

Intermezzo

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chicago federation of musicians
local 10-208 afm

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(Very) Hot Labor Summer

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Big Union Wins and Finalized Plans for New CFM Headquarters

This edition's column promises to be a real good news story. The Rockford Symphony is now a union orchestra! The musicians of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra worked diligently with CFM leadership and attorney Kevin Case to get through the final hurdles of their organizing campaign. When the National Labor Relations Board tallied the votes on July 21, the result was an overwhelming YES vote to join the Chicago Federation of Musicians. We look forward to negotiating a collective bargaining agreement that builds and strengthens this very important orchestra both for the Rockford community and for the musicians who count on their income from performances. We will work with the Players' Committee to make sure their needs are addressed and gains are achieved.

Speaking of gains, I want to congratulate the members of both the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Grant Park Orchestra for their recent successful CBA negotiations. The Lyric achieved a five-year agreement with significant wins and no concessions that also moves them back toward a full roster and a longer season that returns to eight operas. Grant Park achieved gains as well, not the least of which was a one-of-a-kind agreement concerning relief from dangerous high temperatures during outdoor summer performances. The Players' Committees for both of these organizations showed tenacity and great concern for their colleagues during long hours of negotiation. I am extraordinarily proud to sit at the bargaining table with them.

On the organizing front, are you working in an orchestra that needs a collective bargaining agreement? Give us a call – we're on a bit of roll here! Let's make sure professional musicians are being paid a professional wage. To that end, we are taking the fight for fair representation beyond

our traditional categories and embracing Chicago-area hip-hop artists. Much more to come on that front.

The CFM is now officially a part of the Midwest Coalition of Labor. This is a very important set of benefits that are now available to members. You should have received a brochure in the mail last month. Please do take a look or go to the [website](#) and click on the links there. Your union membership is working for you in new ways, and we will continue to expand basic benefits as we find opportunities.

Finally, the CFM is moving... across the hall! After a long search involving both purchase and lease options that looked at a wide variety of properties and solicited advice from investment advisors, accountants and property advisors, we are moving 50 feet to the east. Our landlord, Scott Buhl, has made us an amazing offer and we will be moving into 6,000 square feet in Suite 2E. We will be regaining a rehearsal hall, which was removed from our current lease as a cost-saving measure during the pandemic, adding office space and adding two practice rooms while saving around \$30,000 per year in building occupancy expense. The lease will be five years with a five-year option to extend. This was a grueling process, and I want you all to know that the team here worked tirelessly to find the right home for our headquarters. We are now planning the logistics of the move, which we expect to happen in October. When we're settled, we'll invite everyone down for an open house.

Thank you all for your membership and support. I remain excited for the work ahead, and thank you for trusting me with this solemn duty. I look forward to coming to work every day. As always, the phone line is open.

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 VICE-PRESIDENT

JOHN FLOETER

Summer Activity

This past summer has been a busy one for musicians, with several concerts, shows, community events and labor actions. There were many engagements co-sponsored by the Music Performance Trust Fund, from Glencoe to Flossmoor to Park Ridge and many points between in Chicago. Of course, the summer is the season for special outdoor events and the usual encounters with Mother Nature. Expect the unexpected!

Members of the CFM joined to support the SAG-AFTRA strike in a rally on July 20th with several other unions. I want to stress the importance of showing solidarity with our fellow unions, no matter how closely we work with them. Their struggle is our struggle. When it comes to writers and actors, we share many issues such as re-use payments and the regulation of artificial intelligence.

I want to give a special thanks to our musicians (Steve Duncan, Matt Ulery and Nick Sednew) who played in the noon sun and kept the rally cool and upbeat.

New successor agreements have been negotiated with the Writers Theatre in Glencoe and the Copley Theatre in Aurora.

Finally, it is with great pleasure and appreciation that we announce the Rockford Symphony Orchestra musicians have voted for union representation by the Chicago Federation of Musicians. After a year of organizing, petitioning, and finally a vote, we had a great voter turnout and a strong positive result. Now the work begins to bargain for the RSO as a professional orchestra to improve working conditions with a great contract.



The historic Coronado Theatre is the current home for the Rockford Symphony Orchestra, whose musicians voted in July to be represented by the Chicago Federation of Musicians. Congratulations and welcome to the CFM!

Photo courtesy of Marty Hackl

The Wage Scale and Rules Committee met in July to discuss new rates for the next two years. The new rates will appear on the website in September.



FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

KAREN SUAREZ FLINT

Join the Revolution

We all know the importance of building a solid technical foundation – the countless hours of mastering scales and etudes in a world where your two best friends are named Tuner & Metronome. This commitment to the fundamentals allows us to transcend the technical and attain the highest level of music-making.

Our keen attention to detail, strong work ethic and ability to approach challenges with creativity are the superpowers that we bring to the labor movement. No one knows better than us the importance of solid preparation.

Since April, we have been busy laying the groundwork to organize the DJ, hip-hop and EDM (electronic dance music) artists of Chicago. This is no small challenge. But, we are the Chicago Federation of Musicians and this is what we do. We advocate for musicians and your rights to higher wages, benefits, safe workplaces and the opportunity to live and thrive as artists. In June, as a first-time delegate, I stood before the AFM Convention, and spoke in favor of Resolution 21 which officially welcomes DJ, hip-hop and EDM Artists into the AFM. I spoke for the artists in Chicago and around the country who have zero representation in a “Pay to Play” system

where money is being made by everyone but the artists themselves. This needs to change and we are committed to supporting these artists and welcoming them as members of the CFM. The AFM and its many Locals around the US and Canada are watching, cheering us on and looking to learn from us and the path we are forging. I encourage all of you to support our “Join the Revolution” Campaign.

When I took office nine months ago, I never imagined the job of Secretary-Treasurer of the CFM would be exciting. Fulfilling, I hoped. But, exciting???

Well, I am thrilled to report that the work being done at 656 W. Randolph Ste 2W (soon to be Ste 2E) is truly exciting. We know the extraordinary value of your artistry and come to the office each day ready to demand that employers compensate you fairly. We challenge you to value your work as much as we do. Join us in the fight for fair compensation. If you have been hired for a job and think the pay is low, call us. Join us in the fight for safe workplaces. If you are in a pit and the decibel level is too high, call us. Join us in strengthening and growing the Chicago Federation of Musicians. Join the Revolution!

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-EPF.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.

The 102nd Convention of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada was held June 26-29, 2023 at the Westgate Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, NV. The Chicago Federation of Musicians was well represented. President **BJ Levy** was in attendance, while Secretary/Treasurer **Karen Suarez Flint** and CFM board members **Rich Daniels** and **Janice MacDonald** served as delegates; CFM board member **Caitlin Edwards** attended as the CFM's Diversity Delegate to the AFM Convention; and CFM Electronic Media Coordinator **Dean Rolando** joined as a guest. Janice, who was elected as Alternate Delegate to the AFM Convention, was on the Election Committee to ensure all voting during the convention ran smoothly. **Naomi Bensdorf Frisch** attended as the Delegate-at-Large to the AFM Convention on behalf of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association (ROPA), and was on the Organization Committee. **Heather Boehm** attended as President of the Theatre Musicians Association (TMA), while **Tom Mendel** served as delegate. **Lisa Bressler**, who is also a member of the Madison Area Musicians Association, Local 166, came to the convention on their behalf. She served on the Small Locals Committee, which discussed the challenges of these locals serving small memberships in large jurisdictions, and the

Credentials Committee. CFM President Emerita **Terryl Jares** was there as a member of the International Executive Board.

A number of resolutions and recommendations were addressed at the convention. Those can be reviewed on [Pages 19-26](#) in the May 2023 issue of the *International Musician*, and the results of how they were voted on can be found on [Page 8](#) of the August 2023 issue. Among the highlights were the expansion of eligibility of the strike fund for any ICSOM (International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians) or ROPA orchestra; the establishment of an annual operating budget to advance public awareness of music professionals who work on theatrical musicals in light of encroaching musician replacement technologies; a resolution to support a single-payer system to make healthcare a birthright for everyone in America; and a public and official welcome to DJs, hip-hop musicians and EDM (electronic dance music) artists as members of the AFM. And a special shout-out to Caitlin! She won the Charles McDaniel Youth Award, which is given to anyone between 16 to 35 years old who has shown accomplishment as a young, upcoming musician in their local and throughout their community. Congratulations, Caitlin!



CFM board member Caitlin Edwards winning the Charles McDaniel Youth Award. Left to right: Elliott Ratliff (Local 60-471, Pittsburgh), Varun Vyas (Local 571, Atlantic Federation of Musicians), AFM Legislative-Political Director Alfonso Pollard, Caitlin Edwards, BJ Levy, AFM Diversity Committee Chair Lovie Smith-Wright and Karen Suarez Flint. Photo courtesy of BJ Levy.



CFM contingent at the AFM Convention. Left to right: TMA President Heather Boehm, TMA Delegate Tom Mendel, Caitlin Edwards, Dean Rolando, BJ Levy, Karen Suarez Flint, Naomi Bensdorf Frisch, Terryl Jares and Rich Daniels. Photo courtesy of BJ Levy.



AFM President-Elect Tino Gagliardi and CFM President BJ Levy. Photo courtesy of BJ Levy.



The attendees of the 102nd Convention of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada. Photo courtesy of Fred Morledge – PhotoFM.com.

WGA AND SAG-AFTRA ACTIONS

As of this writing, two huge strikes are taking place: the Writers Guild of America (WGA), and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA). The WGA's contract expired without a deal on May 30, and its members have been picketing ever since. SAG-AFTRA entered their strike on July 14. Both unions are asking for better rates of pay and residuals that have suffered in the face of the new business model of streaming, and both have concerns about the use of artificial intelligence supplanting their work.

CFM President **BJ Levy** and board member **Rich Daniels** joined members of the WGA and other locals on the picket line in front of NBC Tower in Chicago on May 17 to show their support. On July 20, just a few days after SAG-AFTRA went on strike, BJ, Electronic Media Coordinator **Dean Rolando** and a four-piece band consisting of **Matt Ulery** on sousaphone, **Steve Duncan** on trombone, **Nick Sednew** on trumpet and **Joe Sonnefeldt** on percussion joined the SAG-AFTRA Solidarity Walk and Rally, where supporters marched from Millennium Park to Buckingham Fountain. The CFM supports our union allies and is confident these workers will win the fair wages and conditions they're asking for.



A Fat-Cat and a Corporate Pig join Scabby the Rat at the SAG-AFTRA Solidarity Walk and Rally.
Photo courtesy of Loretta Gillespie.



BJ Levy is flanked by CFM members during the SAG-AFTRA Solidarity Walk and Rally.
Left to right: Matt Ulery on sousaphone, Steve Duncan on trombone, Nick Sednew on trumpet, Dean Rolando (light green shirt) and board member Joe Sonnefeldt (walking bike).
Photo courtesy of Loretta Gillespie.





Left to right: BJ Levy, actors Tim Kazurinsky and Bobcat Goldthwait and Chicago Federation of Labor President Bob Reiter picket with members of the WGA. Photo courtesy of BJ Levy.



BJ Levy and Rich Daniels picket with members of the WGA in front of NBC Tower in Chicago. Photo courtesy of BJ Levy.



Supporters march through Millennium Park in the SAG-AFTRA Solidarity Walk and Rally. Photo courtesy of Loretta Gillespie.

Over 70 delegates from orchestras around the country gathered in Atlanta, GA for the 40th Annual Regional Orchestra Players' Association (ROPA) Conference, July 25-27. CFM members in attendance were **Matt Barwegen**, delegate for the South Bend Symphony; **David Beytas**, delegate for Orchestra Iowa; **Lisa Bressler**, delegate for the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra; **Naomi Bensdorf Frisch**, Delegate-at-Large to the AFM Convention and also a member of the Illinois Philharmonic; **Sharon Jones**, delegate for the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, ROPA Member-at-Large and Editor of the newsletter, *The Leading Tone*; and CFM Secretary-

Treasurer **Karen Suarez Flint**. Another Chicago presence was **Jake Berent**, Director of Communications for the Chicago Federation of Labor, who gave a presentation on how your orchestra can craft a message to the public and the media during a labor action.

As in past conferences, speakers included members of the Symphonic Services Division of the AFM discussing electronic media, mediation, protecting musicians' rights, past labor actions from orchestras such as the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and the Minnesota Opera Orchestra and overall musician health. More information about the conference can be found at ropaweb.org.



Jake Berent, Director of Communications at the CFL, discusses media messaging. Photo courtesy of Beverly Setzer.



The CFM contingent, left to right: David Beytas, Naomi Bensdorf Frisch, Sharon Jones, Lisa Bressler and Matt Barwegen. Photo courtesy of Beverly Setzer.



CFM Secretary Treasurer Karen Suarez Flint and her husband, hornist Greg Flint. Photo courtesy of Sharon Jones.

ROPA stands with SAG-AFTRA #UnionStrong



ROPA conference attendees show their support for SAG-AFTRA members while they strike. Photo courtesy of Beverly Setzer.

EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

The #NotMe app is a tool provided by the CFM to help encourage a healthy, safe and equitable working environment for our Union members. Additionally, the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) is here to help. You may learn more about the FEPC and the #NotMe app on the CFM website under "Musician Resources". Any member of the FEPC is available and willing to answer your questions and their contact information is available in the "Find a Member" section of the CFM website.

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.

Interested in joining the FEPC? If you want to be considered, please email Legal Consultant Naomi Frisch at naomi@ulaw.com with the subject "FEPC" and include your name and a short bio.



PAULETTI SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

TERRYL JARES
PRESIDENT EMERITA

The Second Dorothy Olson Pauletti Scholarship Competition was held in Ed Ward Hall of the Chicago Federation of Musicians on Saturday, May 20, 2023. All five high school contestants were awarded certificates of participation. First prize went to Annabelle Zogby of Lemont High School; the second prize winner was Daniel Lee of Hinsdale Central High School; and the third place award went to Kevin Xu, a student at Neuqua Valley High School. Trinity Bryant, who is home-schooled, and Imran Husain of Hinsdale Central won honorable mention awards.

Dorothy Olson Pauletti's career spanned over 84 years. She was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the CFM at her 102nd birthday celebration at the Empire Room of the Palmer House where she performed nightly from 1977 to 1985. Dorothy was a member of the CFM for over 70 years. Before her death in 2020, her daughter Susan Nelson promised to set up a scholarship

fund to help keep cabaret piano performance alive.

The CFM partnered with Illinois Wesleyan University, the school Ms. Olson Pauletti credited for her music education. The judges included Craig Nelson, Dorothy's grandson and a graduate of the University of Illinois School of Music in Piano Performance; jazz pianist Joseph Clifton, a graduate of the Music School of North Park University; and our Electronic Media Department head, Dean Rolando, who is well known as a top freelance pianist.

The third Scholarship Competition is planned to be held on May 18, 2024. You can see Dorothy's interview with Jay Shefsky of WTTW at www.pbs.org/video/102-she-still-has-chops-xvvrxu/. Contributions to help support this scholarship fund may be sent to the Chicago Federation of Musicians with "Olson Pauletti Scholarship" in the memo line.



Winners of the Dorothy Olson Pauletti Scholarship Competition are (L-R) Annabelle Zogby, 1st Place; Trinity Bryant, Honorable Mention; Imran Husain, Honorable Mention; Daniel Lee, 2nd Place; and Kevin Xu, 3rd Place. Photo courtesy of Susan Nelson.

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Laura Adkins

Oboist and composer Laura Adkins has been an advocate of contemporary music for much of her professional career. She was recently awarded a scholarship to attend a composition residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts with her duo partner, pianist and composer Jonathan Hannau, which resulted in a full-length, collaboratively-composed concert program. In 2016, Laura attended the Darmstadt New Music Festival in Germany, which included intensive study with Peter Veale. Laura completed both her bachelor's and master's at DePaul University in Chicago, studying with Jelena

Dirks, Eugene Izotov and John Dee. Additional teachers have included Scott Hostetler, Carolyn Hove, Christopher Redgate and Bill Buchman. As a freelancer in the Chicago area, Laura has performed with numerous local ensembles, and at such venues as Symphony Center, Millennium Park, The Harris Theater, The Green Mill and a number of other storefront venues, bookstores, coffee shops and hidden gems around the city.

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Anya Brumfield

Anya Brumfield began playing the violin at her public elementary school in Homewood, IL when she was nine years old. Her parents noticed her intense interest in learning her instrument and enrolled her in private lessons, youth orchestras and competitions such as the Chicago Youth Symphony Concerto Competition and the American Music Institute Violin Competition. She participated in various programs including the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, Illinois Music Educators Festivals and the Montecito Music Festival in Riverside,

California. Some of her previous instructors include Julie Fischer (Music Institute of Chicago), Addison Teng (MIC), Mimi Zweig and Mrs. Phyllis Calderon. She received her Bachelor's in Violin Performance in 2020 at the Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana. Anya now focuses on performing with different groups and teaching with various programs around Chicagoland and the South Suburbs.

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Hardin Butcher

Hardin Butcher is a trumpet player, conductor, arranger and writer, formerly of Local 148-462 in Atlanta, Local 802 in New York and Local 86-242 in Youngstown, Ohio. Hardin was lead trumpet in the spring production of *Damn Yankees* at the Marriott Theatre, and will return to that chair later this year for *Gypsy* and *Beautiful*. While in Atlanta, he played in national touring productions of *Aladdin*, *White Christmas* and *Hello, Dolly!*; regional productions of *A Chorus Line*, *West Side Story* and *In The Heights*; and the world premiere of the musical *Ever After: A Cinderella Story* at the Alliance Theatre. In New York, Hardin was a chair-winner for the 2013 Radio City Christmas Spectacular, and a sub on numerous

shows including *West Side Story*, *Catch Me If You Can* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. Orchestral credits include the Youngstown (OH) Symphony, the Greenville (SC) Symphony, the Columbus (GA) Symphony, the Atlanta Pops Orchestra and the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players. Hardin has also toured extensively as lead trumpet with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, the Artie Shaw Orchestra and the Glenn Miller Orchestra, and was lead trumpet of the Atlanta Latin Jazz Orchestra. Hardin holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from SUNY-Stony Brook.

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Wilfred Farquharson

Wilfred Farquharson is a violist from Atlanta, Georgia now based in Chicago. He is currently a member of D-Composed Chicago and Crossing Borders Music, and he is on faculty at the Merit School of Music's Conservatory program. Wilfred has engaged in studio work recording for artists such as Carlos Simon, John Legend and Andra Day, and he was acting Principal viola of Elmhurst Symphony for the 2022-23 season. In addition, he has played with the Lyric Opera Orchestra,

Chicago Sinfonietta and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Prior to moving to Chicago, Wilfred studied at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University for his undergraduate degree and at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California, where he graduated with honors.

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Ashley Hunter

A Chicago-based flutist, Ashley Hunter is a graduate of Northwestern University (MM) and Manhattan School of Music (BM), where she studied primarily with John Thorne and Michael Parloff. Ashley has performed in a variety of musical settings, appearing with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York Chamber Players, Opera in the Ozarks and the Houston Symphony, among others. Ashley was a prizewinner in the

Donald Peck International Flute Competition (2017), Alexander & Buono International Flute Competition (2013), International Virtuoso Competition (2013) and Fuchs Chamber Music Competition (2015). She is also passionate about pedagogy and enjoys teaching in both individual and group settings.



Heesoo Kim

Heesoo Kim, a native of South Korea, has been appointed as the Principal Clarinetist of the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra by the music director Enrique Mazzola in 2023.

Kim made his debut through the Kumho Prodigy Recitals by winning the audition organized by the Kumho Asiana Cultural Foundation. His prowess as a musician has been recognized through his placement in numerous competitions in South Korea. He was a first prize winner of the Music Education News Competition, the Journal of Music Competition, the Korea Herald Music Competition and Korean Chamber Music Competition; second prize winner of the Busan Music Competition; and third prize winner of the Dong-A Music Competition. He has

also performed in various orchestras, including the KBS Symphony Orchestra and the American Youth Symphony. In addition to his performances, Kim actively contributes to the musical community through volunteering, having been selected as an artist sponsored by the Hyundai-CMK Foundation.

Kim received his Bachelor's Degree at Kyung Hee University in South Korea and is currently pursuing his Master's Degree at University of Southern California under the tutelage of Yehuda Gilad.

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Gabriela Lara

Venezuelan Violinist Gabriela Lara began her music studies at the Music Conservatorio Vicente Emilio Sojo in Barquisimeto, Venezuela at the age of eight. She was a member of the Latin American Violin Academy as a student of Jose Francisco del Castillo and Francisco Diaz and a member of "El Sistema" in Venezuela, where she served as a Concertmaster of the Lara Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela in 2017. Gabriela Lara toured with the National Children Orchestra of Venezuela in 2013, with the Teresa Carreno Youth Orchestra in 2014, the Simon Bolivar Orchestra of Venezuela in 2016 and the Mozart Kinderorchester der Stiftung Mozarteum Mitglieder des National Children's Symphony of Venezuela, performing in prestigious European festivals and concert halls including the Salzburg Festival and the Berlin Philharmoniker.

Gabriela has worked with world-renowned conductors including Gustavo Dudamel, Sir Simon Rattle, Diego Matheuz, Christoph Koncz and Christian Vazquez.

She has performed as a soloist with the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, Lara Youth Symphony Orchestra, Lara Symphony Orchestra, Caracas Symphony Orchestra and Miranda Youth Orchestra in the "Centro de Accion Social por la Musica" in Venezuela. She received a recognition by the Legislative Council of the Municipality Jimenez in 2011.

Gabriela has performed in masterclasses for Ilya Kaler, Ray Chen, Uto Ughi and Midori. She won the 2019 Roosevelt University Concerto Competition, the 3rd International Violin Competition, in homage to Maestro Frank Preuss, and was 2nd place in 25th Sphinx Concerto Competition. Ms. Lara is currently part of the studio of Almita Vamos at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where she obtained a Bachelor in Violin Performance and will start her Master in Suzuki Pedagogy next fall.

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Martin Metzger

Martin Metzger is a versatile guitarist and composer from Evanston, Illinois who has performed with many ensembles, including Leley (Flamenco), Ensemble of Ragas (Indian/Flamenco) and Wood To Water (World-Influenced Jazz), which recorded a debut album in 2006. In 2007, Martin recorded a second album as a sideman with The Chicago Grace Consort. Martin currently performs with a flamenco group and a flamenco-jazz ensemble, both based in Chicago, and solo flamenco guitar concerts. Having earned a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies from DePaul University in 1994, Martin travels to a school called Carmen De Las Cuevas in Granada, Spain every year to deepen his study of flamenco. He has also studied in Sevilla, Madrid, Cadiz and many

other Andalusian cities. As a teacher, Martin has been sharing his love of guitar with students of all ages for over 35 years. He utilizes his Master's degree in Education, earned from National-Louis University in 2010, to structure his approach to maximize student learning. In addition, Martin draws from his practices of Tibetan yoga and meditation to impart to his students a sense of joy, discipline, creativity and dedication to the art. He currently teaches private lessons at Baker Demonstration School and at his own studio, Metzger Music Studio, in Evanston.

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Rebecca Miller

An Illinois native, violist Rebecca Miller has recently arrived in Chicago and is currently a student of Helen Callus, pursuing a Master's Degree ('25) at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. She holds degrees from the Glenn Gould School ('23) and the Boston Conservatory ('18), and has studied with Steven Dann, Rictor Noren, Nicholas Cords and Lewis Rosove. Rebecca has extensive orchestral experience both onstage and in the pit. She has performed with the Chicago Civic Orchestra, National Arts Center Orchestra, Niagara Symphony, Symphony New Hampshire, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and the New Bedford Symphony,

as well as in productions with San Diego's Opera NEO, the Boston Opera Collaborative, Commonwealth Lyric Opera, Umbrella Theater and Moonbox Theater. She is a passionate chamber musician and recently won a top prize with her string quartet in the Glenn Gould School's 2022 Chamber Music Competition. Rebecca is excited to be returning to her home state and looks forward to working in the Windy City.

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Davis Perez

Violist Davis Perez is a native of Columbus, Ohio and now calls Chicago home. Davis received his Bachelor of Music from the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati and studied with Masao Kawasaki and Catherine Carroll Lees. At the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where he studied with Roger Chase, he received a Master of Music and Artist Diploma. Davis is a member of the Quad City Symphony Orchestra and Madison Symphony Orchestra and frequently appears

with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera of Chicago. He also won a one-year appointment to the Minnesota Orchestra and recently won a one-year appointment with the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra. In his free time, Davis enjoys exploring the Chicago area and spending time with his cat, Sugar.

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Addison Teng

Violinist Addison Teng is a sought-after performer and teacher who has given solo and chamber music performances across North America, Europe and Asia. A rising pedagogue of his generation, Teng is currently on the faculty of DePaul University School of Music and Music Institute of Chicago, and was previously on faculty at the Montecito International Music Festival. He is president and founder of the nonprofit Fulton Music Society and is the director of the Fulton Summer Music Academy and the Fulton In Residence touring program. Previously he served as teaching assistant at the Meadowmount School of Music and Northwestern University Bienen School of Music, assisting Sally Thomas, Amy Barlowe, and Roland and Almita Vamos. He has given masterclasses and coachings at Lawrence University, Eastman Pre-College, Istituto Musicale Sammarinese in San Marino, Conservatorio Bruno Maderna in Cesena, Italy, Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali "Pietro Mascagni" in Livorno, Italy, Taipei American School and Conservatório Villa-Lobos in Rio de Janeiro. Prior to founding Fulton, he took students on tours to the Philippines, Greece, Italy, and San Marino, where he gave masterclasses and performed with his students.

Teng's students have recently placed at competitions both locally and nationally, and many have been admitted to top universities and conservatories. His students also have gone on to win jobs with the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Orchestra and Louisville Philharmonic, and have soloed with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Springfield Symphony, Denver Young Artist Orchestra, and Montecito Festival Orchestra. In 2015, the Addison C. Teng Merit Scholarship was established at the Music Institute of Chicago for his studio.

Teng graduated with a Master of Music in Violin Performance and String Pedagogy from Northwestern University Bienen School of Music and received his Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. His principal teachers and mentors have included Joey Corpus, Sally Thomas, Roland and Almita Vamos, Peter Takács, Amy Barlowe and Karen Ritscher.

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Steve Wiest

Steve Wiest is a multiple Grammy-nominated trombonist, composer, author and cartoonist. A former soloist and writer for Maynard Ferguson, Steve went on the road to perform with Doc Severinsen and the Old Tonight Show Orchestra as well as many other artists. Steve has numerous recordings out as a leader, composer-arranger and trombonist, the most recent of which is the second album (*BLUE*) from the critically-acclaimed all-star horn band Vinyl Hampdin. Others include *The Steve Wiest Big Band*, *Out of the New* (The Steve Wiest Quintet), *Concerto for Folded Space* (with Jimmy Pankow and Bob Mintzer) and *Phröntrange: The High Road*. (CDs available at Steve Wiest Bandcamp) Steve's latest project is a series of methodology books and a companion website on the art of lead trombone playing titled Leadology.

In the world of jazz education, Steve was formerly the Director of the One O'Clock Lab Band at the University

of North Texas where his group received two Grammy nominations during his first year as director. Following UNT, Wiest was Co-Chair of Jazz Studies at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music where he taught arranging, composition, jazz trombone and directed the award-winning Lamont Jazz Orchestra.

In high demand as a clinician, composer and conductor, Steve has directed many all-state ensembles and appeared as a guest artist and clinician all over the world with jazz festivals, universities, and high schools.

Steve Wiest is a clinician for Edwards Instruments and plays the custom "Excalibur" version of the T302 and the Griego-Steve Wiest Mouthpiece (gold plated) exclusively.

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On July 13, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet performed an arrangement of George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with the Wheaton Municipal Band under the direction of Dr. Bruce Moss. The quintet will perform this piece on a tour to Japan with the Osaka Wind Ensemble in October, so trumpeter **JOHN HAGSTROM**, who knew Dr. Moss from playing with the band when he was growing up in Elmhurst, approached him about putting this on one of their concerts as a run-through. They played to a packed lawn on a perfect summer evening. Someone special was in the audience that night: Will Scarlett, who was the CSO's assistant principal trumpet from 1966 until 1994.



Left to right: Esteban Batallán, Gene Pokorny, Michael Mulcahy, David Griffin, John Hagstrom and Dr. Bruce Moss. Photo courtesy of Sharon Jones.



Left to right: Gene Pokorny, John Hagstrom, Will Scarlett, Esteban Batallán, David Griffin and Michael Mulcahy. Photo courtesy of Sharon Jones.



The Grant Park Symphony Orchestra rehearses Aaron Copland's *Quiet City* at the Harris Theatre on August 3rd. Principal Trumpet **DAVID GORDON** and English hornist **ANNE BACH** were the soloists. The orchestra was conducted by Eric Jacobsen. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Blaha.

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!



Congratulations to the musicians of the Goodman Theatre's production of *The Who's Tommy: The Musical*! The production sold out and was extended by one week to accommodate demand. The show ran from June 13 to August 6. Left to right: **HEATHER BOEHM**, Music Coordinator; **FELTON OFFARD**, **LAWRENCE KOHUT**, **CHRIS FORTE**, **RICK FOX**, **BOBBY EVERSON**, **VALERIE GEBERT**, **JEREMIAH FREDERICK**, **ROSE SNYDER** and **JIM WIDLOWSKI**. Not pictured: Ron Melrose, Music Supervisor and Wes D'Alelio, Music Assistant. Photo courtesy of Bobby Everson.



COREY SANSOLO and **RENÉE VOGEN** are the proud parents of a beautiful new daughter! Stella Jayne was born on June 28, and Corey and Renée are over the moon. Congratulations! Photo courtesy of Renée Vogen.



The hills are alive with the sound of music... from **CAROL DYLAN** and **HEATHER WITTELS**. The two violinists are in Graz, Austria to play in the orchestra for the AIMS (American Institute of Musical Studies) program. For six weeks, AIMS prepares rising opera stars for careers as professional musicians, and their training includes performing orchestral masterworks with renowned European conductors. Musicians also play other orchestral repertoire and chamber music and, if desired, can participate in audition seminars and even German classes. And of course, they can go for beautiful hikes along the Austrian Alps! Photo courtesy of Carol Dylan.



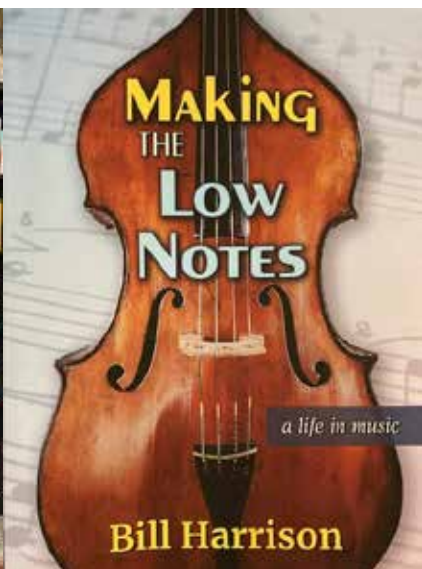
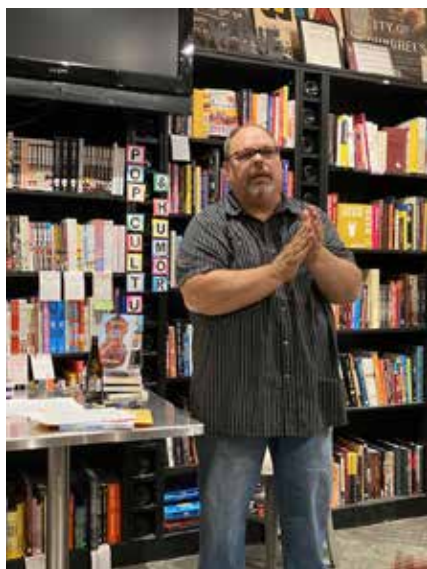
CFM Board Member **JOE SONNEFELDT** and the Raíces Latin Jazz Quintet performed at the Chicago Latin Jazz Festival in Humboldt Park on Saturday, July 15. The concert was a tribute to their colleague Rubén P. Alvarez, who passed away last September. Rubén was a nationally and internationally recognized Latin percussionist who performed with artists such as Junior Wells, Aretha Franklin, Jennifer Hudson, Ramsey Lewis, Patricia Barber and Arturo Sandoval. Rubén also taught Latin percussion at Northwestern University, Roosevelt University, Columbia College and Prairie State College. The members of Raíces are (L to R): **STUART SEALE, BOBBY DELGADO, JORGE LEAL, JOE RENDON, ERIC FERRER** and Joe Sonnefeldt. Photo courtesy of Amy Barwan.



Personality, a new musical about the life and career of R & B musician Lloyd Price, ran at the Studebaker Theater from June 2 to July 30. Left to right: **DWAYNE BRADFORD, MICHAEL ROSS, SHELTON BECTON, RAFE BRADFORD** and **MATT WIFLER**. Not pictured: **PAUL MUTZABAUGH**. Photo courtesy of Michael Ross.



On July 14, saxophonist, composer and CFM board member **JIM GAILLORETO** joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's performance of Beethoven's Symphony #9 at Ravinia in a very special way. Marin Alsop, Ravinia's chief conductor, wanted to reimagine the symphony by adding various elements such as African drumming, an English-language version of the symphony's choral movement *Ode to Joy* and jazz. Jim was asked to compose music that would be performed between the second and third movements of the symphony on this concert, titled *Turn Up the Joy: Beethoven 9 Expanded*. His piece, *Between the Glory*, featured Jim on saxophone, **MIKE ALLEMANA** on guitar and **CHRISTIAN DILLINGHAM** on bass. Says Jim, "It was an honor to work with Marin Alsop and the CSO, and being part of Ravinia's opening night is a composer's dream. In a word... thrilling." Congratulations, Jim! Photo courtesy of Jim Gailloreto.



BILL HARRISON, a bassist and mental health professional featured in our July/August Health and Wellness issue of the *Intermezzo*, held a book signing and release party on July 11 at the Book Cellar in Lincoln Square. In his book, *Making the Low Notes*, Bill writes about his 40 years as a musician and teacher, and his transition into his second career as a therapist. You can find a copy of this entertaining and enjoyable read on [Amazon](#). Photos courtesy of Joe Sonnefeldt.



As part of the cleaning out process before our big move, the CFM donated a large cache of band music to the [West Point School of Music](#), a free community music school on the South Side of Chicago. The music had been donated to the CFM over the years and we are delighted that it has found a new home! Left to right: Ashanti Sims, Director of Programs; Secretary-Treasurer **KAREN SUAREZ FLINT**; and Ashanti Fleming, Assistant Coach of Brass. Photo courtesy of Karen Suarez Flint.



The Ivy Lane String Quartet performed a co-sponsored Music Performance Trust Fund concert at Kalk Park in Glencoe last July. Over 30 concerts were co-sponsored by the MPTF this summer. These included celebrations of Juneteenth and Independence Day as well as neighborhood concerts in public parks. Left to right: **RIKA SEKO**, **HELEN LEE**, **REBECCA SWAN** and **WEI DENTON**. Photo courtesy of John Floeter.

Kim Cusack

1939-2023



Photo courtesy of Joe Bebco

One of the great Chicago jazzmen, clarinetist Kim Cusack, died on June 2nd at 84 years old. Ten days earlier he appeared at the final meeting of the Madison Jazz Society in Wisconsin as part of Bob Schultz's Frisco Jazz Band, closing out a career spanning seven decades.

Cusack began playing in fifth grade band, learning clarinet because his arms weren't long enough for trombone. His first paid gigs were playing sax at school dances just before jazz fell out of favor with his peers. He became friends with pianist James Dapogny since both lived in Chicago suburbs. For their first band they joined with Mike Walbridge in a group called the Chicago Stompers that had a five-night-a-week gig at the Blue Dahlia. After that group dissolved all three would join Wayne Jones in Ted Buttermann's band. They were competing for gigs with current star players, and playing the same venues as jazz legends of the 20s and 30s. It was a remarkable time to be in Chicago.

Kim Cusack became the regular clarinetist for the Salty Dogs' Chicago area gigs in late 1957. He must be among the members with the longest tenure at over 65 years! Together they played all the major jazz festivals for decades and recorded a number of great albums.

While the Salty Dogs were his longest musical association, he played with nearly everyone in the area and beyond. Other groups and musicians he appeared with include Mike Walbridge's The Chicago Footwarmers, Will Bill Davison, George Brunies, Gene Mayl's Dixieland Rhythm Kings, Ernie Carson's Original Cottonmouth Jazz Band and The Castle Jazz Band, The Neo Passé Swing Quintette, The Jungle Crawlers, George Buck's Jazzology All Stars, The Red Rose Ragtime Band, James Dapogny's Chicagoans, Andy's Windy City All Stars, Carl Sonny Leyland, The New

Valley Jazz Band, Petra van Nuis and Andy Brown, Ray Skjelbred and his Cubs and many others. He was also a member of Ted Buttermann's Chicago Cubs Dixieland band, playing in the stands between innings and at the seventh inning stretch.

Kim Cusack was a close friend and mentor to many musicians in the Chicago area and around the country. There were many heartfelt remembrances shared after his passing. You can see a three-part tribute on [Michael Steinman's Jazz Lives blog](#), which features select YouTube videos, including clips from a longer 2018 interview.

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Isaac "Redd" Holt

1932-2023



Photo courtesy of Isaac "Monti" Holt

Renowned Grammy Award winning jazz drummer Isaac "Redd" Holt transitioned peacefully in Chicago, IL, May 23, 2023 at age 91. He is survived by wife, Marylean, and their three sons, Isaac Lamont "Monti" Holt (Angie) of Chicago, Ivan Holt of Chicago; and Reginald L. Holt (Rhonda), of Indianapolis, and his brother Benjamin Holt (Leora) of Chicago, IL. He is preceded in death by his parents Willie Holt and Mary Stewart and siblings Charles Holt and Willa Mary Blue of Chicago, IL.

Redd was born May 16, 1932, to Willie and Mary and was raised in Chicago from age 8. Redd Holt's inauspicious beginnings in Rosedale, Mississippi belied the impact his work would have over the next 75 years of American music. He met his wife, Marylean, at the age of 14, and they wed June 13, 1954. They welcomed three sons, Isaac "Monti," Ivan, and Reginald: 8 grandchildren Melani Holt, Jennifer Holt, Amanda (Holt) Sanchez, Elon (Holt) Jacobs, Jessica Holt, Reginald I.A. Holt, Jaila Holt, and Jasmine Howard and 10 great-grandchildren as well as nephews Terrance Blue and Ben Holt Jr.

He studied at Chicago's American Conservatory of Music but got his start playing gigs with jazz legends like Lester Young in the 1950s while still in high school in the Windy City. Those early opportunities informed Redd's lifelong commitment to developing and instructing other young players in the art of Jazz.

Redd fell in love with percussion at a young age when his father took him a minstrel show passing through town. That was the first time Redd witnessed someone playing drums in person, and it was then he knew he would play the drums.

He attended Crane Technical High School, and as a teenager he assembled with his friend, Wallace Burton, an ensemble of musicians called the **West Side Cleffs** of Chicago. This ensemble would later include future bandmates Eldee Young and Ramsey Lewis. Redd studied music at the Chicago's Conservatory of Music and later attended Kennedy-King College.

After serving in the US Army 1954-1956, Redd returned to Chicago to form in a partnership the **Gentlemen of Jazz** with Eldee Young and Ramsey Lewis, later known as the **Ramsey Lewis Trio**. They recorded the hit record "The In Crowd" in 1965 winning a Grammy Award the following year. In 1966, Young and Holt formed **Young-Holt Unlimited**, which went on to achieve commercial success as an instrumental soul band. They recorded the millions selling records, "Wack, Wack", "Soulful Strut", and "Ain't There Something that Money Can't Buy."

After the group's dissolution in 1974, Holt continued on as **Redd Holt Unlimited**, playing under this name into the 1990s, and became a jazz educator through the Urban Gateways organization in Chicago.

He founded the Gumption Artist Workshop, which was active from 1980 to 1985, that allowed up and coming artists the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience. The Gumption Workshop focused on acting, comedy, and poetry as well as music. He continued to play locally in Chicago and internationally, including at the 1988 Montreux Jazz Festival and in Singapore in the late-1980s and early-1990s.

Redd Holt continued to play until the age of 89 with a trio at the **East Bank Club** in Chicago. At the age of 90 he recorded the LP "It's A Take!" on the Treehouse Record label with eight full-length jazz standards. His work has been featured in other artists' music, commercials, and TV shows. **Young-Holt Unlimited** were known and loved for their captivating live shows and exemplary musicianship, and their influence can be heard everywhere - the music has been sampled over 200 times by artists from De La Soul to Kendrick Lamar, Pete Rock & CL Smooth to Big Sean.

He was a true innovator in percussion, moving jazz drumming away from swing, and incorporating more styles and sounds. Redd Holt never settled for a drummer's 'place' in the shadows. He was strictly foreground, making any music that he played leap to life. He brought that vibrancy to everything he did. Even Holt's final LP, 2020's "It's a Take!" put on full display his mastery of percussion as melody, and his lifelong love of music. His family remembers him as a creative, driven, kind, and loving individual who prioritized music but put family first. We'll see him on the other side of the moon.

A private burial was held on May 30, 2023. The family would like to thank the University of Chicago for their care of Redd in his final days.



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