

Overture

online



AFM LOCAL 47 #WhyUnion?



***Benefits Corner: Your Health
& Pension Benefits at a Glance***

***Grammy Museum to Celebrate Pride
Month With Melissa Etheridge***

Overture online

- Official monthly electronic magazine of the
American Federation of Musicians Local 47 -

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AFM LOCAL
47

Message From the Editor

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

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

Please update your Directory profile with your current email and notification preferences by filling out the update form at afm47.org/directory or call 323.462.2161. Thank you!

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California AFM Locals Continue Member-to-Member Unemployment Forums



The Actors Fund: Resources for EVERYONE in Entertainment (Musicians, Too!)



Vax Facts from the LA County Fed



Auto, Home, or Personal Loans Rates That Make You Smile



BURBANK

3820 W. Riverside Dr.
Burbank, CA 91505

LOS ANGELES

5757 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 124
Los Angeles, CA
90036

SHERMAN OAKS

14118 Magnolia Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA
91423

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Burbank, CA 91504

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Internet Banking:
www.sagaftaucu.org
Telephone Banking: 818.260.0609
or 800.392.9321 (toll-free)



President Stephanie O’Keefe



I need your help.

So often, people ask me why they should join the Union, why a project should be placed under a Union contract, or even why, once joining, they should remain a Union member.

I’m asking the members of Local 47 who, year in and year out, renew their membership, bring projects to the Local to be placed under contract, and perhaps encourage their friends and colleagues to join or remain in the Local, to answer for me.

Local 47 is launching an awareness campaign featuring members from every part of our profession, answering in their own words, this question: Why Union? We will promote the campaign on our website and social media, as well as in the Overture.

Please participate and help me answer this important and fundamental question.

*Thank you,
Stephanie O’Keefe*

The above is the letter that began appearing in members’ inboxes about two months ago. #WhyUnion is an awareness campaign, designed to answer that very question — not by AFM officers and staff, but by the very people who ARE the Union.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will see the responses of members, your colleagues, your friends.

I would love to hear from all of you – to participate, please click [here](#).

And, as always, please feel free to contact me directly with your comments or questions.

In Solidarity,
Stephanie

DO WE HAVE ROYALTIES FOR YOU?



More than \$500 Million Distributed to Musicians & Vocalists

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

Find Out If We Have Royalties For YOU

www.afmsagaftfund.org



The AFM & SAG-AFTRA IPRD Fund is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization - est. 1998
4705 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Suite 400, Valley Village, CA 91607
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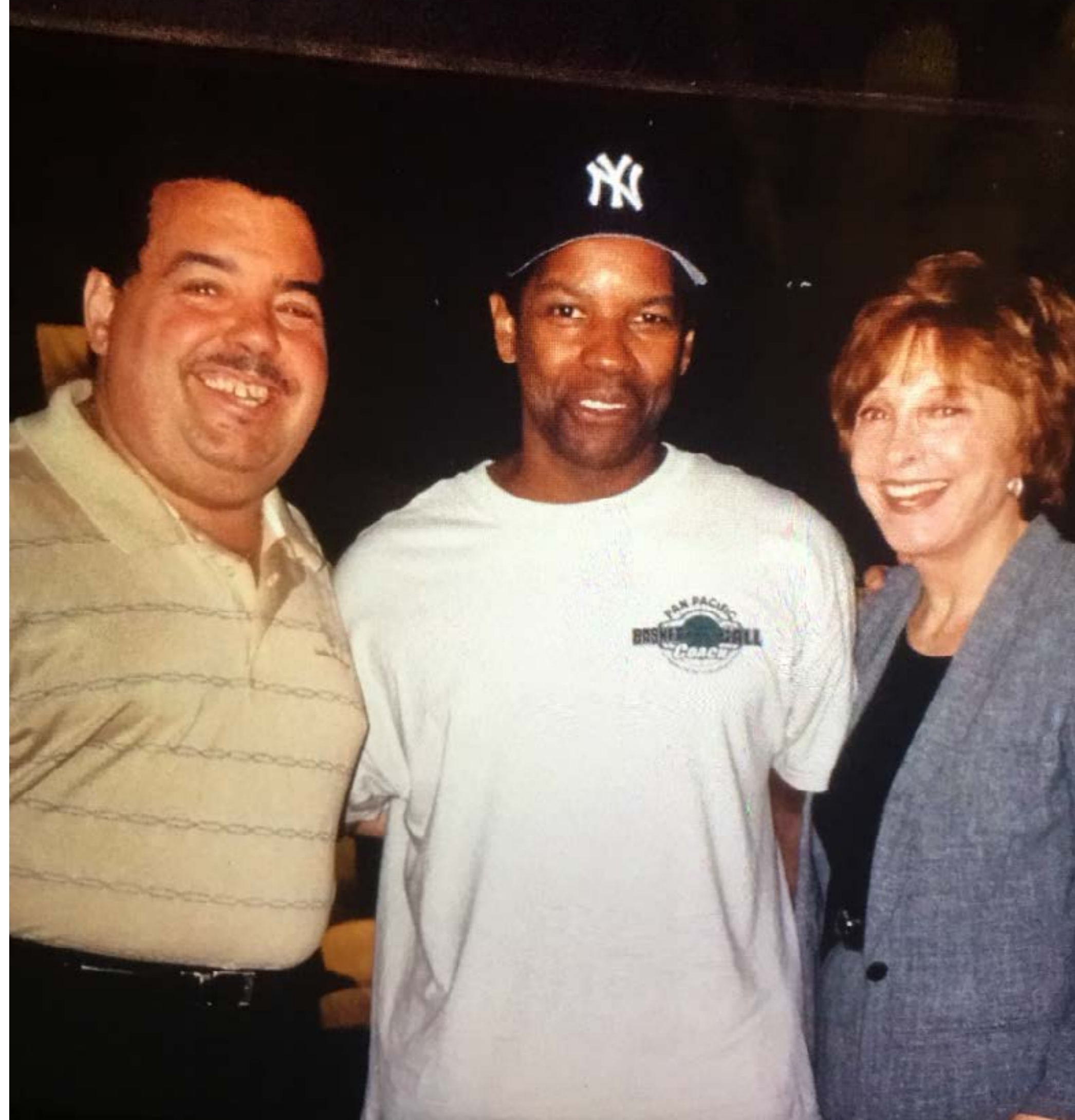


Vice President Rick Baptist



CONGRATULATIONS to Sandy DeCrescent!!!!

Sandy was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music in a virtual ceremony on April 26. The Dean of Duquesne music school said of Sandy, "She's an ideal for our students. She overcame obstacles and rose to the top."



Rick and Sandy with Denzel Washington at the scoring session for his 2002 film "Antwone Fisher"

Sandy started her career at Universal Studios, where Stanley Wilson gave her the opportunity to break ground as one of the first female music contractors in Hollywood history. Fifty years ago, women had very few opportunities at any level of film production, including even playing in a studio orchestra. As Sandy continued over her amazing career, she made a point to continue opening doors for empowering and encouraging female musicians to be composers, orchestrators, or even to be a music contractor like she was.

Sandy at a scoring session with film composer Alan Silvestri



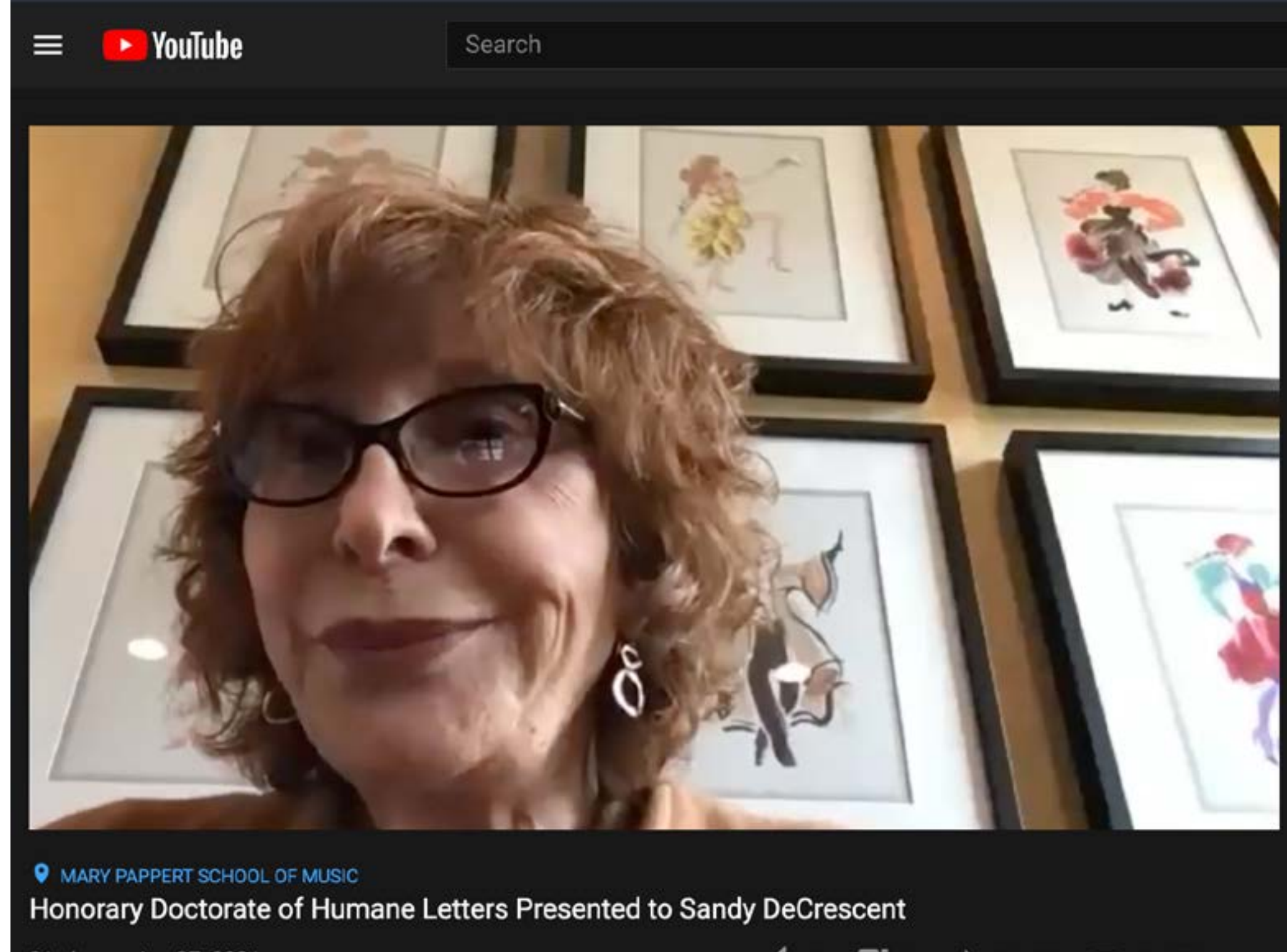
If you were lucky enough to have worked for Sandy in a studio setting, you would be very aware of her ability to be on top of every aspect of the music production, all the time. You would also be part of an environment where every musician was treated with total respect by everyone involved.

Sandy was there when the RMA started up, and she fought for better working conditions, better contracts and she never tolerated any mistreatment by management or anybody else. We all knew she had our backs, no matter what.

Congratulations, Dr. DeCrescent. I want to say with the utmost of respect: Thank you from all musicians on what you did in the past and what you will do in the future. God bless you.

Remember to live, laugh and love,

Rick Baptist



^ Tap to watch the virtual live-streamed video of Sandy DeCrescent's Honorary Doctorate ceremony

CONGRATULATIONS MR. J!

40* Years of Teaching Music!



"Some Debts Are Not to Be Reckoned..."

Thank you for all of the lessons, concerts, musicals, sheet music, instruments, folders, festivals, band trips, band trips paid out of pocket, recommendations, words of wisdom, pithy sayings, chorales, line dancing, earplugs, vests, buttons, barbecues, P.D.Q. Bach, emotional support, financial support, Jewish seniors, and even the Breathing Gyms.

Please Enjoy Your Retirement! Thank You!

*Technically 39. But "when you're early you're on time, when you're on time you're late".

Love, SOCES Wind & Jazz Ensemble Seniors, Class of 2013

Secretary/Treasurer Danita Ng-Poss



Photo by Mustafa Sayed

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits.

We at Local 47 are very excited and relieved for securing our PPP loan of \$397,132 from the Small Business Administration (SBA) at end of April. While Local 47 continues to keep operating costs low during the pandemic, we are thankful and grateful that we were able to secure this loan during this uncertain time as a nonprofit labor union.

Meanwhile, our new IT staff is slowly but surely getting up the speed on processing and generating monthly work dues statements, membership dues, generating internal reports, and many other IT ad hoc items that needed long due attention. It is far from being perfect, but we are at least seeing some progress. The effort of getting Local 47 into the 21st Century is still a long process, but we are heading the right direction.

I am happy to announce that Local 47's website is finally back up and operational to full functionality. Our new IT staff and webmaster have been great in getting us up and operational again after weeks of multiple unfortunate technical events. The website payments portals are now back online. Members now are able to once again view work dues statements and pay membership dues and work dues in the members section of the website. Go to: afm47.org/user/login

Due to this temporary disruption in online services, we have waived late fees on your work dues for those weeks we were down. We appreciate and thank you for your patience with our staff.

A friendly reminder for members who pay semi-annual membership dues, do not forget to update your membership by July 1, 2021. Thank you for your continued support and staying in unity as a union member. Your voice is important.

Please note that the Local 47 Musicians Relief Fund is available to members in need. Visit afm47.org/relief for more information on how to apply or if you wish to make a donation.

On a different note, if you are interested in orchestration classes and have not signed up yet, please check out Dr. Norman Ludwin's upcoming Orchestration classes. Classes are free exclusively for AFM L47 members. Register at: afm47.org/orchestration

- Beginning Orchestration on Wednesdays (7-10 p.m.) for 4 weeks starting June 2
- Advanced Orchestration on Wednesdays (7-10 p.m.) for 4 weeks starting August 4

In other news, the Music Performance Service Corp. established in June 2020 encourages the children of professional musicians to pursue higher education and to become leaders in their chosen fields. Please check out the Music Performance Trust Funds' 2021 Music Family Scholarship at: musicpf.org/scholarship-application

The application deadline has been extended to July 1, 2021.

In closing, I urge you to help by staying patient and be courteous towards our staff members when you interact with them. Each and every one of us needs to do our part. If we stand together, we will get through this difficult time towards a future we all desire.

Regards,

Danita Ng-Poss

(pronounced dah-NEE-tah UNG-poss)

AFM LOCAL 47 #WhyUnion?

Beate & Chris Walden

Violinist | Arranger

It seems to me that especially during a time of great instability, people need community and support. These valid forms of human need are met through the union's support systems which keep musician's pay and health benefits steady. Nothing could be more crucial for an artist.

- Beate Walden, Violinist
Member since 2021

The most important aspect of our union to me is solidarity. We watch out for each other, and stand up together for our rights and adequate pay.

- Chris Walden, Arranger
Member since 1996

Siddhartha Khosla

Composer

Now more than ever, the musicians that bring our scores to life need us. With the challenging times we're in, unions become even more important in supporting our fellow players and collaborators. It's important for musicians to know that a union, and we composers have their back.

- Siddhartha Khosla, Composer
Member since 2013

Gina Kronstadt

Violinist

Why Union? I've remained a union member since 1976 because the jobs are more professionally run, musicians are shown more respect (proper breaks and environment), access to rehearsal rooms, and we receive our benefits and back-end payments. No brainer. #winwinwinwinwin

- Gina Kronstadt, Violinist
Member since 1976

John Lofton

Bass Trombonist

Regardless of background or socio-economics, or diversity of the genres music performed, the Union strives through our contracts to create a working environment for all musicians to thrive.

- John Lofton, Bass Trombonist
Member since 2008

Kathleen Robertson

Violinist

The Musicians Union protects its members in that it sets the standard of pay and allows for the benefit of health care and pension. History has shown that without these standards it is extremely difficult if not impossible to maintain a safe working environment and a fair working wage.

- Kathleen Robertson, Violinist
Member since 1991

Jim Self

Tubist

The AFM protects each musician's legal rights, guarantees payment, provides pension and health care and most of all, assures that those on a job are all the best professionals.

- Jim Self, Tubist
Member since 1973

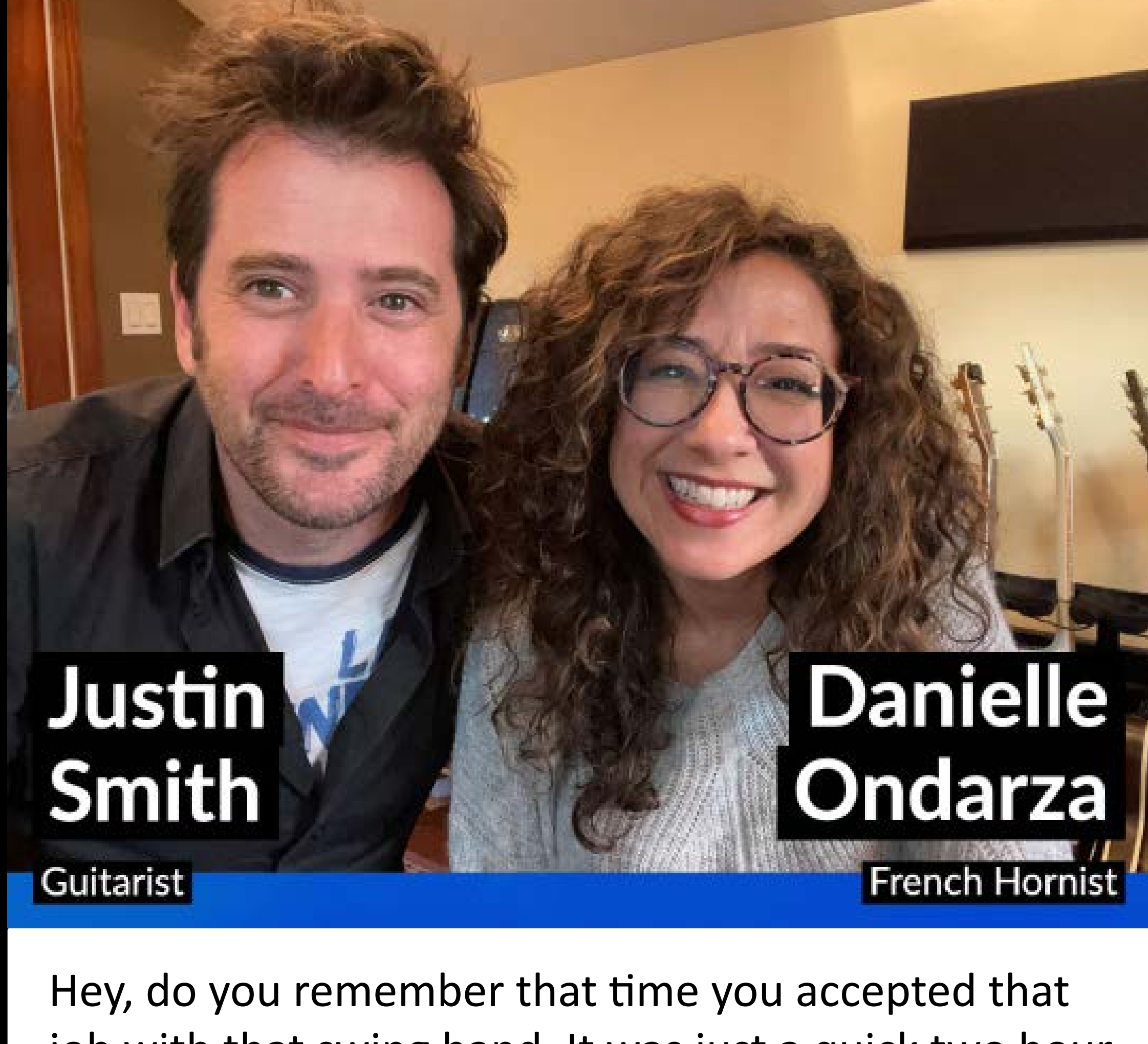
John Clayton

Bassist

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

- John Clayton, Bassist
Member since 1976

47 #WhyUnion?



Guitarist

French Hornist

Hey, do you remember that time you accepted that job with that swing band. It was just a quick two hour show on guitar. It didn't pay all that well...but you thought, "What the heck.....I'll just be sitting around twiddling my thumbs otherwise....I should go play.... it might be fun."

Remember when, after you'd said yes, they then called two rehearsals?

Unpaid?

That wouldn't have happened on a union job.

Remember how when you arrived at the first rehearsal you saw the book and realized you needed three different guitars? And a banjo? And a mandolin? And a pedalboard? All that stuff to cart around and play, and no extra money?

That wouldn't have happened on a union job.

Remember the night before the two-hour job, they gave you the call time.... three hours before downbeat? You know....so you could do a soundcheck.... that turned into another two-hour rehearsal....remember? And then once you started playing....it ran another 35 minutes longer than they promised.... because they really wanted to get through all the tunes...

No overtime pay for you.

That wouldn't have happened on a union job.

But hey...at least you got through it. Glad that was over! Whew! Remember how you went to the band leader to get paid the \$275 he'd promised you? Remember how he said, "Oh...yeah....Let me just cash the check from the venue and then I'll pay you guys all out...three days, tops!"

Remember how three days later nothing came. So you wrote to the leader and he said, "Oh yeah... lemme get that over to you ASAP."

Six weeks later you got a check for \$200. So you wrote to the leader and said, "What happened to the other \$75?" and he responded, "Well we didn't really get the turnout we were hoping for....and we thought you guys were going to do more on social media to promote..."

Yeah.

That wouldn't have happened on a union job.

When you work union, you're protected by contracts. You have contractors there to ensure they're enforced. That means both you AND your employers have to hold up your ends of the deal. There's no taking advantage. No asking for favors, no shorting you, no asking you to take on more work and not compensating you. And if ever a problem does arise, you have a whole organization behind you to make sure you're taken care of.

Add to all this, your employer contributes to your health and welfare fund. If you do enough work, you qualify for totally affordable health insurance at a great price! That may not seem like a huge deal if you're just starting out....but trust me, it'll be a big deal for you down the line.

But perhaps the best part of the deal is that when you go to work, you find yourself surrounded by some of the most incredible, and sometimes legendary, musicians in the world! Walking into a room with heroes and knowing you're all there to work together is one of the most gratifying parts of this job. It never gets old.

So...why union? That's why.

- Justin Smith, Guitarist
Member since 2002

Why union?

There are a hundred reasons why I proudly work union jobs. The simplest reasons are the ones that seem like givens to those outside of our industry: that I will be paid the agreed upon wage for my services, that I will receive overtime when I stay late, that my work conditions will be safe, and that I will receive meal and restroom breaks.

However, as I have graduated from young newbie to middle-aged freelancer there is one issue that rises above all others: health insurance. When I accept union work I receive contributions towards qualifying for health insurance. One or two jobs won't get me there, but over the course of the year I earn enough to qualify.

A few years ago I went from perfectly healthy to having a life-threatening incident that put me in the hospital for a week. Had it not been for Local 47's health care plan my family would have gone bankrupt from the cost of that treatment and the subsequent care that I needed. I am now considered healthy and stable (and plan to stay that way!), but the reality of having good health insurance has never been more clear.

Health insurance for musicians is rare, and we are fortunate to be part of a Local that provides coverage. I am thankful every day for that safety net, to the union jobs that get me there, and to our union for keeping the fund alive, even through a pandemic when no one was working.

- Danielle Ondarza, French Hornist
Member since 2003

AFM LOCAL 47 #WhyUnion?



Aaron Smith

Trumpeter

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

- Aaron Smith, Trumpeter

Member since 2013



Susan Chatman

Violinist

A union creates standards and guidelines so individuals don't under-evaluate their services AND a union must also create standards that equally serve all of the members it has committed to lead.

- Susan Chatman, Violinist

Member since 1985



Mike Vaccaro

Clarinetist

This organization represents the best musicians in the world for negotiations of wages and working conditions. The major reason to join the union is to play with the best musicians. Other perks include the good guaranteed wages, health insurance and a pension fund that helps you make your retirement plans. In your younger years you decide if you need a supplementary retirement plan depending on how much union work you do. You also have the staff of the union to help resolve disagreements with employers.

Then there are the obligations. As a fraternal organization, members are obliged to help other members keep up the standards of other musicians. The only way the union really works is when the members are committed to uphold and protect the wage and benefits for all musicians.

Other than your own church there is no reason for you to work non-union. That is what keeps our standards safe. If you want to use the union when it is convenient and do scab work when it is not convenient you lower the standard for all musicians. If you are asked to work non-union, talk to our President or other staff member that you trust on how the situation can be brought up to the union standards.

Without faithful members it makes it difficult, if not impossible, to do the job we elect them for. So, when you join our union please take your oath seriously.

You will have a great union if you are a good member. No one can defeat a group of strong, determined musicians that are willing to stand together.

- Mike Vaccaro, Clarinetist

Member since 1966



William Roper

Tubist

Why Union? Simple. Wage minimums, contracts, contract enforcement, negotiating clout, and finally back end.

- William Roper, Tubist

Member since 1992



Alan Kaplan

Trombonist

Because I have been a member of the union for my whole career I have been provided with health insurance, a pension, helpful guidance releasing my own CDs, workplace protections, and assurance that I will be paid for my work in a timely manner.

- Alan Kaplan, Trombonist

Member since 1970

What's your answer?

Submit your **#WhyUnion?** photo and answer [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE

General Membership Meeting

Monday | July 26 | 7:30pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting



Open to members
in good standing

Website Update

We are pleased to report that, after several weeks of contending with various technical issues on our website, we are back to full functionality. At the time of this writing, our payments portals are back online, and work dues statements are available in the members section of the website.

Those enrolled for Paperless Work Dues statements have resumed receiving email notifications when new statements are posted to their accounts online. In light of this temporary disruption in online service, we have waived late fees on work dues for those weeks we were down.

We thank you for your patience with our staff as we continue to work to provide these member services to you all. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership/Dues Department and our staff will be happy to assist you: 323.993.3116, membership@afm47.org

ORCHESTRATION CLASSES

WITH DR. NORMAN LUDWIN

*Free classes exclusively for
AFM Local 47 members!*

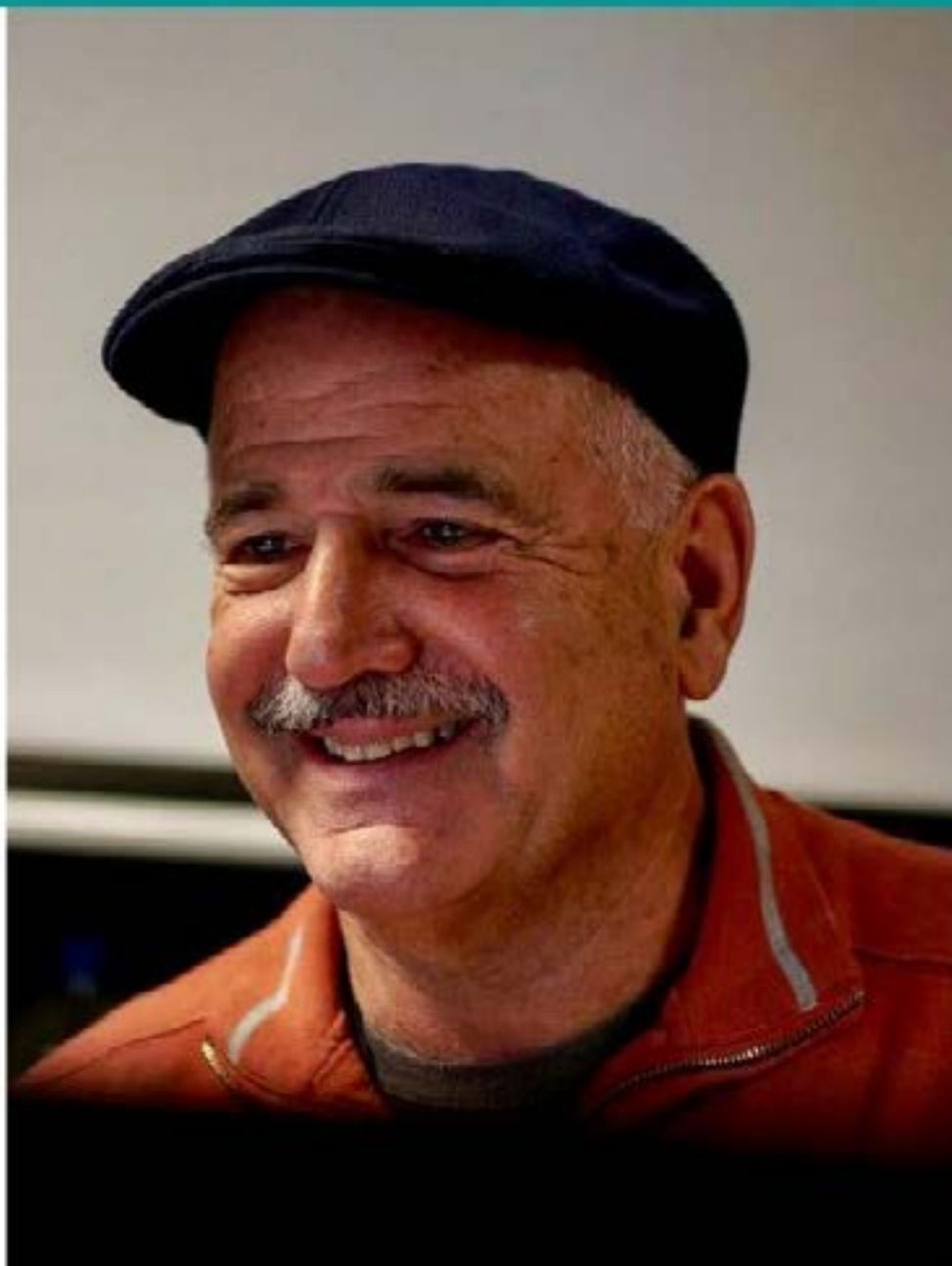
Beginning Orchestration

Wednesdays 7-10pm:
June 2, 9, 16, 23

Advanced Orchestration

Wednesdays 7-10pm:
August 4, 11, 18, 25

via Zoom video conference



REGISTER @ [AFM47.ORG/ORCHESTRATION](https://afm47.org/orchestration)



Office Closures

Monday, July 5 - Independence Day (observed)

Next General Membership Meeting

Monday, July 26, 7:30 p.m.

Open to all members in good standing

Executive Board Meetings

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

Members welcome as observers

New Member Orientation

Third Thursdays, 2 p.m.

Please Note: While our offices remain closed due to COVID, meetings are currently held via Zoom

View our full calender @ afm47.org/calendar

Local 47 Musicians Relief Fund

afm47.org/relief

The Local 47 Musicians Relief Fund offers up to \$500 per member based on need. Applicants will need to provide bank statements and bills to receive payment. Please visit afm47.org/relief to review eligibility guidelines and to apply.

Claim Your Money!

The musicians listed here have not responded to notices of checks in escrow at Local 47. If your name is listed or you know the whereabouts of these musicians or their beneficiaries, please contact our Finance Department: 323.993.3146, bookkeeping@afm47.org

Coronavirus COVID-19

Resources for Musicians

afm47.org/covid19

Find information about the Local 47 Relief Fund and other grants available for musicians, unemployment/ PUA news, community services, and more.

afm47.org/covid19



Musicians Win Union Coverage for HBO Miniseries

The American Federation of Musicians (AFM) confirms that Home Box Office (HBO) has agreed to cover musicians working on the period drama “The Gilded Age,” under the AFM’s TV Film Agreement.

Musicians who were hired to sideline on the production were told their compensation would be based on union rates but then discovered there was no contract in place and that they would not be guaranteed appropriate pay, benefits, and other protections for their services. When musicians demanded recognition and representation by their union, they were called to a meeting and fired.

“The producers of the HBO miniseries ‘The Gilded Age’ hired a large group of accomplished musicians, well-versed in the musical style of the period, to give their show authenticity,” states AFM International President Ray Hair. “When our musicians realized they were not working under an AFM contract, they stood up to a global media company and made them do the right thing. HBO will now be prevented from bullying musicians into accepting substandard wages, benefits, and conditions.”

“Emerging from the pandemic, we’re all eager to work, see colleagues, and play for live audiences. It is more important than ever to stand up together as artists, stand up for the quality of music we offer, and not be taken advantage of as musicians,” says William Hakim, violist and member of Local 802 (New York City). “I feel so proud to have stood unified with all my amazing fellow musicians, in the face of losing the work, being told by the HBO producers and casting that it was never going to happen, and then emerge victorious. I am proud that any future work that musicians provide for this show will now be protected under an AFM contract.”

At the time of this writing, musicians from the tri-state area were scheduled to film May 26-27 in downtown Troy, New York.

The AFM is grateful for the solidarity of our sister unions SAG-AFTRA, Teamsters Local 817, Writers Guild of America East and the New York State AFL-CIO. Additionally, the AFM recognizes “The Gilded Age” actors who stood with the musicians and insisted their rights as union members be respected.

The AFM also wants to thank the New York State legislators for standing up for musicians and the rights of all working people. Statements of support were received from New York State Legislators: Assemblymember John McDonald (108th Assembly District), Assemblymember Patricia A. Fahy (109th Assembly District), Assemblymember Carrie Woerner (113th Assembly District), Assemblymember Phil Steck (110th Assembly District), Senator Neil D. Breslin (44th Senate District), Senator Brad Hoylman, and U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko (20th District of New York).



Grammy Museum to Celebrate Pride Month With Melissa Etheridge

The Grammy Museum announces a star-studded digital June schedule in celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, among them a program with Melissa Etheridge on June 3.

The world-renowned musician launched her career in 1988 with an eponymous debut album, which was met with high critical acclaim. In 1993 her album “Yes I Am” catapulted her onto the mainstream charts and features the massive hits “I’m the Only One” and “Come to My Window,” a searing song of longing that brought her a second Grammy. The six-times-platinum album spent more than two and a half years on the album chart. She is also an Oscar winner for Best Original Song in 2007 with “I Need To Wake Up” for the documentary film “An Inconvenient Truth.”

Etheridge has become an inspiration not only to the LGBT community but to cancer survivors as well. The rocker is a survivor of breast cancer but even that didn’t stop her from taking the stage at the 2005 Grammy Awards to pay tribute to another icon, Janis Joplin.

On June 20, 2016, she released her song “Pulse” in reaction to the mass shooting that took place in the Orlando gay nightclub of the same name earlier that month. As she told Rolling Stone, “We want to try to make sense. We want to try to heal. We want to bring some meaning, some purpose. We also want to put it down forever in history. That’s how I’m coping.” All proceeds from the sale of “Pulse” went to benefit Equality Florida, the states largest LGBTQ civil rights organization. It is this tenacity and spirit which makes her one of the most inspirational voices in the LGBTQ+ community.

The GRAMMY Museum will present Melissa Etheridge in partnership with Iron Mountain Entertainment Services on June 3. In other Pride Month programming, on June 24, the museum will release a panel discussion, Personal Identity and the Art of Songwriting, moderated by Alexis Fish, former vice president of pride at Billboard. Panelists are Kat Cunningham, Shea Diamond, Carlie Hanson and Tangina Stone.

There is also a Pride Month connection in the Spotlight Saturdays Series Takeover franchise, which will salute artists on PEG Records. The independent record label supports LGBTQ artists through distribution (in partnership with ADA/Warner Music Group), marketing, promotion and more. The artists being spotlighted this month are Alaska, Brandon Stansell, Jujubee and Peppermint.

The GRAMMY Museum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating a greater understanding of the history and significance of music through exhibits, education, grants, preservation initiatives, and public programming. For more information, visit grammymuseum.org.



Editor's Note: This new monthly column will serve as your one-stop-shop for information about all the benefits provided by your union membership. This first column offers an overview of health care and pension.

Got a question? [Ask us](#) to have the answer featured here.

Your Health Care & Pension

Benefits at a Glance

HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS LOCAL 47 AND EMPLOYERS HEALTH & WELFARE FUND

The Professional Musicians Local 47 and Employers Health & Welfare Fund is administered by PacFed Benefit Administrators. AFM Local 47 negotiates benefits on behalf of our members. The Health & Welfare Trust provides medical, dental, vision, chiropractic, acupuncture, prescription drugs and life insurance to musicians who qualify for benefits based upon contributions received on their behalf in accordance with Local 47 and AFM contracts and collective bargaining agreements.

Eligibility

Eligibility for enrollment in the Health & Welfare Fund is based upon contributions the Fund receives on musicians' behalf from Participating Employers. A Participating Employer, or an Employers' Payroll Designee, has entered into a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Union which calls for contributions to come to the Health & Welfare Fund. All contributions must come from a Participating Employer; musicians may not "self-pay" into the Health & Welfare Fund.

Coverage

A musician may qualify at one of three levels: Level A (\$1,500+ contribution), Level B (\$1,200-\$1,499 contribution), and Level C (\$700-\$1,199 contribution). Currently the Health & Welfare Fund has contracted with the following benefit providers: Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente, Landmark Healthplan, Delta Dental, MES Vision underwritten by Gerber Life, and the Prudential Insurance Company of America ("Prudential Life"). To review the Summary Plan Description (SPD), please click [here](#). Any questions regarding a participant or dependent's eligibility and coverage should be directed to the Health & Welfare Fund.

Contact

The Health & Welfare Fund staff can help you with enrollment, coverage and HMO claims. The Health & Welfare Member Services department is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-800-753-0222 or by email at musicians@pacfed.com.

Website: pacfed-musicians.com

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FLEX PLAN

The Entertainment industry Flex Plan is an employee benefit plan which combines both Employer Contributions and Employee Contributions to fund benefits including medical, dental, vision, disability, group term life insurance, and dependent care assistance for union members working in Motion Picture and Television. The Flex Plan was established in 1985 to provide Health and related benefits for "Daily-Hire" Union employees working under Collective Bargaining Agreements in the Entertainment Industry.

Eligibility

The Flex Plan covers each person who is employed by an Employer who has entered into a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with a Local Union providing for Employer Contributions to the Flex Plan. If you are unsure if a specific employer participates in the Flex Plan, contact the Flex Plan. For a complete summary of benefits and information on Employer contributions and Employee contributions, view the Flex Plan Summary Plan Description (SPD).

Coverage

The Plan offers a flexible "cafeteria style" benefit option list in which you design your individual plan according to your needs. If you elect coverage from the Flex Plan Providers, the Flex Plan will make monthly premium payments on your behalf to the carrier(s) you select (provided your account balance is sufficient to pay all of the premiums). Please refer to the Flex Plan Summary of Benefits for descriptions and monthly costs of the coverages offered. If you do not have sufficient funds in your account to pay your premiums, the Flex Plan allows you to "self-pay" the necessary premiums for a period of 12 months.

Contact

Call the Flex Plan Member Services Department at 888.353.9401 (Monday through Friday) between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (PT). You may also contact the Flex Plan electronically here. Website: flexplan.com

SELF-PAY HEALTH CARE

If a musician does not qualify for coverage under the Health & Welfare Fund or the Flex Plan, Covered California offers individuals and small businesses residing in California to purchase private health insurance coverage at federally subsidized rates. For information about coverage outside of California, visit healthcare.gov. AFM Local 47 members may also contact Mark Cormany of French Cormany Insurance Services at 949.975.1155.

PENSION

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS & EMPLOYERS' PENSION FUND (AFM-EPF)

One of the most important benefits your job provides you with is the ability to receive pension benefits when you retire. Even though you can collect Social Security at retirement, your retirement years will be more financially secure if you also receive pension benefits. The American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF) is a defined benefit multi-employer pension plan for members of the American Federation of Musicians.

Under a collective bargaining agreement with the AFM and its Local unions, or other written agreement acceptable to the Board of Trustees, your employer has agreed to make contributions to a pension fund to provide pension benefits to you and other employees working as musicians. The Pension Fund is operated by the AFM-EPF Board of Trustees, which consists of an equal number of Federation Trustees and Employer Trustees.

You should keep in mind that you are not guaranteed a pension just because a pension fund has been established to which your employer contributes. The Pension Fund has rules about how you begin to participate, how can you earn a right to your pension, how much you might receive and when you can start getting payments, what happens to your pension if you die before or after retirement, and many other issues. For more information, please contact the Pension Fund office.

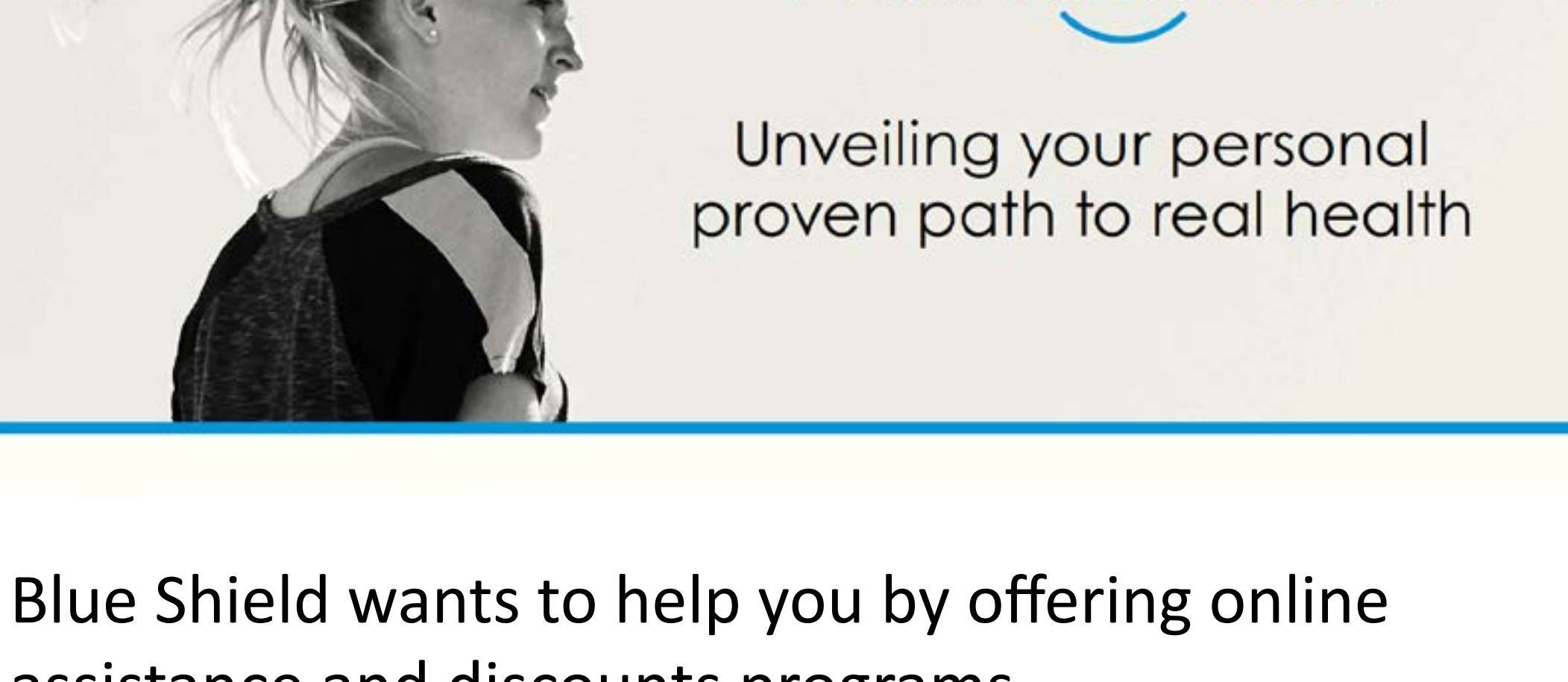
Contact

If you have any questions about your pension, contact the AFM-EPF Office at 800.833.8065.

Website: afm-epf.org

Wellvolution: Blue Shield of California is Here to Help

A message from the Professional Musicians, Local 47 & Employers' Health & Welfare Fund



Blue Shield wants to help you by offering online assistance and discounts programs.

Participants enrolled in Blue Shield through the Professional Musicians, Local 47 and Employers Health and Welfare Fund (the “Fund”) are eligible for various wellness discounts.

Visit blueshieldca.com/wellnessdiscounts to find information on wellness discounts such as gym memberships, weight management programs, and much more. Create and account or log in to an existing account to access all of the programs available to you.

Join the Wellvolution; select a program to start on the path to a healthier happier you by improving your well-being one small step at a time.

Take charge of your health

- Online and in-person programs for both general well-being and disease reversal
- Proven and backed by doctors' methods for results
- Largest curated collection of scientifically-backed apps
- A personal health coach, taking guesswork out of the health strategy
- A new way to achieve health goals

Included with most health plans at no additional cost

Health and wellness

Fitness and exercise

Get healthy and feel good on your own terms with Fitness Your Way™. The gym membership program, available through Tivity Health™, offers special rates to Blue Shield members. You and your dependents who are age 18 and older are eligible.

- Work out at any facility within a wide network of more than 800 locations in California and 10,000+ locations nationwide.
- Meet your lifestyle needs by working out anytime, anywhere, and as often as you need while tracking progress of your goals online.
- If you are a Medicare-eligible member, you have access to gyms and fitness classes with coverage provided by the SilverSneakers® fitness program.

To enroll, visit fitnessyourway.tivityhealth.com/bsc or call **(833) 283-8387**. To find locations, visit fitnessyourway.tivityhealth.com/locations.

Alternative care

Alternative care discount

Get 25% savings on acupuncture, chiropractic, and therapeutic massage services from practitioners in the ChooseHealthy® program. Simply show your Blue Shield member ID card at your appointment with a participating practitioner to get your discount.

Visit blueshieldca.com/wellnessdiscounts for program details.

Discount Hearing Program

Hearing aid discounts

Save 30% to 60% off manufacturers' suggested retail prices on major brands through EPIC Hearing Healthcare.

To learn more, call EPIC at (866) 956-5400 or visit epichearing.com.

Vision discounts

Discount Provider Network³

Save 20% on the following services and materials at participating providers whether or not you have vision care benefits through Blue Shield:

- Routine eye exams
- Frames and lenses (including photochromic)
- Tints and coatings
- Extra pair of glasses
- Non-prescription sunglasses
- Hard contact lenses

Access participating providers at blueshieldca.com/find-a-doctor.

MESVision Optics

MESVisionOptics.com offers competitive prices on many contact lens brands⁴ as well as a selection of sunglasses, reading glasses, and eye care accessories.

- Blue Shield vision plan members can apply their eligible benefits to reduce their out-of-pocket cost for contact lenses.
- MESVision Optics stocks all major brands and types of contact lenses at a reduced price from other online retail sellers.
- Every lens is shipped in safe, sealed containers and is guaranteed to be the exact lens prescribed by your doctor.
- Free shipping is available for all orders over \$50.

Learn more at MESVisionOptics.com.

QualSight LASIK

Save on LASIK surgery at more than 45 surgery centers in California.

Services include:

- Pre-screening
- Pre-operative exam
- Post-operative visits

To find out if you are a potential candidate, call **(877) 437-6110** or visit qualsight.com/-lasikca.

NVISION Laser Eye Centers

Get a 15% discount for services from NVISION Laser Eye Centers with offices in Southern California and Sacramento.

You can use your flexible spending account or take advantage of affordable financing options.

To learn more, call NVISION at **(877) 91 NVISION** or **(877) 916-8474**, or visit NVISIONcenters.com to find a provider.

Member to Member UI Forum

*A place for CA musicians to ask
questions and share tips on filing
for unemployment insurance &
PUA with the EDD*



**Every 1st & 3rd
Wednesday
1-3pm PT**

California AFM Locals Continue Member-to-Member Unemployment Forums

***Zoom meetings take place every
1st and 3rd Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.***

Throughout the pandemic, the California Labor Federation hosted a series of Member-to-Member Zoom forums for musicians and entertainment workers struggling through the process of filing for unemployment insurance and PUA with the state Employment Development Department (EDD) office.

Though the Cal Fed's meetings have been discontinued, we're pleased to announce that California AFM Locals 6, 7 and 47 will continue sponsoring these beneficial forums. Led by the knowledgeable Blake Martin (member, Orange County AFM Local 7), these meetings will be held the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 1-3 p.m. via Zoom.

You are invited to join, ask questions, and share helpful tips about filing EDD claims directly with your colleagues about this often confusing process. Sign up to receive the Zoom link, and receive notifications of upcoming meetings, by sending an email to: blakemartinmusic@gmail.com

For more information about how to file for UI or PUA with the California EDD, please visit our Musicians UI FAQ at afm47.org/ui.

**The Actors Fund,
for everyone
in entertainment.**



The Actors Fund: Resources for EVERYONE in Entertainment (Musicians, Too!)

Whether you work on a stage or on camera, behind the scenes or below the line, The Actors Fund assists everyone working in music, theater, film, television, radio, dance, opera and circus.

Founded in 1882, the national human services organization serves to meet the needs of the entire entertainment community with a unique understanding of the challenges involved in a life in the arts. Administered through offices in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, its numerous and varied programs help people across the country to solve problems and make positive changes in their lives.

The Actors Fund offers a broad spectrum of programs, a calendar of workshops and online resources to support the unique, essential needs of all who work in entertainment and the performing arts.



EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

To help our community during this public health crisis, The Actors Fund has partnered with other entertainment industry organizations to provide emergency financial assistance to those in immediate financial need. Funds are available to union and non-union workers in entertainment and the performing arts. Remember, you may be eligible for more than one fund. [Learn more](#)

SOCIAL SERVICES & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

With respect and understanding, professional social workers offer our community help to address a wide array of challenges via counseling and support groups, education, emergency financial assistance and practical help — completely free of charge.

[Learn more](#)

THE CAREER CENTER

Career counseling, employment training and job development to help you find work that can be done while continuing in the industry or while developing a new professional direction. [Learn more](#)

HEALTH & HEALTH INSURANCE

The Actors Fund offers personalized health insurance counseling, guidance and enrollment support; and referrals to health care resources. [Learn more](#)

HOUSING

The Actors Fund operates several affordable housing residences across the country. We also offer resources to help you learn more about affordable housing opportunities and other housing-related issues.

[Learn more](#)

SENIOR CARE

Helping entertainment industry professionals 65 years or older address a myriad of issues, from housing alternatives to organizing homecare. Experienced social workers develop plans to meet each person's unique needs. [Learn more](#)

FINANCES & MANAGING MONEY

Increase your financial knowledge and learn the tools and skills to support lifelong financial health and stability. [Learn more](#)

YOUNG PERFORMERS & PARENTING RESOURCES

All families face issues in giving their children a healthy and positive experience, and families with young performers have additional challenges related to their careers. [Learn more](#)

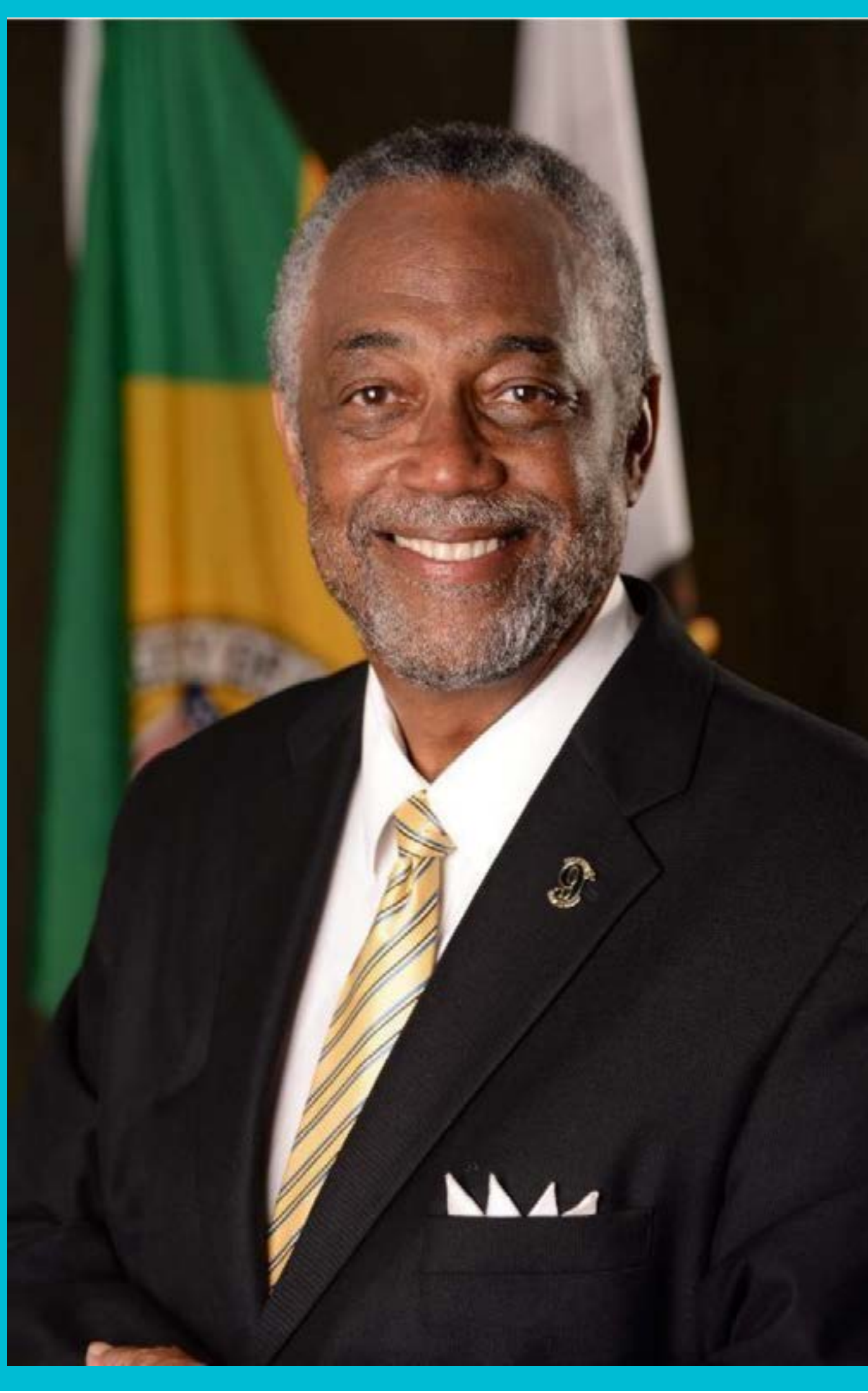


Vax Facts From the LA Fed

Good news for union members, especially those on the front lines. Multiple safe and highly effective vaccines are becoming available to more phase tiers at clinics around Los Angeles, and are a big part of the solution to getting our country back on track.

To help members make an informed decision about the vaccine or discuss it with friends and family, we took a look at the science behind the medicines that are now available. With so much misinformation about vaccines floating around, some may be skeptical about taking the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccines, concerned about their effectiveness or safety.

To set the record straight, the LA Fed has gathered information from the medical experts. [Click here to see what they have to say.](#)



Councilmember Curren Price Re-Election Virtual Fundraiser

June 11, 11 a.m. - Noon

***Hosted by Ron Herrera, President,
LA County Federation of Labor***

Please join the LA County Federation of Labor at a virtual fundraiser for the 2022 re-election campaign of Councilmember Curren Price (CD-9). RSVP: charles@connollyconsulting.com, (818) 998-9442

About Councilmember Curren Price

Curren D. Price, Jr. was born and raised in the Los Angeles City Council District that he was elected to represent in 2013 and overwhelmingly re-elected to the position in 2017. His first job as an adolescent shining shoes gave him a perspective on the struggles of working-class families and cemented a lifelong commitment to serve his community.

Price has been a strong advocate for culture and the arts. He initiated a Dia de los Muertos celebration in the District; he ushered in expansion of the iconic Central Avenue Jazz Festival and he funded acquisition of the historic Lincoln Theater for community use. In early 2021, he inaugurated Angels Walk Central Avenue to further document the history and legacy of African Americans on Central Avenue.

In his role as Councilmember, Price is focused on building a more thriving future for local families, which includes economic growth and opportunity, increasing affordable housing, working to reduce homelessness and defending the rights of immigrants. His agenda is guided by his deep-rooted desire to make South LA a vibrant place where people want to live, work and play.

Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, Price has been focused on bringing relief to marginalized and vulnerable populations. This includes assisting neighbors in a variety of ways such as in the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), drive-thru food giveaways, meals for seniors, and increasing access to COVID-19 testing sites and mobile vaccination clinics throughout the District.

In 2021, Price initiated the charge to implement a Guaranteed Basic Income pilot program in Los Angeles. The initial \$6 million he proposed for a Council District 9 only program turned into a \$35 million program that will now benefit nearly 3,000 Angelenos who will receive \$1,000 a month for one year. During Price's tenure on the City Council, the NEW 9th has experienced a renaissance that is bringing unprecedented prosperity. Since taking Office, he helped usher in \$4 billion in private investment with historic projects like the Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC) soccer stadium, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art and renovation of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Price has insisted that all major projects have enforceable community benefit agreements that include local hire requirements.

The Councilmember remains resolute in his objective to raise the living standards of all District 9 residents. Since 2013, he has successfully secured nearly \$50 million to improve parks and recreation centers all over CD 9. He remains committed to improving access to City services and under his watch, hundreds of tons of trash have been removed from streets, alleys and sidewalks. In addition, hundreds of new trash cans have been installed and more than 1,000 trees planted along major corridors as part of his "Clean & Green" campaign.

Price is married to Del Richardson Price and is a grandfather of three. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, art and music.

share YOUR story
with
the Overture

OPEN MIC!



Got a Story to Tell?

Let us know! Overture welcomes submissions from our members. Share about your latest union recording, performance or event by sending us your story (and photos!) using our online submission form at afm47.org/overture.



In Memoriam

John Bambridge

Life Member. Clarinet

2/1/1931 - 1/7/2021

Survived by spouse & children

Peter R. Marsh

Life Member. Violin

6/14/1931 - 4/14/2021

Survived by spouse & children

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

or you may send to:

overture@afm47.org

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Letters



We want to hear from you!

Send in your Letters to the Editor:

overture@afm47.org

3220 Winona Ave.

Burbank CA 91504

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

Membership Dues Policy

Membership Dues Fees

Regular Member

Annual Dues: \$210

Semi-Annual Dues: \$110

Life Member

Annual Dues: \$110

Inactive Life Member

Annual Dues: \$90

Make checks or money orders payable to:

AFM Local 47,
3220 Winona Ave.
Burbank CA 91504

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

Dues Schedule

NOTE: We are extending our pandemic waiver of the \$75 reinstatement fee until further notice. Members wishing to reinstate membership may do so without paying the \$75 penalty.

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

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

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

Work Dues Notices

At its Dec. 9, 2014 meeting, the Local 47 Executive Board passed the following motion:

“As a matter of policy, Local 47 will no longer mail checks to members or non-members whose delinquent work dues liability is in excess of \$1,000. When the Local receives a payroll check for anyone who has such a delinquency, the member or non-member shall be contacted by the Secretary/Treasurer’s office. Checks within 14 days of expiration will be deposited in the Escrow Fund.”

If you fall into that category, you will receive a postcard informing you that your check is in the office. You can call the Secretary/Treasurer’s office at (323) 993-3159 to discuss your work dues delinquency and to make arrangements to pick up your check.

Notice From the Executive Board: Work Dues Delinquency and Suspension

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

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

In order to reinstate membership, a \$75 reinstatement fee will be assessed (*currently waived due to COVID waiver*).

Resignation Policy

In order to resign in good standing, you must email, mail or fax your written request to Local 47 before your membership is suspended. Though dues are due Jan. 1 and July 1, current grace periods extend to March 31 and Sept. 30, respectively; suspensions are posted April 1 and Oct. 1. (*The reinstatement fee of \$75 is currently waived due to COVID waiver.*)

In addition to membership dues, all other financial obligations, Local and International, must be paid prior to resignation. Your letter of resignation will be presented at the following Executive Board meeting and a written response will be mailed to you. Don’t wait! If you wait, you will be required to pay another half year’s dues and/or clearance fee.

AFM Local 47 Refund/Return Policy

Unless otherwise specified, Membership and Work dues payments made to AFM Local 47 are not refundable. Merchandise or other items purchased directly from AFM Local 47 may be returned within fourteen days of purchase upon return of the item(s) in the condition in which you received said item(s). To request a refund and return content, please contact AFM Local 47, Attn: Vice President's Office, 323.993.3172, merchandise@afm47.org, 3220 Winona Ave. Burbank CA 91504, to receive instructions on returning your product(s).

HELP A MUSICIAN IN NEED

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

Multiple-Card AFM Member Rebate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do Not Work For...

The list published at afm47.org/donotworkfor.html contains the names of employers with whom Local 47 currently has disputes.



If you have any questions about this list please contact

the President's Office: 323.993.3181

Notice of Strike Sanctions

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

Cinema Scoring
CMG Music Recording
Peter Rotter Music Services

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

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

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

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—Released monthly—

The Local 47 Beat

—Emailed biweekly—

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