

KMU Newsletter

A quarterly Journal for the Kingston Musicians Union Local 518

ISSUE 8: OCTOBER 2014



Taylor Donaldson is a Kingston trombonist now living in Montreal, Quebec. Taylor has been a Kingston Musicians Union (Local 518) member since 2002, when he first started playing professionally. While studying music at Queen's University, Taylor had the opportunity to play with a number of Kingston groups including The Sounds of Jazz Big Band, The Big Swing Band, BrassWerks, The Kingston Symphony, The Greg Runions Big Band, and local ska group Tea For The Voyage.

In 2009 Taylor began studying at Montreal's McGill University, graduating in 2011 with the degree of Master of Music (Trombone Performance). He has travelled to perform in the United States, Europe, China and Japan, and recently (in the summer of 2013), to Normandy, France with the Cataraqui Brass Quintet to perform for the June 6th Juno Beach Memorial service and ceremony.

An area of special interest for Taylor is composing and arranging for medium and large jazz ensembles. While playing in The Sounds of Jazz Big Band, Taylor was encouraged by bandleader David Smith to begin writing charts that the band could play. The first couple of attempts were dreadful, but with David's patient encouragement, along with guidance and tutoring from Greg Runions and others, Taylor soon developed his technique and now finds great joy in writing music! Since 2008, Taylor has led his own jazz groups, of various configurations, writing his own arrangements and compositions to perform.

For the summer of 2014, Taylor put together a brand new group for a series of MPTF park concerts in Kingston and the surrounding area. The group is made up of Jonathan Stewart and Brooke Woboditsch on saxophones, Wayne Tindale and Janet MacRae on trumpets, Taylor on trombone, and a rhythm section of Dave Barton on guitar, Sylvain Gagnon on bass, and Sean Donaldson on drums. The group's programme of music from the Big Band era, with arrangements tailored (Tailored?) specifically for the group, was well received at the series of concerts, and the band will continue to play in Kingston in the future!

For more info about Taylor or his octet, contact the Local 518 office.



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AFM Entertainment is a Federation-operated booking and referral service. The agency maintains a website of performers that is available to potential purchasers, and also ensures that musician remuneration is at or above his/her Local wage scale. The agency handles collection of work dues and generation of contracts. Registration is free, but a group or solo artist must first demonstrate professionalism. To do this, the group/performer must submit the following:

- professional bio
- quality audio
- professional photos
- good YouTube video
- repertoire

Based on these submissions, AFM Entertainment will decide whether to accept the applicant for its website.

For more information see afmentertainment.org (members section). Or contact the KMU office.



FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER'S DESK....

Financial Overview

Effective the beginning of 2014, the AFM increased annual Per Capita payments by \$10, bringing up to \$66 the per capita for each member. What is the Per Capita payment? It is the amount per member/year that is collected for the AFM to help with the running of the AFM/CFM. Some of the per capita money goes to funding our Canadian office and officers enabling them to work with government and other organizations on our behalf, to improve conditions for musicians i.e. immigration, media recordings, symphonic and theatrical matters, touring, freelance musicians and membership services, contract negotiations and administration, royalty streams... and more...

This year we covered the per capita increase, but the added expense is hurting the local's ability to work effectively for its members. As a local we need to start building for the future and for this we will require more funds. As you are aware, I offer my services for a very small stipend; however, if we needed to employ a good secretary/treasurer in this position in the future we would not be able to afford someone fulltime. On the current salary, the office would be open approximately 4.5 hours per week. This is not enough time to run a local the size of ours; and this time does not include the volunteer hours of my assistant Joan Voros who has helped to reduce my hours by half to a manageable 20-

30 per week. I am not requesting a raise, but I see the need to invest in this local for its future running.

We are making progress. 2013 was a year of repairing the financial shortfalls that we had accumulated over the past 10 years and of restoring communication. 2014 has been a year in which the local has grown in membership by 40%, and has seen the creation of new live performing opportunities for our members. We hope that 2015 will bring a further increase to the number of memberships. Our Kingston business rep is looking to encourage non-union club musicians to join KMU. We also are looking for additional summer concert sponsors, and hoping to start a summer series in Kingston East. We hope that you are able to see that this current board is working hard for its members and that your dues are being used for the benefit of its membership.

Membership Fees

For the coming year there will be no increase in fees; they will remain at \$154 and \$80 for life members. However, to keep the fees at the same cost to members we cannot offer the early payment discounts that have been offered in previous years. For 2015, your membership fees are due on the 1st day of the quarter that is closest to your expiry date on your membership card (1st January, 1st April, 1st July, 1st October 2015) but may be paid up to the end of that month without incurring penalty. A membership payment form is included in this newsletter (next page).

Sue Moore



Pension vesting

In previous newsletters we have reminded you of the value of filing contracts... contracts provide legal protection from management and for your future retirement, allow you to negotiate employer pension payments to the Musicians' Pension Fund (MPF) on your behalf.

The Musicians' Pension Fund is one of the largest and most successful in the entertainment industry. To become a member, you must acquire vested status in the fund. A musician becomes vested when (s)he has earned 24 months of vesting service without having a 6 consecutive month period with no contributions during that period.

For example, a musician does an engagement on October 28, 2014, for which a pension contribution is made on his behalf. He will become vested on October 28, 2016 as long as he does not have a 6 consecutive calendar month period for which he has no pension contributions. In other words, after the first engagement he must have a contribution at least every six months in the 24 month period.

Most musicians vest in this way. A contribution of any amount will serve as long as you do not have a 6 month break. After that you're in!

For further plan details, see www.mpfcanada.ca. You also may contact the Fund office with any questions at info@mpfcanada.ca.

2015 Membership Fee Payment Form — Please print this page, complete it and mail to:

**Kingston Musicians' Union
829 Norwest Rd
Kingston, ON
K7P2N3**

Annual Dues (check one): ☐ Regular 12 months: \$154
 ☐ Student/Youth 12 months: \$154
 ☐ Life/Other: \$80

Information Update

Please check that your personal information is correctly recorded on the AFM/CFM website. Contact the office if you are unsure as to how to view this information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone No.: _____

Email: _____ **Instrument(s):** _____

Method of payment: Cheque/M.O. ☐

 *Credit Card/PayPal ☐

Make cheques/money orders payable to: Kingston Musicians' Union *(include with membership form)*

Payment by Credit Card/PayPal:

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expiry Date: _____

CCV: _____ **Signature** _____

*Plus surcharge: regular/youth—\$4.00 life— \$2.00

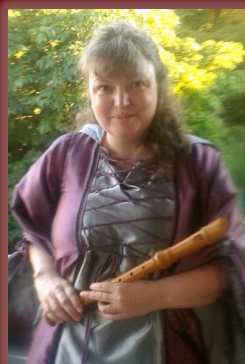
We respect your privacy, but at times will need to contact you. Please indicate the best way to do this is:

☐ Phone

☐ Email

☐ I do not wish to be contacted. *(If you choose this option, you will not receive any notifications or information from this office.)*

New member—*Lisa Szeker-Madden*—Early Music, Recorder, Clarinet



Lisa initially left Ontario for Victoria in the mid-90s to pursue graduate work in musicology at the University of Victoria. She was of a generation of musicologists who remained staunch performers. After all, how can one possibly discuss the music without practical experience of it? While the clarinet was her major instrument during her undergraduate degree at UWO, a love of early music saw her take up recorder studies in her 3rd year. Before leaving for Victoria, Lisa had the privilege of performing the first recorder part in the London ON premiere of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #4 on period instruments.

At UVic Lisa completed a PhD in musicology, after which she and her husband remained in Victoria. Here she had a rich performing career with Wind on the Waves, a harp, recorder, and lyric mezzo duo. Lisa performed 40-50 times a year, did all the arrangements for the ensemble, and also composed for the group. She taught popular and classical music history courses at UVic and at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Lisa also had private recorder and clarinet students. And she wrote monthly articles about the Victoria music scene for Focus magazine. It was busy and fun.

So, why leave? Ailing in-laws brought Lisa and her husband back. Over the years, visits to Ontario were few and far between because of the expense. So, to be with family, Lisa now has to start over, from scratch in a town where she knows virtually no one. She is hoping to find someone to partner with (keyboard; harp; guitar; lute) to continue a version of Wind on the Waves (east) to do concerts, and gigs (background music; weddings; events). Her research area is logic, rhetoric and gesture, and she would love to present a cantata with a singer(s) willing to learn about oratorical gestures. She is hoping, too, that any clarinetists with full studios might pass extra work her way.

Starting over is never easy, but the extra time with family is priceless!

To contact Lisa: email lisa@windonthewaves.com

Welcome new members:

Melissa Payne: *Fiddler, Guitar*

Jason Davis:
Vocalist, Guitar, Drum Set

Stephanie Herrera: *Vocalist*

Rosemary Gosse: *Violin, Viola*

Congratulations new life member:

John Palmer

Upcoming Events

General Meeting - Agenda: discuss & ratify new Tariff of Fees

Sunday, Oct 19 @1 PM, The Royale-Club Royale, 2485 Princess St, Kingston, **RSVP**

You are invited to a celebration of Dick Baldwin's life.

Date: October 23rd

Time: 4:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Canadian Legion, 734 Montreal Street, Kingston

Check out our [Facebook](#) page: Kingston Musicians' Union

We accept credit card payments, and debit payments through PayPal. Call the office for details.

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www.kingstonmusicians.org