

Overture

online

ALL THINGS



PERCUSSION

Announcing Our New
Percussion Rehearsal Room

E2 is Here! Log In to Your New
Online User Account

Overture

online

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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. Thank you!

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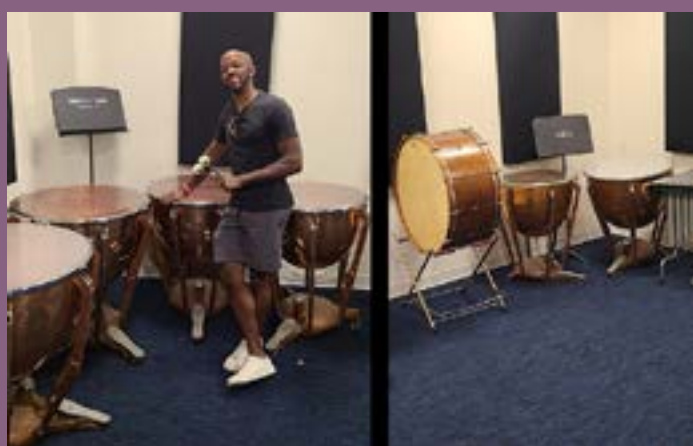
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President Stephanie O'Keefe



As I write this column, I am preparing to travel to San Francisco for the ROPA (Regional Orchestra Players Association) 2024 Conference.

This conference brings together orchestral players from all over the country, who attend the conference as delegates, representing their orchestras. There are workshops and speeches about negotiating collective bargaining agreements, dealing with musicians' health issues, symphonic media, and addressing sexual harassment in the workplace, among other topics.

Last year, I found this conference to be very inspiring — the musicians are incredibly hardworking and completely devoted to the continued success and expansion of their orchestras.

Here at Local 47, we are adjusting to Ensemble 2, our new operating system — as we settle in, we see the many advantages and improvements of our new system over Ensemble 1, our (very) old system that desperately needed to be replaced.

Negotiations have begun for the Los Angeles Master Chorale and will soon begin for the Pacific Jazz Orchestra, the Metropolitan and Community Orchestras agreement, Musica Angelica, New West Symphony, Music Theater Guild, Music at Westwood, and the Los Angeles Orchestra Leaders Association.

We are also in negotiations with the Pasadena Symphony, the Open Fist Theater Company, the San Gabriel Valley Musical Theater, and have reached a tentative agreement with the Palm Springs Opera Guild, which will shortly be sent to the bargaining unit for ratification.

So much of what I do on a daily basis is to listen — to established members who have a question or concern, to new members who have traveled their own unique path to the AFM, and to employers, who often have questions about specific situations and how their collective bargaining agreements apply.

But all of this activity — the conference, the negotiations, the implementation of a new operating system, and the daily interactions with members and employers — has one common denominator: the extremely important work of preserving our profession.

As I have written (and will no doubt continue to write), these are very different and quickly changing times for musicians. Each day brings new and ever challenging issues to be solved.

But while this work may not be easy, I have no doubt that we, the music makers, will prevail.

In solidarity,

Stephanie

Vice President Marc Sazer



By now most of us are aware of the new database system that has transformed your member portal — Ensemble 2, or “E2.” Our launch has seen its share of both successes and challenges, and musicians have seen most of the challenge side, with problems initially logging in and email verifications to legacy work dues statements not loading. I’ll be honest; we expected bumps and kinks at the beginning, but we had hoped E2 would roll out more smoothly.

Most of the issues we have faced result not from problems with the new system, but rather from unexpectedly widespread problems with the data that was ported over from the old system. Suffice to say that no one has been more highly incentivized to get things going faster than our team here at Local 47, including my office, our computer programmer, and his development team.

We knew we had taken on a herculean task; rolling out a transition with over 5,000 active users of the system on a daily basis. As a comparison, both the Film Musicians Secondary Markets Fund and the AFM & SAG-AFTRA Intellectual Property Rights Distribution Fund recently underwent equally far-reaching system redesigns, but were able to roll out new systems during relative down times with participants.

E2 offers industry-standard cloud based security, far better than the old system of in-house hardware that suffered a data breach in 2023. It offers a far greater degree of flexibility for in-house updates and adjustments that will increase efficiency and save development costs down the road. And the new system will create further efficiencies with staff in house.

One of the benefits of the new system is the ease of access to jobs data that we can offer to the AFM, including the New Use Department and the Film Fund. This will allow them to undertake the research that leads to musician payments more quickly and easily.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of every musician as we go through this process. And if you haven’t done so already, please go into your profile on E2 and choose “I want to receive work dues statements by email” and “I want to receive membership dues statements by email.” This will help us save costs, and make sure you get your statements on time. And, please review and update your contact information, so that we can always be in touch.

Secretary/Treasurer

Gail Kruvand



Years ago I was a part of a regular backstage intermission poker game. My stand partner at the time, when asked if they were winning, always responded “You win by participating” with a big, broad smile. Those words have fueled my participation in our union writ large and has enriched my life with meaningful relationships with neighbors and colleagues.

Participation is valuable in many aspects of life, including your union!

Congratulations to those of you who participated in our General Membership meeting in July. In spite of our small numbers, we enjoyed robust discussion and idea sharing on a number of topics. A primary concern is participation. How do we get members engaged in their union? Someone commented that people must be happy with the ways things are going here at Local 47 or else they’d turn out with complaints. As a part of your elected leadership team, which includes the three full time Officers, three Trustees and six Executive Board members, I view complacency and lack of engagement as our worst enemy. Membership meetings are your opportunity to share ideas and influence decisions. I’m a believer in committee driven, musician led initiatives. There cannot and should not be one decision maker. Your participation is vital and our union is better for it. When you participate you grow your power. Think of the slogan “When we fight, we win.” It’s not “When I fight, I win.” “We” is the key! It’s our individual participation in the decision making process that grows our ownership in the outcome.

The global pandemic changed our lives in so many ways. It’s commonplace to Zoom into meetings, book clubs, community events and more. At the membership meeting last month there was a lot of discussion about holding future membership meetings online with the goal of more participation. I certainly feel enriched by in person events and I hope you see the value too. It’s kind of like the difference between recorded and live music. Something special happens when you’re in the room.

So, here are some ways in which you can participate in your union.

Want to get information and hold your elected officers accountable?

See your Executive Board in action. The Board meets once a week every Tuesday at 10 a.m. via Zoom. All Local 47 members in good standing are welcome as observers, as per Local 47 bylaws (Article VI, Section 5). Please contact the Secretary’s Office at st_sec@afm47.org to receive the access code.

Attend a Member Mingle! Coffee, bagels and conversation are on the menu every third Friday from 11 a.m. until we run out of words. Our New Member Orientation segues into the Mingle so you can meet our newest members too! It’s a great opportunity to network, meet other members and our terrific Local 47 staff members. Join us at the Local on Friday, August 16 for our next Member Mingle.

Our next General Membership Meeting is Monday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m. Whether it’s in person or virtual, put it on your calendar now. Your participation is vital for our union.

During this election season, the AFL-CIO is an important resource for all union members. (Our American Federation of Musicians is an affiliate). Check out the website aflcio.org for information on everything from how to check your voter registration status to joining the cause to improve the lives of working families across the country.

And remember, you win by participating!

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

ALL THINGS



PERCUSSION

Drums and percussion instruments play a rhythmic role in nearly every genre of music, spanning centuries and continents. From early drums made from gourds to the electronic drums of today, the history of drums involves a wide array of musical styles.

Artifacts from China suggest that percussionists played drums made from alligator skins as far back as 5500 B.C, and iconography from ancient Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman cultures show the use of drums in religious ceremonies and cultural gatherings. Evidence suggests that both hand drums and drums played with beaters evolved simultaneously.

Music historians generally do not credit individuals with the invention of specific drums. Like most musical instruments, different drums slowly evolved over centuries of innovation. The same is true of drum beaters, such as drumsticks and felted mallets.

Examples of ancient drums trace back millennia throughout Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Drums and cymbals—the basis of the modern drum set—are visible in bas-reliefs of ancient Greece and Syria, in relief sculpture from ancient Mesopotamian and Sumerian society, and in artifacts of neolithic China. All throughout the globe, humans found ways to fashion drum heads from animal skins.

Among the earliest known examples of percussion instruments are idiophones made from mammoth bones found in present-day Belgium. These instruments are thought to date from 70,000 B.C. and are idiophones, which means they produce sound via the vibration of the entire instrument.

The kinds of drums used by today's drummers have precursors in the musical instruments of ancient Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt. These cultures used frame drums—drum heads stretched over a shallow wooden frame—that were the forebears of twentieth century snare drums and tom-toms. Once those drums were built, idiomatic drumming techniques and drum sounds emerged within each culture.

The drum history of Europe traces its roots to early Middle Eastern traditions. The kettle drums (timpani) of European classical music likely came from Egyptian and Turkish cultures. The classical bass drum also has its roots in the Ottoman empire.

The five-piece drum kit that helped shape American jazz and rock music contains drums adapted from European classical instruments. The kick drums and double bass drums of today's popular music come from classical bass drums. The snare drums used by rock, pop, and jazz drummers alike come from the side drums of marching bands.

The modern five-piece drum kit as we know it likely traces to early twentieth century New Orleans, where jazz drummers like Warren "Baby" Dodds assembled a drum set using classical instruments. Some of these instruments had to be modified, such as the bass drum; in classical music the drummer plays it with handheld mallets, but in popular music the drum rests on the floor and the drummer plays it with a bass drum pedal. The foot pedal as we know it is credited to a single inventor: William F. Ludwig of the Ludwig Drums company.

Musicians Foundation has helped nearly 1,000 musicians in California in the last decade. Today, you can help us continue making a difference.

From musicians... for musicians



Est. 1914

Whether it's "Christmas in July" or just the right time for you, your donation will help a fellow musician in crisis.

Thank you!

Support at
musiciansfoundation.org/donate





AFM LOCAL

47

Alex

Acuña

DRUMMER/PERCUSSIONIST

MEMBER SINCE 1977

Born in Pativilca, Peru, 100 miles north of Lima, Alex Acuña was born into a musical family that inspired him and helped shape him as a musician. His father and five brothers were all musicians. Alex taught himself how to play the drums from the age of 4. By the time he turned 10, he was already playing in local bands, and by 18 he was playing with the great Perez Prado.

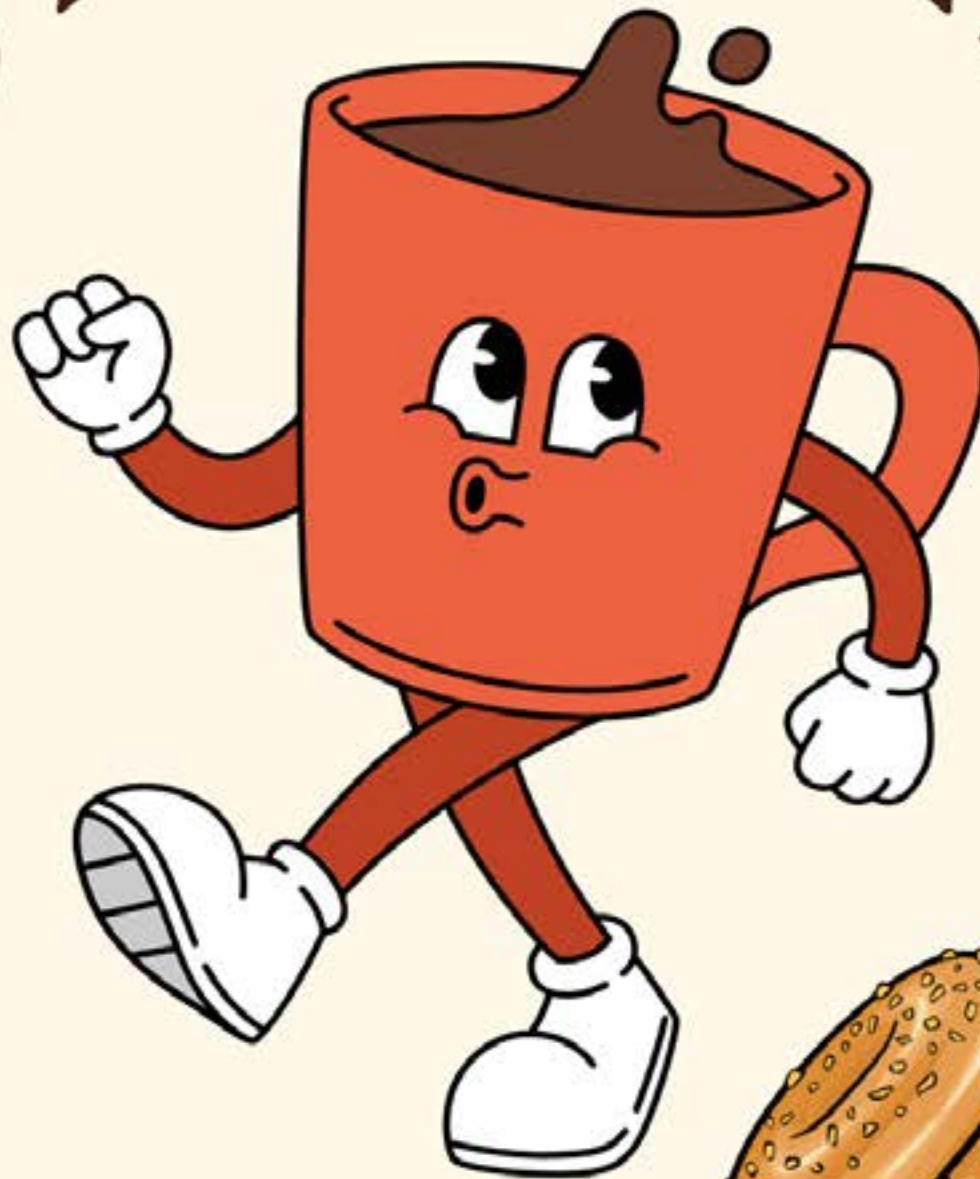
In 1967 Alex moved to Puerto Rico to study at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, where he played under the direction of the famed Spanish cellist master Pablo Casals. He moved to Las Vegas in 1974, where he played with such greats as Elvis Presley and Diana Ross.

Between 1975 and 1977, Alex cemented his place in jazz history when he became both drummer and percussionist for one of the most innovative and pioneering jazz groups of all time, Weather Report. He moved to Los Angeles in 1978 where he quickly earned the position of a valued session drummer and percussionist for recordings, television and motion pictures. His countless album and live credits include such diverse artist as U2, Paul McCartney, Joni Mitchell, Ella Fitzgerald, Chick Corea, Plácido Domingo, Tito Puente, Santana and many, many more.

Alex has received countless awards and honors throughout his career, including the Emeritus MVP award from NARAS (National Academy of Recording for the Arts and Sciences) and “Best Latin/Brazilian Percussionist” in the Modern Drummer’s Readers Poll for five consecutive years.

AFM LOCAL **47**

COFFEE TIME



**EVERY
3RD
FRIDAY**

**11
A.M.**

MEMBER MINGLE

JOIN US FOR COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE, BAGELS
& CONVERSATION IN OUR CAPTAIN GREG WELCH
GATHERING PLACE!

AFM LOCAL 47 3220 WINONA AVE. BURBANK CA 91504

Events



Holiday Office Closure:
Monday, September 2 - Labor Day

Upcoming Events:

Coffee Time Member Mingle

Friday, August 16, 11 a.m.

Local 47 Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place

Join us for coffee, bagels and conversation!

Next General Membership Meeting

Monday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.

Local 47 Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place

Ongoing Events:

Executive Board Meetings

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. via Zoom

Members welcome as observers

For login info email st_sec@afm47.org

New Member Orientation

Third Fridays, 10-11 a.m.

Local 47 Executive Board Room

Required of all new members

afm47.org/orientation

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



The Aaron Janik Group, sponsored by MPTF, performing at the AFM Local 47 Jazz Festival in April 2024.

Music Performance Trust Fund Gigs



Downey Symphony @ Furman Park

August 7, 7p.m.

Leader: Laura Jesson

36 musicians

Oakwood Brass @ Octavia Butler Magnet

August 27, 9:35 a.m.

Leader: Darren Dvoracek

5 musicians

Oakwood Brass @ Webster Elementary

August 28, 8 a.m.

Leader: Darren Dvoracek

5 musicians

Oakwood Brass @ Eliot Arts Magnet

August 29, 9:35 a.m.

Leader: Darren Dvoracek

5 musicians

Oakwood Brass @ Nora Coombs Elementary

August 30, 8 a.m.

Leader: Darren Dvoracek

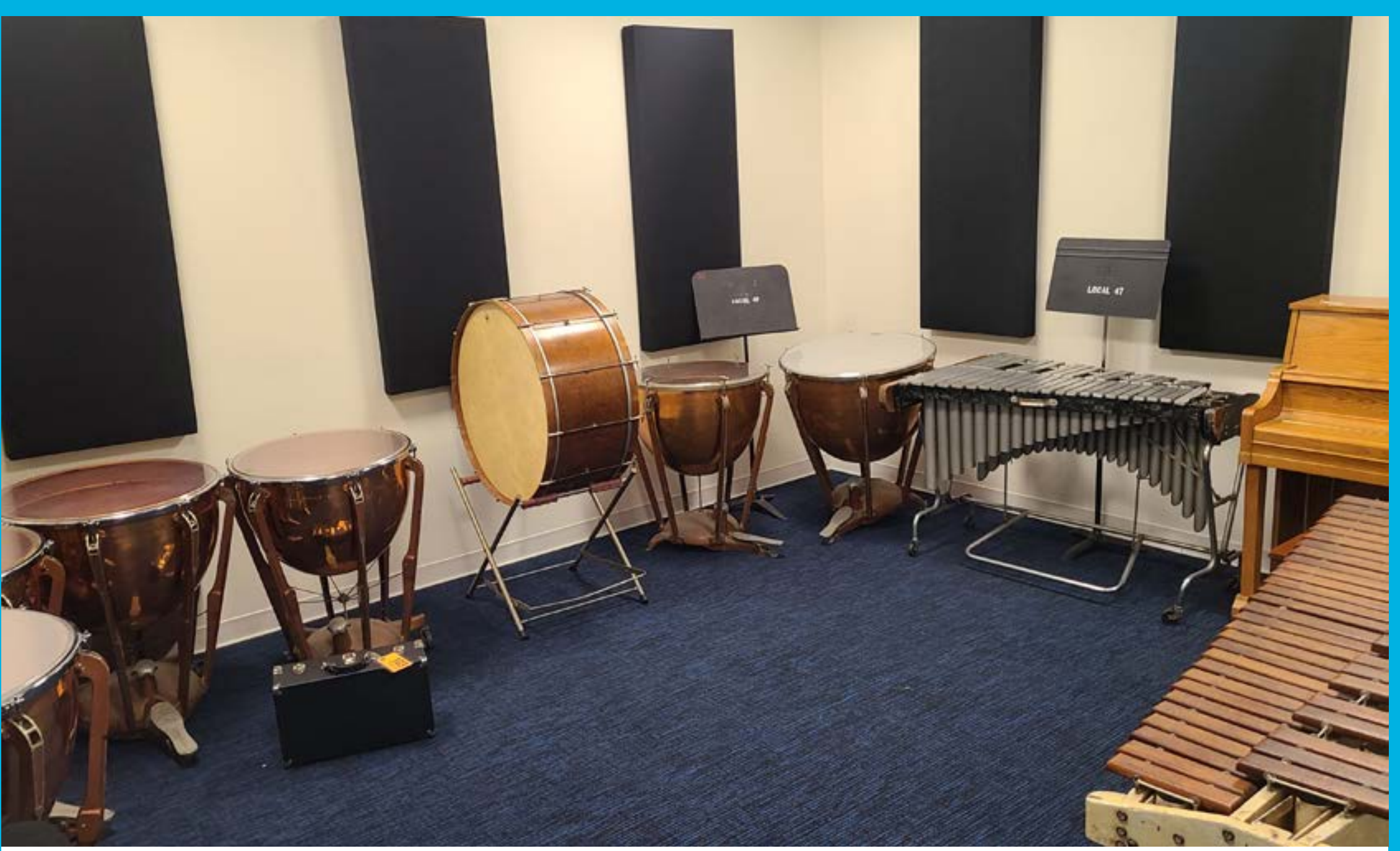
5 musicians

Are you interested in presenting a FREE and open to the public CONCERT?

For over seven decades, the [Music Performance Trust Fund](#) provides grants for free public live music events. Its mission includes contributing to the public knowledge and appreciation of music, as well as making music a part of every child's life experience.

Funds are made available by MPTF to sponsor performances for community events, outdoor park concerts, libraries, senior citizen centers and museums, as well as educational performances by a wide variety of jazz, classical, chamber, symphonic and other ensembles.

Musicians interested in applying for a grant are invited to contact our in-house MPTF Administrator. All requests will be reviewed for approval, and recommendations will be forwarded to MPTF in New York. For more information on how to apply, [click here](#).



Announcing Our New Percussion Rehearsal Room

Members can take now advantage of our newly created Percussion Rehearsal Room!

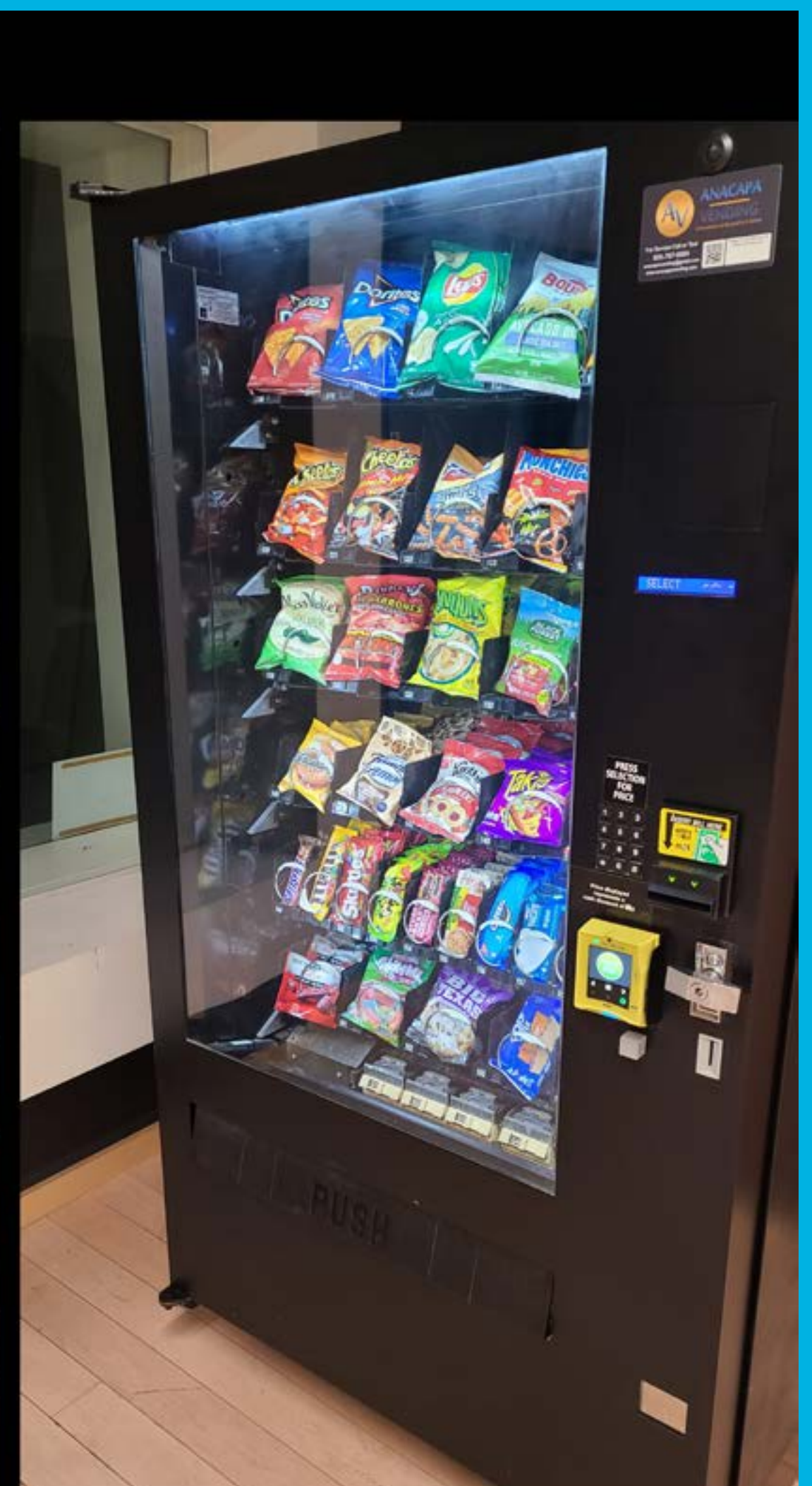
Room 2 has been re-configured to contain all of Local 47's percussion equipment, including a full set and half set of timpani, concert bass drum, marimba, and vibraphone. These instruments have been freshly serviced and are available for booking.



A 2.5-hour practice session is only \$20 for Regular Members — and \$15 for Life Members. We know that many percussionists spend hundreds per month renting lock outs and rehearsal spaces in order to practice, and we hope this resource can provide a meaningful and tangible alternative.

A *huge* thank you to member and percussionist Wesley Sumpter for donating his time and expertise to servicing these instruments.

To book the Percussion Room, [log in to your new E2 member account](#), navigate to the Rehearsal Rooms button, and choose Room 2/Percussion Room. Members can book online 24/7. (If you have not yet logged in our new E2 web portal, visit our E2 FAQ page at afm47.org/e2 for complete instructions.) Please contact Rose at booking@afm47.org with any questions.



Snack alert! Visitors to our Rehearsal Rooms and Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place can now enjoy cold drinks and delicious snacks from our new vending machines.



LOG IN TO YOUR NEW ONLINE MEMBER PORTAL

AFM Local 47 has been hard at work updating our IT infrastructure, and we're pleased to announce the launch of a new, fully cloud-based database named Ensemble 2.0 (aka E2) that features many substantial upgrades.

Visit afm47.org/e2 for complete details on how to access your new Online Member Portal.

We are pleased to announce that Ensemble 2.0 (aka E2), AFM Local 47's new cloud-based member and contract database, is now live.

How do I log in?

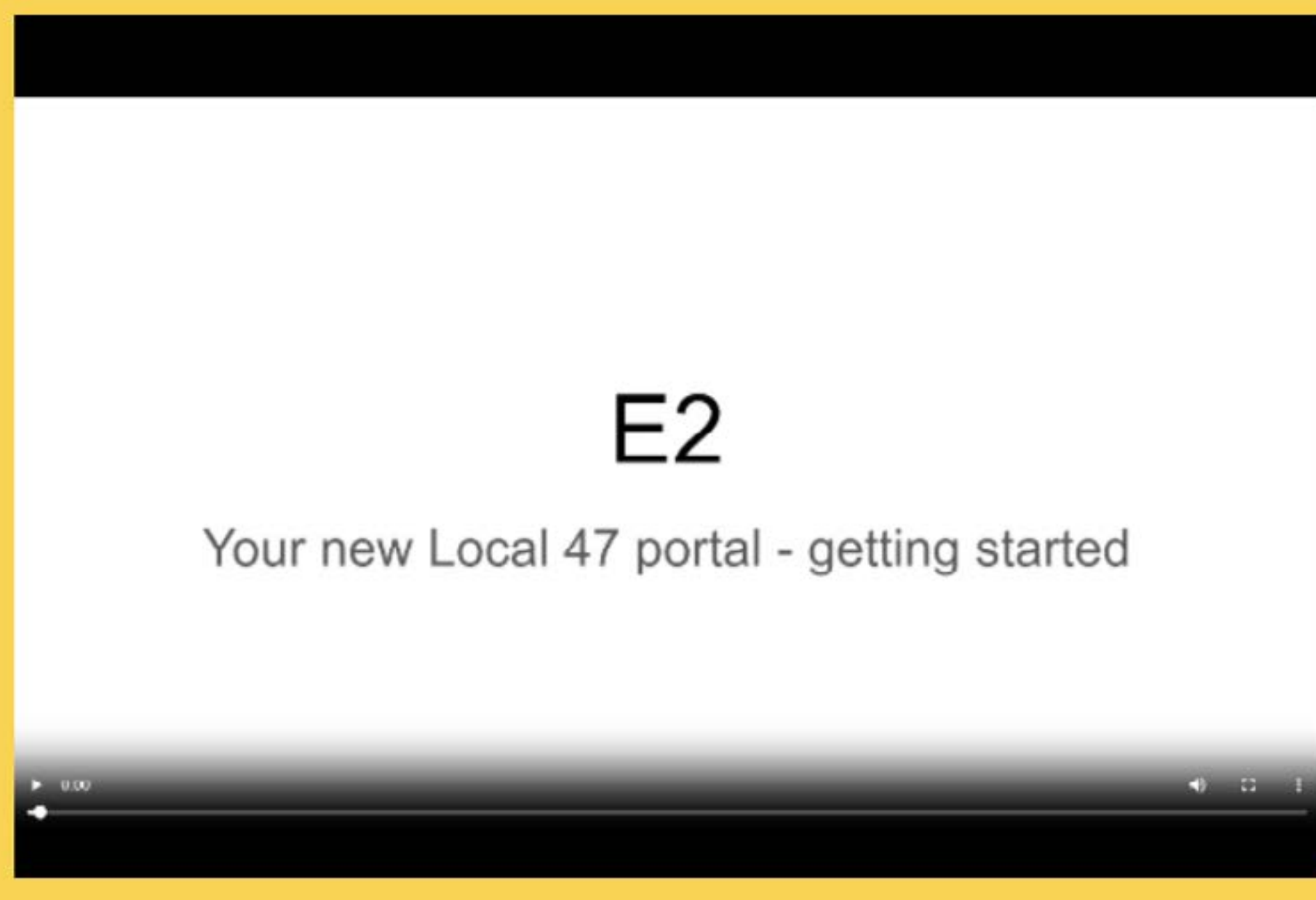
Login instructions will differ depending on your relationship with Local 47.

IF YOU ARE ALREADY IN OUR SYSTEM

e.g. you are a current or former member of Local 47, or if you have ever previously received checks processed through Local 47:

To access your online member account, you will need to use our brand-new login system, which replaces the previous WebID system. Now you will be able to create your own username instead of having to use a pre-assigned WebID, as well as access many additional features in your new profile. Here's how to get started:

1. Navigate to the ["Reset Password" page](#)
2. Input your email address (the same one on file with Local 47), last 4 digits of your SSN, legal first name, and legal last name.
3. You will receive a reset email in your inbox; follow the reset link in that email and reset your password. Please write this down in a safe place. The email message will also provide you with your username (which you may change once you log in).



Watch a [step-by-step video tutorial](#) on how to access your online account.

Important Note: If you already have an account with Local 47 but do not have a **current email on file**, you will not be able to log in without staff assistance. If you need to add a new, or update an old, email address, please send a message to directory@afm47.org, and a staff member will reach out with you to confirm your ability to log in.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY IN OUR SYSTEM

e.g. you have never worked under contracts in Local 47's jurisdiction, never received checks through the Local, and have never been a member:

1. Navigate to the ["Sign Up" page](#)
2. Input your information and click the "Sign Up" button.
3. You will receive an email confirmation in your inbox.

If you are still unable to create a user profile or access your existing account, please note the error message you receive (take a screenshot, if possible) and send an email to E2Help@afm47.org.

Once you are logged in:

Please review our [E2 User Portal Walkthrough](#) to familiarize yourself with our system's new features.

For answers to commonly asked questions, please visit afm47.org/e2.

AFM LOCAL

47

Welcome New Members!

- Daniel Goldblum - Bassoon
- Nayalin Christina Guzman - Bassoon
- Lucas Norman Helfman - String Bass
- Rahul Neuman - Sitar
- Iona Francesca Pay - French Horn
- Dolce Wang (aka dolce) - Cello
- Jess Whitehill - Drum Set
- Maria Wozniakiewicz - Violin
- Jaylon Black - Violin
- Armando Hernandez - Acoustic Guitar
- Alena Hove - Violin
- Jonathan Kretchmer - Piano
- Julian Loida - Percussion
- Thomas Lovasz - Cello
- Shawn Mendes - Acoustic Guitar
- Benton Thomas Preciado - Cello
- Gregoire Thompson Raymond - Piano
- Guillermo Tejeda - Composer
- Melody Ye Yuan - Violin

Semi-Annual Membership Dues Reminder

Attention Semi-Annual Membership Dues payers: Union dues for the last half of 2024 were due on July 1, and if unpaid are currently delinquent. Please note that union dues, plus reinstatement fee, must be paid by Sept. 30 (within the three-month grace period) to avoid expulsion. Please visit afm47.org/dues for more information and to make a payment.

Please note: If you need to resign your membership, do so in good standing to avoid further penalties/fees should you wish to rejoin the AFM in the future. For more information, [click here](#).

AFM LOCAL 47 #WhyUnion?



Howie Rich

Bassist

#WhyUnion? “Members have the opportunity to connect with other professionals. There is some level of contract safety, a pension, rehearsal rooms, as well as a health plan.”

– Howie Rich, Bassist
AFM 47 Member since 1974



AFM LOCAL 47 #WhyUnion?



Read more member testimonials, and share your own answer, at WhyUnion.org.



BENEFITS CORNER

AFM LOCAL
47

A Message from the AFM Pension Fund:

AFM-EPF Application for Special Financial Assistance Approved

Great news! The American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF) Board of Trustees is thrilled to share that the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation has approved the American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund's (AFM-EPF) application for Special Financial Assistance. We expect to receive the funds on or about August 12, 2024.

As a reminder, this Special Financial Assistance under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is designed to give the AFM-EPF and other eligible plans the additional funding they need so that they are projected to be able to pay benefits and administrative expenses through the Plan year ending 2051 without reductions to participants' benefits. These funds will give the Plan a significant and immediate financial boost and are expected to provide additional security that all benefits will be paid for decades to come.

Under the rules for receiving Special Financial Assistance, the Plan is still considered to be in "critical" status through the Plan year ending 2051, even if it would otherwise not be in critical status based on the funding measures that apply to plans without SFA. That means that in future years, no matter its financial health, the Plan is required to provide a Notice of Critical Status each year, and the Plan's Annual Funding Notice will describe the Plan as in "critical" status.

Market conditions, investment returns, and future contributions to the Plan are a few of the many factors that will have an impact on the Plan's financial health in the future and cannot be predicted with certainty. But the Special Financial Assistance has given us a good reason to be cautiously optimistic about the Plan's future.

For more information about Special Financial Assistance and our Plan, see the Fund Status FAQs on afm-epf.org.



Musicians United, 2024 CA Labor Fed Convention style:

AFM Local 47 Organizer Rahul Neuman, Local 47 member Sidney Hopson, California Labor Federation President Lorena Gonzales, AFM Local 7 (Orange County) President Edmund Velasco, and AFM Local 6 (San Francisco) Executive Board member John Fisher.

Parlaying Organizing Efforts: 2024 CA Labor Fed Convention

by Rahul Neuman, AFM Local 47 Organizer

I was fortunate to be able to represent AFM Local 47 at this year's California Labor Federation Convention in San Diego, July 15-17, along with my colleague, Sidney Hopson. This was the largest CA Fed convention yet, with 700 delegates in attendance. It was inspiring to hear so many union activists speak on a diverse set of issues, and quite a learning experience. While there were the typical pro forma aspects (e.g., Call to Order, Nomination of Officers), the other messages centered around organizing for the 2024 General Elections and expanding unions.

One of the major, recurring themes was around the paramount importance of organizing and building coalitions between unions. As CA Fed President Lorena Gonzales stated, "We will be anywhere you want us to be as long as you are organizing." I also can't stress enough how significant it is to have a presence at events like this, building connections and establishing a strong rapport with sibling unions.



The first day centered around campaign organizing training, focusing on electing union-friendly candidates and ballot measures. For example, the LA Fed helped organize a campaign around Measure A, which would help build housing to bring homeless into homes and create social services to assist with drug rehabilitation, all with union jobs. This campaign, which AFM Local 47 has participated in, successfully brought 400,000 signatures needed to qualify for the November ballot. Other examples include campaigns to vote out white supremacists on school boards, as well as the fight around autonomous vehicles. An important point around the latter is that it's not about organizing to outlaw certain technologies, but rather to make sure sufficient processes are followed to ensure proper testing and safety practices. Apropos the aphorism repeated by another union rep, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." The main takeaway from the training is this: Make sure to be able to pivot from ballot campaigns like Measure A into other organizing efforts. We take on the major issues that affect workers, avoid party issues as much as possible, and then connect the issues to get as many people involved.

The convention on days two and three covered a lot, from recent organizing successes to recognizing a younger generation of organizers to actually attending an Airport Action led by AFA (Association of Flight Attendants) president Sara Nelson. Some of the organizing successes include AEA (Actors Equity) organizing 1,700 workers at Disneyland, CSU Employees Union (CSUEU) organizing 20,000 students workers in the California State University system, and the United Domestic Workers (UDW/AFSCME 3930) adding over 5,000 members since 2022. UDW's Executive Director, Doug Moore, emphasized the importance of an earlier effort to pass term limits paving the way for, "a future where entrenched corporate interests have less influence and our government is more representative of the people it serves." LA Labor Federation President Yvonne Wheeler couched all these successes in the context of marrying the labor movement with the civil rights movement, and discussed how Labor can connect and turn out the vote. These successes are due to unions' efforts to take organizing beyond contract campaigns, to the community and to fight for social justice.

The strength of making connections between different organizing efforts also revealed itself in the connections we made during the Convention. We met representatives from Actors Equity, discussed some common efforts that we might work on together in the future given the connections between the Disneyland workers and musicians at theme parks. We met several activists from SAG-AFTRA, some of whom we knew from our time on the picket lines last year, and discussed different coalition efforts among entertaining unions. Sidney Hopson, who has been deeply involved with the AFM's A.I. Committee, joined forces with members of SAG-AFTRA's unofficial working group on emergent technology to share industry, developer, and technological insights that can better equip our unions to protect members from the illicit use of our work and likeness. We met and talked organizing with Lorena Gonzales and Yvonne Wheeler, emphasizing the gains we've made in the past year and discussed upcoming campaigns we might partner on. I also spoke with Organizing Director Chloe Osmer who introduced me to Sara Flocks, Legislative and Strategic Campaigns Director at CA Labor Fed.

It was wonderful to have AFM Local 47 representation at the CA Labor Fed Convention, not only to keep current on the latest organizing efforts and methods but also because it helps us gain visibility in the community of unions fighting for worker protections. The discussions between unions in different industries leads to helping each other in campaigns and actions, and helps us identify ways to connect issues of different unions and measures with our own campaigns. It's important to always be organizing, not only for the health of our individual unions but also to secure the help of the CA Labor Fed and other unions. The connections we make become building blocks as we move towards forming union coalitions. This coalescing of members from different unions helps build more collective power.



AFM Endorses Kamala Harris for U.S. President

The American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada has endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for president.

The union's backing comes after a unanimous vote of the U.S. members of the AFM International Board, and what they see as the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to labor. This follows President Biden's decision not to seek reelection and his subsequent endorsement of Harris.

In announcing the endorsement on July 23, AFM International President Tino Gagliardi issued the following statement: "The Federation joins with all Americans who want to see a nation that is united, that promotes inclusion and a vision for the future, and that honors and respects all of its citizens. The AFM proudly endorses Kamala Harris for president of the United States. For musicians concerned about protecting their rights against exploitation both intellectually and at work, and ensuring the security of our pay, benefits, and retirement, Harris is the clear choice."

This presidential endorsement is based on the Biden-Harris administration's unwavering commitment to the hard-fought principles and ideals of organized labor. It was arrived at by a unanimous vote of the US members of the AFM International Executive Board, comprised of International President Tino Gagliardi, International Vice President Dave Pomeroy, Secretary-Treasurer Ken Shirk, and Executive Officers Tina Morrison (Local 105, Spokane, WA), John Acosta (Local 47, Los Angeles, CA), and Ed Malaga (Local 161-710, Washington, D.C.).*

The AFM is proud to stand with Vice President Harris as she seeks to unify and grow our country through responsible leadership.

**In conformity with U.S. election law, the Canadian members of the IEB recused themselves from participating in the endorsement vote.*

The day prior to the AFM's announcement, the AFL-CIO, which consists of 60 unions and 12.5 million workers, also announced its unanimous endorsement for Harris.

"From day one, Vice President Kamala Harris has been a true partner in leading the most pro-labor administration in history," said AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. "At every step in her distinguished career in public office, she's proven herself a principled and tenacious fighter for working people and a visionary leader we can count on. From taking on Wall Street and corporate greed to leading efforts to expand affordable child care and support vulnerable workers, she's shown time and again that she's on our side. With Kamala Harris in the White House, together we'll continue to build on the powerful legacy of the Biden-Harris administration to create good union jobs, grow the labor movement and make our economy work for all of us."



California
LABOR
Federation



Yvonne Wheeler Named First Woman and POC to Win Executive VP Seat With CA Labor Fed

During the California Labor Federation annual convention held in San Diego last month, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler was elected First Executive Vice President as part of the “Endless Solidarity” slate.

“Our rights continue to be under attack by corporate, greedy, anti-worker forces,” says Wheeler. “From devastating and cruel rulings issued by the Supreme Court of the United States to the terrifying prospect of a second Trump administration, we must stand together in solidarity and continue to organize like never before.”

Wheeler continues: “I am deeply humbled and proud to be a part of the labor movement at this moment and at this point in AFL-CIO history. As the first Black Woman to be President of the LA Fed, now elected as the First Executive Vice President of the Cal Fed alongside California Labor Federation President Lorenna Gonzalez, the first woman and first person of color to serve as Chief Officer of the California Labor Federation. California continues to be a hotbed of worker organizing, with unprecedented multi-union solidarity leading workers to victory. We have our work cut out for us, but together, we can continue to organize and fight to keep building the world we want to see.”

Final Notes



In Memoriam

David Duke

Life Member. Piano

12/4/1938 – 4/30/2024

Member since: 11/25/1959

Terry Evans

Life Member. Acoustic/Electric Guitar

3/27/1943 – 6/5/2024

Member since: 8/14/1963

Betty Lundgren (aka Cathy Courtney)

Life Member. Clarinet

8/3/1924 – 2/7/2024

Member since: 12/11/1945

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

or you may send to:

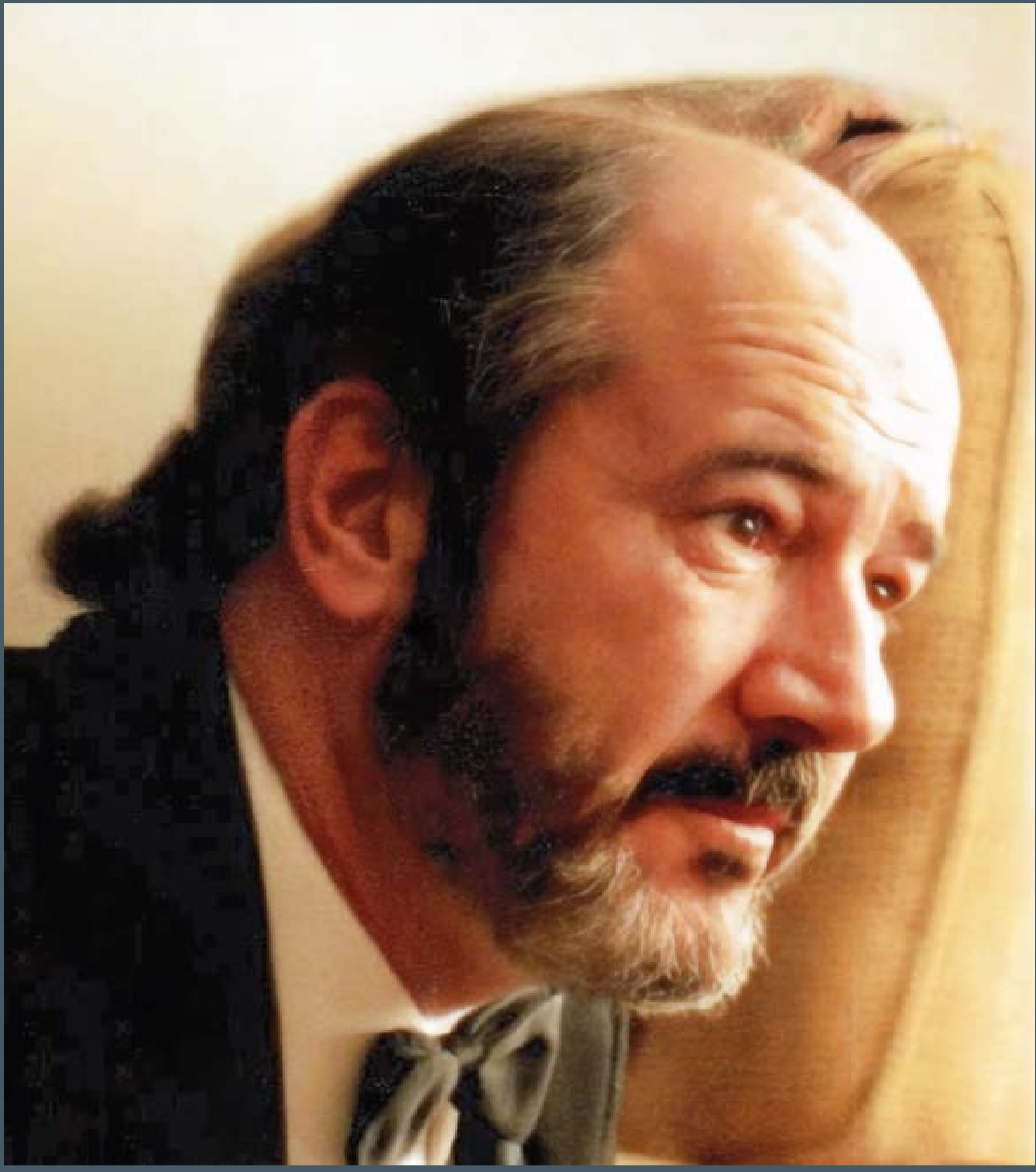
overture@afm47.org

Local 47 Overture Online

3220 Winona Ave.

Burbank CA 91504

Final Notes



John Thaddeus Perett

Life Member. Drum Set

1/11/1944 – 5/7/2024

John Perett passed away as a result of advanced dementia in Portland, OR on May 7, 2024. John was 80 years old. He was born in Cambridge, MA on January 11, 1944 to Constantino A. and Patricia D. Perett.

John was a member of the American Federation of Musicians Local 47 for many years. He was passionate about music and started playing drums professionally at age 15. He was incredibly talented and had the great privilege of working with brilliant musicians and outstanding, celebrated stars during his career.

John's second passion was helping others who were struggling with addictions. Consequently, later in his life he worked as a certified Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Counselor and Supervisor for a national rehabilitation center.

John is survived by his wife of 31 years, Patricia R. Perett; his grandson Alex Timms; his sister, Constance Perett and her husband, Theodore Lengel; and numerous nieces and nephews and their spouses. John was pre-deceased by his beloved daughter, Jae Lavinder Timms, in 1991.

John's family will hold a Celebration of Life event for him in Claremont, CA on November 9, 2024. Detailed information about his Celebration of Life will be distributed electronically in early September. We welcome all his family, friends, and colleagues to attend.

We are heartbroken and very grateful that John is now at peace.

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 to the Editor:

overture@afm47.org

3220 Winona Ave.

Burbank CA 91504

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

Membership Dues

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 **January 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 **September 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 December 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.

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).

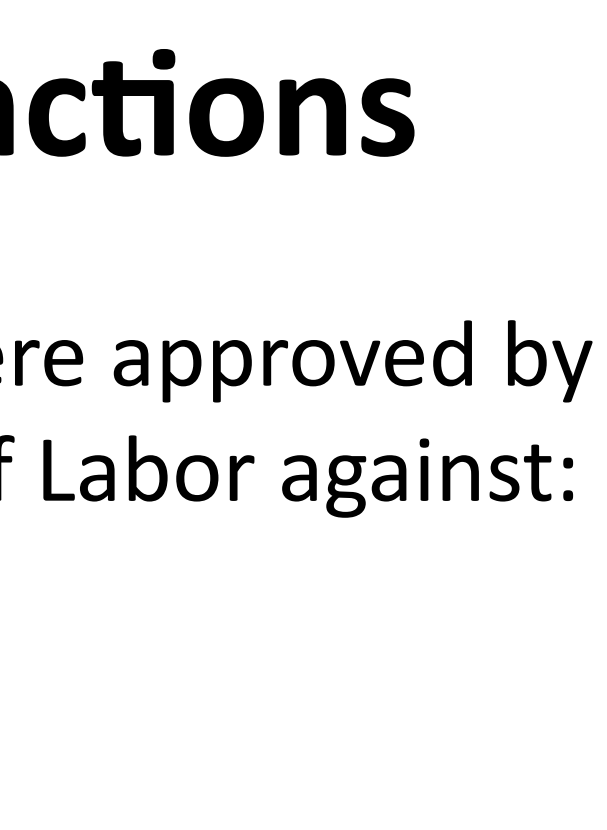
Notice to All Persons Entering or Utilizing the Property of the Musicians' Club* of Los Angeles:

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

NOTICE OF AUDITIONS

**New West Symphony announces
auditions for:**

Section Cello (3 positions)

Auditions will be held on October 7, 2024. Final round will immediately follow the preliminary round of audition.

Mail a cover letter and a one-page resume along with \$25 refundable deposit to the following address:

New West Symphony
Attn: Auditions Committee
2100 Thousand Oaks, Ste D
Thousand Oaks, Ca 91362

Resume and deposit **MUST** be received by Friday,
September 20, 2024.

Audition repertoire will be posted on the New West Symphony
website: www.newwestsymphony.org/orchestra-positions

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