

KMU Newsletter

A quarterly Journal for the Kingston Musicians Union Local 518
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Gary Rasberry: Musician, Artist, Educator, Philosopher, Poet, Imagination Consultant, Insecure Extrovert, Reluctant Enthusiast, Risk-taker, Scaredy Cat,



Working musicians everywhere know that it's absolutely necessary to wear many hats in order to succeed in the business of making a living as an artist. Not only do you need to wear the hats, it's also necessary to describe them and articulate the reasons for wearing the hats. (Sometimes known as promotion.)

While wearing many hats can be exciting, it can also become a very challenging art and science in terms of creating what appears to be a cohesive and appealing (promotional) package. It's fun checking off multiple boxes on the grant forms that ask you to define your art form but it's not fun being trapped in a box. Here's how I have

decided to promote myself. These are the first words you would read if you went to my website:

Gary Rasberry: Musician, Artist, Educator, Philosopher, Poet, Imagination Consultant, Insecure Extrovert, Reluctant Enthusiast, Risk-taker, Scaredy Cat, (Small animal with fast metabolism).

Doing what you need to do in order to earn a living and doing what you need to do to in order to engage fully (and completely) with The Muse and do what you love involves living a fine balance that is forever changing. For most of us who are busy making a life as an artist there are some days you live the dream and some days you dream about living the dream. I consider myself privileged, indeed, to have the opportunity to be dreaming and to be working in the field of dreams.

As a working musician, I am constantly in the cyclical process of working on songs: writing them, recording them and performing them. My latest collection of songs are on a record called "The Very Next Day" that I made with Dave Clark (Rheostatics, Gord Downie) and The Woodshed Orchestra. The Woodshed Orchestra, an extraordinary 9-piece band out of Toronto, was a joy to work with. "The Very Next Day" is a family/children's record made as a follow up to my (2014) JUNO-nominated album, "What's the Big Idea?!" an album I recorded with old time fiddle and banjo duo, Sheesham & Lotus. (Talk about fun.)

Always in the process of exploring ideas with other artists, I consider myself a "connector-of-dots," connecting people and ideas. Working with fabulously talented musicians like Sheesham & Lotus and The Woodshed Orchestra is a gift; it's what inspires me to improve and get better at what I do. Cont. P.6



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DID YOU KNOW?

AFM Entertainment is a free booking and referral service offered to members. AFM Entertainment welcomes submissions from all AFM members, in every genre of music. Because we're primarily an **online** booking and referral service, our collective success depends on a strong presentation — every act on the website needs to look and sound great.

By this, we simply mean that you need professional photos, quality audio and/or good video, and proper spelling and grammar in your bio.

What's Happening: Belleville and Trenton

Four music students win Commodores Scholarships In the memory of former band trumpeter Bruce Parsons

Belleville, August 24, 2015: The Commodores Orchestra awarded \$2,000 in scholarships to four deserving Quinte-area high school musicians at the band's annual Zwick's Park concert in July.



The winners were **Desmond Bone, Rebecca De Marsh, Mary McLaughlan, and Ashlay Clarkin-Summers**, all of Belleville's Centennial Secondary School. The scholarships were awarded for outstanding contributions to both their school program and to the community at large.

The Commodores raised the money at their annual Bruce Parsons Memorial concert in April, held in the memory of former trumpeter and well-known Belleville drycleaner Bruce Parsons, who taught many young musicians in Belleville for decades. In 2014, the band awarded \$1500 to three students.

On a related note, the Commodores are once again looking for young musicians to participate in the year-old **Quinte Youth Jazz Ensemble**. The Commodores established the QYJE last year in response to a demand for extra-curricular big band jazz opportunities for Quinte area students. Rehearsals are held twice a month at Albert College in Belleville. For more information, contact either of the band's musical directors: Scott Mills smills@albertcollege.ca or Blair Yarranton byarranton@hpedsb.on.ca

The Commodores appear next at the Stirling Festival Theatre at 2pm on Sunday Oct. 4. The show is titled "**Milestones and Memories**" and will feature Canadian star jazz trombonist **Russ Little**, and the music of Frank Sinatra in this, the 100th anniversary of his birth, in addition to music commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War Two.



DICK BALDWIN

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

YOU ARE INVITED!!

We will be giving awards to recipients of the first Dick Baldwin Memorial Scholarship on 4th October 2015 1pm @ The Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Club:

193 Ontario St Kingston

The scholarship is being awarded to two deserving students, Jacob Lewis and Oscar Evans, who demonstrated outstanding musicianship and skill on their instrument. The press will be attending to cover the event and we are hoping that members can join us to congratulate these young musicians.

If you would like to donate to this scholarship we would be pleased to accept donations at any time – let's keep this scholarship alive. Send your donation to the office or bring it along to the meeting.

UPDATE!! P2 Visas—an important message from the CFM

We regret to advise that we have to increase the processing time for P2 applications yet again. The time count as of this week is 75 calendar days for the most part. We are continually receiving conflicting information from USCIS, some files are being approved more quickly than others, and a small handful of files are taking over 60 days after USCIS receives the package. The best guarantee for approval is unfortunately the premium processing route. In my email blast of one month ago, I advised that musicians could attempt congressional intervention, but as of the last few weeks now, the Vermont Congressional unit is denying congressional expedites and advising the individual should file premium processing [this is a first in 20 years, the process was basically flawless when done correctly up until now].

As for the applications that were submitted prior to this announcement, we are hoping they will be fine and again for the most part there shouldn't be many issues with those in the system. We apologize for being so vague, but we cannot make 100% commitments on behalf of a third party, especially one in a state of backlog.

What we are doing to combat this situation:

1. A meeting has been requested with USCIS Policy Makers, to discuss why their policy of expedited processing of artist permits is not being adhered to (from my experience it almost feels like we're digressing back to 2001 when USCIS increased processing to 90 days - we are not at that point (yet?), and hope we do not see a return to that after all). We are keeping record of all problems, especially those resulting in lost work and income.
2. We have brought on additional, part time, contract administrators, to help with the administrative flow. While we've had these individuals working with us for a little over a month now, it takes 6 months to be fully trained on the entire P2 process, so we've done accelerated training and we are now at the point that these individuals can start assisting with calls backs and communications to members. As communication to members has definitely suffered and our usual level of customer service is not what it has been in past. We are hoping all will see an improvement by next week by way of increased and more timely responses to inquiries.

If you have any additional questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to email me directly, Liana White, lwhite@afm.org.

For more information please visit us at

www.cfmusicians.org | [CFM on Twitter](#) | [CFM on Facebook](#).

Saturday, October 3rd, 2015

Last year we were asked to be a part of the Kingston jam session. Liana White and I attended to give information to the musicians that came to the event. The event was not well organized so we had mixed feelings about its value. This year the organizers have revamped the whole event including the name (Kingston Ontario Music Conference—KMOC) and have again asked us to be involved.

The conference is being held on October 3rd at the Ambassador Conference Centre. We have an information booth and are giving one of the fireside chats (11am) that are being held throughout the day.

Attending this event will be: Liana White: Executive Director of the CFM; Allistair Elliott: International Rep for Canada; Cathy Lee: Membership services administrator; Julia Train: MROC rep, and myself. During this time we are holding a membership drive. This is a good time to tell people about the CFM and have them sign up as the initiation fees are waived. If you would like to get involved in this event (manning the information booth or just mingling with the crowd) please contact the office.



KMU Fees for 2016

- Regular members, get in early and pay the 2015 rate. Contact office for details
- New rates for students
- Pay biannually
- Pay with credit card, cheque or cash

**Kingston
Musicians'
Union
Keep Music
Live!**

Regular Membership: \$160

Student and Youth: \$120

Life members pay \$80 if playing professionally and \$50 if inactive

Contact Us @ 613 542 3732 OR
Kingstonmusicians@gmail.com

Board Member Position

The KMU is seeking an enthusiastic and committed individual who is willing to serve our membership on the board of directors. Duties include attending board and general meetings, and contributing to special initiatives and other tasks through the year. Board members receive payment to cover the cost of attending meetings and have their annual dues waived in recognition of their contributions. If you have a desire to get involved please contact Sue @ 613 542 3732

General Meeting Notice

Our next general meeting will be held on

Sunday 4th October 1pm at the RCHA Club 193 Ontario St, Kingston, ON K7L 2Y7 .

We have a number of visitors from the Canadian office that will attend so come out and hear what they have to say.

KINGSTON'S SUMMER IN PHOTOS

Roger James @
Confederation Park



Gary Rasberry and
Friends @ Lions Park



Blue Swing
Jazz
Quartet @
Gananoque



The Saxobelles @ St Andrew's



Mary-Jo and the Retros



Sue Moore and David Smith
marching with the Labour Day
Parade



Member Focus: Gary Rasberry Cont. from P.1

These recording projects drive much of the work I do in schools as an artist and educator. Although I don't 'advertise' it all that much in my promotional materials, I have a PhD in education and over 20 years' experience as an artist and an educator in schools. I am able to create artist-in-residence experiences locally (often through Ontario Arts Council grants), nationally and internationally. I offer Song, Story & Sound Workshops and Concert performances in schools everywhere. I also work part-time at Queen's University, teaching songwriting workshops through the Enrichment Studies Unit as well as teaching the odd course at the Faculty of Education.

And speaking of being trapped in boxes or being labeled, although I am happy and fortunate to be recognized as a children's artist, I am reticent to be labeled as such. I spent over a decade performing and touring with the acoustic trio, Fireweed ("A little like CSN, a lot less famous.") I also record solo projects ("Curving for the Coast") and I publish poetry ("More Naked Than Ever" was my latest collection published by Hidden Brook Press). And, of course, there's my favorite, not-so-secret pastime of hosting "Nothing but Neil" (Young) evenings with a band called Sedan Delivery. We are more than happy to channel Crazy Horse and feed the many rabid Neil fans out there.

So while I would never draw attention to my fashion sense, I am not afraid to wear many hats. And if all else fails, I embrace my moniker: Gary Rasberry: Small animal with a fast metabolism. Got an idea or a project you'd like to work on together? Feel free to connect. [www.garyrasberry.com]

Membership update

Currently we have 231 members in this local. We would like to welcome the following new Members:

Michelle Kasaboski, Cameron Duffin, Lloyd McArten, Dylan Hay, Thomas Dashney, Adam Kurgatnikov, Greg Wagar and Gord Griffith

Membership Reinstatements

Gary Barratt

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Check out our [Facebook](#) page:

www.facebook.com/kingstonmusicians

Kingston Musicians' Union

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

Upcoming Event

Stirling Festival Theatre
The Commodores Orchestra
Remembering the 100th birthdays of Frank Sinatra & Billie Holiday, the end of WW 2, and other 20th century musical milestones!

Milestones & Memories

Sunday
Oct. 4
2:00
\$24 - \$28

Featuring
Russ Little

One of North America's preeminent jazz musicians!

NOW APPEARING AT STIRLING FESTIVAL THEATRE BOX OFFICE
The Village Chocolatier
RAISING FUNDS FOR SFTI

613-395-2100 1-877-312-1162
www.stirlingfestivaltheatre.com

We like to keep in touch, let us know if your contact details change.

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