." As we march through Hollywood in support of immigrants rights and housing for all we will also celebrate the recent victories of the entertainment unions. Musicians know the power of solidarity!

The bookcase in the Secretary/Treasurer's office is full of interesting items, including books on labor law and history, as well as compilations of past Overtures. An article from April 1985 recently caught my attention. It's the President's Report in which then-President Bernie Fleisher reported on the AFM Western Conference of Locals. "[AFM] President Fuentealba spent a considerable amount of time discussing the most serious problem facing the A.F. of M. today, the 'graying' of our membership." He goes on to say that Life members accounted for 52% of all AFM membership. Fleisher wrote, "Local 47 is in a slightly better position than the national average. Our Life membership is 38%. But that figure is steadily increasing..." He described the consequences of the reduced Life member rates on the Local's finances and some possible remedies. Take a guess. What percentage of Local 47 members are in the Life member category today, 39 years later? Oddly enough, it's still 38%!! I'm struck by the consistency of that number even though the baby boomer generation is the largest retirement age group in U.S. history. The more things change the more they stay the same.

Spread the word, our annual membership drive is on! From now through June 30, all initiation fees, both local and national, are waived. If you have a student or colleague who is considering joining our local, please have them [email our Membership Department](#) for more information. Our membership was 5,366 at the end of the 1st quarter. Members are power!

Join us at the next [Member Mingle on May 17](#) at 11 a.m. in our Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place. It starts immediately after the new member orientation so members new and not-so-new can get to know each other. Earlier this month we had 15 members at our first Mingle. Come on over on May 17 and enjoy Hank's Bagels and coffee while you mingle. You never know who you might run into. I hope you can make it!

DO WE HAVE ROYALTIES FOR YOU?



More than \$650 Million Distributed to Musicians & Vocalists

Royalties Distributed to Both Union & Non-Union Session Musicians & Vocalists For
Their Performance on Songs Played on Satellite Radio, Non-Interactive Streaming Services,
Webcasts, Other Digital Formats and Certain Music Performed on Film & Television

Find Out If We Have Royalties For You

www.afmsagaaftrafund.org

  **AFM & SAG-AFTRA**
Intellectual Property Rights Distribution Fund

p. 818.255.7980 | f. 818.255.7985

www.afmsagaaftrafund.org



The AFM & SAG-AFTRA IPRD Fund is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization - est. 1998



MAY
International Workers' Day

**MUSICIANS ARE
WORKERS**

Celebrating Our Work on International Workers' Day

by Linda A. Rapka

Workers around the world are celebrated on May 1st, International Workers' Day. But what people define as "worker" isn't always so clear.

The presupposition that performing music is not a "real job" or is "just a hobby" unfortunately remains a somewhat popular — and vexacious — misconception. But make no mistake: Musicians *are* workers. Without our creative labor, the music industry simply could not exist.

"We've all heard about the power of music, the joy of music, but it 'third parties' musicians by leaving out the fact that music is made, crafted, composed, performed, and recorded — all of which is work. Work is not a bad word," says Tina Morrison, AFM International Executive Board Member and President of Local 105 (Spokane, WA). "Even among other working people, including other union workers, there seems to be a disconnect in acknowledging that musicians are also workers who should be appropriately compensated."

From young bands just starting out to seasoned performers working regularly — all musicians deserve good wages, decent working conditions, health care, and a secure retirement. As musicians, our greatest power is collective action. And as with any other profession, standing together positions us in a more powerful place than when standing alone. Joining together in a union allows you and your colleagues to protect your rights on the job, working to change the music industry, rather than being victimized by it.

"As a jazz musician, I've spent my life watching my heroes and colleagues being cheated and taken advantage of in professional situations," said John Clayton, bassist, AFM Local 47. "We've all got stories. I believe that organized solidarity and unity is key to battling these very real and negative elements. That's where a union comes in. If the people we work for perform dishonest acts, we need to hold them accountable. Our combined voices and numbers are our strength. The stronger our union, the stronger our voice. That's the way it's supposed to work and we should all find ways to create as strong a union as we can."

The American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada unites more than 70,000 musicians who stand together to demand fairness, build power, and earn a decent living.

"The Union is your support team that helps to manage the business side of music making leaving you more time and energy to pursue your artistic and career success," said Joseph Stone, oboist, AFM Local 47. "Wages, working conditions, health insurance, pension, dispute resolution, and Intellectual Property Rights protection... there is no practical way a musician can enjoy all those benefits without the being a member of the Musicians' Union."

The musicians union negotiates excellent industry-wide contracts covering sound recordings, television, motion pictures, jingles, touring musical productions, and more. It also collects and distributes intellectual property rights money from the use of sound recordings and audiovisual products at home and abroad.

"With the union I have resources behind me to ensure I'm treated fairly," said Billy Sullivan, drummer, AFM Local 47. "We are in a business that, for me, is so lonely and isolated that the comfort to know I'm not alone makes the difference."

The AFM has served musicians for more than 125 years in every musical workplace — on the concert stage, in the theater pit, in the recording studio, from national or international tours to neighborhood bars, throughout the U.S. and Canada. The union lobbies U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament for musicians' interests in AI, labor regulations, streaming, immigration, fair pay, intellectual property, taxation, and more.

"The AFM represents the single most viable organization representing professional musicians of all genres and backgrounds to be treated fairly and to receive the benefits of collective bargaining," says Alex Iles, trombonist, AFM Local 47. "Our past, present and future pay rates, working conditions, health insurance, and pension contributions would have not have existed (and will not exist) without us having a place to come together to make them happen. The AFM is that place."

Here in Los Angeles, AFM Local 47 represents more than 5,000 of the top musicians in the world.

"It is an honor to be affiliated with Local 47, especially with the quality of work generated here in Los Angeles," says Lesa Terry, violinist, AFM Local 47. "There are so many extraordinary musicians. To sit in the middle of the string section and hear the incredible sound that surrounds me is simply sublime!"

Like the music industry, the musicians union is changing and evolving, and its policies and programs advance in new directions dictated by its members. As a member, you determine these directions through your interest and involvement. AFM membership is your key to participation in governing your union, keeping it responsive to your needs, and enabling it to serve musicians better.

"The bottom line, together we are stronger," says Aaron Smith, trumpeter, AFM Local 47. "The Union, when functioning optimally, helps set fair base rates and protections so that all members are properly compensated for our services. For peace of mind, I'm a fan."

If you are not yet an AFM member and are interested in joining, AFM Local 47 in Los Angeles is holding a Spring Membership Drive through June 30, 2024, where all initiation fees are waived — a savings of \$140. Visit afm47.org/join to learn more. To join an AFM Local in another region, visit afm.org/join.



Pam Gates
Violinist

Pam Gates is a freelance violinist and music educator. She has been on the AFM Local 47 Executive Board for two decades. As a freelance violinist she has been a member of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra since its inception in 1991 and the Pasadena Symphony since 1990.

She has performed with LA Opera, American Ballet Theater, and in performances at the Pantages and the Greek Theatre. She has played on concert stages and recordings in Europe, South America and regularly on Hollywood live television shows including "The Tonight Show," the Grammys and the Academy Awards. She has played on soundtracks for over 500 motion picture and television shows.

Pam also has a private teaching studio and has been on faculties at USC Preparatory Program, Mount Saint Mary's College, Pasadena Youth Music Program, Harmony Project and Los Angeles Youth Orchestra.

#WhyUnion?

AFM Local 47's #WhyUnion campaign features members from every part of our profession, answering in their own words, this question: "Why Union?" For her contribution, Pam expounds upon the value of retaining lifelong union membership.

"Why should I keep my membership in AFM Local 47 and pay my dues if I'm retired?"

"I joined in AFM Local 47 in 1979. Those were the golden years of available work around the clock. I wasn't concerned with health insurance, saving money or having a pension. I just loved to work!

"After many years things shifted in the music recording business and there were fewer jobs. I had a mortgage and other financial responsibilities so I had to be creative and resourceful. That meant teaching more. So, I did it!

"Now I am still working my contracted Local 47 jobs along with a little teaching. I am so grateful for every orchestra, studio or live performance job with all of the great wage scales, benefits and union protections. When the day comes that I don't work any AFM Local 47 jobs anymore I would never think of quitting my membership with the union! In my retirement I would continue to receive my pension and residual checks. None of that money would be possible without the years of negotiations from the AFM. My conscience would never let me quit.

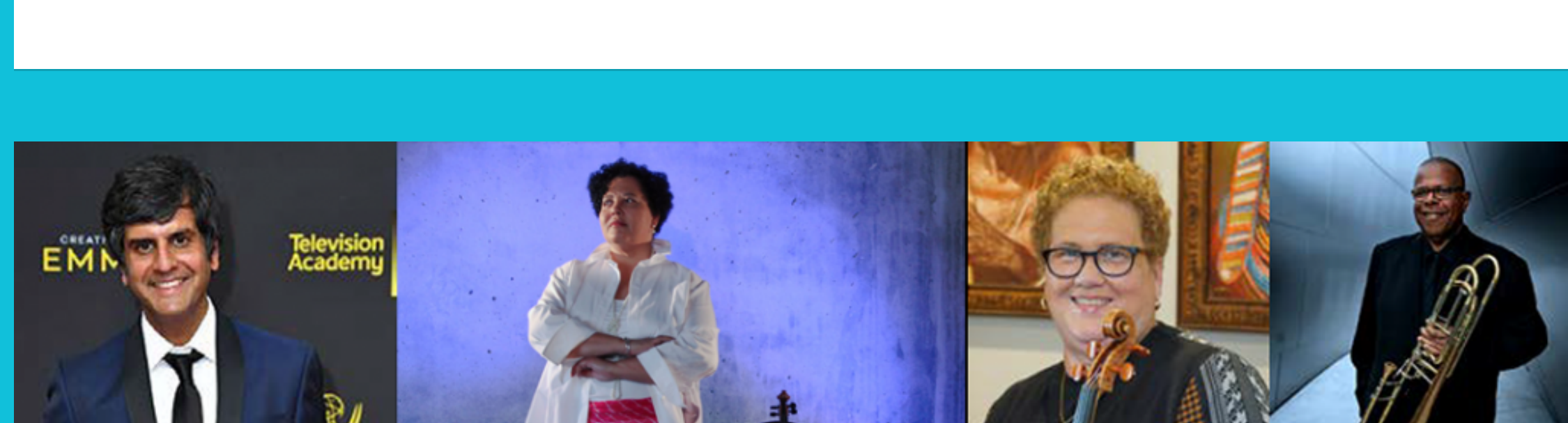
"My AFM Pension is a result of years of contract negotiations by our AFM officers and lawyers. The contracts to get us paid are very complicated. They stipulate not only our wage scales but also how much our employer has to contribute to the AFM pension and Health and Welfare on my behalf! These contracts take hours to formulate and are very detailed to make sure that we are protected. Our union dues pay for all of this to happen!

"So, even if you are not working anymore please be forever grateful for the years that you did have this incredible gift of our AFM musical community! I know I will be. Are you still getting residuals of some kind? Appreciate and know it came from the AFM's years of negotiations on your behalf.

"Please keep your AFM Local 47 membership always! It's the right thing to do!!!"

– Pam Gates, Violinist

Member since 1978






Read more member testimonials, and share your own answer, at WhyUnion.org.

AFM Local 47 presents

ORCHESTRATION

with Dr. Norman LudwinFree classes exclusively for AFM
Local 47 members!**June 5, 12, 19 & 26****Wednesdays, 3-5pm via Zoom**

AFM Local 47 members are invited to participate in an online learning experience with Executive Board member and professional orchestrator Dr. Norman Ludwin. This series of 4 classes will examine every section – Strings, Winds, & Brass – culminating in Full Orchestra. Students will also have the opportunity to complete their own optional orchestration assignments.

Register @  
afm47.org/orchestration

AFM LOCAL
47

About the Instructor:

Dr. Norman Ludwin is a pioneer in the field of orchestration and in the study of film composition. He has worked as an orchestrator in Hollywood and as an in-demand session bassist. His orchestration credits include: "Jurassic World," "Inside Out," "Star Trek: Into Darkness," "Super-8," "John Carter," and "Priest."



What Students are Saying:

"I just finished Norman's class, and it was excellent! I hope you continue to host these types of classes... He has so much knowledge and experience, and I hope Local 47 continues to elevate the skill set of its members by having as many training courses as possible." - John Mosser

"I just wanted to tell you what a great experience it was to attend Norman Ludwin's orchestration courses... Norman covers a lot of material in quite a bit of depth. He also is able to explain the material very well and his conversational manner is congenial as well as entertaining... These courses are a great benefit to Local 47 members; I know that I got a lot out of these courses." - Mike Saul

"I took the online orchestration seminar with Norman Ludwin, and just wanted to thank you and the entire Local 47 staff for organizing and presenting the class. It was an enjoyable time, with a lot of good discussion and ideas, and was well organized and presented by Norman. Thank you!" - Chris Rinaman

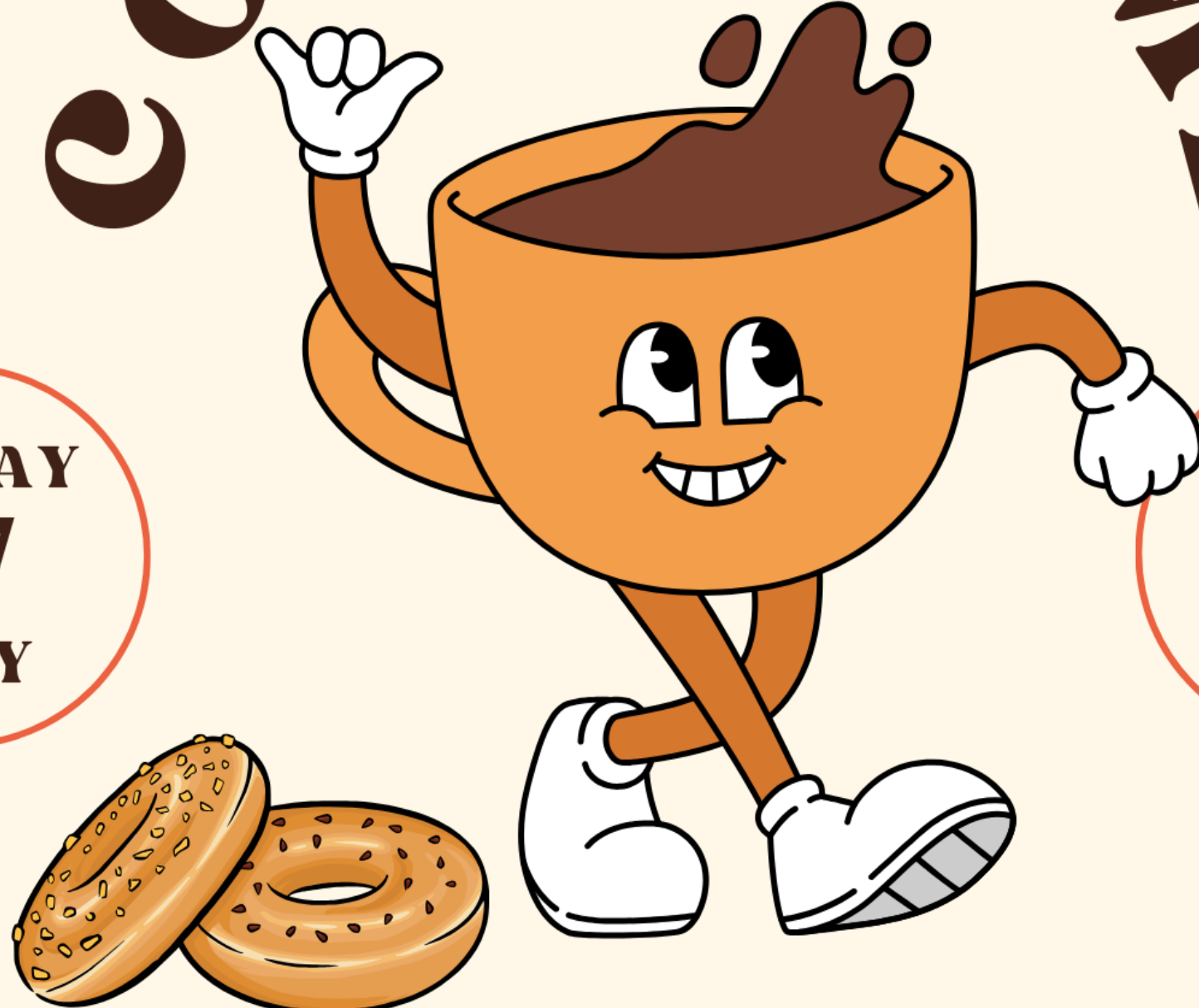
[Click here](https://afm47.org/orchestration) to register. AFM Local 47 membership will be verified prior to enrollment.

AFM LOCAL
47

COFFEE TIME

FRIDAY
17
MAY

11
A.M.



MEMBER MINGLE

JOIN US FOR COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE, BAGELS
& CONVERSATION IN OUR CAPTAIN GREG WELCH
GATHERING PLACE!

AFM LOCAL 47 3220 WINONA AVE. BURBANK CA 91504



Upcoming Events:

Letter Carriers' Food Drive Adopt-A-Post Office Volunteer Day

Saturday, May 11, 3-8 p.m.
(2 shifts available)

Glassell Station Post Office

3950 Eagle Rock Blvd (at Avenue 30), L.A. CA

Help us collect food donations directly from
letter carrier trucks on this annual donation day!

Email Food Drive Captain linda.rapka@afm47.org

Member Mingle

Friday, May 17, 11 a.m.

Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place

3220 Winona Ave. Burbank CA

Join us for coffee, bagels and conversation!

rsvp@afm47.org

Orchestration Classes with Dr. Norman Ludwin

Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. via Zoom

FREE classes exclusively for Local 47 members

afm47.org/orchestration

Ongoing Events:

Executive Board Meetings

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. via Zoom

Members welcome as observers

For login info email st_sec@afm47.org

New Member Orientation

Third Fridays, 10-11 a.m.

Local 47 Executive Board Room

Required of all new members

afm47.org/orientation

View our full calender of events
@ afm47.org/calendar



2nd Annual AFM Local 47 Jazz Festival Photo Gallery

In April during Jazz Appreciation Month, we were thrilled to host our second annual AFM Local 47 Jazz Festival. The free concert series, generously co-sponsored by the Music Performance Trust Fund, took place over three Sundays on April 14, 21 & 28 in our Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place.

DAY 1: Sunday, April 14



Photos by Linda A. Rapka & Lucius Gallo

AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe welcomes attendees and introduces and bassist John Clayton, who delivered opening remarks (watch the video [here](#)).

Igor Kogan Jazz Quintet



Photo by Lucius Gallo



Photos by Linda A. Rapka

The Lou Forestieri Trio feat. Corliss Dale



Photos by Linda A. Rapka

Pete Myers Orchestra



Photos by Diane Lauerman

West Coast Jazz Hour Big Band



Photos by Diane Lauerman



2nd Annual AFM Local 47 Jazz Festival Photo Gallery (continued)

DAY 2: Sunday, April 21

Aaron Janik Group



Photo by Marc Sazer

Ladd McIntosh Jazz Orchestra



Photo by Marc Sazer

Brass Attitude Big Band



Photo by Lucius Gallo



Photos by Linda A. Rapka

Perino's NoHo 7





2nd Annual AFM Local 47 Jazz Festival Photo Gallery (continued)

DAY 3: Sunday, April 28

Mark Towns Latin Jazz Band



Photo by Lucius Gallo



Photos by Linda A. Rapka

Adam Hersh Jazz Sextet



Photos by Linda A. Rapka

Dennis Mitcheltree Quintet



Photos by Linda A. Rapka

Brian Swartz and the Swartzestra



Photos by Linda A. Rapka



Photos by Lucius Gallo

"This music is about freedom, about movement, about creativity, about joy, about pain, and about ultimately setting one's spirit free. Jazz musicians are an essential part of our culture, and we in Los Angeles are incredibly blessed to include in our community many world-class practitioners of this great art form."

- AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe

Big Changes are Coming!



Ensemble 2.0: Making Our Website Work Better for You

AFM Local 47 has been hard at work updating our IT infrastructure, and at long last the finish line is in sight. We will soon be launching a new, fully cloud-based database named Ensemble 2.0 (or "E2") that will feature many substantial upgrades. Not only will staff be able to process data more efficiently, but user access for users will also be much improved.

You will soon be able to:

- Choose your own username (no more WebID)
- Update your personal Directory profile in real time
- Pay Work Dues and Membership Dues in the same transaction
- Go paperless for both Work Dues and Membership Dues
- View more detail in the new "My Jobs" section
- Access the new Advanced Directory Search that includes mailing addresses for those who have opted in to share that information
- and more features TBA



Is Your Info Current?

All users are encouraged to update your Directory info now, and most importantly add/update your email address, to expedite the new online registration process once E2 is launched. Please email directory@afm47.org to update your profile, and stay tuned for further updates.

At the Local



AFM LOCAL

47

American Federation of Musicians
Local 47

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**New and returning members pay ZERO
initiation fees through **June 30, 2024**
— a savings of \$140!**

It pays to be #UnionStrong

AFM member benefits include:

- Wage protection
- Health insurance & pension
- Low-cost rehearsal rooms
- Instrument insurance
- Free classes & seminars
- Emergency travel assistance
- Musicians referral service
- Expert help from union staff

Local & international contracts cover:

- Low-budget/student films
- Studio recordings
- Video games
- Live concerts
- Theatrical stage shows
- Motion pictures & television
- Commercials/jingles
- Demos

afm47.org/join



Welcome New Members!

- Juan Arguello - String Bass
- Shana Bey - Violin
- Olivia Catherine Hunt - Cello
- Farshad Rabbani - Piano
- Benjamin L. Brody - Composer
- Jeremy A. Earnest - Composer
- Yaron Eigenstein - Composer
- Peter Gemus - String Bass
- Steve Hass - Drum Set
- Raphaela Lacerda - Conductor/Director
- Fernanda Perera - Violin
- Parker Stanley Trent - Drum Set
- Rafael Vidal - Drum Set

Theatrical Motion Picture & TV Film Scales Updated

Effective April 28, 2024, the AFM Basic Television/Theatrical Motion Picture Agreement scale wages increased by 5%. This includes but is not limited to recording scale wages and Music Preparation wages.

Pension and Health & Welfare rates remain the same, 11.99% (Pension), \$48.54 per day (H&W).

You may view the current scales [here](#).

Do Not Work For

Giorgio Lalov

has been added to the [AFM Local 47 Do Not Work For list](#) and to the [AFM International Unfair List](#).



Go Paperless!

An illustration of a large, leafy tree with a brown trunk and a small orange bird perched on a branch to the left, set against a green background.

Sign up to receive work dues statements
online @ afm47.org/paperless

In the Studio



WGA Highlights AFM Local 47 in New Podcast Episode

In the latest edition of the Writers Guild of America West "3rd and Fairfax" podcast, AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe is interviewed by WGA member Jazz Peck as part of the episode's "Union Town" segment.

During the interview they discuss AFM's recent Film/TV contract negotiations, representing musicians in the industry, the power of solidarity, and the magic that both musicians and writers create with their work.

[Watch the video here.](#)

On the Town



That Chase Thing @ Citrus College

Jazz Appreciation Month Heats Up in the Southland

AFM Local 47 members were in full swing in April during Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), performing throughout the Southland.

JAM is intended to stimulate and encourage people of all ages to participate in jazz — to study the music, attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, and learn all about this unique American art form.



The LA 6 @ L.A. Valley College, led by Tom Peterson



6 Beats Apart @ Azusa Pacific University



Chris Tedesco's Jazz Band @ Veterans Home of California

Share your union-gig JAM photos — or those from any other union gigs — with us via our online submission form at afm47.org/overture, or send an email overture@afm47.org.



AFM International Executive Board Endorses Joe Biden

“Stand faithfully by your friends and elect them.
Oppose your enemies and defeat them.”

That is the political policy of the AFL-CIO, and one that the AFM has subscribed to for decades. The unquestionable truth of it motivated the AFM International Executive Board (IEB), in its first quarterly meeting of 2024, to endorse US President Joe Biden for re-election.*

Not since the administration of Franklin Roosevelt has any U.S. president shown the level of support for working Americans as from the Biden-Harris administration. With Joe Biden’s leadership:

- Congress passed the American Rescue Plan. As a result, the AFM’s U.S. pension plan (and other union pension funds that also got hammered by the Great Recession of 2007) will be able to maintain benefits for the membership into the future;
- The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) committed to a prevailing wage requirement for musicians and other performers hired by NEA grant recipients;
- All departments of the executive branch were instructed to wake up to the looming dangers of unregulated machine-ingested generative artificial intelligence and develop policy proposals to curb abuse;
- The slashing of federal funding of the arts stopped;
- The National Labor Relations Board was retooled to support workers’ rights both in employment and collective bargaining;
- Cabinet and executive posts have been filled with actual professionals who understand the missions of their departments and the citizenry that they serve.

This is not an exhaustive list, but it does provide a taste of the level of friendship musicians now enjoy in the Biden-Harris administration. It’s why the IEB, aware that political endorsements are always controversial within the membership, determined that an endorsement of Joe Biden for president is unequivocally in the best interests of professional musicians.

**In conformity with U.S. election law, the Canadian members of the IEB recused themselves from participating in the endorsement vote.*



A Message from the Pension Fund (AFM-EPF)

What is Happening With the Application for Special Financial Assistance?

As we reported in the December 2023 issue of Pension Fund Notes (PFN), there has been a slow-down in the PBGC's review process for all applications, including ours, due to a new application requirement that was added by the PBGC. We continue to follow the process we outlined in the December PFN (see the December 2023 Pension Fund Notes for more information). As we explained then, we would need to submit an updated application because of this new PBGC requirement. As expected, we withdrew our application so that we could re-submit it in the coming weeks.



The PBGC's new requirement had nothing to do with the content or quality of our application and is the result of issues with other funds' applications that have been previously filed. The PBGC took longer than anticipated to update its internal procedures to address these issues. The resubmission is happening later than we anticipated as a result and, therefore, we expect that the approval will happen in the summer of 2024.

The new PBGC procedures are now in place, and we are working with PBGC to finalize some details of our revised application prior to resubmission. We will be re-filing our revised application as soon as possible.

The Fund remains eligible for financial assistance under ARPA – it's only a matter of how much and when it will be received. The revisions to our application will not have a material effect on the amount of financial assistance that the Fund receives. Once in hand, the financial assistance is expected to provide additional security that all benefits will be paid for decades to come.

The wait is frustrating for everyone involved. However, it is important to keep in mind that when the Special Financial Assistance is paid to the Fund, interest from December 31, 2022 to the payment date will be added to the total.

The Fund has not issued a Pension Fund Notes since December 2023 because the situation has not substantively changed since this last notice. We continue to provide updates through Pension Fund Notes when there is new, substantive information to share.

Questions? Contact the pension fund [here](#).



Stamp Out Hunger! Letter Carriers' Food Drive: Saturday, May 11

Each year, letter carriers across the country head out on their routes on the second Saturday in May to collect donations of non-perishable food items to benefit local food pantries. Since launching in 1993, the National Association of Letter Carriers' annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has grown into the nation's largest one-day food drive, helping to fill the shelves of food banks in cities and towns throughout the United States.

Today, more than one in four residents of L.A. County is suffering from food insecurity. The need is great, but you can help. We invite you to join letter carriers and our partner organizations in the fight to end hunger in our communities by participating in the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Simply leave your donation of non-perishable food in a bag near your mailbox on the second Saturday in May, and your letter carrier will pick it up.

Volunteers Needed!

AFM Local 47 has adopted the following post office to help unload and sort bags of donated food off the mail delivery trucks on Saturday, May 11:

Glassell Station Post Office
3950 Eagle Rock Blvd (at Avenue 40)
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Please join us from 3-8 p.m. (2 shifts available) and get hands-on to help stamp out hunger! For more information please email Local 47's Food Drive Captain Linda Rapka: linda.rapka@afm47.org

Final Notes



In Memoriam

Jeanne E. Aiken

Life Member. Violin

05/20/1925 – 02/17/2024

Member since: 9/27/1955

Maria T. Casale

Member. Harp

12/13/1962 – 1/6/2024

Member since: 3/11/1986

Send your Final Notes remembrances using our online submission form at: afm47.org/overture

or you may send to:

overture@afm47.org

Local 47 Overture Online

3220 Winona Ave.

Burbank CA 91504



Alan Willaert

**AFM International Vice President from Canada
(1954 - 2024)**

*A Message From the American Federation of
Musicians of the United States and Canada*

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our colleague and friend Alan Willaert, American Federation of Musicians Vice President from Canada and Director of Canadian Affairs, on April 18, 2024.

Alan was a passionate and tenacious advocate for Canadian musicians — whether at contract negotiations or speaking about the impact of legislation before parliament.

His music career began at 15, and he was a touring musician through to the late '90s. Becoming interested in AFM internal functions, Willaert was elected to the board of Local 467 (Brantford, ON) in the 1980s. In 1990, he was asked to interview and was subsequently hired for the position of international representative by former Vice President from Canada, the late J. Alan Wood. Then, in 2007, he was appointed to the position of electronic media and intellectual property supervisor, and in 2011 was appointed executive director for Canada. Willaert held the position of executive director for Canada until being appointed by the AFM International Executive Board as vice president from Canada in March 2012.

"I first met Alan when I was a newly elected officer. At that time, he was the international representative for the Canadian Locals," says AFM International President Tino Gagliardi. "Because of his experience and knowledge of neighboring rights or any issue that affects musicians on either side of the border, not to mention his negotiating chops, we became fast friends. When he took the reins as Canadian VP, I was confident that the AFM was on the right track. And we were. We all learned from Alan; I know I did. I was so looking forward to our continued alliance and collaboration. Alan, I regret not being able to say 'Love ya, brother' one last time. You will always be in my heart and mind."

Although he had been battling cancer since last summer, his death was sudden at home. A celebration of life will be planned in the near future.

Open Mic

Are you a live music performer?
If so, I want to talk to you!

My name is Kara Day Spurlock, violinist and vice-president, Indianapolis Musicians, Local 3. I am also completing my master's in psychology. I am researching stage fright, along with beta blocker usage.

Regardless of whether you have ever had stage fright or not, I would like to hear from you!

Please use the link or scan the QR code below to be taken to a short survey. Your answers are anonymous and confidential.

<https://bit.ly/stagefrightsurvey>



Thank you!

share YOUR story
with
the Overture

OPEN MIC!



Got a story to tell?

AFM Local 47 welcomes submissions from
our members!

Please share about your latest union recording,
performance or event by sending us your story
and photos using our online submission form at
afm47.org/overture.

Letters to the Editor:

overture@afm47.org

3220 Winona Ave.

Burbank CA 91504

Please keep within a maximum of 400 words.
For our submission guidelines, please [click here](#).

Membership Dues

Membership Dues Fees

Regular Member

Annual Dues: \$210

Semi-Annual Dues: \$110

Life Member

Annual Dues: \$110

Inactive Life Member

Annual Dues: \$90

Make checks or money orders payable to:

AFM Local 47,
3220 Winona Ave.

Burbank CA 91504

You may also make payments with VISA, MasterCard, Discover, AmEx by phone at 323.993.3116 or at afm47.org/dues

Dues Schedule

Annual and Semi-Annual Membership Dues for Regular, Life and Inactive Life Members are due **Jan. 1** of each year. Payment must be received by **March 31** (three-month grace period) to avoid suspension. If not paid by this date, a \$75 reinstatement fee will be assessed. **Payment must be paid by June 30 to avoid expulsion.**

Likewise, Semi-Annual Membership Dues for Regular Members are due **July 1** and must be received by **Sept. 30** (three-month grace period) to avoid suspension. If not paid by this date, a \$75 reinstatement fee will be assessed. **Payment must be paid by Dec. 31 to avoid expulsion.**

Please note: Inactive Life Members do not have all of the same rights as privileges as Regular and Life Members, such as the right to vote in Local elections. Please review the AFM Local 47 Bylaws for complete information.

Notice From the Executive Board: Work Dues Delinquency and Suspension

1) Local 47 members whose work dues delinquency exceeds \$500 shall be suspended; and

2) Non-Local 47 members whose work dues delinquency exceeds \$500 shall be referred to the IEB as provided in the AFM Bylaws.

In order to reinstate membership, a \$75 reinstatement fee will be assessed.

Resignation Policy

In order to resign in good standing, you must submit your written request to Local 47 before your membership is suspended. Though dues are due Jan. 1 and July 1, current grace periods extend to March 31 and Sept. 30, respectively; suspensions are posted April 1 and Oct. 1.

In addition to membership dues, all other financial obligations, Local and International, must be paid prior to resignation. Your letter of resignation will be presented at the following Executive Board meeting and a written response will be mailed to you. If you wait, you will be required to pay another half year's dues and/or clearance fee.

HELP A MUSICIAN IN NEED

Be an anonymous donor to the Local 47 Musicians Relief Fund. Send contributions to the Secretary's office or call (323) 993-3159 for more information.

Multiple-Card AFM Member Rebate

Did you know? If you hold membership in three or more Locals throughout a full calendar year, you are entitled to a rebate from the AFM.

Under the rebate program, membership in a base of two Locals must be established in order for a member to qualify for a rebate. The International Secretary/Treasurer's office has determined that a musician's membership in his or her "Home Local" and the subsequent Local of longest tenure shall be designated as the two base Locals. The Secretary/Treasurer's office will then rebate the appropriate per capita dues for membership in the third Local and any other Local(s) beyond three to which a member belonged for the entire previous calendar year.

To petition for a Multiple-Card Member Rebate, members should fill out the form and return it to the Secretary/Treasurer's office together with copies of all their paid-up membership cards, receipts of canceled checks for annual dues from all Locals, or a letter from each Local stating that the petitioner was a member in good standing of the Locals for the full year prior. Rebates will be issued after Jan. 1.

Members may download the rebate form from the international AFM website [here](http://afm.org) (afm.org login required; locate the rebate form under "Miscellaneous" in the Document Library).

Notice to All Persons Entering or Utilizing the Property of the Musicians' Club* of Los Angeles:

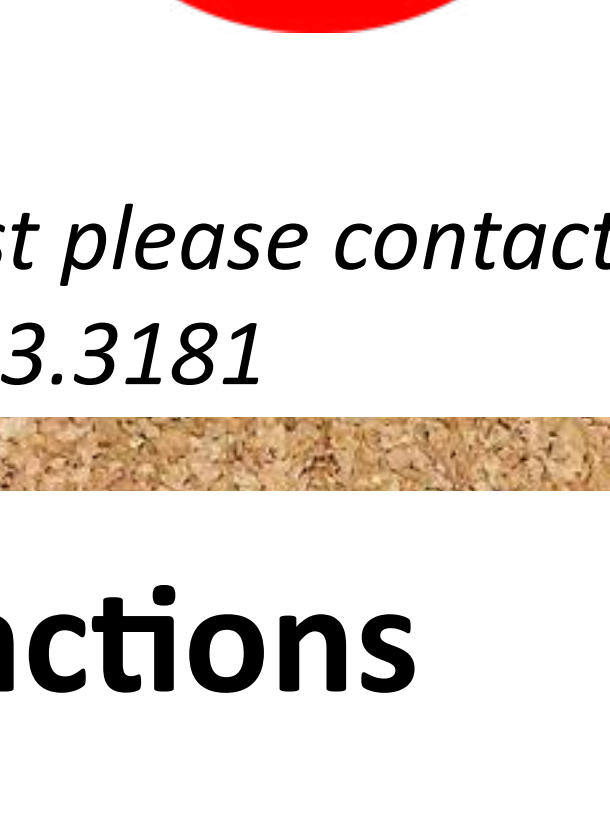
The premises of the Musicians' Club of Los Angeles are reserved for the exclusive use by the officers, employees, and Full, Youth, Life or Inactive Life Members in good standing of AFM Local 47 and the American Federation of Musicians. All other persons must receive written permission from the office of Local 47's president to enter or utilize these premises. Local 47 reserves the right to remove and to cite for trespass any party found on these premises who does not fulfill the above conditions of occupancy. (Note: This notice is not applicable to those making deliveries to AFM Local 47, or customers of and those making deliveries to tenants of the Local 47 headquarters.)

** The Musicians' Club of Los Angeles, Inc., is a California Non-Profit Corporation incorporated in 1926. It owns all land and improvements where AFM Local 47 conducts its business. The Corporation rents space to other tenants, mainly industry related. All members of AFM Local 47 are also members of the Musicians' Club of Los Angeles.*

Do Not Work For...

The list published at afm47.org/donotworkfor.html contains the names of employers with whom

Local 47 currently has disputes.



If you have any questions about this list please contact the President's Office: 323.993.3181

Notice of Strike Sanctions

On June 24, 2015, strike sanctions were approved by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor against:

Cinema Scoring
CMG Music Recording
Peter Rotter Music Services

If and when any of the aforementioned parties calls a non-union engagement, other labor unions have agreed to stand in solidarity with Local 47 and not cross our line.

If you are being pressured to participate in non-union work or take financial-core status and quit the union, know that it is illegal for employers or employers' representatives to coerce, pressure or otherwise influence any employee to take fi-core status under the National Labor Relations Act. Should this happen to you, call 323.993.3181.

Your Union will take action — with legal counsel if necessary — on your behalf to ensure your rights as a union worker are protected.

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The Local 47 Beat

— Emailed biweekly —

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