

KMU Newsletter

A quarterly Journal for the Kingston Musicians Union Local 518
ISSUE 17 August 2017



County Festival Marks Century of Jazz

Aug. 15 - 20, 2017

In 2017, Canada's 150th year, the Prince Edward County Jazz Festival takes special note of an abundance of jazzy milestones with a week-long slate of performances by Canada's elite musicians. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first jazz recording - *Livery Stable Blues* by the *Original Dixieland Jass Band*. And what a year 1917 was for important birthdays: Ella, Dizzy, Thelonius, and Buddy. We'll raise a glass of County wine to them all, and to a lot more who played influential roles in the development of jazz over the last century.

Something new this year: For the first time, we're presenting a "Featured Artist" for the entire week. We think violinist **Drew Jerecka** will be a big hit. Jerecka, who acknowledges the profound influence of the great Stephane Grappelli, is an alumnus of Jeff Healey's *Jazz Wizards*, and will perform in a variety of concerts and jam sessions.

To the delight of our audiences, this week-long 'Wine County' jazz affair is Canada's only *all-jazz-all-the-time* gathering. And we pay as we go. No government financial help in a quieter part of Ontario with no anchoring big city nearby. And it's all because we have what must be the most loyal and generous group of sponsors a festival could ever hope for. And once again, unique among jazz festivals, our *Rising Young Star* award winner will play with the very best musicians on our main stage through the week.



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Parking in Downtown Kingston—A win for KMU

Ed Thompson

Many of us have played gigs at the Springer Market Square amphitheater. This is a wonderful venue for both musicians and the audience.

However for many years the unloading/loading/parking problems for the musicians has persisted. Numerous attempts, as recently as last month, to correct the situation which until recently proved fruitless with City officials including the Mayor.

I know of at least two percussionists who found it very difficult to get their equipment set up and have either, refused to work there or have put their sticks away!

There has also been an issue with the large air conditioning unit that is place outside the building and can be very noisy as well as increase the temperature in the pit on hot evenings.

This week we had a break through! A letter was received that addressed both issues and offered a decision on parking at Springer Square for the Friday night Big band Concerts. While the city is unable to do much about the air conditioning they have given us a very positive solution regarding the parking.

Here is the decision:

Musicians now have authorization to park on Springer Market Square to unload and load equipment.

Here are a few things to keep in mind for parking on the Square:

- Access the Square through the depressed curbs on Market Street (do not jump the curb on Brock)
- Unload at a time when it does not impact pedestrian traffic
- Do not block access to market Street ramp/entrance to City Hall

We suggest parking at the Hansan (1 block away on Block Street at Wellington Street) or on King/Queen lot located at the corner of King and Queen St during performance.

It is good to see that our perseverance in this matter has resulted in a positive solution for the members we are serving here in Kingston.

If you have an issue that you are concerned about in your work place bring it to our attention.

We are a union, this is what we are here for, lets not forget that.

NEWS UPDATE

Kingston Musicians' Union will be hosting the Canadian Federation of Musicians Annual General Meeting and Conference in Kingston August 2018.

Dance of the Decades

In early 2017, Quinte-area musicians Johnny Mitchell and Jimmy Elliott died. The two were former 'franchise' members of the Commodores Orchestra, whose incredible stories are told in a soon-to-be-released book about the Belleville-based Commodores, quite likely the world's oldest big swing band. The book is **The Commodores Orchestra: Dance of the Decades**.

The author is current bandleader and Local 518 member Andy Sparling, who has been collecting information and asking questions about the band for most of the 25 years he's been a member.

Hard to believe, but Club Commodore at the Belleville fairgrounds was host to more than a thousand dancers per week in its prime. Band members each put up thousands of their own dollars for the privilege of being a Commodore, and they built their own year-round big band nightclub, largely with their own hands.

"There's no story like it," says Sparling. "These guys built on their own what was, by today's standards, a million-dollar operation. They played three or four nights a week and rehearsed on Sunday mornings. And they all had regular jobs and families to tend to as well."

To think that Belleville, with a population of about 20,000 at the time, could support such a live music phenomenon defies logic. It was all about the dancing. That's what you did for a night out. No TV, no Internet... only the new medium of radio, where you heard all of the music the big bands were playing. Then you would dress up, go to the 'Club' and dance the night away with a table full of friends, at least once a week, maybe two or three times. "The Commodores were considered by most of those dancers to be the best band between Toronto and Montreal," says Sparling.

"And those nights when they were booked at Queen's University or someplace else, they got the best Toronto bands to play at Club Commodore, bands like Mart Kenny, Ellis McClintock, Bert Niosi."

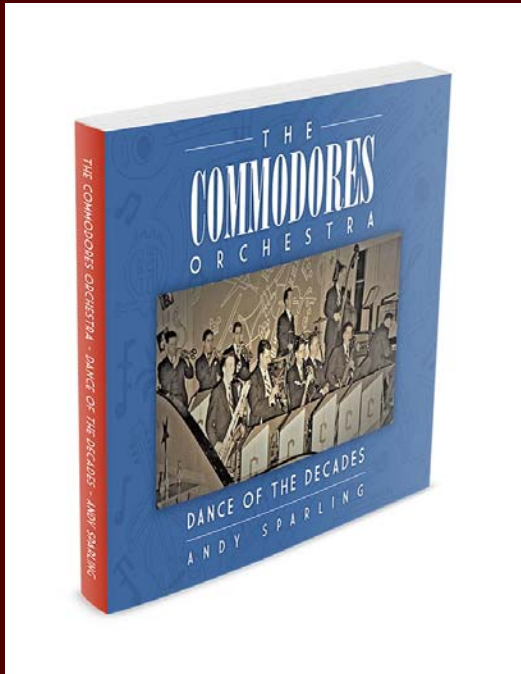
"What's been really fascinating is discovering how the Commodores' history intersects with some of the biggest names in the music business at the time. This band and the city of Belleville have crossed paths with Duke Ellington, Count Basie,... Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey...and on and on."

TRIO WANTED FOR WEDDING

WHERE: Picton, ON. at the Waring House

WHEN: [Saturday October 21, 2017 at 3:00pm](#).

A trio is wanted to play at Amber Brant's wedding. Musicians would be required to begin playing at 2:30pm, through the service and after for Cocktails. Amber would like a String Trio however she is open to any other configuration. If you are able to help this young bride please contact Amber: amberbrant@gmail.com or phone 613-661-2527. A contract is advised.



The author has interviewed dozens of former band members, family members, and other musicians. The Belleville Intelligencer, its forerunner the Ontario Intelligencer, and Queen's University archives have produced what Sparling calls "a wealth of information and colour." A lot of photographs, too. "I think a book like this has to have a lot of good photos and old articles and posters and so on. A lot of names as well. I've tried to make a list of everyone who ever played in the band. Ninety years is a long time to cover. For those I've missed, I apologize. But I've got a lot of them in there."

The book will be officially launched on October 28, at the annual dinner of the Hastings County Historical Society, at the RCAF Museum at CFB Trenton. The price of the book will be \$25, and proceeds, once production costs are covered, will be used to help keep the Commodores operating beyond their 90th anniversary in 2018. It will be sold at various Belleville and area locations and at all of the band's summer and fall engagements.

The Commodores will appear at Belleville's Empire Theatre on Sept. 16, in a brand new show featuring central Ontario's premier rock'n roller, Freddy Vette, and a two-show 'final goodbye' to the incredible singing group *For The Love of a Song* on December 1 and 2 at Belleville's Maranatha Auditorium.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: 2 MUSICIANS WANTED

Musicians requested to play at wedding in Prince Edward County. 23rd September 2017

A request for musicians has been made for two musicians who play any of the following instruments: trumpet, cornet, Alto or Tenor Sax, flute, or trombone, to play with Rob Keyes an arrangement of one song. Rob will provide you with details when you contact him or you can contact the office for more information. Payment is scale (clause 1B) and Rob will provide a detail score.

Rob Keyes: northstring@gmail.com 613 885 9883

PROFIT SHARING FOR MUSICIANS

Many musicians don't understand the benefits of being a union member. On Sept 9th Kingston Musicians Union is partnering with Roswell Rehearsals and Big Thump Audio to present How to Access Revenue from your Recording Project.

The Sound Recording Special Payments Fund is a profit sharing plan for musicians who make recordings under AFM contracts. Come and learn how to access the profit sharing, as well as additional benefits. The profit sharing is available to all musicians on a Recording project, not just the writers. The profit sharing lasts for five years after your recording is released.

AFM International Representative Allistair Elliott, will be in Kingston to share information on The Special Payments Fund. Registration details for the event are available through Roswell Rehearsal Studios 3/700 Progress Ave. Kingston ON 613-583-5178



As International Representative from Canada, Allistair is the liaison between the AFM's 25 Canadian Locals, and Federations National Offices in the US and Canada. Much of his time is spent travelling to one of 25 local offices across Canada from Victoria to Newfoundland that represent members across the country, working with each local office on everything from training, to internal business, and speaking on panels. Allistair also represents our musicians' interests in government, and is currently working toward better conditions for musicians when travelling by air with their instruments.

Allistair is also a trumpet player and vocalist, with touring credits from Swing Out Sister, The Drifters, The Temptations, R&B legend, Lou Pride, England's jazz giant, John Dankworth, and The Supremes, just to name a few. He has shared stages with jazz legend Joshua Redman, and [Saturday Night Lives'](#) Lenny Pickett, and rock legends, Honeymoon Suite. He has toured Europe, Australia and Brazil, and is soon releasing a follow up recording to his award winning CD entitled Urban Nights.

DID YOU KNOW

Musicians' Pension Fund

That in order to be vested in the Musicians Pension Fund you must contribute regular pension payments over a two year period. The pension fund only permits employer contributions. Filing contracts is an easy way to make those contributions and meet the criteria for the pension. Find out more about your pension <http://www.mpfcanda.ca/>

Venuology

Venuology was created to help musicians share information about music venues– alerting them to clubs that don't treat musicians well, and also those that do. As a result this online tool has become a positive “starting point” to promote increased membership participation within Locals.

<http://venuology.com/>

AFM Entertainment

AFM Entertainment is our online booking agency, providing work opportunities for freelance members in the private, corporate and wedding markets. <http://www.afmentertainment.org/>

GoPro Hosting

Affordable Web hosting for AFM/CFM members <https://www.goprohosting.com/>

Roswell Talks

Hello Fellow Musicians,

We have some exciting news for all musicians in Kingston. The Kingston Musicians Union, in partnership with Roswell Rehearsals is running a series of talks that will answer many questions that all musicians will have.

The talks are open to all musicians (yes, that means non-union musicians as well) and are designed to be informative workshops for everyone.

Some of the topics that will be covered are:

- What you should know about working in the U.S.
- Ways to get paid for my music
- Ten things you didn't know about the musicians union

- Open Forum discussion with special guests

Each talk will be hosted at the Musician Unions local on Saturday's from 11:30-1:30 and the cost is FREE. Allistair Elliott (Canadian International Representative), will be our first guest discussing additional revenues for recordings. This all happens on September 9, 2017 so mark your calendars.

This is an event not to be missed. We hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, please contact kingstonmusicians@gmail.com



Flying with your Instrument

UPDATE!!

The CFM is working hard behind the scenes to make your lives as musicians easier. Over the last year Canadian International Representative Allistair Elliott has been negotiating with the airlines a deal for Musicians flying with musical instruments. The aim is to eventually match that of the US carriers and accomplish a uniform standard among all Canadian carriers.

Air Canada is the only air carrier at the moment that offers the new Carry-on instrument policy that includes allowing instruments to be stowed in overhead lockers so long as they fit, the ability to purchase an additional seat at 50% to accommodate large instruments, and priority boarding to allow musicians to safely stow instruments.

"As you can imagine, our case for musicians travelling on planes with instruments is a minute piece of the transport industry pie. That being said, I am delighted to report to you that when on May 16 2017 Minister Garneau, announced bill C-49 proposal to amend the Canada Transportation Act, one of the requirements detailed in the paper will require carriers to implement standards for transporting musical instruments." ..Allistair Elliott

2017 Summer Concerts events in our Local

August Events



Visit web page for Main Stage Details for the Jazz Festival

August 20 The Mahones and Lost Cousins

Back to the Farm: Mackinnon Brothers Beer & Music Festival

Bath, Ontario

12:00 - 10:00PM

MUSIC IN THE GARDENS

August 16th 2017

Wednesday 7:00-8:00

Lions Park Gardiners Rd Kingston

Swing On Jazz

FRIDAY NIGHTS IN THE PARK

Ted Snider Band Shell

Fraser Park June through September

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

NORAMPAC SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Amphitheatre, Centennial Park Wednesdays and Sundays July through to Labour Day weekend

RIVERFRONT SQUARE

RiverFront Square Concert Series on Saturday evenings during the summer months. 6-8pm

Visit: <http://www.quintewest.ca>

GANANOQUE

Music in the Park

Thursday 6:30-7:30pm

August 3rd-31st

September Events

September 6-17 Kingston Symphony

Fall book Fair

785 Sir John A. MacDonald blvd.

Unit 7A

September 9 Roswell Talks

Guest Speaker Alistair Elliot

(Canadian International Representative)

Additional Revenue for Recordings through Special Payments Fund

Roswell Rehearsal Studios

700 Progress Ave #3

September 24 Kingston Symphony

Brahms Festival

Isabel Bader Centre 2:30pm

September 30 Kingston Symphony

Fall Fashion Show

Italo-Canadian Club 12:00 - 2:00pm

1174 Italia Lane

September 30th Roswell Talk

October 28th Roswell Talks

Guest Speaker Liana White

(Executive Director CFM)

What you should know about working in the US.

Roswell Rehearsal Studios

700 Progress Ave #3

Music In the Parks in July
Musicians playing music in Kingston and Area



Photos courtesy of Sue Moore and Elizabeth Dueck

We've Got it Covered



Features of the Program

- All Risks coverage on your instruments and equipment
- Worldwide coverage
- Rental reimbursement if you need to rent an instrument or equipment in the event of a loss, up to \$1,000
- \$100 Deductible
- Commercial General Liability including bodily injury, personal injury, property damage, medical payments, tenants legal liability, advertising injury and non-owned automobile

Instrument Insurance Rate

\$2.00 rate per \$100 sum insured for Instruments & Equipment

Liability Insurance Rates

- \$500 deductible
- \$1,000,000 limit - \$50 per member
- \$2,000,000 limit - \$100 per member
- (Higher limits available upon request)

This coverage is available only to AFM members. To learn more about becoming a member or to receive the application form, please email Cathy Lee at clee@afm.org.

For more info, please contact:

Hub International
Amy Armstrong
3063 Walker Road
Windsor, Ontario, N8W 3R4
Telephone: 519 966-2600
Fax: 519 966-6177
Toll Free: 1 800 563-9441 EXT: 287
Email: Amy.Armstrong@hubinternational.com

We now accept all forms of payment. Please make sure your information is kept up to date either through the office or by logging onto the AFM website members area where you can access your profile. If your membership status changes you must inform the office otherwise you risk suspension of services

KINGSTON MUSICIANS UNION

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