



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 2025

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Tuesday, September 16th @ 7:30 PM
Join us at the Union Hall or via Zoom



Click to Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82643728809?pwd=cHhvLlkEmQysCdPjreeoyCE5kALUwG.1>

Meeting ID: 826 4372 8809 Passcode: 947223

President's message...

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you well and looking forward to the change of season. Summer music-making takes many of us to festivals or camps all over the world. We often play outside in what can be quite challenging circumstances but also for appreciative audiences who love to hear us in beautiful outside spaces. In our personal practice summer can be a vacation from the instrument or maybe a return to the basics, time to reset and refine. Whatever it was for you I hope you feel refreshed and ready to take on the Fall. For me, September still evokes that back-to-school feeling; the excitement of playing again with my dear Virginia Symphony colleagues.

On a more somber note, please join me in sending heartfelt condolences to our President Emeritus, John Lindberg on the passing of his beloved wife Jeanine. She was an extraordinary person who will be missed dearly.



September also marks the return of our Membership Drive. Last year's drive was so successful I wanted to do it again. With the approval of the International Executive Board our membership drive will run from Sept through December. Just like last year, local and federal initiation fees will be waved - a savings of \$90! Please spread the word to your fellow musicians who are ready to join the AFM.

VSO Bass Clarinetist, Margaret Albrecht represented the Virginia Symphony at the annual ICSOM Conference this year held in Cleveland. The International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians consists of all the major orchestras in the country. We at the Virginia Symphony have benefited from being a part of this group, learning from the hive mind of the orchestra world. Margaret will present what she learned at the conference at our next **General Membership meeting on September 16 at 7:30**.

I encourage you to attend the General Membership meeting, especially if you have concerns or questions. I always value the chance to connect with members, learn about your work, and hear about your performances. Of course, you're welcome to email me anytime at jmwflutist@gmail.com.

In Solidarity,
Joanne

2025 TORCH BENEFIT CONCERT IS CONFIRMED!

By Tom Reel

Our musicians will be performing a concert to benefit **Lynnhaven River NOW** at the **Harrison Opera House** on Saturday November 15th (time TBD).

This is under the auspices of **TORCH - Thanking Our Resident Community Heroes**. Unlike our project in 2023 (to benefit **For Kids**), hiring and payment this time will be through the **Virginia Symphony** and will be on the VSO scale (not Local #125 gig scale). As before, the **Virginia Arts Festival** is handling most of the publicity and logistical effort with the assistance of the Symphony and the beneficiary organization.

This work is optional. Those participating will be paid over & above any salary they would otherwise receive, added to their end-of-November pay (as will anyone paid per service including subs).

I do not solicit donations to the cause generally BUT for these TORCH projects, voluntary small contributions coming from the musicians (cash or check collected on the day of the event), will make possible a public announcement from the stage that "the performers have all (?) contributed to Lynnhaven River NOW." Such an announcement helps fulfill the third objective of these events:

1. To contribute to a worthy local organization (**Thanking Our Resident Community Heroes**)
2. To provide paid work for our Union Musicians
3. To burnish the reputation of the Musicians' Union

The first objective is achieved with ticket sales and any donations associated with the Benefit Concert. The idea of having our musicians give back to a worthy local organization (not in the performing arts) with our talent was born after COVID 19 with the thought of leveraging gifts to musicians in need, becoming instead a paid gig for them and a contribution from the artists back to the community, thus flipping our usual business model (of asking for money) on its head once a year.

We missed 2024 but resume what should become an annual tradition this fall. (In 2026 we will benefit The Muse.) It brings me immense joy to be able to mount this rehearsal/concert (one service) in partnership with the Virginia Arts Festival and with the great cooperation and assistance from the Virginia Symphony and, OF COURSE, the awesome musicians of this Union.



Meet our new member



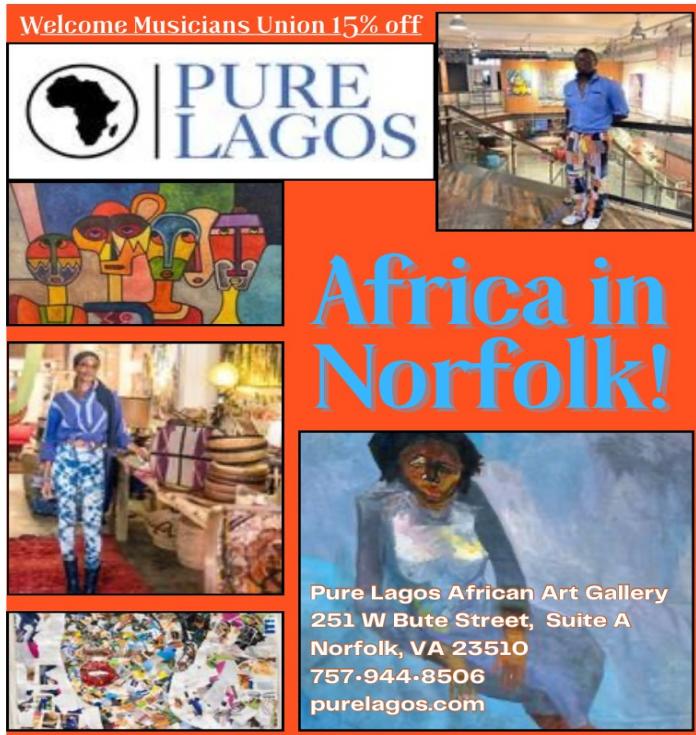
Michael Malinowski is a freelance drummer and percussionist who has performed with artists such as Blue Man Group and Sheila E. He has had the privilege of performing at some of the biggest venues in Los Angeles, including the Hollywood Bowl and Ford Amphitheatre. Michael graduated from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, at California State University, Long Beach, with a degree in Percussion Performance. There, he studied classical, jazz, and world music.

Michael has performed and toured with multiple groups in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas – most notably One High Five and Dross. Being a versatile drummer, he balanced those shows with frequent musical theatre performances. Last year he worked at Disneyland, performing Viver Brasil's "Viva Navidad Street Fiesta".

Michael recently moved to Virginia Beach, Virginia, and is now focused on playing and recording locally, as well as touring nationally.

**15%
Discount
for
Local
125
members**

Welcome Musicians Union 15% off



PURE LAGOS

Africa in Norfolk!

Pure Lagos African Art Gallery
251 W Bute Street, Suite A
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-944-8506
purelagos.com

The advertisement for Pure Lagos African Art Gallery features a red border. At the top, it says "Welcome Musicians Union 15% off". Below that is the "PURE LAGOS" logo, which includes a circular icon of the African continent. The main title "Africa in Norfolk!" is in large blue letters. There are several smaller images: a painting of a person, a person standing in a shop, a person standing on a balcony, and a close-up of a painting. The bottom right corner contains the gallery's contact information.

**PURE
LAGOS
is
located on
the 1st floor
of the
Union Hall**

Did you know that there is a fund to help pay for your live gigs that are free and open to the public? The **Music Performance Trust Fund**, which is a separate entity from the union, has been providing grants for over 70 years.

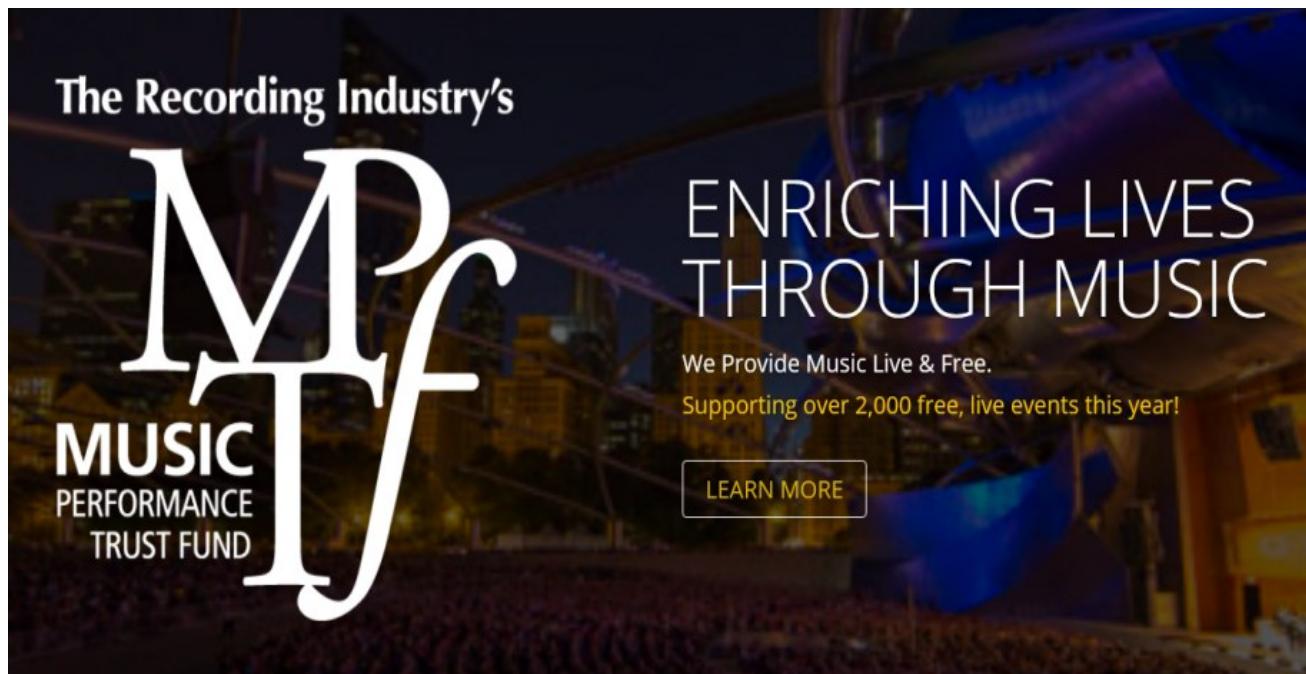
MPTF gigs can take place in parks, schools, and public halls, as well as in hospitals and at nursing homes and retirement centers.

We can't help you find the gig; you must organize and book the gig yourself. You will need to find a "co-sponsor," which means some entity that agrees to share the cost of the gig. Co-sponsors could include a school, nonprofit organization, state or local government, or any kind of business, large or small. If you, as a musician, have an LLC, then YOU can be the co-sponsor.

Finally, you must make sure that you pay your group under an AFM union contract, using the Local 125 Wage Scale Book. Other details apply; we can help with all paperwork and questions. MPTF usually pays for 50% of the cost of the gig, however there are some special programs where 100% of the cost is paid.

Email Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Dennis at afmlocal125@verizon.net if you have any questions. **You must apply no less than 30 days prior to your gig.**

Learn all about the Music Performance Trust Fund at <https://musicpf.org>.



Spread the word...



LOCAL 125 FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Starting
September 1st



**Join Now!
Local & Federal Initiation
Fees Waived
Save \$90!
Join at AFM.org**

Annual Dues \$150
Questions? Email us at
afmlocal125@verizon.net



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putting support right in your pocket.**

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Secretary/Treasurer's Notes...



DIRECTORY UPDATES:

NEW MEMBER

Christina Johnson, Viola & Violin
9151 Rangtang Road
Gloucester, VA 23061
(804)824-1851
followtherivermusic@gmail.com
Www.followtherivermusic.com

NEW ADDRESS

Jason Squinobal
406 Ventoas Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Hirofumi Tanaka
9121 Granby St.
Norfolk, VA 23503

A few members haven't paid the Annual Dues that were due this quarter. Please, avoid suspension by paying BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30th. Thx!

SUSPENDED

Wilford Holcombe
Christine Kilbride
John Vitale

RESIGNED

Nathan Matthews

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.**

