

Official Journal of the Hamilton Musicians' Guild AFM Local 293, CFM Since 1903

# LIBRETTO

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**May 2023** 

Volume 122 No. 01

# Honouring African American Music Appreciation Month: June 2023



GENERAL MEMBER MEETING
WEDNESDAY MAY 31, 2023
6:30 PM —9:00 PM
HAMILTON CENTRAL LIBRARY (Hamilton Room)

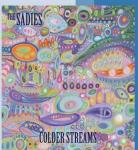


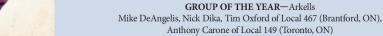
#### From the International Musician





#### The American Federation of Musicians proudly congratulates our Canadian members on their 52nd Annual JUNO **Awards and Nominations.**





ADULT ALTERNATIVE ALBUM OF THE YEAR—Colder Streams, The Sadies Travis Good, Mike Belitsky, Sean Dean of Local 149 (Toronto, ON)

Rock Album of the Year—Otherness, Alexisonfire Wade MacNeil, Chris Steele, Dallas Green of Local 298 (Niagara Region, ON)

> VOCAL JAZZ ALBUM OF THE YEAR—Featuring Caity Gyorgy of Local 547 (Calgary, AB)

JAZZ ALBUM OF THE YEAR—Desert Bloom, Florian Hoefner Trio Nick Fraser of Local 180 (Ottawa, ON), Andrew Downing of Local 149 (Toronto, ON)

> FRANCOPHONE ALBUM OF THE YEAR—Crash, Les Louanges Vincent Roberge of Local 406 (Montreal, QC)

CHILDREN'S ALBUM OF THE YEAR—Romeo Eats, Vol. 2, Walk off the Earth Sarah Blackwood, Gianni Nicassio, Joel Cassady of Local 293 (Hamilton, ON)

CLASSICAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR: SOLO ARTIST—Fables, Philip Chiu Philip Chiu of Local 406 (Montreal, QC)

CLASSICAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR: LARGE ENSEMBLE—Viola Borealis, Orchestre de l'Agora Nicolas Ellis (Conductor) and Orchestre de l'Agora of Local 406 (Montreal, QC)

CLASSICAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR: SMALL ENSEMBLE—Early Italian Cello Concertos, Elinor Frey and Rosa Barocca Elinor Frey of Local 406 (Montreal, QC), Rosa Barocc and Claude LaPalme (Artistic Director)

> of Local 547 (Calgary, AB) DANCE RECORDING OF THE YEAR—CTRL + ALT + DEL, Rêve Briannah Donolo of Local 149 (Toronto, ON)



Zhawenim, Digging Roots ShoShona Kish of Local 149 (Toronto, ON)

CONTEMPORARY ROOTS ALBUM OF THE YEAR—Come Morning, The Bros. Landreth Joey Landreth, Dave Landreth, Ariel Posen of Local 190 (Winnipeg, MB)

> BLUES ALBUM OF THE YEAR—Long River, Angelique Francis Angelique Francis of Local 180 (Ottawa, ON)

GLOBAL MUSIC ALBUM OF THE YEAR—Thieves of Dreams, Lenka Lichtenberg Lenka Lichtenberg of Local 149 (Toronto, ON)

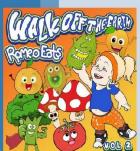
> JACK RICHARDSON PRODUCER OF THE YEAR-Akeel Henry of Local 149 (Toronto, ON)

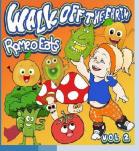
METAL/HARD MUSIC ALBUM OF THE YEAR—Synchro Anarchy, Voivod Denis Belanger, Daniel Mongrain, Dominique Laroche of Local 406 (Montreal, QC)

TRADITIONAL R&B/SOUL RECORDING OF THE YEAR—Last One, featuring Dylan Sinclair of Local 149 (Toronto, ON)

The benefits of protecting your recording under AFM agreements are undeniable and essential

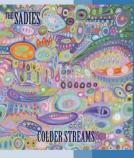
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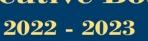


#### Hamilton Musicians' Guild



THE HAMILTON MUSICIANS' GUILD LOCAL 293, AFM/CFM

## **Executive Board**







**Reg Denis** 1st Vice Pres



**Larry Feudo** President



Vacant **2nd Vice Pres** 



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Ryan McKenna Secretary-Treasurer



Ron Palangio Marshall



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Vacant Director





**Brent Malseed** Sec/Treas Emeritus

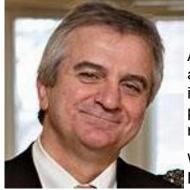


#### Hamilton Musicians' Guild

the series, which drew good crowds who were very appreciative.



#### May 2023 President's Report



**Larry Feudo** 

As we head into spring and summer, optimism is running high that things are on the upswing for the Local and our members. Financially, things have improved substantially with membership numbers being driven up with the promise of more work for our members. P2's are accounting for a lot of members returning as cross border work opportunities are rising.

We just completed the 'Jazz In April' performances at the Hamilton Public Library which was funded at 100% through the MPTF. Nine bands and several dozens of our members got the chance to show off their jazz chops. Special thanks to Kate Morrison of the Library, who was our liaison for

On another positive note, we are pleased to say we have found the ideal candidate for the position of Office Administrator. After interviewing several candidates, we chose Michael Bittle to fill the position.

He comes to us with a wide array of talents-among them accounting, web design and clerical skills that fit the bill. You may have already noticed our webpage has been improved and overhauled thanks to his efforts. He is knowledgeable and eager to learn the various tools used in the office such as InTune which manages our member data.

I know you'll join me in welcoming Michael to the fold. He has written an introductory piece in this issue of the Libretto. Unsurprisingly, he is overseeing this edition with input from Brent Malseed, Ryan Mckenna, Paul Panchezak and myself. This will be one of the many jobs in his portfolio.

As part of our MPTF strategy I have sent the updated Talent Directory to the Festival of Friends, Burlington Ribfest, the Downtown BIA and to the director of the entire BIA's in the Hamilton area. We're hoping this results in more work for our members. I must stress that the decision to hire is left entirely to the buyers—we do not dictate who gets hired. If you are not yet listed in the Talent Directory, or want to check out your listing, you can download a copy from our website

www.HamiltonMusicians.org.

Wishing you all a great summer,

Yours in solidarity,

Larry Feudo



**GENERAL MEMBER MEETING** WEDNESDAY MAY 31, 2023 6:30 PM —9:00 PM **HAMILTON CENTRAL LIBRARY (Hamilton Room)** 

#### Hamilton Musicians' Guild

#### Meet Michael



One of my earliest memories is playing the Triangle in a Grade 2 student band. Apparently, I kept hitting it at all the wrong times.

Sadly, even at the tender age of 7, I understood that a career as a professional musician was not going to be in my future. This turned out to be a really good thing though, since the Hamilton Musicians' Guild doesn't need a Triangle player to help in the office.

Rather, as I grew up, I learned about accounting, computers, website design, databases, marketing and social media.

Although I would have liked to have been Rod Stewart, even if just for one day.

Instead of crooning to thousands of love-starved fans, my career developed in other ways: as a policy advisor to an Ontario Cabinet minister, an auditor with the Auditor General of Canada, a manager running the freedom of information program in the Department of External Affairs, to becoming the Regional Director for the Canadian Passport Office here in Hamilton (back when we issued passports in 3 days and not 3 weeks!).

It was for this last job that my wife and I moved to the Hammer over 35 years ago, and to launch her career as a Grade One French Immersion teacher. Hamilton has been good to us, and the three children who eventually filled the empty bedrooms of our house, have since grown up and moved out. Those bedrooms are empty once again, except when our 2-year old granddaughter comes to visit.

Over time, I grew frustrated with the way government works (or doesn't work), and launched out on my own self-employment adventure, providing a wide range of services to small businesses and non-profit organizations in the Golden Horseshoe. This eventually brought me to the doors of Local 293 and, even without a musical bone in my body, I somehow seemed to fit in, right from the get-go.

Please, if you're downtown, stop into the office. I'd like to meet as many members as possible.

If you call us, please be patient with me as I am still learning the ropes on how to provide professional service to the professional musicians in our region.

Or, if you're simply bored and looking for a challenge, stop in and try to teach me how to play the Triangle.

> Michael Bittle 905-525-4040

office@HamiltonMusicians.org

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#### Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Looking back at 2022, it was a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to fill the role of Secretary-Treasurer for my inaugural year.

At the final Board Meeting in November of 2021, when I was a Director but before stepping into my new role, our Total Active Membership stood at 487 members. As of this writing, that number has risen to over 600, representing a 25% increase!

The leadership and growth-focused strategies of our President, Larry Ryan McKenna Feudo, have put us in a great position to capitalize on the post-pandemic momentum of re-opening and renewed business opportunities in the hospitality and arts sectors.

We have resumed making payments on our AFM Loan that exists to address the criminal irregularities of a previous administration. After years of dedicated repayment and after experiencing the grace of a temporary freeze during the public health lockdowns, we are now down to approximately \$26,000. This means that there is an achievable end in sight to close off that chapter of our history. We can take pride in the resilience and cooperation of our membership and Executive Board. Together, we continue to accomplish incredible things.

Something that is always moving to me is when we take a moment of silence at our Executive Board Meetings and General Meetings to recognize our brothers and sisters who have stood with us in solidarity in life, but who have recently passed on. It's not only that it is poignant to remember a life spent in music, but it demonstrates to me that we are always passing the torch along.

Part of why I was interested in this position is because I value the concept of learning from the "Old Guard". Passing along knowledge is a key aspect of the long-term sustainability of the AFM, the health of the Local and the vitality of professional music itself. I am proud to be working together in solidarity with you and am excited to see what the rest of this year has in store.

#### The Hamilton Musicians' Guild was saddened to learn of the untimely demise of former Executive Board member Michael Gomon, earlier this year.

Michael Goman

during the early 2000's and, most recently, again last year.

Mike was a life-long drummer who played with numerous bands throughout his lengthy career, and will be sorely missed by friends and fans alike.

Michael was an active member of Local 293 and served on the Executive Board on two separate occasions

#### **JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH**

The Hamilton Musicians' Guild with funding from the Music Performance Trust Fund presented a series of 9 Jazz Appreciation Month concerts in April at various locations of the Hamilton Public Library. All performances were free and open to the public.



































May, 2023



#### BRIEF HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC APPRECIATION MONTH

This American holiday began in 1979 when then-President Jimmy Carter announced that henceforth. June was to be recognized as 'Black Music Month'. He proclaimed this to cultivate appreciation and promote awareness about the uniqueness and various styles of the music contributed by African-American artists, be it jazz, gospel, blues, hip hop, rap, or rock and roll.

Since then, every June has been observed by Americans across the world to celebrate the music that is listened to, loved, and appreciated by many different generations.

Many artists like Kenny Gamble, Dyana Williams, and Ed Wright made their own efforts to continue the tradition. They were supported by many other artists who wanted to share their talent with the rest of the music industry. The first noticeable music genre of African-American origin is the blues, rooted in African religious songs sung during slavery.

When jazz came about in the 1920s, it bridged racial gaps as folks of different nationalities came together to enjoy this distinguished form of music. Soon after came different genres such as rock, swing, gospel, hip hop, funk, Motown, and even boogie-woogie. Many famous artists such as the Rolling Stones and The Beatles credit their music to the influence of the blues and jazz.

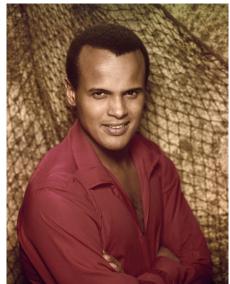
African Americans continue to take the stage and showcase their talent through the performance of their soulful music. These include pop divas like Whitney Houston, Alicia Keys, Aretha Franklin, and Beyonce. These artists are renowned throughout the world.

Look for the page 14 article on The Washingtons, by Shawn Washington Purser, and on page 20, a reprint of a Norm Tufts article from the 2018 Libretto.

May, 2023

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#### Honouring the Life of Harry Belafonte



The Hamilton Musicians' Guild honours the life of Harry Belafonte. who passed away on April 25 at the age of 96. A barrier-breaking singer and actor, he used his visibility as an entertainer to champion social justice and the civil rights movement.

Harry Belafonte left an indelible legacy as a unique and incomparable performer and a joyful advocate for justice and knowledge and will inspire generations to come.

Our condolences to his family, friends, and his loved ones, as well as to the many people all over the world who are mourning this loss.

Life and Career

Born in Harlem to West Indian parents, Belafonte spent many of his formative childhood years in Jamaica before returning to New York City where he attended high school before enlisting in the Navy.

He worked odd jobs after returning to the City where he became enthralled by acting and the theatre after being gifted two tickets to the American Negro Theatre (ANT) which performed, at the time, in the 150-seat Little Library Theatre basement stage of the 135th Street branch of The New York Public Library which now houses the Schomburg Center. He became a volunteer stagehand at ANT and was given his first part in On Striver's Row in 1946.

Belafonte became active in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and was one of Martin Luther King Jr's most trusted friends and confidants, helping to organize the Freedom March on Washington in 1963 where King delivered his memorable "I Have a Dream" speech. Throughout his life, he organized demonstrations, raised money, and mobilized friends for the cause of civil rights and social justice. Later, Belafonte devoted himself to humanitarian efforts, including participating in the 1985 charity song "We Are the World" and becoming a UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

Belafonte continued training with ANT, alongside actors such as Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee, and received bigger roles and also began singing in nightclubs. His singing and acting careers took off and he would become one of the most famous and admired entertainers of the 20th century. He is credited with introducing Americans to calypso music (his 1956 album Calypso made him the first artist to sell more than a million records in the U.S.) and is a rare EGOT holder for his Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards.

As the King of Calypso takes his final bow, we cherish the gifts he shared with us and honor his Incredible voice that strengthened justice, gave us an unforgettable rhythm, and inspired us on the screen, stage, and beyond.

#### From the International Musician



#### **Big Test for Labour Is Imminent**

by Alan Willaert, AFM Vice President from Canada

The following embodies a previously submitted article. However, given the political polarization now inherent

in our country and the significant radicalization permeating both provincial and federal politics, the urgency of this message is even more pronounced than when first written. Add to that the war in Ukraine, and parallels are evident.

When the gavel dropped to open the meeting of the Canada Council of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), the tone was a mix of elation and trepidation. On one hand, celebration had begun for the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike, a historic event that changed the landscape for labour laws across the country. But the elation soon diminished, as provincial reports of Conservative electoral victories and the bellwether that lies therein, sets the stage for what may become the greatest struggle the labour move ment has yet seen in this country.

Does that sound dire enough? By what measure and to what reference do we point as the warning signs? To foresee where we are going, we must first establish where we have been.

The 1919 General Strike, which was lost, contained within it many of the conditions and scenarios we are experiencing today. Setting the stage was WWI, a horrific conflict that saw thousands of young Canadian men shipped to the European front, while Canada welcomed immigrants to replenish a depleted workforce. When soldiers returned, unscrupulous employers gleefully pitted them against the new Canadians, forcing them to

compete for ridiculously low paying jobs. Canadians against immigrated Canadians—sound familiar?

Space does not allow for a thorough analysis of the strike, but suffice it to say, when wages and treatment of workers were bad enough, when the hate had festered deep enough, the roughly 12,000 unionized workers of Winnipeg planned to walk off their jobs in protest. What was most surprising was the support from the nonunion folks. On that fateful 15th of May, 1919, 35,000 mistreated employees—almost the entire workforce—walked off their jobs and took to the streets in protest. And they stayed out for more than a month.

Riled by the audacity of the masses to threaten corporate profits, the large employers formed their own small association of the rich and powerful. A plan was hatched to blame the Bolsheviks for the strike and the workers' lot in life. (Russian collusion—it's not just an invention of 2016 America). Phone calls were made to Prime Minister Robert Borden, who authorized use of the military to control the crowds. He passed laws to make it illegal to demonstrate or congregate, and policies were created to deport landed immigrants who participate without trial. He effectively created the most anti-labour legislation of the century.

The employers' association, who called themselves the Citizens Committee of One Thousand, published their own newspaper, *The Winnipeg Citizen*, and laid the blame for the unrest on immigrants. Almost the entire police force was dismissed, as they refused to not unionize or not be sympathetic to the strikers. The mayor replaced them with hired mercenaries, or "special constables," who,

armed with clubs, would pummel groups of strikers at every opportunity. As the people continued to fill the streets, suspected leaders were arrested and jailed.

On June 21, or Bloody Saturday, a silent march was organized as strikers were no longer able to demonstrate legally. The mayor called in the Royal North-West Mounted Police (RNWMP) to aid in dispelling the massive crowd.

But violence erupted as the hired thugs charged into the crowd wielding their clubs, and the RNWMP fired shots. Two workers lay dead, many more were injured. The next day, organizers called off the strike, fearing more violence and bloodshed. The job action was over, but the shameful deeds of employers and their conspiring with politicians—right up to the prime minister—would lead to a public reckoning and wholesale labour reform.

So, why do I say a test for labour is imminent? When seven provinces elect a Conservative government (representing more than 50% of the population), and if a federal election follows suit with a Tory win, the stage is set to allow the government to open the Canadian Charter of Rights. That means everything is again up for grabs.

Count on a push to remove the right of labour to organize, an attack on the Rand Formula, introduction of "right to work" laws, including but not limited to right-wing politics on abortion, the environment, and last but equally dangerous, immigration laws and religious freedoms. A Conservative wave in Canada, considering the current conditions and influences from the US, would be catastrophic and take decades of more liberal-minded

governments to correct, not to mention the damage to workers and a virtual elimination of the middle class.

"Time has separated those who fought for changes and those who enjoyed the benefits of change without a personal connection to the struggle. In addition, the perceived value of the conflict is diffused, along with the desire to maintain solidarity when needed."

How did we get here? The lessons learned so long ago in Winnipeg have dissipated. Time has separated those who fought for changes from those who enjoy the benefits without a personal connection to the struggle. In addition, the perceived value of the conflict is diffused, along with the desire to maintain solidarity when needed. More simply, people have forgotten why unions formed in the first place and have dismissed the importance and achievements gained by solidarity when working people are the pawns of insatiable corporate greed. We are in danger of having to completely start over, and relive the horrors endured by those before us who believed in fighting for a better life, let alone just their

History once again is threatening to repeat itself. And unfortunately, it will be because the silent majority—those who enjoy the benefits and fairness through union bargaining, yet feel no connection to them—will refuse to speak or act on behalf of what is right. Only when those benefits, along with basic rights and freedoms, are gone, will they blink and ask, "What happened and who is to blame?" It's not too late to stop the bleeding, but we are five minutes to midnight.

#### Imminence d'une épreuve majeure pour le mouvement syndical

par Alan Willaert, vice-président de la FAM pour le Canada

Ce qui suit reprend un article précédent. Toutefois, compte tenu de la polarisation qui prévaut dans notre pays ainsi que de la radicalisation qui imprègne la politique à la fois provinciale et fédérale, le message est encore plus urgent aujourd'hui qu'à l'origine. Ajoutez à cela la guerre en Ukraine, et les parallèles sont évidents.

À l'ouverture de la réunion du Conseil canadien du Congrès du travail du Canada, l'ambiance était à la fête, mais aussi à l'inquiétude. En effet, on avait déjà lancé les célébrations du centième anniversaire de la grève générale de Winnipeg, un événement historique qui a changé le paysage des lois du travail à l'échelle du pays. Mais la joie s'est vite estompée, car les victoires électorales conservatrices se multipliaient dans les provinces, avec les menaces que cela suppose, créant les conditions pour la plus importante bataille que le mouvement syndical aura jamais connue dans ce pays.

Est-ce assez désastreux? À quelle aune, selon quelle référence mesurons-nous le danger qui pèse sur nous? Pour voir venir, il faut d'abord établir d'où l'on vient.

La grève générale de 1919, qui a été perdue, présentait beaucoup des conditions et des scénarios que nous vivons aujourd'hui. La Première Guerre mondiale a planté le décor. Cet horrible conflit a vu des milliers de jeunes hommes canadiens partir au front en Europe tandis que le Canada accueillait des immigrants pour compenser la perte de main-

d'œuvre. Lorsque les soldats sont rentrés, des employeurs sans scrupules les ont montés contre les Néo-Canadiens, les forçant à leur faire la concurrence pour des emplois ridiculement mal payés. Des Canadiens contre des Canadiens immigrés, ça vous dit quelque chose?

Ces quelques lignes ne me permettent pas de faire une analyse complète de la grève, retenons simplement que lorsque les salaires et les conditions imposées aux travailleurs se furent suffisamment dégradés, que la haine eut couvé au plus profond, les quelque 12 000

« Le passage du temps a séparé ceux qui ont combattu pour obtenir des changements et ceux qui en ont bénéficié sans avoir de lien personnel avec le combat. De plus, la valeur perçue du conflit est diffuse tout comme le désir de maintenir la solidarité lorsque nécessaire. »

> travailleuses et travailleurs syndiqués de Winnipeg ont planifié de quitter leurs postes pour protester. Le plus surprenant, c'est que les non-syndiqués les (suite à la page 7)

#### Imminence d'une épreuve majeure pour le mouvement syndical

(suite de la page 5)

ont soutenus. En ce jour fatidique du 15 mai 1919, 35 000 employés exploités – presque toute la main-d'œuvre de la ville – sont descendus dans la rue pour protester. Et ils y sont restés pendant plus d'un mois.

Agacés par cette audace qui menaçait les profits des entreprises, les grands employeurs ont fondé leur propre petite association de riches et puissants. Ils ont élaboré une stratégie visant à rejeter la faute sur les bolcheviks pour la grève et pour le sort des travailleurs dans la vie. (La collusion russe – ce n'est pas seulement une invention des États-Unis de 2016). Il y a eu des appels téléphoniques au premier ministre Robert Borden, qui a autorisé le recours aux militaires pour maîtriser les foules. Il a adopté des lois interdisant les manifestations ou les attroupements et mis en place des politiques permettant de déporter sans procès les immigrants reçus qui avaient participé aux événements. De fait, il a créé la législation la plus antisyndicale du siècle.

L'association des employeurs, qui s'était donné pour nom le Comité des mille citoyens, a publié son propre journal, The Winnipeg Citizen, et fait porter le blâme de l'agitation par les immigrants. Presque tous les membres du corps de police ont été congédiés parce qu'ils refusaient de ne pas se syndiquer ou de ne pas être sympathiques aux grévistes. Pour les remplacer, le maire a embauché des mercenaires ou « gendarmes spéciaux » qui, armés de matraques, rouaient de coups les groupes de grévistes à toute occasion. Tandis que les gens continuaient à occuper les rues, ceux qu'on soupçonnait d'être des leaders étaient arrêtés et incarcérés.

Le 21 juin, ou Bloody Saturday (samedi sanglant), on a organisé une marche silencieuse, car les grévistes ne pouvaient plus manifester. Le maire a fait appel à la Police à cheval du Nord-Ouest pour aider à disperser la foule. Mais la violence a éclaté lorsque des fiers-à-bras payés ont chargé la foule à coups de matraque et que la police à cheval a tiré des coups de feu. Deux travailleurs sont morts, et de nombreux autres ont été blessés. Le lendemain, les organisateurs ont mis fin à la grève craignant encore d'autres violences et effusions de sang. Les moyens de pression étaient terminés, mais les actes honteux des employeurs et leur conspiration avec les politiciens - jusqu'au premier ministre - menèrent à une prise de conscience du public et à une large réforme du travail.

Alors, pourquoi est-ce que j'affirme qu'une épreuve est imminente pour le mouvement syndical? Lorsque sept provinces (représentant 50 pour cent de la population) élisent un gouvernement conservateur, et qu'un conservateur pourrait gagner une élection fédérale, la table est mise pour permettre au gouvernement d'ouvrir la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés. Ce qui veut dire que tout peut encore y passer.

Vous pouvez parier qu'il y aura une campagne pour enlever aux travailleurs le droit de se syndiquer, une attaque contre la formule Rand, l'introduction de lois sur le « droit au travail », des politiques de droite sur l'avortement, l'environnement et, enfin, mais pas moins gravement, sur les lois relatives à l'immigration et aux libertés religieuses. Une vague conservatrice au Canada, compte tenu des conditions actuelles et des influences américaines, serait catastrophique et prendrait des décennies à corriger par des gouvernements plus libéraux, sans compter les torts aux travailleurs et la quasi-élimination de la classe moyenne.

Comment en sommes-nous arrivés là? Les leçons apprises il y a si longtemps à Winnipeg se sont évaporées. Le passage du temps a séparé ceux qui ont combattu pour obtenir des changements et ceux qui en ont bénéficié sans avoir de lien personnel avec le combat. De plus, la valeur perçue du conflit est diffuse tout comme le désir de maintenir la solidarité lorsque nécessaire. Dit plus simplement, les gens ont oublié pourquoi les syndicats ont été créés, n'ont pas reconnu l'importance de ce qui a été accompli grâce à la solidarité quand les travailleurs étaient les pions de l'insatiable cupidité des entreprises. Nous risquons de devoir tout recommencer et revivre les horreurs qu'ont endurées ceux qui nous ont précédés, et qui se sont battus pour avoir une meilleure vie, sans toutefois espérer en obtenir leur juste part.

L'histoire menace encore une fois de se répéter. Et malheureusement, ce sera parce que la majorité silencieuse – qui profite des bénéfices et de l'équité qu'offre la négociation syndicale, sans s'y sentir liée – refusera de parler ou d'agir au nom de ce qui est juste. Ce n'est que lorsque ces bénéfices de même que les droits et libertés les plus élémentaires auront été perdus que les gens se réveilleront et demanderont « qu'est-ce qui s'est passé et à qui la faute? ». Il n'est pas trop tard pour arrêter la saignée, mais il est minuit moins une.

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#### The Libretto



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Publisher, Editor & Graphic Designer:

Brent Malseed

Visit the

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website at

www.HamiltonMusicians.org

for news and information of interest to local musicians.

#### The Washingtons

Hamilton recently celebrated Black History Month which included honouring some of the wonderful contributions in Hamilton's music scene by past and present artists. I have been one of the lucky

ones in that I was able to witness some of the best local music in the

area that was provided by my family, the Washington's.



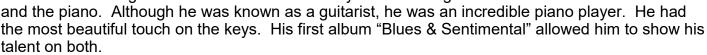
Over the years, many if not all of the family members sang in Stewart Memorial's choir on John St N. as Grandma Rose was very strict on supporting the church. In later years, Doris became organist and choir director for the church. She spent many years leading them in song and cherished her time there. From the church to the streets of

Hamilton, the Washington's have provided music of almost every genre in night clubs, dance clubs, bars, coffee houses and music festivals.

The legacy started back when Jack along with his older brothers Merlin (Doc), Harold & Ormsby formed a quartet and sang at various venues in the city. They eventually became a trio that sang throughout various venues in Ontario. On one of these journeys, they lost the oldest brother Ormsby when he drowned in the Georgian Bay area. In later years, Jack stayed with his music,

entertaining on the trains when he worked CN Railway, and also when he was enlisted in the Army. Fighting was not in his blood, but music was.

In the 1940's, Jack along with good friend Sonny Johnson became the first black disc jockeys with CHML radio. A real breakthrough during that day and age. Jack went on to become a strong solo artist, playing coffee houses, music festivals and many other venues. He had a gig at the Royal Connaught in the Side Car bar near the front of the building where he entertained weekly on both the guitar



He inspired the next generation as nephews Barry Griffith and Brian Griffith took up the guitar and Brian went on to be his own legend. When we were planning Jack's memorial, Brian spoke of this time to me and said "He was the reason I picked up the guitar. I used to sit at his knee and listen and thought, I want to do that; I want to make people happy and make incredible music".



Jack teamed up with 2 wonderful artists, Mose Scarlett and Ken Whitely and went on a journey of music and friendship that lasted until his final days. One of Jack's favourite songs was "I want to be Happy" and truthfully, that's what he wanted. To be happy, and to make you happy too.

During this same time, three of the younger Washington males, Dick (who was my dad) on drums, Reggie on the double keyboard organ (who, by the way only played in 6 flats) & Delbert on vocals and bongos formed a jazz trio and along with their sisters Marion, and

later Rosemary, set their own standard of music in Hamilton.



This group played the dance club circuit and kept the local bars filled with their lively music. The group joined saxophone player Fred Purser in 1949, who was well known in local big bands, as well as keyboard player Matt Kennedy and took their music to another level. Over the years of entertaining Hamilton, they were joined by other members of the family, Donny on clarinet, Bobby on keyboards & vocals and Jack would occasionally sit in when he was in town. In later years, Brian Griffith who had been raised at Jack's knee on quitar. ioined the jazz band. It truly was a "family thing".

Bobby was a phenomenal musician playing both keyboards and guitar, and was part of the Soul/R&B scene. He was a member of a few local bands including Soul Society, Snap, Crackle and Pop with Eugene Smith and The

Product with Harrison Kennedy and Chris Saunders. Bobby and Harry together had a sound unlike anyone and could transport the music so that even those without rhythm would get up and dance. Bobby was born to entertain and charmed everyone with his smooth vocals. Sadly, Bobby passed away at an early age after battling an aggressive cancer.

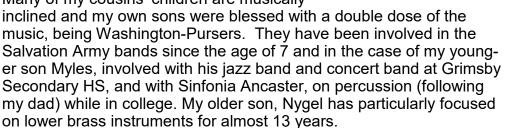
Brian Griffith was an entity onto himself playing with so many bands and individuals in Hamilton and beyond that there was no limit on what he could do. He played almost every genre of music out

there, often joining with Uncle Jack at festivals, the Washingtons in jazz, Sharon Musgrave in her funk & soul, Rapid Transit with their own blend of funk and so many more. He was employed by Danny Lanois to play back up albums for Willie Nelson & Emmylou Harris.

An upcoming talent from Hamilton is Daimon Miles, the son of guitar legend Brian Griffith and grandson of Juno award winner Harrison Kennedy. Our young cousin has made inroads in rap music. He is incredibly talented and has performed at various functions, including the past Life of Brian scholarship fundraiser honouring new music talent.

We have been so fortunate in the Washington family. Our elders started

the music scene, my generation definitely carried on the tradition and the next generation coming up is holding on to the music. Many of my cousins' children are musically



One thing you can say about the Washington family: they were of Hamilton and played for Hamilton. It's not that they didn't go out of city for gigs but their heart was here. They started here and were happy to contribute to Hamilton's music community.

True fact: none of the Washington family were professionally trained and most could not read music. They played by ear and by heart. The music has faded but I have such wonderful memories of travelling from club to club on any given weekend and being surrounded by music and family.

- Shawn Washington Purser

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George Frederick Purser passed on June 08, 2018 at 97 Years Old

# My Memories of Fred Purser and the Washingtons

by Norm Tufts

Being born and raised in Toronto, I was only familiar with Toronto musicians and musicians that I had met playing with American name bands that were playing in Toronto. In 1956 that would change when I met Rick Wilkins and Fred Purser and The Washingtons.

In the spring of 1956 my friend, Ed Tighe and myself went to Buffalo on a Saturday to buy a few 78 RPM jazz records at Rab's Music Store on Main Street. By later afternoon we had cleared Customs and were on our way home to Toronto on the QEW. By 7:00

pm Ed was getting hungry and looking for a place to stop for supper. This is where we spotted a motel with a restaurant called "The Beacon". As we were enjoying supper Ed said, "Do you see who is coming into the restaurant? They appear to be musicians!" Well he was right, they were musicians and this resulted in my introduction to Fred Purser and The Washingtons.

This meant many return visits to "The Beacon" for Ed and myself. Here we met many people and musicians from Hamilton, St. Catharines and Buffalo.

Fast forward now to the 60's. By now The Washingtons were playing at The Innsville Hotel in Winona, Ontario. Both Ed and I were married and my wife, Bette and I were living in Hamilton on the west mountain and keeping in touch with The Washingtons. By now I had my union membership changed to Local 293, Hamilton. A young piano player, Bruce Harvey, who played in the tradition of Bill Evens was very interested in my tunes and started using many of them with The Washingtons. So a close musical connection was developing with the group.



Fred Purser & the Washingtons from the early 1950s. L-R: Dick, Reg, and Delbert Washington, Fred Purser. Photo courtesy of the Purser family

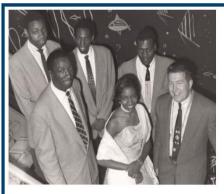
Eventually the inevitable happened and Bruce graduated in 1968 and moved to Toronto and was in short order working with the best studio musicians including our old friend Rick Wilkins!

The Washingtons started working with a new jazz piano player who took seriously ill. His problem was diagnosed and Fred was told that the piano player would be off for at least 6 months to a year! As a result I received a panic call from Fred Purser asking me if I would like to join the Washingtons! My instant reaction was to say no! This was because I was originally a trombone player and a classically trained piano player. Jazz piano is completely different from classical piano. When I started writing however, I was learning to play jazz piano thanks to my association with Rick Wilkins. When Rick came to Toronto (by now I had written perhaps 250 tunes) he was my first encouragement and still is! Fred, however, would not take no for an answer. I said I can only play jazz piano in a few keys and one of them is not D flat (a

favourite key for some black musicians). In D flat you play all the black notes. Fred insisted and said, "We will play in the keys you choose!" Don't forget that both Bruce Harvey and Rick Wilkins say that you'll do just fine and it will be a good experience for both of us! Also don't forget we like your tunes and this will give us an opportunity to play them for a jazz audience.



Matt Kennedy, Reg Washington, Brent Malseed, Fred Purser, Delbert & Dick Washington



Fred Purser and the Washingtons at The Beacon in Jordan on Dec. 31, 1955. Back row L-R: Delbert and Reg Washington, Hughie Wavner: front row L-R: Dick and Rose Washington, Fred Purser.

(Photo courtesy of Purser family)

Well Fred was right and the job lasted for 2 years and I was on call for many more. This also led to my taking The Washingtons on the road to play for many Ford Motor Company gigs. This eventually led to the jazz record album "50 Years Together" being made, the only jazz record ever made by Fred Purser and The Washingtons. The recording was completely paid for by the United Church in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Washingtons. The record was well promoted and sold in every "Sam's" store in Canada!

Fortunately, some copies of the record are still available and can be obtained by contacting the Local 293 Office. It helped to introduce Fred and The Washingtons to people all over Canada and many parts of the USA. Of note are some of my tunes, e.g. "Last Train to Wawa". This album was in the Wawa radio station for many years and also in the 2 radio stations in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. As well as the U.S. Sault Ste. Marie radio station. Another tune I wrote for Jazz Disc Jockey, China Vallees of Miami, was written for him to use as a theme. This tune was played by China as long as he was on the 50,000 watt station in Miami twice a day! So jazz lovers all over Florida remember The Washingtons!

As far as distribution of the recording is concerned, this record had the best, thanks to my good friend Guenther Nolen at Roblin Distributing Ltd in Toronto. Guenther was the manager of Roblin. When he was told about the recording he said, "Don't worry about distribution, Norm, I will look after that." One call to Guenther and the record was on its way anywhere in the world!

In later years I met people from England, Germany, Japan, France, Australia and other places that were familiar with the Washingtons and the recording. I once asked Fred, "What is your theme song?" He thought for a few seconds and replied. Probably it's "50 Years Together' and added "someday we'll make it!" As you can see they did make it in the year 2000! It was always a pleasure playing with you and The Washingtons.

Rest in Peace, Old Friend!



Norm Tufts, AFM Local 279. London Musicians' Association





#### Fred Purser loved his music and the Washingtons

By Leonard Turnevicius, Hamilton Spectator

https://www.thespec.com/whatson-story/8664739-fred-purser-loved-hismusic-and-the-washingtons/

> **Article Reprinted from September** 2018 issue of LIBRETTO





#### Local 293 StreetBeat..... "Blues with a Feeling" is back.



The annual memorial tribute to Richard Newell a.k.a. King Biscuit Boy was put on hold for two pandemic years and last year returned with a scaled down tentative return to live music. This year, there is no holding back.

For their 19th show, The Friends of Richard Newell in association with 91.7 Giant FM are presenting an electrifying night of rockin' blues with three sensational acts – The Blackburn Brothers, Smokewagon Blues Band and Joshua Arden Miller.

Where: Leander Boat Club (50 Leander Drive, Hamilton)

When: Saturday June 3, 2023 – 8 PM to Midnight

Paul Panchezak

The Blackburn Brothers, who are making their second "Blues With a Feeling" appearance, come from a legendary Canadian heritage of blues, jazz and soul. Their father, Bobby Dean Blackburn held down long musical residencies at Toronto's original Club Blue Note and the famed Zanzibar Tavern. Duane, Corey and Brooke grew up surrounded by music and musicians.

It should come as no surprise that they carry that tradition and talent into the next generation. They are winners of multiple Maple Blues Awards and countless nominations, Their CD release "Brothers In This World" was nominated as "Blues Album of the Year" at the 2016 Juno Awards. They promise to set the stage on fire with world class funk and blues at this year's concert."

The Smokewagon Blues Band are popular Hamilton favourites. They too are multiple Maple Blues Award Winners. Their latest release, "The Ballad of Albert Johnson" took home "Album of the Year" honours at the 2021 awards. On stage the group effortlessly blends guitar, bass, drums, keyboards. sax and harp into a polished Chicago style electric blues sound. It's a sound that is always welcome at "Blues With a Feeling"

Joshua Arden Miller is the blues pride of the Six Nations and his high-octane electric guitar fueled blues never fail to wow audiences. His latest video and single "Solidarity" has received rave reviews. At "Blues With a Feeling" he will joined by six time CAMA Award winners and Juno Nominees, the Pappy Johns Band.

In addition to those acts the multi talented Mark LaForme will offer a short set of solo blues from the "Ronnie Copple Memorial Chair" in the foyer of the Leander Boat Club. Acting as a musical greeter of sorts. He will start the festivities at 7:30. Tickets for this year's concert, priced at \$25.00, are available in advance at Picks and Sticks, Dr Disc, Looney Tunes and Stardust Records.

This popular tribute to Richard Newell began twenty years ago as a "Celebration of Life" following Richard's death. Over 600 hundred attended a concert at the 77 Club in downtown Hamilton. Over 120 musicians, including some of the most popular names in Canadian music, offered their services free of charge.

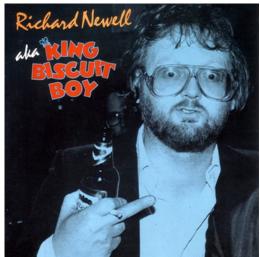
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Since then, a volunteer committee of some of Richard's closest friends and bandmates under the moniker "The Friends of Richard Newell" have staged a night of rockin' blues every June at the Leander Boat Club overlooking the Hamilton waterfront.

The concert is a not-for-profit event with proceeds going to charity. Prior to 2020, money was donated annually to a scholarship in Richard's name in the jazz music department of Mohawk College. When the pandemic suspended in person learning at Mohawk and the Jazz Program was in a state of limbo the Friends of Richard Newell decided to instead make annual contributions to our own Local 293's Bob Pedler Fund. That is where the proceeds will go this year as well.

As a personal aside, thinking puts me in mind of a night got Rich right with the Local. the King Biscuit Boy for worked with him in Kelly

At that time Richard's dues This was a problem for the some gigs south of the venues required union As late as 1987 I recall a checking union cards in the in the Brunswick House. were also "union rooms".



of Richard Newell and Local 293 some forty years ago when we I was lucky enough to play with almost twenty years. I first Jay's Crowbar of the 1980's.

had fallen quite a bit in arrears. group since we had lined up border. Also at that time some membership of all players. steward of the Toronto local dressing room of the Albert's Hall Concert halls like Hamilton Place Media appearances required

CFM membership as well. The long and the short of it was that we needed Richard in the union but that would require an outlay of cash to cover past dues and reinstatement fee – cash that Rich was desperately short of.

Our manager, and one of the founders of the "Friends of Richard Committee", the late Tom Basciano, came up with the novel idea of King Biscuit shares. Tom threw a party at his house with the purpose of issuing \$10 "King Biscuit" shares to attendees. With the funds raised from the shares we brought Rich up to date with Local 293.

I recall that our present president Larry Feudo was also a shareholder. Not too long ago I was rummaging through a box of old posters, press clippings and such when I came across my King Biscuit share from long ago. It's the closest I ever came to dabbling in the market (with minimal risk).

Which brings us back to "Blues With A Feeling" Twenty-five bucks for three great bands at the Leander Boat Club. Now there's an investment worth making. Don't meet me there. Beat me there.

- Paul Panchezak

#### "Blues with a Feeling"

Where: Leander Boat Club (50 Leander Drive, Hamilton) When: Saturday June 3, 2023 – 8 PM to Midnight



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Membership activity January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023

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If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact the HMG office



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But we need you to notify us of any changes to your contact information.

This includes any changes to your email address, phone numbers or home address.

Call 905-525-4040 or email

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#### In Memoriam



**Andrew Adam Swain** 1966-2023

It is with heavy hearts we announce the sudden passing of Andrew (Andy) Swain, at age 56.

Andy was the son of Jo Bradley (Swain) and the late Lorne Swain. Brother to Owen (Mary Beth) and Lorie. Uncle to Nichole (Herald), Wesley (Laura), Emily (Nate) and Arnett.

Growing up in Scarborough and Elora he had interests in art, music, and the outdoors, which he carried with him throughout his entire life.

He married and had two children, Phillip and Lorren. He was a very loving and dedicated father to his kids.

Andy was a man who lived a quiet, purposeful life. He was a man of strong Christian faith. His high standards of integrity, humility, and work ethic were admired by everyone he came in contact with.

Loved greatly and forever remembered by his family, and his close group of friends.



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Of interest to our touring musicians and their families, is our updated, world-wide Travel Medical Insurance Program, which is more comprehensive and cheaper than ever! \$138.99 annually gets you coverage for a year world -wide (previously it was USA only) and is applicable to as many single trips as you like if each trip is 60 days or less. So, for example, you can obtain coverage for 3 (or more) trips under 60 days in length.

#### How to Register

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- Select Canadian Federation of Musicians, then select Hamilton Musicians' Guild, Local 293 in the dropdown menu
- 3) After logging in, select the products/services of interest

For questions on your account, how the discounts work or any of the products/services please contact Union Savings at 1-800-418-2990.



**Marie Phillips** 

Marie Phillips, BA (Hons), RRC, CFDS, PFP, FCSI, MFA-P, has been in the financial services industry since 1992. She is a respected member and past chair of IPC's National Advisory Board and has the advantage of years of experience as a regulatory compliance officer.

She was a 2022 recipient of the Globe and Mail's Canada's Top Wealth Advisor: Best in Province, has received the IPC Cares Award for Community Service, Value of Advice awards, Top Ten Wealth Builder of the Year Award, Best Client Experience Awards, George R. Robinson Award, and has been published / profiled in a wide variety of articles including BNN, the Investment Executive and the Wealth Professional.



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Marie actively volunteers her time advocating for financial literacy and philanthropy in the arts sector and is also an amateur musician.



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