



# RONDO



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

## MAY 2024

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

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday, May 22nd @ 7:30 PM Join us at the Union Hall or via Zoom

Click Link to Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88150730163?pwd=ewJOoJUVNWaWJ4YUBC6QXdGaLaeIQ.1>

Meeting ID: 881 5073 0163      Passcode: 290039

#### From the President...

Happy Spring, Local 125! Musical seasons and school years are winding up. Some of you are preparing to go to your summer festivals, some are looking forward to some downtime (myself included). Please welcome the newest members of Local 125; oboist, Alexander Mayer and percussionist, Daniel Falter. We are happy to have you! Read more about them below.

Many of you have read the article by Sammy Sussman in New York Magazine regarding the sexual-assault scandal at the New York Philharmonic <https://www.vulture.com/article/new-york-philharmonic-sexual-assault-scandal.html?>. Perhaps you feel as though Local 802 did not represent the women union members. Why did the union go to arbitration for the fired musicians? Unions should stand with their members. However, they do not have to take on every grievance brought to them. Local 802, now with a woman president, will have to reconcile with itself. I hope members of Local 125 who have experienced harassment or discrimination will come to the union for help. We are here to support our membership. Know that your workplace should have an anti-harassment/discrimination policy readily available and shared with employees. The actions and conversations happening now are important and overdue.



Come to our General Membership meeting on **May 22 at 7:30 at the Union Hall** - snacks and beverages provided! Bring a non-union friend who may be interested in joining. Topics for discussion include making contracts for gigs using Form L-1 found at AFM.org, amending our Price List to add language pertinent to show musicians, and having safe workplace environment.

The Executive Board and I hope that we can provide you with entertaining and educational information in each Rondo. Please read the entire issue. For those of you able to file for unemployment during Virginia Symphony dark weeks please read the article by Tom Reel for some reminders of your legal responsibility.

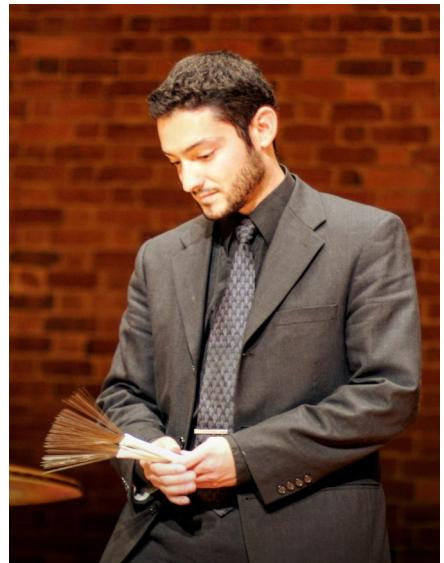
In Solidarity,  
Joanne

# Meet our new members...

**Daniel Falter** began his musical journey as a child, drumming along on butter tubs to songs on the radio. From those humble beginnings, he has shared his music on an international stage while maintaining a private teaching studio.

Daniel has been a musician in the U.S. Army since 2013, performing jazz, rock, pop, country, and Latin music across the country and internationally.

Daniel has performed with Mike Kocour, Harry Pickens, Ansyn Banks, and Mike Tracy, among others. He has studied under John Brideson, Dr. John Beckford, Ron Schwartz, and Jason Tiemann. He holds a B.A. in Music from Furman University, and a M.M. in Jazz Drum Set from the University of Louisville.



**Alexander Mayer** has appeared in concert halls around the world and now serves as Principal Oboe of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. A passionate orchestral player, he served as an acting member of the Minnesota Orchestra in 2023, and has freelanced with orchestras such as The Metropolitan Opera, Richmond Symphony, and The Florida Orchestra. In 2023, Mayer was a member of the Verbier Festival Orchestra as well as Spoleto Festival USA, and was previously a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center. In recent years he has also been a part of the New York String Orchestra Seminar, National Youth Orchestra of Canada, Sarasota Music Festival, and le Domaine Forget International Music Festival. In 2018 he participated as a member of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America, touring across Asia under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas.

Mayer received his Bachelor of Music degree from The Juilliard School studying with Nathan Hughes, and is currently working towards a Master's degree, also at Juilliard. A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Mayer previously studied with Martin Schuring and Nikolaus Flickinger, and has been supported over the years by the Arizona Musicfest Scholarship. Outside of music, he can be found hiking and exploring outdoors or enjoying strategy/puzzle games.

## Dark Weeks and Unemployment

### REMINDERS FOR DARK WEEK GIGS by Tom Reel

A Dark Week is a calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) for which salaried employees are not hired and not paid by their regular employer. For example the Virginia Symphony pays for 36 weeks of work each year, but that leaves 16 weeks that are Dark - most occurring in the summer between VSO seasons, but with a few sprinkled in during the course of a season.



Gaining access to unemployment benefits is something not to be taken for granted. This is a hard-won benefit that required Union leadership and lobbying in the state capitol not so long ago. There are rules & laws that govern filing for unemployment benefits, and they must be followed. Trying to skirt them not only risks personal consequences but could even endanger unemployment benefits permanently for hundreds of others in our profession.

***If you are offered work during a Dark Week, you may not turn it down and then file for benefits while denying that you turned down suitable employment.***

The financial "cost" to you (for following the rules) is not devastating. If you work and earn your weekly benefit amount (wba) or more, you are dollars ahead. (Yes, you had to work for your pay). If you work and earn less than your wba, you are still dollars ahead, because not every dollar earned is subtracted from your wba. The first \$50 you earn has no effect on the amount of your unemployment benefit.

ALL income - gigs, teaching, driving an uber, playing shortstop for the Red Sox - is reportable.

And in most Dark Weeks (as required), keep up a legitimate search for work wherever you may be if you're filing for unemployment benefits. (The Work Search may be waived when you are close to your back-to-work date with your regular employer.)

On behalf of your professional colleagues and the tax-paying citizens & companies of Virginia, THANK YOU for following these and other rules. Enjoy your down time, whether you have a summer festival or an occasional gig or just wind up taking some time away from your ax.

## Contracts and/or Agreements by Rebecca Gilmore



Rebecca Gilmore, Assistant Principal Cellist with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra has had many years of experience writing contracts for her own group, *Ambrosia Quartet*, music ensembles for chamber music presenters and churches.

*As contractor, you are in the driver's seat, setting the pay and parameters for the musicians working alongside you. As the contractor, I like using the fillable LS-1 form found on [AFM.ORG](http://AFM.ORG). You can save the filled-out version on your personal computer. There's more....One shift in wording when speaking with your client might be to refer to the document as an "agreement". And refer to yourself as the "leader". There'll be more fun discussion at our upcoming general membership meeting on May 22nd, 7:30 p.m. at the Union Hall.*

*So, if you begin contracting/negotiating your own "gigs" or work, remember where you heard some of this wisdom and share the perks of membership with other potentials. We're only as strong as our membership.*

In harmony,  
Rebecca Gilmore  
[www.rebeccagilmore.com](http://www.rebeccagilmore.com)



# Secretary/Treasurer's Notes...



## DIRECTORY CHANGES:

Mark Henry: (757)436-0502

Peter Dubeau: PCDUBEAU@gmail.com

Timothy Olbrych: timolbrych@gmail.com

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Jesse Kapsha  
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Sanford, NC 27330

Anne Epperly  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15206

## NEW MEMBERS:

Daniel Falter  
Drum set, percussion  
104 Spinnaker Way  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(502)526-3633  
Daniel.falter@gmail.com

Alexander Mayer  
Oboe  
125 W. Tazewell Street, Apt. 312  
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## RESIGNED: Larry Weintraub

## SUSPENDED: Jack Beckner Margaret Carlson Daniel Knipple

## CREDIT CARDS

Want to pay your dues online? Go to afm.org and scroll down the right hand side.