

OvertoneS



Newsletter

The Cincinnati Musicians Association

© 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ARTS ADVOCACY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear musicians of Local 1:

At a meeting of the CMA Board in February, Vice President Kat Aguiar pointed out an article in the *International Musician* that provided details about the Arts Advocacy Day scheduled for April 13, 2010, hosted by Americans for the Arts. The members of the Board strongly urged me to attend the event. I was quite interested myself, having heard a speech at the 2008 International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians presented by the director of Americans for the Arts. Arriving in Washington on April 12, I attended the orientation day that featured discussions on strategies for effectively persuading congressional staff personnel, a speech by Rocco Landesman, head of the National Endowment for the Arts, and a series of breakout sessions devoted to specific arts topics.

On Tuesday, April 13, I met with other Ohio delegates and headed to the offices of our assigned representatives. We met with legislative assistants to Representatives Jean Schmidt and Zachary Space. The subjects we presented were requests for increased funding to the National Endowment for the Arts and legislation to protect the "white space" radio frequency that is utilized by wireless microphones. Following these morning appointments, I met with AFM Government Relations Director Hal Ponder, and we made a presentation to the chief aide to Senator Sherrod Brown advocating for the Performance Right Act, that would provide royalties to musicians for radio broadcasts. We completed our Capitol Hill afternoon with a visit to the office of New York Representative Jerry Nadler, where we supported legislation that would permit musical instruments as carry-on items aboard commercial flights.

To experience this first-hand exposure to advocacy in Washington was fascinating. It made me aware of the multiple layers of administrative hurdles that must be overcome to bring ideas to politicians. I was also pleased to find so many young people involved in arts support. The AFM must continue to increase its abilities to support legislation that aids working musicians.

REGIONAL RESOURCE MEETING IN INDIANAPOLIS

On April 26, Secretary Carolyn Mason and I each traveled to Indianapolis to attend a regional meeting of the Mid-America Conference held at the offices of Local 3. Attending the meeting were AFM President Thomas Lee, Secretary Sam Folio, International Representative Barbara Owens, members of the IEB, and other officers of locals from Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky. The day was a preliminary event to the actual 2010 Mid-America Conference that will be held in Las Vegas prior to the AFM Convention in June. Resolutions and recommendations that will come before the convention delegates were discussed, and several officers gave brief descriptions of the concessionary negotiations that have taken place in the past year with symphony orchestras. Perhaps the most controversial subject of the day was the proposal to increase national membership dues in all locals by ten dollars. Joe Boettger, president of the AFM local in Flint, Michigan, made an impassioned plea against any increase on behalf of his members.

AFM-EP REHABILITATION PLAN

AFM President Tom Lee provided a detailed report on the rehabilitation plan that has been established by the Trustees of the American Federation of Musicians Employers Pension Fund. In order for the Fund to be compliant with the Pension Protection Act of 2006, it is necessary for all employers who contribute to the Fund to begin making higher supplemental contributions effective June 1, 2010. This will require signing documents that modify existing agreements by the end of May. Where the Fund itself is neither in danger of running short of cash nor required to reduce benefits that are being paid, the rehabilitation plan provides extra revenue until the value of the Fund's investments return. As this goes to press, a "sunset clause" has been crafted by the attorneys for the AFM-EP Fund that would set aside the rehabilitation increases once the finances improve. Those employers participating in the plan may not decrease the percentage of contributions they have agreed upon in the past, and any employer seeking to withdraw from the Fund would be responsible for providing the total amount of liabilities guaranteed to its current employee participants.

CSO PRINCIPAL PERCUSSION WILLIAM PLATT RETIRES

Performing Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture as the final piece of the 2010 May Festival, Cincinnati Symphony Principal Percussion Bill Platt has retired, completing a highly distinguished career as one of the most respected percussionists and sought-after clinicians in the nation. Despite his hectic schedule of practicing, assigning percussion parts to his colleagues, and raising a family, Bill was always willing to serve his colleagues on orchestra committees. A veteran of many negotiations, Bill will continue to serve as a member of the CSO Board of Trustees. Rather than trading in his sticks and mallets for a rocking chair, Bill will be serving as a faculty member at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music in the 2010-11 academic year. To Bill, Kazuko, Kevin, Julie, and the grandchildren, we say bravo!

Because of the highly administrative demands of a principal percussion position, the audition committee of the Cincinnati Symphony asked for a waiver to wait until next year for a national audition, and held an internal audition that has promoted CSO Associate Principal Percussion David Fishlock to succeed Bill Platt as Principal Percussion.

The Cincinnati Symphony has also engaged Christian Colberg as Principal Viola following national auditions held in March, followed by a trial week in May. Mr. Colberg is currently Assistant Principal Viola in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A membership meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2010, at 7:30 PM at the CMA office. All members should have received a card. If you get a chance, please look through the resolutions and recommendations listed on pages 31-37 of the May issue of the International Musician. If you see anything you would like us to discuss at the meeting, let us know. There is also a list of candidates for the various offices on the next two pages.

MEMBER JANICE TRYTTEN EMPLOYS GOPRO

CMA member Janice Trytten, who plays native flutes and horn, has utilized the joint venture feature on GoPro to register and market CD recordings she has made on native flutes. "Accepting the offer to promote my own music in a way that would broaden my audience base was very appealing," Janice told me when she came to the office to have me sign as an officer for her request. She stated that the GoPro helpline was user-friendly and instantaneous. Janice learned about GoPro in the International Musician.

IN MEMORIAM: STAN PIATES

Life member Stan Piates, who was a major swing band leader in Cincinnati for decades, passed away last month in California.

A NEW HOME FOR LOCAL 1?

For the past six years, members of the CMA Board of Trustees have examined a number of buildings as possible alternatives to the current rental property at 2145 Central Parkway. With the acquisition of National City Bank by PNC, a number of branches that were closed are now for sale. The branch located on Linn Street in the Queensgate area is one such property, and the members of the Board have toured it. There is ample parking, and the building itself is in fine condition. When purchasing commercial property, there are many details and permits that must be considered. As we continue to "take baby steps" in considering the former bank branch, resigned CMA member and retired architect Bob Bicknaver has graciously agreed to advise the Board on the feasibility of making this a possible permanent home for the Cincinnati Musicians Association. The membership will be kept informed of any further developments.

FINAL TAFT MUSEUM CONCERT JUNE 7, 2010

Italian Festival of Music

Dorothy Davis, *Keyboard*

Richard Porotsky, *Clarinet*

Laura Proffit, *Violin*

Paul Piller, *Trombone*

Kevin Moore, *Trumpet*

Don Hurd, *Mandolin*

ACCENT MUSIC, INC. - the booking agency for Cincinnati Musicians Assoc. - is gladly beginning to see a resurgence of calls after having experienced a bleak year. Many companies and individuals have encountered the same problems due to the fragile condition of our economy - carrying over to all forms of employment. Our updated website seems to have generated a new interest, with more people emailing or calling to inquire about hiring "live music" for their wedding ceremony, private party, or special function... (*what a novel concept!*) We are also about to go on Facebook with the hope that it will be beneficial in attracting potential customers, which will result in jobs for musicians. If you would like to have Accent Music represent you or your group when a client contacts us, please submit a demo CD, website information, photos, anything pertinent to obtain a booking for you.

Your feedback is welcome, and you can contact me at Accent Music by calling 513-241-0903 or emailing lynne@accentmusic.org.

Lynne Scott, *Manager*
Accent Music, Inc.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Since the last newsletter, we've continued our work on the Local's website. Overall traffic has increased and we've added several new features. In the member's-only section there are copies of the current constitution, by-laws and the price list. We will also soon have e-mail addresses for the officers and board. As I wrote earlier, if you are having trouble logging on to the member's-only section, please e-mail me at webcontacts@afml.org.

The first phase of the website-rebuild, better access for the membership, is essentially finished. Each member can change their profile on-line, list any teaching activities and access the constitution, by-laws and price list. The next phase will concentrate on publicizing the activities of the membership. We will be working to update the Accent Music part of our website with sound clips and publicity materials. Throughout the summer we'll be finding new ways to showcase our members. The design plans are not final, but please forward any photos, playlists and sound clips of yourself or your groups to me at webcontacts@afml.org.

More next time... Ron Aufmann

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

A committee has been formed to draft a revision to the Cincinnati Musicians Union Constitution and bylaws. The constitution and bylaws are the rules and regulations which govern the internal affairs of the organization, such as holding meetings, voting, quorums, elections, and the powers of directors and officers. Any bylaws will include at a minimum: the name of the organizations; the members' responsibilities, dues, quorum, and voting procedures; likewise, the duties, quorum, and voting procedures of the board of directors; the rules of order; and procedures for amending the bylaws. The constitution and bylaws are a contract among members and must be formally adopted and/or amended by the organization.

The committee will be reviewing models provided by the AFM as well as those of other locals as they go through the process of updating the format, language, and content. A draft will be presented to the Board of Directors for their review with a recommendation for presentation to the membership for their vote of approval. As the current constitution and bylaws have not been updated for many years, extensive revisions are being considered. The committee intends to complete its work before the general membership meeting in December 2010. The general membership must vote to adopt any revision to the bylaws. Due notice will be given to all members prior to any vote.

Mimi Sinclair was elected chair by the committee. Board members serving on the committee include Vice-President Kat Agular, Secretary Carolyn Mason, and Trustee Joe Gaudio. Steven Hoskins, Gene Marquis, Elizabeth Motter, and Clarence Pawn from the general membership round out the committee. President Paul Frankenfeld is a member of ex-officio, which means "by virtue of office." He is to attend and participate in all committee meetings.

Mimi Sinclair

Masao Kawaski and Catharine Carroll are proud to announce that the 38th International Viola Congress is about to descend on Cincinnati at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music this June 16th-20th. The past three years have been dedicated to the planning of a unique incarnation of this annual event as it will be the only time in history that it will be held in Cincinnati. The theme of the Congress is "Looking Forward while Embracing the Past" symbolized in the graphic design by "Janus, the god of doorways... of beginnings and endings."

The 2010 International Viola Congress is filled with many "firsts." Nobuko Imai and Xidi Shen will make their first appearances this June at a North American Viola Congress. Other firsts include a distance learning master class with Tabea Zimmermann following the opening ceremony on June 16. This congress will also feature other instruments than the viola. Kim Kashkashian and John Graham will perform with percussionists Robin... and James Culley. Nobuko Imai will collaborate in chamber music with clarinetist Richie Hawley, Victoria Chiang will perform with violinist David Perry. The biggest surprise is that Gil Shaham will perform with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra on the June 19 Gala and at the closing concert with his wife, Adele Anthony in a chamber music concert with co-hosts Masao Kawasaki and Catharine Carroll and cellists Eric Kim and Michael Mermagen.

Other events include master classes with major international performers and pedagogues including, Nobuko Imai, Xidi Shen, Bruno Giuranna, Roberto Diaz, Donald McInnes, Michel Michalakakos, Peter Slowik, Jeffery Irvine, Michael Tree, Samuel Rhodes, and more. Orchestral excerpt workshops with Lynne Ramsey Irvine, Carrie Dennis, and Walter Kussner will be presented as well as sessions in Alexander Technique, "Virtual Viola Workout" with Garth Knox and lectures galore. Additionally, there will be a two-day program embedded in the congress called "BRATS" for students K-12 where they will performing master class, receive coaching in viola ensemble, participate in panel discussion, technique classes, and jazz/improvisation classes culminating in a final concert in the CCM Atrium on June 19.

This is the only time in history that so many of the world's finest violists will gather in Cincinnati, it would be a shame for anybody to miss it! For more information visit our website at: www.lvc2010.com.

Ann Stewart and Daren Fuster

The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra-winner of the 2009 Scripps Corbett Award for Artistic Excellence-has announced the upcoming season. The concerts will be more affordable than ever this year, with most tickets priced at \$10.00. According to Board President Larry Magnesen, "With the continued challenges facing many families, the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra wanted to ensure that access to first-class performances remained affordable. Therefore, with the generous sponsor of a patron, many of our ticket prices have been reduced for the upcoming season." The 2010-2011 season will celebrate the 200th birthday anniversary of composer Robert Schumann.

Music Director Mischa Santora said, "I am thrilled that the CCO will bring you an in-depth musical and literary portrait of this unique artist. Schumann was not only the composer who brought Romanticism to music, he was also a brilliant pianist, the inventor of musical criticism, and a committed family man."

The Blue Ash-Montgomery Symphony presents three concerts this summer. BAMSO will perform at the Blue Ash town square on May 29th at 6pm, July 3rd at 7:30pm at Montgomery Park in Montgomery, and September 6th at 6pm at the Blue Ash town square. The orchestra is composed of AFM members, primarily local 1, and led by musician and pianist Michael Chertock who also teaches at CCM and performs regularly with the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops. Playing several key roles in BAMSO are Laura and Glenn Proffit. Laura acts as both contractor and concertmaster, and Glenn is the librarian and one man stage crew. In addition to its Summer concerts of light classical and pops music, BAMSO also presents an annual Christmas concert and a February concert. For more information on BAMSO please visit: www.bamso.org.

Glenn Proffit

THE OLD SCPA BUILDING: CONDOS, JAIL OR A FUTURE ARTS CENTER?

Recently there was an article in the Enquirer about what will happen to the old SCPA building after the school moves to the new site near Music Hall. I immediately thought: "Wouldn't it be a great arts center magnet for downtown?"

Letters to the editor mentioned turning it into condos or a jail, and the thought of losing that great and historic architecture in that manner was upsetting. When performing venues are at a premium in Cincinnati, how could we destroy the stage and auditorium and lose that space?

If downtown revitalization is a goal, why not make the old building a mecca for concerts, working artists, arts offices, rehearsal space, the union? This could be a lively, creative space for dancers, artists, and musicians.

How to pursue this dream!? The challenges are many:

1. financially, coming up with the considerable purchase prices (anyone have a million bucks lying around?), the renovation price
2. improving the safety of the area so patrons and residents could feel safe coming there day an night
3. bringing together diverse interests and then building the organization that would work towards the ultimate goal
4. working with the Cincinnati Public schools who now own the building

I shared my vision with my Chamber Music Network friends and found that this arts center had been discussed many times in the past, but never with the use of SCPA's building in mind. We toured the building recently and decided this huge building had huge possibilities, but also huge challenges. Not to be discouraged by realities, our group of enthusiastic visionaries is continuing to meet and look into making this happen. Our attitude is that if you never even try, it for sure will never happen. No one thought that in 2010 there would be a new school standing at the corner of Elm and Central Parkway either!

This project is considerably beyond the scope of the Chamber Music Network, so will involve a larger and more diverse interest group. If you'd be interested in participating in this vision, please email me at lambsetots@fuse.net.

Barbara Lambert