



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.

SEPTEMBER 2024

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, September 17th @ 7:30 PM
Join us at the Union Hall or via Zoom

Click this link to Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86412805104?pwd=evlrcSMwUeCMZDPp0XWxuH6mbixfaf.1>

Meeting ID: 864 1280 5104 Passcode: 323086

From the President...

Dear Local 125,

Greetings to all! Hope you enjoyed your summer, musically and personally. My summer was one of learning. I attended the AFM Southern Conference in June and the ICSOM Conference in August. I look forward to bringing home what I have learned to make us healthier and stronger.



The AFM Southern Conference took place June 22 & 23 in Austin, Texas. I met union delegates from across the southern United States. Over the course of the two-day event, we covered many topics. Workplace safety took the forefront as the reverberations of the events at the New York Philharmonic continue to spark discussion and the desire for change. The union should be a safe space for victims and survivors of sexual misconduct or discrimination. We discussed the importance of diversifying union boards, so they represent our community. We took part in a group workshop that taught us about systematic racism and its roots in this country. The seminars were powerful and impactful.

It is important for us to communicate to you through the Rondo, the Facebook page, email (mine is jmwflutist@gmail.com), and in person. You will be hearing from me more. Email us with news of your performances and, of course, contact us with your concerns.

Our Membership Drive is happening now! September is the time to become a member of Local 125. If you join in September, the Federal Initiation Fee and the Local Initiation Fee will be waived. That is a significant savings. Help spread the word.

Welcome to our new and returning members: pianist and conductor, Alan Decipulo, bassist, Jim Lambie, clarinetist, Margaret Albrecht, and trumpet player, Brandon Cave.

Our General Membership meeting is **Tuesday, September 17 at 7:30 pm.** There will be a zoom option, but we would love to see you in person. The Board has been working on some updates to our **Price List**. The suggested changes are printed on **page 3** below. This meeting will serve as the official first reading. The second reading and final vote will happen at the November General Membership meeting. Bring your concerns, learn about what is going on in our building, hear my report from the ICSOM conference. We will have snacks and beverages. In the words of Chris White, VSO principal bass, who attended the June General Membership meeting, “that was fun!” Hope to see you there!

In Solidarity,
Joanne



Tell a friend...
September is membership month.
Join Local 125 this month and save \$90!
Click to join 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.**

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRICE LIST

PROPOSAL 1:

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRAS ALL VENUES

ONSTAGE or BACKSTAGE PERFORMING: \$15

Per performance per musician, as long as concert/pit black is the attire, and no special tasks are required. Special tasks, like speaking lines or choreography must be negotiated with the contractor.

PROPOSAL 2:

COSTUME FEE: \$15

Per musician, per service, who is required to wear a costume instead of or in addition to the standard dress black. Fittings for costumes outside of scheduled rehearsal times will be paid as rehearsal scale in 15-minute increments.

PROPOSAL 3:

MEMORIZATION: \$25

If music is required to be performed by memory, each musician shall receive an additional \$25 per 15 minutes or fraction of music, per service.

PROPOSAL 4:

III MAJOR VENUE

TRAVELING BROADWAY SHOWS, OTHER TOURING NATIONAL SHOWS AT

Midi keyboard premium 25%

Concertmaster 25%

Lead Trumpet 25%

Parking, if not supplied by venue \$10 per day

PROPOSAL 5:

XII COLA

Time Period & Wages:

This wage book takes effect January 1, 2025 and will be in effect until December 31, 2025. In October of each year, wages will increase by Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) as published by the Social Security Administration. Wages increase to the rounded dollar for the next calendar year. Cartage will remain the same until the wage book is opened again. All wages are minimums and prices may be higher depending on the venue, time of year, etc.

PROPOSAL 6:

I MISCELLANEOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Change “Solo Performer” rate to \$300 (currently \$200)

PROPOSAL 7:

\$25 premium will be added for Streaming.

1st Reading on September 17, 2024 General Membership meeting
2nd Reading & final vote @ November General Membership meeting

Meet our new members...

MARGARET ALBRECHT

Virginia Symphony Clarinetist/Bass Clarinetist **Margaret Albrecht** gained tenure with VSO during the 2023-2024 season. She had previously been granted a one-year position during the 2022-2023 season.

Margaret also enjoys a robust freelancing career. Most notable appearances include North Carolina Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Richmond Symphony, Williamsburg Symphony, Opera in Williamsburg, Charleston Symphony, the Florida Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic, Southwest Michigan Symphony, Michigan Philharmonic, Ann Arbor Symphony and Midland Symphony. Prior to relocating to Virginia, this Midwest transplant held positions with Lima Symphony (2nd Clarinet and 3rd Clarinet/Bass) in addition to her freelance work.



Margaret is an active chamber music enthusiast. She has worked extensively with Aepex Contemporary Ensemble, serving as an Artist in Residence in collaboration with Central Michigan University for their “New Music Weekend” in 2019. Other notable projects with Aepex include a CD release and world premier of Dr. Evan Ware’s *Symphonies No. 1 and 2* (“*The Quietest of Whispers*”). Margaret has also collaborated with ArcaSonica chamber ensemble for the U.S. premiere of Salina Fischer’s *Coastlines* and with Norfolk Chamber Consort’s Diehn Concert Series in 2023.

An active teacher, Margaret maintains both in person and online studios throughout Central and Southeastern Virginia and Southeastern Michigan. In addition to her private studio, Margaret serves on faculty with the Center for the Creative Arts and is looking forward to joining the Governor’s School for the Arts faculty this fall. When not performing or teaching, Margaret enjoys thrifting books, knitting and hiking with her dog, Maizy. She lives in Richmond VA with her husband, (a member of the Richmond Symphony) and her dog.



ALLAN DECIPULO



Allan Decipulo is the Musical Director and Vocal Coach in the Musical Theatre Department at the Governor’s School for the Arts. He also serves as the Musical Director in Residence for Virginia Musical Theatre. Allan has enjoyed collaborating with performing arts organizations such as the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Stage Company, Coastal Broadway Collaborative, Zeiders American Dream Theatre, and touring Broadway shows at Chrysler Hall. Before returning to Hampton Roads, Allan accompanied auditions for casting agencies and worked with many arts educational institutions, including Broadway Dance Center, Ballet Arts, City College of New York, and Take It From The Top, a NYC-based organization that presents performance workshops for aspiring teens across the country. He also worked with Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. Allan received his Bachelor’s degree in Piano Performance from Radford University.



JAMES LAMBIE

A native of Warwick, Rhode Island, **James Lambie** moved to Virginia Beach after finishing up a 22-year career playing bass for the Army Band program. He is currently the Rhythm Department Head, bass instructor and a Jazz Improv instructor at the Naval School of Music. Inspired by his grandfather, a bagpipe playing immigrant from Scotland also played several other instruments. His Grandfather happened to have an upright bass and gave it to James. Looking back, James would have never guessed that this gift would be the start of a 38 year career playing both electric and upright bass (and recently bagpipes, but that's another story). Playing bass has been James' long time passion and he is appreciative and grateful to get to perform with people and for people.

DID YOU KNOW...

You become a LIFE member at age 65 and have 35 years of AFM membership. Annual dues are reduced to \$102 for Active LIFE members, \$90 for Inactive LIFE members.

MPTF funds can be difficult to access if you can't find an employer to sponsor your performance. However if you have a business license or an LLC— you may be your own “employer of record”. MPTF funds can be paid directly to you for your work.

Nominations for Local 125 Officers and Board will happen at the November general membership meeting. The election will be in December.

“When Unions are strong, America is strong!” (Joe Biden)



EB member Scott Harris with congressional candidate Missy Cotter Smasal at the Labor Federation's candidate “meet and greet”.

News from our Labor guy...

Greetings Union members!

As union steward I attend monthly meetings of the **Eastern Virginia Labor Federation**. The federation discusses what is going on with labor all over Virginia. If there is a negotiation settlement the EVLF covers it. The federation is part of Virginia and national **AFL-CIO**. That stands for American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the American Federation of Musicians is a part of that distinguished organization.



It is probably not a surprise that The **AFM** and **AFL-CIO** have endorsed **Kamala Harris** and **Tim Walz** for president and vice president. The Biden administration was instrumental in getting the **Butch-Lewis Act** passed, and that is a huge win for labor across America! This win is the primary reason the **AFM** employers pension plan is on the road to recovery. The Biden administration is very pro labor and has done more for labor than any administration in recent history. President Biden is the first president to walk a picket line in support of the United Autoworkers. Unions are not just about improving wages and working conditions, but also advocate for social justice. As president Liz Shuler of the AFL-CIO says “It’s better in a union”!

Every election cycle the AFL-CIO makes recommendations and endorses candidates running for public office. Each candidate is asked a list of questions that pertain to labor in the Commonwealth. The recommendations are made based on the answers each candidate gives. The following is a list of the endorsed candidates for the eleven districts in Virginia:

Congressional district 1: Leslie Mehta
Congressional district 2: Missy Cotter Smasal
Congressional district 3: Robert “Bobby” Scott
Congressional district 4: Jennifer McClellan
Congressional district 5: Gloria Tinsley Witt
Congressional district 6: Ken Mitchell

Congressional District 7: Eugene Vindman
Congressional District 8: Donald Beyer, Jr.
Congressional District 9: Karen Baker
Congressional District 10: Suhas Subramanyam
Congressional District 11: Gerry Connolly

For the Senate the organization endorses **Tim Kaine**. The Commonwealth is also represented by Senator Mark Warner.

The list above is only a partial list of candidates. The candidates that were endorsed at the 43rd AFL-CIO convention in Williamsburg August 15th-17th 2024 are listed above. There are many districts in Virginia. Visit : **vote.va.aficio.org** to find which district you reside in and locate the candidates running in your district. Most of Hampton Roads is in either district 1,2, or 3. The **EVLF** and the **Virginia AFL-CIO** strongly urges every union member to vote in this election. The last day to request an absentee ballot is October 25th. Election Day is November 4th. Please make a plan and VOTE!

If any union members want to volunteer, there are plenty of phone banking and canvassing opportunities. Ask your union steward about this. The Eastern Virginia Labor Federation office is at 5307 Virginia Beach Boulevard (757) 461-1240, and the website is : **va-aficio.org**

Solidarity Forever!

Scott Harris, union steward for AFM local 125 and the Virginia Symphony
(757)270-9836

Secretary/Treasurer's Notes...



NEW MEMBERS:

Margaret Albrecht

Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, E flat Clarinet
8269 Carneal Lane
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Email: margaret.a.clarinet@gmail.com
Cell: (248)794-0715

Brandon Cave

Trumpet
225 A View Avenue, #109
Norfolk, VA 23503
Email: BCAVE511@gmail.com
Cell: (469)349-3465

Allan Decipulo

Piano, Conductor
1504 Grafton Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
Email: allandecipulo@yahoo.com
Cell: (757)572-3786

James (Jim) Lambie

Bass, Bass Guitar
1436 Independence Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
Email: jimlambiebass@gmail.com
Cell: (757)615-4410

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

William McPeters

911 Brandon Avenue, Apt. C-2
Norfolk, VA 23517

Nathan Matthews

7305 B River Road
Newport News, VA 23607

Jeremy Garnett

121 Parkway Court
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Beth Argiro

Email: Beth@andiloveherviolins.com

EXPELLED:

Margaret Carlson

CREDIT CARDS

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