

KMU Newsletter

A quarterly Journal for the Kingston Musicians Union Local 518

ISSUE 21: OCTOBER 2018



SUMMER 2018 IN KINGSTON

Summer 2018 was an active time for the Local here in Kingston. Our regular summer concerts in the park ran through June to late August with local union groups playing at locations downtown in the summer festivals, out in the township at Lions Park and East of Kingston in Gananoque.

The Local spoke with the city regarding parking issues downtown and we managed, with the help of the Downtown Kingston organizers, to get permission to use the area on the market square for unloading and loading. This has been long overdue and it is a step in the right direction.

The City of Kingston, who we organize and co-sponsor the Lions park concerts, made things more difficult this year when, after negotiating the details of the musicians contracts, they demanded that the musicians pay liability for the use of the park facilities. This seemed unreasonable given that they had not given us time to negotiate these things into their contracts so the Local stepped in to cover all remaining performances liability costs. If we are to continue co-sponsoring this concert series we will be renegotiating our rate to reflect the extra expenses incurred upon the musicians.

Those of you who played in Gananoque may have noticed the construction work that was occurring at the city park to extend the city hall. This will hopefully only affect the summer of 2018 as construction of the extensions should be complete before the summer of 2019. Some new changes to this location included: a slightly higher rate to help offset the travel needed by musicians to the site; payment for sound if necessary; and the continuation of the earlier start time.

New for 2019 : As of September 30th Craig Jones and Mark Wilkins will now be looking after any future booking for these summer concerts.

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Union Fees

At the February General Meeting a \$7 increase in dues was accepted. Following our bylaws the new fee schedule goes into effect **Labour day 2018**, however we have delayed this to take effect:

1st December 2018

2019 Fee Schedule

Regular \$177.00

Student \$177.00

Youth \$137.00

Life: \$88.50

Inactive Life: \$62.00

The following are fees associated with changes in Membership status:

Reinstatement : \$10.00

Suspended member fee: \$15.00

plus dues and assessment outstanding

Expelled Member fee: \$25.00 *plus dues and assessments outstanding.*

Local Initiation Fee: \$30

Federal Initiation Fee: \$65

For a copy of our bylaws and tariff go to the members page of the website:

www.kingstonmusicians.org

PASSWORD: *kingstonmusic*

Please be prompt with payment. If your status changes you must inform the office in writing to avoid penalties.

LOCAL NEWS



SENIOR CONCERTS

The Musicians Performance Trust Fund has a number of grants for solo musicians to go into senior residences to perform. These are fully funded and allow the musician to be paid at a good scale with pension. We have been granted a few of these and I occasionally get more offered. If you have an opportunity to perform at your local seniors home contact me before Dec 1st.

OUR OFFICE



Once again I have to extend my thanks to Elizabeth for her continued help in the office. We make a great team and as the office work becomes more demanding on my time having help is essential to its efficiency and good management. The exciting news is that due to the generous donations from Kent



Smith's estate I now have a decent office in our house that will serve our union as a space where I can have members visit . Thank you Kent! The new address for our office is:

1326 Channelview Rd

Kingston Ont. K7L 4V1

NEW PROJECTS

In July 2018, MPTF announced that they would give Locals 100% funding for education projects that met a certain set of criteria. Immediately I started to think of ways we could obtain one of these grants.



While visiting family on an emergency trip to Australia, I came across an idea that I felt would work here in Kingston. Musica Viva



Australia is an established program that brings live performances to schools all across the country but also developed supporting material for schools around these performances for teachers and classes to use. I felt the ideas around this program could be modified for our own schools. On my return I visited a school where I presented my idea which was received enthusiastically. We then proceeded to gather the



partners that would make this idea a reality. Once all the "players" were in place, I proceeded to write up the grant asking for funding from MPTF. The grant application was successful, and we are now halfway into our project. The class learns about music but also integrates each performance into their curriculum units of study.

Photos Sept 2018 Sue Moore

Who says this stuff?

By Alan Willaert AFM Vice President to Canada

The following article was run in the January 2018 issue of *The International Musician*.

There is no doubt that the Canadian Federation of Musicians (CFM) has been predominantly concerned of late in seeking new employers to bargain agreements with, and specifically those involved in media. Recording—on camera and off—presents an assortment of revenue streams for members in the areas of capture, reuse, new use, supplemental markets and new media, or streaming. This is important work and extremely valuable to the musicians employed in those areas. This month, I would like to address some of the concerns of our freelance players—the musicians in the trenches, hauling gear from venue to venue, and grabbing a gig wherever they can. Things have changed in that world from 30, 20, even 10 years ago, and not for the better. What was once a lucrative sector of the business—steady engagements of

six or more nights in each venue, large-capacity showrooms and cabarets, roomy stages and dance floors with cross-country touring—has all but disappeared. With more competition for the remaining bar work, it has become a buyer's market, with members forgetting the basics of business in favour of finding a club that will let them “showcase” in front of an audience. Along with that, there's a more lackadaisical approach with certain inaccurate, employer-generated, and frankly, scary, phrases being repeated. “Nobody signs contracts anymore.” The truth is, musicians aren't demanding contracts anymore, probably because they inherently hate paperwork. Perhaps the club owner refuses to sign, which is incredible to me, since they sign for everything else—the beer order, liquor delivery, plumbers, and electricians all require contracts or work orders. If they don't sign contracts for the band, it's be-

cause we let them off the hook. Unfortunately, while most of our members don't think it's a big deal (believing an email confirmation is sufficient), it is. By not getting a signature, you have failed to obligate the employer to, not only the details of the gig (start time, hours, fee), but have robbed yourself of pension contributions; protection against unauthorized recording, cancellation, or firing; and AFM assistance in the event of a default. Plus, contracts are excellent proof of income during a tax audit. “There aren't any union gigs.” If you are an AFM member, every gig is a union gig. Part of the responsibility of being a professional is to properly contract all work in order to leverage the benefits. Sure, sometimes there will be work under collective agreements negotiated on your behalf, but most of the time, freelance players and



Who says this stuff? (cont)

weekend warriors book and contract their own gigs. Be smart; do it right. Don't act as a non-member and relinquish your rights. "There was once a need for unions, but not anymore." If you catch yourself repeating this, or believing it, think again. Was this phrase started by a union member? Of course not. Employers love to spread this kind of rhetoric, in an attempt to further erode the labour movement. Speaking with other unions during meetings of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), I can tell you that we are not the only ones subjected to this kind of propaganda. "The union sets the prices too high." This is more employer nonsense. For those of you who have regularly attended general meetings of your local, you understand that "the union" doesn't set fees, the membership does. Usually this is done by voting on recommendations of a committee that has researched current market values and conditions. In any event, scale is low enough to accommodate entry-level bands and small-capacity venues. Established artists know the cost of putting a polished product on stage and set their fees accordingly. "Other than crossing the border, there's no reason to join." Unfortunately, we hear this one a lot, and it has no basis in truth. Many musicians/bands make the mistake of joining only because they have a gig in the US, and don't look past that one service. Whether you record or only play live, there is a huge menu of services and benefits. I suggest you contact your local or the CFM office directly, and find out all of the things membership entitles you to. We would be happy to walk you through information specific to the type of gigs you do. Remember, AFM membership is the ultimate axiom: for every service or benefit there is a corresponding duty or obligation. You are the union.

From International Musician January 2018

Picture: Alan Willaert June 2018 Photo by Sue Moore

On Saturday 13th October a few of us gathered on the banks of the St Lawrence River for a quiet send off for Kent Smith. Some poems were read and messages of appreciation were said and a few tears shed for a good friend and musician. Following this small ceremony we were joined by other friends and musicians at Tom's Place at the Fireside Inn Kingston where we raised a toast and continued to share stories. A quiet tribute to a man who valued his privacy but we wanted to show that we appreciated his contributions to Kingston's music community and that we cared.



Charity Motown Dance Party

Perhaps your family has been touched by a cancer diagnosis or a sick child. **Here is a way you can help.** Come to our family-friendly fundraiser dance. Fill the dance floor, bid on amazing Silent Auction items and help us to give back to these two critical services in our community. All funds raised will be donated to these two programs.

HEATWAVE MOTOWN DANCE PARTY

Sunday November 18, 2018

1 to 5 pm

BLUMartini Bar & Grill

178 Ontario St.

Kingston

In addition to Heatwave, there will be music by She Sings and Old Docs New Tricks.

This is a family-friendly event. Adults \$20; Students \$10; Kids free.

For tickets, call us at 613-546-6266, send an email or go to Eventbrite.ca (search: Heatwave).



Picture courtesy of Craig Jones

CFM T-SHIRTS AND CAPS FOR SALE

The Local has some T-shirts left for sale and recently has also made available the new CFM caps. The caps come in two colours white and black. We also have in stock 1 large Women black T shirt shown in picture, 1 royal blue x large men's, and 1 large men's black. Shirts can be ordered in all sizes for men and women in a selection of colours. Please contact the office.

T-shirts: \$25, Hats \$20, plus postage if applicable



Notice of proposed changes to the tariff

Clause 1C - MISCELLANEOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Performances of a patriotic, charitable, educational, civic and general public nature, also musical performances considered Trust Fund engagements, or engagements coordinated by the Local 518 Office.

5% Work Dues

Three-hour call

Leaders - ~~\$97.50~~ \$105 per service

Musician - ~~\$65.00~~ \$70 per service

Clause 8B LOCAL RADIO, TV, CABLE REMOTES AND WEBCASTS

Leader - \$75.00 per half-hour

Musician - \$50.00 per half-hour

10% Pension

5% Work Dues (added to this clause)

Please be mindful that keeping our office running is not a charity. Help us help you, pay your membership and work dues on time!



Upcoming Events

KINGSTON HOLIDAY MARKETS

The Kingston Holiday Market is a pop-up holiday market for local, independent artists and artisans running Friday Nights and Saturday and Sunday Days. Opening date is November 2nd and it runs until December 22nd. Friday 530-830pm, Saturday 11-5pm, Sunday 11-3pm. 168 Wellington St. At Brock St., Kingston, Ontario.

November 2nd 2018 6:00-8:00pm Two Thirds Down Under

ADVERTISING

Are you a solo musician or group that would like to be advertised on our webpage? If so send in your details. Include a brief description, how to contact you, an example of your music and any links that will help promote yourself and your band.

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

The General Meeting will be held on November 4th 2018 at 2:00 pm The meeting will be held at The Royale Place Retirement Residence 2485 Princess St, Kingston, ON K7M 3G1

On our agenda, changes to the tariff as published on page 5

Our new office space!



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