

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

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

June 2012

Vol. 36 Issue 2

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT CHRISTINA FONG SEE PAGE 3



Inside this Issue

President's Corner	2
Alternate Delegate Elections	2
Local 56 to Host Mid-America Conference	2
L56 Member Spotlight	3
GRFM Scholarship Winners	3
Secretary's Report	4
Board Minutes	5-7
Classified Ads	8



President's Corner

By Eric Vander Stel

It's Live Music Season! Summer months provide many more opportunities for live music performances. Festivals, fairs, outdoor events, weddings, graduations as well as bars and grills with patio music are usually booked in advance, but some booking is still going on. Have your presence available on the GRFM website and social media to let people know you're available.

Local 56 will be hosting the Mid America Conference of Musicians September 14-16 at the Riverfront Hotel in GR. There will be a jam session and meet & greet opportunity with AFM officers. Stay tuned for more info.

Local 56 Alternate Delegate Elections

This is an "off" year for Local 56 officer elections, but nominations will be accepted after July 25 for up to three Alternate Delegates to Conventions and Conferences. Alternate Delegates may be asked to attend a convention or conference if a regular delegate (President, Secretary/Treasurer or Vice President) is unable to attend. The term of office is three years and will begin January 1, 2013.

Nomination forms may be requested from the Local 56 office or downloaded from the Members Only area of the Local's website (www.LiveMusicGR.org). Nomination forms must be received by the Local 56 office no later than September 1 and must be signed by two members in good standing. Each nominee must have been a member in good standing for at least 12 months. Current Alternate Delegates are Jennifer Cullin and Paul Austin.

During November, four Board members are elected one year (President, Vice President and two Board Members-at-large) and three the next (Secretary/Treasurer and two Board Members-at-Large). Alternate Delegates are elected in the third year. All terms of office are three years.

The Local 56 Musician

Official Journal of the Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians

Local 56 of the American Federation of Musicians, AFL-CIO

800 Monroe NW, Suite 230, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone 616-451-4374 or 1-800-637-0498

E-mail – grfm@livemusicgr.org

Website – www.livemusicgr.org

Editor: Gary Sironen

Local 56 Executive Board

Eric VanderStel, President

Bennie Keys Jr., Vice President

Gary Sironen, Secretary/ Treasurer

Jennifer Cullin

Kevin Flannery

Michael Kornacki

Kevin Murphy

Dan Spencer

Elgin Vines

Local 56 to Host 2012 AFM Mid-America Conference

Local 56 will host the 2012 AFM Mid-America Conference of Locals September 14-16 at the Riverfront Hotel (former Radisson Hotel) at Ann Street and US 131 in Grand Rapids. The MAC consists of AFM Locals from the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia and meets annually to share and discuss issues related to the music industry specifically in our local areas, relationships between Locals, and issues involving the American Federation of Musicians in general. Delegates from more than 30 AFM Locals, as well as AFM officers and representatives will be in attendance. Local 56 members are also invited to attend any of the sessions as guests.

There will be live UNION music at the hotel on Friday and Saturday evening, and there will be a dinner on Saturday evening. Conference sessions will be held all day Saturday and again on Sunday morning. Watch for additional events and details as the date gets closer.

L 56 Member Spotlight: Christina Fong

By Darcy Eimer, Local 56 Office Assistant

This issue's spotlight shines on violinist Christina Fong. She is the Associate Concertmaster in the Grand Rapids Symphony and plays in the Symphony's Calder Quintet. She has also held positions with the Florida Philharmonic and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

I asked her what else she does musically and she replied "I record new music on violin by new and emerging composers on the OGREGRESS label out of Grand Rapids." Some of Fong's recordings, mostly world premieres, include several of Cage's final works, Feldman's complete violin, viola and piano works, his Violin and String Quartet and three early quartets, and a few Schoenberg string works and fragments.

Fong joined local 56 when she moved from Miami to Grand Rapids. She received her master's degree from Northwestern University and served as an adjunct instructor of violin at Grand Valley State University from 1990 to 2002. She was the recipient of a Fulbright Hayes grant in 2010 and served as a US cultural representative in Minsk,

Belarus where she gave master classes at the Belarus State Academy of Music and performed a new music concert with the Belarus Philharmonic.

I asked Christina what she felt are the biggest benefits to being a Local 56 member. She replied, "It (the union) is important for the industry, and what is important for the industry is going to benefit us all. If everyone was on their own, we would all be making minimum wage no matter what type of music we play. The biggest benefit is what it does for all of us."

Last but not least I asked what suggestions she had for other musicians wanting to increase their music business: "Things are a lot different than when I started. There are so many opportunities to get your music out such as the internet. I went into music to contribute for the 'art' of it. I use what I make to fund more 'art'. Stay true to what you know and to your art."

GRFM Scholarship Winners

The Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians Scholarship Fund, Inc. is pleased to announce the winners of their 2012 scholarship awards.

Zachary Sawyer, a senior at Michigan State University, won first place in the Robert Madura String Scholarship auditions on double bass; however, he cannot use the \$600 award, and so it goes to first runner up Graeme Richmond, a 16 year old cellist at Holland High School. Graeme will be attending Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp this summer. Judges for the Madura auditions were Grand Rapids Symphony violinist Haijin Choi and Principal Bassist Blake Hinson.

The winner of the Donald D. Armstrong Scholarship is clarinetist Haley Altman, a junior at Wyoming Park High School in

Wyoming. She will use the \$150 scholarship to attend music camp at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI. Her school band director is Shawn Gurk.

This year's Local 56 Heritage Scholarship was a \$300 award given to the Grand Rapids Community College Foundation to help create the Ray Gill Instrumental Jazz Scholarship at GRCC. The award was given in memory of Gill, past Local 56 President, well-known West Michigan jazz saxophonist, clarinetist and big band leader, and jazz ensemble director and instructor at GRCC in the 1970's and 80's.

The mission of the GRFM Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarships to deserving young musicians for summer music study. Funding comes from tax deductible donations primarily from Local 56 members.



Graeme Richmond, Madura Runner-Up



Zachary Sawyer, Madura Winner



The Local will be hosting the AFM Mid America Conference this fall (see accompanying article). Next spring, we are planning to begin hosting a series of seminars about the music industry featuring some of our members and other local industry professionals as an educational benefit for our members and an outreach tool for area musicians.

Financially, we are doing much better, thanks to the dues increases over the past two years. I expect we'll be able to pay our bills all summer on time and be able to upgrade our service to you a bit in the process.

Remember to take advantage of all of your benefits as a member of the Local and the AFM: your free member listing and optional free referral page on www.livemusicgr.org, your free page on the AFM national referral site at www.gopromusic.com, and the option to sell your recorded tunes at www.goprotunes.com. We also have contracts, newsletters, a membership directory and more in the members only section of our website, and we can deliver a paper copy of the Member Directory on request.

Secretary's Report

By Gary Sironen

One of the highlights of my tenure as Secretary/Treasurer of Local 56 happened this past March as we helped organize the Ray Gill All Star Jazz Orchestra, consisting of musicians who played in Ray's big band or simply wanted to honor his memory musically. The group also included a couple of Grand Rapids Community College students, which would have been very much in keeping with Ray's love of both jazz and music education.

We played at the St. Cecilia Music Center, a former home of our Local 56 office, along with performances by the GRCC student Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Combo and Shades of Blue Vocal Jazz group. The All Star Orchestra, directed by Bob Nixon, wore red ties and played some charts from Ray's big band book. His wife, Helen Gill and their two sons were in attendance. There were memories shared by various musicians and family members between tunes and a reception with photos and refreshments provided by Helen at intermission and after the concert. It was a great evening.



Moving or Changing Contact Information?

Contact the Local 56 Office and adjust your websites and social network pages.

Leaving Local 56?

Be sure to send a request to resign in good standing.

Executive Board Minutes

(Some Minutes may have been edited to conserve space.
For full text of Minutes, contact the Local 56 Office.)

Local 56 Exec Board Minutes January 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:22 PM by Vice President Bennie Keys.

Present – Pres. Eric Vander Stel, Vice President Bennie Keys, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Sironen, Kevin Flannery, Dan Spencer, Jenni Cullin, Elgin Vines and Michael Kornacki.

M/S (Flannery/Spencer) to accept the Minutes. Carried.

M/S (Flannery/Vines) to accept the Finance Report. Income \$19,553.63; expenses \$6,002.01. For the year 2011, income was \$102,558.43; expenses were \$98,022.69. **Carried.**

M/S (Spencer/Cullin) to accept the Membership Report. RIGS: Erica Dicker, Arthur (Gene) Harris, Dessislava Nenova, Lisa Raschiatore and Rebecca Somsel. **Carried.**

Vander Stel assumed the Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) E-Merge West Michigan – discussed, sent to the Recruitment Committee
- 2) Wish Upon a Wedding – hand off to POMA, will put something in the newsletter
- 3) Michigan Fair & Exhibitors Association – sent to the Recruitment Committee
- 4) Android/IPOD app for individual musicians/bands proposed by an individual. No action.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) **Mid America Conference** – Sept 15-16, 2012, Radisson Hotel, GR
- 2) **GRCC Jazz Night/Ray Gill Tribute – M/S to support and help produce the March 15 concert at the St. Cecilia Music Center in Grand Rapids**, which will feature student jazz ensembles from Grand Rapids Community College and a Ray Gill All-Star Orchestra made up of musicians who had played with Ray's bands. Proceeds will be used to create the Ray Gill Memorial Instrumental Jazz Scholarship at GRCC. **Carried.**

COMMITTEES-No Reports

NEW BUSINESS –

M/S (Flannery/Cullin) to accept the 2012 Budget as proposed by Secretary Sironen. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

The next meeting is Feb. 6 at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Sironen, Secretary.

GRFM Scholarship Fund, Inc. Board Meeting – January 9, 2012

Present – Eric Vander Stel, Gary Sironen, Bennie Keys, Kevin Murphy, Dan Spencer and Elgin Vines.

M/S (Sironen/Vines) that \$250 be allocated to the L56 Heritage in the name of Ray Gill and donated to the

Ray Gill Memorial Instrumental Jazz Scholarship Fund at Grand Rapids Community College. **Amended to make the amount \$300. Amendment carried. Amended motion carried.**

M/S (Sironen/Keys) \$600 be allocated to the Robert Madura String Scholarship and \$150 be allocated to the Donald D. Armstrong Scholarship. **Carried.**

Promotion – A media release should be released to announce the availability of the scholarships; another one should be released to announce the winners.

Flyers could be mailed aimed at donors.

Send Media releases to radio stations WGUV, WYCE, and the Grand Rapids Press, etc.

The next meeting will be following the Local 56 Board meeting in April.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Sironen, Secretary.

Local 56 Exec Board Minutes February 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:23 PM by Pres. Vander Stel. Present – Pres. Eric Vander Stel, Vice President Bennie Keys, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Sironen, Kevin Murphy, Dan Spencer, Elgin Vines.

M/S (Keys, Spencer) to accept the Minutes. Carried.

M/S (Keys, Vines) to accept the Finance Report. Income \$9,370.57; expenses \$10,726.43. **Carried.**

M/S (Spencer/Vines) move \$40,000 from Rivertown High Share to a CD. Carried.

M/S (J) to accept the Membership Report. Reinstated: Erica Dicker (did not intend to resign). New: Will Preece,

Sara Hanthorn, Margaret Thompson and Scott Tiret. **Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was held on ideas for a music business workshop. Tabled until next meeting.

COMMITTEES – No reports.

NEW BUSINESS –

Discussion was held on building relationships with area club managers and the advantage of filing contracts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mid America Conference – Pres. Vander Stel has reached agreement on prices for hotel, rooms, food, meeting rooms, and the hotel hiring a union band hired in the lounge. Sironen will determine how many 25-50 year members the Local has.

Vander Stel said that the West Michigan Musicians FaceBook page contains some good communication between musicians.

Vander Stel has been attending area jam sessions to develop relationships with bands and musicians.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Local 56 Musician has a new look and will regularly feature members on the cover and an interview.

The next meeting is March 5 at 5:15 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Sironen, Secretary.

Local 56 Exec Board Minutes March 5, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:21 PM by Pres. Vander Stel. Present – Pres. Eric Vander Stel, Vice President Bennie Keys, Secretary/

Treasurer Gary Sironen, Kevin Flannery, Mike Kornacki, Kevin Murphy, and Elgin Vines.

M/S (Flannery, Keys) to accept the Minutes. Carried.

M/S (Flannery, Keys) to accept the Finance Report. Income \$13,437.85; expenses \$4,817.00. **Carried.**

M/S (Keys, Flannery) to accept the Membership Report. New: Jamie Groom, Frederick Isaac Haddad and Tiffany Pearson. **Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS – Dan Spencer will resign from the Board because he is moving to Florida. LSO musicians will need to elect a replacement.

A notice came from John Hall of the Music Performance Trust Fund stating that funds will be available on a first come – first served basis for 2012-2013, which begins May 1. Additional funding from internet streaming secured due to the most recent AFM negotiations with the recording industry have not yet begun to arrive; how much and when it will begin to come in are unknown at this time.

UCAN – Union Community Activist Network training sponsored by the AFL-CIO is to be held March 31.

OLD BUSINESS

The Local 56/Emerge music business seminar is on hold for now. Murphy is interested in following up on this.

COMMITTEES –

NEGOTIATIONS – the Local's agreement with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, an extension of the last negotiated agreement, expires September 1 of this year.

MEMBERS SERVICES – Our new office assistant, Darcy Eimer, has been working one day per week, learning office procedures and keeping the office clean.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Vander Stel gave an update on his planning activities for the Mid America Conference, to be hosted by Local 56 on Sept. 14. A suggestion was made and approved to award 25 and 50 year Local membership pins on the Saturday night of the MAC.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Ray Gill All-Star Orchestra is organized and scheduled to perform at the March 15 GRCC Winter Jazz Night at St. Cecilia Music Center, in addition to performances by the student ensembles. Proceeds will go toward the Ray Gill Instrumental Jazz Scholarship Fund at GRCC.

The next meeting is April 9 at 5:15 PM. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Local 56 Exec Board Minutes April 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:21 PM by Pres. Vander Stel. Present – Pres. Eric Vander Stel, Vice President Bennie Keys, Secretary/ Treasurer Gary Sironen, Kevin Flannery, Kevin Murphy, Jenny Cullin, Elgin Vines, guest Paul Keen.

M/S (Flannery/Cullin) to accept the Minutes. Carried.

M/S (Cullin/Vines) to accept the Finance Report. Income \$7,110.36; expenses \$3,666.78. **Carried.**

M/S (Flannery/Cullin) to accept the Membership Report. New: Nathan Ruffer (reinstated), Joseph McCargar (tentative). Wilma Lancioni died April

4. Dave Swendrowski is gradually improving following a stroke. **Carried.**

GUEST – Paul Keen was present to address a proposed Music Business seminar, to be hosted by Local 56 in partnership with Emerge West Michigan. The four hour plus seminar would be open to both members and area musicians at large, exploring opportunities in the music business, and featuring general sessions, break-out sessions, and an optional networking lunch. The total estimated cost of the seminar would be about \$3,000, part of which could be recouped through participant fees and corporate sponsors. A committee of Secretary Sironen, Keen and Murphy met to discuss initial details and suggested holding the seminar in the fall of 2012. The Board's recommended waiting until spring because the Local will be hosting the AFM Mid America Conference this fall. The Board also encouraged the Recruitment Committee to go forward with exploring options for the seminar.

COMMUNICATIONS –

- A letter from Ginger Hawkins VandenBrink thanking the Local for offering the Robert Madura String Scholarship.
- Thank you from Grand Rapids Community College for the Local's donation and its help in arranging the Ray Gill Instrumental Jazz Scholarship Fund concert.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEES

FINANCE – None

NEGOTIATIONS – LSO agreement expires this summer. Secretary contact Elinore, OC re steps toward negotiations.

MEMBERS SERVICES – None

RECRUITMENT/DIVERSITY – Request from Paul Keen (see above).

L56 REP REPORT – None

NEW BUSINESS – Secretary Sironen will contact IATSE Local 26 regarding using the Festival payroll to pay musicians again this year. MPTF will again act as cosponsor for events this year on a first come-first served basis.

M/S (Vander Stel/Flannery) pay Cullin for one meeting for her work on Festival.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Cocktailz Bar & Grill in Grandville is hiring bands and signing union contracts. AJ's Grill in Dorr is also hiring live music. Jam sessions are back in style at several locations. Local music stores are struggling as customers are moving to online purchasing.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Ray Gill All-Star Orchestra was a success with 21 musicians playing big band charts from Ray Gill's former catalogue at the Grand Rapids Winter Jazz Night at St. Cecilia Music Center in Grand Rapids on March 15. The concert also featured GRCC student jazz ensembles. The event was a fund raising effort to create the Ray Gill Instrumental Jazz Scholarship Fund at GRCC.

Training in conducting symphony auditions will be conducted at the next Board meeting. **M/S that the Local pay up to one observer in a training position per audition at symphony auditions, to be paid half the regular Local meeting rate. This is in addition to the Local representative, who is paid at the full meeting rate. Carried.**

The next meeting is May 7 at 5:15 PM. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Sironen, Secretary.

**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 recording, broadcast, film, MPTF, and other covered work.

Contact Union Privilege
AFL-CIO at 1-800-452-9425

For details on:

- mortgage & real estate program
- MasterCard credit card
- discount mail-service pharmacy
- low interest personal loans
- legal service discounts
- dental & vision discounts & more!

**Contact Marsh AFM
Group Insurance Plans,**

call 1-800-503-9230

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

Grand Rapids Federation of Musicians



800 Monroe NW Ste 230
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: 616-451-4374

Toll Free: 1-800-637-0498

Fax: 616-451-2403

Email: grfm@livemusicgr.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
Permit No. 652

CLASSIFIEDS

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:

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

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

SWANSON 36 STRING LEVER HARP— with dust cover, traveling case and extra set of strings. Call Gretchen @ 616-949-5094. GR



Ray Gill All-Star Orchestra in rehearsal at Grand Rapids Community College