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2017 AFM Canadian Conference of Musicians

August 11, 12 & 13, 2017



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American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada

AFL-CIO/CLC Affiliated

RAYMOND M. HAIR, JR.
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1501 Broadway, Suite 600
New York, NY 10036-5503
(212) 869-1330, Ext. 212 • FAX (212) 764-6134
Email: presoffice@afm.org

Dear Local and Conference officers, Delegates, Dignitaries and Guest,

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to all participants of the 2017 Canadian Conference, hosted by the officers and staff of Hamilton AFM Local 293.

I know that the officers of Local 293 and officials of the Canadian Conference have prepared a dynamic program agenda that we expect will serve the goal of Unity, common purpose and solidarity, where we can rediscover the good in each other and celebrate our diversity by working together to build a better International Union that will improve the lives of our members.

We have plenty of good news to share with you concerning continued recent improvements in Federation finances, in Federation collective bargaining agreements, and prospective developments in performance rights, all of which stand to benefit every member of every AFM Local.

I hope to visit with each of you during the conference sessions to exchange information and ideas regarding the good and welfare of the Federation, our locals and our members.

Best wishes for a successful and productive Conference!

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Raymond M. Hair, Jr.
International President
American Federation of Musicians
of the United States and Canada

The American Federation of Musicians
of the United States and Canada

International Executive Board



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International President



Bruce Fife
International Vice President



Alan Willaert
Vice President from Canada



Jay Blumenthal
Secretary-Treasurer



John Acosta
Executive Officer



Tino Gagliardi
Executive Officer



Tina Morrison
Executive Officer



Joe Parente
Executive Officer



Dave Pomeroy
Executive Officer

2017 CFM Canadian Conference



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An Organization of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada

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E-MAIL: awillaert@afm.org
www.cfmusicians.org

Welcome delegates and guests to the 2017 Canadian Conference!

I have fond memories of the last time the Conference was hosted in our Hamilton. It was my 1st conference as an observer, in October of 1985. I was very “green”, but learned a great deal about how the AFM operates. It was my pleasure to meet newly-elected Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Castleberry, but unfortunately, it was my last as well, as he passed at an early age in late 1990.

For new delegates, this is an opportunity to meet with your peers from nearby locals, discuss common issues and mentor each other with what you have discovered to be best practices. This is a chance to renew old friendships and forge new ones, and I urge you to take advantage. This is also a milestone conference as it will host the first-ever Leadership Training component, for two days prior to commencement, which will be of tremendous value to those who have registered to attend.

Thanks to the close proximity to the Canadian Office, we will have several CFM staff in attendance. This is your chance to put a face to the name, introduce yourself and establish a rapport. I know they are all excited by the opportunity to do the same.

I wish to extend my appreciation to Larry Feudo, Brent Malseed, Janna Malseed and the entire Local 293 Board for their extensive efforts in making this year’s Conference both productive and memorable. To the delegates, I bid you welcome, and wish you successful deliberations and safe travel.

In Solidarity,

Alan Willaert
AFM Vice-President from Canada



Memories from the Canadian Conference - Hamilton 1985



AFM Secretary-Treasurer Kelly L. Castleberry (RIP (1946 to 1990)) addresses the Canadian Conference of Musicians at the Sheraton Hotel in Hamilton in 1985.



Photo from the 1985 Canadian Conference of Musicians at the Sheraton Hotel in Hamilton. Left to right: Susan Vella, Kelly Castleberry and Nicolette (Nicki) Jandrisch.



CANADIAN conference



/afmccmusicians

Welcome Delegates & Guests to Hamilton

On behalf of the Executive of the Canadian Conference I extend a warm welcome to this years' Conference. A full agenda is scheduled over the next few days.

I'm reminded of the future of music in today's market and I certainly see an upswing with the lineup planned for the festivities. Our Conference is unique among others because Canadian issues are at the forefront of discussions. It is our turn, as delegates, to speak from the floor of those issues that are constant throughout our musical endeavours.

Lively deliberations are the fodder of great ideas, of unity and of growth throughout the CFM. As delegates you are here to share ideas, create new paths, to reach out to fellow members and to take the time to reflect on the struggles that lay before us.

As representatives this is your time to rise and speak and partake in the activities, to have your voice heard and to garner fresh approaches to conducting business for your Local and to better the lot of your members. I trust that new officers took advantage of the Officer Training Sessions held prior to these proceedings.

The Canadian Conference would like to thank Local 293 for hosting the Conference. Many hours have been sacrificed to make this Conference an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Best wishes for a productive and successful conference.

Musically Yours,

Paul Leclair

President Canadian Conference



AFM Canadian Conference Officers



Paul LeClair
President



Doug Kuss
Vice President



Robin Moir
Secretary-Treasurer



Luc Fortin
Board Member



Jay Harrison
Board Member



Norm Slongo
Board Member



Eddy Baynes
Board Member



Mark Reed
Board Member



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Local 293, AFM/CFM

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www.hamiltonmusicians.org

On behalf of Local 293's executive board we'd like to extend a warm welcome to our delegates and esteemed guests.

We are pleased to host the conference for first time in over thirty years. The last time the conference was hosted in Hamilton was back in 1985 and we are pleased to be hosting it here again at the Sheraton.

This occasion serves as a benchmark for the Local's progress in rebuilding –it would have not been possible a scant four years ago. Our growth is the result of the collective efforts of our executive board. As many of you may know Hamilton is undergoing a cultural and economic renaissance and we recommend you taking the time to take in the sights.

The hospitality suite is located in the Beckett room and special thanks go to Bob Burns and Hub for their support. This year we made it a priority to showcase our finest local talent for your enjoyment. We have two time Juno winner Jack De Keyser, the Darcy Hepner Sextet, the HPO String Quartet and the BNMO Woodwind Quintet to name a few. All of this was made possible by the generous support from First Ontario Credit Union and MROC. We'd like to thank the AFM Freelance Co-Funding program for their support and all our community sponsors who are too numerous to mention here.

We'd like to wish everyone a productive and enjoyable conference. Should you require any help during the conference feel free to call.

Larry Feudo , President
Cell: 289-529-6900



Brent Malseed, Secretary-Treasurer
Cell: 905-293-9979



On behalf of our City Council and the City of Hamilton allow me to extend our heartfelt best wishes to you during the 2017 AFM Canadian Conference of Musicians being held here in our city

Congratulations on having chosen our city, rich in its own musical story, to hold your conference. We hope that you will take advantage of your time here in our city to explore the rich cuisine and entertainment our city has to offer.

The Canadian Conference consists of Locals of the AFM located across Canada. In addition, the Conference recognizes representatives of the Organization of Canadian Symphony Musicians (OCSM) as official Delegates. We invite you as you deliberate on issues of importance to your membership to take the time to enjoy all that the City of Hamilton has available to you.

From its tremendous history, to its diverse culture and music scene it has much for you to experience. Surrounded by spectacular nature, Hamilton, Ontario is a city like no other. Wander through one of the finest collections of art in Canada at the Art Gallery of Hamilton; take a leisurely stroll through the stalls at one of Hamilton's local farmer's market and you will see why you chose Hamilton.

We know you will come to understand why people are talking about Hamilton. When you leave at the end of your Canadian Conference people will be talking about you.

Yours Sincerely,

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor



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Welcome to Hamilton for your Canadian Conference!

Hamilton is a city that has a long history of working class people, that carries with it a rich music legacy that goes hand in hand with a deep appreciation for the contributions of organized labour.

While you're in town, you should certainly avail yourselves of Art Walk down the James Street corridor, and maybe make a stop at the Workers Arts & Heritage Centre on Stuart Street.

As the President of the Hamilton and District Labour Council, and a proud member of the Hamilton Musicians Guild, Local 293, I have the honour of calling 50,000 unionized workers across this city part of my labour family.

You are now part of this family.

We are city of communities steeped in cultural diversity. The back beat of a century of steel mills has kept a constant pulse to our city that cannot be denied. The ostinato of half a million feet on the streets and the counterpoint of half a million voices in the air make us formidable.

Hopefully, over the short time you have with us, you'll hear some of the themes and come to appreciate the overture.

For these few days, at least, you're part of our Solidarity Jam.

Anthony Marco
President, Hamilton and District Labour Council



The Hamilton and District Labour Council is the voice of working people in Hamilton. By pursuing jobs, peace and security, we seek to build a community that values human dignity and basic fairness.

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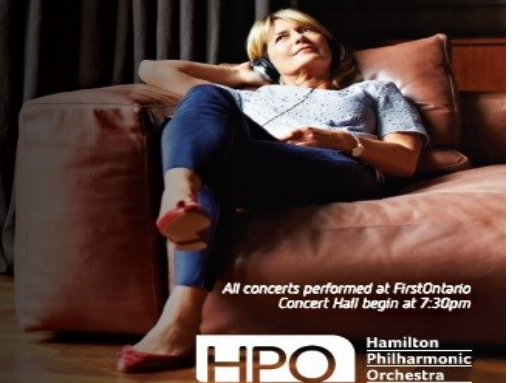
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Local 145

Vancouver Musicians' Association

Chartered: June 3rd, 1901



Top Row: **David Brown**, President, **Ed Henderson**, Vice Pres, **Marcus Takizawa**, Member at Large, **Sharman King**, Member at Large, **Jennifer Hodge**, Member at Large
 Bottom Row: **Mark Ferris**, Member at Large, **Greg Cox**, Member at Large, **Mike Brown**, Member at Large, **Tom Arntzen**, Member at Large, **Dusty Kelly**, Executive Director

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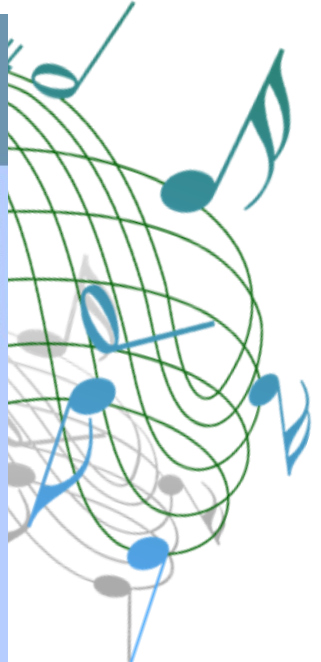
Local 149

Toronto Musicians' Association

Chartered: June 3rd, 1901



Top Row: **Ray Dillard**, President, **Linda Cara**, Vice Pres, **Charlie Gray**, Secretary, **Andrew D Morris**, Treasurer, **Debbie "Debi" Sander Walker**, Director, **Leslie J Allt**, Director
 Bottom Row: **Rea Beaumont**, Director, **C Paul Spurgeon**, Director, **Richard David Sandals**, Director, **Stephen D Mosher**, Director, **Pat Simmonds**, Director, **Michael Murray**, Executive Director





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Fax 905-546-2535
Email donna.skelly@hamilton.ca

Local 180

Musicians' Association of Ottawa-Gatineau

Chartered: February 8th, 1902



Left to Right: Sean Rice, Exec Board, David Renaud, Exec Board, Gary Morton, Vice President, Francine Schutzman, President, Michael Mullin, Exec Board, Robin Moir, Secretary-Treasurer, Stephen Boudreau, Exec Board

Local 190

Music Professionals of Manitoba Inc.

Chartered: March 21st, 1902



Left to right: Laurie MacKenzie, Exec Board, Kathryn Sigsworth, Exec Board, Jay Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer, Janice E Finlay, Exec Board, John Miller, Exec Board, Tony Cyre, President, Daniel Donahue, Vice President, Paul S Jeffrey, Exec Board



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Best wishes to the Canadian Conference of Musicians!



David Christopherson
Member of Parliament
Hamilton Centre
davidchristopherson.ca



Scott Duvall
Member of Parliament
Hamilton Mountain
scott.duvall@parl.gc.ca

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Andrea Horwath
MPP Hamilton Centre
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Paul Miller
MPP Hamilton East – Stoney Creek
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Local 226

Central Ontario Musicians' Assn.

Chartered: December 16th, 1905



Left to Right: **David Knarr**, Secretary-Treasurer, **Rick Guzik**, Exec Board, **Sandy MacDonald**, Sgt at Arms, **Tim Waugh**, Exec Board, **Ian Hopkin**, Symphony Rep, **Collin D Roberts**, Exec Board, **Paul R Mitchell**, President, **Ross M P Daly**, Vice Pres

Local 247

Island Musicians' Association

Chartered: November 1st, 1902



Top Row: **Gary Preston**, President, **Mark Reed**, Secretary-Treasurer, **Anita Bonkowski**, Exec Board, **Thomas Vickery**, Exec Board, **James Bates**, Exec Board,

Bottom Row: **Paul Beauchesne**, Symphony Rep, **Rainer Roth**, Exec-Board, **John Ellis**, Exec Board, **Jan Randall**, Exec Board



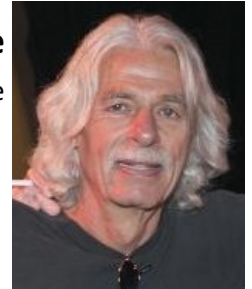
Dave Jandrisch

Chair (MROC)



Mike Levine

Director at Large



Julia Train

Manager, Communi-
cation & Outreach



Diana Barry

Managing
Consultant

Local 276

Sault Ste. Marie Musicians' Assn.

Chartered: January 1st, 1918



Left to Right: **Steve Case**, President, **Warren Reville**, Exec Board, **Jim Hopper**, Exec Board, **Lynne Reville**, Vice Pres, **Paul Leclair**, Secretary-Treasurer, **Bob Yeomans**, Exec Board, **Rino Zorzi**, Exec Board **Mark Mizzi**, Exec Board (absent), **Joshua Norling**, Exec Board (absent)

Local 279

London Musicians' Association

Chartered: February 10th, 1903

Colin Stewart, President
John Noubarian, Vice President
Ted Peacock, Secretary/Treasurer
Tom McInerney, Executive Board
Sandy MacKay, Executive Board
Jim McCormick, Executive Board
Robert A Hughes, Executive Board



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THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF MUSICIANS



Agenda



AFM Officer Training – Wednesday, August 9, 2017 (South/West Boardroom)

Officer Training	9:30 AM
LUNCH	12 – 1 PM
Adjournment	5:00 PM

AFM Officer Training – Thursday, August 10, 2017 (South/West Boardroom)

Officer Training	9:30 AM
LUNCH	12– 1 PM
Adjournment	5:00 PM
Can Con Executive Board Meeting - Confirmed South/West Boardroom	8:00 PM

Canadian Conference - Friday, August 11, 2017

(East Boardroom)

Call to Order	Noon
National Anthem (vocals by Lorelee McGuirl, member of Local 293)	
Approval of the Agenda	
Self-Introduction of Delegates, Staff, Guests and Executive Board	
Approval of Minutes of the 2016 Canadian Conference	
President Paul Leclair welcomes guests and delegates and intros speakers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Hamilton Mayor (Tom Jackson, Deputy Mayor) • Larry Feudo & Janna Malseed will acknowledge & thank Councilor Tom Jackson • Bob Bratina, MP (Liberal Member of Parliament) • Andrea Horwath, MPP (Ontario NDP Leader) • Anthony Marco – President of Hamilton & District Labour Council (HDLC) • Keanin Loomis – Chair of Hamilton Chamber of Commerce • Madeline Wilson & Jeff Martin – Co-Chairs, Hamilton Music Strategy Committee • President Paul Leclair thanks speakers and makes his opening response 	
Appointment of Committees:	1:15 PM
Credentials, Resolutions, Finance, Locations, Election, Standards, Diversity	

Agenda - page 2

Staff Question Period	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liana White, Paul Sharpe, Bernard Leblanc, Allistair Elliott, Susan Whitfield 	
BREAK	20 minutes
Report and Discussion of Standards Committee – Doug Kuss	2:50 PM
Report and Discussion of Advocacy Committee – Michael Murray	
Report of Secretary-Treasurer of Canadian Conference – Robin Moir	
Business of the Conference Adjournment	5:00 PM

Canadian Conference - Saturday, August 12, 2017

Call to Order	9:00 AM
International President Ray Hair	
International Secretary-Treasurer – Jay Blumenthal	
HUB Insurance Representatives	
LUNCH	12:30 - 1:30 PM
Introduced by Larry Feudo:	
<i>Charles Cozens – Conductor of the Burlington New Millennium Orchestra</i>	
Open Forum (Round Table on Officer Training)	
BREAK	20 minutes
Remarks from the Vice President from Canada – Alan Willaert	
Questions for the VP from Canada	
Report from the Musicians’ Pension Fund of Canada	
Business of the Conference to Adjournment	5:00 PM

Canadian Conference - Sunday, August 13, 2017

Call to order	9:00 AM
MPTF – Dan Beck	
Report of the Committees	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credentials Resolutions Finance Locations Election 	
Discussion of Resolutions	
Business of the Conference to Adjournment	12:30 PM
MROC	1:30 PM

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Local 293

Hamilton Musicians' Guild

Chartered: April 11th, 1903



Top Row: **Larry Feudo**, President, **Reg Denis**, 1st Vice President, **Janna Malseed**, 2nd Vice President, **Brent H Malseed**, Secretary-Treasurer,

Bottom Row: **Paul Panchezak**, Sgt at Arms, **Ron Palangio**, Marshall, **Glen Brown**, Director, **Brenda Brown**, Director

Local 355

Cape Breton Professional Musicians' Assn.

Chartered: March 7th, 1966

Debbie Mullins, President
David Burke, Acting Vice President
Patricia Margaret Day, Secretary-Treasurer

Local 384

Upper Canada Musicians' Assn.

Chartered: April 5th, 1924

Allen Torrance, Pres / Sec
Epatrick Johnson, Vice Pres
Deborah G Dunleavy, Exec Board
Kevin MacKay Crotty, Exec Board
Howard Alexander, Sgt at Arms

Local 298

Niagara Region Musicians' Assn.

Chartered: September 29th, 1933

Ryszard Rybak, President
Paul Mahaffey, Vice President
Gordon Cleland, Sec / Tres
Nathan Wesley Chamberland, Exec Board
Steve Kostyk, Exec Board
Janice Fralick, Exec Board
Rick Richardson, Exec Board

Local 390

Edmonton Musicians' Association

Chartered: February 2nd, 1907



Back row: **Graham Guest**, Director, **Eddy Bayens**, President, **Jay Kuchinsky**, Director, **Edith Stacey**, Secretary
Front row: **Dan Sutherland**, Board Member, **Morley Fleming**, Vice Pres

Local 406

Quebec Musicians' Guild

Chartered: April 29th, 1905



Top row: **Luc Fortin**, President, **Éric Lefebvre**, Secretary-Treasurer, **Geneviève Plante**, VP Montreal, **Jacques Bourget**, VP Québec City, **Jean-Luc Gagnon**, Director, **Muhammad Abdul Al-Khabyr**, Director, **Philippe Turcotte**, Director

Bottom row: **Annie Vanasse**, Director Québec City, **Nicolas Cousineau**, Director, **Richard Gagnon**, Director Québec City, **Roberto Murray**, Director, **Vincent Seguin**, Director, **Maxime Lalanne**, Director, **François Marchal**, Exec Director

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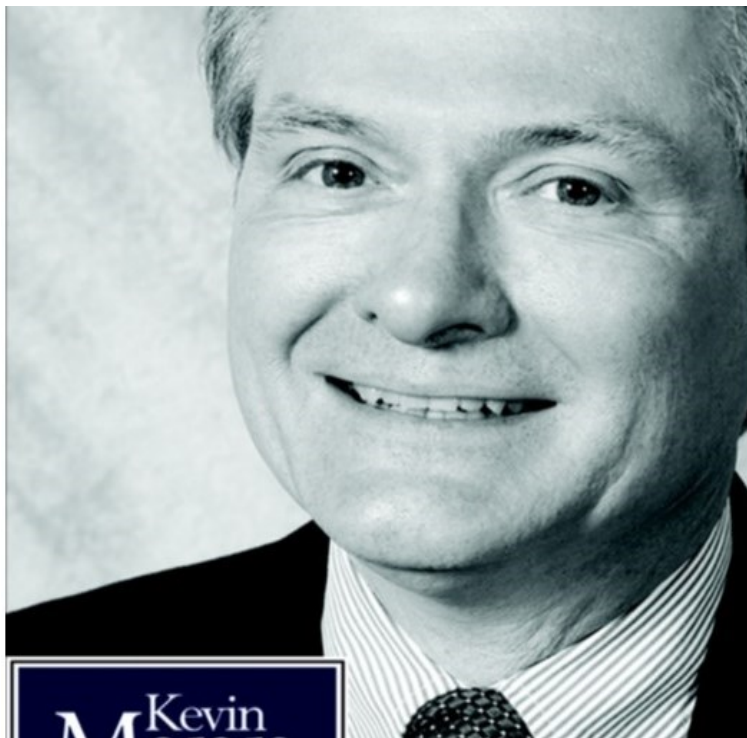


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Local 446

Regina Musicians' Association

Chartered: February 12th, 1912



Top Row: **Brian Sklar**, President, **Lorena Kelly**, Vice Pres,
Alan Denike, Secretary-Treasurer
 Bottom Row: **Gary Dunitz**, Exec Board, **Carmelle Pretzlaw**, Execu-
 tive Officer at Large, **Don Young**, President Emeritus

CFM Office Staff



Allistair Elliott
International Rep



Paul Sharpe
Director Freelance &
Membership Develop



Liana White
Executive Director



Susan Whitfield
Director of Admin



Daniel Calabrese
Contract Admin



Steve Mosher
Assoc Director
Symphony Services



Cathy Lee
Membership Services
Administrator



Rosalynn Dennett
Licencing Coordinator



Bernard LeBlanc
International Rep

Local 467

Brantford Musicians' Association

Chartered: November 21st, 1907



Left to Right: **Michael R Stoneman**, Secretary-Treasurer, **Ben Agro**,
 Exec Board, **Charlie C Agro**, Exec Board, **Thom Adkins**, Exec Board,
Jeremiah Budnark, Exec Board, **Bill Shingler**, Exec Board,
Jeff Gallagher, President

Local 518

Kingston Musicians' Union

Chartered: November 19th, 1937



Left to Right: **David C Smith**, President, **Sue Moore**, Executive Director/Sec-
 Treas, **Cory Van Allen**, Exec Board, **Craig Jones**, Exec Board,
Edward D Thompson, Exec Board, **Timothy Hallman**, Exec Board (seated)
 Absent: **Kent Smith**, Exec Board & **Robin Moir**, Exec Board

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Local 547

Calgary Musicians' Association

Chartered: January 3rd, 1938



Left to Right: **Doug Kuss**, Secretary-Treasurer, **Mike Little**, Board Member, **Kit Johnson**, Vice Pres, **Tricia Edwards**, Board Member, **Jim Scott**, Board Member, **Robert McCosh**, President
Jeremy Coates, Board Member (missing)

Local 553

Saskatoon Musicians' Association

Chartered: October 31st, 1910



Left to Right: **Skip Kutz**, President, **Simon Fanner**, Exec Board (seated), **Lloyd Tomczak**, Sgt at Arms, **Ross M Nykiforuk**, Vice Pres (seated), **Warren J. Rutherford**, Secretary-Treasurer, **Randy Woods**, Exec Board

Local 418

Stratford Musicians' Association

Chartered: February 21st, 1920

Grant Heywood, President
Ronald Coulthard, Vice Pres
Stephanie Martin, Secretary-Treasurer
Emily Hamper, Exec Board
James D McMillan, Executive Board
John Till, Sgt at Arms
Lawrence E Crawford, Executive Board

Local 566

Windsor Federation of Musicians

Chartered: June 23rd, 1911

Christopher Borshuk, President
Lynne Wilson-Bradac, Sec / Tres
Michael Hereford, Vice Pres
Mark Bradac, Director
Tony Rivolta, Director
Angelo Alfini, Director
Phil Kane, Director

Local 591

Thunder Bay Musicians' Association

Chartered: May 20th, 1938

Garry Agostino, President
Mark Thibert, Vice Pres
Norman Slongo, Sec / Tres
Mary Ann Agostino, Sgt at Arms
Penelope Clarke, Director
Darlene Chepil-Reid, Director
John L Scaffeo, Director
Chuck Sandford, Business Rep

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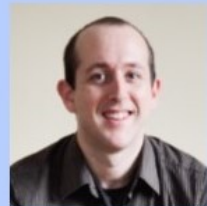


Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

Local 571

Atlantic Federation of Musicians

Chartered: April 5th, 1938



Top Row: **Tom Roach**, President, **Varun Vyas**, Secretary-Treasurer, **Kenneth R MacKay**, Vice Pres
Bottom Row: **Brad Reid**, Exec Board, **Robert Gooding**, Exec Board, **John Cuming**, Exec Board



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Or contact us...

1200 Eglinton Ave. East, Suite 505, Toronto, ON, M3C1H9
 Email: Info@musiclansrights.ca
 Phone: 416-510-0279
 (Toll Free): 1-855-510-0279



Local 815

New Brunswick Musicians' Assn.

Chartered: April 23rd, 1964

Greg T Marks, President
 Brandon A Weyman, Sec / Tres
 Alison F Cran, Vice Pres
 Gloria Dawn Halvorsen, Exec Board
 Thomas Noel, Exec Board
 H Douglas Reece, Exec Board
 Jean A Surette, Exec Board
 Adrian Thornton, Exec Board
 Richard A Hornsby, Executive Board
 Norman G Weyman, President Emeritus

Local 820

Newfoundland & Labrador Musicians' Association

Chartered: January 1st, 1981



Top Row: Gregory A Bruce, President, Wade Dawe, Secretary-Treasurer, Peter Gardner, Vice Pres
 Bottom Row: Rozalind MacPhail, Executive Director, Paul Bendzsa, Board Member, Terry Campbell, Board Member



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THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF MUSICIANS

Entertainment Lineup

Sheraton Hotel Lobby



HPO String Quartet

Thursday, August 10, 2017
5:00 PM



BNMO Quintet

Saturday, August 12, 2017
Noon



Sheraton Hotel - The LOFT



Adrean Farrugia Piano

Tuesday, August 8, 2017
6:30 to 9:00 pm



Johannes Linstead Trio

Wednesday, August 9, 2017
6:30 to 9:00 pm



Michael Maguire 7 String Guitar

Thursday, August 10, 2017
6:30 to 9:00 pm



Lorelee McGuirl Duo

Friday, August 11, 2017
6:30 to 9:00 pm

Canadian Conference Opening Ceremonies

Friday, August 11, 2017 - East Ballroom 11:00 am

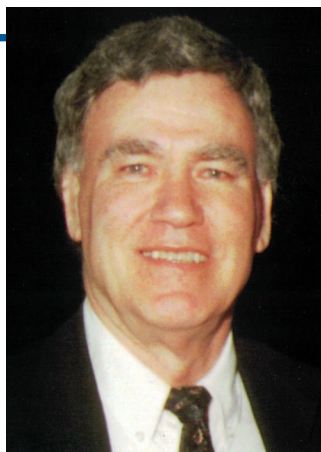


The Lorelee McGuirl Trio

"I've always been a singer. I sang before I could speak. Making up tunes and recording were a big part of my every day life. I never imagined myself being anything else than a singer," says Lorelee of her career, which has taken off. A local superstar and internationally known singer, the talented Lorelee has written over 100 songs such as "Down and Out, Old Country Woman, Gotta Get Down, Ferris Wheel, Hush Now Baby, Curious Love, You Make Me Smile." She crosses over the bridge of blues, jazz and pop effortlessly. Lorelee has been seen on film, "The Jilted Brides Club" on stage around the world such as in Paris, France at Le Chat Noir, entertaining crowds singing Opera in Verona, Italy at Arena de Verona, Casino, and closer to the GTA at Casino Rama singing with one of the world's top Elvis impersonators Gino Monopoli. Nominated in 2013 for best Hamilton Jazz Album, Lorelee was the lead vocalist on The Jimmy Stahl Big Band Recording.

Matt Kennedy and Local 293

By Glen T Brown, Local 293 Executive Board Member



Matt Kennedy
President Emeritus

Matt Kennedy joined the Hamilton Musicians Guild in 1947 and was elected to the executive in 1951.

During the 1960's Kennedy was playing piano and booking sidemen for the famous Tiny Talent Time show and other CHCH television programs. "In those days television was live. Our sponsor brought a cow to the studio for their live Christmas commercial. Of course, with all the lights and excitement the cow relieved itself and the studio never smelled quite the same for weeks after!"

Kennedy played at Hamilton's famous Royal Connaught Hotel from 1975 through the 1980's. Matt had found it necessary to transform his act from solo piano into a small band. "People were coming in from Toronto and Buffalo to get the classy dinner service

and the fine music for dancing."

A decades-long inside view of the music industry has given Kennedy a rare perspective.

Kennedy recalls, "The performance landscape in the 1970's was rich with gigs. Rock and country acts were busy all over town, playing hotels on Friday and Saturday nights. It was different from the scene in the 1960's. In the mid 1970's the Guild had 1800 members on the roll."

The 1980's was tough; the financial base of the local faced pressure. Gigs were drying up. "Miscellaneous" gigs (corporate Christmas parties, for example) were few and far between. Money was tight, but things held together largely due to the work and commitment of a few faithful, skilled executive members.

Over the years Kennedy contributed his time generously as a negotiator and oversaw the signing of many contracts to the benefit of local players. "We negotiated a contract with CHCH television. CHCH contracted local musicians and paid them scale," Kennedy remarks. "The Guild also negotiated contracts for our members musicians performing at Hamilton Place and with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO)."

When the HPO went bankrupt in the 1990's, Kennedy represented the Guild as it played a key role in getting talks started to help facilitate the formation of sponsoring partnerships that allowed our local orchestra to make a gradual comeback. "The people of Hamilton wanted the orchestra to succeed, and we were able to slowly bring it back in co-operation with management. Eventually we added pension payments into the contract, which the musicians were very excited about."

What was Matt Kennedy's most significant achievement from all of his work as a musician and Guild member? "Definitely it was being able to play and be part of the whole thing. Being able to go out and play with people I know, who were interested in the same thing I was. You were able to put something together and be happy with the results!"

Like any other musician, Matt Kennedy sometimes wondered if anybody was listening. He reminisces, "In the 1970's I was playing piano on CHCH for a talk show with a guy named Bob McLean. It aired before Johnny Carson. I often had to just fill in, on the spur of the moment, a few seconds of airtime. One night I decided to fool around a bit and play a weird version of Fascinatin' Rhythm for about 30 seconds. Gordon Sinclair, famous Canadian journalist, writer, and commentator, was the guest. When I was done Sinclair piped up, 'What the hell was that?'"

President Emeritus Matt Kennedy will be presented the Certificate of Life Time Achievement for his year of dedication and service to the members of the Hamilton Musicians' Guild, Local 293, AFM/CFM at the Gala Dinner of the 2017 Canadian Conference of Musicians.



GALA SOUND BY NORM

Norm Thornton is probably the premier sound man in the greater Hamilton area providing quality sound over the years for such acts as King Biscuit Boy and Crowbar, Arlo Guthrie, David Clayton Thomas, Carol Welsman, Jim Cuddy and a host of artists ranging from jazz to rock to blues. He is the go-to soundman for the annual King Biscuit Boy Tribute (Blues with a Feeling), the Burlington Ribfest, the Burlington Sound of Music festival and the Dundas Cactus Fest to name a few of the shows he does sound for every year. Local 293 is proud to count on Norm Thornton as a friend and supporter and we're happy having him and Long and McQuade participating in this year's conference.

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THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF MUSICIANS

Gala Entertainment

Saturday, August 12, 2017

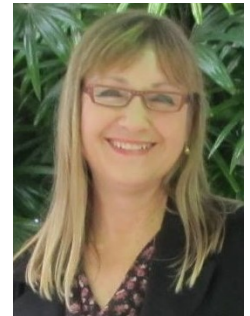
Jesse O'Brien



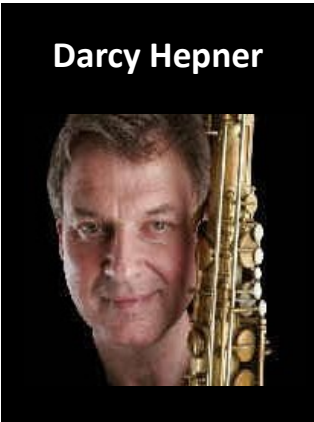
Jesse O'Brien played his first gig with his father, Michael O'Brien, at the age of twelve. A few years later his dad introduced him to Ronnie Hawkins and the teenager was off on a career as a keyboard player under the inspiration and occasional tutelage of Buffalo New York piano legend Stan Szelest whose ability to play any style of music was something Jesse took to be a prerequisite for a successful career in music. As a result he has played and recorded with a wide variety of artists including Levon Helm, Fathead, the Downchild Blues Band, Steve Strongman, Tom Wilson, King Biscuit Boy, Ronnie Hawkins and Colin James. Keeping things close to home he has collaborated with his brother, noted hip hop artist, OB, on several projects. His playing has also garnered a generous share of accolades. With Colin James he has shared a major song writing prize. As co-producer of Harrison Kennedy's CD, "This is From Here" his work has been honoured with a Juno and the Hamilton Music Awards have named Jesse "Keyboard Player of the Year" multiple times.

Carmen has been a professional violinist in the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and an active string quartet chamber musician for over 30 years. In addition she has played with the National Ballet Orchestra, the Windsor Symphony, the Niagara Symphony and the Kitchener-Waterloo Orchestra. For over two decades she has been a member of the Panache String Quartet, a popular group that provides entertainment for weddings, parties, corporate functions, schools and much more. Carmen has also performed in numerous musicals in Hamilton, the Shaw Festival and at major venues in Toronto including the the Royal York Imperial Room, the Hummingbird Centre, the Elgin Theatre, the Royal Alex Theatre and Casino Rama. With all this experience she is also a much sought after instructor offering private lessons in the Hamilton area. Also of note, in the past Carmen has served as Secretary – Treasurer for Local 293.

Carmen Nemeth



Darcy Hepner



Darcy Hepner was raised in Hamilton, the son of professional musicians, conductor Lee Hepner and pianist Pat Rolston. He played cello, guitar and flute as a youth and began saxophone study in university, then studied privately with Pat LaBarbera. At New York University he studied composition and saxophone with Lee Konitz and Bob Mintzner. As a performer Darcy has worked with a multitude of legendary performers including BB King, Aretha Franklin, Sergio Mendes and Henry Mancini and toured internationally with Blood Sweat and Tears, Buster Poindexter and Artie Shaw. He was the Founding Department Head of the Selkirk College Music Program in Nelson, B.C. and a full time faculty member at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. After a period freelancing in New York City Darcy has returned to Hamilton and is currently teaching at Mohawk College. Together with his wife, Astrid, he is well known for his work in the area with the popular charity, An Instrument For Every Child.

From the Artic Circle to Puerto Escondido, Mexico; from Athens, Greece to Hornby Island, BC, virtuoso guitarist Jack de Keyzer plays the blues world wide. Born in Britain and raised in Hamilton Jack began his professional career at an early age. Besides his playing and recording with the groups the Bop Cats and the Rock Angels he has also played on hundreds of recordings and live sessions with artists ranging from Etta James and Ronnie Hawkins to Bo Diddley and Blue Rodeo. In Hamilton he is well known for his work with blues legend King Biscuit Boy, As a solo artist he performs an average 180 shows per year and has brought audiences to their feet at many major jazz and blues festivals. A much celebrated musician Jack has been nominated for a Juno five times , winning twice. He has won seven Maple Blues Awards and been awarded CBC's Great Canadian Blues Award. He has released seven CDs and one DVD, his latest release being Electric Love. The late Jeff Healey named Jack de Keyzer, " the finest blues guitarist in Canada".

Jack De Keyzer



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Photography by Cathie Coward

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