

Greater Idaho Musicians' Association

AFM LOCAL 423

NEWSLETTER

Second Quarter 2025



In this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Officer's Message | page 2 |
| Membership Dues | page 3 |
| Musician Relief Fund | page 3 |
| Welcome, New Members! | page 3 |
| Upcoming Events and News | page 4 |
| Member Interview | page 5-7 |
| Contact Information | page 7-8 |
| AFM Insurance | page 9 |

Officer's Message

-by Lauren Folkner



Hello fellow members of Local 423,

Let me introduce myself, even though I probably know most of you already. My name is Lauren Folkner, and I'm honored to be the newest executive officer of our union! It feels like we've been in this together from the start, and I'm excited to keep working alongside you in committees and staying involved with each other's performances.

I'm impressed by all the work you all do, not just on the stage, but behind the scenes. Teaching, rehearsing, advocating, showing up for meetings...it all matters. Real change takes a group effort, and it's so nice to see folks stepping up in so many ways. Your time, talent, and energy make a difference.

Summer can feel very busy, especially with all the weddings, gigs, and festivals. But it's also a time to participate in your community. Barbeques, protests, family gatherings, and seeing people out and about. It's such a fun reminder of the humanity surrounding us and the joy we're all seeking! I have been trying to find more connection myself, and doing so by showing up to things I would usually avoid, and reaching out even when I'm anxious. This has led to new experiences, new friendships, and a renewed sense of what I need to do to help my neighbors and community.

The more unified and helpful we are to each other, the lighter the load for everyone. For me, that's the real heart of the union, being stronger together.

I hope this summer gives all of us a chance to reconnect with the music we love, the people we care about, and the creativity that fuels us. I cannot wait to see and hear what you do with your summer freedom. I hope you find creativity in the moments of rest and connection in the chaos. And please, say hi! I am an extrovert after all.

Keep up the good work, and take care of yourselves and the people around you.

In solidarity,
Lauren Folkner
Executive Officer, Local 423

2025 Membership Dues

A reminder was sent as a gentle reminder to a decent number of you regarding dues payment. Annual membership dues are \$120 and are SEPARATE from work dues. We owe Federation dues every quarter based on our membership, so it is imperative that we all keep up with our dues so that other members aren't subjected to covering this on our behalf.

Please remit these dues by cash, check (payable to Greater Idaho Musicians' Association), the Cash App at \$Local423AFM, OR through the AFM website: <https://members.afm.org/payment>

Dues by cash or check can be given to any officer in person or sent by mail to the Greater Idaho Musicians' Association at 1634 S. Oakland Ave, Boise, ID 83706.

If you have already paid some or all of your 2025 dues - THANK YOU! You should have received an email receipt after your payment was processed - please let us know if you did not.

Secretary-Treasurer, Kim Ganong

Relief Fund for GIMA musicians

We wanted to remind you all that we have maintained the **GIMA Relief Fund** to benefit members in need. To apply for relief funds click here to fill out and submit this simple application: <https://forms.gle/1R3rZGT1mVt5PsRy9>

If you have a relief fund inquiry, you can email: local423afm@gmail.com. Communications will be kept CONFIDENTIAL.

This fund is sustained only through individual donations, and not supported by membership dues or work dues. If any members are interested in helping their fellow musicians, please reach out to **donate to the GIMA relief fund!**



Please help us welcome our new 423 sibling in the second quarter of 2025:

JEREMY CUCCO

Please refer anyone interested in joining to our general email: local423afm@gmail.com

Looking for an affordable therapist?

Need a therapist? See contact info below for Chad Freeman, a Boise based therapist offering affordable services to Local 423 members on a sliding scale.

<https://www.finchandfox.com/about-us>

Upcoming Local 423 Events

SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: PRESIDENT OF THE AFM
TINO GAGLIARDI**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

TIME TBA

LOCATION TBA

and also



**THIRD QUARTER MEMBERSHIP
MEETING - ANNUAL BBQ**

Sunday September 21nd, 2025

2:00 pm - Location TBA

Indoor meeting followed by outdoor BBQ activities

Meats and Unmeats for grilling provided by Local 423

Please bring a side to share and BYOB

Families welcome for the BBQ (following the meeting)!



Meet this quarter's Featured Member: Mike Harris



This month's featured member is Mike Harris. Please enjoy learning more about Mike and check out a demo by his band (linked below). Mike is one of Local 423's newer members, and we're glad to have him! Be sure to check out his band and attend some shows!

LB: Introduce yourself and talk a bit about your musical journey.

MH: My name is Mike Harris, and I recently rejoined the AFM. I was previously a member of a Local in Central Illinois when I performed with the Peoria Municipal Band. It's great to be back! Most of my musical career has been focused on education, but since I've transferred into a career of arts management, I've been able to rediscover my love of performing.

The first instrument I learned was the piano. My Aunt Karen earned a degree in worship ministry from Lincoln Christian College in Lincoln, Illinois. I began piano lessons with her at a young age, but I never found my passion for practicing; I did, however, discover a love of music! Karen and her husband, David, had season tickets to various events at the Krannert Center in Urbana, Illinois. Krannert brought in world-class performing artists and groups such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Kronos Quartet, Moscow Ballet, and my childhood favorite, the Marching Illini. As a child growing up in rural middle America, I was blessed to have the opportunity to see and hear these groups. Experiencing these live performances inspired me to perform.

My love of music grew into a passion for playing clarinet and saxophone, as well as composing and improvising music for small ensembles. This led to 11 years in the field of music education. While teaching, I worked with students as young as 3rd grade and as old as seniors in high school. Even though my focus was on wind instruments, I also taught choir and

general music. In 2023, I transitioned out of the classroom and into the admin team of the Boise Phil. Around the same time, I began to grow my private studio and performing ensembles. I now see over 20 students a week and perform with groups like the Canyon County Symphony, Jesse Blake Rundle, and my newest project, Vievvs. You might also see me making good trouble with the Idaho Peace Band and performing music in nursing homes!

LB: What else do you do besides performing? What are some of your other jobs and/or hobbies?

MH: Outside of music, I enjoy video games, hiking through the foothills, and floating down the river. I've been a big fan of base-building strategy games such as Sid Meier's Civilization series and Rimworld for years. I also dig RPG fantasy games such as the Final Fantasy series, Baldur's Gate III, and Cyberpunk 2077. I'm far from an outdoorsman, but it's hard to stay inside in Boise! I could hike to the top of Table Rock or Camel's Back any day. Once the river opens, it's hard to find me in the office because I'll most likely be on a tube!

LB: Who are your favorite musical artists?

MH: My all-time favorite artists are J.S. Bach, Steve Reich, and Sufjan Stevens. There are tons of other artists or genres that come close (Radiohead, Kendrick Lamar, Mozart, Charlie Parker, early Christian polyphony...), but those three are always at the top. I've been listening to a lot of Godspeed You! Black Emperor, Jesse Welles, John Prine, and Cannonball Adderley recently. I'll listen to anything that doesn't sound like Beach Cowboy by Brian Kelley.

LB: Describe one of your favorite/most memorable performances.

MH: I have two super memorable performances. Every year, Dr. John Jost organized a performance of an oratorio at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Peoria, Illinois. He would combine the Bradley University Orchestra with the three choirs he taught. I performed three oratorios with him, but Mozart's Requiem was my favorite (we also performed Mendelssohn's Elijah and Dvořák's Stabat Mater). The other memorable performance was at the Olympic in July 2023. My brother and I had a band called Optiflynn that used to play shows around town. We had been booked for Treefort that spring and gained enough attention to get booked again for a show in July. We got to share the stage with The Family Crest. Even though they're not a big name, this band inspired my brother to become a songwriter. The performance was great, but the community was lovely.

LB: What is your favorite thing to do in Boise?

MH: My favorite thing to do in Boise is listen to/or make music with my friends.

LB: Why is union membership important to you?

MH: There is strength in numbers and comfort in community. We can all find strength and comfort through the shared burden, work, and rewards of union membership.

LB: Anything else you'd like to share, or upcoming events where we can come see you perform?

MH: Viewvs has a cool show on July 21st at the Shrine basement. We'll be pairing live instrumental music with live video. Check the Duck club website for more info. Here's a link to a demo music video we made -

<https://youtu.be/381L7vTzVgU?feature=shared>

We would be happy to promote your concerts, projects, and life events on our social media and in this quarterly Newsletter!

If you would like your event or project to be shared, contact the local board at:
local423afm@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram: @AFMLocal423

Or you can speak to any of the GIMA Executive Board members directly:

President - Carmen Izzo: president@afm423.org

Vice President - Lindsay Bohl: vicepresident@afm423.org

Secretary-Treasurer - Kim Ganong: secretarytreasurer@afm423.org

Executive Board - Lauren Folkner **Executive Board** - Michael Maier

Contributing to This Newsletter

If YOU would like to contribute to this newsletter for the second quarter of 2025 (or any future quarter!), we wholeheartedly welcome your input, suggestions, and articles. OUR Local is better when we all participate and communicate! Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you at a membership meeting very soon.



PROTECT YOUR LIVELIHOOD,
INSTRUMENTS, AND BUSINESS WITH

THE BEST INSURANCE FROM TOP-RATED COMPANIES.

*AFM and HUB International
are partnering to offer
customized policies that
cover what you value.*



Coverage includes:

- ***Equipment Insurance*** — Protect your musical equipment and gear.
- ***Auto/Home Insurance*** — Full line of personal insurance products from auto to home.
- ***General Liability*** — Protect your business from claims of property damage or injury.
- ***Business Owner's Policy*** — Protects you against personal and property damage at the workplace.
- ***Errors & Omissions*** — E&O insurance protects from lawsuits related to copyright infringement, libel, slander, and service delivery issues.

... and more!

For more information, visit AFM.org/insurance-products
Available for AFM Members Only.

