

Musical News

The Official Newsletter Of Musicians Union Local 6



April 2021, Vol. 93, No. 2



The Importance of our Animals

by Beth Zare

As the pandemic forced many of us to stay home, we had the opportunity to get reacquainted with our furry, scaled, and feathered companions. While the gravity of a worldwide pandemic feels overwhelming at times, one silver lining is the opportunity to seek solace from our pets. For many of us they provide comfort, companionship, humor, structure, and hope. The internet and social media outlets have exploded with fresh videos of hilarious pet antics, intense loving snuggles, and silly tricks. Further proof that a light-hearted distraction is just what we need right now.

While many of you have pets that don't get mentioned in the following pages, I want to thank all those who made submissions. We couldn't produce this newsletter without you and your participation. It's a perfect example of solidarity. Many of our members are doing great work around saving pets while others talk about how their pets have saved them.

As someone who once owned two large dogs, four cats and two bunnies (by marriage), you might not believe me when I tell you I was never a pet person. My earliest memories are from visiting my grandparents in Cleveland, OH. They owned a beagle named Zongee. The only thing I remember clearly was the day Zongee got loose and ran away. My grandfather and I donned our coats and walked for what seemed like miles to my 5-year-old legs. We called Zongee's name at every corner and every so often grandpa would pull a magical whistle out of his pocket and blow into it. It didn't make a noise and I thought he was pulling my leg when he said that only dogs could hear it.

We continued to walk and shout and blow on the silent whistle. About the time it was getting dark we turned around to go home and found Zongee walking behind us. He had been following the sound of the whistle for some time. This might not have started my fascination with dogs but it certainly took me on a path of intrigue with wind instruments.



Beth and Zongee circa 1969

In Memoriam

Anthony Collins
Robert J Kent
John T Kinney
Jerry Logas
Dean Reilly

Membership Dues*

Regular Membership	\$52.50/Quarter
35 Year Membership	\$38.50/Quarter
Life Membership	\$25.25/Quarter
70/20 Year Membership	\$29.25/Quarter

*Late fees are currently waived.

LOCAL 6 OFFICERS

Kale Cumings, President
Forrest Byram, Vice-President
Beth Zare, Secretary-Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meredith Brown, Trustee
Gretchen Elliott, Trustee
William B. Harvey, Trustee
Carolyn Lockhart, Director
Steve Hanson, Director

STAFF

Lori Ponton Rodriguez, Treasury x304
Katie Curran, Casuals x306
Cheryl Fippen, MPTF, Death Benefits x307

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Melinda Wagner

MEETINGS SCHEDULE

General Membership

April 26, 2021 1:00 pm

Board Of Directors

Board meetings are open to the membership.
Every other Thursday at 10:00 am

The Office Will Be Closed:

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
President's Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day (July 5th)
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Day (and day after)
December 24 - 31

Editor, Musical News: Beth Zare

The Musical News is published by Musicians Union Local 6, AFM. Any notice appearing herein shall be considered to be an official notice to the membership. The appearance herein of an article or an advertisement does not imply an endorsement by the editors.

MUSICIANS UNION LOCAL 6

116 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 575-0777
info@afm6.org
www.afm6.org

Cover Photo © Kit Zare Photography

OUR PENSIONS ARE **SAVED!**



In the words of AFM International President Ray Hair:

Good News: With the passage of the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the need for proposed AFM-EPF benefit reductions in the forthcoming years has been eliminated. On Wednesday, March 17th, AFMEPF Trustees agreed to withdraw the pending Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA) application. It is a victory that will protect the pensions of thousands of AFM members and will help members across the country retire with dignity.

For more than five years, the AFM Legislative Office and AFM

International Executive Board have been lobbying our representatives on Capitol Hill for a solution to address the dire solvency issues faced by hundreds of multiemployer pension plans across the U.S. The COVID-19 economic catastrophe only increased the urgency for legislative multiemployer pension relief.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) legislation has created a special financial assistance fund under the Treasury Department from which the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) will be able to make grants to financially troubled multiemployer pension plans. Our AFM-EPF pension plan is one of more than 100 multiemployer union pensions in critical status because of aging demographics, declining participation, and reduced contributions. As a result of the newly passed legislation, these plans will not have to repay this financial assistance. Working people around the country fought to be heard by our legislators, and we won a huge victory in putting our pension plan back on level footing. We are now able to avoid proposed benefit reductions and can offer members a solvent pension for the next 30 years.

Thanks are in order to Federation staff, Local officers, Player Conference officers, and the AFM-EP Fund, who

collectively organized an all-out lobbying effort to mobilize thousands of members and Fund participants to contact Capitol Hill over the past month.

While we can breathe a sigh of relief that our fund is no longer at immediate risk, we must all work together going forward to ensure our pension not only survives but thrives. This means increasing pension contributions in our existing contracts, securing pension contributions in new contracts, and including pension in our local wage scales for single engagement work. Make no mistake: employers and naysayers will continue to attack our union and our pension fund to resist further contributions. It is crucial that we all stand together to ensure our fund grows and prospers not only for ourselves, but for all those who will come after us.

Again, I want to thank you for all of the emails, calls, and other ways that you made your voice heard with your elected officials, especially over the past several weeks. We would never have achieved this historic victory without the unified legislative lobbying efforts of our members, fund participants, locals, and player conferences.

NEW MEMBERS

DeSalvo, Steven – Flute, Piccolo
Kuhnert, Alia – Trumpet

Omura, Arthur – Harpsichord, Organ, Piano

REINSTATED

Campbell, Katharine – Piano
Dorman, Elizabeth Simone – Piano, Organ, Harpsichord, Celeste
Irvine, Erin – Bassoon, Contrabassoon

Leem, Alexandra – Viola
Volonts, Tingting Gu – Violin
Wilson, Timothy – Trumpet, Piccolo Trumpet

RESIGNED

Dalbeck, Jerome • Elliott, Kashi • Kim, Junghae • Martinez, Ricardo • McSherry, Caitlin • Miras, Erika • Nugent, Thomas Roberts, Judy • Shapiro, Marshall A • Yang, Sunny Jungin

Members and their cats



Norman

Every. Stinkin'. Morning. The cats visit the watering hole which makes clean up a challenge.



Gretchen

12-year old Maine Coon, Koa is nearly 17lbs. He is really a load!



Caitlyn

Jeffy has been my "therapy cat" through all the uncertainties of the Covid-19 shutdowns and I'm sure he has saved me thousands of dollars at this point! He is the sweetest, most cuddly lap cat you will ever meet and I am so glad he is part of my little family. Jeffy has quite the following on Instagram and you can check him out @jeffyth Siberiancat!



Bob

We are pet people -- our four resident cats, Marble, Misty, Butterscotch and the often-imitated-but-never-duplicated Pugcat (pictured) manage to peacefully co-exist with Einstein, our terrier mix dog. When the pandemic started and businesses shut down, shelters offloaded their animals to foster homes so that they would be cared for until they could reopen -- we jumped in. At one point, the total cat population in our house ballooned to 11 when we took in a feral mom with five young kittens and another unrelated, sweet older cat named Emalie. That meant a lot of cat crunchies and litter boxes. Over the time we have been together, Gen and I have fostered at least 110 kittens and cats from various Bay Area shelters, and each of them has been a joy to nurture, some from as young as one day old. They have found homes all over the Bay Area, a couple with friends, but mostly with families who are thrilled to step up and give them the lives they deserve. Fostering is rewarding -- the only problem comes when you have to let them go to their "forever homes." But sometimes we keep them, like Pugcat. :)



Meredith

This morning, as I have most mornings since December, I sat on a cold concrete bench, watching to see if a mama cat I'm trying to catch would come and eat near a trap I'd set out. I already trapped, socialized, and fostered her two kittens and they've been adopted, but my goal is to end this cycle, not just play catch up with it. Did you know that when female cats are in heat, there is almost a 100% chance they will become pregnant if they are permitted to mate? And that 75-80% of the resulting kittens will die in the first 6 months after being born? Life on the streets is unforgiving, and these cats did nothing to deserve this wretched life—this is a human-caused problem. That's one of the things that motivates me to try to get out there to ease and prevent their suffering. Even when mama cat gets away from the first trap that didn't close fast enough. Even

when the remote on the second trap malfunctions after 2 months of trap-training, and spooks her enough that she will now barely eat with me 50 feet away. (Argh!) Even when I know I'm looking at another two months or so of going every day to feed her...

I've been doing cat rescue on and off for 20 years, whenever a need coincided with my ability, and availability, to meet it. I trapped my first litter of kittens at a friend's apartment complex when the manager was overheard talking about poisoning them. Unfortunately, I never caught the mama cat, but the

shy runt of the litter became my pet for almost 2 decades! When living in Oakland, I happened to see some strays at a parking lot while out for a walk. I got help from Island Cat Resources and Adoption, and we got 5 cats fixed, 4 of which were adopted (one was not willing to be socialized to humans, but she had a chance at a vastly better life without having to make kittens 3 times a year!).

Now I live in Vallejo, which seems to have a terrible problem with homeless cats. Except for the mama cat I'm working on now, I mostly deal with the ones that come to my house, and that is plenty! Currently, all of my own cats have tipped ears (where the tip of the ear is removed while under anesthesia, because they were spayed or neutered as community—stray or homeless—cats. This lets people in the community know that an animal they see is fixed and vaccinated, and therefore not contributing to overpopulation or disease. Luckily,

many cats are willing to turn in their "feral card" when they learn how good life is inside! I consider the ear tip a sign of compassion and love.

When the pandemic started, I felt like, well, at least I have time to do more TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) work in my community, but I was foiled by the clinics not being able to stay open. While veterinary care was considered an "essential" in counties in the Bay Area, none of the spay-neuter clinics were permitted to stay open. Many of them are still not accepting community cats a year later, so we are probably on the brink of a huge kitten explosion later this spring! There is a wonderful organization that has helped me here, called Solano County Friends of Animals. They are entirely volunteer and all the money they raise goes to the care of animals. They've supported some of my TNR efforts and veterinary expenses for fosters, and have been able to get at least a few cats fixed through the vet clinics with which they're affiliated. When I've had expenses for a stray who needed help aside from TNR, I've gotten tons of support from our amazing community of musicians.

Speaking of which—I'm not unique by any stretch! You don't have to look very hard to find musicians who are helping animals. We love our pets and how would we ever get through all those Zoom meetings without them? (In the photo you can see how Holly feels about Local 6 Board meetings.) One of the best things about doing this work is that the animals I help are often adopted by people I know! While it can be emotional to let go of a beloved foster, it makes it so much better to know they will be well cared for (and that I'll get updates and pictures!)

Interested in helping animals in your community? There are so many ways, from simply sharing the posts of animal rescues on social media, to donating money, food, or supplies, to fostering an animal in need, to helping end the cycle of suffering through TNR. I'd be happy to talk to anyone who wants to get more involved. Meow!



Wayne

My beloved Papagena came to me in February of 2003, while I was working with the Pacific Symphony. Scott Choate was living with me at the time and he phoned me to tell me an injured cat showed up in my backyard. It turns out that she arrived one month before my cat Allegra died, but not before Allegra showed her the rules of the house. Papagana, AKA 'Poppy' became one of the most important living beings in my life, and she has remained that way beyond her 16.5 years on earth (she passed away in my arms of bladder cancer on December 13th, 2018). Some of you have met Poppy and know the bond we shared.

Poppy was one of the best traveling companions I've ever had. I played with the Sarasota Opera Orchestra for 9 years and she made well over half of those trips with me; all but one were cross country drives. She never made a peep despite being in her kennel in

the front seat next to me for 9 to 10+ hours a day for 4 days straight. We both cherished those moments that we got to spend together (I love my cats Max and Sam dearly, but Poppy wasn't a huge fan of either and she was definitely a 'daddy's girl').

Above are some of the pics I have of her during those months spent working in Florida; as you can see, she had a signature pose. One month after I lost Poppy, Penelope (Penny) arrived in my backyard, and she is the one sitting in my lap with her front legs wrapped around my belly. I call her my 'Poppy copy'; she looks a lot like her except for being able bodied and with a full length tail.

If it wasn't for Penny, Max and Sam, I don't know how I would have survived the pandemic. My fur babies were what got me through this horrible year and change. Like all living things, cherish those moments, because they disappear far too soon.

Carole



Members

and their dogs



Shepherd puppy with a red and black long-haired coat. After weeks of searching for her owner we took her to a vet for a checkup. "Where did you find this dog?" he asked in amazement. "She has the best hips I've ever seen." It was a mystery where she had come from but clearly someone had trained her. We feared taking her to the shelter might result in euthanasia so we continued to search for her rightful owner.

It was six months later when she was already a part of our family and had stolen my heart that someone came to door claiming Cassie was his dog. I was worried he would take her back. He told us that she was from Peru and he had brought her back to mate with his other dogs. Her father was Grand National Champion of Columbia and

her mother was best in show in Peru and she was born on Cinco de Mayo. Her South American royalty was news to us but it explained her calm demeanor, unique colorings and good bone structure. Once we told him she was already spayed he lost interest. We felt good about saving her from a life of backyard breeding.

I didn't think I could love Cassie anymore than I already did but working from home last year changed that. We did everything together. I created a space in my office for her and she never let me out of her sight. She would follow me into the kitchen for a cup of coffee or the bathroom... ah, yes, can't go alone. All of our trips out of the house were replaced with barking at the delivery person: Instacart, GrubHub, Amazon, it was no longer only the postman that came to the door. She was even there for me after a long day of work and the pain of our collective situation was too much to bear. I could bury my wet face in her fluffy fur at night.

Sadly, Cassie passed last month. I try to focus on all the good memories we created together. She was there for me during the most difficult year of my life. I feel blessed to have spent so much time together.

Beth

We found Cassie running in the street with a broken leg and covered with fleas. She was a beautiful German



Tony

Retired Champion English Springer Spaniel Remy has only one job now. He watches Tony Clements practice.



Jeannie

Wilma & Tracy



My name is Wilma (#wilmathechiweenie on FB and IG). My Dad is Tracy Davis, Orchestra Manager of the San Francisco Opera and Ballet Orchestras.

As my hashtag says, I am a "chiweenie". I have been told that is a Dachshund/Chihuahua mix, whatever that is! Three years ago, Mom and Dad found my "glamour shot" online and had to have me! When I joined my family, little did I know that my Dad was going to put me to work! As soon as they brought me home, I quickly became the center of my Dad's life and his little support doggie. My opera and ballet peeps say I am just way too cute. Probably my most beloved attribute are my "ears". Check em out! Quite a wing span!

In addition to being the cutest dog in the world, Dad realized I had so much love to give, that I became the official "emotional support dog" of the San Francisco Opera and Ballet Orchestras! Yes, my dad manages 2 orchestras. He is crazy. He works a lot... but it is good and satisfying work, so he tells me. I love going to work with him. His musicians are so nice to me. Dad tells me that instead of musicians coming to his office with their problems, they come to see me!

I remember the first time Dad took me to work was at the Opera's annual Golden Gate Park concert a few years ago. On that day, I realized I found my purpose in life!

Dad and I share an office in the basement of the opera house. I have my own corner in his office, with a fancy bed, snacks and toys that Dad likes to play with when he takes a work break.

One of my favorite things to do with Dad at work is calling the start of rehearsals and especially, the breaks. Breaks are great, and do you know why? My musicians will go in the lounge and they eat stuff. Sometimes I sneak out of Dad's office and steal away down to the lounge. Dad always knows where to find me-cleaning up the crumbs in the musician's lounge.

Since the pandemic started over a year ago, Dad has been mostly working from home. Now we go down to the opera house a few times a week. It is so much fun to go and run around the massive hallways in the basement of the opera house, but none of my musician friends are there! No crumbs to be had in the opera house!

One of my favorite times at work was when Dad and I dressed up as the Scarecrow and Dorothy for Halloween.

I can't wait for live music to happen again! And for my musicians to be back at the opera house, making music, eating and making crumbs!

Tracy Davis is Orchestra Personnel Manager of the San Francisco Opera and Ballet Orchestras, positions that he has held since 1993 and 2010 respectively. In addition to his managerial skills, he is a classically trained percussionist, holding music degrees from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music and the Eastman School of Music. He is still active as a freelance percussionist, and has been fortunate to play in the pit with the wonderful musicians of the San Francisco Opera and Ballet Orchestras.





Carolyn

When I moved to the Bay area in 1997, I thought it would be a good idea to volunteer at an animal shelter. I could not own a dog where I was renting and was greatly missing that company (although I snuck my cat in). The shelter up the street from where I lived was a so-called kill shelter (I prefer "Lack of funds for the overwhelming flow of unwanted animals, shelter"), but I thought I could handle it and went through all the training to become a "dog socializer". It turns out I could not (little did I know at the time that I was suffering from "compassion fatigue", a common syndrome in shelter workers). Each time I would go back and look for the dogs I had socialized the previous session, and often they weren't there. I would ask if "So and So" had been adopted, and more often than not, the answer I got made it clear the animal was euthanized. I would spend time after every shift crying in my car, and after two months of that, I decided I could no longer handle it. The commitment was for six months,

but I "disappeared" and vowed that I would return someday when I was older, presumably a little more resilient. And it would have to be at a no-kill shelter.

Fast forward 18 years, and I learned about this amazing new 25-million-dollar animal shelter, the "Humane Society Silicon Valley". It was a no-kill shelter and the facilities were state-of-the-art as far as animal shelters go. I took a tour of and found actual cinderblock rooms with doors and attached outdoor patios rather than traditional chain link fencing. They even had Classical music piped into the rooms! And there was no incessant barking, like at most shelters. I now was sure this *Hilton of shelters* would help me handle the sadness that would inevitably go with volunteering at an animal shelter. And I was determined not to disappear this time!

I have now been volunteering at HSSV for over six years, and it continues to be inexplicably rewarding. I initially trained as a dog volunteer, responsible for walking and spending time with the dogs, teaching adoptable tricks, etc. I found myself not only being able to cope (thanks to just about every dog being adopted within two weeks) but wanted to help out more and more as time went on. I got involved in showing dogs to potential adopters, being the HSSV greeter and answering people's questions, mentoring volunteers, helping at a monthly clinic for the pets of homeless/low-income people, and being part of triaging the animals as they arrive at the shelter. For the past year and a half, I have been privileged to be working directly with the behavior team, helping rehab the severely shy, fearful, and/or under-socialized dogs not yet ready for adoption.

HSSV takes in about 100 animals every single week and adopts out the same number. Most of the seemingly never-ending supply of unwanted pets, in this case, are from various parts of the central valley, plus some local owner surrenders and

strays. When a dog arrives at HSSV, they are immediately fitted for a collar and harness, weighed, vaccinated, microchipped, vitals checked, and have a vet consultation if there are obvious problems. They then either go to foster care or stay in the shelter (not on the adoption floor) until they have been spayed/neutered. The behavior team gets to work testing for social skills (dog to dog or dog to person), temperament, and behavioral issues. A dog can be ready for adoption in two days or as long as a few months (those that need behavior and/or medical therapy). But as long as I have been a volunteer, the most extended stay has been six months, but this is very rare, and those adoptions are huge celebrations!

HSSV's stated mission is "to enhance and save lives, both four-legged and two-legged". Nothing could be more accurate. In fact, HSSV has been named the country's first "Model Shelter" based on their save rate, education programs, facilities and vision for the future. I have certainly seen some horrible things over the past six years, making me cry and feel extreme sadness. But the amount of good that this shelter does for the animals that pass through it makes me keep going, not to mention the connections I have made with other volunteers, staff, adopters, and the wonderful feeling a person gets from volunteering. During this time of Covid, my volunteer work at HSSV is the thing that has kept me afloat and fed my soul. Make a donation here: <https://www.hssv.org/give/>

I so look forward to seeing and connecting with many of you one day soon. What a crazy time this has been for absolutely everyone. In the meantime, if you are going to adopt a pet, I encourage you to do so from a shelter. The bond you will have with your new pet will be stronger, knowing that you gave an unwanted animal a forever home after a very long and stressful journey.



Bennie

Gino was 9 months old when got out of his harness at Peet's on Cole St. in San Francisco.

He was due to be altered and chipped

the next week and had no ID on him when he ran off. People were chasing him but nobody could get close. He was seen dodging traffic at 17th & Clayton and last seen headed south on Twin Peaks Blvd. I headed up there and spent the day on Twin Peaks looking for him. When I saw a police cruiser and fire truck I flagged them down to ask if they had seen a lost dog. Both times they said, "Is it Gino? We've heard already."

Fast forward 11 hours and I still hadn't found him. I was resigned to making lost dog posters when there was a knock on my door. An upstairs neighbor told me Gino had scampered in to play with his toys. Not a mark on him. He came home in the dark all by himself and to this day refuses to say where he'd been all day. He still got fixed the next day.





Optimizing your instrument set up *Thomas Yee Workshop*

PLAY FREELY AS AN EXTENSION OF YOUR VOICE FOR VIOLIN, VIOLA,
AND CELLO IN RELATION TO SPECIFIC IDEALS.

MAY 3, 2021 AT 6:00PM | MEETING ID: 820 2505 3200

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Ergonomics
- Fitting materials
- String choices & properties
- Bridge/sound post design & materials
- The bow and its properties for altering tone

Thomas Yee, is an active local professional violinist, pedagogue, & founder of Bay Fine Strings violin shop. His unique experience as a performer, educator, and collaborator has allowed him to respond well to his clients needs and community in finding their "voice." Careful, active, in-depth testing and tinkering with both new and historical instruments along with discussion with top musicians and luthiers, have allowed Thomas to make combined changes to a combined instrument set-up to allow for ideal preferences in sound.

In his workshop, "A discussion on optimizing your instrument set-up", you will learn what possible choices you can make in your set-up to optimize tone/response

for violin, viola, and cello in relation to specific ideals. The lecture will focus on, ergonomics, fitting materials, string choices & properties, bridge/sound post design & materials, and the bow and its properties for altering tone, followed by an open Q&A discussion with attendees and Thomas.

Thomas is currently a member of AFM Local 6, Marin and Santa Rosa Symphonies, and is Associate Concertmaster with Monterey Symphony. He is also an alumnus of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor's and Master's (04' & '06) in violin performance. He founded Bay Fine Strings in 2016 and serves an international clientele.

Thomas Yee, Violinist

FOUNDER OF BAY FINE STRINGS

www.bayfinestrings.com

www.thomasyee.net

Instagram: [@theviolinmerchant](https://www.instagram.com/theviolinmerchant)



Remembering Robin

Principal Keyboards Robin Sutherland. Sutherland passed away peacefully the morning of December 18, 2020 after a brief illness. He leaves behind his husband, Carlos Ortega, sister Jean Huffman, and brother-in-law Steve Bojanowski.

A member of the San Francisco Symphony for 46 years and occupant of the Jean & Bill Lane Chair, Robin Sutherland often described his role as SF Symphony Principal Keyboards as “the only job I’ve ever had.”

After studying with Rosina Lhévinne at the Juilliard School and Paul Hersh at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, San Francisco Symphony Music Director Seiji Ozawa created the position for Sutherland in 1974 by appointing him while still an undergraduate student. Sutherland retired from the San Francisco Symphony in 2018.

Robin Sutherland’s first performance with the San Francisco Symphony took place in November 1972 under the baton of Leon Fleischer, filling in for an ailing soloist while he was a student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Since joining the Orchestra in 1974, Sutherland was featured prominently in solo roles and performed numerous works new to the SF Symphony.

"The entire SF Symphony family is deeply saddened by the news of Robin Sutherland's passing," said San Francisco Symphony CEO Mark C. Hanson. "In his many decades as a member of the San Francisco Symphony, Robin was a preeminent musician, a compassionate friend, and a generous and witty spirit. We are heartened to know that Robin's legacy will carry on through his numerous performances and recordings, and through the lives of his many students. We extend our love to Robin's close friends and family and join with the countless people in the Bay Area and beyond who mourn this tremendous loss."

"Robin Sutherland was an explorer of life and music," said San Francisco Symphony Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas. "Decades of Symphony goes heard his magnificent piano performances. But there was lots more to him. He effortlessly combined elegant virtuosity, championship of new music, ideal chamber music performances, and inspiring teaching. He was a master of the French and Hawaiian languages. It was amazing to see him in Hawaii; his complete ease with the culture and his long blond ponytail, hanging down over his Juilliard warmup jacket, made him just as much of a standout on Kauai's bluffs as in Davies Symphony Hall. He was a great wit and storyteller, a treasure trove of esoteric knowledge, amusing anecdotes, and outrageous jokes. He was an original and pioneering gay man who was a constant friend and artistic role model for generations. We will all miss him greatly."

.....
Carlos Ortega writes:

Robin and I met in August 2011. I was an intern clarinetist for the Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra and he was playing as a soloist the Mozart " Piano Concerto No.25 ". I knew at that moment that I had just met an extraordinary and fascinating human being. A person that would change my life forever. Since that day we became inseparable. I thank the universe for putting us together at that precise moment in our lives.

We didn't just have a profound and beautiful relationship but a strong connection through the music. The following year we came back to the festival and played the world premiere of *Volante*, a suite for clarinet and piano by Nickolas Pavkovic, a dear friend of ours. That was the beginning of an exciting musical journey together. We later played repeatedly collaborative alumni recitals at the San Francisco conservatory, chamber music concerts

at the Telluride Music Festival, innumerable concerts with the Ives Collective and an unforgettable chamber music recital at Moneglia in the Italian Riviera region of Liguria. Playing with Robin was the best experience, he always made me play at my best. I feel extremely lucky to have had the opportunity to be with him the last 10 years of his life. The best 10 years of my life. The entire world lost a remarkable artist and human being. I will miss him forever.

.....
Victor Romasevich writes:

My name is Victor Romasevich and I'm a San Francisco Symphony member.

I'd like to say how fortunate I was to play my first SFS audition with Robin at the piano.

His great musicianship, manifested through classy, aristocratic touch and masterful ensemble playing, created supportive, positive atmosphere which was largely responsible for my success. It was an unforgettable event for me; Robin's passing left an enormous empty void on Davies Symphony Hall stage.



Minutes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 7, 2021

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m.
by President Cumings.

Present via Zoom Video
Conference: Zare, Brown, Byram,
Elliott, Fisher, Gray, and Hanson.
Guests: Harvey and Lockhart.

MSC to accept the amended
minutes from December 17, 2020.

MSC to accept the new and
reinstated members.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare reported
on the December credit card
charges in the amount of \$2,404.17.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare reported
on the delay of the December issue
of the Musical News due to Post
Office overload during the holiday
season.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare reported
that all current employees had
successfully completed harassment
training as mandated by California
state law.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare informed
the Board that Local 6 was working
closely with the Music Performance
Trust Fund to create new ways for
our members to record concerts
that could be replayed at senior
centers.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare informed
the Board of a musician database
that Local 389 (Orlando, FL)
recommended.

The Board recognized Jo Gray for
her 15+ years of dedication and

tireless work on the Board on behalf
of our members.

President Cumings reported on
negotiations and activities for our
CBA groups: Berkeley Symphony,
Festival Opera, Fremont Symphony,
Grace Cathedral, Lamplighters,
Marin Symphony, Monterey Pops,
Oakland Symphony, Philharmonia
Baroque, SF Contemporary Music
Players, Villa Symphonia, and West
Bay Opera.

The Board discussed Arts for a
Better Bay Area: Re-imagine San
Francisco through the Arts and an
online event they were hosting.

President Cumings reported on his
involvement with the Rolling Stone
Culture Council.

The Board discussed the safety
of reopening the Local's rehearsal
hall. No changes will occur until
the current state ordered shelter-in-
place is lifted.

The Board discussed the
categorization of steward and
delegate reimbursements.

Meeting adjourned in memory of
Robin Sutherland at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by S-T Zare

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2021

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m.
by President Cumings.

Present via Zoom Video
Conference: Zare, Brown, Byram,
Elliott, Fisher, Hanson, Harvey, and
Lockhart. Guests: Josepha Fath,

Philip Fath, and David Schoenbrun.

Former President David Schoenbrun
read the oath of office and swore in
the new officers.

The Board received a letter from
Mario Guarneri thanking Local 6
for their donation to Jazz in the
Neighborhood.

MSC to accept the amended
minutes from January 7, 2021.

MSC to accept the new and
reinstated members.

MSC to approve expenditures
for December in the amount of
\$77,545.15.

Two deaths were reported in
December.

MSC to continue to self-insure the
Local 6 death benefit with monthly
Board oversight.

\$2000 was paid from the Death
Benefit Fund on behalf of deceased
member Gary Jagard.

\$2000 was paid from the Death
Benefit Fund on behalf of deceased
member Patience Scales.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare reported
that \$758,721.31 was paid to Local
6 in the form of Work Dues Revenue
for 2020, \$157,675.00 of which was
sent to the Federation.

MSC to approve sending 2
delegates and 4 guests to the
Western Conference (held virtually)
at a cost of \$125 per attendee.

The Board discussed a request
from the SF Opera Committee

for assistance in dispersing their musician relief fund.

The Board discussed a request from Evergreen Valley High School to address the students who may be considering careers in music.

President Cumings reported on negotiations and activities for our CBA groups: Berkeley Symphony, Festival Opera, Fremont Symphony, Lamplighters, Marin Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Opera San Jose, Philharmonia Baroque, SF Contemporary Music Players, and Symphony Silicon Valley.

Director Harvey discussed student musicians involved in Soul, a recent movie by Pixar.

The Board discussed former Local 424 and the completion of the merger in 2019. The only outstanding item is a lien on the property of former Secretary-Treasurer, Michael Sasaki.

Meeting adjourned in memory of Mario Suraci at 11:59 a.m.

Submitted by S-T Zare

• • • • •

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by President Cumings.

Present via Zoom Video Conference: Zare, Brown, Byram, Elliott, Hanson, Harvey, and Lockhart.

MSC to accept the amended minutes from January 26, 2021.

MSC to accept the new and reinstated members.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare reported on the January credit card charges in the amount of \$2,474.07.

The Board allocated the SF Opera relief fund to all qualified applicants as outlined by their committee.

The Board discussed the Labor Council per cap payments as it relates to a decrease in our membership.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare reported on the new recording contracts adopted by the AFM IEB.

President Cumings reported on negotiations and activities for our CBA groups: Berkeley Symphony, Fremont Symphony, Lamplighters, Marin Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Opera San Jose, Philharmonia Baroque, SF Contemporary Music Players, and SF Symphony.

Director Harvey discussed the AFM-EPF and the Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act (EPPRA) of 2021.

Meeting adjourned in memory of E.P. "Van" Hughes and Daniel Kobialka at 11:18 a.m.

Submitted by S-T Zare

• • • • •

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. by President Cumings.

Present via Zoom Video Conference: Zare, Brown, Byram, Elliott, Hanson, Harvey, and Lockhart.

MSC to accept the amended minutes from February 4, 2021.

MSC to accept the new and reinstated members.

MSC to donate \$250 to the SF State Labor Archives and Research Center.

Donation request from the San Francisco Living Wage Coalition. No motion was entertained.

No deaths were reported in January.

MSC to continue to self-insure the

Local 6 death benefit with monthly Board oversight.

\$2000 was paid from the Death Benefit Fund on behalf of deceased member Mario Suraci.

Local 6 budget for 2021: MSC to approve the budget as amended, which does not currently include a wage increase for Local 6 officers and staff.

President Cumings reported on negotiations and activities for our CBA groups: Berkeley Symphony, Festival Opera, Fremont Symphony, Lamplighters, Masterworks Chorale, Midsummer Mozart Festival, New Century Chamber Orchestra, Oakland Symphony, Pacific Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque, Opera San Jose, People in Plazas, SF Contemporary Music Players, SF Opera Center, and SF Symphony.

MSC to approve a 1-year side letter with the Marin Symphony that takes the CBA out of a state of force majeure.

MSC to approve a 1-year side letter with the Santa Rosa Symphony that takes the CBA out of a state of force majeure.

President Cumings informed the Board about the upcoming Area Wide Casual Wage Scale meeting, an online recording by the Carmel Bach Festival, and the successful efforts of member-to-member phone banking to support the Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021.

The Board discussed a letter from Local 802 advocating an AFM Per Capita Dues credit for all locals.

Director Harvey discussed the Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act - HR 842) and the desire to have a delegate at the Contra Costa Labor Council.

Meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Submitted by S-T Zare

General Membership Meeting

April 26 at 1pm via Zoom
Meeting ID: 819 3010 3908

Musicians Union Local 6
116 - 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 454



Paid Gigs available through Music Performance Trust Fund

MPTF is currently accepting applications for new projects. Possibilities include: Regular MPTF community, education, or medical facility performances. Pre-approval of your proposal is necessary. All shows must be presented to Local 6 a minimum of 45 days prior to the event. Our fiscal year for funding starts May 1, 2021. For questions and more information please contact James@afm6.org.

Community Programs | Live Stream | Music in the Schools | MusicianFest | National Programs

Emergency Relief for Local 6 Members

Local 6 is opening another round of assistance for members in need. Deadline April 26. If you have experienced economic hardship, apply for help online at <https://afm6.org> or call **415.575.0777** for help completing your application.

Donate to the Relief Fund

We are accepting donations for our members in need. If you are able, please help by sending a check made out to AFM6 Local 6 with COVID FUND in the memo or donate online at <https://afm6.org>.

Join President Kale Cumings every Tuesday at 11AM for "Ask Me Anything" session on Zoom.
Meeting ID: 810 2348 6133