



Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
10 to 12:30
Phone
(757) 622-8095

OFFICIAL BULLETIN
OF LOCAL 125
AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF
MUSICIANS
Affiliated with
A. F. L. - C. I. O.

FEBRUARY 2025

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Tuesday, February 25th @ 7:30 PM Join us at the Union Hall or via Zoom

[Click to Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87959385896?pwd=GNiQJ9TpmBw4X8iIINFJgB9M0o81yp.1>

**Meeting ID: 879 5938 5896
Passcode: 433681**

President's message...

Greetings, members of Local 125,

I hope your new year is off to a meaningful and productive start. Since our last newsletter our political climate has changed significantly, to say the least. If you're like me the world is changing in ways that keep you up at night and watching the news in small doses is all you can handle. My goal is to keep the focus on my family and my community, my students, and my musical life. I'm happy to report that our membership is strong, our executive board is robust, and our union hall is well maintained.

We have a new agreement with the Virginia Stage Company for their production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. I encourage you all to get tickets to this show. In addition to our ongoing agreement with Virginia Musical Theater I'm pleased our local theater companies value the importance of the union and its members.



February is, of course, Black History Month. Many of us do not know the history of the AFM black locals. The latest issue of the International Musician features an article about former Local 247 in Philadelphia entitled AFM's Last Black Local: Local 274 Remembered by Philly Musicians. "During the early 20th century, more than 50 Black AFM locals were established alongside their white counterparts in cities large and small. This was mainly because the white locals had made it difficult or impossible for Black musicians to join." Local 702 was the black local here in Norfolk. It has been suggested we adopt the hyphenate and become Local 125-702 to recognize our history. I would like to make it a topic for discussion at our next general membership meeting.

Please keep the people of Los Angeles in mind following the devastating fires. AFM members can log onto [AFM.org](#) to find links to donate to support our members.

Remember the union hall is your space. If you are looking for rehearsal or teaching space reach out to us. Join us at our next **General Membership meeting on February 25 at 7:30**.

Your president,
Joanne

Meet our new members...

JEREMY SAUNDERS

Jeremy Saunders teaches at the Naval School of Music where he serves as Instrumental Division Head, supervising the delivery of private instrumental and vocal lessons. A native of Hudson, North Carolina, Jeremy received his formal music education at Appalachian State University where he studied saxophone with Dr. William Gora. Musical diversity has marked his professional journey from Carnival Cruise Lines, to “The President’s Own,” United States Marine Band (1999-2003), to the U.S. Navy Band “Cruisers,” in Washington D.C (2011-2014). His bluegrass roots can be heard on albums with Sugar Hill recording artist, Acoustic Syndicate and his genre bending solo album, “Schoolboy.”

Over the course of his career, he has shared the stage with bluegrass, jazz, pop, and classical music legends including Tony Rice, Benny Golson, Mary Wilson, Roberta Flack, Renee Fleming, and John Williams. With performances from the Kennedy Center to the Bonnaroo Music Festival and 34 countries abroad, he is at home in any venue. After 11 military moves, he is grateful to settle down and call Virginia Beach his hometown



HALEY SCHRICKER



Haley Schricker joined the violin section of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in 2024. Prior to joining the VSO, she was a member of The Orchestra Now in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra in Illinois.

An avid chamber musician, Haley was a founding member of the Lilac String Quartet, which won 2nd prize in the 2019 Music Teachers National Association competition, served as the quartet in residence of the Lake Placid Sinfonietta, and performed alongside Eastman School of Music faculty in solo recitals as well as the school’s Sunday Morning Chamber series.

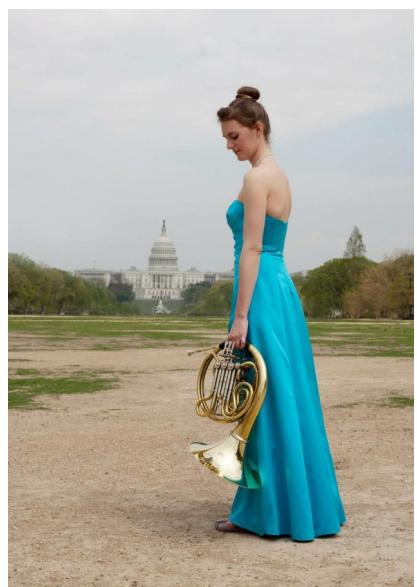
Haley received an artist diploma and master’s degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign under the tutelage of Meg Freivogel, and a bachelor’s degree from the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Mikhail Kopelman.

Dr. L. Avery Staples (Pettigrew) joined the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in 2023, initially on a one-year position as Assistant Principal/Utility Horn and is now Third/Associate Principal Horn. Prior to joining the VSO, she was a freelance musician and music educator engaged throughout the Washington, DC metro area. She performed regularly with the Baltimore Symphony, the Maryland Symphony, and the Mid-Atlantic Symphony. She has been the featured soloist with several community ensembles including the Washington Sinfonietta, the Manassas Symphony, and the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington.

In addition to operating a large and successful private studio based in Chantilly, VA, Dr. Staples was the Adjunct Professor of Horn at Frostburg State University for five years. Her students regularly placed into their state's honors ensembles and have earned scholarships to top music schools in the country.

As a student with Samantha La Pointe-Woolf at Tulane University in New Orleans, she earned both a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Performance and a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Dr. Staples earned both her Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees at the University of Maryland-College Park, where she held a performance-based graduate assistantship as a student of Gregory Miller and Phil Munds. Her additional teachers include Denise Tryon, Michael Thornton, and Shawn Hagen.

AVERY STAPLES



JOHN VITALE



Dr. John W. Vitale is an accomplished trumpet player who has made significant contributions to both the orchestral and educational music worlds. A native of Felton, Delaware, Dr. Vitale earned his Bachelor of Music from Boston University, where he studied Music Education and Trumpet Performance. He then earned his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Brass Performance from The University of Texas at Austin. His principal teachers include Terry Everson, Peter Chapman, Ray Sasaki, and Billy Hunter, Jr.

Dr. Vitale has extensive orchestral experience, having performed with the New World Symphony, Central Texas Philharmonic, Dover Symphony Orchestra, and Virginia Symphony Orchestra. He has also attended the Round Top Festival Institute and the National Repertory Orchestra.

Beyond his orchestral career, Dr. Vitale is a dedicated educator. At the University of Texas he served as the Teaching Assistant for Billy Hunter, Jr., where he taught undergraduate trumpet lessons, led group warm-ups, and ran studio classes. Dr. Vitale also provided private trumpet instruction in the Leander, Austin, and Dripping Springs, Texas school districts, and has a proven track record of developing exceptional young musicians. Several of his students have achieved the distinguished honor of being selected for the Texas All-State bands and orchestras, as well as continuing on to study music at prestigious music schools throughout the country. Dr. Vitale has also taught with the Austin area El Sistema program Austin Soundwaves.

When not immersed in music, Dr. Vitale enjoys an active lifestyle, including running, paddle-boarding, and indulging in the world of fantasy novels. He resides in Felton, Delaware with his beloved black cat, Poe.

CLEF CORPORATION CAROUSEL

Changes On the Ground Floor, On the Roof, and In Between

By Tom Reel

The Clef Corporation is the real estate arm of our Local. Originally formed years ago when Unions were prevented from direct ownership of property in Virginia, we have retained the division to the present day. Via Clef, we own our 3-story building and have been able to rent the first floor off & on through the years.



Our tenants have included a printing shop, a rare & used book store, another book store with loosely defined inventory, a tea shop, a wine shop, and (currently) **Pure Lagos** which deals in high end African art and more affordable & eclectic African items (household utility, clothing, artwork, etc.) Over the years, some tenants have had difficulty keeping up with the rent. One is currently paying back rent (owed from years ago) through a wage garnishment which Clef won in court. After the last book store owner was evicted, we established a relationship with Sam Segar and Associates. And after our difficulty in collecting rent from the wine shop, the realtor agreed to take over those duties (collecting rent, assessing late fees when necessary, etc.)

As we begin 2025, we have tenants (Pure Lagos) who have brought vibrancy to the first floor space but have experienced cash flow challenges and opted not to extend a multi-year lease agreement that expired at the end of December. They have been honorable throughout our relationship and fully intend to pay every dollar that is currently owed. (No evictions, no court, no issues of that nature!)

The good news is that a temporary turn for the better for Pure Lagos has prompted them to ask us for a two month extension, to which we have agreed. So the vacancy in our space is delayed until March 1st. The space is now listed. If Pure Lagos can return to signing a multi-year lease, we would be most pleased! But we cannot hold the space while they consider their options.

Our guiding principle is that the Clef Corporation ultimately is our Union membership whose interests are always our #1 priority. It exists for the benefit of our members. In discussions some years ago, selling the building came under consideration. The consensus was not to sell the property which provides space for our meetings, space for rehearsals, and a potential positive cash flow from tenants.

But we are also aware that there is no such thing as “benign neglect.” Owning a building - and an old one at that - requires upkeep, utility payments, property taxes, etc. In 2024 we had our leaky flat roof repaired. New flooring and fresh paint and new light fixtures have been added to the second floor. Windows need replacement and old window unit air conditioners need to go. Perhaps someday we can make improvements to a mostly unfinished third floor. But the net benefit and goal must remain - a positive cash flow *from Clef to* benefit the running of the Union, keeping our members’ financial commitments affordable, under control, and protected from excessive inflation.

The key to that mission is to have a reliable tenant. (The expired lease had monthly payments of \$1900 which comes to \$22,800 per year before taxes and other expenses to our realtor, utility companies, interior & exterior improvements, etc.) We’re also collecting those wage garnishments won in court with 25% of that going to our local attorney. That is netting us around \$7,000 a year.

Clef Officers are Tom Reel, President and Linda Dennis, Secretary-Treasurer. These are unpaid appointed positions. We keep our Union Officers & Board updated constantly and the membership periodically. Local #125 President Emeritus John Lindberg served as Clef President for many years before his retirement at the beginning of 2023.

(This report was submitted for publication in mid January. There may be changes and updates since that time. If you know anyone who could use 1300 square feet, including a bar, at 251 West Bute Street for around \$2,000 a month, please let us know.)



NEW ROOF @ 251 W. BUTE!

Protect your livelihood, instruments, and business with the best insurance from top-rated companies...

AFM and HUB International are partnering to offer customized policies that cover what you value.

Coverage includes:

Equipment Insurance — Protect your musical equipment and gear.

Auto/Home Insurance — Full line of personal insurance products from auto to home

General Liability — Protect your business from claims of property damage or injury.

Business Owner's Policy — Protects you against personal and property damage at the work place.

Errors & Omissions — E&O insurance protects against lawsuits related to copyright infringement, libel, slander, and service delivery issues.

Cyber Insurance — Protecting AFM Locals from the high costs of a data breach or cyberattack.

And more!

Available for AFM Members Only. For more information, [US – click here.](#)

From the *International Musician*: AFM's GoPro Hosting Provides an Affordable Home for Your Website



An exclusive benefit of AFM membership, GoPro Hosting offers members space for websites, domain name registration, and unlimited email addresses. With more than 400 clients, GoPro Hosting has helped many members establish their web presence—a necessity for indie and freelance musicians, in particular. The AFM is uniquely suited to serve the web hosting needs of musicians—at a reasonable price. In addition to offering feature-packed web hosting and unlimited bandwidth, AFM's GoPro Hosting provides easy-to-reach technical support. Musicians who use GoPro Hosting point to substantial savings compared to other web hosting plans. The prices for GoPro Hosting range from \$19 per year for the Solo Plan, which offers 100 megabytes of space, to \$149 per year for the Quintet Plan, which offers two gigabytes of space. All plans provide unlimited bandwidth. Members who have switched from other web hosts to GoPro Hosting have seen savings that more than paid for their AFM membership dues. For example, web hosts with similar features are priced from \$12 to \$30 per month. Even with costs at the low end (\$12 per month or \$144 per year), the GoPro Hosting Solo Plan, at only \$19 per year, is a savings of \$125 per year.

One feature of GoPro Hosting—AFM Adlib—allows members to start a fully functioning website and begin editing it immediately through an easy-to-use web interface designed specifically for musicians. AFM Adlib is based on WordPress software, known for its accessibility and high performance. It's all at your fingertips, allowing you to write news items and add pictures or sound files—without the added pressure of learning html or hiring someone to edit web content.

For more information or to purchase a GoPro Hosting plan, visit: www.goprohosting.com

Secretary/Treasurer's Notes...

If your membership expired at the end of 2024 and you have already renewed, THANK YOU!

If not, it's not too late to renew.



DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Joanne White: email-jmwflutist@gmail.com

Alex Antonio: email- aca61@cim.edu

Wayne Hedrick: phone—(757)713-9097

William McVay: new address—414 Delaware Ave, #120 Norfolk, VA 23508

OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD (2 year term, Jan. 2025-Dec. 2026):

Joanne White, President

Dennis Herring, Vice President

Linda Dennis, Secretary/Treasurer

Tom Reel, Clef Corp. President

John Lindberg, President Emeritus

Rebecca Gilmore, EB

Scott Harris, EB

Jim Nesbit, EB

Tom Reel, EB

Satoko Rickenbacker, EB

CREDIT CARDS

Want to pay your dues online? Go to www.afm.org

The AFM mission statement:

- **We can live and work in dignity;**
- **Our work will be fulfilling and compensated fairly;**
- **We will have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect us;**
- **We will have the opportunity to develop our talents and skills;**
- **Our collective voice and power will be realized in a democratic and progressive union;**
- **We can oppose the forces of exploitation through our union solidarity.**



DECEMBER BOARD MEETING AT LINDA'S HOME



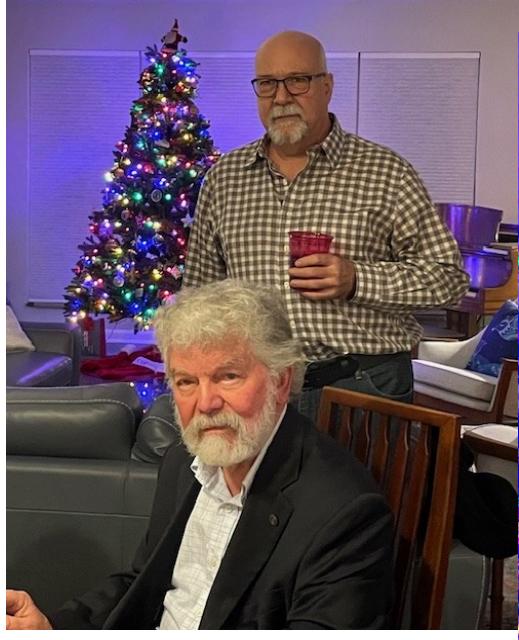
Jim Nesbit & Joanne White



Dennis and Connie Herring



Scott Harris



John Lindberg and Scott Harris



Linda Dennis and Tom Reel



Tom Reel, Jeanine and John Lindberg



Rebecca Gilmore and Joanne