



# Musical News

The Official Newsletter Of Musicians Union Local 6

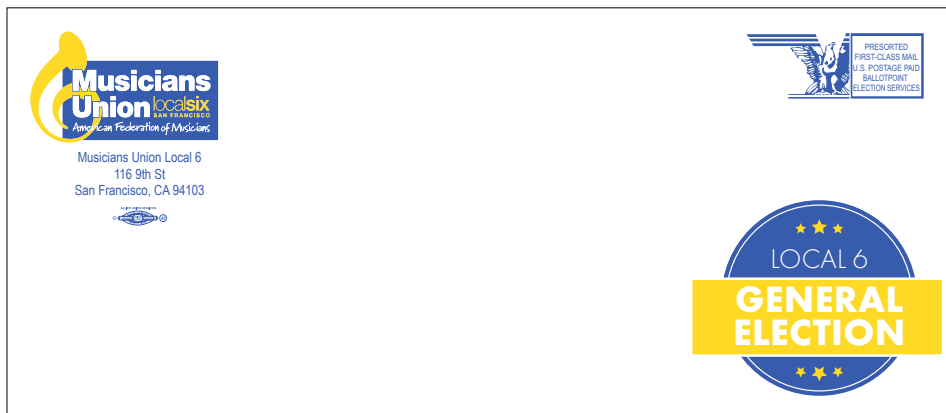


Oct. 2023, Vol.95, No.3

## LABOR DAY PICNIC



## ARRIVING SOON IN YOUR MAILBOX



**2023 MUSICIANS UNION LOCAL 6 GENERAL ELECTION**  
**October 1, 2023**

*Dear Local 6 Member,*

The 2023 Musicians Union Local 6 General Election is being conducted by secret paper-ballot, through the BallotPoint Election Services voting system. To vote, follow the instructions shown below.

You may review information regarding the proposed Constitutional, Bylaws, and Standing Resolutions changes by visiting <https://afm6.org/elections/>

Ballots will be picked up at the US Post Office, 4550 SW Betts Ave, Beaverton, OR 97005-2869 at 10:30 AM PT on October 26, 2023. *No ballots received after that time will be counted.*

**VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

- On the enclosed ballot, completely fill in the circles next to your selections, preferably with a black permanent marker; black or blue ink pens are acceptable. Do not use pencil.
  - Marks made outside the ● circles may invalidate your entire ballot.
  - A signature on your ballot will invalidate your entire ballot.
  - Marking more than the indicated maximum number of selections will invalidate your answer(s) to that question.
- Place your marked ballot inside the enclosed SECRET BALLOT ENVELOPE and seal the envelope.
- Place the SECRET BALLOT ENVELOPE into the enclosed RETURN ENVELOPE; seal the RETURN ENVELOPE.
  - Do not use the RETURN ENVELOPE for any purpose other than voting.
  - DO NOT ENCLOSE DUES PAYMENTS!**
- Mail the sealed envelope.
  - Ballots received after 10:30 AM PT on October 26, 2023 will **not** be counted.
  - Ballots not returned in the provided RETURN ENVELOPE will **not** be counted.
  - Ballots **must** be returned by U.S. Mail to be counted. Hand-delivered ballots will **not** be counted.

**Questions? Please contact Lori Ponton Rodriguez at (415) 575-0777, ext. 304, or [lori@afm6.org](mailto:lori@afm6.org).**

**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  
 Steve Hanson, Director  
 Carolyn Lockhart, Director

**STAFF**

Lori Ponton Rodriguez, Membership, Pension x304  
 Roman Fukshansky, Contracts, Recordings x 305  
 Katie Curran, Casuals, CBAs x306  
 James Pytko, MPTF, Payroll x307  
 Hannah Kuhn, Organizing, New Members x308

**PRESIDENTS EMERITI**

David Schoenbrun  
 Melinda Wagner

**MEETINGS SCHEDULE**

General Membership  
 October 30, 2023 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 3rd & 4th)  
 Labor Day  
 Columbus Day  
 Veterans Day  
 Thanksgiving Day (and day after)  
 December 25th - 29th

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.

The rehearsal hall is available for a rental fee.

**MUSICIANS UNION LOCAL 6**  
 116 9th Street  
 San Francisco, CA 94103  
 (415) 575-0777  
[info@afm6.org](mailto:info@afm6.org)  
[www.afm6.org](http://www.afm6.org)

*\*The office is open by appointment only.*

## In Memoriam


Tommy K. Atkins  
 Benjamin Gintjee  
 Charles 'Chuck' Hamilton (former)  
 Barry Koron  
 David Martell  
 Anthony Rizzo

## Membership Dues

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



## 2023 Musicians Union Local 6 General Election

To vote, completely fill the  circles next to your selections, preferably using a black permanent marker. Do not use pencil.

- Marks made outside the circles may invalidate your ballot.
- Marking more than the indicated maximum number of selections will result in your vote(s) not being counted.
- Ballots not returned in the pre-addressed, prepaid envelope will NOT be counted.
- Ballots not returned by U.S. Mail will NOT be counted.
- Ballots received after 10:30 AM PT on October 26, 2023 will NOT be counted.

### Officers and Executive Board

#### President (vote for one)

☐ Kale Cumings (Incumbent)

#### Vice President (vote for one)

☐ Forrest Byram (Incumbent)

#### Secretary-Treasurer (vote for one)

☐ Beth Zare (Incumbent)

#### Executive Board (vote for no more than five)

- ☐ Gretchen Elliott (Incumbent)
- ☐ William B. Harvey (Incumbent)
- ☐ Meredith Brown (Incumbent)
- ☐ John Fisher
- ☐ Mario Guarneri

### Delegates to AFM Convention

#### Delegate to AFM Convention (vote for no more than two)

- ☐ Wally Malone (Incumbent)
- ☐ David Borough (Incumbent)

#### Diversity Delegate to AFM Convention (vote for one)

☐ John Fisher (Incumbent)

### Changes to Constitution

**Constitutional Change – Item A – recommended changes to accurately reflect the recent merger with Local 424.**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**Constitutional Change – Item B – recommended changes to mission statement to confirm the inclusivity of our union.**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

## Changes to Bylaws

**Bylaws Change – Item C – recommended changes to keep Bylaws in compliance with SB179, which went into effect in 2019.**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**Bylaws Change – Item D – needed changes to accurately reflect how meetings currently take place.**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**Bylaws Change – Item E – needed change to match the current name of the Law and Legislative Committee throughout the Bylaws.**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**Bylaws Change – Item F – needed change to remove words that are redundant.**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**Bylaws Change – Item G – needed change to reflect the current work dues rate that has been in effect since 2009.**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**Bylaws Change – Item H – needed change to update how information is communicated to the membership in the event of a special election.**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

## Change to Standing Resolutions

**Standing Resolutions Change – Item I – needed change to allow miscellaneous revenue in excess of prudent reserve to move from one financial institution to the General Fund.**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

# THE LAW AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS A YES VOTE ON ITEMS A - I

## A. The following changes are recommended to accurately reflect the recent merger with Local 424.

WHEREAS Local 424 merged with Local 6 on August 20, 2018; therefore, be it RESOLVED that the following changes are amended to reflect the history, jurisdiction, and affiliations.

- 1 "Local 6 Historical Notes" preamble: Add reference to this merger as follows:  
MUSICIANS UNION LOCAL 6 and LOCAL 424 Merged, August 20, 2018
- 2 Article VI - Jurisdiction: Add a description of the new territory in jurisdiction:  
The jurisdiction of this Union shall embrace all the territory of the following counties: San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, plus all of Trinity County (except those locations specified as within the jurisdiction of Local 12, Sacramento).
- 3 Article VII - Affiliations: Amend to read as follows:  
"This Union shall be affiliated with the San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, North Bay Central, South Bay, Monterey Bay, Contra Costa Labor Councils, the Theatrical Federation of San Francisco, the California Labor Federation, the Western Conference, the California State Theatrical Federation, and any other Labor Councils as deemed appropriate, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

## B. The following changes to the mission statement are recommended to confirm the inclusivity of our union.

WHEREAS Musicians Union Local 6 wishes to welcome all types of musicians to be members including but not limited to, singers, conductors, composers, etc. and

WHEREAS Musicians Union Local 6 jurisdiction has increased beyond San Francisco and vicinity, and

WHEREAS there is a desire for Musicians Union Local 6 to help members with their working conditions in addition to business conditions; therefore, be it RESOLVED that:

- 4 Article II "OBJECTS" shall be amended to read as follows:  
The objects of this union shall be to unite the musicians of Northern California for the better protection of their interests, to promote and conserve their welfare, to regulate wages and all business and working conditions appertaining to the musical profession and to enforce Good Faith and Fair Dealing and adherence to Union principles among all members. A violation of the Wage Scale List of this Union or of the laws of the American Federation of Musicians, shall be considered a violation of the Constitution and Bylaws of this Union.

## C. The following changes are recommended to keep the Bylaws in compliance with SB179, which went into effect in 2019.

WHEREAS the State of California passed the Gender Recognition Act (SB179) in 2017 and

WHEREAS the purpose of a union is to be inclusive; therefore, be it RESOLVED that

- 1 All occurrences of "S/he" or "he/she" shall be amended to read: they (Article I.1.a) and
- 2 All occurrences of "his/her" shall be amended to read: their (Article I.2.a; Article I.3.h; Article I.5.h; Article II.1.c; Article II.1.d; Article II.2.f; Article III.2.d; Article III.3.d; Article IV.I; Article VI.1.c; Article VII.3.a; Article VII.3.e).
- 3 All occurrences of "him/her" shall be amended to read: them (Article IV.I)

## D. The following changes are needed to accurately reflect how meetings currently take place.

WHEREAS Board of Director meetings are taking place both electronically and in-person; therefore, be it RESOLVED that

- 4 Article I. Section 5. Board of Directors Meetings shall be amended to read:  
(b) All meetings shall be held either at Union Headquarters or via video communications platform and shall be open to members in good standing. However, the Board may declare an Executive Session, thereby affording the Board the opportunity to review a particular item or issue without the presence of non-Board members.
- 5 Article 5. Section 1. (a) General Membership Meetings  
General Membership Meetings shall be held on the last Monday of January, April, July and October at either Musicians Union Headquarters or via video communications platform.

## E. The following change is needed to match the current name of the Law and Legislative Committee throughout the Bylaws.

WHEREAS "Law and Legislative Committee" appears in Article IV. Section 6 (a) & (b) and Article V. Section 4 (a) & (b) therefore be it RESOLVED that

- 6 Article 1. Section 7 (a) shall be amended to read:  
The Law and Legislative Committee shall consist of seven members...

## F. The following change is needed to remove words that are redundant.

WHEREAS there are many ways in which members pay their dues; therefore, be it RESOLVED that

- 7 Article II.1.f shall be amended to read:  
A member expelled from membership can rejoin after three months from date of such expulsion, at which time said member must pay an admission fee in full (in-cash) and dues up to date of such expulsion and comply with any decision or demand imposed prior to expulsion, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

## G. The following change is needed to reflect the current work dues rate that has been in effect since 2009.

WHEREAS the current bylaw needs to be updated to reflect the current work dues that have been in effect since 2009; and WHEREAS, Theatrical Motion Picture Agreements have historically had 4.10% work dues and

WHEREAS 1.75% of that total is owed to the Federation for electronic media engagements; therefore, be it RESOLVED that

8 Article II.2.b shall be amended to read:

- (b) In addition to the above dues, each member shall pay to the Union work dues on all electronic media engagements based on established union scales for such work and according to the appropriate AFM agreement under which the work was performed as follows:

Theatrical Motion Picture Agreement 4.10%

## H. The following change is needed to update how information is communicated to the membership in the event of a special election.

WHEREAS the Musical News is considered to be the official communication of the union; and

WHEREAS afm6.org is the most likely place members will find information between issues, therefore, be it RESOLVED that

9 Article IV.I shall be amended to read:

### Section 1 - NOMINATIONS

Any member may, by filing with the Secretary-Treasurer not later than sixty (60) days prior to any election a petition signed by not less than ten members in good standing, be nominated and become a candidate for any office or delegation of this Union and thereby be entitled to have his/her their name placed upon the ballot. Provided, however, no member shall be nominated unless he/she is they are and has have been for a period of not less than two years preceding such nomination, a full member in good standing and a citizen of the United States; and further provided that no member found guilty of violating any trust reposed to him/her them by this Union, or who may be found guilty of any malfeasance in office or theft of any property belonging to this Union, shall be eligible to hold any office, delegation or be placed upon any committee or allowed to serve the Union in any capacity. The Secretary-Treasurer shall provide reasonable notice of the opportunity of filing nominations in the Musical News and on the Local 6 website, for each nomination, within twenty-four (24) hours after filing.

## I. The following change is needed to allow miscellaneous revenue in excess of a prudent reserve to move from one financial institution to the General Fund.

WHEREAS such paymaster system has already proven to be self-sustaining at no additional cost to the Union and

WHEREAS the current revenue accumulated from the paymaster system stays in a separate financial account, therefore, be it RESOLVED that

1 Standing Resolution No. 5 shall be amended to read as follows:

No. 5. The Board of Directors of Local 6, A. F. of M. is empowered to establish a voluntary paymaster system with the following stipulations governing its use:

(a) The paymaster system (i) will be self-sustaining and (ii) will incur no additional costs to the Union.

(b) Up to twice per year, funds in excess of \$20,000.00 in the paymaster system may be moved to the General Fund.



I am so grateful for the respect and support I've felt ever since I began working as an elected officer at Local 6. It makes it easier to represent our many voices, so I thank you all for that.

BY KALE CUMINGS,  
PRESIDENT

We have interesting times ahead of us. Are unions going to gain more density in the workforce? Will working as an independent contractor mean we will continue to have no access to basic legal employment protections? Will a new national election in 2024 once again change the landscape entirely? These questions and many more will have a direct impact on our working lives and will be likely decided in the next few years.

Despite the many challenges, I am excited about the next three years at Local 6. Our Officers, Staff, and Board are aligned in our mission of addressing our outstanding hurdles aggressively and relentlessly. Nobody in leadership here is content to let our voices diminish in the workplace and I am so proud to be a part of that. We will continue to build and develop our organizing department – especially as it helps local independent musicians. We now have staffing in place to build a contract management and recording department. We will continue to modernize our infrastructure and refine our internal processes.

The job of President is mostly representing all our voices, so I rely heavily on hearing your voices. Please always feel free to let me know your thoughts. And thank you all for your continued support.



**RE-ELECT  
Gretchen Elliott  
to the Board of  
Directors**

**LOCAL 6 OFFICE STAFF:  
1994 - 1996**

**SECRETARY-TREASURER:  
1996 - 2014**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
2015 - present**

**Local 6 member since 1970**

**Vote for Beth!**

**We Can Do It!**



**WILLIAM  
HARVEY**

**FOR**

**EXECUTIVE  
BOARD**





## DAVID BOROUGH

The 102nd AFM Convention, this past July suggested exciting possibilities for the future of our industry and workplaces. There was a strong breath of youthful energy present as well as the sage wisdom of seasoned delegates.

As a member of the Local 6 delegation, I experienced and participated in many spirited discussions. Of particular interest to me, and I believe to our members, these discussions centered upon the critical issues of organizing, diversity, and inclusion, and a renewed commitment to the health of our institutional heritage of care for our membership. In example, The Music Performance Trust Fund, and The American Federation of Musicians/Employer Pension Fund.

The gig economy has recently seen some marked successes in the organizing arena, I believe the 103rd Convention should, and will continue to emphasize organizing.

The 102nd Convention recognized that our industry has long held that providers of musical events are workers, just as are Freelance Musicians. All workers in our industry have common interests, and we share a common struggle. Organize!

The threat to human contributions/compensations, posed by Artificial Intelligence in the creative workplaces inhabited by musicians, writers, actors, and stagehands must be monitored and countered. The 102nd Convention brought this issue to center stage and promoted inter-union solidarity.

We in the AFM stand in Solidarity with our sibling workers in the entertainment industry, and I believe we will see the 103rd AFM Convention move to create stronger alliances with unions in our field.

I ask for your support, as a candidate for Local 6 delegate to the 103rd Convention of the American Federation of Musicians.



Vote

## Mario Guarneri

for Local 6 Board of Directors

Keep complaining, AND organize!

### About me:

- I joined Local 6 in 1955 at the age of 13.
- I performed with the L.A. Philharmonic for 15 seasons, LA Opera & Chamber Orchestra for 10 years, and performed on over 350 movie and TV productions while working in LA.
- I have been a member of International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians (ICSOM) and the Recording Musicians Association (RMA).
- Since my return to the Bay Area in 1992 I have performed with the SF Ballet, Opera, and Symphony. I'm currently a faculty member of the San Francisco Conservatory.
- Created and contracted union recording dates at Skywalker Sound.
- Founder and Executive Director of [Jazz in the Neighborhood](#), a nonprofit advocating for jazz musicians in the Bay Area. **We have paid guaranteed fair wages totaling over \$900,000 to 500+ Bay Area musicians over the last 10 years.**
- Co-founder of the [Independent Musicians Alliance](#), a solidarity advocacy organization of 175 freelance jazz musicians seeking to improve wages and working conditions.

Contact me at [mgtrumpet@aol.com](mailto:mgtrumpet@aol.com) or (415) 531-7241

### Make Your Vote Count in The Local 6 Election

I have served as a 3-term Executive Board member, Interim Vice President, Delegate to the AFM Convention and I have represented our members on the San Francisco Labor Council for the past 15 years. I am dedicated to serving all of Local 6 and have a special interest in the Freelance community of Musicians. Please take a moment to look over the Candidates for Office in Local 6.

**VOTE FOR JOHN FISHER - EXECUTIVE BOARD AND DIVERSITY DELEGATE**



## FORREST BYRAM FOR VICE PRESIDENT

- 35 years experience negotiating and writing contracts.
- Currently, Local 6 Vice President
- My goal is to make sure that musicians who are making a good living continue to thrive, and that those who are struggling get the chance to improve their quality of life.
- Even though I am running unopposed your vote still means a lot to me.

# .....SAN FRANCISCO.....

## EPICENTER OF NETWORK RADIO

(PART 4)



*Early program from the beginnings of the NBC Orange Network. Mahlon Merrick, Conductor (Author's collection).*

..... BY JACK BETHARDS, LIFE MEMBER OF LOCAL 6 .....

**T**he second half of the “Golden Decade” for network radio production in San Francisco was exciting, glamorous, and profitable. 1933 through 1937 were certainly “golden” years for Local 6 studio musicians since nearly all shows required live music – a single organist or pianist to full orchestra. In addition to players, for CBS and NBC, there were music directors, conductors, composer-arrangers, copyists, librarians, copyright clearance clerks, and contractors. This boom came at just the right time – in the midst of the Great Depression.




In 1932 Meredith Willson moved from CBS (KFRC) to NBC as music director and chief conductor. With two national networks, the Orange network in the west and two local stations to program, the music department had to be large but agile. Arrangers and copyists were under constant pressure for new material. Musicians had to be at the top of their game to deliver flawless performances with one music rehearsal and dress rehearsal only. Radio was America's first entertainment choice since it was free and convenient. Demand for new material each day was great. In 1936, new broadcast quality telephone lines made it possible to extend the NBC Red and Blue networks throughout the west replacing the Orange network. This required even more production time!

CBS (KFRC) had a heavy production load, also feeding the CBS network (western and national) as well as the Don Lee stations, and KFRC locally. CBS was pushing to equal the reach and advertising power of NBC and wanted more control over west coast operations. Despite the fact that KFRC had just modernized and enlarged its studios, in 1936 CBS transferred their franchise to KSFO. KFRC and the Don Lee station joined the Mutual Broadcasting System. Now San Francisco had four network operations, NBC Red and Blue, CBS, and Mutual – Don Lee, more great work for Local 6 musicians.

In the midst of all this activity in San Francisco there were some signals that the pace wouldn't be maintained forever. Hollywood was waking up to radio. Movie industry executives were starting to see radio as a promotional asset. New transmission lines eliminated Hollywood's technical isolation. The first signal of changing times came in 1935 when NBC opened a modest studio building next door to Paramount Studios in Hollywood. Was this a signal that power was shifting south? In the next article, we will find out.

To learn more, visit the website of the nation's leading radio historian, John Schneider, at [www.theradiohistorian.org](http://www.theradiohistorian.org). If you have any information or anecdotes about San Francisco radio and its musicians, let me know: [jack@schoenstein.com](mailto:jack@schoenstein.com).

*Correction from Part 3: The caption for the photographs on page 8 of the July, 2023 issue should read: Early program from the beginnings of the NBC Orange Network. Mahlon Merrick, Conductor (Author's collection).*



# SALUTING

## FIFTY YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP

MEREDITH WILLSON, *General Musical Director*  
Western Division, National Broadcasting Company

EMIL POLAK, Conductor	JOSEF HORNIK, Conductor	JACK MEAKIN, Conductor
RUDOLPH PIERCE, Contractor		

ALVA BAER PAUL CARSON JOHN CHILDS OTTO CLARE JOHN R. CULBERTSON LEO DE MERS GEORGE DRUCK EDNA FISCHER WILLARD FLASHMAN LOUIS FORD ANTHONY FREEMAN	ERNEST J. GILL EDSON GILHAM CARROLL GILLETTE MART GRAUENHORST GEORGE A. HALL RAY HARRINGTON CHARLES JACOBS CARL KALASH OTTO KING SARAH KREINDLER LENNARD PETERSEN	HARVEY PETERSON ROSS PETERSON WINSTON PETTY ROBERT ROURKE CHARLES RUNYAN ARTHUR SCHWARZMAN RALPH SHANIS W. E. SWARTOUT HOWARD THOMPSON FRITZ WARNE
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*From Local 6 Musical and Theatrical News September, 1935.*



*NBC Del Monte Ship of Joy in the former KPO studio at Hale Bros. store. Captain Hugh Barrett Dobbs (Dobbsie) and cast with Meredith Willson's NBC Orchestra (Author's collection).*



*NBC Stars of the West. NBC Orchestra in Studio A, Meredith Willson, conductor. Note on back: "Alto Sax George Hall, Ray Herrington." (Author's collection).*

# Welcome to the AFM



## Braydon Ross

Braydon Ross is a horn player born in Mountain View, CA. He is a recent graduate of the Conservatory of Music at University of the Pacific and continues his studies at the Yale School of Music this fall, pursuing a master's degree in horn performance. Within the month following his graduation from Pacific, he won auditions for third horn of the Santa Cruz Symphony and fourth horn of the Stockton Symphony. He has studied with Sadie Glass, William Purvis, Jennie Blomster and Daniel Wood.

Braydon has performed with the Oakland Symphony, Sacramento Philharmonic, Stockton Symphony, West Edge Opera Festival, Opera Modesto, Merced Symphony, and Zion Chamber Orchestra, and was a Fellow for two years with Orchestra Next, resident orchestra for Eugene Ballet. He won mock audition competitions at the 2023

Northwest Horn Symposium and the 2022 International Women's Brass Conference, and presented a lecture on virtual ensemble audio/video production at the 52nd annual International Horn Symposium.

While at Pacific, Braydon conducted for numerous student-led ensembles spanning a multitude of genres (classical, contemporary, and symphonic metal), won the 2023 Concerto Competition and performed in three Conservatory Honors Recitals. An equally passionate educator, he student-taught band at a high school in the Sacramento area and has maintained a studio of horn students. Braydon looks forward to maintaining strong ties to the Bay Area while simultaneously beginning this new adventure on the East Coast.



## Christopher Keady

Christopher Keady is the Associate Director of Music at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, California, where he serves as principal accompanist for the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys and frequently performs on the cathedral's Alexander Memorial Organ. He has performed in venues locally and across the country, including the San Francisco Legion of Honor, Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, St. Mark's Church in Berkeley, Trinity Church in Boston, Washington National Cathedral, and St. Thomas Church in New York. A keen accompanist and ensemble player, Christopher has performed with the San Francisco Choral Society, International Orange Chorale of San Francisco, the Marin Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony.

Christopher was raised in Eugene, Oregon and earned a bachelor's degree from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, where he studied organ with Dr. Lee Garrett. He subsequently was Assistant Organist at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, accompanying the cathedral choir in a UK residency at Bristol Cathedral, and was course organist for the Pacific Northwest RSCM Training Course. Christopher completed an MM in Organ Performance at the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University, having studied with Martin Jean and served concurrently as Sacred Music Intern at the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. He and his husband Dan live in Richmond, California.



## Chris Portka

A California native, Chris Portka is a musician and songwriter who has carved a unique niche in a genre he calls "trash music." Initially a drummer influenced by the grunge movement of the 90s, Chris faced a significant hurdle: crippling vocal anxiety. At the age of 31, he committed to a transformative five-year journey through Voice Movement Therapy with Julia Norton, ultimately finding his voice and the joy of singing. Chris holds a degree in software engineering from UC Berkeley and works as a software engineer by day.

As a musician, he performs both as a member of the AI Harper Band and as a solo artist, actively seeking venues and gig opportunities around town. His music is a blend of ethereal glitch rock or raw folk, often into the outer limits of avant-garde. Chris is a prolific songwriter as well, writing and producing hundreds of tracks like "A

Candle Is A Raging Fire" which explore the depths of subconscious conflicts in a never-ending quest for self-acceptance.

When not on stage or coding, Chris is on the lookout for new venues and collaborations, aiming to expand his musical footprint, continue to evolve unique experimental sounds, and collaborate with like-minded musicians.



# MEMBER INFORMATION

## NEW MEMBERS

**Adams, Erin** - Violin

(559) 417-1691 • erinadamsviolin@gmail.com

**Azevedo, Curtis M** - Trombone, Bass Trombone, Timpani, Percussion

(925) 719-7160 • curt@azevedo.com

**Badziak, Natalia** - Viola

(847) 347-7779 • nbadziak@gmail.com

**Caccamo, Paul** - Piano, Guitar

(707) 816-6294 • paulcaccamo1@gmail.com

**Craddock, Clayton** - Drums

(917) 734-4021 • cincopated@icloud.com

**Crapp, Kelyn M** - Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Bass, Keyboards, Vocals

(817) 683-7816 • mrpennyroyal@gmail.com

**Cruz Escalante, Luis** - Clarinet

(209) 408-5651 • luisescruz1998@gmail.com

**Espinoza, Flora** - Oboe, English Horn

(360) 556-1902 • hotforhautbois@gmail.com

**Firmin, Cassandra** - Percussion, Drums

(360) 451-6112 • cassfirmin@gmail.com

**Friesen, Zachariah** - Bass Trombone, Trombone, Alto Trombone, Tuba, Baritone Horn/Euphonium

(415) 275-2077 • zachariah.friesen@gmail.com

**Goldfarb, Edward** - Arranger, Composer, Keyboards

(415) 377-5831 • madcaplabs@comcast.net

**Gunnarson, Benjamin** - Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Mellophone, Percussion

(301) 693-4178 • bengunnarsonmusic@gmail.com

**Hebert, Jason** - Bass Trombone

(510) 648-7087 • jchebert1@gmail.com

**Hileman, Lynn** - Bassoon

(415) 214-4711 • lynn@lynnhileman.com

**James, Bronwyn** - Violin

(206) 353-7452 • bronwynjames@gmail.com

**Keady, Christopher** - Organ, Piano, Vocals

(541) 914-0669 • christopher.keady@gmail.com

**Keen, Caitlin** - Viola, Violin, Viola D'Amore

(510) 228-4652 • caitykeen@gmail.com

**Kiyonaga, Aya** - Violin, Viola

(424) 527-2899 • aya.kiyonaga@gmail.com

**Ko, Jung-Hsuan 'Rachel'** - Cello

(347) 827-6780 • kocello17@gmail.com

**Lee, Alexandre** - Viola, Piano

(925) 708-2327 • alexandreinglee@gmail.com

**Linaman, Matthew** - Cello

(775) 750-7814 • matthewlinaman@gmail.com

**Mansell, Zachary** - Cello

(404) 353-2458 • zacharymansellcello@gmail.com

**Payne, Kevin** - Lute

(206) 849-7557 • kevin.dixonpayne@gmail.com

**Portka, Chris** - Guitar, Vocals, Synth Keyboard, Drums

(510) 833-3950 • chrisportka@gmail.com

**Ross, Braydon** - French Horn

(650) 965-5084 • braydon.a.ross@gmail.com

**Scena, Carly** - Viola, Violin

(508) 564-1752 • carlymscena@gmail.com

**Sherren, Timothy** - Guitar

(301) 395-4578 • timothycsherren@gmail.com

**Shuler, John 'Jay'** - Trumpet, Cornet, Flugelhorn, Piano

(408) 505-2844 • john@shulers.net

**Searing, Matthew** - French Horn, Music Librarian

(201) 259-7118 • msearing@comcast.net

**Whitecar, John** - Tuba, Baritone, Acoustic Bass, Electric Bass

(248) 935-3418 • john@whitecars.org

**Wiley, Howard** - Tenor Saxophone

(510) 967-4106 • howardjazz@yahoo.com

**Yuan, Melody Yu** - Violin

(213) 666-2972 • melodyyuan0501@gmail.com

## REINSTATED MEMBERS

**Barrad, Kseniia Polstiankina** - Piano

(205) 223-7864 • k.polstiankina@yahoo.com

**Chapman, Allegra** - Piano, Celeste, Harpsichord

(415) 847-5999 • chapman.allegra@gmail.com

**Coolidge, Ron** - Trumpet

(831) 917-5938 • trumpetattempter@gmail.com

**Gove, John** - Trombone

(415) 328-9670 • john.gove@comcast.net

**Jeannin, Laura** - Violin

(408) 480-0182 • rubinsalz@gmail.com

**Matthiesen, Nicholas A** - Percussion

(510) 449-6120 • nicholas.matthiesen@sfcu.edu

**Pan, Shaina** - Violin, Electric Bass

(609) 356-9538 • pan.shaina@gmail.com

**Presler, Anna** - Violin

(510) 387-8143 • apresler@csus.edu

# MEMBER INFORMATION

## RESIGNED MEMBERS .....

Brogadir, Ben  
Ewan, Alise  
Farmer, Judith

Goetting, Jay  
Kofler, Ivelina  
Mok, Gwendolyn


Morris, Brandon K  
Owens, Margaret  
Posey, Patrick

Volkert, Mark  
Watts, Tennison  
Yasuda, Marika

## TRUMPET HANG AT LOCAL 6 LABOR DAY PICNIC







# ***24th Annual Life Member Luncheon***







# THE ORIGINAL GIG WORKER



HOW MUSICIANS WILL ORGANIZE  
AND TAKE OUR POWER BACK

*Hosted by* **SOUTH BAY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY  
OCTOBER**

**2**



**VIRTUAL  
4 PM PACIFIC / 7 PM EASTERN**

**PANEL DISCUSSION  
HISTORY OF FREELANCE MUSIC  
LIVE QUESTION AND ANSWER**

## **PANELISTS**

**BLAIR ROBBINS**  
AUSTIN, TX  
GUITAR

**NATE OMDAL**  
SEATTLE, WA  
BASS

**MONT CHRIS HUBBARD**  
PORTLAND, OR  
KEYBOARD

**HILARY PERKINS**  
BAY AREA, CA  
VOCALIST

**MARIO GUARNERI**  
BAY AREA, CA  
TRUMPET

**MODERATOR: HANNAH KUHN,**  
LEAD ORGANIZER OF MUSICIANS UNION LOCAL 6

"WE ARE CAUGHT IN AN INESCAPABLE NETWORK OF MUTUALITY,  
TIED IN A SINGLE GARMENT OF DESTINY. WHATEVER  
AFFECTS ONE DIRECTLY, AFFECTS ALL INDIRECTLY!"

- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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# Minutes

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 25, 2023

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

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

MSC to accept the amended minutes from May 11, 2023.

MSC to award \$250 from the Emergency Relief Fund to one Local 6 member.

MSC to accept four new and three reinstated members.

The Board selected August 7 as the date for the annual Life Member Luncheon.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare reported on discussions held with the staff members regarding our services.

The Board discussed the effectiveness and costs associated with installing a recording studio in the rehearsal hall.

Secretary-Treasurer Zare gave an update on repairs to the office building located at 116 9th Street.

The Board went into executive session to discuss ongoing grievances and unfair labor practices.

The Board agreed to sign a petition by Healthy California Now in support of SB770.

MSC to approve a successor agreement with the Carmel Bach Festival for 1 year which has already been ratified by the musicians.

MSC to approve a pre-hire agreement with the American Conservatory Theater (ACT) for 2 years.

MSC to approve a successor agreement with Woodminster Summer Musicals for 2 years which has already been ratified by the musicians.

President Cumings reported on negotiations and activities for our CBA groups: Lamplighters Music Theatre, Monterey Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Opera San Jose, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, and Symphony San Jose.

Trustee Harvey reported on the upcoming California Labor Federation Organizing Institute in Oakland.

Meeting adjourned in memory of Alex Bagwell at 11:54 AM.

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Beth Zare.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 8, 2023

Meeting called to order at 10:44 AM by President Cumings.

Present in person at Local 6 offices: Zare, Brown, Byram, Elliott, Hanson, Harvey, and Lockhart.

MSC to accept the amended minutes from May 25, 2023.

MSC to accept seven new and four reinstated members.

MSC to approve expenditures for April in the amount of \$116,481.22.

No deaths were reported in May. MSC to continue to self-insure the Local 6 death benefit with monthly Board oversight.

- \$2,000 was paid from the Death Benefit Fund on behalf of deceased member Norman Therkelson.
- \$2,000 was paid from the Death Benefit Fund on behalf of deceased member Jan Volkert.
- \$2,000 was paid from the Death Benefit Fund on behalf of deceased member Patricia Drury.

The Board sent suggestions for bylaw changes to the Law and Legislative Committee.

The Board discussed the status of the back gate repair.

The Board signed a condolence card for Local 7 regarding the passing of their Vice President, Greg Reynolds.

President Cumings informed the Board of his inadvertent use of the union credit card for a minor personal expense, which has already been repaid to the union.

MSC to approve an extension of the current terms of the Area Wide Casual Wage Scale (AWCWS.)

President Cumings informed the Board about the difference between FiCore and Beck Objectors.

President Cumings reported on negotiations and activities for our CBA groups: American Bach Soloists, Berkeley Symphony, BroadwaySF, California Symphony, Carmel Bach Festival, Fairmont SF, Festival Opera, Bay Philharmonic, Golden Gate Park Band, Grace Cathedral, Green Street Mortuary, Lamplighters Music Theatre, Marin Symphony, Masterworks Chorale, Midsummer Mozart Festival, Monterey County Pops, Monterey Symphony, New Century Chamber Orchestra, Oakland Municipal Park Band, Oakland Symphony, Opera San Jose, Pacific Chamber Orchestra, People in Plazas, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Pocket Opera, Producers Associates/Woodminster Summer Musicals, Quadre Music Group, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, San Jose Chamber Orchestra, Santa Cruz Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony, SF Ballet, SF Contemporary Music Players, SF Early Music Society, SF Opera, SF Opera Center Orchestra, SF Symphony, Stern Grove Festival, Symphony San Jose, Team San Jose, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Villa Sinfonia, West Bay Opera, and West Edge Opera.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM.

Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Beth Zare.

**SFSYMPHONY**

**ESA-PEKKA SALONEN &  
THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY  
ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES**

### 4TH CHAIR & SECTION BASS

**Preliminary Round:**  
January 7, 2024

**Semi-Final &  
Final Rounds:**  
January 8, 2024

**Resume Submission  
Deadline:**  
October 22, 2023

### ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL SECOND VIOLIN

Section Violin positions may also be  
offered as a result of this audition

**Preliminary Round:**  
January 22, 2024

**Semi-Final & Final Rounds:**  
March 10 & 11, 2024

**Resume Submission  
Deadline:**  
October 27, 2023

### SECOND CLARINET

**Preliminary Round:**  
January 29, 2024

**Semi-Final Round:**  
January 30, 2024

**Final Round:**  
March 4, 2024

**Resume Submission  
Deadline:**  
November 3, 2023

Please send a ONE-PAGE resume to  
[auditions@sfsymphony.org](mailto:auditions@sfsymphony.org)

# General Membership Meeting

**Oct. 30, 2023 at 1pm via Zoom  
Meeting ID: 895 3452 0377**

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

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**DANIEL HOPE**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

New Century, a conductorless string orchestra  
based in San Francisco, CA, announces  
auditions for the following vacancy:

## **PRINCIPAL BASS (Tenure-track)**

Resume Submission Deadline:  
**December 1, 2023**

Preliminary & Final Rounds (in San Francisco):  
**March 2-3, 2024**

To apply, please email a ONE-PAGE resume to:  
**auditions@ncco.org**

Candidates will be invited to participate in this  
audition based on their submitted resume.  
Please, no phone calls.

For more information go to:  
**[www.ncco.org/auditions](http://www.ncco.org/auditions)**



The Bay Philharmonic is seeking adventurous and  
joyous musicians who will help us transform the  
arts world and beyond.

## **Auditions are announced for the following positions:**

**Principal Oboe:**  
Monday, November 6, 2023

**Principal bassoon:**  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

**Application Deadline for both auditions: October 27, 2023**

Please e-mail your one-page resume to:  
Marcella Schantz, Bay Philharmonic Personnel Manager:  
**Auditions@BayPhil.org**

A refundable audition deposit of \$35 is required, payable to "Bay  
Philharmonic" and mailed to:  
Attn: Marcella Schantz  
P.O. Box 104; Fremont, CA 94537

For more information, and to pay the deposit by PayPal, please visit  
**[www.bayphil.org/jobs-auditions](http://www.bayphil.org/jobs-auditions)**

Excerpts will be e-mailed to you upon receipt of your audition  
deposit. Cancellations must be received a minimum of 48 hours  
before the audition time.

Deposits will be returned at the time of the audition or by mail or  
PayPal credit up to 5 days following the audition.

The Bay Philharmonic is a per-service orchestra. Principal  
compensation is \$187.50 per service, per the current CBA.

**\*\*\*Please Note: Only highly qualified candidates should apply.  
Resume will be screened.\*\*\***