

Intermezzo

Ifm
chicago federation of musicians
local 10-208 afm

Virtual Constitution and Bylaw Meeting:
Monday, September 14th, 2020
@ 6:00 pm

July 2020
Vol. 80 No. 6



**M-HART Creates
Good Will in
the Community
and Opportunities
for CFM Members.**

should be carefully connected with the first
Schirmer, Inc.



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Black Lives Matter

Three weeks after the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the police, protests are still going strong in this country and in every part of the world where racism has reared its ugly head. The ongoing police violence needs to end. We must oppose discrimination, bullying and harassment of all kinds. The needless deaths caused by excessive force must stop. I stand with people around the world in denouncing racism in any form. As musicians, we have the creative resources to change this climate of exclusion to one of inclusion and justice. With this, we will all share in the diversity of all people and make our country a better place for everyone.

Restore Illinois: Phase 4

I have been working closely with all music venues and our brother/sister unions to discuss the reopening of their sites in a manner that will be safe for both the patrons and the performers. Since there is such a variety between each workplace, finding the right balance within the city and state guidelines has been difficult. There just isn't "one size fits all". The necessary precautions must be taken to provide for social distancing both entering and exiting the venue as well as the placement of the audience within the site. As we enter Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan, it seems that gatherings of 50 or less will be the norm. There is talk that during this Phase, there may be a gradual increase in capacity as the metrics of COVID continue to decrease.

For our musicians, the situation is a bit different. We work in close proximity to one another, making social distancing more difficult. Musicians performing

on wind and brass instruments cannot wear masks, which has prompted discussions of Plexiglas shields as permanent barriers between players. Remote rooms away from the public also may be in our future. There have been lengthy discussions of developing statewide use of contact tracing when returning to live performance. Yes, it certainly will be a new way that we do business.

For those of you who would like to see the AFM Guidelines, they can be found at www.afm.org under the "What We Are Doing" tab. Please remember that these are just guidelines; they are not specific to the state of Illinois.

The State of the CFM

As you can imagine, when COVID hit, everything at the CFM changed. We closed our office on March 13th and sent everyone home. Initially we thought this would be a short storm that we could weather, but it became clear in early May that we were in this for the long haul. We had to make decisions that would ensure our financial security. With that in mind, we offered retirement packages to Gwen Redmond and Nancy Van Aacken. Gwen has been with the CFM for 33 years and Nancy for 22 years. I would like to thank them both for the invaluable work they have done for the musicians and officers of the Chicago Federation of Musicians. We also made the very difficult decision of furloughing our other two full-time employees. We hope to bring them back just as quickly as the entertainment business gets back on its feet. In the meantime, the officers are here to handle the day-to-day business of the union. Don't hesitate in giving us a call with your questions or concerns.

NOTICE

Any amendments of the Constitution or Bylaws must be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than July 8th to be considered at the September Constitution and Bylaw meeting. We are working in conjunction with the AFM and the CFL to hold a virtual membership meeting on September 14th at 6:00 pm. At this meeting, the bylaws proposed for the April meeting will be voted on as well as any new proposals submitted by July 8th. To attend, you must be a member in good standing. More detailed information about this meeting will be printed in the August *Intermezzo*.



Some Changes and Some Thoughts

After being closed for nearly three months, the Chicago Federation of Musicians' office has reopened for regular business hours, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The workings of the office are a little different right now as the officers, Dean Rolando (Electronic Media) and Nick Moran (Health and Welfare) are the only ones onsite, working to handle calls and the day-to-day business of the local. This is how it will be for the near future, so if you call into the local you may get bumped to one of the officers. (Also, our cell numbers are posted in the *Intermezzo* if you need to reach us.) While we are in the office, the elevator is not always unlocked. If you need to stop by, please call first so we can make sure you will get in. You **MUST** bring your face mask, as we are adhering to the city's and state's guidelines regarding social distancing and safety in the workplace.

Several of our orchestras have reached negotiated agreements that needed to be ratified during the last month. Those agreements may concern use of media as a tool to keep their audiences engaged, entertained and informed on the ensemble and the organization during the stay-in-place order. They may contain language spelling out wages, benefits and terms of usage of media, and some modify the terms of usage of the Integrated Media Agreement. Other agreements have been reached and need to be ratified regarding wages and benefits for a canceled season. With the ongoing pandemic, seasons are being postponed and various employers are looking at ways to maintain the integrity of the ensembles.

Some orchestras have received Payroll Protection Program funds and are applying those funds as payment for musicians affected. The CFM then processes the pension payments and work dues paid on those jobs. The PPP program is of great help to some of our employers, and those employers are passing that help along to musicians.

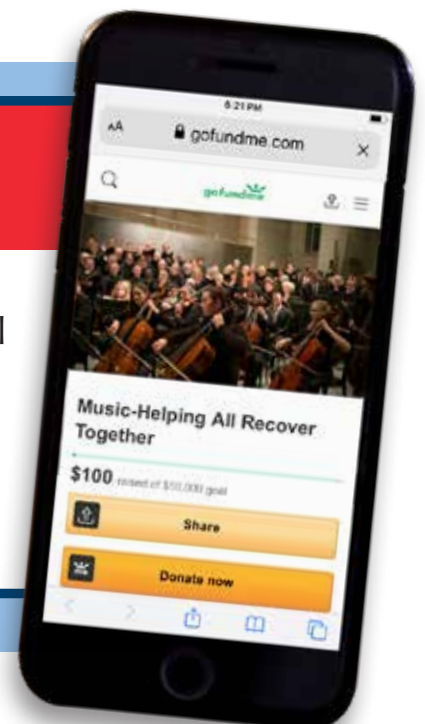
The emails and phone calls have started to shift their focus. Up to a week ago, most communications into my office concerned aid or problems getting assistance with acquiring aid. I am now getting more calls about work in the future. Some are from members looking to become a leader of their own ensemble. They are looking at the future of their business and have general questions about scales, benefits and filing of contracts. A lot of members have been calling with questions regarding how they handle cancellations, trying to find ways to reschedule jobs and work through that process in a diplomatic way.

We are in an extraordinary time now. The level of uncertainty is very high, but having said that, I am encouraged to see some of us looking at what the future might hold for us and our art/business. We wonder what performances might look like as we move forward, what technologies we might need to invest in for future work and delivery of that work, all the while not knowing where our audiences will be. But it is time to get beyond the fear of the unknown, and work toward an examination of possibilities of what our industry will look like.

Music - Helping All Recover Together



The CFM is collecting donations for a new program called Musicians - Helping All Recover Together (M-HART) to help our fellow 10-208 members. If you are able to donate money to the cause, please visit our [website](#) and help shape the future of our industry. Thank you!





Tough Times

The words people use to describe the last four months are getting old. They say these days are unprecedented, strange, bizarre, or chaotic. But one thing every member of this union knows is that these are tough times. The entertainment industry in general and our industry in particular have been hit with an uppercut. At no time in most of our adult lives have we been without our colleagues and the joy of the collaborative effort of music-making for this long, not to mention the loss of income and incredible difficulty in filing for unemployment many have faced. In my talks with members I'm constantly impressed by the determination and perseverance our community shows. We are here working for you still. There have been lots of changes at the office, and though we were previously looking to move headquarters, that search has become more pressing. Budgeting and planning

are more important than ever. Looking to a future that is hard to predict makes the task more difficult, but not without hope. Please take a moment to read about the M-HART program that we are developing. It has been a joy for me to work on, and it's the kind of thing that made me want to get into the union business in the first place. When times get tough, we can count on each other. This union belongs to its members. I often close these articles with a request to call in with your ideas, concerns and issues that concern you. Do that. Let's get a Zoom conference together. Let's talk about the future. Let's talk about how we get back to work. The way forward is in innovation and unity of purpose. My best to all of you and your families. May you stay safe and proud. Thank you for your membership.



Contribute to the Chicago Musicians Emergency Relief Fund

The CFM is still collecting donations for the Chicago Musicians Emergency Relief Fund to help our fellow 10-208 members. If you are able to donate money to the Fund, please visit our [website](#). Whatever you can give helps. Thank you!



It would be very difficult to put together a light, breezy column showcasing what our fellow musicians are doing right now. For the last column, I was able to focus on all the creative work musicians are doing on social media. As our nation and the world confront racism in our societies, I thought I would share the thoughts and ideas our African American musicians have used to make a social difference.

Bassist **CHUCK WEBB**, through tenacious social media posting, emails and letter-writing, has stirred up the status quo in a positive way. It has also created a platform for many other musicians to contribute ideas.

Here is how it started with Chuck: "I read that the president of my favorite musical instrument and accessory supply company had supported political ideas that I felt strongly against. I sent an email addressing concerns, stating that I will no longer do business with them and will urge colleagues to do the same. The company in question replied from an internal memo. Unfortunately, the reply didn't focus on their social/political stance or discuss the extreme lack of diversity within the Executive board of their company."

Also, a very important distinction, Chuck did not mention the company until he had the proper information and truth he was looking for.

This from Chuck, "during this troubled time many of us are wondering what we can do; this is something concrete that we can do. Pay attention and follow the money!" (A company executive) has the right to support any political candidate they choose and I support they're right to that choice. If I find that I can not in good conscience do business with this or any other company I will say so and say why and encourage you to do the same."

Chuck asks this important question: "If this were to happen on a wider scale, outside of the music business, and target the bottom lines of major corporations, would this be an effective way to affect change in society? The premise being that if powerful CEOs realized their bottom lines were being affected by their political stances they would put pressure on the politicians they support with their dollars to vote and act in a more just, humane, and humanistic way."

Since the initial social media and letter writing from Chuck, several African American musicians around the country have formed an informal organization and have begun online meetings with companies such as Fender, IK Media, Zildjian, Sweetwater, Roland, PRS Guitars and others. The meetings are ongoing and have thus far proved to be promising. The companies have pledged to improve diversity in their hiring practices to include more people of color and women and to be more community minded in their charitable contributions.

I asked violist **VANNIA PHILLIPS** if she would contribute and she shared these beautiful thoughts:

"I think I have been more introspective and dealing with things going on in the world on a micro-level. I was really struck by the story of the [black birdwatcher](#) in Central Park. Not so much about the response of the woman, but more that it is so cool having this person out in the news who seemed like such an anomaly to the world. A black birdwatcher! It made me think of the story my mother told me when she decided to sing a country song at a talent show at a club in Harlem. A black country singer! This had to be back in the late 40's or early 50's. I remember thinking as a little kid that this was hilarious since I thought black people did not sing country music. Mind you, the genre owes its debt to African and African American traditions. Now I am awestruck by my mother's audacity. She sang what she liked and did what she wanted at a time when the world did not let women, let alone black women, do so.

"I decided recently to take banjo lessons. Even though the banjo originated in West Africa, you don't see a lot of black banjo players. Thank God for the [Carolina Chocolate Drops](#)! I only just started and am not very good. Still, I feel like, in a small way, it connects me with my mother's audaciousness. I am a black woman who loves to hike, has taught yoga and who is now learning the banjo, dammit. Be who you are!"

Timpanist **BOBBY EVERSON** kindly added his thoughts.

"The current national crisis has emphasized the divide in our society in a whole new way. The issues before us have been brought up before but it really seems that this time the majority is understanding why these issues exist. I have had several conversations about current events with friends and colleagues who were sympathetic in the past, but are now angry that things have gone unchanged, and are willing to take action to correct injustices. There is, however, a segment of society where there is no room for conversation and that really scares me. The fact that this closed-mindedness permeates so many debates means that we will not address really important issues.

"Many of my friends know of my hobby of being a model railroader. Even in this seemingly innocent hobby, politics has divided the community, and remember – this is where I go to relax. I still remain hopeful that dialogue will continue, that historical wrongs will be addressed and that we find a new normal where everyone has a voice."

Lastly, on the Chicago Philharmonic YouTube channel, you can see cellist and author **ED MOORE** [discuss the blessings](#) of having a second career and of the positive aspects of protest.



M-HART Creates Good Will in The Community and Opportunities for CFM Members.

“Music – Helping All Recover Together” is a program that the CFM board hopes will get many of our members back to playing this summer. Our mission statement:

“M-HART is an initiative of the Chicago Federation of Musicians created to present live music as an integral part of the emotional and economic recovery of both greater Chicago and our members. We are working with local governments, neighborhood and philanthropic organizations, businesses and labor unions to identify funding sources and outdoor locations to present small-scale, socially distanced public performances. With an emphasis on minority and under-served communities, our goal is to reinstate live music as an essential, healing aspect of civic life.”

The last few months have been difficult for us all as festivals, concerts and orchestra, opera and theater performances have been canceled through 2020. In early May, as our state began making plans for a phased reopening of the economy, the CFM board discussed ways that live music could be phased in as well. The additional trauma that our city suffered with the killing of George Floyd in police custody and the resulting civil unrest make clear that the joy and beauty your music can bring to people is urgently needed. The absence of live music has left a huge void in the heart of our city and none of us wants to wait until 2021 to play again! So, M-HART was conceived.

CFM members who participate in these small-scale performances consisting of one to five musicians will be paid Community Service Wage Scale by the CFM. Simply fill out the application, which was sent to you in a recent email. The application can also be found on the CFM website. Your application may be prioritized if you have already identified a public location and received permission to perform there – especially if it is in a minority or underserved community. You may want to approach your local park director, farmers’ market, village government, Chamber of Commerce or other community organization. They may need to provide logistical support such as electricity or a shaded/covered area, but no financial support is required of them. Additionally, there need be NO PROMOTION of these performances since attracting a crowd would increase the chances of spreading COVID-19. These “concerts” are designed to feel spontaneous in nature, as “pop-up art” for the enjoyment of people who happen upon them.

Since M-HART performers will be representing the CFM, you will be provided with signage to display that promotes the program and reminds listeners to maintain a safe distance from each other. You also will have literature to share with the public that will describe M-HART, promote the CFM and encourage listeners to make a financial contribution to M-HART.

The CFM board has approved \$20,000 in seed money to get M-HART off to a good start. A committee comprised of Leo Murphy, BJ Levy, Joe Sonnefeldt and Rich Daniels has been working hard to secure additional funding, and initial feedback from potential contributors has been promising. Future funding may also depend on the success of the early roll-out and the professionalism of CFM performers. We are confident that the return of live music to our communities and the positive media coverage we hope to receive will attract both financial support for this program and public support for the CFM. If you know of a potential source of funding for M-HART, please contact a member of the committee.

As of this writing, M-HART has secured the endorsements of United Way, the Chicago Federation of Labor, Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez of the 25th Ward and the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) Program of the 25th Chicago Police District. We have also had productive discussions with Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE). We are coordinating with officers from the CAPS division of the Chicago Police Department in order to assist with developing safety protocols that ensure the safety of our performers.

In late May, the [COVID Response Tracking Study](#) conducted at the University of Chicago found that just 14 percent of American adults say they’re very happy, down from 31 percent who said the same in 2018. Furthermore, the study reports that Americans are the unhappiest they’ve been in 50 years. Music and the arts have an important role to play in bringing joy back to peoples’ lives and restoring health to our collective psyche. The officers and Board of the CFM hope that our members will consider M-HART a “call to action”, take ownership of this initiative and find public spaces where you can share the joy of live music with your community. We all need it now more than ever! Follow this [link](#) for information and the application, and this [link](#) to donate.



Healthcare Update

Many rules and regulations have become more flexible during the current pandemic. Some changes that many of you will have availed yourselves of are alterations to mortgages, rent payments, car loans and deadlines for tax filing. Our nation's health insurance system is going through a similar yet haphazard relaxation of what were once strict rules regarding enrollment policies and flexible spending accounts.

It is impossible to provide specific guidance here as these changes are diverse and implemented in a wide variety of ways. The most important thing for you all to be aware of is that many exceptions are being made during this time and that you should not hesitate to seek out or request policy deviations that might benefit you.

We have had success at the CFM getting a special open enrollment period approved for our healthcare participants. Signing up for health insurance through the CFM is something for which many of you qualify at any time of the year, yet active participants usually are only allowed to change their plan selection at the end of each year. Humana agreed to let the CFM enable our participants to apply for a change to our lower monthly cost plans. We have been authorized to do so only on a case-by-case basis but have successfully processed each request for a change.

If you currently have your health insurance through an employer or a spouse's employer, you may have similar success making changes to your coverage even

though we are not in a traditional open enrollment period. Details of coverage can seem confusing, and many people are not on an ideal plan for their needs or budget. If you find that you have more time on your hands, this would be an excellent time to assess the details of your current coverage.

While, as of this writing, the Trump administration has decided against opening the Affordable Care Act's [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) marketplaces to new customers in a special enrollment period mid-year, many of you may still qualify for enrollment based on your current circumstances.

In 2014, as part of the Affordable Care Act, Illinois expanded its Medicaid program to include adults with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level. To check if you (and your family) are eligible to apply, go to <https://www.healthcare.gov/screener>. Applications can be completed at <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access>.

Also, as I mentioned in my last article, familiarize yourself with your insurance provider or primary doctor's telemedicine options. These virtual visits have become common practice for many doctors and can be a convenient way to deal with non-emergency medical questions.

I am always glad to help members navigate the healthcare system. Don't hesitate to reach out to me with your questions.

And stay safe.

Even if you missed the Open Enrollment period to apply for coverage, you can still enroll in a Chicago Federation of Musicians healthcare plan for 2020.

You are eligible if:

- You are under 65 years of age
- You are a member in good standing
- You have earned \$3,000 in union-declared income in the current or previous year, OR if you are vested in the AFM-EPF pension fund.

You also can apply for dental and vision insurance. Eligibility requirements are the same, EXCEPT you do not have to be under 65 years of age.

For more information, please visit our website at cfm10208.com/musician-resources/health-insurance-options.

You also may contact Nick Moran at nmoran@cfm10208.org, or call him at the Chicago Federation of Musicians at 312-782-0063.

WHAT IS THE APOL?



The year 2020 marks the 42nd Anniversary of the Association of Professional Orchestra Leaders, founded as a not-for-profit corporation in 1978. Its membership (whose musical groups are heard regularly at hundreds of social, corporate and charity events) includes some of Chicagoland's most prominent and successful band and orchestra musicians. Guided by the APOL Code of Ethics and Professional Standards, the organization encourages the highest values of professionalism and musical excellence.

The APOL's monthly meetings at a variety of restaurants serve as forums for the free exchange of matters of mutual concern to its members, including music and musicianship, business practices, client and employee relations, sales and marketing and new technology. We invite a special guest from the music industry to our monthly meetings. The organization strives to educate the general public and businesses as to the value of live musical entertainment. The APOL booklet, "How to Hire the Perfect Musical Group", is available to the public free of charge. It includes "Ten Tips for A Musically Exceptional Affair" and the APOL Code of Ethics and Professional Standards.

In 1998, the APOL established its Musical Scholarship Fund. Each year, a committee attempts to select one or more qualified college or high school senior music students to receive an unrestricted cash award of \$1,000 to be paid in two \$500 installments over a two-year period.

Our yearly Dinner Dance has featured the big bands of Glenn Miller, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Maynard Ferguson, Woody Herman, Count Basie and Harry James. Occasional music-based cultural outings have added to the variety of our social outings.

WHY BELONG TO THE APOL?

bandleaders.org

1. *Networking with musicians, leaders, contractors and patrons*
2. *Producing new engagements for our members*
3. *Keeping our musical groups up to date with new ideas*
4. *Versatility is our strength – singles and duos to larger units – all styles*
5. *Working with new tools – iPods, Facebook, Zoom and Skype*
6. *Recording techniques – audio and video*
7. *During this pandemic of 2020, we are having WEEKLY ZOOM meetings every Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.*
8. *We are always looking for new members, including freelance musicians. Contact Brian Patti at 630-832-9222.*

Brian Patti, President

Richard Armandi, Vice-President

Mike Delaney, Secretary/Treasurer



Performers Music, located in the Fine Arts Building on Michigan Avenue, is the oldest sheet music purveyor in the city. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a sudden and substantial impact on their business. Since 80% of profits come from in-store sales, and the Fine Arts Building is temporarily closed during this crisis, their future is uncertain. However, they are still taking phone and online orders. Please consider buying your music from Performers Music. <https://www.performersmusicchicago.com>. Thank you!

Below are various resources to assist you while we get through this pandemic.
Please click on the links for more information.

Applications for Relief Funding:

[Artist Relief](#)
[American Guild of Musical Artists Relief Fund](#)
[Blues Musician Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[Corona Relief Fund by Equal Sound](#)
[Disability Determination Services](#)
[Gospel Music Trust Fund](#)
[Illinois Department of Employment Security](#)
[Jazz Foundation of America Musicians' Emergency Fund](#)
[Lester Petrillo Memorial Fund](#)
[Musicians Foundation Emergency Aid Application](#)
[Pinetop Perkins Foundation](#)
[Sweet Relief Covid 19 Fund](#)

Donations for Artists:

[Chicago Artists Relief Fund](#)

General Grant Applications:

[Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events](#)
[Illinois Arts Council](#)

Miscellaneous:

[Performing Arts Readiness](#)
[WFMT](#)
[Fannie May & Freddie Mac](#) (for mortgage relief)

Resource Sites:

[3Arts Chicago](#)
[ActorsFund](#)
[AFL-CIO](#)
[American Federation of Musicians](#)
[Americans for the Arts](#)
[Artist Trust](#)
[Artists Thrive](#)
[Arts Ready](#)
[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[CERF+ Relief Fund](#)
[COVID-19 Freelance Artist Resources](#)
[Creative Capital](#)
[I care if you listen](#)
[Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
[League of American Orchestras](#)
[MusiCares](#)
[Music Covid Relief](#)
[National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#)
[National Coalition for the Arts](#)
[Unemployment Benefits: Illinois](#)

Streaming and Fundraising:

[9 ways you can make money live streaming](#)
[Advice on making money while streaming](#)
[Donations through Facebook and YouTube](#)
[How to Fundraise on Facebook](#)

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5638 S. Harper Ave.
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312-670-4480
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34561 Calle Tobara
Cathedral City, CA 92234
312-231-5199
TRUMPET

55439 Corelitz, Joel

8019 N. Merrill
Niles, IL 60714
312-523-8706
SYNTHESIZER

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847-991-2681
CONDUCTOR

56776 Duff, Priscilla S.

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847-991-2681
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57155 Gage, Nicholas M.

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VIOLIN

Arthur Hoyle 1929-2020

Arthur Hoyle, renowned trumpeter and musician, transitioned on June 4, 2020 at the age of 90. Arthur received his first trumpet on his eighth birthday in rural Oklahoma. He moved to Gary, Indiana with his mother at age 13. He began playing in local clubs and ballrooms at the age of 15. Arthur's excellence as a jazz trumpeter earned worldwide admiration. After a four-year stint in the U.S. Air Force, Arthur joined the Sun Ra Arkestra. He next worked with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, touring the United States, Canada, Europe and North Africa. Arthur's music career included the Art Hoyle Quintet and studio work as both a voiceover talent and musician on TV, radio, commercials and movie soundtracks. He has worked with some of the greatest musicians of our time including Lee Konitz, Gene Ammons, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Woody Herman, Billy Eckstine, Frank Sinatra and many others. In 2010 Arthur was the featured cover story artist in the July/August issue of the Chicago Jazz Magazine. Arthur was an avid reader and intellect. Arthur is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Ruth Hoyle, Godchildren, other relatives and dear friends.

[Reprinted with permission, Post-Tribune on Jun. 7, 2020.](#)

Frederick Luscombe 1935-2020

Frederick Ronald Luscombe, 84, of Elmhurst, IL, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 19, 2020.

Fred was born in 1935 to Fred and Elsie Luscombe. He grew up in Crystal Lake, IL, with a sister, Grace, who preceded him in death. After graduating from Crystal Lake High School, Fred went on to the University of Illinois-Champaign, where he studied Music Education, and where he met his wife, Lucretia. He earned a Master's Degree in Music from DePaul University.

Fred will be fondly remembered as a trombonist and founder of Luscombe Music. He inspired many musicians from the Chicagoland area with his witty sense of humor, his kindness and his willingness to help. He was a former member of the Chicago Federation of Musicians Local 10-208. He was also an active member of Visitation Catholic Church.

Fred was loved by many and will be greatly missed. Fred was the loving husband of 63 years to Lucretia and proud father of Greg (Beth), Laura (Stephen), and Katherine (Brian). He was also unendingly proud of his grandchildren, Michele (Bryan), Jenna, Lisa (Andrew), Sarah, Julia (Anthony), Matthew, Emma, Abby and William, as well as great-grandchildren, Owen, Ahnikka and Jase.

[Reprinted with permission, Chicago Tribune on Apr. 29, 2020.](#)

Raymond Niwa 1922-2020

Raymond Niwa, a native Chicagoan, attended St Hedwig's Grammar School and was a graduate of Lane Technical High School. He held two degrees, a BM and MM from DePaul University, interrupted by a three-year military service. His violin teacher and mentor was Morris Gomberg. As a violinist he joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1951.

Prior to joining the CSO, he played with the Chicago Opera Orchestra, the Grant Park Symphony and the Pittsburg Symphony Orchestra. On two separate occasions he was the featured soloist with the CSO performing Prokofiev's 2nd and Szymanowski's 1st Violin Concertos respectively. He was a member of the faculty at Roosevelt University from 1946-1997 and at DePaul from 1946-1948. During his tenure at Roosevelt he led the faculty string quartet for six years.

Ray, his beloved wife Eloise, a pianist, often second keyboard with the CSO (pre-deceased by seven years), and CSO colleague Margaret Evans made up the Niwa Trio. They were featured on the CSO's Chamber Music Series for more than 20 years and they performed regularly in the Orchestra's ensemble outreach program that brought live classical music to Chicago-area schoolchildren. Ray and his wife enjoyed entertaining members of visiting foreign orchestras in their home (combining the professional and social aspects of their lives), as well as noting that language was no barrier. Music provided the common ground, obviating ethnic, religious and political differences. Ray and Eloise were also longtime members of Chicago's Polish Arts Club. Their other interests included live theater, tennis, golf, bridge and travel. (Ray was Chicago City Parks Tennis Champion in 1937!)

As a dedicated unionist, Ray was a founding member of the players' committee. A colleague wrote: "Ray will also be remembered for his significant contributions to the welfare of his musician colleagues, not only in Chicago but nationwide. He was of that last generation of CSO musicians to endure poor wages, onerous working conditions and job insecurity, and all those who came after are the beneficiaries of his sacrifices."

Ray is survived by his daughter Gail, a concert pianist with two degrees from the Juilliard School; his son David, a violinist in the Columbus Symphony with degrees from the Curtis Institute and the Juilliard School; his daughter-in-law Mariko, a pianist with degrees from the Paris Conservatoire and DMA from CUNY; his son-in-law Glenn Powell, IT in NYC; and his beloved grandson Matthew. As a family, the Niwas claim a singular distinction in that all four have been featured soloists with the CSO for a total of 16 performances.

No memorial services are scheduled at this time due to the COVID pandemic. The family will make plans at a future date.

In lieu of flowers the family kindly requests that any donations be made to "The Raymond and Eloise Niwa Fund" at the CSO. Please do so by mail to: The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 220 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago IL 60604; through the website; [cso.org/MakeAGift](https://www.cso.org/MakeAGift); or by phone: (312) 294-3100. Please be very specific about identifying the Fund.

Arrangements entrusted to COLONIAL-WOJCIECHOWSKI FUNERAL HOMES.

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Secretary/Treasurer's Office	Ext. 333
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United States and Canada:

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AFM-Employers' Pension Fund (NY)	(800) 833-8065
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