



Central California Upbeat

The Official Newsletter of the Professional Musicians of Central California AFM Local 12

Happy Holidays From the Local 12 Executive Board

Special Election Results

On the Resolution presented by unanimous vote of the AFM Local 12 Executive Board granting a one-time-only increase in base salaries in excess of the COLA increase mandated in our bylaws, increasing the base salary for Secretary from \$550/month to \$1000/month, and increasing the base salary of the Treasurer from \$520/month to \$900/month, with future COLA raises to be calculated from this new base salary:

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 88 |
| No | 6 |

**MPTF 100% Funding Available for
Black History Month (February)
Women's History Month (March)
Jazz Appreciation Month (April)**

Contact Geoff Roach, Executive Board Member

geoff@geoffroach.com

**Annual Dues Sale for 2024
\$15 Discount if Whole Year Paid by 1/31/2024**

www.afmlocal12.com

New Member Orientation

Monday February 5th, 7PM on Zoom

Local 12 Membership Meeting

Monday March 11th, 7PM on Zoom
<https://csus.zoom.us/j/3453315981>

American Music Fairness Act (AMFA)

The American Music Fairness Act (AMFA) — bipartisan, bicameral legislation that would ensure music artists receive compensation for the use of their work — was re-introduced in 2023 by Representatives Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Jerry Nadler (D-NY) and Senators Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) in the Senate. The AFM worked closely with the MusicFIRST Coalition and members of Congress to help craft this bill designed with your concerns in mind as a musician.

www.musicfairnessaction.org

Fair Share for Musicians

The American Federation of Musicians (AFM) and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television (AMPTP) have set contract negotiations for theatrical and television film work for January 22-31 (minus weekends) in Los Angeles.

Negotiations for AFM's Basic Theatrical Motion Picture and Basic Television Motion Picture Agreements will begin later than planned in part due to the AMPTP's prolonged labor disputes with the WGA and SAG-AFTRA, which caused significant disruptions in the entertainment industry.

The current contract was due to expire on November 13, 2023. To ensure the integrity of essential contractual protections until the next agreement is reached and ratified, the current agreements have been extended by six months.

Streaming now dominates the entertainment industry, and "new media" is no longer a new business. The AMPTP has unfairly exploited musicians' labor and shut musicians out of millions of dollars of streaming profits for over a decade. It's past time for a fair contract for current and future generations of all musicians.

The AFM is committed to fighting for the rights and well-being of members and improving industry wages, working conditions, and residual payments for made-for-streaming content. The Fair Share for Musicians campaign was created by musicians who record for motion pictures and television shows in preparation for negotiations of the AFM's Basic Theatrical Motion Picture and Basic Television Motion Picture Agreements.

For more information and updates, please visit: www.fairshareformusicians.org.

2023: the Local 12 Year-in-Review

January

Local 12 running our books on Quickbooks entirely for the first time
Safety protocols updated for Fresno Phil, Modesto, SCSO and Sac Phil

February

AFM Western Conference meets “in person” in Vancouver, BC
Fresno Community Chorus breaks off negotiations, abandons Union Contract and Pension obligations

March

AFM on-site audit (OCR) with Steve Pearson, AFM International Rep, completed successfully
First/last meeting ever with FCC musicians about their employer refusing to bargain or observe AB2257

April

MPTF 100%-funded gigs for Jazz Appreciation Month in Bakersfield
Ari Pelto announced as Principal Conductor/Artistic Advisor for Sac Phil and Opera

May

Sac Phil Andrea Bocelli gig at Golden 1 Center
Julian Dixon sworn in as newest member of the Local 12 Executive Board

June

Modesto holds first auditions in six years, hires four new violinists
Organizing continues in Bakersfield, Merced and North State symphonies
102nd AFM Convention in Las Vegas; Treasurer Goldsmith honored for 50 years of membership

July

SCSO musicians ratified a new two-year CBA, highest per-service orchestra rate in the Local
ROPA Conference in Atlanta, GA
Fresno Phil receives \$300,000 estate gift

August

Nicholas Hersh announced as new Music Director in Modesto
Richard Lewis Gala at Broadway Sacramento (Local 12 donation on behalf of musicians)
Sac Phil successful auditions for Principal/2nd Bassoon and Principal/Section Viola

September

MPTF Labor Day gig at Central Labor Council Picnic
Modesto Gallo Picnic at the Pops cancelled due to a freak thunderstorm
Harry Potter, first movie gig for Sac Phil

October

Local 12 helped lobby for SB770, signed by Governor Newsom, to move CA to universal health care
Sac Phil secures gig with Sacramento Ballet for Prokofiev Cinderella next February

November

Membership overwhelmingly voted to approve increase in base salary for Secretary and Treasurer
Membership reaches 385, double the number from 3rd Quarter of 2020!

December

Negotiations to begin for Fresno Philharmonic
Local 12 Social Media (Facebook and Instagram) to launch this month
New logo design for Local website, Social Media and swag (coming soon!)

Behind the Scenes: the Ups and Downs of Local 12 by Tom Derthick, Local 12 President

As our members power through the busy holiday gig season, many of us are setting time aside to count blessings of the past year, spend time with family and friends, and make lists of new things to do—and old things to do differently—in 2024. 'Tis the season for gratitude, and for reflection.

I'm grateful to the Executive Board of Local 12 and the Orchestra Committees for all they do to keep Local 12 moving forward. There are times when all of us feel the weight of our members' expectations, that somehow musician-elected representatives were born with all the answers. I know that I am still learning, and that our members' wisdom is often the best source of information and common sense.

We are also blessed with expert assistance from our Local counsel David Rosenfeld, and from the staff at the AFM—symphonic services, electronic media, pension, MPTF—for their commitment and passion.

2023 “on paper” was a banner year for our Local.

We have now doubled in membership since the 3rd quarter of 2020, a remarkable turnaround. Members voted to reduce their quarterly dues for the first time...ever? Certainly for the first time in anyone's recollection. Our budget is solidly in the black, allowing members to vote to restore the 2009 salary cuts for our Secretary and Treasurer.

We have progressive CBA agreements in place at Fresno Phil, Modesto, Sac Phil and Opera, Broadway Sacramento, and our most recent agreement at Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra. All of these organizations have successfully executed safety protocols, each one unique to the needs of that bargaining unit, all effective in keeping COVID out of our workplaces.

Your Board is pivoting to make Local 12 more contemporary and responsive, with the rollout of Social Media (Facebook and Instagram) in 2024, and increased transparency for our budget and business practices on our website. Our first independent financial audit in many years will take place by the end of the 2nd quarter of 2024.

Still, there were setbacks. The collapse of the Fresno Community Chorus CBA is the darkest moment of my Presidency. That this employer would refuse to bargain—at all—and walk away from their pension obligation is heartbreaking.

Organizing musicians without standing agreements—in Bakersfield, Visalia, Merced or the North State Symphony—depends on building relationships that will allow musicians to stand together for one another. Local 12's role is to educate and inform, but the work on the ground is that of the musicians themselves. As International President Emeritus Hair often said, in unity there is strength.

The same is true for freelance, casual musicians in jazz, country, or other popular styles. The vast majority of these colleagues are not our members, have no protections or due process, and work for 1980's wages. We are here to help, but it all starts with a conversation and information.

The only thing that is inevitable is change. More changes are coming: more challenges, more opportunities, more setbacks, and more triumphs. The work continues.

Guest Editorial: Sacramento's "Rockridge Moment" by Harley White II

Sacramento is the Cape Canaveral of trains. President Lincoln understood that a modern nation needed state of the art transit. The most modern trains in America were manufactured and maintained north of downtown in the mid to late 19th century into the early 20th.

Set in the same period, in the movie *Blazing Saddles*, the fine citizens were being crushed by progress and with the help of Sheriff Bart and the African-American and immigrant rail workers they save their city. They ultimately see that there's a place in Rockridge for everyone.

The Sacramento Bee is having its Rockridge moment. After years of neglect and indifference, their coffers are bare, and they need help. I attended a writing seminar where the Bee explained (with stats) that their coverage of the African-American community has been mostly crime related. They were sorry. They could do better, and Mark Zuckerberg gave them \$21,000 and six months to make some kind of start.....to make amends. When the young staffer from The Bee was reading the stats it took everything to not burst into laughter. I wanted to scream "We know!"

In the summer of '77 my dad came up from the Bay Area to see me. He'd performed with jazz great Earl Hines that afternoon at the Sacramento Dixieland Jazz Jubilee. My dad had toured with Earl for a few years. I met him several times and attended rehearsals. I grew up in Sacramento with this jazz festival in the backdrop of my life. But the only time I attended in my 54 years of music was as a teen, and I cruised through when the music was over. It was a "Whites Only" club in plain view. They had bands from all over the world, but rarely did they have Africans from New Orleans, where the music originated.

The music I loved was on a different track so it didn't really matter most of my adolescence.

Then I turned 30. I called Roger Krum (President of the Jazz Society). I explained, "You are 25 years into white washing jazz culture. If you really respect jazz you should add some Africans, or you're going to die on the vine." They added Zydeco. At the behest of Mayor Joe Serna, they added a Latin act. Fifteen years later, the Jazz Festival was dead. 200,000 annual visitors to Sacramento (and their dollars) were gone.

In their final days they made many desperate attempts to rebrand themselves. Adding Africans was never examined. The folly had to do with taking the word "Jazz" out of the festival name. Paris, Prague, San Jose, Tokyo, Miami, Vallejo and hundreds of cities still have "Jazz" festivals.

At the request of my friend Mike Testa of the Hotel and Convention Bureau I took a meeting with Vivian Abrams of the Jazz Society to see what I could possibly do to help their dilemma. She explained that it was nice to finally meet me, and she couldn't believe I had not performed at the festival. I explained "I *would* take it personal, but you tend to not have people like me."

Since the end of World War I, America has been a focal point of culture, and African-Americans played a huge role. See under "The Harlem Renaissance" for quick reference. Newsflash: Africans are valuable. Especially in entertainment. Entertainment was historically America's number two export after defense programs, so to ignore our influence is bad for business. This is why we need Black History month and the Humanities.

Going forward, if you have the good fortune of receiving from people as creative, inventive and brilliant as African-Americans, don't just write hit pieces on the culture. Embrace it. It's actually good for business.

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www.stocktonsymphony.org

The Stockton Symphony Announces

Auditions

Flute 2-Piccolo

Saturday January 20, 2024

Candidates: please be advised that second-round auditions will be held the same day.

**Please send resume and refundable \$35 deposit to:
Stockton Symphony Association
4629 Quail Lakes Drive, Stockton, CA 95207**

Audition excerpts will be sent to qualified candidates as soon as available, following submission of resume and refundable fee. Notification of scheduled audition times will be by telephone or email at least 48 hours prior to auditions. Audition repertoire will be listed on our website: www.stocktonsymphony.org

Application deadline: January 10, 2024

48-hour cancellation notification required. Refunds will be mailed five days following auditions.

Hal Willenborg ~ Personnel Manager ~ hwillenborg@stocktonsymphony.org

Auditions are anonymous and screened.

Per Service Section Scale is currently \$125. We also offer a travel reimbursement up to \$54.40 per commute and a per diem is available for players that qualify.

The Stockton Symphony is California's third-oldest continuously operating professional orchestra, whose season includes a Classics series, a Pops series, and three pairs of *Steppin' Out* concerts for fourth and fifth graders.

Music Director Peter Jaffe has conducted the Stockton Symphony since 1995 and has been credited with launching a period of sustained artistic growth. Maestro Jaffe served for fourteen seasons as resident conductor at the Aspen Music Festival, he has guest-conducted several orchestras across the country, and he also directs the Folsom Lake Symphony.

Stockton Symphony is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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The Official Newsletter of the
Professional Musicians of Central California
American Federation of Musicians, Local 12
Established 1896

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Simon Holland
Tom Derthick

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Please notify the office of any change
of address or phone.

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Opinions expressed by contributing writers
are their own and not necessarily those of
AFM Local 12.

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Membership Updates

Scheduled Meetings

(Unless announced otherwise)

General Membership

Quarterly online

Executive Board

Monthly online, 10:30 a.m. on the second
Thursday of each month

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Meetings are open, and members are invited
to attend.

Members wishing to formally
appear on the agenda must
submit a request in writing
at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

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Any notice appearing herein shall be
considered to be an official notice
to the membership.

Suspension Policy

Any members whose Regular or Life
Membership Dues remain unpaid three months
from the due date shall stand automatically
suspended from membership and shall be
required to pay a reinstatement fee of five
dollars, plus back standing dues in order to
resume membership in good standing.

Members whose dues remain unpaid six
months from the due date shall stand
automatically expelled and be ineligible for
Local 12's benefits or referrals and shall be
required to pay a reinstatement fee of twenty-
five dollars, plus back standing dues in order to
resume membership in good standing.

If off the role book for five years or longer, a
Federal Initiation Fee of sixty-five dollars is also
due.

To Resign in Good Standing

If dues are current a member may resign
in good standing by written request
delivered by mail, FAX or e-mail.

A telephone message is not acceptable.

Services and Benefits

- Recording Industries Music Fund
- Pension Fund
- Payroll Service
- Legal Contracts
- Instrument & Equipment Insurance
- Emergency Traveling Assistance
Program: 1(800) ROAD-GIG
- Union Privilege
- Credit Union Info
- Group Health Insurance (Self Pay)
- Dental Insurance (Self Pay)
- Wage Scales
- National Ear Care Plan
- Referral Service
- Petrillo Fund
- Electronic Media Services
- Collective Bargaining
- Legislative Representation
- Recording and Multimedia
Protection

It's a great time to be a member!

Member Services

(916) 453-2944

Referral Service

(916) 453-2944

www.afmlocal12.com

Office Hours

By appointment:

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Membership Dues

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Quarterly</u> | <u>Yearly</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Regular | 50.00 | 200.00 |
| Life | 25.00 | 100.00 |
| Inactive Life | 19.25 | 77.00 |