

Overture

online



MUSICIANS SUPPORT WGA



AFM Local 47 Celebrates
PRIDE Month

Spring Membership Drive:
Spread the Word!

Overture

online

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

ISSN: 2379-1322

Publisher: AFM Local 47
3220 Winona Ave.
Burbank CA 91504
323.462.2161
www.afm47.org

Editor: Gail Kruvand
**Managing Editor /
Layout / Graphics /
Advertising:**
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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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President Stephanie O’Keefe



“You may not be on strike. But either we go up together or we go down together. Let us develop a kind of dangerous unselfishness.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This is a pivotal moment for Labor in Los Angeles.

The Directors Guild has begun negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers for a new agreement, SAG-AFTRA is to begin their negotiations shortly, with the AFM following in the fall. And as of today, the Writers Guild has been on strike for 27 days.

What does this mean for our Local and for our city?

We are an integral part of a thriving industry. For more than 100 years, Hollywood has created the entertainment the world loves. And now, with more and more content available, the world’s appetite for Hollywood’s creations grows ever more ravenous.

The advent of streaming has provided infinite choices at any hour of the day and night. No longer does the public wait for a handful of new movies or television episodes to be released each week – or for feature films to slowly make their way to television. Now, unlimited content comes directly to their living rooms – or perhaps their tablets or even smartphones.

In a perfect world, this abundance would result in more employment and greater revenues for the artists who actually create that content. But the economic structure of streaming services and their agreements with entertainment unions have created the opposite effect.

For musicians, content created directly for streaming services provides less revenue for original scoring sessions and generates no residual payments. This situation has the potential to decimate an important part of our profession.

And make no mistake, the devaluing of musicians’ efforts in one area of our profession will have repercussions for us all.

Perhaps there has never been a greater need for solidarity – not only among musicians, but among all the artists who create the entertainment the world relies upon to give order, meaning, and joy to their daily lives.

“I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one, with no thought to their separateness.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In Solidarity,
Stephanie

Vice President Marc Sazer



On Monday, May 1, AFM stakeholders in our Fair Share for Musicians campaign were convened by AFM President Hair in our own Local 47 Boardroom for a full day of updates, strategy and commitment. President Hair, who had previously announced that he will not be running for reelection at this June's AFM Convention, invited a number of Local Officers to join our steering committee, made up of musicians here in L.A. and in NY.

Coincidentally, that was the very first day of work for our new Local 47 Organizer, Rahul Neuman. It was quite an orientation experience for a first day of work — and that night, the Writers Guild announced that they were going on strike. The very next day Rahul joined President O'Keefe, Local 47 musicians and me on the picket line at Warner Bros., joining hundreds of striking writers!

Here's our current circumstance as this column is being written. The Writers Guild has been on strike for a month. The Directors Guild is in closed-door negotiations with the studios currently, and SAG-AFTRA is scheduled to begin on June 7. At the moment, SAG-AFTRA ballots are out to their members for a strike authorization vote. Our negotiations will be scheduled around the expiration of both our Film + TV contracts (November) and Live TV Videotape contract (December). We are all negotiating with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), the multi-employer representatives of the studios, and streaming, and streaming residuals are front and center for all of us. Each union has individual and particular issues, but the production and distribution of streaming content is at the heart of all of this for all of us.

Our united AFM, Local 47, RMA and Fair Share for Musicians support for the writers during their strike is a recognition that we share common goals with the same employers. The companies are undermining our ability to make a living just like they are undermining writers, directors, actors, animators, crew and everyone else. There is a newfound unanimity in the labor movement in our industry. One WGA Board member has created a fundraising T-shirt to support the [Entertainment Community Fund](#) (previously known as the Actors Fund), which offers assistance anyone impacted by their strike: bonfire.com/wga-union-solidarity-shirt-2/ It is a step forward to see AFM alongside DGA, SAG-AFTRA, I.A.T.S.E., UNITE HERE and LiUNA acknowledged as supporting the WGA.

Our goal of achieving a fair streaming residual isn't just for recording musicians. The industry standard residual is paid through the Local union, and would provide transformational revenue to both Local 47 and our International Union.

Watch your emails for notices about WGA support, and support for others who may go on strike. Check out Local 47's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) presence. We are stronger together!

Secretary/Treasurer Gail Kruvand



Greetings!

Here's a condensed version of my reports to the Executive Board this past month.

We had some excitement in April around a case of identity theft involving check washing. Our earthquake insurance premium was mailed, as usual, to our insurer but was stolen, washed and cashed. We've been dealing with both the bank and the Burbank Police Department to secure our accounts and recover the funds. Our earthquake insurance is now paid and we're waiting for the bank refund. We are revisiting policy around a more secure bill payment system.

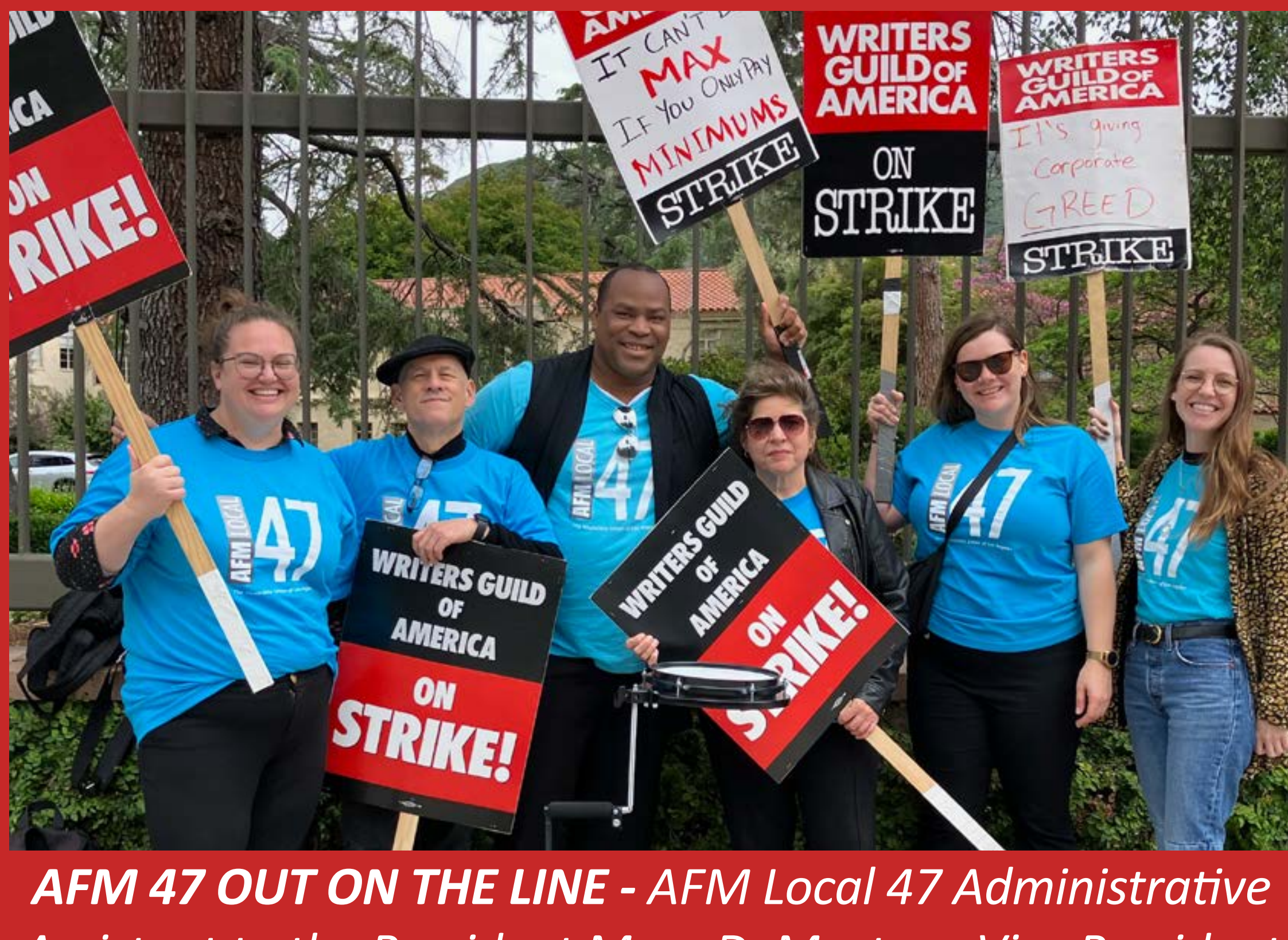
On a more positive note, we are beginning to build up our investments again after the pandemic. We finally received the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) of \$130,380 from the IRS which was applied for back in the summer of 2022. A CD worth \$250,00 was cashed in several months ago in order to pay off a line of credit, \$200,000, which was taken during the pandemic. Our Trustees are looking at different options for investing the ERTC and CD monies as we rebuild our finances post pandemic.

Some more good news is that work dues continue to outpace last year. As of mid- May, we've collected \$175,000 more than the same point in 2022. We're glad that you're working and paying dues!

The Membership Department is busy processing semi-annual dues as well as work dues. Please make sure that your dues are paid before the June 30th deadline.

The Membership Drive is continuing through June and we're pleased to report that musicians are taking advantage of the savings in Initiation Fees.

Check out AFMentertainment.org! This is a nationwide referral service operated by the AFM where you can list yourself or ensemble for hire. The details for registering are in the Musicians' Area. Use your AFM login and password to access the site. If you don't have a login go to members.afm.org and see the Register for MY AFM on the left hand side of the page.



AFM 47 OUT ON THE LINE - AFM Local 47 Administrative Assistant to the President Mary DeMasters, Vice President Marc Sazer, member and LA Fed delegate Sidney Hopson, President Stephanie O'Keefe, Executive Secretary to the Vice President Rose Doylemason, and EMD Administrator Rebecca Gurnee joined WGA writers on May 30 outside Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank.

Musicians Support WGA

AFM musicians from coast to coast are supporting our Writers Guild colleagues in their strike. Their goal is our goal; winning fair and livable compensation from the same huge film/TV studios we will be negotiating with later this year.

Marking the first WGA strike in more than 10 years, writers walked off the job on May 2 after talks between WGA and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers came to a standstill.

Members and leadership of the AFM in Los Angeles, New York and elsewhere have been joining writers and other allies on their picket lines at various locations throughout the duration of the WGA strike.



"AI can't write Tariq's raps!" Abbott Elementary writer/creator/actor Quinta Brunson holds the line alongside AFM 47 musicians outside WB.



Local 47 Organizer Rahul Neuman and member Brian Swartz at Warner Bros.



Writer-producer Al Septien, Alec Septien and 47 member Diane Alan-craig at Sunset Sound.

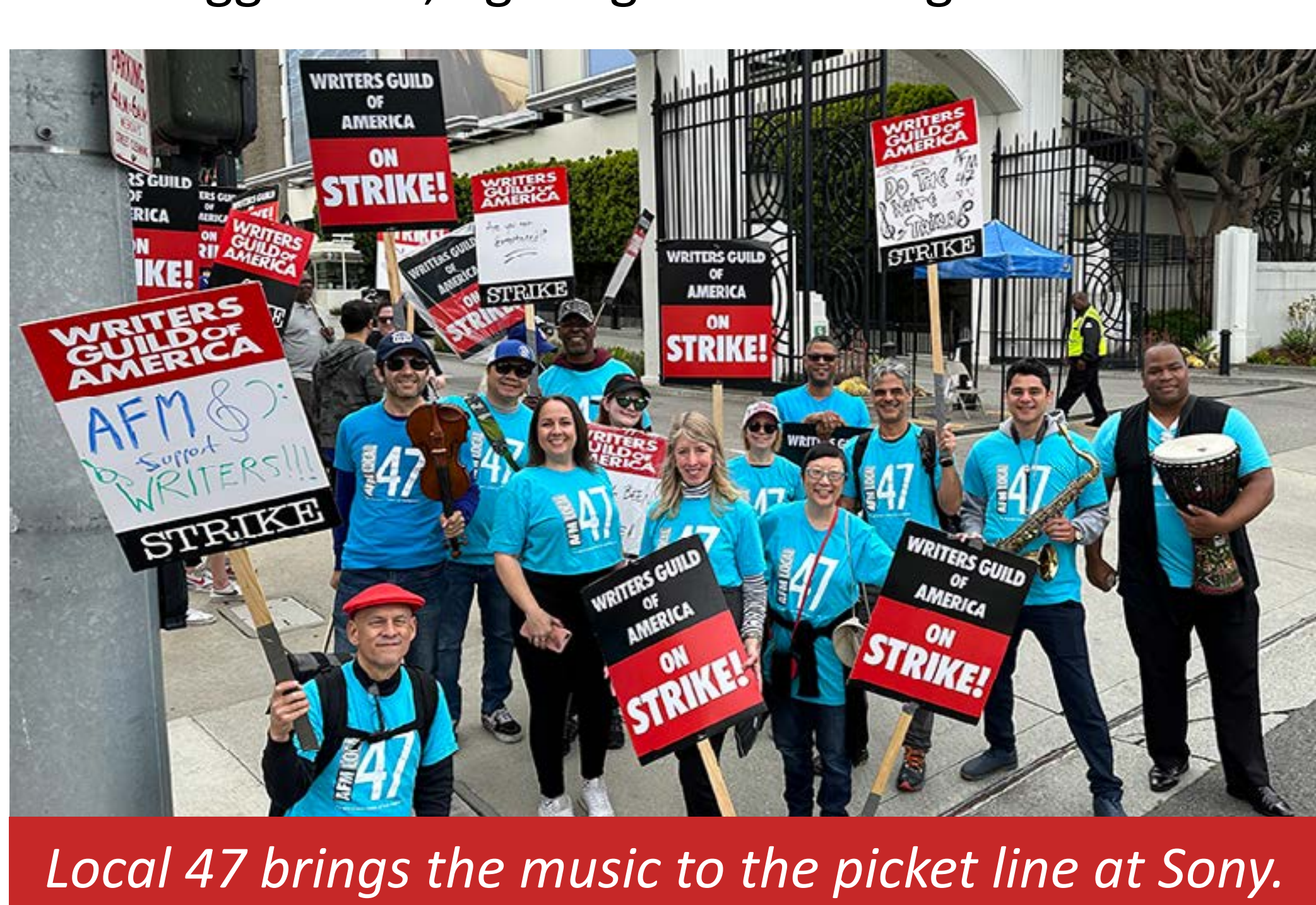


Local 802 AFM @Local_802_AFM · May 10
MUSICIANS SUPPORT WRITERS! Local 802 musicians from the @colbertlateshow marched & played in support of writers on strike for a fair contract. See today's picket schedule at @WGAEast. SOLIDARITY!

@The_AFM
@CentralLaborNYC
@fairshare4music
@sagaftra
@SAGAFTRANY



Local 47's new organizer Rahul Neuman hit the ground running — quite literally: "It's been an eventful start as the new Organizer for AFM 47; my second day on the job the WGA went on strike and I joined other AFM members on the WB picket line, supporting the writers," Neuman said. "It's been really fun and truly a pleasure meeting other members on the picket line. As a lifelong musician myself, I have enjoyed taking part and hearing the conversations between musicians and writers sharing how similar our struggles are, fighting the same fight."



Local 47 brings the music to the picket line at Sony.

"At several of the actions, the writers and other activists have been energized by AFM members bringing their diverse talents, playing music at the picket lines," continued Neuman. "The cross-union solidarity is inspiring, and I'm excited to continue organizing with members around the strike, in solidarity with the WGA. I hope to meet more members on the picket line. Here are some ways you can continue supporting the writers: come out to a picket line, follow AFM 47 socials and action alerts, and contact me to talk about different ways we can build power and engage membership as we go into our contract campaign."

GET INVOLVED!

Sign up for Local 47's WGA support email alerts:

afm47.org/wga

Follow Local 47 and Fair Share For Musicians across social media platforms to amplify our message:

Facebook: [@afmlocal47](https://www.facebook.com/afmlocal47) [@fairshareformusicians](https://www.facebook.com/fairshareformusicians)

Instagram: [@afmlocal47](https://www.instagram.com/afmlocal47) [@fairshareformusicians](https://www.instagram.com/fairshareformusicians)

Twitter: [@afmlocal47](https://twitter.com/afmlocal47) [@fairshare4music](https://twitter.com/fairshare4music)

Sign the petition & subscribe to email alerts for our Fair Share For Musicians campaign to help musicians reach a fair film/TV contract: fairshareformusicians.org



DO WE HAVE ROYALTIES FOR YOU?



More than \$650 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.afmsagaaftrafund.org

AFM & SAG-AFTRA
Intellectual Property Rights Distribution Fund

p. 818.255.7980 | f. 818.255.7985

www.afmsagaaftrafund.org



The AFM & SAG-AFTRA IPRD Fund is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization - est. 1998




Celebrating PRIDE Month

June is Pride Month, and our AFM Local 47 musical community is proud to encompass a richly diverse and talented group of LGBTQIA+ members and allies.

Our #AFM47 Pride Playlist highlights a mix of prominent artists who belong to the LGBTQIA+ community, along with those who are outspoken allies. These songs feature empowered lyrics and danceable rhythms that inspire pride and equality for all. And, of course, all of these anthems were recorded #AFM47 union in Los Angeles.

Click/tap the playlist below to listen:



PUBLIC PLAYLIST

Pride Playlist

Featuring a mix of prominent artists who belong to the LGBTQ+ community or who are outspoken allies, these songs feature empowered lyrics and danceable rhythms that inspire pride and equality for all. Recorded union #AFM47 in Los...

AFM47 • 1 like • 29 songs, 1 hr 51 min

🔍 Custom order ▾

#	TITLE	ALBUM	DATE ADDED	
1	Born This Way Lady Gaga	Born This Way (Special Edit...	May 9, 2019	♥ 4:20
2	THATS WHAT I WANT Lil Nas X	MONTERO	18 minutes ago	♥ 2:24
3	Who Owns My Heart Miley Cyrus	Can't Be Tamed	13 minutes ago	♥ 3:35
4	Double Rainbow Katy Perry	PRISM (Deluxe)	May 9, 2019	♥ 3:52
5	Love and Let Love Gossip	Music For Men	May 9, 2019	♥ 3:31
6	Talk About You MIKA	No Place In Heaven	May 9, 2019	♥ 3:24
7	We Belong Together (feat. ... Vampire Weekend, Danielle Haim	Father of the Bride	May 9, 2019	♥ 3:11



Wendy & Lisa: A Dynamic Duo

Wendy Melvoin and Lisa Coleman of Wendy & Lisa are an Emmy Award winning musical composing duo based in Los Angeles. They both started their careers in one of the most successful rock bands of the 1980s, Prince & the Revolution.

The childhood friends both hail from musical families which often performed together: Wendy's father, Mike Melvoin, was an in-demand session musician and was president of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) in the 1980s, while Lisa's father, Gary L. Coleman, was also a popular session musician and played on the Beach Boys' famous "Pet Sounds" sessions, numerous Carpenters records, as well as most of the notable Motown artists of the 1970s. Both Lisa and Wendy are talented multi-instrumentalists.

The duo, who were romantically linked for over two decades in the 1980s and 1990s until an amicable split, decided to keep their private relationship out of the press until giving an interview with Out magazine in 2009. In the interview they opened up about life with Prince and how it was for them to be a lesbian couple in a male-dominated industry where they were already alienated for being female musicians.

“With Prince and the Revolution, I think that it was just taken for granted that we were supposed to be the gay reps in the band. The blacks, the whites, the gays. And people would say, 'Gee, do you think this lesbian thing is going to work for them?' So, after the band kind of split up, the record labels would be like, 'You need to be wearing fur coats and sitting on motorcycles and long fingernails...’” explained Wendy.

Lisa also explained the extent of Prince’s goal to have his band a representation of a racial and sexuality rainbow, as she remembered one particular occasion: “We had a photo shoot for the 'Purple Rain' poster. We were all in our different positions and he at one point walked over to me and Wendy and lifted my arm up and put my hand around Wendy's waist and said, 'There.' And that is the poster. That's how precise he was about how he wanted the image of the band to be. He wanted it to be way more obvious. We weren't just the two girls in the band.”

After their work with Prince, and romantic split, they continued to work as a duo. As film and TV composers, since 1995's box office hit "Dangerous Minds," they have set a successful track record scoring films such as "Soul Food" and television series "Crossing Jordan," "Mercy" and the Emmy-nominated NBC series "Heroes," "Touch," "No Tomorrow" and "Shades of Blue." Apart from their composing career, Wendy & Lisa have released several studio albums and are often sought out for their song writing and collaboration skills. They have collaborated on albums with the likes of Joni Mitchell, Sheryl Crow, Eric Clapton, Neil Finn, Seal and Grace Jones.

MODERN COMPOSITION

EXPLORING MODERN HARMONIC CONCEPTS
AS THEY APPLY TO FILM MUSIC
WITH DR. NORMAN LUDWIN

Free classes exclusively for AFM Local 47 members

THURSDAY EVENINGS
AUGUST 3 - SEPT. 7
4-6PM VIA ZOOM

REGISTER BY AUG 2:
[AFM47.ORG/COMPOSITION](https://afm47.org/composition)

This series of six classes will feature examples that demonstrate styles heard in composers such as Bernard Herrmann, John Williams, Thomas Newman, and Max Richter.

The course will explore a range of theoretical concepts of modern composition and the various ways they are used in film and media composition.

Topics covered include intervals and chords, pitch in tonal and nontonal music, pantriadicism, Neo-Riemannian theory, chromatic and modal composition, minimalism, and aleatoric composition.

These free classes are being offered exclusively to AFM Local 47 members in good standing. Register by August 2: afm47.org/composition

About the Instructor:

Dr. Norman Ludwin is a leading specialist in orchestration and film composition. He serves as a faculty member at the UCLA Extension Film Scoring Certificate Program, the European Academy of Film Composition, and ThinkSpace Education.



His impressive orchestration credits include notable films such as "Jurassic World," "Inside Out," "Star Trek Into Darkness," "Super 8," "John Carter," and "Priest." In addition, Dr. Ludwin has contributed his talent as a double bass player to over 200 films and TV shows.

As an accomplished author, he has written 12 books on orchestration and film composition, covering subjects like "Modern Harmony," "Developing Variation," and "Film Music."

Dr. Ludwin has conducted seminars at esteemed institutions worldwide, including the Rome Sonus Factory, Madrid Conservatory of Music, Prague Conservatory of Music, Munich Hochschule, Zurich School of the Arts, and many others. He has also shared his expertise at various locations such as New York City, Los Angeles, Toronto, Chicago, Boston, Seattle, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. sponsored by the American Federation of Musicians.

With his extensive contributions to the field, Dr. Ludwin continues to make a significant impact in the study of orchestration and film composition.

Previously focusing on orchestration, Dr. Ludwin looks forward to presenting his first composition course at AFM Local 47.

Events



Holiday Office Closures

Monday, June 19 - Juneteenth
Tuesday, July 4 - Independence Day

Next General Membership Meeting

Monday, July 24, 7:30 p.m.

AFM Local 47 Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place
3220 Winona Ave. Burbank CA 91504

Ongoing Events:

Executive Board Meetings

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. (online via Zoom)
Members welcome as observers

New Member Orientation

Third Thursdays, 10 a.m. (online via Google Meet)
Required of all new members.
afm47.org/orientation

*View our full calender of events
@ afm47.org/calendar*



AFM LOCAL **47**

American Federation of Musicians Local 47

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Pay **ZERO** initiation fees
April 1 - June 30, 2023!

afm47.org/join

Spring Membership Drive

Spread the Word!

As a professional musician, you know that your real strength comes from working collectively with other musicians. Help spread the word about the benefits of union membership during our Spring Membership Drive!

If you know someone who should be in the union, now is the perfect time to join. Now through June 30, new and returning members pay ZERO initiation fees — a \$140 discount!

Learn more at afm47.org/join.

Be a Union Advocate!

- Print out our flyer to distribute at your local school or music-networking group
- Share our afm47.org/join link on social media
- Talk to your non-member colleagues about the many benefits of union membership
- Add your answer to our [#WhyUnion? campaign](#) to let everyone know why you value your union membership!

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

IS YOUR BENEFICIARY CARD CURRENT?



Visit:
afm47.org/beneficiary

Your beneficiary card designates the recipient of the Local 47 \$1,000 death benefit. If you need to change your beneficiary, update beneficiary information, or if you just can't remember who you have listed, please visit afm47.org/beneficiary.

If you have any change of beneficiary or contact info updates, be sure to also to report them to:

AFM Pension Fund (AFM-EPF) – (800) 833-8065

Film Musicians Secondary Markets Fund –

(818) 755-7777

Sound Recording Special Payments Fund:

(212) 310-9100

AFM & SAG-AFTRA Intellectual Property Rights

Fund: 818-255-7985

Please note: This benefit is not payable to a beneficiary if the member was suspended, expelled or had resigned at time of passing.

COVID Policy Update

Vaccination against COVID-19, masking, and testing are encouraged, but not required, for all persons entering the AFM Local 47 Capt. Greg Welch Gathering Place and rehearsal rooms.

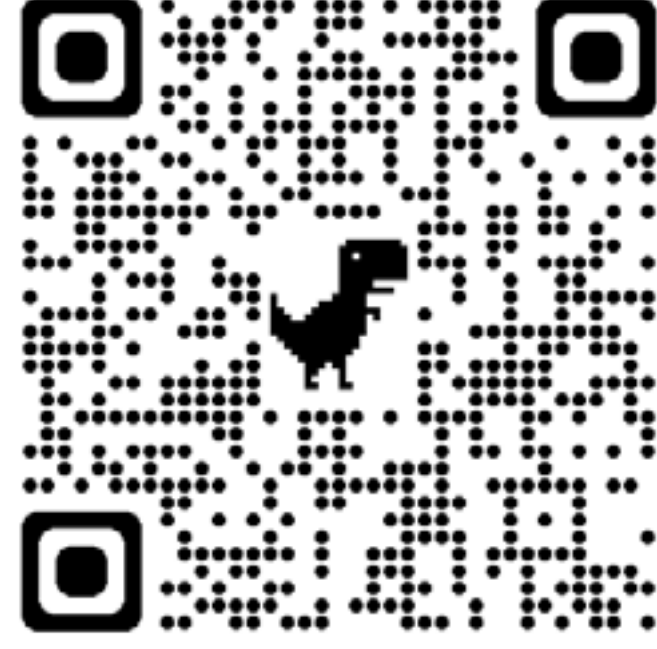
Please stay home if you are ill, have COVID-19 symptoms, or have been in contact with someone known to be or suspected to have been infected with COVID-19 within the last 10 days.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health recommends that everyone 6 months and older be fully vaccinated or obtain a negative COVID-19 viral test prior to entering public indoor spaces. For more information please visit cdc.gov.

Members-Only Documents Online

Members may log in to the [members section at afm47.org](#) and navigate to the "Docs" page to view members-only documents including Executive Board minutes, CBAs, Local 47 Wage Scales, Bylaws, Suspended/Expelled member lists, and more.

HELP ELIMINATE LATE PAYMENTS



The AFM and Local 47 want to make certain that musicians are being **paid on time**.

Please scan the code above or visit bit.ly/session47 when you receive a session call and let us know – anonymously – when it is to occur. Once we have that information – something not always provided to the Union – we can “start the clock” and track payments to musicians, assessing late penalties when appropriate.

If you have any questions, please contact Electronic Media Division Administrator Rebecca Gurnee at emd@afm47.org or 323.993.3143.



Go Paperless!

Sign up to receive work dues statements online @ afm47.org/paperless

Organizing



AFM LOCAL 47 #WhyUnion?



#WhyUnion? Share Your Answers!

So often, people ask 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.

We're 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.

Local 47's #WhyUnion? campaign features members from every part of our profession, answering in their own words, this question: "Why Union?"

[Share your answer here!](#)



A Message from the Music Performance Trust Fund

As we head into the 2023-2024 scholarship year, we are excited to announce we are continuing our annual scholarship initiatives.

We will continue our Music Family Scholarship which supports the children of professional musicians who are in current good standing membership with a local union. We will have 75 \$1,000 scholarships for these students.

We will also continue our Music's Future Scholarship which supports students pursuing degrees in music. We will have 30 \$2,500 scholarships for these students.

We know that many of you have great community relationships with local institutions of higher education. Specifically for the Music Scholarship we entrust that you will coordinate your efforts to get the word to the admissions office and students at those colleges/universities.

The scholarship applications are open through June 30, 2023.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

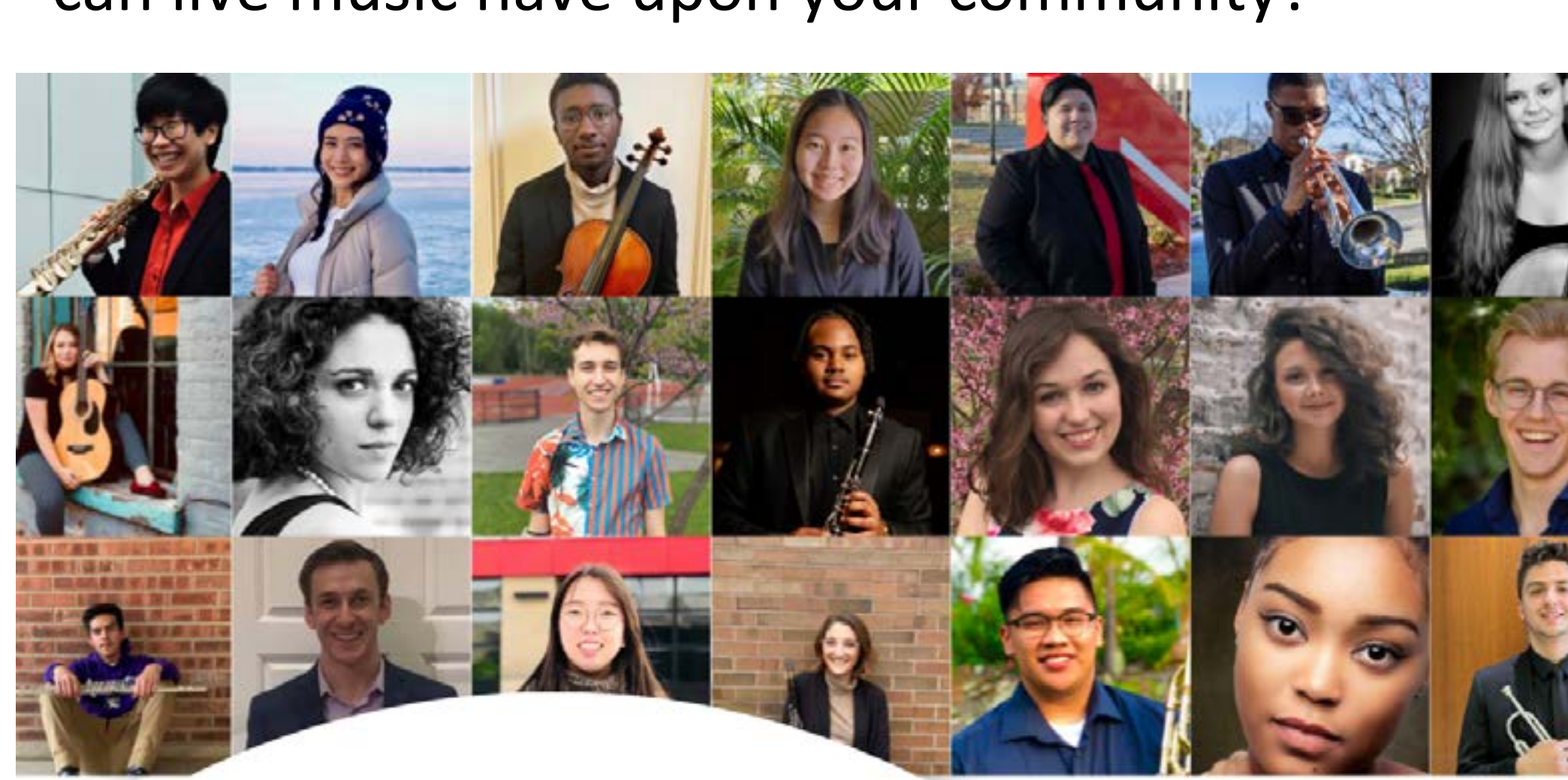
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

MUSIC FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP



Music Family Scholarship: 75 \$1,000 scholarships

- Have at least one parent in good standing as a member of a Local AFM
- Be currently enrolled or accepted into an institute of higher education for the fall of 2023
- Submit a headshot
- Personal essay of approximately 500-750 words
- The prompt for this year is: What cultural impact can live music have upon your community?



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

MUSIC'S FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP



MUSIC'S FUTURE

Music's Future Scholarship: 30 \$2,500 scholarships

- Be enrolled in one of the following music degree programs
 - Music Performance
 - Music Therapy
 - Music Education
 - Conducting
- Obtain good academic standing, at least a 2.0 gpa
- Submit 2 letters of reference
 - Personal reference
 - Professor reference
- Resume
- Personal statement
- Prior semester transcript (either HS diploma or College Transcript) - Unofficial is fine

The prompt for this year is: In your experience, what subject matter is most important for a well-rounded education for a music-related major?

The student will need to login and create a profile at this link: [MPTF SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

Additional Information:

Any student enrolled in an institution of higher education is eligible to apply it does not matter what year they are (Freshman – Senior).

Students can be pursuing degrees from undergraduate to PhD.

Students that won in the past years are eligible to apply for the both scholarships again.

Students are only allowed to apply for one scholarship.

Students that are eligible to apply for the Music Family scholarship can choose to apply for the Music's Future Scholarship if they are eligible.



2023
REGIONAL
THEATRE
TONY
AWARD

PASADENA
PLAYHOUSE

Pasadena Playhouse Receives Regional Theatre Tony Award

Congratulations to Pasadena Playhouse, a longtime AFM Local 47 CBA theater, for winning the prestigious 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award!

“We are thrilled to present the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award to Pasadena Playhouse,” said Heather Hitchens, President and CEO of the American Theatre Wing and Charlotte St. Martin, President of The Broadway League. “Pasadena Playhouse has made a significant impact – on both a local and global level, by developing some of the most innovative and inspiring works and artists.”

The Tony Awards® Administration Committee, based on the recommendation by the American Theatre Critics Association, awarded Pasadena Playhouse with the honor, which is accompanied by a grant of \$25,000, made possible by City National Bank’s generous support.

“This is an extraordinary honor and a defining moment for our community,” said Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman. “Anyone who has worked at or experienced theater at Pasadena Playhouse understands how unique and special a place it is. At its core, the Playhouse is made up of an exceptional community of artists, arts administrators, production professionals, volunteers, audiences, and supporters who are all connected and inspired by our founding ideal of being a theater of, by, and for our community. This most prestigious award honors every person who has played a role in making and continuing to make Pasadena Playhouse one of the great cultural institutions in America.”

To attend an upcoming performance at the Pasadena Playhouse, and hear our world-class AFM Local 47 musicians, check out the current season schedule [here](#).



This monthly column is your one-stop-shop for information about all the benefits provided by your union membership. Got a question? [Ask us](#) to have the answer featured here.

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.

A Message from AFM-EPF:

Learn More About Your Pension Benefit

American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF) Trustees understand that your pension benefit is both valuable and complex for participants. As a result, a new effort to assemble some practical, easy-to-understand information is underway. You can access this information now on the [Participant Page at afm-epf.org](http://afm-epf.org).

AFM-EPF is committed to providing you with the knowledge and resources necessary to maximize your pension planning and benefits.

With one click to the Participants page, here's what you'll find:

How Our Pension Plan Works

Learn more about AFM-EPF, its Trustees and your pension benefit

- [What is the AFM-EPF?](#)
- [Role of a Trustee](#)
- [How the Plan is Governed](#)
- [How the Money Flows](#)
- [What the Fund Office Does](#)
- [What's Happening with ARPA](#)
- [Benefits of Diversification](#)



Retirement is Down the Road

Things to consider and action to take even if retirement is years away

- [Tips You Can Use Now](#)
- [You Need to Designate a Beneficiary](#)
- [How to Register for the Participant Portal](#)
- [How the Pension Estimator Works](#)



Life Happens

Tips and information to help you manage life's unexpected events

- [You Need to Designate a Beneficiary](#)
- [What to Do if You Get Divorced](#)
- [How You Can Protect Your Loved Ones](#)
- [How and When to Contact the Fund Office](#)



Retirement is Around the Corner

Be prepared. Learn what you need to do before you need to do it!

- [Tips for Approaching Retirement](#)
- [You Need to Designate a Beneficiary](#)
- [How to Register for the Participant Portal](#)
- [How the Pension Estimator Works](#)
- [Navigating the Application Process](#)
- [Optional Forms of Payment](#)
- [How to Start Your Benefits](#)



For more information visit:
www.afm-epf.org



Photos by Linda A. Rapka

MUSICIANS IN SOLIDARITY! - AFM Local 47 members and leadership joined thousands of fellow Los Angeles union members at 12th and Fig at LA Live in downtown Los Angeles on May 26 for the Unions Strike Back rally.

Unions Strike Back

In an unprecedented and impressive show of solidarity, thousands of workers gathered for a massive rally in downtown Los Angeles on May 26 to support the ongoing Writers Guild of America as they entered week four of their strike. In addition to WGA, many other unions — including the AFM — have contracts ending this year.



Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe and Vice President Marc Sazer (pictured front) rally with members Sidney Hopson and Nick Cazares (pictured back).

Union members from all industries and trades including Hollywood entertainment, tourism and hospitality, public sector, education and logistics mobilized for a display of collective solidarity, rallying shoulder to shoulder to ensure that we all get our fair share of fair pay, better benefits, and strong contracts.

"Solidarity is power, and when workers stand together, like you're doing here today, nothing can stop us because it's you, the workers, who hold the power," said LA County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler.

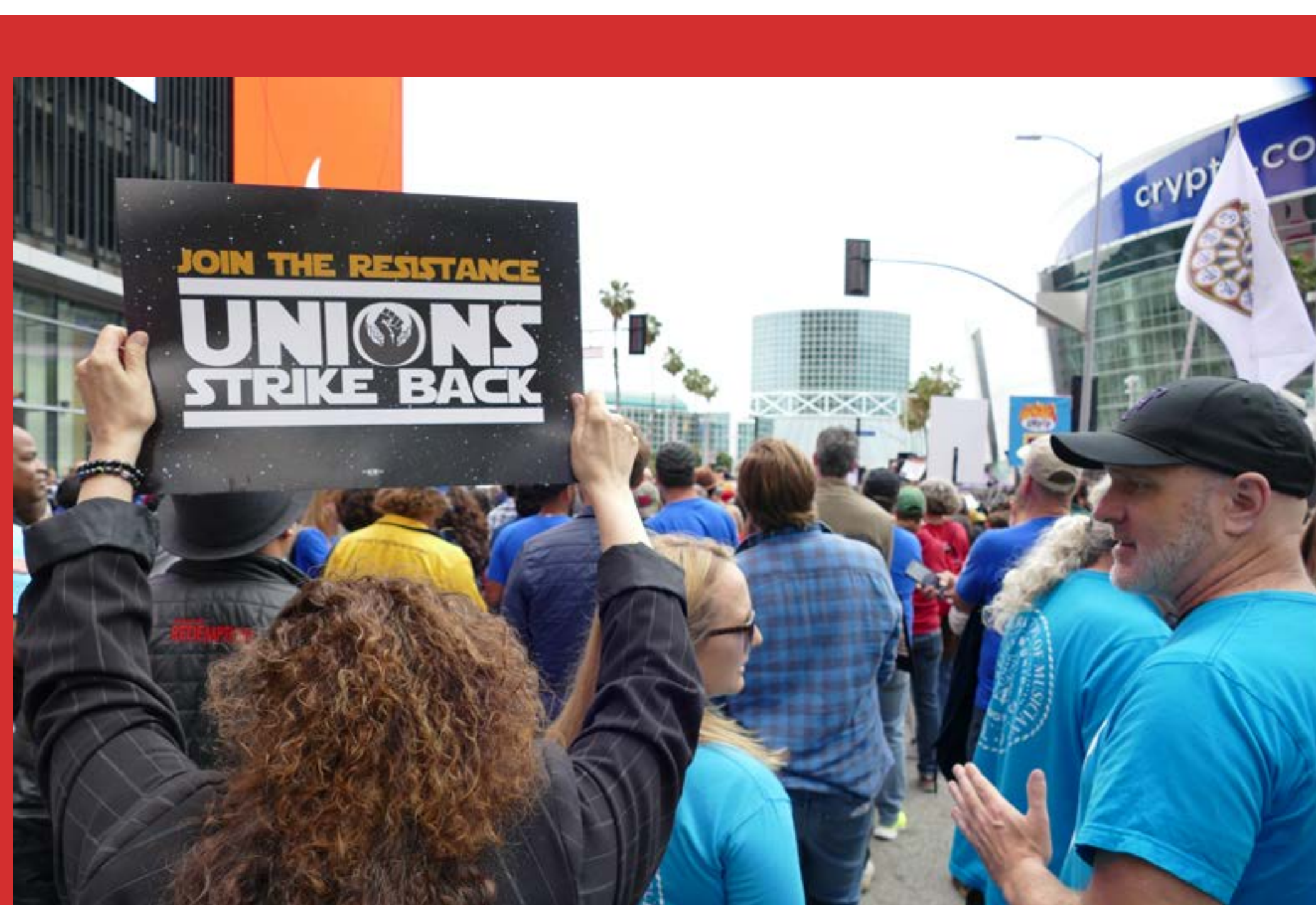


LA County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler

"We're going to stand in solidarity with SAG-AFTRA, DGA, I.A.T.S.E., the Hollywood Basic Crafts, AFM for every single fight we have with those employers because when we fight together, we win together," said Hollywood Teamsters Local 399 Secretary-Treasurer Lindsay Dougherty. "When we fight, we win."

Additional speakers included WGA West President Meredith Stiehm, SAG-AFTRA National Executive Director Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, UTLA President Cecily Myart-Cruz, UNITE Here Local Co-President Kurt Petersen, and California Federation of Labor AFL-CIO Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Lorena Gonzalez, among others.

"I don't think the studios saw this blue wave coming, writers," Stiehm said. "I think they misjudged our power, the backup we have from Hollywood labor and LA labor. And by the way, when it's your turn, we will be there with you. I don't think the bosses knew what they were up against when they failed to listen to us 24 days ago. But they should look around. They should look at this crowd and this unity and, if they didn't know, well now they know. Union now. Union forever."



Final Notes



In Memoriam

Ralph S. Humphrey

Life Member. Drum Set
5/11/1944 – 4/24/2023
Member since: 2/21/1968

Fred Z. Nelson

Life Member. Drum Set
7/16/1926 – 4/24/2023
Member since: 2/24/1953

Rafael Padilla

Member. Percussion
3/2/1960 – 2/3/2023
Member since: 2/14/1989

Jeffrey J. Rizzo

Life Member. Piano
6/16/1954 – 5/1/2023
Member since: 9/14/1976

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

or you may send to:
overture@afm47.org
Local 47 Overture Online
3220 Winona Ave.
Burbank CA 91504



Caroline Erika Buckman

Member. Viola

6/5/1974 – 3/5/2023

Caroline Erika Buckman, a talented violist and cherished friend to many, passed away on March 5 in Los Angeles after a valiant six-year battle with breast cancer. She was 48 years old.

Born on June 5, 1974, in Charlottesville, Virginia, Caroline was the daughter of John and Erika Buckman. She graduated from Charlottesville High School in 1992, where she served as principal violist of the school orchestra, captain of the lacrosse team, and a member of the swimming and diving teams. Caroline was also active in numerous clubs and served as class treasurer. She continued her education at Arizona State University, studying viola performance under Dr. William Majors and earning her Bachelor of Arts in 1998. In 2001, Caroline earned a master's degree in viola performance from the Hochschule für Musik Carl Maria von Weber in Dresden, Germany.

Caroline relocated to Los Angeles in 2002 to pursue her passion for music, performing with prestigious ensembles such as the Santa Barbara, Pasadena, and New West symphonies, and the Long Beach and Santa Barbara Opera orchestras. She played for top artists at award shows such as the Grammys, American Music Awards, Teen Choice Awards, and Academy Awards and toured with world-renowned musicians including Gnarlz Barkley, the Jonas Brothers, the Last Shadow Puppets, and the Percy Faith Orchestra. Caroline's talent also extended to TV and film, where she worked on popular productions such as "Prey," "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," "Deadpool," "Mission Impossible III," "Frozen," "Up," "Ratatouille," "Lost," "Breaking Bad," "Mad Men," "Better Call Saul," "Star Trek: The Next Generation," and "Family Guy." She was a sought-after recording artist, working with composers such as John Williams, Michael Giacchino, Chris Bacon, and Danny Elfman, and played alongside iconic musicians like Aimee Mann, Barry Manilow, Blake Shelton, Brian Wilson, Christina Aguilera, Harry Styles, Josh Groban, Mariah Carey, Mary J. Blige, Michael Bublé, Neil Diamond, Neil Young, Patti LaBelle, Paul McCartney, R.E.M., and Reba McEntire.

Off stage, Caroline enjoyed spending time with her close friends, hiking the many trails of Los Angeles, and indulging in streaming shows, especially true crime docuseries and British crime dramas. She had a love for travel and had visited various countries in Europe, Asia, South America, Austria, and New Zealand. Caroline also loved spending time with her cherished spaniel, Iischa.

Caroline will be remembered for her beauty, grace, and kindheartedness, as well as her infectious energy, smile, and laughter. She was preceded in death by her father, John, and is survived by her mother, Erika; her brother, Daniel; her sister, Simone; her devoted boyfriend, Mitch; and her beloved dog, Iischa.

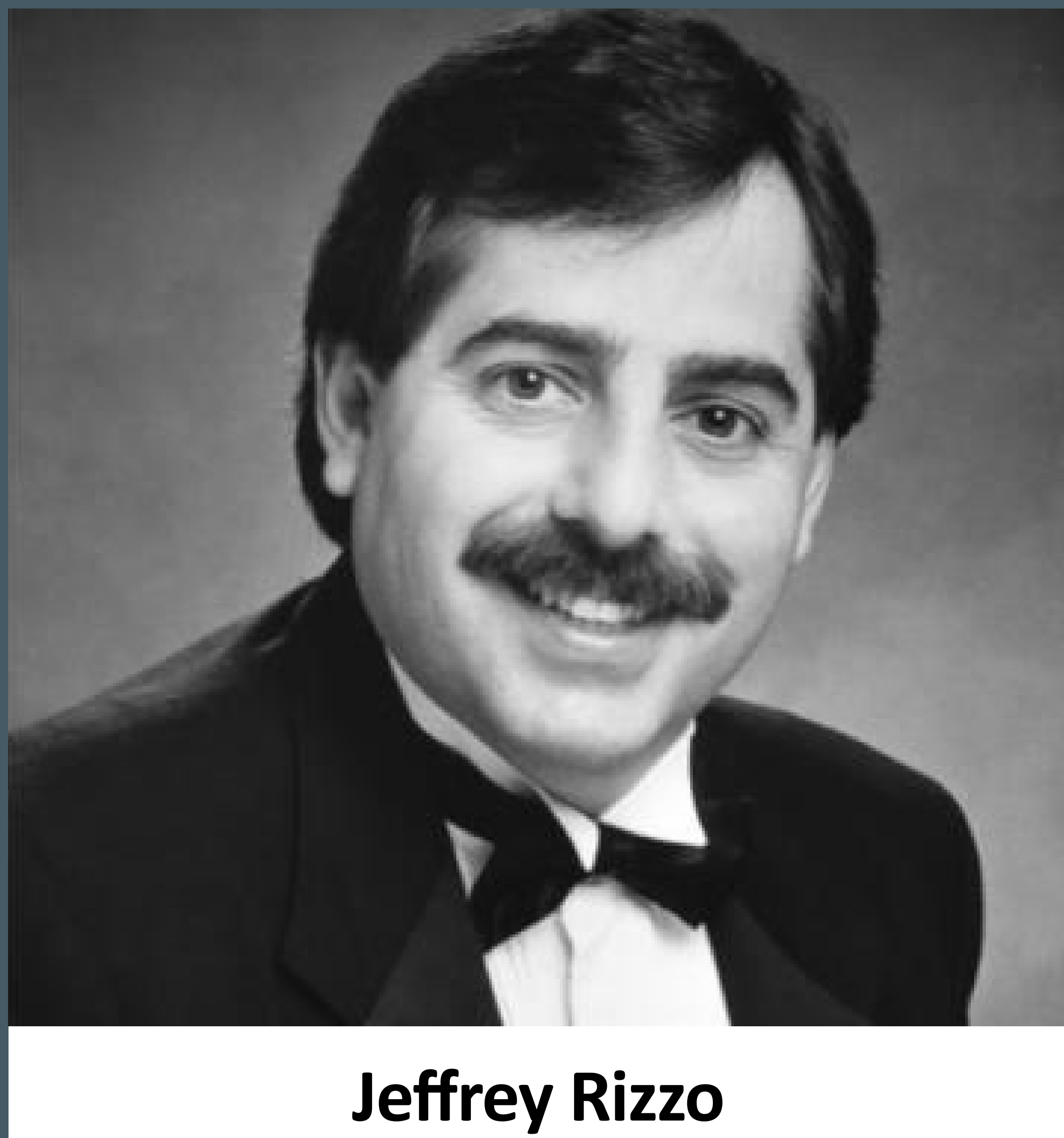
A special thanks to Dr. David Hoffman and everyone at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center who were part of Caroline's team over the past six years. She received the best care available anywhere, and we are very grateful to all of you.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Caroline's friends across the globe, particularly those in Los Angeles, who have provided physical, emotional, and spiritual assistance to Caroline and her family. Your presence by her side, the meals you shared, the trips you took together, and the appointments you accompanied her to have been invaluable.

In lieu of sending flowers, please consider a donation to the Southern California Viola Society, which has established the Caroline E. Buckman Memorial Scholarship, Stand Up To Cancer, or the Linda Blair Worldheart Foundation.

The Caroline E. Buckman Memorial Scholarship will help young violists attend their annual event, ViolaFest. Donations can be made at their website by selecting the scholarship from the dropdown menu:

socalviolasociety.org/donations



Jeffrey Rizzo

Life Member. Piano

6/16/1954 – 5/1/2023

Jeff Rizzo's favorite Broadway musical was... well, almost all of them. Well known for his opinionated theatrical viewpoints, if a show was well cast and directed, with a sufficiently large orchestra, and moved along (preferably under 90 minutes), he'd give it a thumbs up. Musical Theater was in his blood... musicals were his life and few people exist that share his vast knowledge on the subject.

Born in Utica, New York on June 16, 1954 to Pasquale (Pat) and Joan (DeGeronimo) Rizzo, Jeff's love of musical theater started early with a trip to Broadway to see Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Flower Drum Song." While still fairly young, his family up and moved to the new frontier of Sacramento, California, where they all suffered immense culture shock in finding everyone eating something called "tacos" and bizarre things like avocados, both of which he later grew to love. Jeff began writing original music and lyrics and creating hand-made puppets for live shows and he got his start in acting portraying an orphan in "Oliver!" at the Sacramento Music Circus. Even his mom got into the act playing the Widow Corney.

Jeff went on to earn a bachelor of music degree, graduating cum laude from USC in 1976, while still spending summers in Sacramento where he would conduct upwards of 10 summer stock musicals back-to-back, a new show each week, with stars like Donald O'Connor, Ken Berry, Vicky Lawrence, JoAnne Worley, Debby Boone, Helen Reddy and many more. There's hardly a musical that does not appear on his impressive conducting resume.

Jeff toured the country conducting regional and touring productions of shows such as "Annie," "Dreamgirls," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and many more. In 2011, he was conducting "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat" in Japan when the Great Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami hit. He realized his dream of conducting a Broadway show with the Madison Square Garden production of "The Wizard of Oz," starring Mickey Rooney and Eartha Kitt, and he was very proud to conduct the show's Grammy-nominated original cast album that memorably includes his infectious arrangement of "The Jitterbug."

Beyond conducting, Jeff composed the scores of several stage musicals including "Stroke of Noon," "A Wonderful Life," "Love is Like Riding a Bicycle," "May Today be the Worst Day of the Rest of Your Life," "Topper," "Wanna Play!" (which was filmed for PBS), and "Jailbirds on Broadway," which had a successful run in L.A. in 1987.

Jeff met his life partner of 39 years, Eric Andrist, in 1983 while both were working on "Annie" for the San Bernardino Civic Light Opera. Together they founded the Musical Theatre Guild, a membership musical theater company in Los Angeles in 1995 and ran the company from their home in Burbank through 1999. They created a highly successful series of musical staged readings performed at the Pasadena Playhouse, which continues to this day in other venues, often moving out their furniture to hold rehearsals in their living room. Together Jeff and Eric wrote "A Christmas Carol – The Musical" which had a staged reading at the Pasadena Playhouse and a full production in Illinois. In 2018, they formed the Valley Villagers Choir to perform at their Christmas Holiday Block Party, made up of mostly their neighbors. The group had so much fun they requested that the choir keep going which they did until Covid hit. Not wanting to stop giving people a way to sing, Jeff and Eric created a series of "virtual" choir videos utilizing musical theater performers from across the country who submitted their videos digitally. Those videos can all be seen on YouTube (bit.ly/virtualchoirvideos). Jeff did a number of the choral arrangements including "Into the Fire," "Never Met a Man I Didn't Like," and "The Story Goes On," from the musical "Baby" by Maltby and Shire (who called Jeff with high praise for his arrangement and for the video). Jeff also put together a choral arrangement of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "The Rainbow Connection," which has turned out to be a favorite for many.

In more recent years, Jeff found a job he loved working at AMDA Hollywood (The American Musical and Dramatic Academy), where his devotion to working with young musical theater performers thrived, as they in turn thrived from his devotion.

Jeff made a lot of selfless sacrifices so that they could care for Eric's elderly mom and disabled sister, both of whom died from medical errors in the ensuing years. Jeff continued to work closer to home so that Eric could volunteer as a patient safety advocate, which he continues to do.

In 2021, during the fun-loving days of the Covid lockdown, Jeff and Eric packed their bags and left Los Angeles, purchasing a 108-year-old historic home in Oxnard called the Henry Levy House, which turned out to be haunted. They were featured on the Thanksgiving 2022 Season Finale of the TV show "Ghost Adventures" which you can watch on their website at henrylevyhouse.com (Note: the show's "ghost" embellishments were not approved by homeowners!)

Unfortunately, Jeff, too, was affected by bad medicine when a local doctor failed to diagnose the seriousness of his health condition and abandoned his care. By the time Jeff found out how serious things had gotten, he no longer qualified for the life-saving lung transplant he desperately needed to live. Sadly, Jeff succumbed to pulmonary fibrosis on May 1, 2023.

To honor Jeff's life, and to help others afflicted by this terrible disease, you can donate to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation by texting PFFTribute1301 to 71777.

A memorial "show" is being planned for later in the year. For more information, you can email Eric at andristizzo@aol.com.

Open Mic

share YOUR story
with
the Overture

OPEN MIC!



Got a story to tell?

AFM Local 47 welcomes submissions from
our members!

Please 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.

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

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. **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. **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.

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.

Resignation Policy

In order to resign in good standing, you must submit 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.

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. 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.

Auditions



THE SANTA BARBARA
SYMPHONY
Nir Kabaretti, Music & Artistic Director

SECTION VIOLA
(3 POSITIONS)

SECTION CELLO
(1 POSITION)

AUGUST 21-23, 2023

Application Deadline:
July 10, 2023

apply online: thesymphony.org/auditions

Employment will begin as soon as mutually agreeable to both the winner and the Santa Barbara Symphony. Additional details online.

Advertise

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The Local 47 Beat

— Emailed biweekly —

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*For information on posting auditions, please visit
afm47.org/auditions.html*