



the

Local 56 Musician

Live It Up
With Live Music

The Official Journal Of the Grand Rapids Federation Of Musicians, Local 56, AFM, AFL-CIO

Summer 2018

Available in full color online at www.livemusicgr.org, Members Only section

Vol. 42 Issue 1

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS 2018



Membership Meeting Monday, November 5, 5:00 PM
to consider a resolution regarding Negotiating
Committee payments and to vote for Executive Board
positions.

See notice on page 2.

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President's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have announced my retirement from the position of President for the Local 56. I joined the AFM 42 years ago in 1976.

I became a board member in 1992, vice president and president in mid 2000's.

My musical career has been mostly local night clubs playing electric guitar for both rock and country. I have been lucky to open for Willie Nelson, Don Williams, John Anderson.

As President, I have also been involved in the GRSO and LSO orchestras' contract negotiations.

The Local's financial health and participation in the local labor organizations have been of great importance to me. Outreach to members and community through festival committees and the Local's scholarships keep our Local relevant.

I will continue performing on a limited schedule, giving lessons and labor negotiation consulting.

Please advocate for the concept of unions, and get involved with your local.

I wish you all the best. Join me on Facebook!

President Eric Vander Stel, Sr.

NOTICE:

A Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, November 5th, at 5:00 PM at the Local 56 Office, 918 Benjamin Ave NE in Grand Rapids. A resolution to remove from the bylaws the mandate for payment of a negotiating committee beyond expenses will be considered. In addition, the membership will vote for President and three (3) Alternate Delegates for the L56 Executive Board.

Local 56 2017 Election Results

Andrea Giba, Secretary/Treasurer
Kevin Murphy, Board Member
Mary Rademacher, Board Member

The Local 56 Musician

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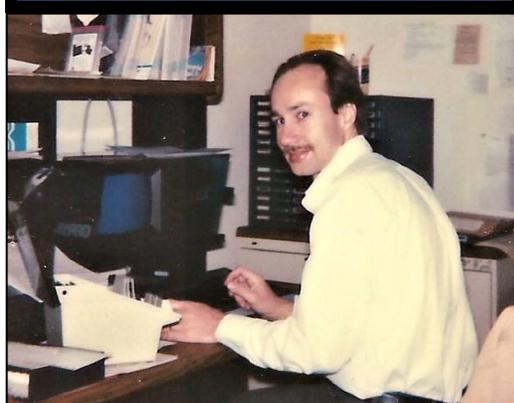
Website: www.livemusicgr.org

Editor: Andrea Giba
Office Assistant: Kevin Murphy

Local 56 Executive Board

Eric Vander Stel, President
Bennie Keys Jr., Vice President
Andrea Giba, Secretary/Treasurer
Christina Fong, Chris Martin
Kevin Murphy, Elgin Vines

We'll Miss You, Gary Sironen!!



INTERVIEW

- Q: What do you plan to do now that you're retired?
A: I'm writing musicals for theater—composer, arranger, and lyrics.
- Q: What advice would you give your younger self?
A: I don't think I would change much, because everything I have done in the past has better prepared me for what I am doing now.
- Q: What have you learned about yourself?
A: I've learned that I enjoy talking with people and helping people work out concerns and challenges. I also enjoy research.

Secretary/Treasurer's Corner

Hello, fellow musicians! I suppose I should introduce myself, since I haven't had the pleasure of meeting most of you. My name is Andrea Giba (the last name is pronounced with a hard G and a long I). I was just elected to this position this past January and am having a heck of a time filling Gary Sironen's 25yr boots! But little by little...



Anyway, I thought you might want to know a little bit about me. I play the alto sax, although any woodwind player can play pretty much any other woodwind... they all finger the same. But I'm a saxophonist at heart. The 1st time I picked up that horn in 4th grade, I knew that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Unfortunately, life had different plans for me; and even though I did everything I could to prepare me for majoring in music in college, I never got to do that. Not that I didn't try. I started my Freshman year at the University of Redlands in Southern California... did I tell you I'm a California girl? Well, anyway, after my 1st semester, the University suggested I withdraw, because my parents weren't making their payments.

I was devastated and put my horn up for 20 years... went to Jr. College, got a degree in Secretarial, and began working at Edwards Air Force Base as a Steno-Secretary on the B-1 Test Program with Rockwell International. When they stopped that program, I transferred to Seal Beach, CA, and worked as a Senior Secretary on the Space Program while getting my Bachelors in Business Administration.

Once I had my BSBA, I transferred to Downey, CA, as a buyer, ultimately negotiating the \$11.3M time and material contract for the test site in Palmdale, CA, after the Challenger incident. Then I was transferred to Cape Canaveral just so Rockwell could legally get rid of us higher-paid employees in a right-to-work state... 17 employees in 2 years... I was the 1st. So now what? I went to H&R Block and got certified to prepare taxes and started my own accounting and tax preparation company, and that's what I did for the next 30+ years as a full-charge accountant with various companies.

So as you should have figured out already, I'm perfectly suited to perform the duties of the position of Secretary/Treasurer; and, although it will take me awhile, eventually I hope to prove to all our members that I truly am the best person for the job. Granted, I'm not Gary and will be doing things somewhat differently; but know that everything I do in this office is for you, the members of the Local 56 of the American Federation of Musicians!

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve each and every one of you, and thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit about me. Drop by any day, Monday through Friday, 2:00pm-5:00pm (although I'm usually here much longer than that) and introduce yourself.

Andrea Giba
Secretary/Treasurer

Gary Sironen Interview (cont)

Q: What things have you learned about life and the human condition?

A: That there is a wide diversity of people, but we all have similar concerns and needs, like love and respect and appreciation.

Q: What things in your life would you have given up in an instant if you got an even better opportunity?

A: My other job was Music Director at church. If that was a full-time position, I might have taken that. But some of the things I learned in this job are very helpful to what I am doing now, and I certainly don't regret that.

Q: What about your job made you feel satisfied?

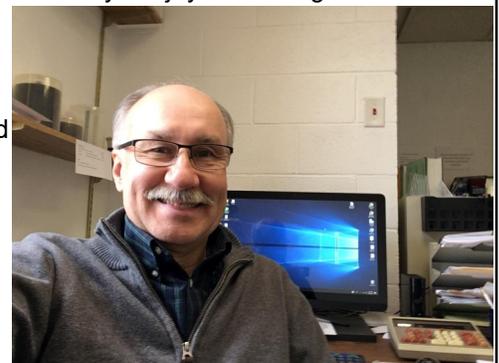
A: Working with members. It took a while at the beginning, but I was a teacher and always enjoyed working with students; but when I got this job, after a couple years, I enjoyed working with Members best.

Q: What do you do for enjoyment, hobbies?

A: I am an amateur astrologer. I have a telescope and also belong to the Grand Rapids Amateur Astrological Association.

Q: What are you going to do next?

A: Writing musicals, and I'm looking forward to the next 25 years of my life!





2018 Scholarship Winners

Melissa Akin
Helen LaGrand



Donald D. Armstrong Scholarship

INTERVIEW

- Q: Do you have a formal music education?
 A: I do. I am a part of our Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Marching Band at Elk Rapids High School, all of which are instructed by Nick Anderson, who is an outstanding teacher! I also participate in the concert band at Northwestern Michigan College. The experience I've gained from being there is amazing, and I plan to continue attending the classes again this year.
- Q: Who are your musical influences?
 A: All of my musical influences have been my teachers so far, aside from some musicians that I look up to. Mr. Campbell, who was my instructor at the college band, showed me that music is stuffed with emotion; and being able to express those emotions is what music is. That's when I realized that I absolutely love music and that I was going to stick with it. Another one of my musical influences is my current teacher at my school, Mr. Anderson. He is an amazing saxophonist who has supported and pushed me to do my best. Because of him, I was given opportunities to improve upon my musical education outside of the classroom.
- Q: How do you handle mistakes during a performance?
 A: We all make mistakes; and thanks to mistakes, we're able to improve. Looking at it that way is how I handle them. If you see me performing and I make a mistake, I tend to smile a little and brush it off. There is no such thing as a perfect performance, and my mistakes in a performance push me to do even better with the rest of the piece.
- Q: When and why did you start playing?
 A: I started playing around my 6th grade year. I was a horrible artist at the time and definitely didn't like to sing in front of others, so I figured I would try an instrument. Plus, people who play instruments are cool, right? Other than that, my aunt played the tenor saxophone, which I thought was the coolest thing in the world; so I was determined to play the sax.
- Q: Do you get nervous before a concert or a competition?
 A: When I first started, I had really bad stage fright. I would go up onto the stage, my whole body shaking from fear. Today I still get nervous, but not to the point where I'm shaking. I feel like that nervousness is there to push me to do my best; and, frankly, I would be a little concerned if I wasn't nervous before or during a performance.
- Q: What advice would you give to beginners who are nervous?
 A: Don't beat yourself up if you make a mistake! Don't think about what could go wrong or who is watching you. Everyone performs for different reasons, so show everyone why you do and how much work you've put into your musical education. It's really not that bad. No one starts out as a top-notch musician.
- Q: How often and for how long do you practice?
 A: During school, I practice about 5 times a week, around 4-6 hours a day, especially if I'm trying to work out a hard piece. That's counting the two hours I have for each of my music classes. I almost live in the band room. You'll see me there before school starts and tucked away in one of the practice rooms at the end of the day. During the summer, I probably practice 4 times a week and three-ish hours a day, usually working on memorizing my scales or new, potential repertoire for solo and ensemble.

Robert Madura String Scholarship

INTERVIEW

- Q: Is your family musical?
 A: My mom was a serious pianist in both high school and college and continues to play to some degree. My sister plays violin and is as serious on the violin as I am on the cello and even plays some jazz violin. My brothers are into many types of music, and my oldest brother plays the guitar and is into a wide range of varieties of musical types.
- Q: Which famous musicians do you admire? Why? And who are your other musical influences and teachers?
 A: It probably sounds cliché, but Yo-Yo Ma. He has some really interesting interpretations, and I admire that he doesn't take himself too seriously. My 1st teacher was Karen Krummel, who was my teacher for 8 years. Now that I'm college bound, I've had lessons with a lot of other teachers; but I've had the opportunity to study with Richard Aaron for almost a year now and will be studying with him at Michigan. I was also influenced by the Bach Suites from Yo-Yo Ma, and I'm really captivated by Jacqueline du Pre's Elgar Concerto.
- Q: How do you handle mistakes during a performance?
 A: Sometimes I haven't handled them very well throughout the years, but recently I've been working on it and had a teacher that has helped me to focus on "being in the zone" or "groove" so that nothing throws me off my goal.
- Q: Do you get nervous before a performance or a competition?
 A: I actually do have a lot of problems with performance anxiety. I get very, very nervous.
- Q: What advice would you give to beginners who are nervous?
 A: I would say it's very normal. Think about each performance not as a test but rather an opportunity to perform the music as the composer intended. A performance is not about us and our mistakes, it's about the music that we get to play.
- Q: How often and for how long do you practice? What makes a good practice session, and what do you practice?
 A: I do rehearse with my piano trio two times a week, and with the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony. What makes a good session is to have a healthy balance between getting a lot of work done and enjoying yourselves. You need to get along well with the other musicians and talk and laugh, but try not to get along too well to the point where you disrupt your rehearsal. I'm going back to fundamentals when I practice, which I try to do every day for 3-4 hours, because I have some bad habits. I'm doing a lot of really foundational exercises as well as a healthy amount of practice for specific songs.
- Q: Have you been in competitions? Any prizes?
 A: Yes, many over the years... a few scholarships from St. Cecilia Music Center, the Skip Gates Concerto Competition, the Kent Philharmonic Concerto Competition, and the Louis Potter Cello Competition. He was a Michigan cello teacher.
- Q: Do you perform in public? Describe those occasions.
 A: Yes, I have soloed with a few orchestras; and another memorable experience was when my trio traveled to Italy to perform. We got to know some musicians there and learned a lot.

2018 Scholarship Runner Up



Cameron
Gouin

Robert Madura String Scholarship

Cameron Gouin, age 16, is a junior at East Kentwood High School in Michigan and is currently studying violin with Gregory Maytan. Cameron has already won several local and regional competitions and acceptance to several world-renowned festivals, including advancing to the 2018 White Lake Young Artist Solo Competition Finals and taking the runner-up position at the 2018 Lima Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition. In 2018, Cameron was the Michigan winner for the senior strings division of the MTNA Competition; and his trio was selected as the MASTA featured performance at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. He won the Kent Philharmonic Young Artist Concerto Competition, and will be the featured soloist accompanied by the KPSO in October. Additionally, he won the Lansing Symphony Orchestra Youth Competition, and will be a solo performer on their calendar as well. The summer of 2017 brought him to Center Stage Strings at the University of Michigan, where he was as a student of Stephen Shipps and Daniele Belen. Upon a personal invitation by Professor Shipps, he subsequently attended Cambridge International Strings Academy where he worked with Rodney Friend and Simon James. Cameron was selected to perform for David Kim as a part of the 2017 Stulberg International String Competition masterclasses. During the summer of 2016 Cameron attended the Meadowmount School of Music as a student of Ann Setzer.

Congratulations to all our 2018 Scholarship Winners!

Don't forget, Members, to attend the **Labor Fest** this year on Labor Day, September 3rd, 2018, at the Ah-Nab-Awen Park, 220 Front Ave NW in Grand Rapids. Several of our Local 56 acts will be performing there; and there will also be food vendors, a beer tent, an auto show, children's rides and games, arts & crafts vendors and more. So bring the whole family, and enjoy the festivities!

Free Union Websites to Promote You & Your Band

Local Referral Service - www.LiveMusicGR.org

Sell Your Recordings - www.GoProTunes.com

National Referral Service - www.GoProMusic.com

AFM Booking Agency - www.AFMEntertainment.org

8 August 2018

ORCHESTRA NEWS

Grand Rapids Receives Community Engagement Grant

The Grand Rapids Symphony has been awarded a grant of \$1.1 million from the Wege Foundation to engage new and diverse audiences with live orchestra music. The grant, spread over four years, will add community engagement staff positions and create a two-year music fellowship for a musician fellow to perform with the Grand Rapids Symphony and be mentored by symphony musicians, members of Local 56 (Grand Rapids, MI).

The grant money was first put to use with the symphony's free community outdoor concerts at a local park in July. Funds will also help to grow the symphony's Mosaic Scholarship program—a mentoring program for black and Latino music students, created with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. A new program, Mosaic Music Majors, will assist college music students of color in developing skills to launch their careers. Teenage students will be provided with musical instruments, private lessons, and the opportunity to perform at and attend concerts.



Thomas Clement

Hale, Michigan
March 27, 1952 - July 19, 2018

Obituary Notice

Thomas E. Clement, age 66, of Hale, MI, passed away at his home on Thursday, July 19, 2018. He was born on March 27, 1952 in West Branch, MI to Wesley & Margaret (Nickols) Clement. He was a 1970 graduate of Hale High School and had worked as an electrician. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hale and the Hale Lions Club also the Flint Federation of Musicians Local 542, AF of M. He enjoyed playing the guitar, singing and fixing things. He was always looking for a good project.

Tom is survived by his wife Linda of Hale; children, Patrick (Leslie Kovacik) Clement of Toledo, OH, Amy (Russell Cooper) Clement of Wayland, MI, Lynn (Zak) Clement-Bremer of Silver Spring, MD; grandchildren, Ethan, Elliot, Violette, Atticus, Meara; brothers, George (Bonnie) Clement of Bozeman, MT, Dave (Mary Lou) Clement of National City, MI, Flynn Clement of Hale, MI; sister, Coleen Gaydash of Hale, MI; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will take place on Sunday, July 22, 2018 from 4 to 8 PM at the Hale Chapel of the Buresh Funeral Home, 121 S. Washington, Hale, MI. Services will be conducted on Monday, July 23, 2018 at 11 AM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 407 S. Washington, Hale with Rev. Dean Muhle officiating. Interment will take place in the Esmond-Evergreen Cemetery in Hale. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church or to C.S. Mott's Children's Hospital Micah Smiles Fund or to the Rogel Cancer Center Helping Hands Fund; both at U of M Hospitals in Ann Arbor. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.bureshfuneralhomes.com.

Memorials

Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church or to C.S. Mott's Children's Hospital Micah Smiles Fund or to the Rogel Cancer Center Helping Hands Fund; both at U of M Hospitals in Ann Arbor.

[View/Submit Condolences](#)

2018 Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts And the MPTF



This year's Festival of the Arts was a huge success, with many varieties of acts that participated from our very own Local 56. Altogether, there were almost 30 L56 acts and about 45 musicians that were viewed by the public; and some acts were even recorded on Local news stations. Thank you all for participating in an event that features our Local 56 talent. You are all amazing!

And by the way, our participation would not have been possible without the generous donation from the Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) to the Festival of the Arts Committee. In fact the MPTF has recently announced in *International Musician* that at the beginning of the American Federation of Musicians' (AFM) fiscal year, which began May 1, the AFM has set aside an additional \$100,000 in grant funds to re-stimulate the MPTF's impact on Music In The Schools. The funds are for new initiatives in school systems in North America, provided as block grants, and cover each accepted program at 100%!

So if you are interested in applying for a grant with MPTF, contact your Local 56 office.



Local 56/AFM

MEMBER BENEFITS

Contracts for live performance, recording and broadcast work.

Free Referral Service for bands, ensembles, soloists

* in booklet form and on the web at www.livemusicgr.org.

Lester Petrillo Memorial Fund for Disabled Musicians

* provides limited financial aid to musicians who become temporarily or permanently disabled.

AFM—Employers' Pension Fund

* provides income after retirement for members who have had contributions made on their behalf by employers on wages for covered work.

Contact Union Privilege

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- ◆ Mortgage & real estate program,
- ◆ MasterCard credit card,
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For details on:

- ⇒ Musical instrument & equipment,
- ⇒ musician's liability,
- ⇒ term life & disability income,
- ⇒ major medical, short-term medical, catastrophic major medical, personal accident, in-hospital, and cancer insurance.

Musician's Personal Inventory

Long Range Goal(s) – What do you want to be doing musically 2, 5 or 10 years from now?

Short Term Goal(s) – What are you willing to do musically for the next year or two?

Experience – What are your present and past musical experiences?

Performance Skills – instrument(s) you play, singing ability, read music, read chord charts, improvise, play/sing lead or solo, play/sing as part of a group or ensemble, perform choreographed moves, act as stage spokesperson, stage personality, etc.

Teaching Skills – student ages, musical levels

Creative Skills – song writer, lyricist, composer, arranger, marketing/promotion

Technical Skills – run/set up sound system or lights, audio/video recording /editing/production, create web pages/website, use music writing software, create music midi files

Organizational Skills – leadership skills, booking skills, promotion/marketing skills, social networking, create song/set lists, fill out contracts, set up rehearsals, handle finances

Personal Skills – honor commitments, show up on time, work well with others, work well alone, accept constructive criticism from peers/employers/audience, perseverance, good time management, have your own transportation

Communication Skills - Can people find you via website, e-mail, cell phone? Are you listed somewhere (like on the Local's free referral site)?

Evaluation – Do you have the skills you need to accomplish short and long term goals? Are there some skills you need to acquire or improve? Do you currently have the resources (time, money, equipment, relational support, etc.) that you need to pursue your goals? Based on your experiences and skills, do you want to adjust some of your goals?

Implementation – How will you go about improving current skills or acquiring additional skills and resources needed?

Complete only the above items that apply. The skills listed are only examples. Add any skills you have that apply but aren't listed.

Keep a copy on your computer and review and update annually so you don't have to always start from scratch. Save revised copies under new file names so you can look up past inventories for reference.

Use this inventory to create or regularly update your musical profile, resume, or promotional/marketing material.

Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians



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NOTICE:

Please call us at 616-451-4374 if your classified ad is no longer available. It is important to keep this section up to date. Thank you.

FOR SALE:

3 PAIR TUXEDO PANTS - Black, various sizes, \$10 each.
Call Phil @ 616-784-3901. GR

TWO NEW SPEAKER CABINETS—Each has one 15" spkr w/54 oz magnet, a 6x10 800 cycle horn w/ capacitor & piezo; heavy duty, light weight, hard finish, 2 handles, chrome corners, metal grills: 8 ohms/cabinet; each measures 24"Hx20"Wx12"D. \$550 for pair. Call Phil @ 616-784-3901. GR



Director of Music Ministry

Christ Lutheran Church
2350 44th St SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

Christ Lutheran Church is seeking to hire a part time Director of Music Ministry who desires to enhance our worship and spiritual growth through music. The ideal candidate is familiar with Lutheran theology and liturgy, experienced in planning and leading traditional and contemporary style of worship, and able to effectively recruit and lead vocalists and musicians in the choir and praise teams. The Director of Music Ministry must have excellent interpersonal and organizational skills, the ability to collaborate and work effectively with staff and church members, and a passion to strengthen our music ministry through attending continuing educational workshops. A complete job description can be located in the tab bar, Minister of Music, on our church website, clcwyoming.org. Please send resumes and letters of recommendation to Treasurer@clcwyoming.org

