AFM LOCAL 47

June 2025

Overture
online

Join us at
LA PRIDE 2025

AFM Local 47 Special Meeting:
Wednesday, June 4 via Zoom

Call to Action: Entertainment
Union Coalition

Overture online

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(If you have not yet used our new system, please visit afm47.org/e2 for the new login instructions.)

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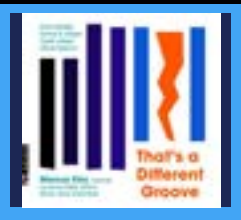

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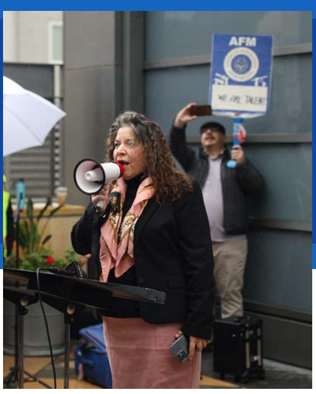


"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the wrong. Sometime in life, you will have been all of these."

- George Washington Carver

Almost everyone seems to think of themselves as tolerant. In fact, I've rarely, if ever, heard anyone proudly proclaim that they're intolerant. No one announces that they are a racist, a bigot, an antisemite, a homophobe, or a misogynist. Yet we know that all of those attitudes exist in large — some would say, growing — numbers in our society.

There must be some sort of disconnect — everyone is certain that they're tolerant, that they believe in kindness and consideration of others, yet, daily, we hear of and sometimes experience, acts of hatred and sometimes even violence. The members of protected classes report countless acts of aggression, to say nothing of the never ending microagressions that go unreported.

As musicians and as unionists, how might we contribute to a truly more tolerant, harmonious world?

Certainly, we contribute by doing what we do best, making music. Music brings people together in ways that words, actions, and even laws, cannot. No amount of rhetoric or legislation can equal the effect of just one song, the Beatles' "Hey Jude," for instance, and the goodwill it can create. And the internet is full of videos of people's reactions to unexpected live music in public places, aptly demonstrating the power of our profession.

But what about within our community? Are we tolerant of our differences? Do we treat each other with respect, understanding, and consideration of new ideas?

And perhaps most importantly, can we set aside our differences as we identify and pursue our collective goals?

These are very difficult times for musicians — indeed, for all artists. As my fifth year as your President draws to a close, I am more certain than ever that we have but one way to prevail in the face of the constant pressures that threaten our very existence — and that way is solidarity. We must set aside our differences, our classism, and our intolerance and stand shoulder to shoulder.

Then we can take the next step and the next step and the next step…together.

Stephanie

Vice President
Marc Sazer

As I sit down to write this column, musicians along with others in the entertainment industry are focused on Sacramento, watching as the California Film and Television Tax Credits bills move forward. In a move that some have seen as ominous, the latest revision of the implementing bills, AB 1138 and SB 630, have removed a reference to the dollar amount increase to the program requested by Governor Newsom, and sought by all of the entertainment unions. It is expected that the increase will ultimately be restored, but your support will help. Please take a moment to send an email to your legislators by simply clicking through here.

There is other legislation that can be key to our music jobs, and particularly the jobs from small live performance organizations. California Governor Gavin Newsom's May Budget Revision would eliminate $11.5 million in arts funding for the Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund (PAEPF), a program dedicated to funding arts workers in small nonprofit arts organizations, including theatres, orchestras and dance organizations. This program is designed to help small arts organizations thrive and grow by supporting their payroll costs, but the program can only be successful if it has funding. Actors' Equity has put out good information about the program. If you agree that it is important for our great state to support the development and future of small arts organizations — chamber music, orchestral, theater and more — please contact your representatives here.

All of these efforts demand teamwork, require that we speak with one voice and support our common goals. No lawmaker in Sacramento, Washington, D.C. or City Hall will respond to a fractured or internally divided group — we are not only stronger together, we are powerless apart.

We will also need teamwork to ensure the ongoing health of Local 47. As we face an unprecedented financial crisis, resulting from a combination of dramatic work losses and the overhead costs of our property in Burbank, we will all need to find ways to pull together. We all share a common stake in the survival and success of our Local. As your Officers we are struggling to create a plan for this year and beyond, one that necessitates austerity. Please plan on attending the July General Membership Meeting, where you can expect to vote on bylaw resolutions to raise revenue and cut costs. We are actively pursuing options for monetizing the space we have in our Burbank facility, preparing to offer either the second floor or potentially the whole facility for lease in an effort to offset the overhead costs of our building.

Be assured that your Officers are united in feeling your pain, and dedicated to creating a healthy pathway forward.

Secretary/Treasurer

Gail Kruvand

Supporting Our Members in the Aftermath of the January Wildfires

The concept of our union resonates uniquely with each member. For AFM Local 47, the American Federation of Musicians (AFM), and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, a core purpose remains steadfast: to provide support to our members, especially during times of profound hardship. The wildfires that ravaged our community this past January presented such a challenge, and our collective response underscores the strength and solidarity of our union family.

In the immediate aftermath of this devastating event, Local 47 transformed our longstanding Relief Fund, and the Wildfire Relief Fund directly assists members whose lives were upended by the fires. To date, this fund has provided crucial financial grants to over 60 of our colleagues. These individuals have faced the unimaginable loss of their homes or were displaced from homes deemed uninhabitable due to the extensive damage. Recognizing that the impact of such disasters can be far-reaching, I am committed to an ongoing effort to identify any member who may be eligible for this vital assistance as I update member accounts in our database.

We are intent on reaching all those within our Local 47 community who have been affected. Therefore, if you, a fellow musician, or a member of your family experienced loss or displacement due to the January wildfires, please visit our website, bit.ly/47firerelief, for a list of resources including the Local 47 Wildfire Relief application. Every application submitted is given careful consideration by our Relief Committee and subsequently recommended to our Executive Board for final approval.

Furthermore, our union's commitment to supporting members extends beyond the local level. The AFM also maintains an Emergency Relief Fund, offering additional financial assistance to those impacted by unforeseen crises. We strongly encourage members affected by the wildfires to explore this supplementary resource. Please see the application here. Applying for both the Local 47 and the AFM Emergency Relief Funds is a straightforward process, with each application requiring only a few moments of time. We believe that by providing these multiple layers of support, we can collectively help our members navigate the difficult path to recovery and rebuilding.

Finally, our LA County Office of Food Systems along with Labor Community Services, which is affiliated with the LA County Federation of Labor, have offered $500 grocery vouchers to those impacted by the 2025 fires. I forwarded this information to our Local 47 members wildfire relief recipients and am very happy to report that a large number of them will receive this support as well.

Here at Local 47, we have been able to provide this support to our members due to the generosity of musicians around the AFM. We have received individual contributions from Local 47 members as well as from members and supporters across the United States. Other AFM Locals have made contributions on behalf of their members as well. We are all grateful for this support and show of solidarity in the face of real hardship. One member who lost their home summed it up for me by saying that the wildfire has been "an exercise in gratitude as well as grief."

A Call to Unity and Action: Strengthening Our Local

Our industry is ever evolving and facing significant financial headwinds, impacting not only you but also the financial stability of our Local itself. It is during these times that the active participation of our membership becomes absolutely critical.

Therefore, we urge you to make every effort to attend our upcoming General Membership meeting, scheduled for July 28. Your participation is vital to the future well-being of our Local and our collective ability to navigate our local into the future. On the agenda will be several bylaw resolutions which will help us raise revenue to close our financial deficit and also encourage member retention.

By reading both the Overture and the Local 47 Beat, you stay informed with the issues that affect our Local and your professional lives. Your engagement, your voice, and your presence matter now more than ever as we work together to ensure a strong and sustainable future for all our members. We look forward to seeing you at the General Membership meeting on July 28!

DO WE HAVE ROYALTIES FOR YOU?

More than $750 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 International Neighboring Rights

Find Out If We Have Royalties For YOU

www.afmsagaftrafund.org

AFM & SAG·AFTRA
Intellectual Property Rights Distribution Fund

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

You Tube

Tolerance is a cornerstone of unity and a vital force within the labor movement, the music profession, and the LGBTQ+ community, especially in today's politically divided United States.

In the labor movement, tolerance allows workers of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and identities to unite around shared goals like fair wages, dignity, and workplace safety. Without it, solidarity fractures, and the collective power needed to fight injustice weakens.

In the musical profession, tolerance fosters creative freedom and cultural connection. Music transcends boundaries, and when artists respect and uplift different voices — including LGBTQ+ voices — it becomes a force for empathy and social change. Intolerant environments stifle expression and isolate those who don't conform to mainstream norms.

Within the LGBTQ+ community, tolerance is equally critical not just for external acceptance, but for internal solidarity across various gender identities, races, and experiences. At a time when LGBTQ+ rights are under attack in many parts of the United States, unity rooted in mutual respect is essential for resilience and progress.

Both music and the labor movement have historically played vital roles in advancing social progress, from civil rights to workers' rights, and in promoting LGBTQ+ advocacy. Maintaining a commitment to tolerance means valuing differences, resisting divisiveness, and recognizing our shared humanity. As the U.S. navigates this polarized era, tolerance within our communities isn't just a virtue; it's a necessity for progress, unity, and resilience.

Join us at PRIDE 2025 on Sunday, June 8!

See next page >>

The Entertainment Union Coalition

Join us at LA PRIDE 2025

Sunday, June 8

Join our Entertainment Union Coalition at this year's LA PRIDE PARADE in HOLLYWOOD!

Gathering Time: TBD | Parade Start Time: 11 a.m.

Parade Route: Start at Sunset Blvd and Highland Ave, proceed north to Hollywood Blvd, travel east & turn south at Cahuenga Blvd, end at Sunset Blvd

This year, we are marching to show our PRIDE and support of our LGBTQ+ community, and to raise awareness of our ongoing fight to protect and grow film and television jobs in our state through our Keep California Rolling campaign and the fight to expand and modernize our film and television jobs program. AFM will be marching alongside Teamsters, SAG-AFTRA, DGA, IATSE, WGA-W and more.

Please register below and we will share full event details as we get closer to the parade date:

Register Here

Sir Elton Hercules John, CBE, is one of the most highly acclaimed and successful solo artists of all time. As one of the first male pop stars to come out as gay, he blazed a trail for many queer recording artists around the world. Over the course of his career he has achieved two diamond, 43 platinum or multi-platinum, and 26 gold albums, over 70 Top 40 hits, and has sold more than 300 million records worldwide. He holds the record for the biggest-selling physical single of all time, "Candle in the Wind" released in 1997, which sold over 33 million copies. Since launching his first tour in 1970, he has over 4,600 performances in more than 80 countries to his credit.

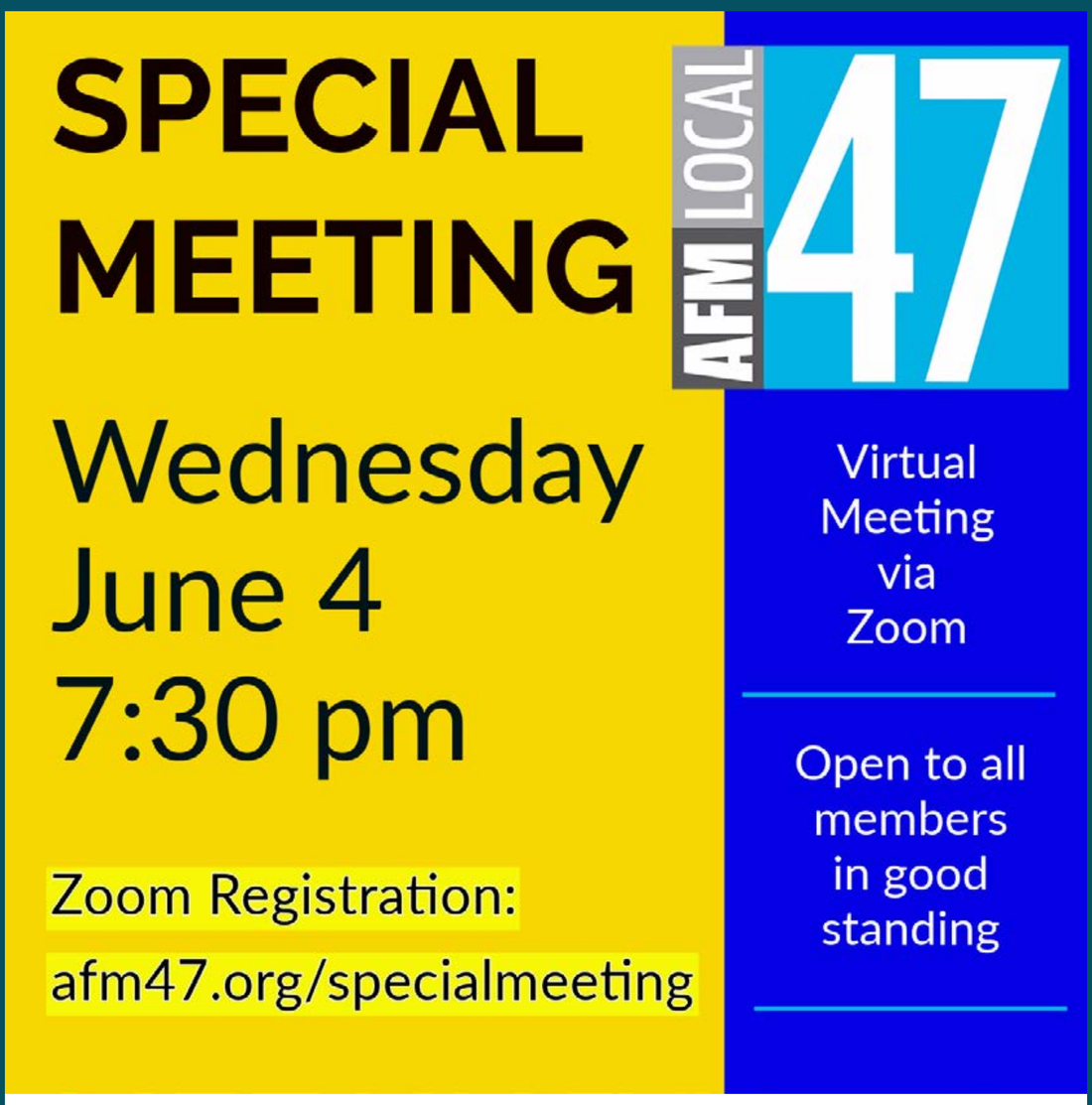
Elton John is the most successful solo male in the history of the American charts and the third most successful artist overall, behind only Madonna and the Beatles. He has logged 67 Hot 100 entries between 1970 and 2000, including nine No. 1s and 29 top 10s. He achieved seven #1 albums in the three-and-a-half-year period from 1972 to 1975 — a period of concentrated success surpassed only by the Beatles.

Born on March 25, 1947, in Pinner, Middlesex, England, and given the name Reginald Kenneth Dwight, at the age of 3 he astonished his family by sitting at the piano and playing The Skater's Waltz by ear. At age 11 he was awarded a scholarship as a Junior Exhibitor at the Royal Academy of Music and he attended the Academy on Saturday mornings for the next four years.

Besides his knighthood, Elton's landmark awards include Best British Male Artist BRIT Award, 1991; Songwriters Hall of Fame (with Bernie Taupin), 1992; Officer of Arts & Letters (France) 1993; induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, 1994; Polar Music Prize, 1995; MusiCares Person of the Year, 2000; Kennedy Center Honor, 2004; Billboard Magazine Legend of Live Award, 2006; Songwriters Hall of Fame Johnny Mercer Award (with Bernie Taupin), 2013; BRITs Icon Award, 2013; Rockefeller Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, 2013 and the Harvard School of Public Health AIDS Initiative Leadership Award, 2013. In 2002, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Royal Academy of Music and in 2004 he became a Fellow of the British Academy of Songwriters and Composers.

Elton has won 13 Ivor Novello Awards between 1973 and 2001, been nominated for a Grammy Award 11 times (winning in 1986, 1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000), and received the Grammy Legend Award in 2001. Three of his albums have been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame, including his 1970 eponymous album. Elton has 4 Oscar Award nominations (winning in 1995 and 2020), and a Tony Award (with 4 nominations) for Best Original Score for Elton John and Tim Rice's Aida in 2000.

In January 2024, Elton joined Hollywood's elite group of "EGOT" (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony) winners after securing his first Emmy Award, for his Disney+ live concert special "Elton John Live: Farewell from Dodger Stadium."



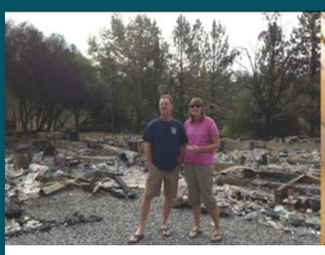
SPECIAL MEETING

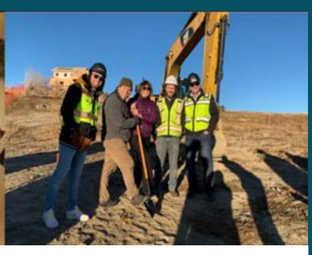
Wednesday, June 4, 2025 - 7:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Purpose: To discuss AFM Local 47's engagement in the Entertainment Union Coalition (EUC) and the Federation's strategy regarding advocacy for the inclusion of post-production scoring in the California Film and Television Tax Credit Program.

Open to all Local 47 members in good standing. Zoom registration is required. Please register ASAP — registration will close on the day of the Special Meeting at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Once your membership is verified by our staff, you will receive an email link with the virtual access code.

Click Here to Register





United Policyholders
Empowering the Insured

Options and Strategies for Replacing Your Wildfire Destroyed Home

A Roadmap to Recovery 'Survivors Speak' Webinar

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 - 5 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
RSVP Here

Tune in to this webinar on June 11, hosted and co-sponsored by United Policyholders, for a panel discussion with previous disaster survivors in California. They will be discussing tips on the processes and systems involved in planning for post-disaster recovery, rebuilding, selling and more. United Policyholders is a nonprofit that helps disaster survivors through the insurance claim and long-term recovery process.

This Zoom webinar is co-sponsored by a partnership of entertainment industry unions, guilds, associations and nonprofit service providers coordinated by the Entertainment Community Fund since the January fires in Los Angeles.

For those who can’t make this date, the Entertainment Community Fund will be posting the recording online after the 11, and many co-sponsor organizations may share it as well. Each of the sponsor organizations has a variety of resources, services and information to share. Please visit their websites for more information.

LOCAL 47 EVENTS CALENDAR

Special Meeting
Wednesday, June 4, 7:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Open to Local 47 members in good standing
Register at afm47.org/specialmeeting

LA PRIDE 2025
Sunday, June 8, 11 a.m. march (meetup time TBD)
Parade Route: Start at Sunset Blvd and Highland Ave, proceed north to Hollywood Blvd, travel east & turn south at Cahuenga Blvd, end at Sunset Blvd
Click here to register

Member Mingle
Friday, June 20, 11 a.m.
Local 47 Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place
Join us for coffee, bagels and conversation every third Friday of the month

Next General Membership Meeting
Monday, July 28, 7:30 p.m.
Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place
Open to Local 47 members in good standing

Executive Board Meetings
Tuesdays, 10 a.m. via Zoom
Members welcome as observers; all requests to speak must be received by 10 a.m. Monday morning
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 Google Calendar online @ afm47.org/calendar

Events

During Women's Appreciation Month, the Eclipse Quartet comprising AFM Local 47 members Sarah Thornblade (leader/violin), Sara Parkins (violin), Alma-Lisa Fernandez (viola) and Margaret Parkins (cello) performed an MPTF concert at LA Valley College on March 26.

MPf MUSIC PERFORMANCE FUND

Enriching lives through

Music

All MPTF concerts are presented free to the public. If you are interested in presenting a free concert in your community through MPTF, please visit afm47.org/mptf to learn more.

AFM Statement from International President Tino Gagliardi on Trump Attacking Members Bruce Springsteen and Taylor Swift

AFM International President Tino Gagliardi issued the following statement in response to Donald Trump's attacks on AFM Local 47 & Asbury Park, NJ Local 99 member Bruce Springsteen and Nashville Local 257 member Taylor Swift:

"The American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada will not remain silent as two of our members — Bruce Springsteen and Taylor Swift — are singled out and personally attacked by the President of the United States. Bruce Springsteen and Taylor Swift are not just brilliant musicians, they are role models and inspirations to millions of people in the United States and across the world. Whether it's 'Born in the USA' or the Eras Tour, their music is timeless, impactful, and has deep cultural meaning. Musicians have the right to freedom of expression, and we stand in solidarity with all our members."

The AFM's show of unity has sparked worldwide attention and has been reported on widely from various news outlets including Variety, Billboard, Rolling Stone, NME, and The Economic Times.

AFM LOCAL 47

American Federation of Musicians
Local 47

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Final Month!

New and returning members pay ZERO initiation fees through June 30, 2025 — a savings of $140!

Do you know a musician who should join the union? Now is the perfect time to become a member during our Spring Membership Drive! Help spread the word about the myriad benefits of being #UnionStrong.

AFM member benefits include:

- Wage protection
- Health insurance & pension
- Low-cost rehearsal rooms
- Instrument insurance
- Emergency travel assistance
- Musicians referral service
- Expert help from union staff
- A say & a vote in your union

Local & international contracts cover:

- Low-budget/student films
- Studio recordings
- Video games
- Live concerts
- Theatrical stage shows
- Motion pictures & television
- Commercials/jingles
- Demos

afm47.org/join

AFM LOCAL 47

Welcome New Members!

- Arisa Abe (aka Arisa Makita) - Euphonium
- Richard Cassarino - Acoustic Bass
- Adam Granduciel - Acoustic/Electric Guitar
- Erica Hou - Marimba/Percussion
- Pablo Hurtado Abaunza - Acoustic/Electric Guitar
- Julianna Kopp - Vocalist
- Daniel Lacerda (aka Daniel Figueiredo) - Acoustic/Electric Guitar
- Natanael Molina Rodriguez - Piano
- Alexandra Morris - Viola
- Logyn Musashi Okuda - Composer
- John Kent Rake - Proofreader/Copyist/Arranger/Orchestrator
- Wesley Snodgrass (aka Appertain) - Piano
- Andrew (Drew) Trismen - Bass Guitar
- Bronte Vlashi - Violin
- Philip Alexis Watt - Trumpet

Semi-Annual Membership Dues are Due July 1st

Attention all semi-annual dues payers: Please note that dues for the second half of 2025 are due July 1st. Don't delay — renew today!

Please note: We are now live with our new web payment system, Ensemble 2.0 (aka E2). If you have not yet logged in to your E2 account, click here to get started and to view a step-by-step visual tutorial on how make payments with the new online portal.

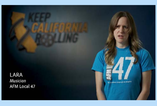
If you are already set up with E2, you may log in here.

For a visual step-by-step guide on how to make a Membership Dues payment, click here.

CALL TO ACTION: Entertainment Union Coalition

A Message from AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe

As musicians, we often wonder if people know and understand who we are and what we do. Just last week I received a voicemail from a close lifelong friend that reassured me of the power of our profession. Marcy had just attended the Tucson Symphony and experienced her first live-to-picture concert, The Force Awakens, and had this to share: "I pretty much was in tears. It's stupendous… It was one of the best things I've ever heard. I've never paid attention to the score like that… It's fantastic!"



"I strongly encourage all AFM members to take a moment to submit these letters to our legislators. This issue not only affects our jobs, it affects the health of our industry, our city and our state." - *RMALA President Lara Wickes*

We are in the most critical moment of our fight to expand and modernize our California film and television jobs program.

Simply put, we will need the voices of every single member, small business, family members, friends and colleagues to get this across the finish lines in the coming week. **The toughest part of this fight remains in front of us over the next two weeks.**

On May 23, our bills passed out of both the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees; that put us one step closer to floor votes. The additional $420 million in funding was stripped out, although it remains in Governor Newsom's proposed budget. This makes it imperative that the legislature keeps the $750 million funding in the budget, passes the program changes in our two bills, and does both by July 1.

The funding increase proposed by Governor Newsom is absolutely critical to implementing the carefully crafted programmatic changes in these bills that passed out of policy committees in both houses. Failure to pass one element without the other will not strengthen the program or keep production here. In fact, it will have the opposite effect, leading to further job loss and fewer productions in California.

We need your help.

We need to continue to ring the alarm to our elected officials to remind them that our California Film and Television Jobs program:

- Embodies the values of our state
- Is the only program in the world that allocates incentives solely based on which production creates the most jobs
- Is the only program that has a robust set safety framework in place to protect workers
- Is the only program that includes the requirement of private sector funding for expanding the pipeline for underrepresented communities to access these middle-class careers
- While we recognize this is a difficult budget year, our Industry program generates local and state tax revenue, supports employment, stimulates small business growth and attracts tourism to our great state
- When our Industry thrives, California thrives

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED RIGHT NOW:

1. WRITE A LETTER: We are re-launching our letter writing campaign to address the urgency of the moment and target Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, Senate Pro Tempore Mike McGuire, Senate Budget Chair Scott Wiener and Assembly Budget Chair Jesse Gabriel and your own representatives in the Senate and Assembly.

- We sent over 200,000 back in April and we will need to surpass this number as we approach the week of June 9 which will be our key target week
- If you already wrote a letter, WE NEED YOUR VOICE AGAIN
- Share on Social Media and with your friends, family members and colleagues. We will need everyone's voice in this fight. **Deadline to submit a letter for maximum impact is June 12**

2. SHARE KEEP CALIFORNIA ROLLING 'Reel Jobs Need Real Action' Video:

- We have just released our Keep California Rolling video highlighting member stories about what our California Film and Television Jobs Program means to our members, small businesses and our community

Submit Your Letter

KEEP CALIFORNIA ROLLING video
(RMALA President Lara Wickes @ 3:15 mark)

- Not only is the letter embedded in every single letter you send to your elected officials, help use this video to inspire others to support our industry

3. MARCH IN KEEP CALIFORNIA ROLLING AT LA PRIDE! on Sunday, June 8:

- We will be marching in the streets of Hollywood at the LA Pride Parade this year highlighting our fight

Share Our Video

to protect and grow film and television jobs and our Keep California Rolling fight

Now is not the time to be quiet about the importance of our California Film and Television Jobs Program and the dire state of Hollywood. We will need everyone's voice to successfully see program changes and additional funding take effect July 1, 2025.

We will continue to share updates throughout the next two weeks as we are in the most critical phase of

Register Here

our fight. ***We will be sharing more information and important actions as we understand more about the next steps in the process.***

AFM LOCAL 47 Action Alert

Help Improve & Expand LA's Rent Stabilization Ordinance

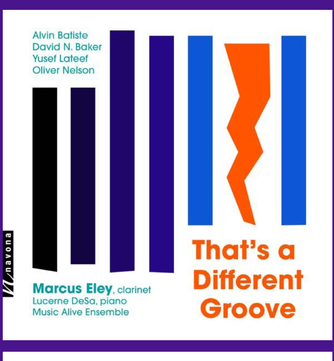
The Keep LA Housed Coalition — in conjunction with the LA County Fed, labor unions, renters groups and housing groups — is currently working on the **LA Rent Stabilization Ordinance (LARSO)** initiative to improve rules for renters in the city of Los Angeles.

The coalition is working with, and advocating for, low-income and vulnerable residents in L.A. who would be directly impacted by an update to LARSO, which is meant to provide for predictable, absorbable rent increases that allow landlords to receive a fair rate of return without fueling increased displacement and homelessness.

The coalition's urgent recommendation is for the city to update the current LARSO rent-increase formula to better protect tenants from displacement, balance the interests of landlords, and ensure the LARSO's intended purpose is achieved.

Get Involved!

We are seeking AFM Local 47 members who may be interested in getting involved. As we move forward with plans to meet with legislators and launch a public campaign, our coalition is seeking testimonials from the rank-and-file who are in support of the initiative. To learn more, please reach out to Communications Director Linda Rapka: linda.rapka@afm47.org, 323.993.3162



Marcus Eley:
'That's a Different Groove'

Writing about Marcus Eley's 2023 release "Perseverance," Gramophone magazine's Patrick Rucker made note of "the extraordinary beauty of … Eley's clarinet, velvety throughout all of its registers, not to mention its immense expressivity." Rucker's words apply equally well to the playing on "That's a Different Groove," the focus this time on clarinet works by Alvin Batiste, David N. Baker, Yusef Lateef, and Oliver Nelson. Eley's front and center throughout, with three of the pieces duets featuring him and pianist Lucerne DeSa, while Batiste's "Tune Suite No. 1" partners Eley with the Music Alive Ensemble and others. Without sacrificing their jazz character, the four works are transformed in being reimagined for a chamber music context, hence the album title.

Groove's the unifying principle, of course, but rhythm here doesn't mean straight-up shuffle or swing rhythms but more an omnipresent sense of animation, urgency, and thrust. Or to put it slightly differently, the performances aren't static, even during those moments when they venture into adagio-like realms. Many of the reinventions are fascinating too, Lateef's reimagining of Brahms a case in point. To be precise, they're not jazz clarinet settings, though they are genre-crossing pieces for clarinet tinged with jazz feeling. As a clarinetist who graduated from the Indiana University School of Music, studied at Vienna's *Hochschule fuer Musik und darstellende Kunst*, and has appeared as a soloist with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, and other ensembles, Eley certainly has the skills for the job.

The subtitle of Batiste's 2000 "Tune Suite No. 1," "Swing in the Abstract," could stand for the title of the album in general. In time-honored jazz tradition, the single-movement piece features the clarinet as both as a frontliner and as a partner engaging in call-and-response with Music Alive Ensemble's four strings. Batiste was sometimes called a "New Orleans clarinetist," and true to form traces of New Orleans and blues traditions emerge within this engaging classical-chamber setting. The inclusion of piano, bass, and drums in the arrangement adds significantly to the swing feel of the performance, and, truth be told, as prominently featured as Eley is in the performance, the fact that others figure as prominently makes "Tune Suite" more akin to a full-ensemble presentation than one pairing a soloist with supporting players.

Like Batiste's, Baker's 1986 "Sonata for Clarinet and Piano" draws from jazz and blues traditions, directly so in the opening "Blues" movement. Interestingly, Baker personifies the multiple genre bases covered by Eley's release in having been a Distinguished Professor of Music and Chairman of the Jazz Department at the Indiana University School of Music (he was also honored three times by DownBeat and received in 2007 the Living Jazz Legend Award from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts). Partnering with DeSa, Eley takes the lead forcefully on "Blues" and never relinquishes it thereafter — even if the pianist is a vital presence too. It's easy to find one's attention pulled away from the clarinet, for example, when DeSa delivers boogie-woogie and blues licks. The eloquent central movement, "Loneliness," exudes all the sadness and solemnity one would expect (it also includes, however, impressively virtuosic runs by both players), while the vivacious "Dance" lives up to its title with calypso and Afro-Cuban moves and, again, dynamic performances from both players.

A name long familiar to jazz fans, Lateef developed proficiency on multiple instruments, from alto and tenor saxophones to flute, wind, string, and percussion instruments. He also acquired degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and in 2010 was awarded the Lifetime Jazz Master Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. In his 1998 four-part "Sonata for Clarinet and Piano," Lateef re-imagines Brahms' "Clarinet Sonata Opus 120 No. 2" in strikingly original fashion. Hewing to classical form, the opening "Allegro Appassionato" paints with darker colours as Eley engages in conversational to-and-fro with DeSa. That sombre tone carries over into the "Andante un poco Adagio" before the "Allegretto Grazioso" and "Vivace" movements inject the mercurial work with livelier, at times dance-related gestures.

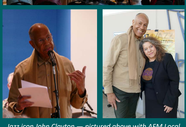
While Nelson distinguished himself as an accomplished saxophonist and studied composition and theory at Washington University in St. Louis, he also, interestingly, studied piano, taxidermy, dermatology, and mortuary science and later wrote music for film and television projects in Los Angeles. Appearing here in a clarinet arrangement by Eley, Nelson's three-part setting 1957 "Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano" begins with a "Drammatico" movement that is undeniably dramatic in its theme and testimonies by Eley and DeSa but also affectingly lyrical. That elegiac character permeates the stately "Largo" that follows, its clarinet song rather Copland-esque in its quiet majesty. That Nelson would conclude the work with a spirited movement, aptly titled "With Vigor," doesn't come as a complete surprise. The momentum generated by the movement's energized swing also neatly dovetails with the album theme.

As is always the case with projects such as these, the results flatter the performers as much as the composers. Eley's enthusiasm for the material comes through at every moment, which does much to make "That's a Different Groove" establish the strong impression it does and maintain its hold on the listener from start to finish.

- Originally published by Textura.org

3rd Annual AFM LOCAL 47 JAZZ FESTIVAL

3rd Annual AFM Local 47 Jazz Festival Photo Gallery



Jazz icon John Clayton — pictured above with AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe — kicked off our 3rd Annual Jazz Festival, which honored Live Members, with a moving speech. Listen to it here.

Left: Secretary/Treasurer Gail Kruvand and Vice President Marc Sazer enjoying day 1 of the weekend concert series. Right: Music Performance Trust Fund Administrator Diane Louerman with her jazz-loving granddaughter.

Eric Eckstrand Ensemble

Hard Bop Ensemble

Bonnie Janofsky Sextet

Tony Jones Vocal Project

Jennifer Leitham Trio

Six Beats Apart

Winona Wyz Guyz

The Witham Section

If you have additional photos to share from our 3rd Annual Jazz Festival, please email: overture@afm47.org

Musicians and Animators Join Together to Help 'Stamp Out Hunger'

Members of AFM Local 47 and The Animation Guild (TAG) IATSE 839 spent a busy Saturday afternoon volunteering at the Glassell Station post office on May 10 as part of the National Association of Letter Carriers' 2025 food drive.

Held nationwide each year in collaboration with the USPS, Labor Community Services and United Way and the AFL-CIO, the drive has delivered more than 1.82 billion pounds of food over the past 30 years. This year's food drive alone collected over 1 million pounds of food for those in need.

Thank you to all of our volunteers — AFM Local 47 members Eric Eckstrand, Geoff Ziegler, VP Marc Sazer, S/T Gail Kruvand, Communications Director Linda Rapka (team captain); Animation Guild members Mark Estrada, Ysty Veluz, Mike Wodkowski and Bridget Ore; and community volunteer Lucius Gallo — and to everyone who donated to help #StampOutHunger!

Stay tuned to more volunteering opportunities — including to help sort all the food collected on May 10 at the sorting warehouse in Bell — and action alerts from AFM Local 47:

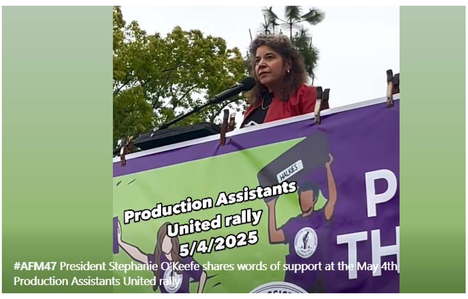
Sign Up for AFM 47 Action Alerts

Photo by Linda A. Rapka

Production Assistants Rally to Unionize with LiUNA

AFM Local 47 musicians rallied in solidarity with Production Assistants on May 4th (aka "Star Wars Day") in their fight to unionize.

Held at IATSE Local 80 in Burbank, AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe served as a guest speaker. Also in attendance from Local 47 were Vice President Marc Sazer and Secretary/Treasurer Gail Kruvand, Honorary Member Lewis Levy, and Communications Director Linda Rapka.



In honor of it being "Star Wars Day," O'Keefe closed out her speech with a special surprise tribute, to the delight of the crowd. (Watch the video clip here, and the full speech here.)

AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe, LA County Fed Press Secretary Kristal Romero, LA County Fed President Yvonne Wheeler, and Sen. Maria Elena Durazo

Additional speakers State Senator and longtime union activist Maria Elena Durazo, California Federation of Labor President Lorena Gonzalez, LA County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler, Teamsters International VP and Local 399 Secretary/Treasurer Lindsay Dougherty, IATSE International Vice President Thom Davis, DGA Assistant Executive Director Faith Santilla, LiUNA Local 724 Business Manager Alex Aguilar, and several PAU organizers and activists.

Left: AFM Local 47 Secretary/Treasurer Gail Kruvand and Vice President Marc Sazer. Right: A cross-section of entertainment labor union members and leaders.

PAU is a national fight for production assistance to sign a contract with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers so they can win higher wages, healthcare, and dignity. Learn more and show your support here.

Photo courtesy LA County Fed

LA City Council Passes Highest Wage in Nation for Tourism Workers of $30/Hour by 2028

Hundreds of airport workers and allies packed the L.A. City Council chambers for the final vote on modernizing the Living Wage Ordinance. The new law, dubbed the Olympic Wage, was passed and is now the highest minimum wage in the United States. It will raise the wages of workers in airports and hotels in the city of Los Angeles to $30 by the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. L.A. Mayor Karen Bass is expected to sign the law, which would go into effect on July 1.

Tourism Workers Rising, composed of SEIU-United Service Workers West (SEIU-USWW), UNITE HERE Local 11, LAANE, CLUE, and others, along with the L.A. County Labor Fed, has advocated for this law since eight City Councilmembers signed on to its introduction on April 12, 2023. The significant victory marks the first concrete win for Los Angeles working families ahead of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

“This is a victory not just for tourism workers, but all workers in L.A.,” said Yvonne Wheeler, president of the L.A. County Federation of Labor. This was a true labor of love, and the results will improve the lives of the workers that make up the backbone of our tourism industry — a rising tide lifts all boats.”

“Simply put, this policy will change the lives of the essential workers who make LAX function and will make mega-events like the World Cup, the Super Bowl, and the Olympics possible," said David Huerta, president of SEIU-USWW. "This fight was for a living wage and access to quality affordable healthcare just as much as it was a fight for justice. Today, the L.A. City Council sent a loud message that L.A. will invest in workers so they and their families can live where they work, just like they’re investing in infrastructure ahead of welcoming millions of visitors.”

“I work for Flying Food Group, an in-flight catering company that packages and prepares meals for international flights out of LAX, making $20.73. This wage increase will change the life of my daughter and me," said Sonia Ceron, dishwasher at Flying Food Group. "As a single mother, I will no longer be forced to choose between paying the bills and buying her healthy food. I’ll be able to save for college. This Olympic wage will be good for working families like mine, the city, and our overall economy."

“This is what it looks like when working people come together and fight – we win,” said Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martínez. “For too long, the workers who run this city have been treated as disposable. This ordinance makes it clear that if you work in this city, you deserve to live in this city — with dignity, health care, and a living wage.”

UNION

BENEFITS CORNER

AFM LOCAL 47

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Exclusive Hearing Care Savings

The Union Plus Hearing program offers exclusive savings on hearing care including virtual screenings, a free hearing exam and an average of 66% off retail on trusted hearing aid brands*.

Your union family savings and discounts include:

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- Multiple brand names, state-of-the-art hearing aids — deeply discounted to as low as $695 each

Plus, your aftercare support also includes a 60-day risk-free trial[1], a three-year warranty (including loss and damage)[2], and a two-year battery supply or a free charging station[3] (depending on type of hearing aid purchased).

For more information, click here or call (877)583-7071.

* Based on internal 2022 MSRP analysis. Your savings may vary.
1 100% money-back guarantee if not completely satisfied, no return or restocking fees.
2 Exclusions and limitations may apply. Contact Amplifon 877-583-7071 for details.
3 Two-year supply of batteries (80 cells/ear/year) or one standard charger at no additional cost.

Final Notes

In Memoriam

Jack E. Carraher (aka Jay Silver)
Life Member. Piano
6/14/1943 – 4/11/2025
Member since: 6/1/1966

Don J. Simpson
Life Member. String Bass
7/8/1925 – 4/15/2025
Member since: 12/15/1954

George W. Wattles
Life Member. Vibraphone
1/22/1935 – 11/12/2024
Member since: 1/16/1957

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

Roberto Cani

Member. Violin

10/17/1967 – 4/9/2025

World-Renowned Violinist and Artist

Roberto Cani, an internationally acclaimed violinist whose artistry and dedication to music inspired audiences across the globe, passed away on April 9, 2025. Known for his extraordinary talent and devotion to the violin, Roberto leaves behind a legacy of beautiful artistry and a deep passion for music.

Roberto began studying the violin at the age of seven and built a career that took him to concert halls around the world, gaining recognition for his expressive playing, velvety sound, and remarkable virtuosity. Earlier in his career, he performed with the La Scala Orchestra under the baton of Riccardo Muti and worked with maestro Daniele Gatti, among many other significant engagements. As a soloist, he appeared with major orchestras such as the Moscow Philharmonic, the RAI Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana, and the Belgrade Philharmonic, earning acclaim for his elegant tone, technical mastery, and emotional depth. His performances were featured on international television and radio.

In 2011, Roberto became the Concertmaster of the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, where he collaborated with renowned artists, including James Conlon, Plácido Domingo, Ana María Martínez, and Gustavo Dudamel.

Roberto was also passionate about chamber music and performed with artists such as Lynn Harrell, Jeffrey Swann, and Jason Vieaux. He participated in numerous summer music festivals and masterclasses worldwide, including the summer Music Festival in Cremona, where he taught for almost a decade.

Roberto was a prizewinner in numerous prestigious competitions, such as the Paganini International Competition, the Courcillon International Competition, and the Jeunesses Musicales International Competition. He also received honors at the Tchaikovsky Competition, further establishing his place among the world's leading violinists.

What set Roberto apart was not only his beautiful artistry but the deep, genuine connection he had with music. The violin was more than his instrument — it was his voice, his calling, and the center of his life. He possessed extraordinary knowledge of the history and craftsmanship of violin and bow making, and he brought his passion for violin – and music in general — to every part of his work.

Roberto Cani will be remembered as a brilliant musician and a kind, caring, and radiantly optimistic person. His love for music will continue to resonate in the hearts of those who knew him, worked with him, and were moved by his performances.

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 (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.

THE SANTA BARBARA
SYMPHONY
Nir Kabaretti, Music & Artistic Director

SECTION VIOLIN
(3 POSITIONS)

SECTION VIOLA
(2 POSITIONS)

SEPTEMBER 2 – 4, 2025

Application Deadline:
July 22, 2025
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.

Auditions

Auditions for the LAYO 2025/26 season will be held on August 16-17

- Concerts at Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, Barnum Hall in Santa Monica, and **Carnegie Hall in New York**!
- Auditions are open to students age 8 - 18 and will take place at the First Presbyterian Church in Encino
- LAYO students are required to also study with a private teacher and to have had at least two years of private instruction
- LAYO rehearses at the Encino Community Center on Sunday afternoons from 1:30pm to 5:00pm
- Study classical and contemporary masterworks with award-winning composer and conductor Russell Steinberg
- Work with professional coaches in weekly sectional rehearsals

Visit our website for more information at www.losangelesyouthorchestra.org

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