

# MUSICIANS OF VICTORIA & THE ISLANDS

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OCCUPY WALL STREET  
ELECTIONS FOR BOARD  
POSITIONS  
CHILDREN'S ART TAX CREDIT**



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# MUSICIANS

OF VICTORIA & THE ISLANDS  
NOVEMBER 2011

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THE MUSICIANS' ASSOCIATION OF  
VICTORIA AND THE ISLANDS  
LOCAL 247  
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

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## LOCAL 247 EXECUTIVE BOARD

*(terms of office in parenthesis)*

**President:** Paul Wainwright (2011)

**Vice-President:** Brad Howland (2010-11)

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Mark Reed (2011-12)

**Victoria Symphony Representative:**

Larry Skaggs (2011)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Barbara Blair (2010-11)

Lorae Farrell (2010-11)

Fergus Heywood (2010-11)

Gary Preston (2011-12)

Thomas Vickery (2010-11)

## COMMITTEES:

### MPF

Thomas Vickery (Chair),

Roberta Rowbottom, Mark Reed

### Freelance Musician

Gary Preston (Chair), Mark Reed, Cynthia Davis

### New Members

Brad Howland, Mark Reed

## TRUSTEES

Brad Howland

Dave Paulson

Larry Skaggs

## OFFICE MANAGER

Roberta Rowbottom

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### A WEEKEND IS A BEAUTIFUL THING

Headlines from around the world indicate that protesters are unanimous in their support of the Occupy Wall Street movement. Deregulation that began decades ago has resulted in a situation where greed and corruption runs rampant in Wall Street and government including the regulatory bodies that were intended to protect citizens.

Historically, the only thing that can solve a situation like this is an uprising, and that is what we are seeing today.

Unions are a galvanizing force in this movement. Many of the rights and freedoms we take for granted today are the result of incredible sacrifice of workers from years gone by. Workers that took great risks to protest and demonstrate in order to win the right to satisfactory wages and working conditions.

Words such as 'weekend', 'sick leave' and 'vacation pay' did not exist before the labour movement. And yet, I have to wonder when I see people proudly wearing their favourite corporate logo on a T shirt, at the same time believing that unions are responsible for all the problems in the work world. Never forget that corporate interests go to great lengths to paint a negative picture of unions. Unions are a collective voice. Unions work for their members. Unions are supported by their members dues and serve the interests of their members. Unions do not give their leaders million dollar bonuses.

While vacationing in Toronto last month, I paid a visit on my old friend Alan Willaert who is now Acting Executive Director & Supervisor for Canada. We spoke of issues that come up with new members particularly those in the early stages of their careers. Also mentioned was how pensions might be better accessed for freelance players, and collective agreements for shows and institutions. We discussed how the CFM services might be made more accessible online and through smartphone apps. I was also able to meet with Ellen Lytwyn from MPF Canada (that's the new, somewhat ambiguous name for our pension, not be confused with concert funds) to look at getting more benefits to players.

Read up on the nominees in the upcoming election and be sure to cast your vote. I am thrilled to see so much interest in these positions!

*Paul Wainwright*



photo: Stephanie Rae-Hull

## WE ARE THE 99%

**T**he New York Local 802 now officially supports and participated in the October 5 Occupy Wall Street Labor Community march. Additionally, the AFM has officially now given it's official support. AFM President Ray Hair participated in that march. *More on that here and here.* The BC Federation of Labour, with which our Local is affiliated through our membership in the Victoria Labour Council, has declared its solidarity, "as part of the 99 percent," with the movement's "underlying desire for fairness and equality in the economy and our society." *more*

This Local hasn't (yet?) directly officially supported this growing movement, but we musicians certainly are among the 99%. Now is a good time to chime in. Finally, Joe Citizen is beginning to speak out against the pervasive social and economic inequality. References to it in our patter and in our lyrics might not be so out of place as it may have been even a couple of months ago. Who better than us to provide the soundtrack for this movement?

## CITY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES & MPF

Despite the significant administrative changes to this year's City Summer Concert Series, it was a marked improvement for the musicians who performed in it. In previous years, the typical wait between the gig and receipt of payment was 6-8 weeks. This year, except for a one-week lag at the outset of the season, musicians could pick up a check from the Local office on their way home from the gig. Also, many musicians became familiar with the CFM's Live Performance Contract. This is all because the MPF office in New York has passed its payroll operation on to the Locals and the employers/co-sponsors. This has, of course, resulted in significantly more work in our already overburdened office. I applaud our Office Manager, Roberta Rowbottom, for her excellent handling of this transition and the resultant increased workload. Thanks, Roberta.

As for MPF's continuation, we have been told that, while the funding dollars are still dwindling, efforts are underway to negotiate new funding sources. Until now, MPF was funded primarily by a tiny percentage of rev-



Local 247 members Tom Vickery, Joey Smith, Maria Manna (as Klondike Kate) and Tom Ackerman perform at Beacon Hill Park

enue from the sale of physical recordings (vinyl, tape, CDs). Efforts are being made to secure a percentage of digital revenues. But nothing is nailed down, yet.

## CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF LOCALS

This past August, Larry Skaggs and I served as our Local's delegates to the Canada Conference of Locals in Calgary. The biggest development that occurred there was AFM President Ray Hair's withdrawal of his lawsuit against

AFM/CFM Vice President from Canada, Bill Skolnik. The lawsuit was in relation to the AFM's International Executive Board (IEB) lawsuit against the top three CFM officials over the establishment of the Musicians' Rights Organization Canada (MROC), the details of which are too complex to go into here. That lawsuit and a counter-lawsuit were withdrawn via mutual agreement, just prior to the conference. The outcome is that MROC is alive and well and the people involved are 'friends' again.

# SONGS AND STORIES OF THE WESTERN LOGGER



The Other Guys Theatre Company of Victoria presented the highly successful multi-media musical revue *Good Timber – Songs and Stories of the Western Logger*. Based on the logger poetry of Robert E. Swanson, the Bard of the Woods, this amazingly talented ensemble has created a show of songs and stories played against a multi-media backdrop of rarely-seen archival imagery. The show premiered in July 2010 at the Royal BC Museum. The response to the piece was outstanding and the 2011 tour resulted in 62 dates in BC and Washington.

Director Mary Desprez worked with Local 247 to ensure that a CFM contract would provide coverage and benefits for Local 247 members Ross Desprez, Sarah Donald, Colleen Eccleston, Kelt Eccleston, John Gogo and Mark Hellman.

Cast member Colleen Eccleston explains: “(in this show) you are like a ghost on stage. The multi media experience draws the audience’s attention, and we were the voices from the past. It was like being in a ballet in this respect. Every

one of us would play five to seven instruments, and this would change as we segued from song to song.”

“We get used to a music concert presented in a certain way, but here a very dramatic tone to the production was created. There were no explanations between songs and the poetry of the author carried the narrative.”

The poetry of Robert E Swanson poetry was put to music by Ross Desprez, Colleen Eccleston, Kelt Eccleston, John Gogo and Mark Hellman. It focusses on ensemble playing and features impressive vocal harmonies.

Eccleston adds that “ this is a story of continuity through industry. It’s the stories of BC and how it was built. Older people would come out and retell their own stories passing it on to next generation. This show illustrates the impact of folk music. It’s about life and humour and independence and has a Brecht-like quality in that respect.”

# AFM JOINS LABOUR COMMUNITY IN OCCUPY WALL STREET PROTESTS



John Lennon's lyrics resound once again in a protest in Stockholm - part of the world wide Occupy Wall Street demonstrations

On October 4, AFM Local 802 Executive Board members voted unanimously to support and participate in today's Occupy Wall Street Labor Community march. The vote came in the wake of mounting demonstrations taking place nationwide, condemning business practices on Wall Street that adversely affect working-class Americans.

American Federation of Musicians (AFM) President Ray Hair announced his participation in the Occupy Wall Street Labor Community march along with activist members of AFM Local 802. Hair explains he is joining the march "in an effort to focus attention on the economic plight of America's working people. We have borne the brunt of employer-driven contract concessions, pension takeaways and benefit

givebacks—suffering one-sided sacrifices—while America's ruling class, the money men of Wall Street, who blew out the economy, walk away unscathed, bailed out with their big bonuses, consolidating their power," says Hair.

"This is the latest episode in the classic struggle of Capital vs. Labor," he continues. "Capital has cleaned up on American workers in these hard times, very nearly cleaning us out. This afternoon, I'll be demonstrating the AFM's solidarity with the labor community by marching with Local 802 members to expand the struggle to hold Wall Street accountable for the lopsided imbalance in the US economy."

## ELECTIONS

# NOMINEES FOR UPCOMING BOARD POSITIONS

**O**ur Local is experiencing an unusual election season. Normally, five of the ten positions (all of which are for two-year terms) become available each year. This year, for a variety of reasons, there are nine positions open. Additionally, there are eight candidates for the six Board Member-at-Large positions, three of which candidates have not previously served on an AFM Board. We have asked all of the candidates to each write a campaign message to our Local members. We will inform our members of the details of the election, as they develop. The candidates for the Executive Board positions are as follows:

**PRESIDENT** Paul Wainwright (incumbent), Gary Preston

**VICE PRESIDENT** Fergus Heywood

**VICTORIA SYMPHONY REPRESENTATIVE** TBA

**BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE** (6 positions available) Jim Bates, Vinod Bhardwaj, Barbara Blair (incumbent), Anita Bonkowski, Roberta Rowbottom, Larry Skaggs (incumbent), Oliver Swain, Tom Vickery (incumbent)

After many years of service on the Board and as Vice President since 2005, Brad Howland is not running for re-election. Lorae Farrell, too, who has served two two-year terms on the Board, is not seeking re-election. It was a pleasure working with both Brad and Lorae. I am especially grateful to Brad for the bookkeeping and administrative processes that he devised as Secretary-Treasurer before me and for his guidance in dealing with numerous issues as I learned the workings of the position. Thanks, Brad and Lorae. *Mark Reed*

**PAUL WAINWRIGHT** (incumbent) Music continues to be my primary vocation as it has since I first joined Local 247 in 1975. I consider myself most fortunate to have the best job in the world and regularly perform at many local venues and events. When asked to consider the position of president, I felt enthusiastic to give back to the community that has supported me. Many years of experience in the profession and an extensive network of contacts both here and abroad, provide a solid foundation for this work.

In my first year I attended a major CFM conference in Vancouver. While on vacation in Toronto, I visited both the Canadian CFM and Pension offices and represented the CFM at the Polaris awards the same week. I took over the job of maintaining the website as part of my duties providing a cost saving to the local. I edit and produce the newsletter, initiated a new bulk email system as well as the PayPal service we now enjoy online. I introduced many of the Summer in the Square concerts and have an excellent attendance record at executive meetings.

I seek your vote to keep Local 247 vital and moving in the right direction.



**GARY PRESTON** I am a professional Victoria musician who makes his living through music, and have been proud to serve on the Board of Local 247 for eleven years. This experience has given me a good knowledge of much of the workings of the Federation of Musicians, both locally and internationally. I now have more time to devote to our local and to our efforts to support live music and those who play it, and want to use my time and energy to be even more active in the Local, and to promote my vision of where we need to go over the next few years.

**Gigging Experience:**

I have performed from Toronto to Detroit to Vancouver, as well as in Europe and the Caribbean and have been featured in major festivals such as the Winnipeg Folk Festival, the Calgary International Blues Festival, and the International Jazz Festival. My music and performances have been heard nationally on CBC Radio, and I've made numerous other appearances in recordings, jingles, television and radio. Over the years, I've had the honour of sharing the stage with Eric Burdon, James Cotton, Lee Oscar, Colin James, Dutch Mason, The Ray Charles Orchestra, Otis Rush, John Hammond, and the late blues master, Junior Wells.

**Business Experience:**

My years of service on the board of Local 247 have given me a chance to become familiar with our regulations, with many

## ELECTIONS *(continued)*

of our members, and with the issues facing us – issues about the music scene in general, and local issues. I've also acted as Freelance Committee Chair. This committee has sponsored events to promote connection among members (for example the annual "Soiree"), events to attract musicians who are not members, and efforts to make the community more aware of our Local.

Besides work in the AFM, I have served on several other boards and committees, including over 10 years experience at Manitoba Hydro, where I worked on everything from re-designing paperwork systems, to major computer purchases, to implementing new customer services.

Issues:

One of the biggest issues facing us is how our society has changed, and our relevance in this rapidly changing world.

- musicians have slid down the "social ladder", and labour rights are constantly being eroded everywhere.
- the digital world has completely changed how we listen to music, how we distribute it and how we buy it
- we need new approaches and new answers to the problems of music's place in our community, fair pay for our skills, and fair working conditions.
- we need to attract those musicians who are non-members and currently don't see us as relevant to their efforts to make music.
- we need to support each other, and not treat other musicians with disrespect or suspicion - your fellow musician is not your opponent. I want the face of this local to be friendly, and its spirit to be one of co-operation between members.

My thanks to all of you for taking time to be involved in this election!

**JIM BATES** Dear Fellow Musicians,

My name is Jim Bates and I am seeking election as a Board member of your Local 247, Canadian Federation of Musicians.

As a former Board member, I have experience with the issues facing our membership. I know that the best forum for protecting and advancing the rights and benefits of working musicians is a strong Federation Local. I encourage you to vote this December to ensure a responsive Board to address your concerns and maintain a fiscally sound organization.

With your vote to return me to the Board of Local 247, I vow to work hard and responsibly for your advancement as a

musician and Local 247 member. Thank you for your consideration; should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 250-888-7824 or [moonopco@gmail.com](mailto:moonopco@gmail.com).

Yours fraternally, Jim Bates

**VINOD BHARDWAJ** is a member in good standing of CFM 247, and has volunteered to be a member of the executive board for the coming year. He seeks your vote, to allow him to serve the Association as a board member.

Vinod is a poet/musician in the East Indian tradition, and plays the sitar, flute, harmonium and tablas. Having spent more than three decades in Edmonton, Vinod moved to Victoria in 2008. Vinod believes in the universality of music, and that music is a powerful unifying force, specially in a multi-cultural society. He was inducted into the Edmonton Arts & Culture Hall of Fame in June 2008.



He is seen here performing at the Centennial Square in 2010. To listen to his music, please visit [www.vinodbhardwaj.com](http://www.vinodbhardwaj.com). Thank you for your support.

**BARBARA BLAIR** (*incumbent*) A lifetime in music has taught me that to succeed as a professional it is essential to belong to an organization of other professionals. I believe strongly in the advantages that membership in the CFM offers. For that reason, I have been a continuous active member of Local 247 for 20 years and have served as Director-At-Large for two terms.



I am a full-time professional musician, a so-called 'independent artist'. I run my own production company and have wide knowledge in all business aspects of marketing, promotion, producing shows, international touring, management, recording, teaching and office responsibilities. I also have extensive experience dealing with promoters, presenters, festival organizers, media, schools, government agencies, volunteer organizations and other musicians.

I will be honoured to again have the opportunity to serve as Director-At-Large for the upcoming 2 year team and assist, in

any way I can, the continuing prosperity of our membership.

**ANITA BONKOWSKI** My name is Anita Bonkowski and I am running for a board position for Local 247 of the CFM (Canadian Federation of Musicians).

I have been a professional musician since 1985, working both nationally and internationally as a drummer, bassist, composer and arranger. Besides earning two Music degrees, I have continued to perform in a variety of groups: jazz, blues, theater and show bands, etc. I have performed from Florida to Hawaii, the Caribbean to the Yukon, and toured through Western Europe a number of times. I have been a member in good standing of Local 247 for over 20 years and feel I have a strong background in the music industry and could use my experiences to provide good input as a board member.

Because I rely on music for my living, I have a vested interest in the health of the music business. Trying to ensure that musicians have fair wages and good working conditions in an industry that has seen big changes in the last ten years is an important issue for me.

If elected, I fully intend to work hard on behalf of the local musicians.

**ROBERTA ROWBOTTOM** For eight years I have enjoyed working as the Office Manager for Local 247. The experience and information I have gained has given me insight into the many services, programs and opportunities available to Musicians. Being the person here who has most direct contact with our members I am very aware of your everyday concerns and needs and what is most effective and useful to you. I feel because of my first hand knowledge I can bridge the gap between the Board and the musicians.

When I began working here I found that the communication between Local 247 and our members needed to be improved and I have worked very hard to



do this. I have also presented various ideas of ways to cut down on the administrative costs for running the office, most of which have been imple-

mented.

In the past few years there have been many cut backs in government funding for the Arts in general and I feel we should protect and support the programs that are still available. I am a member of the MPF committee and I actively search for opportunities with employers by making them aware of this program. I also encourage our members to use it.

Being involved in a variety of ways in the music scene here in Victoria for over 25 years has made me aware of the 'trials and tribulations' of being a musician. I have performed as accompanist, worked at festivals, taught and took lessons, acted as manager/agent and negotiated contracts to name a few. I know many Freelance musicians, symphonic musicians and teachers so I am aware of the variety of needs that we can help with.

What I can offer you if I am elected to the Board is my honesty and integrity and passion for helping and encouraging musicians to find work and receive fair wages for their professional services. I feel a Board member should not have any personal agenda but should be there to help all musicians.

I would be honoured to serve on the Board for the next term, with the intention of improving the conditions for all musicians. I appreciate any ideas or feedback you might have. Feel free to contact me at 250-857-2930 if you would like to receive more information or discuss anything in more detail.

This is your union and we are here to serve you and your needs!

Please VOTE!

**LARRY SKAGGS** (*incumbent*) currently serves as the Symphony representative and has held the position of Trustee for many years. He has played cello with the Victoria Symphony for over thirty five years.

**OLIVER SWAIN** is a bassist known for his diversity and creative musical approach. He is from a family of Labour supporters and holds strong convictions for the future of our federation.

**TOM VICKERY** (*incumbent*) Alright, ok, enough already! So I'm getting long in the tooth – "So What"? as Miles would say. As most of you know, for the past decade I have been a Board Member at large despite being vertically challenged, so I am asking you "One More Time" as the Count would say to mark your ballot with the famous Malcolm sign (X) in the space provided. As Sun Ra said "Space is the place". Also, in those pertinent and penetrating words of Hermann Neiweler, "We have to make it happening, ya". We have to do "Dis Here" and "Dat Dere" a la Bobby Timmons to accomplish this task. I would like to continue serving the membership in my present capacity so, as Clark Terry said when he counted in his big band, "One, two, you know what to do".

## VANCOUVER ISLAND MUSIC BUSINESS CONFERENCE

On June 22 to 26 the Vancouver Island Music Business Conference took place in Courtenay. It is no wonder that over 50 industry professionals would venture out here when there is such a wealth of talent on this island.

On Sunday the 26th I was invited as a member of Local 247 to participate in a round table panel discussion on various topics in the industry. My co-partners on this panel were both based in the recording industry, Rob Smith of Royalty Records and Ron Lopata of Warner Brothers. Very interesting points were raised by both these gentlemen in conversation with aspiring artists.

After the topic of promotion in the USA came up all panelists agreed the AFM is a highly regarded and efficient organization in processing P-2 visas. Both of the other panelists had anecdotes about artists losing their privilege to cross the border because they did not have the correct papers. Participants approached me during and after the discussion to find how they could join the AFM.

Ron Lopata of Warner was also a champion of our organization as he pointed out the dangers of predatory management practices where “managers” charge monthly fees to promote artists. He pointed out that one should never pay a fee of this nature, that managers or agents work for the artist and are compensated by commission only. The AFM bylaws limit commissions to 15% on gigs and 5% on management fees. These are exactly the fees Mr. Lopata quoted.

It was encouraging to see that members of this conference were on track with our bylaws and ethical standards. I would highly recommend attending this conference in the future.

*John Hyde is a freelance bassist and former president of Local 547, Calgary. [www.johnhyde.com](http://www.johnhyde.com)*

## BURT HARRIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**PROGRAM** Starting in 2006 with initial funding through The Beat 94.5 FM this scholarship was built to award music education scholarships to needy students for private and institutional music programs.

The scholarship was named after Burt Harris, a music lawyer and fierce advocate for music and musicians, who passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Burt's passion for all things music will be carried on through this scholarship program.

This year they will award a \$500 scholarship to help pay for private instruction in Canada for a musical instrument/vocal coach.

They will also award a \$1000 scholarship award to help pay for tuition for a music program at a recognized post-secondary institution.

For further details on how to apply, go to [www.musicbcfoundation.org/burt-harris-memorial-scholarship/](http://www.musicbcfoundation.org/burt-harris-memorial-scholarship/)

The deadlines for this program are Oct. 30th, 2011 for Private Tuition and Nov. 15th, 2011 for Post-Secondary studies.

## DAVID FOSTER & NELLY FURTADO TO ATTEND MOUNT DOUGLAS

**HIGH SCHOOL FUNDRAISER** David Foster and Nelly Furtado will generously donate their talents to raise funds for their former high school – Mt. Douglas Senior Secondary. David is producing and will host “Mt. Doug Idol”, a singing competition based upon his successful America's Got Talent competition. He invited Nelly

to join him on stage.

The competition is the gala and final event of a week-long celebration of Mt. Douglas High School's 80th anniversary. Both David and Nelly are AFM members and David is a member of our Local. Also, Local member Morry Stearns,

a former bandmate of David's, will lead the band for the event. The Mt. Doug Idol event will be held at UVic Centre on Saturday, November 19.

Other Local 247 members will also perform during the week-long series of events. The kick-off event, on Friday, November 11, is an all-years band reunion, “Glorious Noise”, led by former AFM member Len Michaux. If you were ever in the Mt. Doug school band, you are invited to join in. Local 247 member John Larsen, owner of Larsen Music, is kindly donating the use of instruments for those who have ‘lost’ their instruments over the years. On Thursday evening, November 18, a variety show entitled “What I Did for Love” will be held at the Alix Goolden Hall. It will feature about 20 music, comedy, and dance acts, among them being a trio of Local 247 members: Karen Whyte (String Orchestra teacher at Mt. Doug), Joanne Cowan, and Secretary Treasurer Mark Reed



Ticket and other information are found at [www.mountdougalumni.com](http://www.mountdougalumni.com)

**AFM AND FIM ENDORSE WIPO AUDIOVISUAL PERFORMANCE TREATY**

American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM) International President Ray Hair has announced the organization's support for the reconvening of a Diplomatic Conference on the protection of audiovisual performances, the final stage of negotiations for an international audiovisual treaty. In a written statement forwarded today to the Secretariat of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), now meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, Hair explained that increased sophistication of digital technology and new distribution platforms make it even more difficult to protect the livelihoods of performing artists.

"The need for an international treaty protecting audiovisual performers has long been acknowledged, and the lack of such protection grows ever more problematic as the distinction between audio and audiovisual works becomes

blurred," says Hair. "This proposed treaty harmonizes the moral and economic interests of performers with the need for uniformity and clarity for all stakeholders."

Also present at the assembly supporting a WIPO treaty conference were representatives from the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA), American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA), International Federation of Musicians (FIM), the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the International Federation of Actors (FIA).

"After years of hard work and discussion, it appears that a consensus is on the horizon and that the resumption of the Diplomatic Conference may result in conclusion of a WIPO audiovisual performance treaty," concludes Hair. "The AFM enthusiastically endorses this endeavor."

**INSURANCE HUB** International provides group insurance to the CFM. Members can insure instruments and gear at a much reduced rate from non-members. This is one of the top ben-

efits of membership and can provide significant savings in premiums.

HUB also provides an additional liability package for \$25/yr for \$1,000,000 coverage. Many employers such as CFB Esquimalt now insist on liability coverage for bands and this is the most cost effective way to do it.

Policy holders need to know that HUB will verify CFM membership status when the initial application is made, but if it subsequently lapses, a claim could be denied. The ability to make a claim is dependant on membership in the CFM being current.

**CHILDREN'S ART TAX CREDIT (CATC)**

For 2011 and subsequent years, the federal budget proposes a new non-refundable tax credit based on eligible expenses paid for the cost of registration or membership of your or your spouse's or common-law partner's child in a prescribed program of artistic, cultural, recreational or developmental activity (eligible program).

The CATC will let you claim eligible expenses of up to \$500 per year for each of your children who are

- under 16 years of age at the beginning of the year in which the expenses are paid; or
- under 18 years of age at the beginning of the year in which the expenses are paid if the child is eligible for the disability tax credit.

Also, if at least \$100 in eligible expenses has been paid for a child eligible for the disability tax credit, an additional amount of \$500 can be claimed for that child. *More info*>>

**MROC** is an organization, independent of the AFM/CFM, that collects and distributes royalties for the benefit of

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musicians who perform on recordings – as opposed to SOCAN which serves composers and publishers. If you have ever performed on a recording that may have been sold and/or received airplay, visit: [www.musiciansrights.ca](http://www.musiciansrights.ca). There may be royalties waiting for you.

**2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES** The time is approaching to renew your Local membership. The membership dues amounts remain unchanged as follows: \$133 for the whole of 2012, if paid before January 1  
\$138 for the whole of 2012, if paid between January 1 and February 29  
\$148 for the whole of 2012, if paid after February 29  
\$37 for each quarter year, due by the 1st day of each quarter

Remember, to resign in-good-standing, one must inform the office, in writing (email is ok) of one's intent to do so before one's next membership dues become due. Membership dues due dates are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

**USA P2 TRAVEL PERMITS** Here are, briefly, the current basics of obtaining a USA P2 Travel Permit:

- 45-50 day approval process – cost: \$325 USA + \$100 to CFM + \$30 to Local 247
- 25 day approval process – cost: \$1550 USA + \$100 to CFM + \$30 to Local 247

Typically, a properly completed P2 application is processed from receipt in our Local 247 office to delivery (via courier) to the USA's Dept. of Homeland Security in 3 business days.

The \$130 paid to the CFM and Local 247 includes about \$60 in courier fees.

The USA requires American engagers to withhold 30% of Canadian musi-

cians' payment. For more information on this, click [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

The Canadian National Office of the CFM adds this:

The vast majority of P2 applications are being processed within 45-50 days after receipt by AFM - no premium processing fee required.

However, if you are a Landed Immigrant to Canada, or have a Canadian Landed Immigrant in your band, then you will need to allow up to 30 extra days for processing to accommodate the extra time necessary to have your permit validated by a US Consulate (within Canada) before entry to the US.

Despite this improvement, AFM always recommends that musicians apply providing as much time as possible. Don't leave it to the last minute whenever possible.

Alternatively, if you find yourself in a position where you are unable to allow a minimum of 35 days prior to your first date, you should consider filing with the premium fee. The premium processing unit is still operational, and we may still recommend processing through this unit when necessary and/or preferred by the applicant.

This information changes frequently. Always check with our office and/or the CFM website first, when considering performing outside of Canada

## CORRECTIONS

**WORK DUES BUYOUT** Last issue we reported: "Work Dues Buyout - Members that play numerous shows a year save money buy opting for the work dues buyout." This should read "**Freelance** Work Dues Buyout" as it applies only to freelance engagements.

**JOB POSTINGS** We received numerous job listings last month. There were some good gigs to be had. Members that want up to the minute notifications should follow us on Twitter: @MusiciansVict.

## FRIENDS OF MUSIC SOCIETY FOCUS ON FUNDRAISING

Friends of Music Society (FOM) is a non-profit organization working with VIHA that brings people together through music. At FOM, musicians with a mental illness can practice and perform with other musicians in the community in a safe, welcoming and fun environment.



Here's what members have said about what FOM means to them: "Singing in a group, being part of something that is bigger than myself, contributes significantly to my mental health." "Sometimes music gives me a reason to face the day." "I have learned that I can be a contributing member of society despite my illness. I cannot imagine life without FOM."

With several ensembles, lessons, jam sessions, public performances and more, there are many ways local musicians can get involved, support FOM and help raise awareness about mental illness. Consider volunteering, making a donation or simply spreading the word. Together we can continue building sound relationships for mental health!