

Overture

e-magazine



CA STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR PROP 50 - November 4
AFM LOCAL 47 TRIENNIAL GENERAL ELECTION - December 9

***Results of Voting at October 27
General Membership Meeting***

***Local 47 2025 General Election:
How to Cast Your Ballot***

Overture

e-magazine

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American Federation of Musicians Local 47 -

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For exclusive members-only content — Executive Board minutes, CBAs, Local 47 Wage Scales, Bylaws, Suspended/Expelled member lists, and more — log in to your member account at ensemble.afm47.org and click the "More Members-Only Documents" dropdown ribbon on the Documents page.

AFM Local 47 members may also customize your communications preferences, including Overture Online email notifications, in your online user profile.

(If you have not yet used our new system, please visit afm47.org/e2 for information on how to log in.)

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Salary Review Board

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Clifford Tasner

Wage Scale Committee

John Acosta, Pam Gates,
Bonnie Janofsky



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Emeritus Serena Kay Williams**

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

  **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



**VOTE VOTE
VOTE VOTE
VOTE VOTE
VOTE VOTE**



**CA STATEWIDE SPECIAL
ELECTION FOR PROP 50
Tuesday, November 4**

**YES ON
PROP 50**



The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO strongly support a "Yes" vote on Proposition 50, scheduled for a statewide special election on November 4.

Also known as the "Election Rigging Response Act," Prop 50 aims to counter the redistricting efforts by states like Texas by temporarily changing California's congressional districts through 2030 in response to congressional redistricting moves in other states.

[Find Your Polling Place](#)

VOTE!

**Local 47
General
Election**

**Tues
DEC 9
2025**

**POLLS OPEN 9AM – 9PM
3220 WINONA AVE
BURBANK CA 91504**

The next Triennial General Election for the AFM Local 47 Executive Board, Hearing Board, and AFM Convention Delegates takes place on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

Members: Watch for the Election Special Edition of Overture arriving in your mailboxes this month containing Candidate Statements and more election news. The Special Edition is also available as a pdf in the Members Section of the Local 47 website at ensemble.afm47.org (select "Documents" and click the "Overture - News Headlines & Feature Articles" dropdown ribbon).

See more important Local 47 election news on [pages 9 & 10](#) of this issue.



Non-Union Engagement Alert

**Sigur Rós with Wordless Music
Orchestra**

November 19, 20 & 21

Orpheum Theatre, Los Angeles

PLEASE NOTE that as of this writing, there
is **no AFM contract** to cover these
engagements.

Member Spotlight



Venezuelan-born drummer, percussionist, music producer, educator, and multiple Latin-Grammy Award nominee Euro Zambrano began his musical journey at the age of 6 when he started playing Afro-Caribbean percussion instruments. By 8, he had launched his professional career, performing with local groups in his hometown of Venezuela. A few years later, he was already collaborating with international artists.



Euro (center) with LA Philharmonic Music and Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel (left) and legendary jazz trumpeter and pianist, Local 47 member Arturo Sandoval (right).

Since 2017, he has been a member of the legendary Stevie Wonder's band and is currently on tour with Chaka Khan. In 2023, Euro became a full-time faculty member and Music Production Director at Los Angeles City College. He has recorded on numerous music productions and served as music director, drummer, and/or percussionist for concerts and recording sessions with some of the world's most renowned artists such as Stevie Wonder, Chaka Khan, Celia Cruz, Cheo Feliciano, "El Puma" José Luis Rodríguez, and Franco de Vita, among many others.

Euro has also performed on prestigious TV shows, at international festivals, and at award ceremonies, including the Latin Grammy Awards, "The Real" talk show, the Latin American Music Awards, *Balón de Oro* Awards, Spotify Live Sessions, and the Global Citizens Festival.

In 2013, Euro was awarded a full scholarship to earn his Master's Degree in Music Production from Shepherd University in Los Angeles, California. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Composition from Ars Nova School of Music. With over 20 years of experience in education, Euro has been a faculty member at California State University, Los Angeles, and Shepherd University. He has given masterclasses, clinics, and workshops across North and South America and has been an exhibitor for various musical instruments at the NAMM Show in Anaheim since 2010.



From left: Euro with fellow Local 47 members, percussionist Alex Acuña and famed composer Michael Giacchino.

Recent projects include recording sessions for the "Zootopia 2" soundtrack (to be released November 26), scored by famed composer Michael Giacchino, serving as music director and percussionist for Oscar Dudamel's Orchestra at the "Gracias Gustavo" gala on October 14 honoring Maestro Gustavo Dudamel at Walt Disney Concert Hall, drumming for the Music for Medicine concert alongside Maestros Gustavo Dudamel and Arturo Sandoval, presenting the Art of Groove masterclass at Los Angeles City College's Herb Alpert Music Center on October 22, participating in LACC's Hispanic Heritage Month music video production and release, playing the [Tiny Desk Concert with Chaka Khan](#) in 2024, and performing at Chaka Khan's [Quincy Jones Tribute](#) at the Montreux Jazz Festival this past fourth of July.

"I have a profound respect for the Union's work because I've seen firsthand the support, connections, and sense of community it builds among musicians," Euro said. "It feels great to focus on the music knowing that the Union ensures fair treatment and safe workplaces for all of us."



[Click here](#) to watch Euro performing with Stevie Wonder at the Global Citizen Festival in NYC, 2017.

Visit Euro online at eurozambrano.com.

SRLA

SOUND RECORDING
LABOR AGREEMENT

I want to fill out my
bargaining survey
alongside other
members

I have a question
about the SRLA

I work under the SRLA,
but I don't know where
to start when it comes
to identifying issues
and priorities

I want to talk to an
organizer about the
contract campaign

I don't know
what the AFM
does for me

SRLA OFFICE HOURS

FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS 2-4 ET

ZOOM LINK linktr.ee/soundrecordingafm

ONGOING THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS

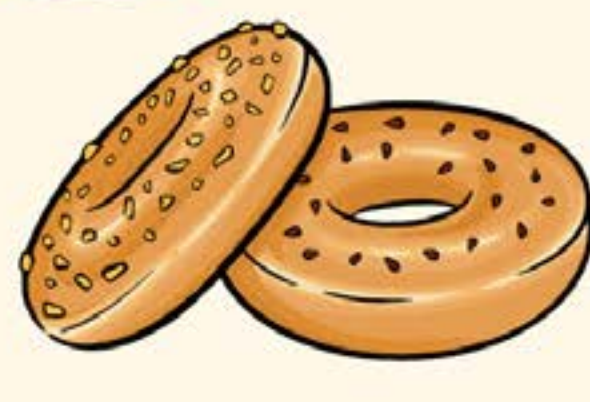


AFM LOCAL

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

LOCAL 47 EVENTS CALENDAR



Holiday Office Closures

Tuesday, November 11 - Veterans Day

Thursday, November 27 - Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 28 - Day After Thanksgiving

Member Mingle

Friday, November 21, 11 a.m.

Local 47 Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place

Join us for coffee, bagels and conversation

every third Friday of the month

AFM Local 47 2025 Triennial

General Election

Tuesday, December 9

Polls open 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

afm47.org/election

Inaugural Meeting

Monday, January 12, 7:30 p.m.

Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place & Zoom

Open to Local 47 members in good standing

Musicians' Club Annual Meeting to immediately follow

More info: afm47.org/gmm

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

AFM LOCAL 47

2025 TRIENNIAL GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY
DEC 9

Casting Votes

Members in good standing may vote on-site Tuesday, December 9, 2025 or by absentee mail-in ballot. Each member in good standing may cast votes for as many candidates in each category as there are positions to be filled. The member may choose to cast votes for fewer candidates than there are positions to be filled, but not for more, and should more than the allowed number of votes be marked for any category, that portion of the ballot shall be deemed invalid.

On-Site Voting

On Election Day — Tuesday, December 9, 2025 — Local 47 headquarters will be open for members in good standing to cast their ballot between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. at 3220 Winona Ave., Burbank CA 91504. Please be advised that the wearing of campaign buttons, stickers or other campaign apparel; the distribution of campaign literature; conversations/discussions about candidates or an election campaign; and electioneering are NOT permitted on-site at Local 47 at any time.

Vote By Mail Absentee Voting

Instead of going to the polls on Election Day, you may vote using the vote-by-mail absentee ballot. Any member may request an absentee ballot by submitting the official request form below to the California Elections Company via mail, email, or fax.

American Federation of Musicians Local 47
TRIENNIAL GENERAL ELECTION — Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Request for VOTE BY MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT

Your VOTE BY MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT request will only be honored by completing and sending this request form to the California Elections Company by way of postal mail, email, or fax.

MAIL TO:

AFM Local 47 c/o California Elections Company

P.O. Box 302021

Escondido, CA 92030-2021

EMAIL TO: lori@eddvote.com

FAX TO: (760) 749-1398

Please send me a VOTE BY MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT at the address below:
(Please print legibly) ☐ Check this box if sending to a temporary address

FULL NAME (FIRST AND LAST) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ APT _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I understand that my vote will not count unless I am a member in good standing by the close of business on Monday, December 8, 2025 (Article IX, Section 10).

LAST 4 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY # OR SIX-DIGIT LOCAL 47 MEMBER ID # _____

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE NOTE: VOTE BY MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOTS received after 9 a.m. on election day (December 9, 2025) or cast in violation of instructions in accordance with Local 47 Bylaws shall be null and void per Article IX, Section 11.

[Click Here to Download Form](#)

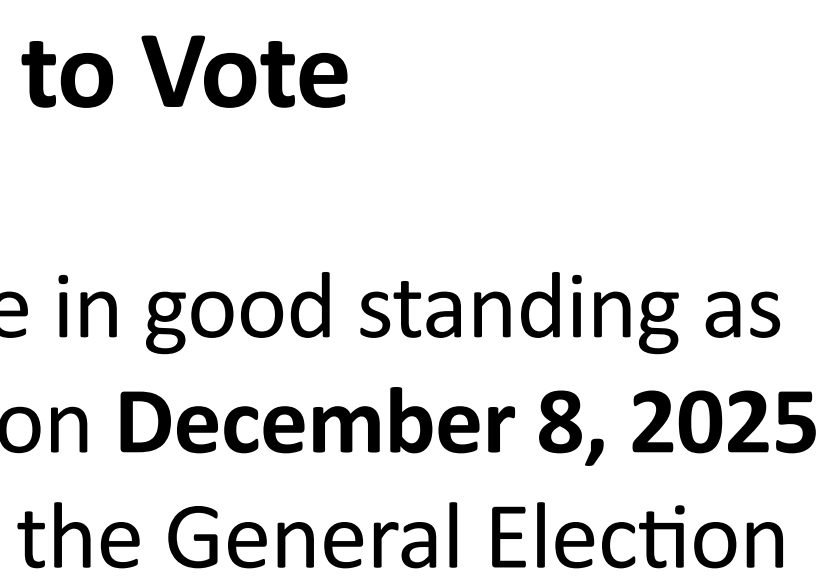
After you receive your absentee ballot and have completed it, return your vote-by-mail absentee ballot ASAP by mailing it in the return envelope provided (DO NOT SEND TO AFM LOCAL 47; the Local is not permitted to accept, forward, or otherwise handle any ballots). When your vote-by-mail absentee ballot is received by the Post Office, it will remain in the P.O. Box until the Election Day when it is picked up by the election board and election company at 9 a.m. To preserve the secrecy of your ballot, the election company shall verify the absentee ballot and place it in a sealed ballot box to be counted with the other ballots cast.

Once the request form is received by the California Elections Company, absentee ballots will be mailed to members beginning October 22, 2025. After this date, if you do not receive your voting packet within 10 days of your request, please contact the Election Board.

Vote-by-mail absentee ballots received at the post office after 9 a.m. on the Election Day or cast in violation of instructions in accordance with Local 47 Bylaws shall be null and void.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

IN THE 2025
LOCAL 47
ELECTION?



Policy Governing Eligibility to Vote

1. All Local 47 members who are in good standing as of 4:45 p.m. (close of business) on **December 8, 2025** — the last business day prior to the General Election — are eligible to cast a ballot. However, members are encouraged to be in good standing well in advance of this deadline.

2. Any Local 47 member who has been suspended or expelled for the non-payment of dues, or wishing to reinstate within one year of resignation, shall have until 4:45 p.m. on **December 8, 2025** by which to clear the delinquency and return to full good-standing status in order to be eligible to cast a ballot.

3. New members, or those rejoining after having resigned or been expelled more than one year ago, must complete and submit a membership application and membership dues payment no later than **December 1, 2025** by 4:45 p.m., so that their membership may be approved at the Local 47 Executive Board meeting the Tuesday prior to the General Election. All applicable fees apply. (Note: The Local reserves the right to refer applications of all persons seeking reinstatement from resignation to the International Executive Board per Article 9, Section 19 of the Federation's Bylaws.)

4. Life Members in good standing may vote in the Local 47 General Election. Inactive Life Members, who pay a reduced membership fee, are not eligible to vote per Local 47 Bylaws. Inactive Life Members wishing to vote may do so by changing their membership status to Life Member by contacting the Membership Department at 323.993.3116 and completing the process by 4:45 p.m. on **December 8, 2025**. All applicable fees apply.

Delinquent Work Dues

In order to ensure your eligibility to vote, please be sure your membership is in good standing well in advance of payment due dates! Members with Work Dues delinquencies in excess of \$500 have 30 days following the date of the Executive Board meeting at which hearing action is taken to avoid suspension. Dues may be paid online at afm47.org/dues or by calling 323.993.3116.

2025 AFM Local 47 Triennial General Election

PROHIBITED CAMPAIGNING REMINDERS



The use of Local 47 resources, or the resources of ANY other union or employer — whether hiring musicians or not — by any candidate or member, for the purpose of campaigning for or against any candidate for office in the Local 47 election, is prohibited by the Local's Bylaws and is also a violation of Federal Law.

This prohibition includes the use of facilities, equipment or property (including telephones, stamps and stamp machines, computers, copying machines, and any other equipment or materials), official endorsements, use of union logos and/or letterhead, and any campaign activity done on paid time.

Additionally, members are prohibited from campaigning at any time while on Local 47's premises.

Questions?

Should you have any questions about the election please see afm47.org/election or contact a member of the Election Board. Only members of the Election Board — no Local 47 officers or staff members — are authorized to answer any questions concerning the election.

Local 47 Election Board:

Paul Castillo (Chair): pcklar@earthlink.net

Helen Crosby: midlfdl@earthlink.net

Gerardo Guzman: dj@camusicgroup.com

Kris Mettala: krmettala@yahoo.com

Nancy Roth: concertnancer@yahoo.com

Clifford Tasner: taztunes@adelphia.net

Marcy Vaj: marcy.vaj@gmail.com

For more election information, please visit afm47.org/election.



Congratulations, 50-year pin recipients!

Life Members David Wheatley (pianist/composer), Eric Ekstrand (pianist/vocalist) and Douglas Masek (alto/tenor saxophonist) were recognized at our October 27 General Membership Meeting for the achievement of holding 50 continuous years of proud union membership with AFM Local 47. Congratulations to you all!

Results of Voting at October 27 General Membership Meeting

At our October 27, 2025 General Membership Meeting, members voted to fill a vacancy on the Salary Review Board and on 3 Resolutions to amend the bylaws. The results of voting are as follows:

**Special Election to Fill Vacancy
on Salary Review Board**

Paul Sternhagen: 44
Luanne Homzy: 17

Resolution 1: Proposed Salary Reductions

Yes: 19
No: 40
Resolution not adopted

Resolution 2: Organizing

Yes: 42
No: 10
Resolution adopted, as amended

**Resolution 3: Electronic Membership Meetings
and Voting**

Yes: 47
No: 3
Resolution adopted

An updated set of the Local 47 Bylaws reflecting these amendments may be found in the members-only section of the Local 47 website, ensemble.afm47.org (click the “Documents” button). *(If you have not yet logged into our new system, please visit afm47.org/e2/account for instructions.)*

AFM LOCAL

47

Welcome New Members!

- Roger Abas - Tenor Trombone
- Brad Bietry - Piano, Keyboards
- Jackie Burrell - Trombone
- Brett Clark - Tuba
- James Holcomb - Baritone Saxophone, Bass Guitar
- Jennifer Kennedy - Flute, Piccolo
- Nicholas Connolly Lampert - Viola
- Jonathan Lin - Cello
- Nia McQuarters - Viola
- Alison J. Mills - Violin
- Matthew Steven Molaro - Keyboard, Composer
- Gina Romantini - Violin
- Robert Wallace - Piano

LOCAL 47 REHEARSAL ROOMS

AFM LOCAL
47



NEW BACKLINE AVAILABLE

COURTESY OF OUR FRIENDS AT CENTERSTAGING



AFM Local 47 would like to thank our neighbor [CenterStaging](#) for generously donating four bass amps to our rehearsal room backline. A bass amp stack — from brands like Gallien Krueger, SWR, and TC Electronics — will now be stationed in Rooms 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

A huge THANK YOU to CenterStaging and coordinator Ryan Smith for helping our musicians rock on!

To book a room, visit afm47.org/rehearsals.

Membership Dues Increase for 2026

As approved by the membership at our July 2025 General Membership Meeting, annual and semi-annual membership dues will increase in the New Year:

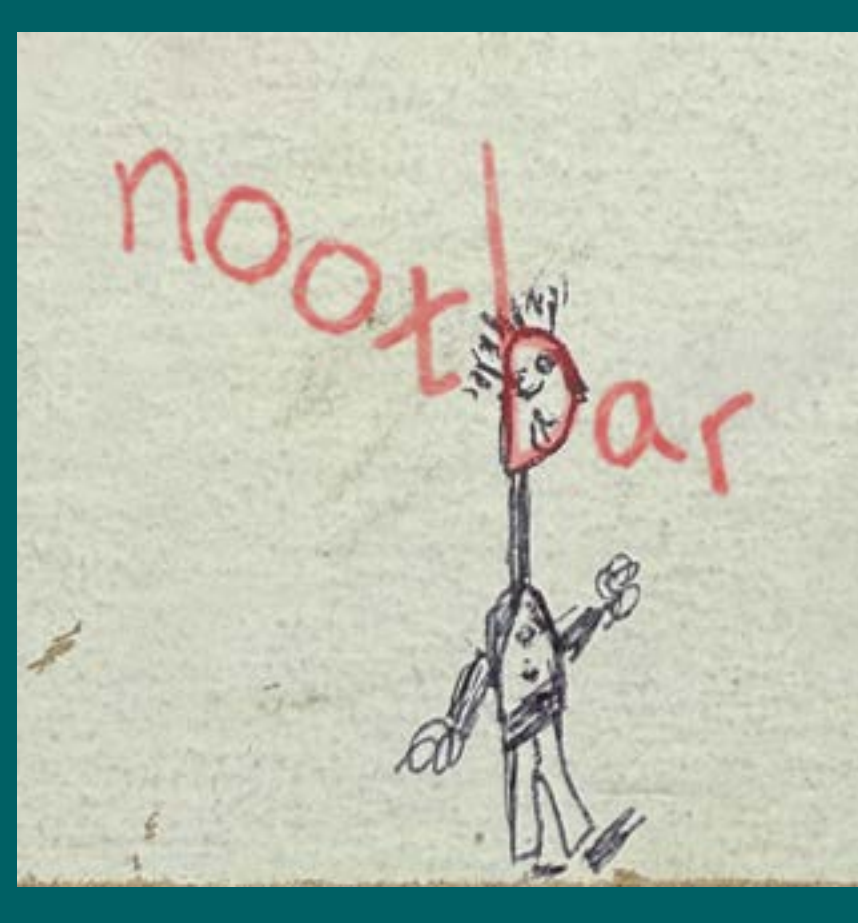
Regular Member Annual Dues
\$220 due January 1

Regular Member Semi-Annual Dues
\$115 due January 1 & July 1

Life Member Annual Dues
\$115 due January 1

Inactive Life Member Annual Dues
\$95 due January 1

Reinstatement fees for suspensions and expulsions have been reduced to \$25, down from \$75.



Photos courtesy of Nathaniel Blume

Healing Through Music

Nathaniel Blume releases a heartfelt tribute to his father's memory with 'nootbar' EP

Composer Nathaniel Blume recently completed a recording session for his EP, "nootbar," featuring a 33-piece string ensemble of AFM Local 47 members at the historic Warner Bros. Eastwood Scoring Stage. The session took place on July 20, under an AFM Limited Pressing Agreement, ensuring that union musicians were central to the project's creative realization.

"nootbar," released on October 24, is a deeply personal work inspired by Blume's late father and the emotional landscape surrounding his struggle with dementia. The album explores themes of memory, loss, and connection through an eclectic blend of styles — from cinematic orchestration to intimate singer-songwriter storytelling.

The live string session brought new depth to the project, with AFM musicians contributing warmth, nuance, and precision to the album's sound. "There's something irreplaceable about the human energy that comes from recording live musicians," Blume said. "I'll especially never forget a brainstorming session with the principals in the middle of recording the final track. Following that discussion, the musicians implemented input from the principals and captured some truly special takes that elevated the album."



In the booth during the "nootbar" recording session at the historic Warner Bros. Eastwood Scoring Stage on July 20, 2025, pictured from left: Local 47 member/orchestrator Daniel James Chan, mixer Jason LaRocca, composer Blake Neely, and Local 47 member/composer Nathaniel Blume.

In addition to the album, Blume has been sharing a behind-the-scenes look at the making of nootbar through a YouTube series and accompanying TikTok shorts, highlighting various stages of the creative and recording process. [Check out these stories on his YouTube channel here.](#)

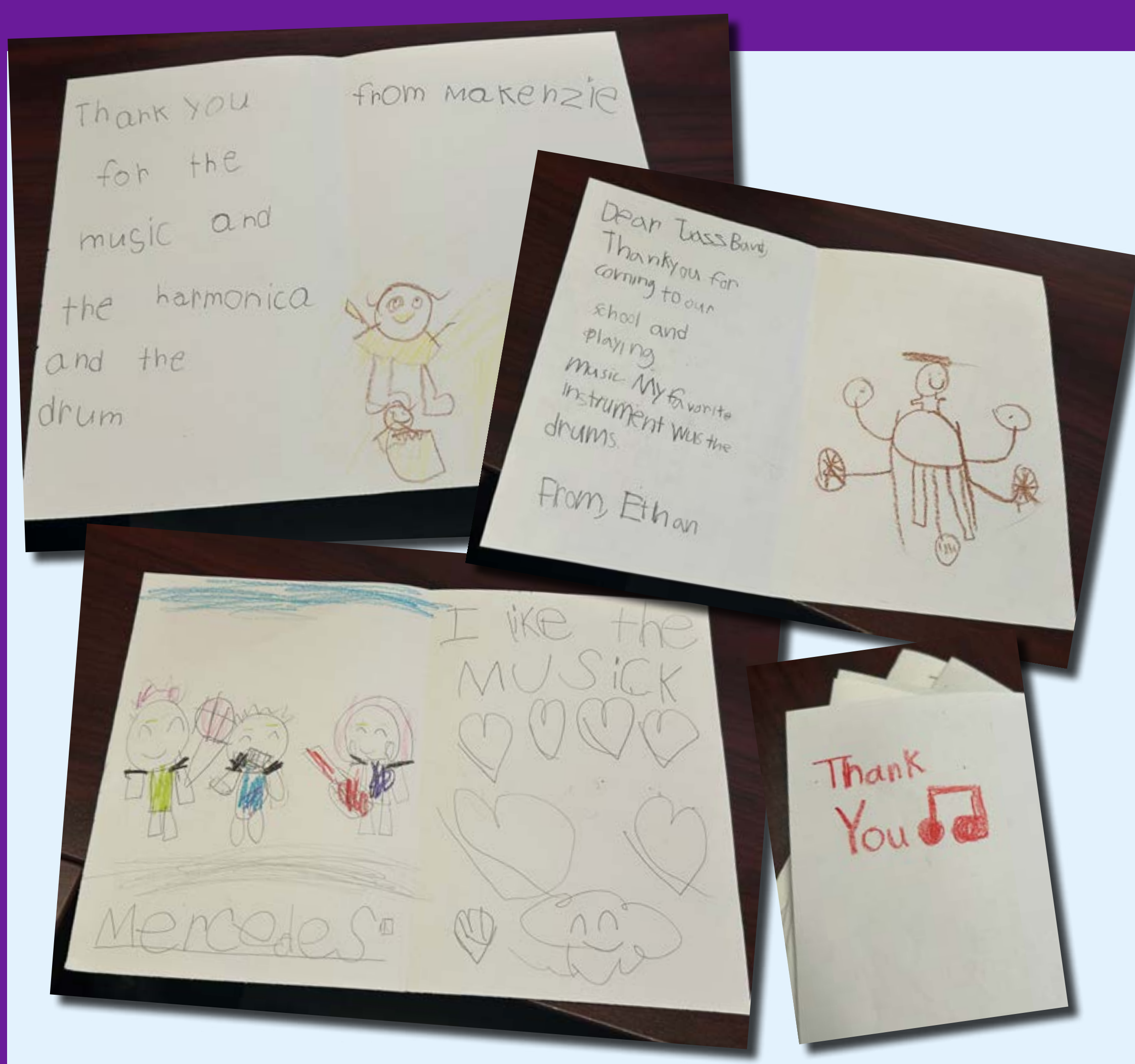


About Nathaniel Blume

Nathaniel Blume's musical journey has carried him from his hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana, to creative centers in Los Angeles and Pittsburgh. A versatile composer whose work spans film and television scores, opera, and singer-songwriter projects, Blume has established himself as a standout voice among a new generation of composers.

His credits include scoring the hit series "The Flash" and "Prodigal Son." Whether writing for screen or stage, Blume's music combines emotional sensitivity with a strong sense of narrative — qualities that also define his new personal project, "nootbar." Visit Nathaniel online at nathanielblume.com.

On the Town



Students at Della Lindley Elementary sent in an envelope filled to the brim with thank-you letters expressing their delight at the jazz band Saturday Night Bath, led by Local 47 member Howie Rich, for an MPTF co-sponsored performance in September 2025.

November Music Performance Trust Fund Gigs

Tony Jones & Friends

Leader: Tony Jones - 5 musicians

Nov. 13, 11 a.m. @ Friendship Auditorium

Saturday Night Bath

Leader: Howard Rich - 8 musicians

Nov. 14, 12:30 p.m. @ Moneta High

Nov. 18, 11:45 a.m. @ Stoney Point High

Nov. 21, 12:15 p.m. @ Zane Grey High

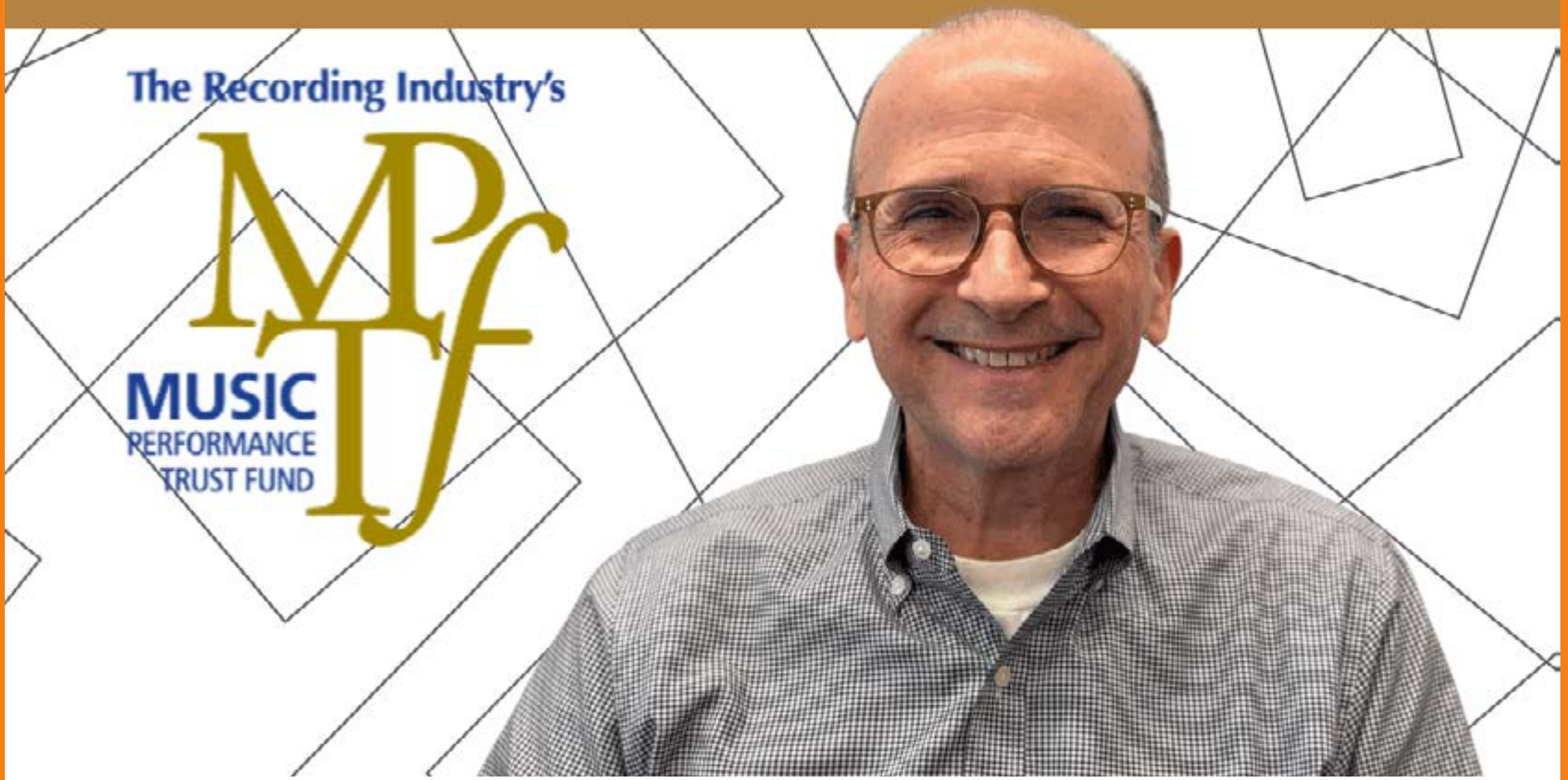
LA Opera

Leader: Brady Steel - 85 musicians

Nov. 20, 11 a.m. @ Dorothy Chandler Pavilion



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.



Recording Industry's Music Performance Trust Fund Appoints Industry Veteran Greg Linn as New Trustee

The Recording Industry's [Music Performance Trust Fund](#) announced the appointment of music recording industry veteran Greg Linn as Trustee of the fund, effective September 1, following Trustee Daniel J. Beck's retirement and new title of Trustee Emeritus.

Linn was selected for his financial acumen, creativity and integrity in the music business, traits that are key to the success of the MPTF's mission, which for more than 75 years has been to provide admission-free, live performances by professional musicians throughout North America.

"On behalf of the record companies who fund the MPTF, we would like to express our deep gratitude to retiring Trustee Dan Beck. Dan brought great energy and vision to the Fund," said James Harrington, MPTF Oversight Committee representative. "But we are excited to welcome his successor Trustee, Greg Linn, another passionate 'music man' who we are confident will continue the excellent work of the Fund."

Linn is an accomplished music industry executive and marketing strategist with over 30 years of experience, renowned for his expertise in breaking new talent and revitalizing catalog releases. Beginning his career at BMG Distribution and RCA Records, he joined Columbia Records in 1995, where he contributed to milestone releases such as Bruce Springsteen's "The Rising" (2002), Bob Dylan's "Modern Times" (2006), David Bowie's "The Next Day" (2013) and AC/DC's "Black Ice" (2008).

He played a pivotal role in launching the careers of artists like Hozier, John Mayer, Dave Matthews Band, Brandi Carlile, Leon Bridges, and Train while delivering innovative campaigns for global superstars. In 2015, as senior vice president of marketing and content at Legacy Recordings, he led high-profile projects including Leonard Cohen's posthumous album "Thanks for the Dance" and milestone reissues for Pink Floyd's "The Dark Side of the Moon," and AC/DC's "Back in Black" and "Highway to Hell."

His leadership in the music industry has earned recognition in Billboard, HITS Daily Double, and Variety, reflecting his reputation as a visionary strategist with a legacy of impactful campaigns.

"Greg's creative marketing experience, as well as his knowledge and understanding of the challenges of the artistic community are a natural fit in leading the MPTF into the future," Harrington said. "His love of music and his respect for the life's work of musicians is unparalleled."

The MPTF plays a vital role in support of music's gig economy. The organization has distributed millions of dollars in financial resources and grants, engaging professional musicians that are members of the American Federation of Musicians to perform live in admission-free events across North America. Since its founding in 1948, the organization has distributed more than \$630 million in sponsorship money.



Photos by Linda A. Rapka

Demand an End to the Government Shutdown

Across the country, federal workers are struggling to pay bills without their paychecks. On October 22, American Federation of Government Employees TSA Local 1260 hosted a press conference and food distribution at LAX demanding an end to the government shutdown, **which at press time has dragged on for over a month.**

Speaking at the press conference were AFGE TSA Local 1260 President Bobby Orozco Jr., Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-35), Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove (CA-37), Assemblymember Luz Rivas (CA-29), Labor Community Services Executive Director Norma Lopez, and LA County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler.

Americans can't wait any longer. **Please take a minute to make a call to House Speaker Johnson, Senate Majority Leader Thune, and your senators and representative today.** Tell them to fund the government, fix the health care crisis and put working people first.

[Make a Call](#)

[Send an Email](#)



PROTECT OUR INDUSTRY, OUR JOBS, AND OUR FUTURE.

#KEEPCALIFORNIAROLLING

EUC Update: Feature Film Announcement

In October, Governor Newsom and the California Film Commission announced 52 approved Feature Film projects to be eligible to receive the California Film and Television Tax Credits.

This is the second round of announced productions, first being television projects, that have been approved under the newly expanded and modernized program.

To date, since the expansion of our California Film and Television Jobs Program in July, we have seen a total of 74 projects announced with an estimate of employment of 15,400 cast and crew and 92,100 background.

Of the 52 projects selected in this round, we saw both major motion studio backed and independent productions, estimated to employ around 8,900 cast and crew. This is a good sign for our program as it speaks to the renewed competitive nature of California within the film and television incentive space. Seeing major studio feature films apply, even without the inclusion of above-the-line provisions, shows that the additional uplifts in our program have still attracted some of these films to seek the incentive.

While the projects selected to receive the incentive are not officially guaranteed to end up choosing California as home, as it is ultimately up to the company, and production planning could still change, there were many positive take aways from yesterday's announcement to be noted:

- This round for feature applications saw applications nearly double compared to the last film round under Program 3.0 – the previous iteration of the program before it was expanded earlier this year
- These projects represent \$1 billion in qualified in-state spending and are inclusive of \$629 million in qualified wages
- The announced projects include 511 filming days outside of the Los Angeles area – known as "out-of-zone filming days – representing the highest total in a single application round in program history
- Major studio projects are doubling down on California, but we also saw much more higher budget indie productions applying and among the applicants. This is directly tied to changes made in the modernization provisions that increased the % of the total ownership cap and larger piece of the total pot they are able to receive
- Since July, the expanded funding has proven to be able to enlist both new television series and additional features
- Under the new terms of our program, and with the doubling of the application windows, before the end of the year, we will see another round of television projects and feature films announced to be eligible for the tax credit

[Read the full update from the California Film Commission here.](#)

Our Entertainment Union Coalition continues to work collaboratively to meet with elected officials keeping Local production issues on top of mind. EUC leaders have also been participating in events that highlight the impact of our industry on the local economy and discuss the importance of keeping California competitive as we continue to see other incentive programs grow and change.

We will be looking to engage our members on the visibility and importance of keeping production strong, specifically for our Los Angeles economy, as we know it touches almost all of our communities, neighborhood businesses, friends, family and more. Stay tuned for more updates from our Coalition and ways to stay involved to "Keep California Rolling."



Entertainment Union Coalition members photographed at the 2025 AD51 Community Excellence Awards at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood on October 12.

Entertainment Union Coalition Members Honored at AD51 Community Excellence Awards

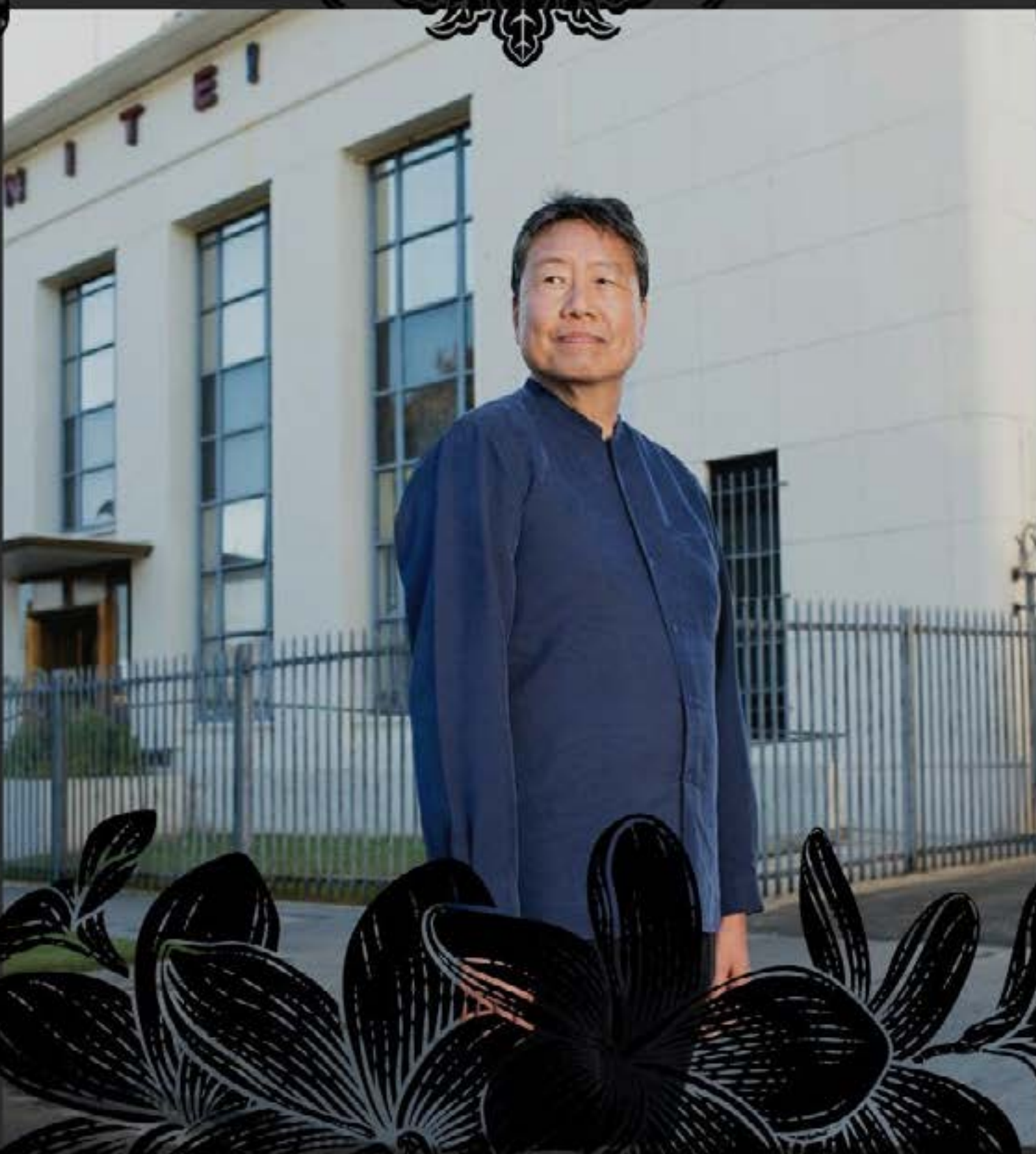
AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe joined Entertainment Union Coalition members at the 2025 AD51 Community Excellence Awards, hosted by Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur.

Entertainment Union Coalition President and DGA Executive Director Rebecca Rhine, and SAG-AFTRA National Board Member Jason George, received the Community & Worker Advocacy Award.

Held at the historic Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood on Sunday, October 12, the ceremony recognized local heroes, civic leaders, small businesses, and advocates who exemplify the values of service, inclusion, and community that define Los Angeles.

"Each of our awardees represents the best of California's 51st District — people who lead with compassion, courage, and a commitment to community," said Assemblymember Zbur. "I'm deeply proud to represent such an extraordinary district."

THE LA LABOR MOVEMENT MOURNS:



KENT WONG



Memorial for Kent Wong

The LA County Federation of Labor invites you to join our community in honoring the extraordinary life and legacy of Kent Wong, a visionary leader whose unwavering commitment to justice, dignity, and opportunity uplifted countless lives. Kent dedicated his life to building a world where workers, immigrants, and students could stand together in the fight for equity and human rights.

A memorial service celebrating Kent's remarkable life will be held:

Saturday, November 15, 10 a.m.

UCLA James Lawson Jr. Worker Justice Center

675 S. Park View St.

Los Angeles, CA 90057

In tribute to Kent's lifelong mission, the LA Fed invites contributions to the Kent Wong Memorial Fund, which will help support the memorial service and ensure it reflects the values and passion that guided his life's work. Every donation — no matter the amount — helps honor Kent in the spirit of community and solidarity he championed throughout his life.

Checks may be made payable to:
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor
c/o Kent Wong Memorial Fund
2130 James Wood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

To make an electronic donation, please [click here](#).

Kent's life was a testament to the power of love, courage, and collective action. Together, let us honor his enduring legacy by continuing the work he so deeply believed in — building a just and compassionate world for all.

As seating is limited, please RSVP for yourself, your members, or any guests who plan to attend the memorial service by [clicking here](#).



BENEFITS CORNER

AFM LOCAL
47

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unioncollegebenefit.online/unionplus

AFL-CIO qualifying union, retirees and family members, including spouses, children, grandchildren, financial dependents, siblings and parents are eligible.

Empire State University

800-847-3000, unionplus@sunyempire.edu
sunyempire.edu/lp/union-plus

AFL-CIO qualifying union members, retirees, spouses and financial dependents are eligible. (Dependent eligibility determined by the IRS definition, which includes a qualifying child under the age 19 (or under 24 if a full-time student, or any age if permanently and totally disabled) or a qualifying relative.)

Western Governors University

866-225-5948 (reference the 'Union Plus' partnership)
wgu.edu/partners/union-plus.html

AFL-CIO qualifying union members, retirees and family members, including spouses, children, grandchildren, financial dependents, siblings and parents are eligible. WGU Union Plus Scholarships are only available to active union members. Tuition discounts are available to active and retired members, and their families.

For more information about these education opportunities, please visit the Union Plus website [here](#).

ENTERTAINMENT
INDUSTRY

Flex Plan



- HEALTH CARE UPDATE -

Did You Know?

Entertainment Industry Flex Plan contributions can be used for reimbursement for your Professional Musicians Local 47 and Employers' Health & Welfare Plan premium payments.

To do so, simply [log in to your Flex Plan account](#) and follow the instructions for premium reimbursement.

Questions? Call the Flex Plan: 888-353-9401

Final Notes



In Memoriam

James Hampton

Life Member. Alto/Tenor Saxophone

12/5/1927 – 8/27/2025

Member since: 9/1/1963

Joseph W. Soldo

Life Member. Alto/Tenor Saxophone

7/31/1925 – 8/15/2025

Member since: 9/22/1971

Serena Kay Williams

Life Member. String Bass

4/9/1921 – 10/4/2025

Member since: 1/3/1950

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

or you may send to:

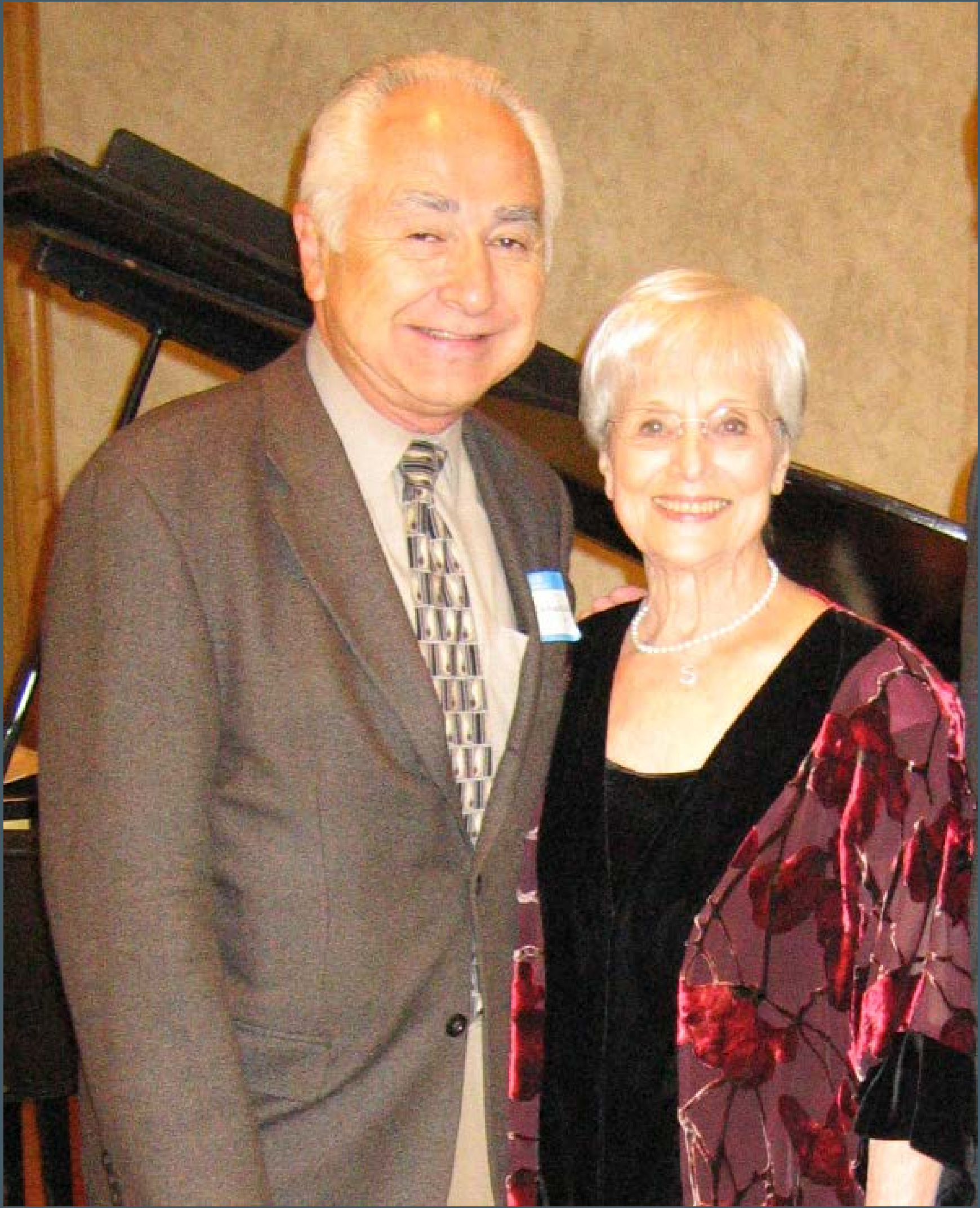
overture@afm47.org

Local 47 Overture Online

3220 Winona Ave.

Burbank CA 91504

Final Notes



Overture archival photo

Hal Espinosa with Serena Kay Williams on the evening she received the prestigious Grande Dame Award from the Industrial Relations Research Association, September 2005.

Serena Kay Williams

**Life Member & AFM Local 47 Secretary/
Treasurer Emeritus. String Bass
4/9/1921 - 10/4/2025**

by Hal Espinosa, AFM Local 47 President Emeritus

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Serena. The last time I spoke with her at 103, she never skipped a beat. She sounded like she did while we were still officers at Local 47, still sounded bright, witty and happy. She was helpful to the membership, she was honest, responsible and duty-bound to her office. While I was getting my feet wet as the new vice president, Serena took me under her wing and made sure I knew and understood my leadership role. She was the glue that kept us all going in the right direction. Serena was a sincere and beautiful Lady, and I will miss her dearly!



Overture archival photo

Serena Kay Williams

**Life Member & AFM Local 47 Secretary/
Treasurer Emeritus. String Bass
4/9/1921 - 10/4/2025**

by Judy Chilnick

Serena Williams — So many have expressed how much Serena inspired and supported them. She guided them through the ups and downs and the joy of our life of music.

I was one of those young musicians who came to Los Angeles in the late '70s and walked into Local 47 to become a member of the UNION!

Serena taught me so much — she and Earl were quite the team...

She shared her amazing history of Local 47 through the years and as Secretary/Treasurer began the Local's very important relationship with the LA County Federation of Labor and the entertainment unions and guilds.

She will be missed, but her legacy lives on through all of the musicians she touched and the joy and love she brought to our Local.



Overture archival photo

Leslie Baker with David Haskell and Serena Kay Williams at the grand opening gala of AFM Local 47's Burbank headquarters on May 21, 2018.

Serena Kay Williams

**Life Member & AFM Local 47 Secretary/
Treasurer Emeritus. String Bass
4/9/1921 - 10/4/2025**

by Leslie Baker

Thank you, Serena. My lifelong friendship with Serena Kay Williams began before I could remember. She informed me many years later that she met me as a 6-year-old holding the hand of my piano-playing father, Dick Baker. I was just starting piano lessons then. My Dad played piano in Earl Williams (Serena's husband) band, Serena played bass in Earl's band. She watched me grow going through countless gigs to become a pro bassist. Serena encouraged and loved so many of us musicians. That was her way. Serena is liked, loved and respected by many. There are decades of memories of times with Serena. Let me describe perhaps the most important: When Serena decided her favorite bass, the last one made by Mr. Robles himself in 1962 (he was over 90 when he made this bass) had sat unplayed for too long (her playing days were behind her as she took on her role as a top officer in the Local 47 Musicians Union), she let me know it was for sale. She offered me the chance to have it for a week to decide if it was right for me. After a few days of trying it out we made our deal.

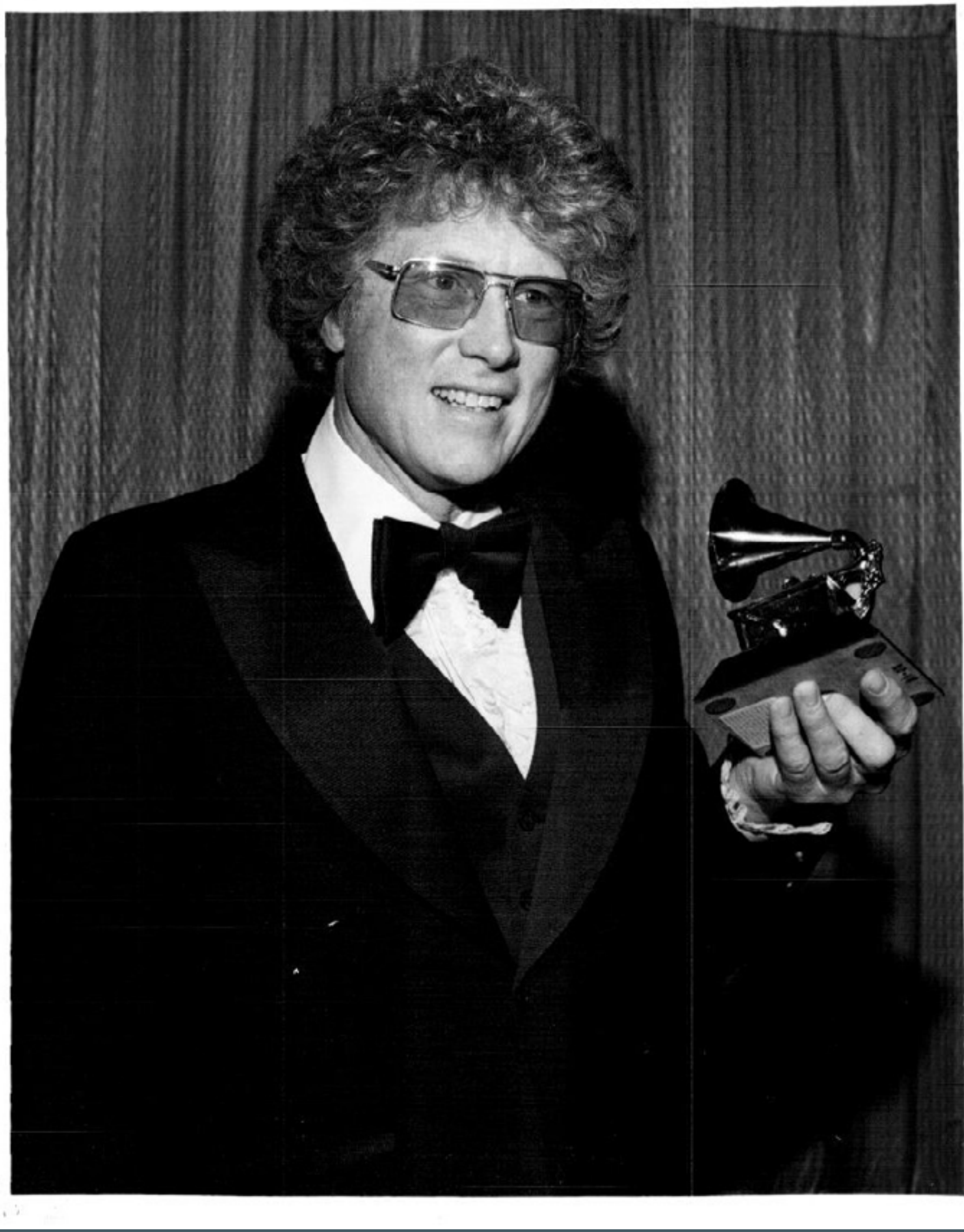


Leslie with the beloved bass that first belonged to Serena Kay Williams, which they lovingly referred to as "our bass" during their many talks together; Leslie now calls the instrument "Serena."

Because Serena loved that bass with its big sound so much I let her know that even though I have custody 100% we would refer to it as "our bass" so her connection to it remained. She's the original owner. I am the second. Serena heard me play it live, heard it on recordings, saw pictures of me performing with it. She even saw me use our bass when I sidelined on the movie "Addams Family Values." It was ours. We loved talking about it and my adventures with it.

I kept in touch with her after her retirement when she moved to Palm Springs. I comforted her when Earl died. I could go on and on with decades of memories of our very special friendship. She was great to be around, she had wisdom and shared it. She always showed interest in whatever I was up to. Serena told me many things. Her life was not easy. At a young age she had to be strong and responsible. Serena Kay Williams lived long (104!) and well. She trailblazed. She stayed smart to the end as far as I could tell from several phone conversations we had. I will miss the chance to give her a call, hear her friendly voice, talk to someone who knew and loved my dad with always good things to say about him. Of course this loss saddens me. I'll never forget her as I continue to play "our" bass feeling her love with every note I realize now it is my bass. I will call it Serena.

Rest In Peace my dear friend reunited with your beloved Earl.



Ian Freebairn-Smith

Former Life Member. Composer

3/4/1932 - 10/7/2025

Studio City, CA resident Ian Freebairn-Smith, best known for his Grammy-winning arrangement of Barbra Streisand and Paul Williams' hit song "Evergreen" from "A Star is Born" (1976), passed away on October 7, 2025. He was 93 years old.

In a full-page ad placed in Variety by Paul Williams in 1978, referring to their collaboration on the score for a film called "The End" starring Burt Reynolds, Williams (president of ASCAP) stated, "his ever creative mind made my simple (but haunting) themes sound as if they had been written by an actual grownup."

One of Freebairn-Smith's original songs, "The Wailing of the Willow" co-written with the late Harry Nilsson, was on Harry's biggest-selling album, "Aerial Ballet," and has been recorded by Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass, Astrud Gilberto, Bobbie Gentry, Liza Minnelli, Percy Faith and Fred Astaire, among others.

In the 1970s and 1980s, he composed scores for TV shows "Cagney and Lacey," "Magnum, P.I.," "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" (featuring Peter Horton, Richard Dean Anderson and the late River Phoenix), with a theme by legendary songwriter Jimmy Webb), "Airwolf" and "Fame," as well as films like 1970 cult classic "The Strawberry Statement" with a soundtrack featuring songs by Neil Young, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Joni Mitchell, Thunderclap Newman and Freebairn-Smith.

He also scored several TV movies such as "The Curious Case of the Campus Corpse" aka "The Hazing" (1977), "Deadly Lessons" (1983) and "Three On a Match" (1987), to name a few, as well as dozens of well-known jingles for Chevron, Continental Airlines, United Airlines, Dubonnet Wine, and Pacific Bell, among others, his "California Sound" credited with bringing a huge increase of commercial production to Los Angeles.

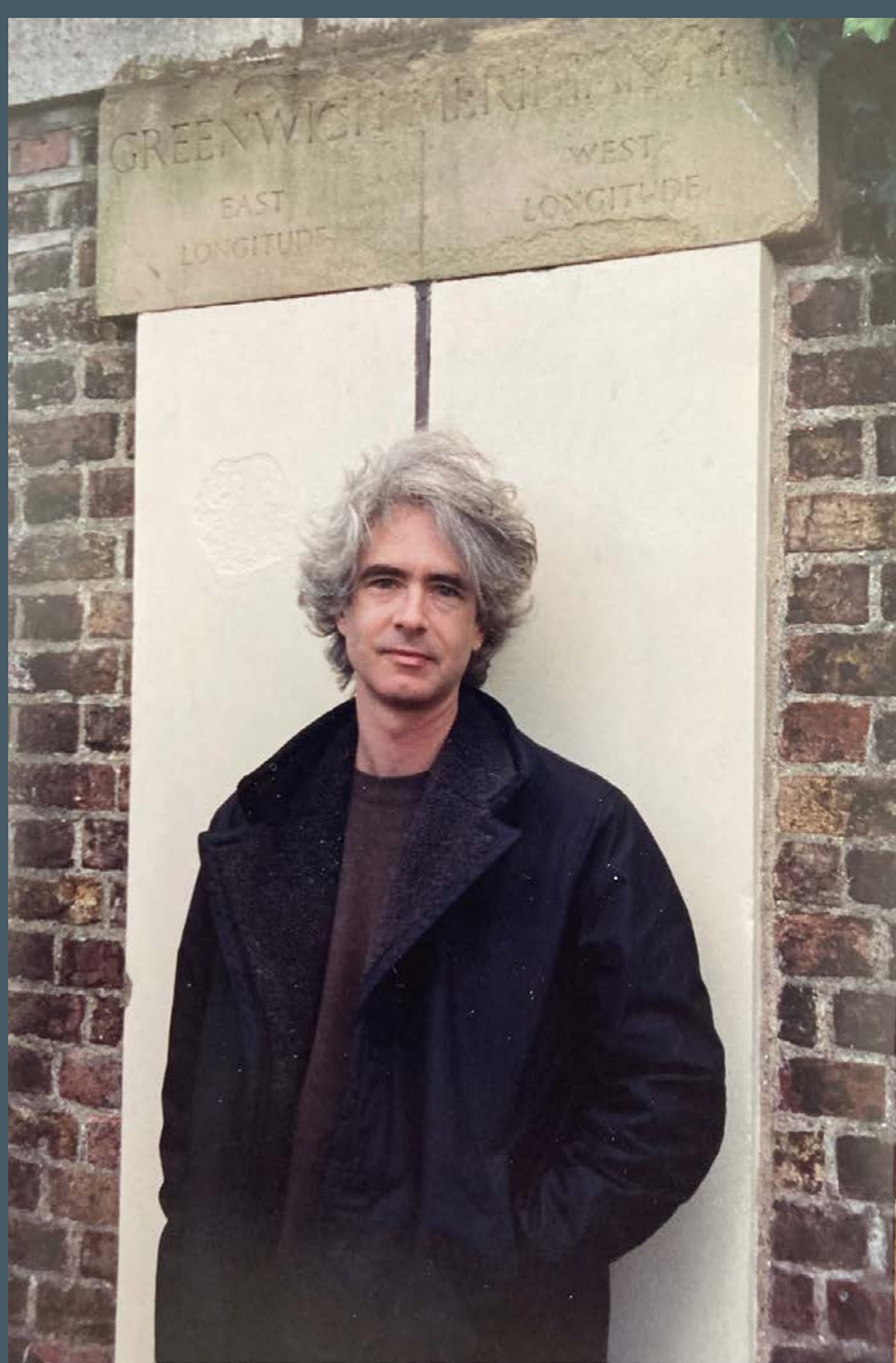
Freebairn-Smith was already a gifted vocal arranger in his 20s, writing close harmony arrangements of popular songs for groups such as the Hi-Lo's, and formed his own tight harmony singing group, the Singers Incorporated, with fellow vocalists Perry Botkin Jr., Sue Allen, Jimmy Bryant and George Tipton.

His voice can be heard on numerous records, commercials and film soundtracks including the "Batman," "Flipper" and "Gilligan's Island" TV series' theme songs, and in the bass section on films scores for "Peter Pan" (2003), "The Matrix Revolutions" and "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (2008). With the Ron Hicklin singers he voiced the main title song for Robert Altman's film "M*A*S*H," Johnny Mandel's "Suicide is Painless," plus several records for Impulse! Records as part of a group of session singers who went by the name of the California Dreamers. He also provided the singing voice of Ray Walston ("My Favorite Martian") in the Billy Wilder comedy starring Dean Martin, "Kiss Me Stupid."

Freebairn-Smith's arranging work included charts for legends Andy Williams, Barbra Streisand ("A Star is Born"), Stephen Bishop ("Careless"), Jeff Beck, Lou Rawls, Van Dyke Parks, John Klemmer, Anthony Newley, Randy Crawford, folk artists Emitt Rhodes and Phil Ochs ("Pleasures of the Harbor," "Tape from California"), the Ventures and Lee Hazelwood.

Father, Thomas Freebairn-Smith, an announcer on the CBS evening news, transitioned to directing radio dramas in the 1950s, and along with Walt Disney and Don DeFore, helped form the National TV Academy. Brother, Rod Freebairn-Smith, is a retired San Francisco architect. Wives were, Billie Jean (Mercer) Freebairn-Smith, longtime assistant to the producers on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson and Jay Leno, and violinist Shari Zippert, whose death preceded his by one year.

Ian Freebairn-Smith was born on March 4, 1932, in the Seattle area, his family moving to Los Angeles in 1934. He is survived by his brother Rod, and four daughters, Leslie, Alison, Jenifer and Vanessa, three of whom are musicians, as well as four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Stephen Croes

Former Member. Keyboard

8/5/1952 - 9/5/2025

South Dakota Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, Stephen Charles Croes died peacefully on September 5, 2025 in Las Vegas, NV, surrounded by his loving family.

Stephen was born on August 5, 1952 to Beth Croes and Shirley Willard Croes in Aberdeen, SD. When he was four, his family moved to Rapid City where his mother, herself a pianist, encouraged Stephen to take piano and drum lessons. He participated in school band programs, but as he put it, “when the Beatles appeared everything changed for me.” He had early success in local bands, moving to Denver after high school and establishing himself there in the music scene. Stephen then found his way to Los Angeles where he studied under master drum teacher Freddy Gruber and worked as a touring and session drummer.

In a defining moment, Stephen's father bought him a Commodore 64 computer as a gift. “I found some sequencing software for it. I already had a couple of the MIDI synths and a borrowed drum machine to start out. After I hooked everything up and started playing with it, I suddenly understood that this was going to be very powerful and very popular. I saw the future.”

The next phase of Stephen's professional career was in large part defined by a singular, then cutting edge piece of technology, the Synclavier. This Rolls Royce of digital workstations became his passion. The instrument was powerful, somewhat rare, and hard to learn, and he became an early adaptor and expert. With his artistic mastery of the Synclavier, he was in demand for high-level work in the music industry. “It took many years of constant work to establish a place for myself in the community as someone who was not just technologically capable but also musically creative and versatile,” he said. “I got to arrange and produce large, live ensemble tracks in a redwood forest with Kenny Loggins and play weird percussion tracks with Mick Fleetwood. I did accordion parts for Alice Cooper, sound design for the Yellowjackets and Star Trek, work on the music and soundtracks for Jacques Cousteau and National, Geographic, and scored a Vegas show for Tommy Tune.”

In 2002, he was offered the job of Dean of the Music Technology Division, at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. Speaking of this career change Stephen said, “My new job is to share what I've learned. As it relates to survival, expansion of artistry, and pure enjoyment, technology is now and will always be a growing part of every artist's future.”

Stephen's impact on the college was significant and broad. He scouted the finest talent to fill professor roles within his departments to ensure students learned from the very best. He established the computer as a musical instrument and oversaw the building and design of new studio facilities at the College. He founded the Berklee Internet Radio Network, a student-run organization with multiple channels that saw hundreds of student DJs broadcast live shows, performances, and artist interviews to listeners via the internet. But perhaps most significantly, Stephen was dedicated to his students, and he devoted an immense amount of his time and professional resources to ensure their success both at the college and beyond. A great many owe career-defining advice and connections to Stephen and in this way, his impact on them and indeed the broader music industry cannot be overstated.

In 2019, Stephen was inducted into South Dakota Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and presented a Lifetime Achievement Award.

In his own words... “I've had amazing opportunities to observe and participate as some of the most highly respected artists, composers, players, producers, and engineers worked together. To see the inner workings of a team and learn how the various roles complement each other in the production of a great piece of music is a beautiful thing. I've had the best seat in the house.”

He is survived by his partner of 40 years, Lisa Colletta, and his brother John Croes. Donations can be made in Stephen's name to Humane Colorado, 2080 S. Quebec St. Denver, CO 80231-3204

Open Mic

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with
the Overture

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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.

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](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



Auditions



Auditions

Asst. Principal Cello

Mon, January 26, 2026

Sacramento, CA

Bass Trombone

Tue, January 27, 2026

Sacramento, CA

To apply for the upcoming Auditions please email your Resume/CV to personnel@sacphilopera.org

Application and resume deadline for all auditions: Friday, January 9, 2026 @ 5:00 pm PST

The SP&O is a per service orchestra that offers 42 services total as part of its Classics season.

Section: \$170.00 | Asst. Principal: \$187.00 per service 2025-2026 Season.

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The Local 47 Beat

—Emailed biweekly—

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