

Intermezzo

Virtual Member Meeting:
Monday, November 11th at 6pm

November/December 2024
Vol. 82 No. 5

Special CFM Member Spotlight:
Veterans of the Armed Forces



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From the President, BJ Levy:

Salute to Veterans and Legislative Updates

So many of our members have served in the military, both in service ensembles and in combat, that we wanted to create this issue to honor all of you. Thank you for your service to our country. Veteran's Day should always be a holiday of reverence. As we mark the day this November 11, we specifically call out the role that music plays in the ceremonial life of our nation as provided by the many ensembles and soloists who are part of our armed forces. Additionally, we honor the service of our colleagues who are no longer with us. We reached out to membership in advance of this issue, but should you have served and do not find yourself listed, please let us know so we can include you in the future.

Please also look in this issue for information concerning our new system for payment of yearly membership dues. This will mark the launch of our new website and database improvements which will be rolling out over the coming months. It will not all be available at once, and we appreciate your patience as we make this huge and necessary institutional improvement in our internal systems.

My columns are usually as upbeat and positive as I can make them, but I do want to alert you to an issue that we're working on at the city level. Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) is particularly important to the artistic life of our city. The Union has had a long and sometimes rocky relationship with DCASE, one that we would like to see improved. We recently had a meeting with the new Commissioner, Clinée Hedspeth and her whole team to discuss the Union's advocacy for professional musicians. Having recently received a copy of the contract that the City has performing artists sign for events like Taste of Chicago, we expressed our concerns over some of the more troubling aspects of that document, including no payment for cancellation, no union contract allowed, and very little



in the way of guaranteed safety. We were told that we would be engaged on the topic but have yet to receive a reply to our follow-up. Also concerning is their recent "Art is Labor" campaign.

While we expressed our wholehearted agreement that art is indeed labor and its creators need to be paid properly, we questioned why no one from any of the entertainment unions was consulted about the program. To say "Art is Labor" and not solicit input from Labor itself strikes us as curious. If *Art is Labor*, then a good place to start would be to honor the CFM's basic minimum scales and

pay into musicians' pension funds. Finally, when asked directly about her vision for the future of DCASE, the Commissioner declined to comment, instead saying that we would all see the vision in the City Budget later this year. Our fear, along with many others in the Arts and Entertainment community, is that the department is on the chopping block in this year's budget. We are creating a letter now that will be signed by the Chicago Entertainment Industry Labor Council and sent to Mayor Johnson expressing our unified commitment to the arts and its importance to the cultural life and economic engine of our great city.

The final rules for the Music and Musicians Tax Credits and Jobs Act will be established in Veto Session over the next month. We are eager to get that program out into the public sphere and start growing the film and television soundtrack recording industry here in Chicago.

Finally, this is the November and December issue so I would like to wish you and your family the happiest of holidays and a prosperous New Year. Your membership is what keeps this Union strong. I thank you for your support, your artistry, and your courage. If this were an easy profession, anybody could do it. The entire world benefits from our love for and dedication to our labor, though perhaps we are the only ones who can really understand the highs and lows of the life of a performing artist.

From the Vice President **JOHN FLOETER**

Art is Labor.

In June, Mayor Brandon Johnson, in partnership with the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), launched Art is Labor, a campaign advocating for the rights of creative workers. Developed with input from 3Arts, Arts Alliance Illinois, the Chicago Cultural Alliance, Lawyers for the Creative Arts, Mezcla Media Collective, and other cultural organizations, this initiative aims to secure fair pay, working conditions, and legal protections for artists. For more information scan the QR code at the bottom of this letter, or search “Art is Labor Chicago”: Creative Workers’ Rights.

At the CFM, this effort echoes what we’ve been doing for over a century: advocating for fair wages, transparent booking practices, and safe working conditions. Our union contracts ensure musicians are treated with dignity, but those protections only apply when members file their work through the union. Without a contract, we cannot effectively protect them.

We proudly represent all our members, not just the famous ones. Like any other workers, musicians have bills to pay. Although some non-union gigs may offer the same prevailing wage as union work, these jobs often lack essential guarantees. The prevailing wage itself exists thanks to union efforts—reinforcing the importance of collective action to maintain fair standards.



Through union contracts, we establish industry standards that safeguard artistic careers. These protections include timely payment, predictable scheduling, and pension benefits.

Many musicians and artists work as freelancers, juggling multiple gigs to make ends meet. This lack of stability makes them susceptible to unfair treatment, including irregular hours, unpaid preparation time, and last-minute schedule changes. In non-union environments, artists may feel

pressured to accept poor conditions just to stay employed, eroding both their well-being and the quality of their work.

By treating art and music as labor, we change how society values creative professionals. Unions play a vital role in this shift, ensuring that artists are not only paid fairly but also treated with the dignity their work deserves.

The Art is Labor campaign reminds us that creativity is essential—and those who provide it deserve the same protections as any other workers. By continuing to advocate for fair wages and working conditions, we ensure a thriving artistic community, where musicians are not just surviving, but truly thriving. ■



To read more on the DCASE website, point your phone at this graphic with your camera open (as if to take a picture), then click the link that appears in yellow on your screen.

From the Secretary-Treasurer **KAREN SUAREZ FLINT**

Art Is Labor.

It's been a very busy fall here at the CFM! We walked the PAWS Chicago 5K, focused at Yoga at the Union, hosted the IL AFL-CIO Pride at Work Relaunch, and listened at the Open Door Panel Discussion for Chicago Hip Hop Artists. These gatherings provide opportunities to engage with current and potential CFM members in fun and inclusive ways and I hope you will consider attending an event in the future. Be on the lookout for information on the second annual CFM Open House and the long-awaited return of the life member party next spring.

2024 is in its final months, which means 2025 membership billing is upon us. We have been hard at work behind the scenes working with ToucanTech, Monday.com and the Bank of Labor on a complete upgrade of our database, website and payment system. (And yes, it has been about as fun and tedious as you can imagine.) Please know, the security of our data is of utmost importance. As a London based company, Toucan Tech adheres to the data protection regulations of the E.U. which are far more stringent than those here in the U.S. We are very excited to share the new CFM website with you in the coming weeks.

You will soon receive your 2025 billing statement in the mail. In addition to the usual statement, there will be an information sheet enclosed that will walk you through the steps to pay dues online by credit card (for a convenience fee) or by ACH payment (at no charge). Please note- we will no longer be accepting payments via PayPal. If you prefer to write a check or pay cash in person, you may do so. And as always,



if you are experiencing financial difficulties, please email me at ksuarezflint@cfm10208.org to request assistance from the Musicians Relief Fund.

I am also happy to unveil our new CFM t-shirts! A big thank you to our Communications Director, Megan Elk, for their assistance on the new design which features the Chicago skyline on the front and "Art is Labor" on the back. On June 27, Mayor Johnson and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events launched a new workers' rights campaign for

creative workers, Art is Labor. Interestingly, no Labor Union was included on the Art is Labor advisory committee and we have met with DCASE to request a seat at the table. We have already given them suggested detailed revisions to their current egregious contract with musicians that prohibits performing within 100 mile radius 45 days before and after the performance, allows the City to withhold payment for any reason, gives the City exclusive rights to images and recordings of the performance without compensation, and states the musicians will "assume full responsibility for and risk of bodily injury, death or property damage whether caused by the negligence of the City of Chicago or otherwise." It even specifies that water and parking will not be provided. Nice. Currently, we are still awaiting a reply from DCASE to our requests. In the meantime, we are hijacking the Art is Labor slogan and preparing to come out in force to demand real workers' rights for musicians. T-shirts are available in Black or Blue with a \$25 donation to the CFM Scholarship Fund. Get yours today!

Wishing all of you peace and joy this holiday season.■

Out and About



Pictured above: CFM Violinist and DuPage County Commissioner Lynn LaPlante gives a special presentation to members interested in running for office at the Monday September 9th membership meeting.



CFM members headed north to Wisconsin on the morning of Saturday October 5th to help get out the vote! Left to right: Peter Swenson, Marty Hackl, John Floeter, and Roslyn Green



Left to right: CFM Senior Board Member Rich Daniels, President BJ Levy, Laborer's District Council Business Manager James P. Connolly, and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul attend the AFL-CIO Labor and Politics event at Local 150 Countryside



CSO viola section with Antonine Tomestit, solo violist (without tie in front row) holding a rare Stradivari viola. (Photo credit: David Taylor)



Members of the Joffrey Ballet brass section in the pit at the Lyric Opera House for a performance of "Atonement"



CFM members enjoying a sunny day for this year's PAWS 5k Run/Walk. Left to right: Carmen Abelson, Seth Pae, and Greg Flint



Margie Berger and her good girl Rosie at the finish line



Team PAWS 2024 posing with their pups. Left to right: Seth Pae, Karen Suarez Flint, John Floeter, BJ Levy, Margie Berger, Greg Flint, Carmen Abelson, and Kate Flint



On Thursday, October 10th, yoga teacher Christina Corso (from the Yoga Seed) led a special Yoga at the Union class at CFM



CFM yogis feeling good and relaxed after class. Left to right: Megan Elk, Patrick Arnold, Marianne Parker, Christina Corso, Karen Suarez Flint, and Charlie Schuchat



Left to right: Secretary-Treasurer Karen Suarez Flint, 26th Ward Alderperson Jessie Fuentes, CFM Violinist and DuPage County Commissioner Lynn LaPlante



A Union band fit for a Labor Day Celebration! Left to right: Dean Rolando (keys), Ken Haebich (bass), CFM Senior Board Member Rich Daniels (saxophone), and Sarah Allen (drums)



Left to right: John Floeter, BJ Levy, State Leader Theresa Mab, Karen Suarez Flint, Lynn LaPlante, and Rich Daniels



Left to right: BJ Levy, Karen Suarez Flint, Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea, and John Floeter

On Wednesday August 28th, **Chicago Federation of Labor** held its annual Labor Day Reception at McCormick Place.

Labor leaders from throughout the city were treated to the sounds of a lively Union jazz quartet, while enjoying a luncheon complete with breathtaking views of Lake Michigan.

It was an especially good occasion for CFM officers and staff to connect with elected officials who support our work, while celebrating the achievements of the Labor Movement. ■



Chicago Federation of Labor Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar with CFM President, BJ Levy



Chicago Teachers' Union member Latoyia Kimbrough shares her experience as a queer educator of color



CFM members Rose Snyder, Seth Pae (who entertained us on piano for the evening), Rachel Schultdt, and President BJ Levy represented our Union at the event



Andrew DiMarco (The Ironworkers Union), Rachel Schultdt (CFM), Tammy Guilinger (The Carpenter's Union), and Colin Sphar (Actors' Equity)

On Thursday October 24th, CFM hosted the re-launch of the Chicago chapter of **Pride at Work**.

Founded in 1994, on the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, Pride at Work has been an official AFL-CIO constituency for the last 30 years.

Pride at Work brings together members of Unions from across the Federation to fight for LGBTQIA+ rights in the workplace and in our communities, a fight that needs our support now more than ever. ■



Pride at Work represents a broad coalition of Unions including the Chicago Teachers Union, The Illinois Nurses Association, The United Autoworkers Union, The Association of Flight Attendants, The Carpenters Union, The Ironworkers Union, Actors' Equity, and LATSE, just to name a few.



Rainbow cupcakes courtesy of Loaves and Witches, a Queer-owned bakery in Edgewater



Special thanks to Chicago Federation of Labor for their generous sponsorship of the event

Attending the ILCA-CALM Mini Conference in NYC



Senator Chuck Schumer smiles for my camera while showing support for the AFM at the New York City Labor Parade on September 7, 2024



New York City Central Labor Council President Vincent Alvarez welcomes attendees at the start of the conference

By: Megan Elk, CFM Communications Director

In September, I had the good fortune to attend the International Labor Communications Association-Canadian Association of Labor Media Mini Conference in New York City. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with and learn from other Labor Union comms directors from across the United States and Canada. We got to hear folks from SAG-AFTRA speak about the role media has played in mobilizing members in their recent successful striking efforts. We also heard communicators from the AFL-CIO talk about the role communications played in passing recent anti-captive audience bills in both Illinois and Connecticut.

We culminated the three day conference by marching in the New York City Labor Day Parade, the largest Labor Day parade in the country. I was excited to march with our friends from AFM local 802, where I had the chance to meet AFM's organizing team and the officers of 802, along with Marc Sazer, Vice President of local 47, who happened to be visiting town as well.

One of the highlights for me was getting to photograph Senator Chuck Schumer as he stopped to visit with us along the parade route and carry the AFM banner. Though it was a particularly rainy day that Sunday, it is not one I will soon forget! ■



My new friends Claire, Jordan, and Gabe, the national organizing team for the AFM



AFM local 802 Financial VP Karen Fisher and AFM local 47 VP, Marc Sazer



CFM Communications Director Megan Elk Stopping for a quick, rain-soaked selfie along the parade route

The AFM Midwest Conference of Locals meets in Chicagoland



President BJ Levy kicks off an exciting slate of speakers



CFL Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar tells the story of his journey from newsroom to Union hall

On October 12 and 13, 2024 the American Federation of Musicians Midwest Conference of locals convened at the Hilton Chicago/Oakbrook Suites. Stewarded by CFM President, BJ Levy, officers of AFM locals from throughout the region met to discuss their current objectives and share best practices. ■



BJ Levy with American Federation of Musicians International President, Tino Gagliardi



AFM Secretary-Treasurer Ken Shirk addresses the group

Honoring CFM members who have served in the Armed Forces



David Barford (pictured left, horn aloft) played 1st horn in the 60th Army Band at Fort Polk, Louisiana from late 1972 thru 1974, where he rode with another hornist to Natchitoches, LA for horn lessons at NW LA State University. He was lucky enough to play two seasons of Mardi Gras in New Orleans in 1973 and 1974.

He also marched in several small town parades in Louisiana and Texas, and Mississippi, including The Babe Ruth World Series in Opelousas, LA, and The Memphis, TN Veiled Prophet parade, as well as numerous military ceremonies at the Fort and a performance at the Astrodome in Houston. ■

Kurt Berg (pictured right, front row) played Baritone Saxophone in the 505th Air Force Band at Chanute Air Force Base from 1984-1988., where he had a chance to perform with Stan Getz at the Osh Kosh Jazz Festival in 1987.■

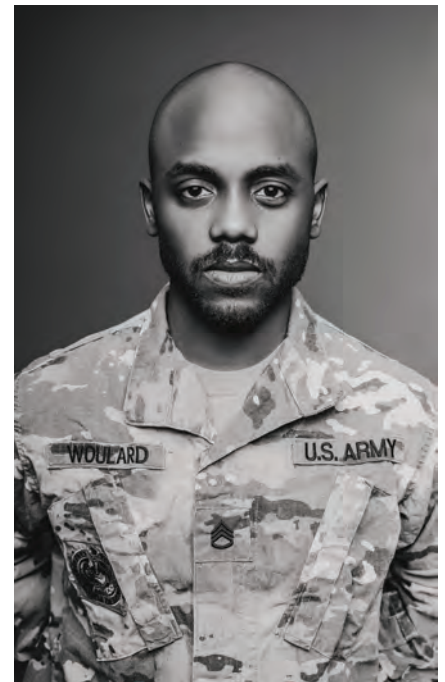


Raymond Ervin (pictured left) served as Lieutenant (O-3) in the United States Naval Reserve, an Engineering Duty Officer with Amphibgroup II LST 1197, Service Squadron II MSO 429, and USS Lexington (Asst MPA). He also served as a Company Commander RNMCB 20, Ops/Embark Officer RNMCB 2, ROIC Naval Station Mare Island, Equipment/Ops cargo handling battalion 2.■



Gregory Dudzienski (pictured left performing in Senegal) feels lucky to have played with several Navy Bands in his 23 years of service, including time in New England, Virginia, and Naples Italy. He regards his time in the service as very important to his development, both as a musician and a person. It was a great way for him to bridge the experience of being a student into the world of a working professional. He learned how to handle successes and challenges in a healthy way, and those lessons still serve him well today. He is very grateful for his time in the service. ■

David Woulard (pictured right) served 12 years in the army, both active and reserves, and was a drill sergeant for 2 years. While in service and deployed in 2019-2020, he was about to get his band, *Attack the Sound* to the top 20k band in the world, according to chart metrics. The discipline he learned in the service has really taught him a special type of focus for this type of work called resilience. Through resilience, he rarely gives up and, if he doesn't know something, he understands there is a subject matter expert or the info can be found somewhere. That's why he joined CFM, because navigating the music industry and an active music career is hard. He is glad he has been put through physical and mentally exhaustive training that has prepared him for the rigorous uncertainty of being a musician. ■



Boyd Rolando, father of Dean Rolando, played in the US Navy Great Lakes Big Band (pictured left, in the front right row on tenor sax in 1944). Many CFM members have played in the band over the years, including former CFM Vice President, Nick Busta. ■



Trumpet player **Kirk Garrison** (pictured left) was deployed with the Strategic Air Command Band to the Middle East during Operation Desert-Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-91.

Kirk has been touring with Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band since 2005 (pictured bottom left in performance at The Grand Ole Opry). The group has supported the US military's active duty soldiers, veterans, families and First Responders by performing more than 600 concerts over the last 20 years. You can get more information at: www.garysinisefoundation.org. ■



The military career of **Anjan Shah** (pictured right) began in the United States Marine Corps, where he briefly attended the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, CA, and Officer Candidate School at Quantico, VA. During his time at Quantico, he worked as a researcher and historian, immersing himself in the study of military strategies and philosophies. He focused on analyzing the works of notable military thinkers such as Sun Tzu, Von Clausewitz, Rommel, and Machiavelli, contributing research and insights to the broader discourse on military doctrine and strategy. ■





After receiving his Master's degree in music performance from the University of Wisconsin in June 1958 **Bobby Lewis** (pictured above) was drafted on December 4, 1958 into the U.S. Army. He was assigned to Fort Leonard Wood Missouri where he spent January and February in basic training and the following six weeks in the 463rd Army Band on the same post. After that, he was assigned to the 7th Army Headquarters Band at Patch Barracks in Vaihingen/Stuttgart, Germany until September 1, 1960 serving as principal trumpet. The band participated in parades, concerts and other performances throughout Europe including Berlin, Venice, Zurich and Munich. In May, 1960, Bobby organized and led a jazz group, "The Aristocrats", which placed second in the USAREUR Finals of the All Army Entertainment Contest in the Instrumental group category. They participated in a Special Services show, that they assisted in organizing, comprised of other contest participants for a two month tour of performances at army bases in Germany, Italy and Switzerland. He obtained a 3 month early release to return to college after serving 21 months (December 4, 1958 thru September 3, 1960) to complete his military obligation. He came to Chicago in January, 1961 and has lived here ever since. ■

Emily Randle (pictured right and on the cover) served 20 years active duty (11 as violinist with the Strolling Strings, 9 as Operations NCO and Sergeant Major) with The US Army Band "Pershing's Own" outside Washington DC. It was a privilege for Emily to serve, and she is a proud veteran involved with the Vietnam War 50th Year Commemoration ("Welcome Home"). ■



All photos provided courtesy of our members

CFM honors members who have served in the armed forces:

Anjan Shah, United States Marine Corps
Bobby Lewis, United States Army
Daniel Bogda, United States Army
David Barford, United States Army
David Woulard, United States Army
Derick R Polk, United States Navy
Donald Koss, United States Army
Ed Coward, United States Army
Emil J. Mudra, United States Army
Emily Randle, United States Army
Gregory Dudzienski, United States Navy
Hana Hawley, United States Army National Guard
Howard Goldfine, United States Army Reserve
J Stanley Ryberg, United States Army
Jenny Mallette Nichols, United States Navy
John Hagstrom, United States Marine Corps
John M Henes, United States Army
John Weber, United States Army
Kirk Garrison, United States Air Force
Kurt Berg, United States Air Force
Michael Kahles, United States Army
Randall E Szostek, United States Army
Raymond Nathaniel Ervin, United States Navy
Richard T Leister, United States Army
Roger Whitworth, United States Marine Corps
Seymour R Rabens, United States Army
Thomas Bulgrin, United States Army
Thomas M Hall, United States Army
William Denton, United States Army
William Horn, United States Air Force
William Walsh, United States Navy

**This list was developed as the result of a questionnaire that went out to membership via email. It is a reflection of current members, and does not reflect the countless members who are no longer with us. If you served in the armed forces and do not see your name above, please let us know so that we can feature you in a future list of veterans.*

CFM T-Shirts now available for pre-order

The wait is over! We finally have newly designed CFM T-shirts available for pre-order. Featuring the instantly recognizable Chicago Skyline on the front, and the statement, **“Art is Labor”** on the back, these new shirts are intended to send the message that, while the hard-working musicians of our local are most certainly artists, they are also highly skilled laborers in the workforce.■

T-shirts are available in exchange for a \$25 donation to the CFM Scholarship Fund and are available in black or royal blue in sizes Small to 5x.

To reserve your shirt, please fill out the form at the following link:



Welcome new & returning members



Christina Karakos

A native of Traverse City, MI, **Christina Karakos** came to Chicago in 2017 to pursue their master's in viola performance at Roosevelt University where they had the privilege of learning from world-class musicians including David Taylor, Lawrence Neuman, Richard Hirschl, Heather Wittels, and Adam Neiman.

Christina is a versatile musician who enjoys performing in a variety of genres ranging from blues with Eric Lindell, recording hip-hop tracks

with Umraan Syed, to performing large-scale classical and contemporary works with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Composers Orchestra, 5th Wave Collective, and the Southwest Symphony Orchestra.

She has studied privately with Igor Fedotov, Roger Chase, David Holland, and Renee Skerik. ■



Madi Childs

Madi Childs is a clarinetist from the small town Yorkville, Illinois. Beginning at 10 years old, she played clarinet in band throughout her time in Yorkville schools and began lessons in her freshman year of High School with Garrett Matlock. In 2023, she graduated from Roosevelt University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance. Madi studied with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Associate Principal Clarinet and Eb Clarinetist John Bruce Yeh and Teresa Reilly at the Chicago College of Performing Arts.

Madi was principal clarinet in the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Concertmaster and three time musician in Music For All's Honor Band of America, a three time Illinois All State musician as well as participating in other local honor bands. She has made many

appearances on WFMT with both the Pairquarious Winds Quintet and Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra. Madi has performed with the Chicago College of Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra, many times as principal clarinet, as well as the school's Wind Ensemble and chamber groups. Madi has most recently performed with the Opera Festival of Chicago, West Suburban Symphony Orchestra and the Chicago Cosmopolitan Orchestra.

In addition to performing, Madi has a passion for teaching music to all ages. She has been serving as a private teacher in the Chicago Suburbs since 2017 from beginners to Seniors in high school. Madi also appeared as a coach for piano accompanists at North Park University in 2022. ■



Cellist **David Caplan** began his musical studies at the age of ten. He has studied with Amir Eldan, Daniel McDonough, Dmitry Kouzov, Jonathan Pegis, Benjamin Whitcomb, and Adelaide Hagari.

As an avid chamber musician, David, along with Quartet Bellezza, won first prize at the 2017 Discover Chamber Music Competition, first prize and audience prize in the junior division of WDAV's Young Musician's Chamber Competition, and the junior division gold medal at the 2017 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Quartet Bellezza was also one of six groups accepted to the 2018 Juilliard String Quartet Seminar. David was also a finalist in the 2020 Coltman Chamber Music Competition, with Trio Verite. Recent chamber music engagements include concerts in Kansas City and the University of Kansas with the St. Petersburg String Quartet, a world premiere performance for mezzo soprano and cello at Northwestern University, a performance of Brahms' Op. 114 trio at Oberlin College, concerts in Baltimore and New York City with the Continuum Chamber Collective,

and chamber music concerts with Yaron Kohlberg, Fabiola Kim, Yizhak Schotten, Amir Eldan, and Nicholas Walker.

David has also appeared in recital on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series at the Seventeenth Church of Christ Scientist in Chicago and live on WFMT Chicago. David was the winner of the 2016 Birch Creek concerto competition, which led to his orchestral debut, performing Dvorak's Cello Concerto with the Birch Creek Orchestra. In 2017, David appeared as soloist and chamber musician on NPR's From the Top with host Christopher O'Riley as a Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist in Longview, Texas, and Reno, Nevada.

As an orchestral musician, David has served as a principal cellist of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and has performed with orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Orchestra, Charleston Symphony, Chicago Philharmonic, Kalamazoo Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony, Lansing Symphony, Kankakee Valley Symphony, Music of the Baroque, and Sinfonia da Camera. He has performed under the baton of conductors such as Riccardo Muti, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Hannu Lintu, Ludovic Morlot, Christoph Eschenbach, Daniel Harding, Robert Spano, Dame Jane Glover, Ken-David Masur, Giancarlo Guerrero, Carlos Kalmar, David Danzmayr, Petr Popelka, James Gaffigan, and Jose Luis Gomez. David has performed with a wide range of artists, including: Seong-Jin Cho, Gil Shaham, Stefan Jackiw, Tai Murray, Xavier Foley, Zlatomir Fung, Awadagin Pratt, Natalie Merchant, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra,

the American Ballet Theater, and Thee Phantom and the Illharmonic Orchestra.

David has a Master's Degree in Cello Performance from the University of Michigan, where he studied under the tutelage of Amir Eldan. David also performed in the U-M Baroque Chamber Orchestra and studied baroque cello with Eva Lymenstull. Prior to his time in Michigan, David received his Bachelor's Degree in Cello Performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he studied with Daniel McDonough, of the Jupiter String Quartet.

David has a burning passion for teaching others and showcasing the power of music, and is a frequent clinician at Midwest Young Artists' Conservatory, the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, The Musical Offering, and ArtsAhimsa Chamber Music Festival. David has also enjoyed being a part of the Civic Mentors program, which provides coachings to music students at various Chicago high schools. David has made appearances at the Chautauqua, Aspen, and Taos summer music festivals, and was a fellow with the Grant Park Orchestra in 2023. ■



Erin Miesner

Erin Miesner is a Chicago based clarinetist and arranger. She received her Masters in Music from DePaul University in 2012, graduating with distinction. Originally from Missouri, Erin graduated with a Bachelor's in Music from Truman State University in 2010. Her primary teachers include Julie DeRoche, Larry Combs, and Dr. Jesse Krebs.

Erin is an active chamber musician and freelancer in the Chicago area and is a founding member of Lake Effect Clarinet Quartet. Lake Effect is a Vandoren artist and has performed and presented across the United States. They released their debut album, *Nielsen, Grainger, & Strauss*, in October 2019, and their second album, *Cooler by the Lake*, in January 2024.

Erin won the International Clarinet Association Orchestral Excerpt Competition in 2017, and was selected as a finalist in both 2011 and

2014. She won the Truman State University Gold Medal Concerto Competition and performed William Bolcom's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra with the Truman State Symphony Orchestra in 2008. She was selected as an alternate in the Missouri Music Teachers National Association Competition in 2009. In addition, Erin was the recipient of a 2012 Farwell Trust award from the Musicians Club of Women. This award allowed her to give a recital in the Chicago Cultural Center's historic Preston Bradley Hall in downtown Chicago, as well as other venues throughout the city.

In addition to performing, Erin is an avid arranger of orchestral and chamber music for clarinet. Her catalog most extensively features works arranged for clarinet quartet, clarinet choir, clarinet and piano, and bass clarinet and piano. For more information, and to purchase Erin's arrangements, visit: ehmpublishing.com ■



Priya Fink

Priya Fink is a Chicago-based flutist, originally from Houston, Texas. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Flute Performance with a minor in Communication and Media from DePaul University and an MBA in Arts Innovation from The Global Leaders Institute. Priya teaches flute at Sistema Ravinia with the Reach, Teach, Play education program. She also teaches with the Chicago Youth Symphony and is a Teaching Artist with the University of South Florida's REACH Grant.

An experienced orchestral player, Priya has performed with orchestras such as the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Opera Festival of Chicago, DePaul University Symphony Orchestra, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, Sewanee Symphony, and the Interlochen Philharmonic. In

addition to orchestral playing, she is passionate about chamber music and creative collaboration through performance. Priya is the founder and director of "The Middle", a unique concert series that brings together musicians from different genres to perform together to learn and grow from and with one another. For more on this project, including how to get involved, contact Priya at: psfink18@gmail.com.

The core of Priya's work and musical aspirations center around promoting equal access to the arts and using music as a tool for social change. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outside, reading, and making pottery. ■



Julimar Gonzales

Born in November of 1996 in Maracay, Venezuela. **Julimar Gonzalez** began her violin studies at the age of 7 with Professor Heemath Jahoor at the world-renowned music program known as 'El Sistema'. She was chosen to be part of the first violin section of the Jose Felix Ribas Youth Orchestra in 2006 and later in 2007 became a member of the National Children's Orchestra of Venezuela conducted by Maestro Gustavo Dudamel and Sir Simon Rattle. During that same year she joined the Latin American Academy of Violin where she studied under Maestro Jose Francisco Del Castillo until 2013.

She has appeared as a soloist in various cities around Venezuela with conductors such as Pablo Castellanos, Carlos Riazuelo, Manuel López Gómez and Joshua Dos Santos including performances with Maestro Gustavo Dudamel and the Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra and the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, and most recently she has performed with the Chautauqua Festival Orchestra at the Chautauqua Amphitheater conducted by Mto. Timothy Muffit and the Roosevelt University Orchestra at Chicago Symphony Center conducted by Maestro Emanuele Andrizzi. She has also performed overseas recitals in Barcelona, Spain at the Vesprades de Tardor Music Festival and she has spent her summers at Chautauqua Music Festival and most recently participated as a Fellow at Bowdoin Music Festival(2023) and at Aspen Music Festival(2024). She has participated in master-

classes with renowned violinists like Ray Chen, Ilya Kaler, Ida Kavafian, Rachel Barton Pine, Albert Markov, Donald Weilerstein, Maurice Hasson, Michaela Martin, Kristoff Barati, Kathleen Winkler and others.

Ms. Gonzalez in July of 2022 won the SAI competition at Chautauqua Institution, In April, she won the concerto competition at Roosevelt University as a graduate student and in the same year she won first place in the Collegiate Strings Division of the national young artist competition held by the Coeur d'Alene Symphony Orchestra. In 2021 Ms. Gonzalez won The Farewell Trust award by the Musician's Club of Woman competition. In 2019 she won the concerto competition at Chicago College of Performing Arts as a bachelor's student and also got first place at the Illinois American String Teachers Association Competition of the same year. In the past she has also been a semifinalist of the Sphinx Competition in Detroit in both Junior (2014) and Senior (2024) divisions and other competitions.

Since 2013 Ms. Gonzalez has been a student of Almita and Roland Vamos. She earned her Bachelor's Degree and Performance Diploma in Violin Performance at Roosevelt University in Chicago. ■



Will Stevens

Oboist **Will Stevens** is currently based in Chicago, performing as a regular member with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. He is also currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at the Yale School of Music under Stephen Taylor. Recently, Will has performed with prestigious orchestras including the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Cape Symphony, and Redlands Symphony. An avid chamber musician, Will just finished a summer fellowship with the Bowdoin International Music Festival, and has also participated in other festivals including the Viva Bach Peterborough Festival, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and Kent Blossom Music Festival.

With a passion for educating, Will has taught oboe privately to students ranging from age 6 to 21. While at Yale, he has maintained a private studio of undergraduate students, as well as middle school students from the greater New Haven area. In the summer of 2023, he was a teaching artist for the Morse Summer Music Academy, an intensive program for New Haven public school students in grades 6-12. During his graduate and doctoral

Young Rico, a dedicated musician since the age of two, delves into the artistry of hip-hop culture and music production with a passion that resonates through his craft. Known for his progressive approach and adaptability across various platforms, Rico's musical journey was born from a profound childhood loss and blossomed into a fervent love for creating music.

His work extends beyond music creation to include video production, showcasing a multi-faceted

talent. With tracks that have garnered significant views and support, Rico collaborates with other artists, elevating their hit songs. His achievements range from being an opening act at Oakland University to being featured in reputable showcases like YTE and Unc Marz. Rico's magnetic presence and impressive portfolio make him a prime candidate for partnering with esteemed organizations in the music industry.■

studies, Will was a teaching assistant for graduate music theory and music history courses. His doctoral thesis explores an intercultural approach to analyzing and performing the work of Tōru Takemitsu, using timbre and gesture as a replacement for traditional Western modes of analysis.

He holds a MMus from Yale and a BMus from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he studied with Jonathan Davis. In 2019, Will made his solo debut in Royce Hall with the Goossens Oboe Concerto after winning the UCLA All-Star Concerto Competition. While in Los Angeles, Will held positions in the Redlands Symphony, American Youth Symphony, and Debut Chamber Orchestra. He has also performed side-by-side with the Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Long Beach Symphony. As a chamber musician, he participated in UCLA's Gluck Woodwind Quintet, and the American Youth Symphony Woodwind Quintet. Aside from his studies at Yale, Will freelances around the midwest and teaches oboe.■

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Young Rico



Michael Martin

Michael Martin is a double bassist and teaching artist based in Evanston, Illinois, and was appointed Principal Bass of Chicago Sinfonietta in 2024. He regularly appears with orchestras across the country, including the Milwaukee Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Sphinx Virtuosi, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Formerly, he was a fellow with the Chautauqua Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, and the New World Symphony for three seasons. He holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from Northwestern University and Oberlin Conservatory of Music in double bass performance. He lives in Evanston with his fiancée Rose, their beloved tuxedo cat named “Tofu”, and an ever-expanding collection of houseplants.

In early high school, Michael began his study of the double bass with Suzuki teacher Domenick Fiore, and quickly discovered a deep love of the double bass in all its musical capacities. He has since studied with a number of mentors and professors who have shaped his

artistic development, including Joseph Conyers, Tracy Rowell, Andrew Raciti, and Alexander Hanna. Throughout his undergraduate and graduate degrees, Michael developed a passion for string pedagogy, and is currently on faculty at Bass Works Maryland during the summer and maintains a growing private studio at home. As part of his graduate degree, he studied string pedagogy with cellists Hans Jørgen Jensen and Cornelia Watkins-Dyer, whose seminal insights on the art and science of string playing continue to inform his approach to the double bass.

He can be heard on the album *Songtree* performing the music of Ricardo Zohn Muldoon alongside faculty of the Eastman School in the Zohn Collective. Michael is also the creator of *Black Reflections*, a three-part panel discussion series on racial justice in music, featuring Black luminaries of classical music and jazz such as Chi-chi Nwanoku, Christian McBride, and Dr. Tammy Kernodle. Michael plays a modern instrument made for him in 2019 by Christopher Savino, and a bow by beloved French bow-maker Jean Grunberger. ■



Stacey DiPaolo

Dr. Stacey DiPaolo recently relocated to the Chicago area from Oklahoma, where she served as Professor of Clarinet at Southwestern Oklahoma State University for the past 14 years. In Oklahoma, DiPaolo regularly performed as Principal and Eb Clarinet of the Tulsa Symphony, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, and Lawton Philharmonic Orchestras, and is an active soloist and chamber musician. Prior to her time in Oklahoma, Dr. DiPaolo was a freelance musician in the New York City area from 1999-2009.

DiPaolo served as Chair of the International Clarinet Association's Pedagogy Committee from 2020-2023, and has been featured as a clinician at "ClarinetFest." She has spent summers at the Chautauqua

Institution, Heidelberg Schlossfestspiele (Germany), and toured Japan twice with the Eastman Wind Ensemble. An enthusiastic and devoted teacher, Dr. DiPaolo has also been a long-time summer faculty member of the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan.

Stacey DiPaolo holds a doctorate degree from SUNY Stony Brook, and received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music, including the esteemed Performer's Certificate. Additionally, she is a graduate-with-distinction of the Interlochen Arts Academy. She has studied with clarinetists Dan Gilbert, Jon Manasse, Deborah Chodacki, Eli Eban, and Lee Barnes. ■



Mark Hiebert

Mark Hiebert is an in demand saxophonist and educator in the Chicago area, and is regularly involved in original projects and collaborations with musicians and educators from around the country. Additionally, Mark currently serves as the Associate Director of Bands at Stevenson High School. He has earned both his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and his Master's Degree in Jazz Composition from DePaul University in Chicago, IL.

Shortly after arriving in Chicago, Mark began his music performance career, and has since performed and recorded on saxophone and woodwinds with Natalie Cole, the Four Tops, the Temptations, Frankie Valli, The Lionel Hampton Orchestra featuring Jason Marsalis, Jeff Hamilton, Malik Yusef, Benny

Golson, Phil Woods, Tito Puente, Jr., Daphne Willis, and Too Live Crew, along with fine bands like the Chicago Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble, Mulligan Mosaics, Rob Parton Big Band, Joe Clark Big Band, M13, Tom Matta Big Band, Ian Torres Big Band, Model Citizens Big Band, the Alan Gresik Swingshift Orchestra and the Paul Dietrich Big Band. ■

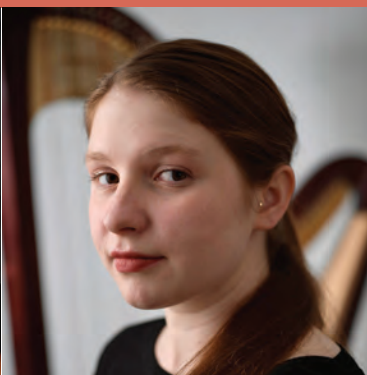
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Bobby Diamond, guitar/bass/keys



Eleanor Kirk, harp



Elizabeth Anderson, cello



Gregory Sarchet, double bass



Jim Gailloreto, saxophone/doubling



Joe Sonnefeldt, percussion



Julie Spring, harp



Neil Kimmel, french horn/Wagner tuba



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Transitioning to Toucantech:

What you need to do to make the switch

Introducing SmartPay: A New, Easy Way to Renew Your CFM Membership!

By: Anjan Shah

The Chicago Federation of Musicians (CFM) is excited to announce the launch of SmartPay for all membership renewals starting with the 2025 membership year. SmartPay is an innovative, secure online payment solution designed to make your renewal process smoother and more convenient.

Key Benefits of SmartPay:

- **Convenience:** Pay your dues online with just a few clicks, anytime, anywhere.
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Toucantech is the UK-based software development firm that has been selected to build our new web functionality. Look for changes to the look and feel of our website in the coming months, along with changes to how dues are collected.



Scan the QR code to open a Google Doc with detailed visual instructions about how to access SmartPay

In Memoriam

Robert Bauchens

May 1, 1942 –
September 27, 2024

By Terryl Jares

For those of us that knew Bob, it's hard to believe he grew up in the small southern Illinois town of Caseyville and attended Bluff View Park Grade School- a two room schoolhouse without indoor plumbing. He always planned big, strived to be the best and never would accept failure.

He began his musical pursuit playing his Aunt Betty's cornet in the grade school band. Quickly, the band director at Collinsville High School saw his ability, had him switch to tuba and grabbed him for his school band. Bob was off and running, attending Southern Illinois University in Alton, driving up to Chicago to study with Arnold Jacobs and ultimately landing at Northwestern University where he received his Master of Music degree. Here he began a long affiliation with the Chicago Brass Quintet which lasted for 27 years.

Bob was never able to leave his humble beginnings and always preferred to live "in the country"; first, on a farm in Mundelein, later in Hampshire and finally in Sycamore. Early on, he taught band at Carmel High School and played nightly at a club on Rush Street called Your Father's Mustache. It was here that he mastered the art of Dixieland tuba and met Art Neil, banjo player extraordinaire. Later, the two formed the Buffalo Shufflers with three other musicians and toured the country for over 50 years playing farm shows, parish parties, state fairs and later concerts in historical theaters and performances with full symphony orchestras.



Bob auditioned for the Lyric Opera Orchestra in 1968 and continued to play tuba and cimbasso with the ensemble for 44 years. He told me that the highlight of his Lyric career was playing the dragon solo of Siegfried in Wagner's Ring Cycle with Zubin Mehta conducting. Although he prided himself in rarely practicing, I saw first-hand the hours he spent polishing his part.

Many tuba students

enrolled at Northern Illinois University during the 70s and 80s so they could study with Bob for his ability to see playing flaws and fix problems. It was during this time, that he had the idea to bring the Lyric Opera Orchestra out of the pit and perform on the stage. It wasn't just a concert, but the establishment of the Orchestra of Illinois, the organization that still exists today as the Chicago Philharmonic.



It was in 1984, after a change in scheduling caused by all the orchestra's musicians canceling on a performance, Bob decided to start an artist management company. Typical Bob: he had no experience but that didn't stop him. He contacted soloists and conductors he knew through the years and convinced them that he could do a better job for them than any of the many New York managers. He said his phone worked just as well from Chicago and being centered in the Midwest, he would be a good hometown manager. This is when Bob and I began ARTRA Artist Management and worked together for 40 years. He loved talking to people, putting together performances and guiding the career of many fine artists. He was never pushy or hard sell but developed professional relationships with orchestra managers with understanding. He listened to their needs and hoped his ideas would enrich their programming.



Bob was a strong union man. He joined the Collinsville Local (now Edwardsville) in 1961, transferring to Chicago Local 10-208 in 1965, and joined Joliet Local 37 in 2023 to show his support. He was a continuous member of the AFM for 63 years. At the request of then CFM president Ed Ward, Bob ran for the board of directors in 2001 and served until 2019. He was the chair of the Scholarship Committee and created the Music in the Schools program at the local which co-funds concerts for children in K-12 schools.

After retiring from performing, he loved spending his weekends further out in the country at his home in Elizabeth, IL where he enjoyed riding his lawnmower around his large property and putzing in his huge garage of which he was extremely proud. He is survived by his wife Portia Peters Bauchens; sons Eric Crawley (Jacky Crawley) and Adam Bauchens (Nicole Bauchens); daughter Amy Bauchens (Erik Hidaka); six grandchildren; brothers Steve Bauchens (Dongling Zhang) and Mike Bauchens (Charlotte Duso); sister Jeannette Schodroski and many nieces and nephews. A Celebration of his life will be held at a later date. ■

Announcements

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Enrique Mazzola, Music Director
Announces the following vacancy:
Section Viola

Auditions to be held February 8-12, 2025
Successful candidate to start in September 2025

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- 21-week contract (late September – April)
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Section Viola
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Chicago, IL 60606

*Please note that audition times will be granted upon receipt of \$50.00 deposit.

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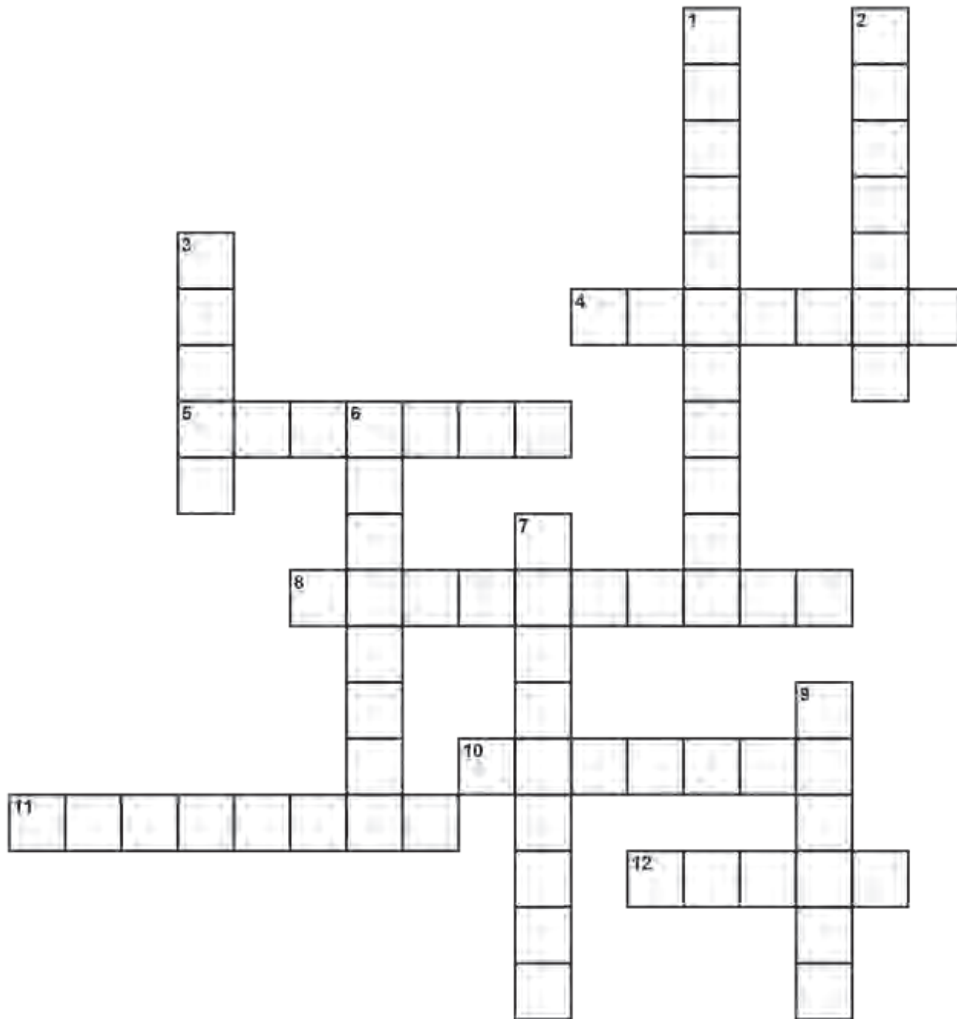
CALL FOR INFORMATION

The Intermezzo is our communication between the Local and our members. In addition to the printed version, we also post each issue on the CFM website. Most of the magazine is available to the public. We are always looking for events, accomplishments, and things of interest to other members and the public.

Share your announcements, reviews or anything you would like to see printed to: melk@cfm10208.org

The Board of Directors reserves the right to determine whether material submitted shall be published.

The Intermezzo Crossword



Across

- [4] Hold it, hold it...
- [5] Jk, jk, musically speaking
- [8] Leading lady of Opera or Ballet
- [10] Sequence signifying the end
- [11] Inventor of Chicago House Music, Frankie _____
- [12] The _____ Building, a mid-century Manhattan hit factory

Down

- [1] Process involving a third party in which unions and companies settle disputes
- [2] Means of applying collective pressure to a company by refusing to buy their goods or services
- [3] The Music Performance _____ Fund
- [6] Overture at the top of the second act
- [7] _____ Square, site of an historical rebellion and CFM's present-day home
- [9] Whirling organ amp in a small wooden cabinet

KEY: [1] Arbitration, [2] Boycott, [3] Trust, [4] Fermata, [5] Scherzo, [6] Entracte, [7] Haymarket, [8] Primadonna, [9] Leslie, [10] Cadence, [11] Knuckles, [12] Brill

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