

Intermezzo

2fm
chicago federation of musicians
local 10-208 afm

Membership Meeting:
Monday, November 13th, 2023
@ 6:00 pm

New Member Orientation:
Monday, November 13th, 2023
@ 5:15 pm

November/December 2023
Vol. 83 No. 6



Ed Ward
1941-2023

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**Local 10-208 of AFM
CHICAGO FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS
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2023-2025**

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Photo courtesy of Margie Berger



FROM THE PRESIDENT

BJ LEVY

Our Union's Past, Present and Future

I would like to begin this edition's column on behalf of myself, Vice-President John Floeter and Secretary-Treasurer Karen Suarez Flint, by sending Dale Tripamer Ward and the family and friends of President Emeritus Ed Ward our deepest condolences upon Ed's passing. We are dedicating this edition of the *Intermezzo* to his memory and the lasting impact he had on Local 10-208.

Though I came to the Board of Directors under Gary Matts' leadership, Ed became a good friend through our many interactions. He was President during a pivotal time for the Chicago Federation of Musicians. It would not be an overstatement to say that we exist today as the same historic organization due to Ed's steadfast leadership from 1995 to 2004. The CFM was under immense financial pressure when Ed took over, coming close to insolvency. The building on Washington Street had been sold and the union had to make hard choices as to how it would solve staffing and spending issues as well as find a new home. Ed, along with Vice-President Tom Beranek and Secretary-Treasurer Spencer Aloisio, modernized how the union was managed, got its fiscal house in order and created the office at 656 W. Randolph from bare space. Those moves, along with sound investment of the proceeds from the sale of the building, put us back on the strong footing that we are building upon today. He negotiated robust contracts, served as a Trustee of the Pension Fund and was respected among the wider labor community in Chicago, and this only begins to describe his legacy. He will be missed.

Moving into this office space had multiple impacts. It was a sound financial decision, and happened to also begin a positive relationship with our landlord Scott Buhl. We will be moving again in the next two months. It was a long process and we spent much time and effort, including in our search both purchase and lease options. In the end, Scott has made us an offer to stay in the building that will serve our interests extremely well, save money and provide stability for the next 10 years. Ed got us across town, and I'll get us across the hall! Please be aware that there may be a brief interruption in services as the move occurs, including a delay of the Life Members' Luncheon that will be rescheduled as an open house

when the new office is complete. Plans are being finalized now and we will notify membership of the exact dates.

In the next *Intermezzo*, we will take an in-depth look at the year in review. It has been an extraordinary first year of our new administration. I want to thank John and Karen for their amazing contributions and extraordinary professionalism. I also want to thank the Board of Directors and staff. Union leadership is working together and producing results. Be on the lookout for that review of our present efforts. Please also look in this issue at the great new health insurance options that the CFM-EW Fund and Administrator Margie Berger have worked hard to put in place.

Looking to the future, we are organizing and growing again and will be working to get the first collective bargaining agreement for the members of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra. We are working with local hip-hop artists to ensure their voices are heard and their talents respected. We have engaged a consultant to help us once again modernize the business practices that Ed and company put in place 25 years ago and believe that the membership experience will be improved as a result. We also are working with Mercury Public Strategy Firm to pursue state legislation that would bring jobs to our community and make Chicago an attractive option for film and television scoring. We will be supporting political candidates that remember the importance of our profession. Please take some time to read the update from our esteemed member Lynn LaPlante in this issue! She needs our support.

Finally, I want to wish all our members a very happy holiday season and a prosperous new year. The work that we are doing here is not possible without your membership. In fact, the only way we can be successful is if the members of the Chicago Federation of Musicians are involved in the effort. This is a time for union members to band together in support and solidarity. There has not been a time where the strength of organized labor was more ascendant within the last 40 years. There is much work ahead, and your voices are part of that effort. Thank you so much for your support.



New Scales, Insurance and Benefits

The new Wage/Scales, Rules and Regulations have been approved, and can be found in the “Members Only” section on the website. Among the highlights:

- The current scales and rules will remain in effect until June 30, 2024.
- The new scales and rules will be effective for one year, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.
- The new rules will increase the boundaries of Class AA scale.
- Most scales will raise approximately 6%.
- There are new rules concerning technology and “shows”.

The wage scale committee will meet again next spring to determine any changes for the following year. This will give presenters and contractors a year’s advance notice of any changes. With a new effective date in July rather than January, it will fit better into the fiscal year of most arts organizations.

Our new benefits package with the Midwest Coalition of Labor is now in effect for all members in good standing. Among the many benefits, you have free roadside assistance, free property tax appeals, access to discounted legal and tax guidance and services and \$5,000 in free life insurance for regular members. You should have received a [brochure](#) in the mail. You can also learn more at <https://coalitionoflabor.org>.

You may be eligible for our new medical insurance plan with United Healthcare. Open enrollment will be in December. Requirements for enrollment are:

- Being vested in the AFM-EP Fund (pension), **OR**
- Having made \$3,000 in Union-declared wages in the previous or current year.
- Medical plans also require that participants be under the age of 65. However, our dental and vision coverage has no age limit.

Applications for the new health insurance with United Healthcare are due November 15, 2023. The Open Enrollment Period for Dental and Vision with Humana is December 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Contact for more details:
 Margie Berger
 Administrator CFM Employers Welfare Fund
 Office: 312-782-0063, x. 119
 Cell: 708-220-6253

I’ll close with a fond farewell to Ed Ward, our past president from 1995-2004. He guided our union through some tough times, and put us on a stronger financial footing. I met Ed when I was still in college and was lucky enough to land a gig playing eight shows a week at the Candlelight Dinner Playhouse. I was at the beginning of my playing career, and Ed was a seasoned trumpet player. In this profession, we are multi-generational in the workplace. This was my first job with people who were much older than me, and I found acceptance as a colleague from Ed to be encouraging in my chosen profession. His warmth, humor, generosity and wisdom will always be a model of a great musical colleague.

Minutes from every board meeting are available to members on the CFM website. Please [log in](#) and click the “CFM Board of Directors Meeting Minutes” link at the right of the web page.



FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

KAREN SUAREZ FLINT

The Work Continues

Welcome to the Nov/Dec Issue of the *Intermezzo*, where we are honoring the work and legacy of President Emeritus Ed Ward. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and are forever grateful for Ed's leadership, dedication and service to the CFM. Thank you, Ed.

I am so excited to announce the completion of the CFM's 2024 Member Handbook. This important resource has been emailed to all members, so if you did not receive a copy, please check your spam and let me know your correct email. The handbook is full of useful information, whether you are a new member or a seasoned veteran, and was created in pdf form for convenience (save it to your desktop), cost-saving (no money towards printing and postage) and longevity (future updates will be quick and easy). A special thanks to our member Anjan Shah for his invaluable assistance with this project. We are working hard to improve our communications with members in terms of ease and efficacy. Let us know what you think!

I also want to take this opportunity to officially welcome all of our new members from the Rockford Symphony. As I write this, you are preparing for your first negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement. Thank you for demanding representation and fairness. We are proud to stand with you and support you now and in the future. Congratulations!

In October, I was honored to represent the CFM in a panel discussion, sponsored by the Illinois AFL-CIO, on the Fight for Fairness with other union leaders in the entertainment industry. Fair compensation, AI protections, solidarity and current union strength were the highlights

of the discussion. I know for many of us, pursuing a career in music is a labor of love. The key word here is not love, but labor. What we do IS labor and we should be fairly compensated for it. I encourage all of you to attend a rally, hand out leaflets or just stay informed of labor movement activities. There is so much support for our union, what we stand for and what we are trying to achieve.

On the organizing front, we continue to work with Chicago's hip-hop artists and form relationships with local and state government officials. Stay tuned for exciting news...

Thank you to everyone who contributed and participated in the first CFM Team for PAWS Chicago 5K Walk/Run for Chicago's homeless animals. It was a beautiful day, filled with so many amazing dogs, swag, fun, CFM hats, camaraderie and a little exercise. A special shout-out to Margie Berger and Rosie the Golden Retriever for killing it on the agility course!

You will soon be receiving your 2024 Membership Dues notice. We accept payment by check, over the phone and online. Payments are due on January 31, 2024. The Musicians Relief Fund is available to members who may be experiencing financial difficulties. Please reach out to me if you would like to request MRF assistance. Thank you in advance for your payments.

The holidays are a joyous, music-filled time of year to connect with family and friends. This season as my family gathers together, there will be two empty chairs at the dinner table. For those of you with empty seats at your table, I hope you find comfort in your cherished memories. To all of you, I wish you peace and joy this holiday season.

The Pension Fund Videos Are Here!

A series of videos and documents about our pension fund are on the fund's website. They will help you understand your pension benefit, find out how much money you will receive and remind you of details that must not be overlooked. Go to AFM-EPE.org, click on the Participants Tab, then Participant Information. If you have any questions after viewing the videos and want more information, please contact any of us at the CFM.

TRIBUTES TO ED WARD

You could say Ed Ward took me to the dance. It was in the summer of 1995 when I got the call. I had known Ed as he made his way through the “ranks” at the union, but this call was special. He asked me to join his slate in his run for union President along with Tom Beranek, Spencer Aloisio, Rich Daniels, Dean Rolando, Ruth Tobias, Bob Lizik and Charles Walton. Of course, Louise Thorson was the trusted Secretary. I wasn’t sure why he chose me, but that day was the beginning of a very special friendship.

Ed took me under his wing as he did so many people. A revolving group of us would share lunch together after board meetings and Ed had the stories to tell! We heard about the pranks he pulled as a child; the crazy years at DePaul with his long-time friend and Vice-President Tom Beranek; jobbing dates; running a music store; and finally, life at the union. I was invited to so many wonderful gatherings hosted by Ed and his wife Dale.

He was a skilled negotiator who always seemed to find a solution to even the most difficult of situations. He was fair and thoughtful. Ed had an unbelievable business sense. When he took over as president of the union, we were in dire straits – within months from bankruptcy – and in the next nine years, he took us to financial security. He got the CFM involved with other entertainment unions as a founding member of CEILC (Chicago Entertainment Industry Labor Council) where union leaders would gather to share information about negotiations, problems with employers and like concerns. He opened up doors into the city’s and state’s politics and made both the Mayor and Governor allies in helping to better the life of working musicians.

Ed also held positions on the American Federation of Musicians International Executive Board and the AFM Pension Fund where he was recognized as the “go to” person if another local had questions and concerns. He was always there to help.

When it came time to retire, Ed made sure he left our union in a good place. He had hired Gary Matts as his Executive Assistant and, with the help of Tom Beranek, taught me the role of Vice-President. After all, the job did not come with an instruction manual! He left us with the knowledge to understand the job and carry on with his work.

I like to say Ed found the “Pot-O-Gold” at the end of the rainbow or it may have been the “Luck of the Irish”. Maybe it was pure luck, but everything he touched was a success. He was a special friend to our union, and I will always remember him with love.

Terryl Jares
President Emerita
Chicago Federation of Musicians

A True Friend and Mentor

My friendship with Ed began back in the late 70’s when I was at Slingerland Drum Company and he owned The Bandstand, a school music instrument dealer. He became a very devoted customer of our marching and school percussion instruments. He was an astute businessman, but had a great sense of humor at all times. It made for a fun and beneficial relationship. In 1983, I was heading to the Drum Corps International championship in Miami with my family. Instead of flying, I decided to drive to this event. A thought occurred to me and I called Ed to ask if I could borrow his company van. Without hesitation he absolutely said yes. This was the gracious side of him, always willing to help a friend in need. I witnessed his graciousness many more times working with him at our Local.

After I left Slingerland in 1986, I kicked around in a few dead end sales jobs. In early 1993 I was making cold calls in Brookfield and decided to stop by Ed’s store since we had not spoken for that amount of time. Dale was there minding the store and told me that Ed was an officer at the Union. I asked her to say hi for me and left not knowing what would happen next. As fate would have it, Ed called me the next day to ask if I would be interested in talking about a job at the Local and I emphatically said yes. We met at the store and talked, and he offered me the job of Office Manager, thus beginning my second long friendship and relationship with him.



Tom Beranek, Terryl Jares and Ed.
Photo courtesy of Terryl Jares.

Ed had a vision for the Local and I felt so proud to assist him in achieving that goal. Come 1995 he asked me to run for Secretary-Treasurer on his ticket. Even though I lost, he assured me that it would not happen again in the next election, and he was right. When he lobbied with the Federation to have me appointed to the Finance Committee at the AFM National Convention, it was another example of him helping out. Having served on that committee until I retired, Ed achieved his goal and we became one of the most admired and respected Locals in the Federation.

I will always be grateful to him for the opportunities he provided me. That is what a good friend does. Thank you Ed. You will be sorely missed. Rest in peace.

Spencer Aloisio
Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus
Chicago Federation of Musicians

The Spirit of Ed Ward

How do you begin to thank someone who has done so much for so many? In this case, someone who has also recently left the planet. I'd like to think that those of us who knew, loved, respected and appreciated Ed let him know how we felt while he was still with us. I'll remain very grateful to his wonderful wife Dale for letting me come out and spend time with him as time was growing short during what would be the final weeks of his life. Those were meaningful visits that I will always remember and appreciate. But acknowledging someone like Ed is more than just being grateful for his actions and certainly more than these words on a page. If you knew Ed you knew that he got things done. And in more cases than most of us could ever count, Ed got things done in ways that benefited so very many of us.

Ed Ward first came on my radar screen 49 years ago in the late summer of 1974. I was just past my 14th birthday and several of us had started a band in Chicago, eventually called "The Big Band Machine". Through my friendship with former CFM member Paul Seaman (now "Fr. Paul Seaman" and the celebrant at Ed's funeral mass), I met another CFM member, Jim Moore, and his son, Michael. Mike, Paul and I got the band going. Jim was the adult instrumental in helping us out. And then Jim (who was the son-in-law of the late Dr. Tom Fabish) told me about a wonderful organization called the CYO Band and their musical director and his friend, Ed Ward. Little did I know this would lead me to a lifetime relationship with Ed and all the many folks in his stratosphere...

Because of Ed, I got involved in with the leadership of our union, Democratic politics and, of course, organized labor. It would be very hard for me to write down all the many life lessons he shared with me and corrections he offered when he thought I was on the wrong side of a subject (and, of course, he was usually right!). But in the final analysis, he was first and foremost my friend, as he was to many of you. Ed was loyal as the day was long and understood how to live up to what he said, and he worked hard to help others live up to what they said. This made him both a fierce and effective negotiator.

(He also had "Irish Alzheimer's" – we forget everything except the grudge!")

Ed loved music and musicians. He loved being president of our union. He loved engaging with friends and having a good time. But most of all he loved his wife Dale, his son Tommy, his daughter-in-law Dru and his two grandsons, Grady and Ryder. Far and away the center of Ed's life was his family.

Honestly, it still remains very challenging for me to process that he's gone. That I can't pick up the phone, hear that lilting voice that always had a smile on it or see him face to face for a night on the town. My memories of Ed are as thick as flies and my love and affection for him remains marrow deep...

When Ed left office in 2004, almost 20 years ago, we had several great and memorable celebrations marking his departure. I'll always remember the final CFM membership meeting he presided over where he swore in Gary Matts as the next president and, by his own choosing, stepped down as the president of the CFM (a position I'm sure he could have held for life if he had chosen to). At that meeting it was my honor to put forward the motion to name our rehearsal space "Ed Ward Hall" which it still remains to this very day. A small but significant gesture for someone who gave so much to so many.



Rich Daniels and Ed on the day of Ed's retirement, December 2004. The next president of the CFM, Gary Matts, was sworn in the same day. Photo courtesy of Rich Daniels.

Finally, it was on a very cold January morning in 2021, when about 100 of us gathered during the pandemic in his driveway to surprise him with good wishes for his 80th birthday. Our rehearsal and performance were both one and the same moment as together we serenaded him and Dale with a version of, "On A Wonderful Day Like Today" ... a song that followed him for life. So, **"may I take this occasion to say, that the whole human race should go down on its knees, show that we're grateful for mornings like these, for the worlds in a wonderful way, on a wonderful day like today"**. May God Bless and keep Ed Ward and may he live on in our hearts and minds forever.

Rich Daniels
Board Member
Chicago Federation of Musicians

Trustee Ed Ward, a True Gentleman

On behalf of the Fund Office of the American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF), I want to offer our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of our former Trustee, Edward Ward. Ed served on our Board of Trustees from June 1996 to October 2005 and was dedicated to our mission of serving the retirement needs of union musicians across the United States. While Ed was an advocate for union members, particularly the members of his beloved Chicago Federation of Musicians, his warmth and sense of humor helped bring collegiality to the Board and earned respect from both Union and Management Trustees. He was a true gentleman in his interactions with the Fund Office Staff and was always a pleasure to spend time with. On a personal note, I came to know Ed's wife Dale and his family and saw firsthand his love and devotion to them. I was honored to attend Ed's retirement roast in Chicago on St. Patrick's Day in 2005 and was always glad to see him at AFM conventions. Ed's love of music and his dedication to the AFM and the Fund will always serve as an inspiration to us.

Maureen Kilkelly
Executive Director
AFM-EPF, New York



At the roast for Ed's retirement held at Plumbers Hall Chicago on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2005. Left to right: Ed's wife Dale, their son Tom, Maureen Kilkelly and Ed. Photo courtesy of Maureen Kilkelly.

Ed Ward, My Friend

Ed was a huge influence and presence in my life. If you've been around for a long time, you might remember a TV show from the 80's called *The Love Boat*. There was a character on the show named Julie the Cruise Director. When introduced, she would say, "It's my job to make sure you have fun on this cruise." Ed was the self-appointed cruise director of my life – and it's been fun for 60 years!

Ed started out in music playing trumpet at St. Mel High School for Tom Fabish. He studied trumpet with

George Quinlan. He played in the CYO band and years later became the conductor. His closest, earliest and lifelong musical influences and friends included Tom Fabish, George Quinlan, Cy Race, Angie Iovinelli, Tom Beranek, Rich Cullen and Jim Moore – all CFM members. As Ed's playing developed, George felt confident sending him out to sub for him on the many jobs and shows around town back then. While Ed was on the road in New York with Don Glasser, he spent an afternoon playing trios with legendary teacher Charlie Colin and one of his students, Doc Severinsen. They both offered to help Ed get his union card in New York so he could have a career there playing on Broadway. Fortunately for so many of us, he didn't choose that path.

I first worked with Ed when I was about 18 years old. While I was a young drummer trying to fake it to make it, Ed would look at the other guys on the band and say, "The kid's great, isn't he?" By tagging along with Ed, I was introduced to places like the Gaslight Club and the Millionaire's Club, Saturday band director lunches with George Quinlan and Tom Fabish, gambling junkets to Vegas, all-inclusive resorts and pretty much every good local bar, pizza place and restaurant in the Chicagoland area. In most of those, Ed knew the bartender and the owner. We always worked hard, but it was a whirlwind of fun, too.

Ed was larger than life. He aimed high and usually achieved what he aimed for. Often that was because he inspired people to be part of his vision and we became invested as well. He loved life and enjoyed sharing good times with others. We had fun at the jobs, rehearsals, concerts, schools, shows, et al, and we had fun going out after them.

Ed's friendship operated at a whole different level. When you became friends with Ed, you had a friend for life. He stayed in touch and stayed connected. He would bail you out, pick you up, buy you a drink, come and visit if you couldn't get out, help you with a problem or find the right person to solve it. He was a Godfather, confessor, mentor, consigliere, lender of last resort, facilitator and all-around problem solver. He was also one of the most caring and generous people I've ever known. For over 50 years, Ed and Dale have done so many things for so many people and charities. I've only touched the surface in this area.

If you ever shared a meal with Ed, there was always good food and lots of laughs. My favorite dining story: a group of us would be out for dinner and we'd order appetizers, drinks, dinner, coffee, etc. and the bill would be considerable. When it was time for the check Ed would warmly take the hand of our server and say, "You've been terrific. Thank you so much. I just want you to know... we're Mormons, and we don't believe in tipping, but God bless you!"

At the Chicago Federation of Musicians, Ed assembled the team of himself, Tom Beranek and Spencer Aloisio; they gave the CFM a much-needed update for the new century. They sold our old building and moved us west,



Ed's retirement roast/Irish party in 2005, with actor Tim Kazurinsky (Master of Ceremonies) and Randy Szostek.
Photo courtesy of Dean Rolando.

created a Source Book, computerized all the records, expanded our jurisdiction, forged a place for the CFM in the Chicago Federation of Labor, started the old-timers lunch and made the local more user-friendly.

Ed sometimes gave the impression he was a "ready-fire-aim" kind of guy. In younger years he was called Fast Eddie. He was always juggling multiple projects at once. But in reality, he was thoughtful, conscientious and dedicated when it came to planning and caring for his family. He plugged away at it dutifully.

Fast Eddie, constant jokester, life of the party, Tom Sawyer, accomplished musician, educator, businessman and union leader, but also a serious, dedicated loving family man and friend. I am grateful for so much wonderful time I was able to share with him.

There is a quote I heard some years ago. Ed could have written it. He certainly lived it:

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body – but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and loudly proclaiming "Wow! What a ride!"

That was Ed.

Randy Szostek

Ed Ward, a Good Friend

Ed was a really good guy, and he was always very kind to me. I first met him maybe 20 years ago when he somehow got wind of my newsletter, *News From The Trenches*, and asked Rich Daniels who I was. I wasn't a union member at the time, but I had been, off and on, and Rich told Ed that even though I wasn't a member, I was okay. Ed asked to be put on my e-mail list, and although he didn't pressure me I decided to rejoin the union. Ed would frequently show up at my gigs and was always kind and supportive. He gave me several baskets full of fakebooks, and I think he got me on a scale-and-wages committee. I know many of you don't think there's any point in union membership anymore, but I still think it's a good thing. Through the years not only Ed and Rich

but also Leo Murphy, BJ Levy, Joe Sonnefeldt, Terryl Jares, Ruth Marion Tobias, Gary Matts and, of course, my high-school mentor Dean Rolando have helped me out in various ways, but I have to say that it was Ed's initial welcoming attitude that sealed the deal for me. Thanks, Ed, and rest in peace.

Steven Hashimoto



Photos courtesy of Margie Berger.

Thank you for sharing your heartwarming memories of my dear Ed. He truly was an amazing person, husband, father, friend, colleague and mentor to so many of us. You will never fully realize the joy it gives me to hear how he touched and enriched your lives. I will forever treasure your kindness.

Dale Ward

New CFM-Sponsored Medical Insurance for 2024

The CFM-EW Fund has secured medical coverage through United Healthcare, our new health insurance carrier, that is more affordable, has a larger network and has more generous benefits! We will be offering three medical coverage options starting January 1, 2024. The plan offerings are detailed on our website under Musician Resources → Health Insurance Options.

CFM members in good standing can enroll for health, dental and/or vision coverage if they meet these eligibility requirements:

- **If you are vested in the AFM pension fund (AFM-EPF), or**
- **If you made \$3,000 in Union-declared wages in the previous or current calendar year**

Members over the age of 65 may enroll for dental and/or vision coverage only. For now, dental and vision coverage will remain with Humana as our carrier.

Applications for the new health insurance with United Healthcare are due November 1, 2023.

The Open Enrollment Period for dental and vision with Humana is December 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

In a recent mailing from the CFM, it was stated that the \$1,000 death benefit remained in place for regular members. This was an error. That benefit is fully replaced by the \$5,000 MCL Life Insurance benefit. The \$1,000 death benefit remains in place only for Life Members, who are regrettably ineligible for the Life Insurance benefit. We apologize for the error, and any misunderstanding it may have caused.

Kedrick Armstrong

Kedrick Armstrong is the Creative Partner and Principal Conductor of the Galesburg Symphony Society/Knox-Galesburg Symphony. His recent highlights include debuting at the Lyric Opera of Chicago to premiere *The Factotum* by Will Liverman and K Rico and appearing at the Opera Theater of St. Louis as one of the festival's assistant/cover conductors (*Tosca*, *Susannah*). Kedrick has enjoyed guest conducting engagements with the Oakland Symphony, DePaul Opera Theater (*Candide*) and Chicago Opera Theater (Matthew Recio's *The Puppy Episode*). He also has served as assistant conductor for Dan Shore's *Freedom Ride* at Chicago Opera Theater and as music director for Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* with Wheaton College's Opera Mainstage.

Kedrick will return to the Lyric Opera to assist/cover Terrence Blanchard's *Champion*. He will also make his

subscription debut with the Oakland Symphony and Chorus, premiering a new oratorio by Carlos Simon. Future engagements include returning as assistant/cover conductor at the Opera Theater of Saint Louis, debuting at Portland Opera and further performances with the Oakland Symphony. Kedrick is an alum of Chicago Sinfonietta's Project Inclusion Freeman Conducting Fellow program, where he served as Assistant Conductor during the 2018-2019 season. He holds a B.M. in History and Literature from Wheaton College and an M.M. in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Colorado-Boulder.

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John Blacklow

Pianist John Blacklow has been presented on many of the world's most renowned concert stages, and works frequently with distinguished collaborators and ensembles. He has performed many times as keyboardist with orchestras on the West Coast, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra under conductors such as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Pierre Boulez, Edo de Waart, Marin Alsop, Jeffrey Kahane, Rafael Payare, Leonard Slatkin and John Williams. In Europe, he has performed chamber music in such venues as the Musikverein in Vienna, Konzerthaus in Berlin, Salle Gaveau in Paris, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Royal Albert Hall in London, the Philharmonie in Cologne, Mozarteum in Salzburg and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. In the U.S., invited performances have

included Carnegie Hall's *Distinctive Debuts* series and Alice Tully Hall in New York, and the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Live radio and television appearances have included Fuji Television (Tokyo), NPR *Performance Today*, BBC and Radio France. A [Steinway](#) Artist, Blacklow graduated from The Juilliard School and Harvard University, studying with John Browning, Bella Davidovich and Tatiana Yampolsky. He currently serves as Professor of Piano at the University of Notre Dame and has recorded for Universal Music, Ltd., Bridge, Albany and DG-iTunes.

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Jamal Damien

Jamal Damien is a Chicago-based musician who originally hails from Kutztown, Pennsylvania. He received a Bachelor of the Arts in Jazz Studies from the Eastman School of Music in 2021 and has been playing professionally for almost 10 years. He studied with world-renowned musicians such as Clay Jenkins, Gary Versace, Wynton Marsalis, Ernest Dawkins and Vincent Davis. Jamal's primary instrument is trumpet, though he also sings and plays drums and piano. Jamal has a passion for improvised music in the jazz idiom as well as influences of R&B, hip-hop and soul music. He has performed around Chicago at esteemed venues such as Andy's Jazz Club, The Jazz Showcase, Dorians and at accredited festivals such as Chicago Jazz Fest, Englewood Jazz Fest, Taste of Chicago

and International Festival of Life in the two short years of living in the city. In 2022, Jamal played on Eric Binder's record *Bop Culture* with his jazz trio Small Quartet. They later completed a fall tour of the East coast performing at venues like Chris's Jazz Cafe and Con Alma. He is also a bandleader and avid composer who has led shows at Bop Shop Records in Rochester, NY and Fulton Street Collective in Chicago. Jamal prides himself on creating an emotional connection between the audience and his music and wants to continue to share the gift of musical expression.

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Chantel Davis

Chantel Davis received their Bachelor of Music and Performer's Certificate in Violin Performance from Northern Illinois University and their Master of Music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. In the fall of 2023, Chantel began their Doctor of Musical Arts program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison at the Mead Witter School of Music as part of The Rabin String Quartet, the graduate string quartet in residence. As a certified Suzuki instructor through violin book 4, Chantel has taught through the Northern Illinois University Community School of the Arts and Cambridge Studios, as well as

independently. They are currently Suzuki Violin Faculty at the Music Academy in Rockford, IL and teach through the Community Music Lessons program at the UW Madison Mead Witter School of Music. Recent accomplishments include winning the concerto competition at Northern Illinois University in 2021 and their quartet, Esoteric Ensemble, being selected as artist in residence at the Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival in Leavenworth, WA in summer 2021.

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Dana Debofsky

Chicago-area violist Dana DeBofsky started playing the violin at the age of four and fell in love with the viola at 17. Originally from Highland Park, she studied with Sonia Hadar and Christine Due before receiving a BM in Viola Performance from Lawrence University under the tutelage of Matthew Michelic. She went on to begin her Master's in Viola Performance at DePaul University, studying with Rami Solomonow, and finished her Master's in String Pedagogy at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee under the guidance of Claudia Lasareff-Mironoff. Dana has performed in a variety of chamber and

orchestral ensembles in the Chicago, Milwaukee and Fox Valley areas. She has also performed with touring acts such as Michael Buble, Josh Groban, The Trans-Siberian Orchestra, The American ELO, Patrick Leonard, Doc Severinsen, Il Volo and more. A versatile player with experience in a wide variety of genres, Dana loves playing in all types of ensembles and particularly enjoys studio and pit work.

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Joshua Hettwer

Chicago musician Joshua Hettwer is a woodwind player, educator, arranger, composer, recording engineer and producer. He is originally from Oregon's majestic Willamette Valley, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Jazz Studies from the University of Oregon. Formerly a member of Local 689 in Eugene, Oregon, Joshua was the second clarinetist of the Eugene Concert Choir Orchestra, subbed in the Eugene Symphony, annually performed in the Oregon Festival of American Music and toured with double-platinum-selling band, the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, with whom he played alto saxophone and clarinet.

Since calling Chicago home, Joshua has garnered a reputation as a reliable and versatile musician. He regularly performs early jazz with the likes of Alan Gresik, Andy Schumm and the Four Star Brass Band. As a more commercial musician, Joshua has been regularly performing within the Maggie Speaks and Arlen Music organizations.

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Rachel Hoffman

Rachel Hofmann has over 20 years of experience playing weddings, events and performances in Rockford and the surrounding areas. She has been a violinist with the Rockford Symphony for the past 15 years and is also a member of the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra and the Innocenti Strings. Rachel has participated in multiple music festivals including Interlochen Advanced String Quartet Institute, Weathersfield Music Festival in Castleton, Vermont and the New York String Quartet Institute at New York University. Certified in Suzuki violin, she has taught for numerous string programs and music schools, including Smiling String in Chicago, the Allegro School of Music in

Grand Rapids, MI and the Rockford Music Academy in Rockford. Rachel has her Bachelor's Degree in Performance from Lawrence University's Music Conservatory in Appleton, WI, where she studied with Anton Miller and Stephane Tran Ngoc. She also has studied with a plethora of inspirational teachers such as Sibbi Bernhardsson, The Pacifica Quartet and Roland and Almita Vamos.

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Ricardo Jimenez

Born and based in Chicago, trumpet player and vocalist Ricardo Jimenez performed with the stage band in Porchlight Theater's award-winning production of *Blues In the Night*, featuring legends such as Felicia P. Fields, Maulty Jewell IV and Donica Lynn. Most recently, he worked as an onstage musician in Ron O.J. Parson's and Felicia P. Fields' original production *Pearls: Rollin' with the Blues*. Ricardo has also worked and performed with artists such as Cosimo and the Hot Coals, Paganin Soatnquartett, Afrika Groove, Joe Locke, Tim Garland, Geoffrey Keezer, John Harmon and Sean Roldan.

As an educator, Ricardo currently works throughout Chicago teaching a variety of music programs in Chicago's public schools, as well as teaching online lessons to

students of all ages across the globe. A recipient of the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, he performed in Austria, England, Germany, India, Italy, Senegal, Spain, Brazil and Japan. Some highlights of his travels are performing in Coca-Cola Studio Tamil's Season One debut, studio recording for Bollywood productions and working with children teaching music throughout Senegal, helping to found the non-profit Langusik. Ricardo received his Bachelor of Arts in Biology and a Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

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Vanessa Lopez

Vanessa Lopez is a Mexican-American flutist and piccoloist with a strong passion for music education equity. She currently teaches with Ravinia's Sistema orchestral program and maintains a private flute studio. As a first-generation college graduate from California's central valley, Vanessa is a firm believer that her own education and success is a result of the organizations and individuals who made music available to her, and she feels the imperative to provide that same opportunity to others. Her accomplishments include winning the Beverly Hills National Auditions, and being a Fischhoff National Chamber

Music Competition semi-finalist. She currently performs with orchestras across the country, including the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. She received her MM in Flute Performance from Carnegie Mellon University and her BA in Music Performance and Mathematics from UCLA, cum laude. Her primary teachers include Alberto Almarza, Diana Morgan, Denis and Erin Bouriakov, Sheridan Stokes and Dr. Jeannine Dennis.

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Laura Medisky

Dr. Laura Medisky is an oboist and Alexander Technique teacher based in Madison, WI. She is currently Acting Principal Oboe in the Rockford Symphony, a position she also held with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra from 2016-22. She has been a member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra, and has performed with the Elgin and Dubuque Symphonies, Fresco Opera, Capital City Theatre and Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society. Medisky has performed concertos with orchestras in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Illinois and Idaho. Her solo album, *Personalities: 21st-century American Music for Oboe*, was released in 2012 on the Centaur Records label. As a guest artist, Medisky presents oboe masterclasses and Alexander

Technique workshops at music institutions and conferences throughout the United States. At home in Madison, she is the owner of the thriving Medisky Oboe Studio LLC, and is a regular clinician for area schools. In 2018, Medisky co-founded the LunART Festival in Madison, serving as a Festival Director for the first two seasons. She has served on faculty at UW-Platteville, Luther College, Maranatha Baptist University and Edgewood College.

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Ben Poirot

Ben Poirot is a tubist based in Chicago, and recently won the position of Principal Tuba with the Rockford Symphony. He is a regular member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the Civic Brass Quintet, and has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Opera Festival of Chicago as well as other regional groups. As the former Principal Tuba of the New York Youth Symphony, Ben can be heard on the orchestra's studio album *Works by Florence Price, Jessie Montgomery, and Valerie Coleman*,

which won the 2023 GRAMMY award for Best Orchestral Performance. Ben graduated from Western Connecticut State University (BM) and Northwestern University (MM). Ben is an Eastman/Shires Rising Artist.

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Emily Nebel

Emily Nebel enjoys a varied performing career as orchestral leader and chamber musician. Currently, she is Assistant Concertmaster of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and has enjoyed productions as guest concertmaster with a range of leading opera companies such as the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, Staatstheater Darmstadt, Welsh National Opera and Opera North. She regularly works with symphonic orchestras as well, guest leading ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Royal Scottish National Orchestra, to name a few. Emily has appeared as soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra and Phoenix Symphony and in 2019 performed Walton's Violin Concerto with John Wilson and the Academy Symphony Orchestra in London.

An avid chamber musician, Emily has been invited to numerous chamber music seminars, such as Krzyzowa

Music Festival, Domaine Forget and Birdfoot Festival in New Orleans. Her involvement with IMS Prussia Cove and Open Chamber Music over the past decade has been particularly enriching. After obtaining degrees at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, Emily continued her studies in Europe, first in Frankfurt at the Hochschule für Musik followed by the Royal Academy of Music in London, graduating with an Advanced Diploma on the prestigious Bicentenary Scholarship Scheme. Her debut album of French sonatas, recorded with pianist Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula and released in 2020 on the Linn Records label, can be found in their catalog as well as on Apple Music and Spotify.

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Emily Randle

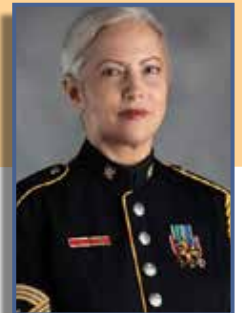
Violinist Emily Randle returns to Chicagoland after retiring from a 20-year active-duty career with The US Army Band "Pershing's Own", in Ft. Myer, VA, outside Washington DC. After 11 years with the Strolling Strings, as jazz/rock feature soloist and arranger, she switched duties to serve as the unit's Operations Sergeant Major, a distinguished position for the largest military band in the world. Her awards include the Chief of Chaplains' Order of Aaron and Hur, and the Legion of Merit. During this time, Emily was a frequent sub with the Baltimore Symphony and at the Kennedy Center. She still appears at festivals and house concerts on the "trop rock" and singer-songwriter circuits with several bands and artists, including two of (the late) Jimmy Buffett's guitarists, Peter Mayer

and Roger Bartlett. She is a Fishman-endorsed Artist. Her 2016 solo album *Girl of My Dreams* is available on all streaming services.

An Elmhurst native and alum of University of Illinois, Emily played a season with The Louisville Orchestra before moving to Chicago from 1999-2003. She enjoyed performing with many ensembles including the Chicago Sinfonietta, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Alfonso Ponticelli and Swing Gitan, Harvest Bible Chapel under Andy Rozier (Vertical Church), Joffrey Ballet, Ravinia, Symphony II (now the Chicago Philharmonic) and the Lyric Opera Orchestra.

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Rachel Schuldt

Rachel Schuldt is a freelance cellist and recording artist in the Chicago area. Rachel has been a member of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra since 2013. She has performed in numerous musicals in the Chicago area, including *Sweeney Todd* (Kokandy Productions 2022, Wheaton Drama 2019, and *Theo Ubique* 2018); *Big Fish* (BoHo Theatre), *Mary Rose* (Black Button Eyes Productions), *Grey Gardens* (Theo Ubique), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Elgin Community College 2023 and North Central College 2013), *Violet and Fun Home*

(Loyola University); *High Fidelity* (Columbia College); *Spring Awakening* (Theatre Nebula); *Kiss Me Kate* (Elgin Community College); and *Lizzie* (Firebrand Theatre). You can also hear Rachel on MAKs the Fox's albums *From the Deer Forest* and *That We Exist* as well as Kevin Durr's albums *Songbird* and *Better Angels*. She received her B.A. in Cello Performance from Augustana College in 2011 under the tutelage of Dr. Janina Ehrlich.

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Momoko Hasselbring Seko

Committed to artistic integrity as a classical musician while evolving an authentic and personal approach to DEI values, Momo is expanding vocabulary on the French horn by drawing repertoire and stylistic, technical and conceptual principles from world folk and contemporary genres. As an educator, Momo teaches a full studio of horn students at several local high schools. She has performed with classical ensembles such as Folks Operetta, Rockford Symphony Orchestra and Music of the Baroque, as well as with novel ensembles like The Shins and Chico Freeman's Legacy Project. Momo is a founding member of the Braeburn Brass Quintet, which

showcases classical instrumentation by performing contemporary compositions (both originals and pieces by friends) which challenge, engage, impact, and resonate. She won the 2023 wind fellowship of the Chicago Luminarts Foundation. An Evanston native, she received her BM summa cum laude at DePaul University and anticipates her Master's degree in horn performance from Northwestern University in 2023.

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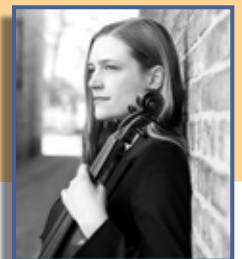
Emma Strohbush

Violist and Chicago native Emma Strohbush is an avid orchestral musician, freelance performer and teacher. She is a member of the New Philharmonic and performs frequently with Northwest Indiana Symphony, Rockford Symphony and Illinois Symphony. Emma's freelance performances include chamber music, opera, cultural exchange and private events throughout the Chicago area. She teaches violin and viola students of all ages at Noteable Notes Music Academy in Wheaton and First Conservatory in La Grange. Emma earned her bachelor's degree at University of Illinois, studying with Rudolf Haken, and her master's degree at Roosevelt

University, studying with Michael Isaac Strauss. She was a recipient of the Edward J. Krolick String Award – a full-tuition scholarship. Emma has also studied with artists including, Philip Ying, Karen Dreyfus, Roger Chase, Joanna Mendoza and Evelina Chao. In addition, Emma studied string pedagogy and Suzuki teaching methods at the Chicago Suzuki Institute and the Indiana University Teachers Retreat with Mimi Zweig.

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**The Chicago Federation of Musicians welcomes the musicians of the
Rockford Symphony who have become new members!**

Mark Baldwin

Jacqueline Bartsch-Fisher

Luke Berkley

Daniel Bretz

Joanna Bryk-Roberts

Ella Caswell

Chantel Davis

Joshua Fleming

Paul Gronquist

James Haugland

Tara Hayes

Kathryn Heise

Ria Hodgson

Kungyeo Hong

Jeoung Hyunsu

Ricardo Jimenez

Anatolia Kaku

Brandon Lamm

Hannah Lamm

Gabriela Lara

Jayne Latva

Erin Mashinter

Laura Medisky

Saphra Mikal

Michael Nelson

Joanna Nerius

Samantha Peng

Benjamin Poirot

Stephen Reichelt

Katherine Ritter

Miguel Rodriguez

Brian Rogers

Joel Ross

Jon Schuler

Momoko Seko

Richard Seybold

Samuel Sharp

Emma Strohmusch

Annarita Tanzi

Rachel Walk-Hoffmann

Michael Zielinski

LET'S HELP LYNN WIN!



In our [January/February 2021 issue of the Intermezzo](#), we had the pleasure of interviewing CFM Member Lynn LaPlante and learning about her successful election win to the DuPage County Board. Lynn will be running for a third term next year, and we continue our enthusiastic support of her campaign and her many achievements.

As a violinist and violist performing with the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic and the Charleston (SC) Symphony Orchestra, Lynn is the only active performing artist to hold elected office in Illinois. She has been championing the arts since she was first elected in 2020, pushing for funding and developing public-private partnerships to foster economic growth through the arts. Her advocacy work includes creating and chairing the first-ever Ad Hoc Fine Arts Committee, and launching the Inaugural DuPage Community Arts Festival to highlight arts and artists in DuPage and beyond. This work has landed her a spot on the National Association of Counties Arts & Culture Committee; the Arts Leadership Committee with Arts Alliance Illinois; the Arts DuPage Board; the Board of the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau; and the Board of Choose DuPage, the economic engine of DuPage County, as well as an appointment to the DuPage County Board of Health.

Says Lynn, who lives in Glen Ellyn with her husband Mike Allaway, their four children, dog and two cats, "I became tired of hearing politicians say 'support the arts' without funding the arts. There is no support without public funding. I am so grateful to have a seat at the table as an artist, voting on issues and budgetary decisions, and using my platform to advocate for artists and arts organizations. As someone once said, 'if you don't have a seat at the table, you're on the menu.' The arts deserve a seat at the table, a voice in the room where it happens and, most importantly, a vote."

Lynn's tireless efforts include currently chairing the Economic Development Committee, securing \$270,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding to do a feasibility study on the arts and sports in DuPage County. "The arts are not only one of the biggest drivers of economic development – they're also one of the most vital ingredients that contribute to the overall health and well-



Lynn with attendees at a Choose DuPage Board Meeting on September 19, where she had the honor of giving the opening remarks for a panel on economic development in DuPage County. Photo courtesy of Lynn LaPlante.

being of a community. The arts deserve someone who will fight for funding and visibility, and I am honored to take this on."

In addition to all these incredible accomplishments, Lynn has taken on one more arts endeavor – working with the DuPage County Sheriff to bring music therapy to the incarcerated at the county jail. "I play my violin for the inmates, and it has proven to be a profoundly impactful experience for all involved, myself included! I try to bring music to areas never explored before via local government."

Lynn has an opponent for the March primary election, and needs support of fellow artists and arts advocates to be re-elected. "My passion is the intersection of the arts and economic development, and the arts and public health. I can't do this alone, however – I need others to get involved and help push these initiatives across the finish line."

If you want to support a tireless advocate for the arts and the well-being of communities, please consider volunteering for Lynn's campaign to canvass, write postcards, phone/text-banking, post on social media or fundraising. You can learn more about Lynn at <http://helplynnwin.org/>, can be found on all social media platforms @HelpLynnWin and can be reached via email at HelpLynnWin@gmail.com. Go to donate to her campaign at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/helplynnwin>.

Let's Help Lynn Win!



CFM Director of Electronic Media Dean Rolando, Lynn and board member Rich Daniels at a dinner at Cardinal Blaise Cupich's Private Residence, where she was Rich's guest as he and Dean provided music for the evening. Photo courtesy of Lynn LaPlante.

John Pyszka 1940-2023



John M. Pyszka, age 83, a longtime resident of Lisle, IL, passed away peacefully on August 29, 2023 after a brief illness.

John was born on March 30, 1940 in Chicago. He began his musical studies on the South Side of Chicago at St. Mary of the Sea playing the French horn and bass drum for the grammar school band. He also had the pleasure of playing the accordion and even won First Place at the Ted Mack Amateur Hour. Upon entering St. Phillip High School, his band director, Mr. Chester Stephen, introduced John to the tuba.

While attending DePaul University, John spent hours and hours practicing and taking lessons with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra tuba player Arnold Jacobs. After graduation from DePaul, he pursued a career in teaching music. He was the band director at Gordon Technical High School and taught private music lessons.

He then opened a music store/teaching center to support others that share his passion for music. Still in operation today, Modern Music is located at 1715 Ogden Ave. in Lisle. In his spare time, John enjoyed watching history documentaries and *Law & Order*, and taking short walks.

Throughout John's more than 60 years of playing the tuba, he had the pleasure to perform with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Chicago Brass Quintet, DuPage Symphony, Naperville Municipal Band and the American Wind Band of Downers Grove, and touring with the Dick Shory Percussion Pops Orchestra. For those who would like to leave a lasting tribute to John's life, memorial donations may be directed to American Wind Band, P.O. Box 605, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

John is survived by his devoted daughters, Carole Anne (Ron) Rendek and Katie (Ty) Heuer; his cherished grandchildren, Rudy and Zachary Rendek, Lexi, Caleb

and Molly Heuer; his dear sister, Betty Ann (the late Robert) Sturm; his adored niece and nephews who knew him as "Uncle Jack"; Rich (Michelle) Sturm, Jim Sturm, John Sturm, Julie (Tim) Cooper, Matthew (Jillian) Sturm and great-nieces and great-nephews, Sebastian, Lucas, Mia and Bella Sturm, Kaylee and Sara Cooper, Madison, Ethan and Caralin Sturm; and his loving companion, Mary Anne Mangiapane. He was preceded in death by his parents, John F. and Eva Pyszka.

Reprinted with permission from Betty Ann Sturm.

Joanne Stucka 1929-2023



Joanne Stucka, a long-time resident of Morton Grove, Illinois, passed away at the age of 94 on September 14th, 2023 and has now joined her loving husband, Roy B. Stucka. She was born July 31, 1929 to Hilda Johnson (Pearson) and Norman Johnson.

Joanne is survived by her son, Gary Stucka (wife Gina Hilse), her daughter, Barbara Clemens and her two grandchildren, Kyle Clemens and Kirsten Clemens (husband Andrew Wireman).

Joanne attended the American Conservatory of Music and Northwestern University. A piano teacher for many years, she also performed in the Chicago area as an accompanist, recitalist and soloist, both as a pianist and a harpsichordist. She often enjoyed accompanying her son, Gary Stucka, who played cello with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Joanne has held office and was an active member of the Evanston Music Club and the North Shore Musicians Club where she performed and participated in providing annual scholarships for talented young music students.

A visitation for Joanne was held Saturday, October 21st, 2023 at Oehler Funeral Home, 2099 Miner Street, Des Plaines, 60016, followed by the funeral service.



CFM President **BJ LEVY** was in Boston September 30th through October 5th to attend the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans Conference as a representative of the AFM Pension Fund. BJ attended sessions led by lawyers, actuaries and investment professionals who shared information about responsible governance of multi-employer pensions such as the American Federation of Musicians and Employers Pension Fund (AFM-EPF). Left to right: AFM-EPF Trustees Tom Calderaro (with his wife, Jeanette Surga), BJ, Stephanie O'Keefe, Brian Rood, Martha Hyde, Secretary of the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians (ICSOM) Laura Ross and AFM President Emeritus Ray Hair. Photo courtesy of BJ Levy.



Congratulations to CFM Board Member **CAITLIN EDWARDS** for winning the Grant Park Music Festival Advocate for the Arts Award, which recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to Chicago's cultural landscape. She was honored at the Advocate for the Arts Award Benefit at the Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park on October 10th. "This was really special for me because I was a fellow with the Grant Park Music Festival in 2016," said Caitlin in her acceptance speech. "I am grateful for the role the Grant Park Music Festival has played in my life as a musician and for the many educational initiatives that inspire others like me." She also cited the opportunities she's had to mentor and teach young musicians and to expand her musical and creative voice as both a composer and a recording artist here and across the world. Way to go, Caitlin! Photo courtesy of Caitlin Edwards.

Did you get a new gig, reach a personal milestone or attain a special professional achievement?
Please contact Sharon Jones at sjones@cfm10208.org and share your story in Out and About!



On September 9th, members of the Chicago Federation of Musicians and their families took part in the 23rd Annual PAWS Chicago 5K Walk/Run For Their Lives. Every year in Chicago, nearly 9,000 homeless cats and dogs are euthanized, but PAWS Chicago (Pets Are Worth Saving), Chicagoland's largest no-kill shelter and one of the largest in the nation, has helped to reduce the number of homeless pets killed in the city by 92% since its founding in 1997. Our members had a great time and raised \$1,680 to help homeless animals. Left to right: Susan Rolando, **DEAN ROLANDO**, Kate Flint, **KAREN SUAREZ FLINT**, **GREG FLINT**, **MARGIE BERGER**, **BJ LEVY**, Isaac Suarez Flint, **ELIZABETH ANDERSON**, **JANICE MACDONALD**, **JOHN FLOETER**, **RICH DANIELS**, and Rich's daughters Mary Kate and Maggie, along with Maggie's fiancé Joe Okleman. Photo courtesy of Karen Suarez Flint.



These woodwind players were all smiles at an Elgin Symphony Orchestra rehearsal for the opening concert of the 2023-2024 season. The repertoire was the overture to Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Strauss' *Four Last Songs*, with Christine Brewer as the guest soprano and Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*. Left to right: **PATRICK REHKER**, **KATHRYN PIRTLE**, **BARBARA DRAPCHO**, **VINCENT DESANTIS**, **EDIN AGAMENONI** and **KARL RZASA**. Photo courtesy of Sharon Jones.



On October 25th, violinist **ERIC PIDLUSKI** got doored while riding his bike and suffered extensive injuries to his right leg. He had to undergo two surgeries, the second of which was a four-hour complete tibial plateau reconstruction. Eric, pictured here with his mom and Elgin Symphony Orchestra violin section mates, has a long road to recovery ahead but remains positive. "The amount of care and support I've received from close friends, family, medical professionals and colleagues is overwhelming," he says. "I am full of such a deep sense of gratitude." All of us here at the CFM wish you a swift recovery, Eric! Left to right: **DANIELA FOLKER**, **CAROL DYLAN**, **WENDY EVANS**, **JOANNA NERIUS**, **KATE CARTER**, **ERIC PIDLUSKI**, **JENNIFER LECKIE**, **SUSAN CARLSON**, **SALLY STEPHENSON**, Pamela Pidluski and **HELEN KIM LEE**. Photo courtesy of Wendy Evans.

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To download the #NotMe app and sign on to the CFM's page, scan the QR code at right or download the free #NotMe app on your device. After registering, please link your account with the CFM by adding the Chicago Federation of Musicians as your "company" and entering the code 2224 (BACH).

If you do not want to download the app on your device, you may also use #NotMe's online portal to send in your reports. To do so, create an account, link that account to the CFM and fill out a report by going to app.notme.solutions/login, using the browser of your choice. You will have all the same functionality when it comes to communicating with the CFM through the chat as you have through the app on your phone.

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