

# Hamilton Musicians' Guild



Local 293, AFM / CFM  
American Federation of Musicians  
of the United States and Canada



Presentation to



## Mayor's Taskforce on Economic Recovery

Friday, August 21, 2020



# History of the Hamilton Musicians' Guild



**George R Robinson  
President of  
AFM Local 293  
1903 - 1917**

On April 11, 1903 the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada granted Certificate of Affiliation to the Musicians Protective Union, Local No. 293, AFM of Hamilton, Ontario.

Members of the 13th Regimental Band (Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Band) among other local musicians were instrumental in organizing musicians in the Hamilton area and elected a Local Executive Board with George R Robinson as President of the newly formed AFM Local 293.

George R. Robinson (June 10th, 1840 - April 7th, 1917), was the bandmaster of the 13th Battalion Royal Canadian Militia (Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI) from 1869 until his death. Originally a member of the 2nd Battalion Prince Consorts own rifle brigade and graduate of Kneller Hall, England, his life was devoted to the advancement of good music, and on his many tours with the band through Canada and the United States, he brought great honour and desirable publicity to the City of Hamilton.

In 1947, the City of Hamilton erected a bandshell in Gage Park and dedicated it to the memory of Lieut. George R. Robinson.

The bandshell has existed since 1947 and still hosts concerts to this day as part of the varied programs of the City of Hamilton.




## The Hamilton Musicians' Guild Today

With a current membership of over 700 professional musicians from every genre of the music business, we service musicians in the County of Hamilton-Wentworth and surrounding areas such as Haldimand County, Grimsby, Beamsville and Grimsby Beach in Lincoln County and Burlington, Oakville, Milton in Halton County.

We offer unrivaled working conditions for all members with comprehensive instrument, health and liability insurance, to a world-class pension plan, contract protection with emergency travel assistance, free Internet referral postings, access to AFM/CFM licensed booking agents to keep those gigs coming and more, we demonstrate that as a member-driven organization we understand the critical benefits members need to further their career and to protect their future.

Specialized departments within the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) office in New York and the Canadian Federation of Musicians (CFM) office in Toronto also offer members a host of vital services including assistance with immigration, media recordings, symphonic and theatrical matters, touring, freelance musicians and membership services, contract negotiations and administration, and management of royalty streams.

The AFM and CFM is the musicians voice in the United States and Canadian legislative process. We are proactive in legislative action and are instrumental in bringing about Federal and Provincial Status of the Artist, as well as Copyright reform and new payments to musicians from new tariffs such as Neighbouring Rights and the private copying levy.



*Media Service*  
**Before you accidentally sell your soul ...**  
[read more >](#)

**Gigs**

**RECORDING CONTRACT**

1 2 3 4

<b>Insurance</b> Taking that 59 Les Paul on the road? <a href="#">read more &gt;</a>	<b>Gigs</b> Making complex contracts simple <a href="#">read more &gt;</a>	<b>Immigration</b> Need help crossing the border? <a href="#">read more &gt;</a>	<b>Royalties</b> Getting paid for your work? <a href="#">read more &gt;</a>
--	--	--	---

*For more information, click on the images above & below.*



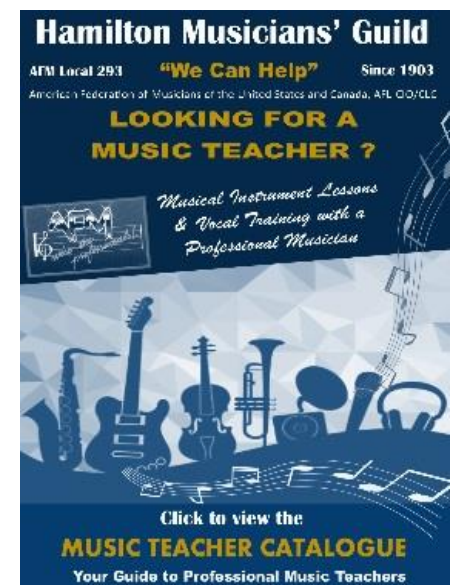
**Hamilton Musicians' Guild**  
AFM Local 293 "We Can Help" Since 1903  
American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO/CLC

**Looking to Hire a Musician or Band ?**

Live Music for your Special Event  
(Weddings, Festivals, Pubs, Bars, Conferences, Concerts, Celebrations of Life, Corporate Events, etc)

The Live Music Talent Catalogue is designed to assist you in selecting a professional musician, band or orchestra, embracing various styles of musical performance, that will contribute to the success of your social event.

Click to view the  
**LIVE MUSIC TALENT CATALOGUE**  
Your Guide to the Best in Professional Live Music & Entertainment



**Hamilton Musicians' Guild**  
AFM Local 293 "We Can Help" Since 1903  
American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO/CLC

**LOOKING FOR A MUSIC TEACHER ?**

Musical Instrument Lessons & Vocal Training with a Professional Musician

Click to view the  
**MUSIC TEACHER CATALOGUE**  
Your Guide to Professional Music Teachers



## 2017 AFM Canadian Conference of Musicians

The Hamilton Musicians' Guild hosted the AFM Canadian Conference of Musicians at the Sheraton Hotel in Hamilton in 2017. There were over 100 delegates from 25 AFM Locals from across Canada. We had much support from the city and local businesses which allowed us to present twelve (12) live music events for free to the public and hotel guests which employed 40 local musicians during this week of conference activities.

In 2019, the Organization of Canadian Symphony Musicians (OCSM) held their annual conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Hamilton.



Greetings to all from Hamilton, Ontario! We're here until Friday for our 2019 Conference. It's always nice when the conference hotel overlooks the concert hall where our host city orchestra performs, in this case the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. The FirstOntario Concert Hall is in the middle of this photo - how fitting that it is across the street from Hamilton City Hall (to the right). An orchestra's place is at the centre of its community! #ocsm2019



# Music Performance Trust Fund



The Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) is funding 100% of both live and streaming performances during the COVID-19 Pandemic through AFM Locals.

The Hamilton Musicians' Guild will be meeting with local organizations to discuss setting up a series of live or streaming concerts.

We will be meeting with the Hamilton Public Library in August to discuss a series of live music streaming concerts to begin in the fall of 2020



The Music Performance Trust Fund was established in 1948 as a non-profit independent public service organization whose mission includes contributing to the public knowledge and appreciation of live music, as well as making music a part of everybody's life experience. Headquartered in New York City, the MPTF evolved from a landmark collective bargaining agreement between the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada and the major recording companies of the day. Today the MPTF is a vital organization that brings live music to the public and supplements the income of musicians, all at no cost to those receiving this precious gift of music.

Funded via a royalty stream from the signatory record labels, led by the three major labels, Sony Music Entertainment, Universal Music Group, and the Warner Music Group, the MPTF today presents thousands of live, admission-free musical programs annually in the United States and Canada. Under the terms of their agreement, the recording companies pay a royalty from the sale of sound recordings to the Fund. These funds are supplemented by co-sponsoring organizations and administered by a Trustee, who is independent of both the recording industry and the AFM.

The Music Performance Trust Fund in conjunction with the Hamilton Musicians' Guild has been providing grants to help create free live music performances in the Hamilton area for the public's entertainment and education for over 65 years. Almost all of our events are co-sponsored, as we require the involvement of local participants that include arts councils, symphonic organizations, municipalities, veterans groups, school systems, healthcare organizations, festival organizers among others.

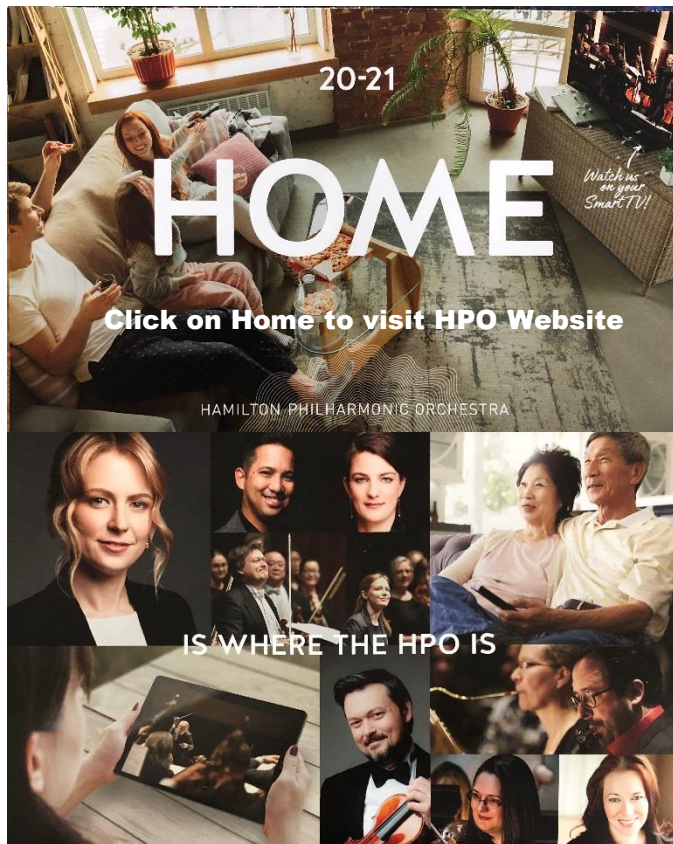
# Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra

The Hamilton Musicians' Guild has been working closely with Kim Varian, Executive Director of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and Richard Sandals, CFM Symphony Service Representative on discussions of the future of the orchestra in a Covid-19 World.

With the help of the HPO Players Committee and our HPO Negotiating Team we have recently signed an agreement for a streaming program for the HPO 20-21 Season.

The Community of Hamilton is extremely fortunate that the HPO has such an accomplished conductor with Gemma New on the podium.

All concerts will be broadcast online until it is safe for the HPO to reunite in the concert hall and we are all hoping this will allow patrons from Hamilton and beyond enjoy the talented musicians from the Hamilton Musicians' Guild perform online for this special season.



Photos below are from an HPO Educational Concert for students from the Hamilton Public and Catholic School Boards that was sponsored by the Music Performance Trust Fund for a performance of The Hockey Sweater in 2018.





**CCMA** CANADIAN COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION



The Hamilton Musicians' Guild is happy to add our voice to this discussion today. With this epic shutdown of every facet of musical performance from concert halls, stage productions, studio recording to bars and restaurants as well as cross border gigs, musicians face an unprecedented loss of income the likes of which happen once in a lifetime. The only comparisons that can be made are to the Spanish Flu Pandemic in 1918 when our local had been in existence for only fifteen years. Sadly there are no accounts that we know of how musicians fared locally but I'm sure it was equally devastating to our musicians then as it is now.

To put this in economic terms Canadian musicians are losing upwards of 12 million dollars a month.

The Music Industry accounts for more than 3 billion dollars in Canadian Gross Domestic Product.

Locally, music venues in Hamilton account for 36.2 million dollars in GDP employing close to 8000 workers in the field. The economic spinoff is 62.7 million all told.

Our Local, as part of the Canadian Federation of Musicians, negotiated an agreement with the Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) to hold the Canadian Country Music Awards in Hamilton this year, however due to Covid-19, the CCMA will be doing a virtual awards show.

This loss of income will be large as the last time the Canadian Country Music Awards were held in Hamilton in 2018 it generated 5.3 million dollars in economic spinoff and won the city an EDCO award.

In the past few years the Hamilton Musicians' Guild has been host to the Canadian Conference of Musicians with delegates and dignitaries from across Canada and the U.S. at the Sheraton Hotel as well as the Organization of Canadian Symphony Musicians Conference. These two events added a significant revenue stream to the local economy but sadly have gone virtual as well this year.

The point of all these statistics is that music is a vital economic driver in our communities having far reaching effects that most are not aware of.

Our mandate as the Hamilton Musicians' Guild is to advocate for professional musicians on a local, national and international level. Over the years we have co-sponsored through the Musicians Performance Trust Fund live performances by our musicians at such venues as Supercrawl, The Downtown BIA Summer Promenade, Burlington Ribfest, the Festival of Friends, Westdale Arts Fest, the HPO, and the City of Hamilton to name a few. We even have a program for residents of seniors homes.

The Canadian Federation of Musicians along with IATSE, Actor's Equity and the Associated Designers of Canada has formed a coalition to advocate for arts workers to be eligible for CERB payments as well as proposing several recommendations to address the financial issues facing our members. While we have successfully lobbied the government to recognize and extend CERB payments for our members there is still much to be done in the future in this regard.

Click the link below to view the "Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the Upcoming Federal Budget" as submitted by the Canadian Federation of Musicians (CFM) along with IATSE, Actor's Equity and the Associated Designers of Canada –

<https://cfmusicians.afm.org/uploads/file/2020.07.28%20-%20Pre-Budget%20Consultation%20Submissions.pdf>

*Live Music is Best*



Regards,

Larry Feudo, President  
Brent Malseed, Secretary-Treasurer

Hamilton Musicians' Guild  
AFM Local 293 CFM  
401-20 Hughson St. S.  
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 2A1  
905-525-4040

