

Greater Idaho Musicians' Association

AFM LOCAL 423

NEWSLETTER

Quarter 1, 2021

GIMA's first ever publication!



Message From the Local 423 Executive Board

Even though we collectively haven't been playing as much as we would like during the pandemic, the work of our Local still continues. Some projects the board has worked on recently include:

- Contract negotiation in spring/summer 2020 for the Boise Philharmonic which culminated in a fair contract ensuring that all musicians on the roster continue to get paid throughout the season, and signing on to the industry standard Integrated Media Agreement (IMA), which covers online content and makes sure that our work is protected and paid fairly.

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- Training with the national AFM issues pertaining to the pandemic, as well as organizing
 - Membership voted to change to our Local's bylaws clarifying the relationship of a player's committee (ie the Boise Phil Orchestra Committee) to the Local.
 - We got our website up and running. Have a look! AFM423.ORG
 - Establishing a wage scales committee to do the important job of determining the fair rates for various types of work in our region
 - Adopted the AFM International Executive Board's (IEB) pandemic policy waivers which extends deadlines and waives late fees, etc.
 - Locals in the AFM are part of regional conferences that can work together to share common experiences in our region. We are part of the Western Conference of Locals. The annual Western Conference meeting (hosted by Local 586, Phoenix AZ) was online this year, meaning the costs for sending officers is considerably less expensive. Normally one or two delegates from a Local might attend. Because of the online format, our entire executive board was able to attend virtually this year and receive valuable training! Keynote speakers included the President of the AFM, Ray Hair, and Rochelle Skolnick, head of the AFM's Symphonic Services Division
 - Congratulations to the Musicians of the Boise Phil for voting to join the Regional Orchestra Players Association (ROPA). Phyllis Saunders was elected to be the BPO's ROPA delegate and Lindsay Bohl to be the alternate. ROPA is one of several player conferences within the broader AFM which addresses the issues specifically for similar sized groups. Other player conferences include: ICSOM which is for larger orchestras, RMA for recording musicians, OCSM for Canadian orchestras, and TMA for theater musicians.

Musicians Performance Trust Fund. Get Paid to Play Streaming Concerts Right Now!

“The Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) was established in 1948 as a nonprofit independent public service organization whose mission includes contributing to the public knowledge and appreciation of music, as well as making music a part of every child's life experience.” -<https://musicpf.org/about/>

What it means for you: There is money in this fund to sponsor concerts in every Local! They want musicians out in the community doing what we do best, and bringing professional

music to our audiences. During the pandemic, the MPTF has upped their sponsorship to cover 100% of the cost of streaming concerts. All MPTF concerts right now are STREAMING. This makes it easier than ever to apply for funding for an MPTF concert.

First, check out their website to learn about it: <https://musicpf.org/how-to-apply/>

Then you would need to find a community sponsor. The community sponsor puts up the money to pay the musicians, and then gets reimbursed by the MPTF! It's a win win. The sponsor gets great publicity and doesn't pay anything! Musicians get paid to work. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Local board and we can help you through the grant process. Every streaming concert will need a grant proposal, and the Local board can help you with that so your concert gets approved. Ideally, the community sponsor would pay you as a (W2) employee, rather than an independent contractor (1099). If the community sponsor is worried about the cost of payroll tax, etc., these projected extra costs can be added into the grant proposal. So even the sponsor's payroll costs could be covered. In pre pandemic times, a community sponsor would have footed 50% of the cost. But now with the concerts being 100% funded, it is an amazing opportunity for musicians and the sponsor.

The fund was created for musicians and is funded by the recording industry royalty agreements. This fund is created by the work of musicians to support musicians.

Wage Scale Committee

Recently, a wage scale committee was formed and is hard at work gathering data from sources around the Treasure Valley regarding musicians' working conditions and pay rates. The goal is to raise the floor for payment for musicians services, leading to a better quality of life for all local members and local musicians. Members of the wage scale committee are Kate Jarvis, Carmen Izzo, and Thomas Paul.

Upcoming Events

Join us for Quarter 2 membership meeting (on Zoom):
Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Financial Relief for Members

At the last board meeting, GIMA officers voted to create an emergency relief fund to help members experiencing financial hardship during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. This time has been hard on musicians across the country and with this fund we hope to help members in need with anything from paying dues to any other bills that may be a struggle. Once we are through this current crisis, the fund will continue to exist as a general emergency fund for members.

To apply for relief funds click here to fill out and submit this simple application:

https://docs.google.com/forms/u/2/d/154yrlwnrOutLrkLkRd-mtOjGk_VSnHiA_Vd7RD9znQ/e/dit

If you would like to donate to this fund, contact Secretary/Treasurer Kim Ganong at:

local423afm@gmail.com.

Boise Hive Offers Food for Musicians

The Boise Hive is a nonprofit offering resources to local musicians. They have teamed up with St. Vincent De Paul of Southwest Idaho to provide a food bank for musicians during this time of need. For more info follow the Boise Hive on social media or at boisehive.org



Highlighting Recent Projects by GIMA Members

Watch members Kim Ganong and Melanie Keller in this performance by an all-female orchestra from California which honors our first female Vice President!

<https://youtu.be/5gMRUgA9F5Y>

Listen to Jessica Harned's new podcast where she shares her research on the lives of forgotten women who transformed America's musical identity:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/classical-queens/id1550488727>

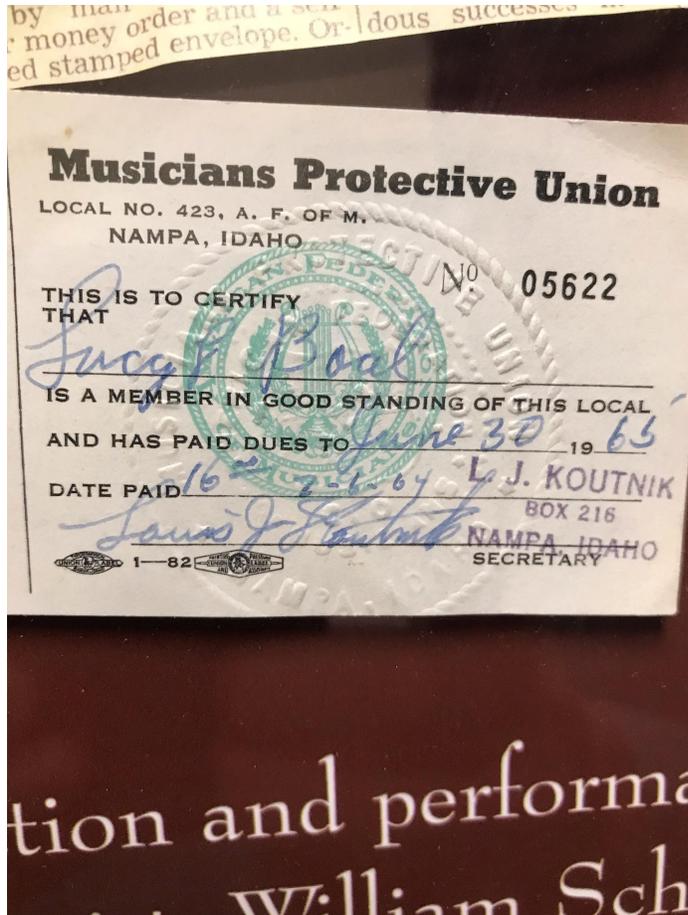
Watch and listen to Thomas Paul's series of live streamed concerts on Sundays- check out his social media for more info!

If you missed Tree City Chamber Players February 27th live streamed concert, check out their website to watch now! Members Melanie Keller and Leslie Moreau with Ryan Klein and Chad Spears. <https://www.treecitychamberplayers.com/concerts>

If you would like your event or project to be shared, contact the local board at:

local423afm@gmail.com

The Origin of Local “423”



Recently, BPO personnel manager, Dan Howard, came across this old union card in a collage hanging on the wall of the Boise Philharmonic office. Not much is known about the AFM in that era in Boise. What we do know is that the Local disbanded at some point, and there were decades where no AFM Local functioned in the Boise area at all (Leaving our musicians unprotected for years!).

When our current Local formed in 2019, the board asked the AFM for the number 423 because it was symbolic of the grassroots effort of the Boise Phil musicians to get recognized. 423 is the house number of members Brian Vance in Nampa and also Lindsay Bohl and Michael Maier in Boise who held organizing meetings in their living rooms during the Boise Phil recognition

campaign. Imagine the surprise when this old card was discovered and the old Local number in this area happened to be 423! It must have been fate.