

# THE LIBRETTO

2024\_04

**Valerie Tryon**

**Inside this Issue:**

**Valerie Tryon**

\* **Introducing Jay Erlich**

\* **Bob Pedler Fundraiser**

\* **JV Music for Seniors**

\* **Lily Sazz Going Solo**

\* **Steve Strongman**

**Official Journal of the Hamilton Musicians' Guild**



## Taking Care of Business – Recording 101: What You Need to Know

by Allistair Elliott, AFM Vice President from Canada

One thing that has changed exponentially over the last few years is the ability to come up with a great recording, without spending days in a studio. Great quality home recording projects are happening everywhere. With the advancement of software and a little investment we all can record. Recording is the one part of the industry that more musicians have ventured into over the last 10-15 years.

There is more collaboration between artists that don't regularly work together, and many musicians work on multiple projects a day. It therefore becomes more important than ever to document the players, the writers, who owns what percentage of each song, and of course, who the composers are.

Most musicians are excited to have the songs recorded and then get them "out there" to apply for travel grants, marketing grants, or an

invitation to play at a festival. Too often the business side of documenting the important facts is left until later. Unfortunately, if the documentation isn't filed before anything is released, it's too late.

Of course, I'm talking about AFM recording contracts. An AFM recording contract is the only paperwork that protects all musicians on the recording. It's like an insurance policy for the life of the recording. There are many types of recording contracts, depending on the use and distribution of the recording.

The key factor to grasp is to make sure, at the very least, to document and file a Joint Venture Recording Agreement. This agreement is like an entry-level record of exactly what I described above. If four musicians come together to record, they can document: who played on each track, who wrote or arranged the tune, and whether they each have an equal share of future residual income. It's

easy to come to agreement on these terms and note it on the Joint Venture Agreement.

Then, if one of the songs gets picked up and used for a jingle, television show, or even a movie, everyone on the recording will be able to get paid. Unfortunately, there are many stories where a contract wasn't filed and the musicians were not able to get what they should have received.

I don't understand why musicians don't just file a contract every time. If you are not sure what to do, call your AFM local office and ask for advice. But be sure to do it before anything is released. With the loss of hard copy sales of product due to streaming, let's ensure we get every possible source of future revenue by documenting all recording projects on an AFM recording contract. It's like getting a free insurance policy to protect your rights and future income. Why wouldn't you?

## Prendre ses affaires en main – enregistrement 101 : ce qu'il faut savoir

par Allistair Elliott, vice-président de l'AFM pour le Canada

La possibilité de produire un excellent enregistrement sans y consacrer plusieurs jours en studio s'est développée de manière exponentielle ces dernières années, et des projets d'enregistrement maison de grande qualité se réalisent partout de nos jours. En effet, les progrès des logiciels et un petit investissement permettent à tous d'enregistrer. D'ailleurs, c'est un des domaines de notre industrie auquel beaucoup de musiciens se sont intéressés depuis 10 ou 15 ans.

Cela donne lieu à beaucoup de collaborations entre artistes qui ne travaillent pas régulièrement ensemble, et de nombreux musiciens travaillent sur une multitude de projets chaque jour. Il est donc plus important que jamais de documenter qui joue, qui écrit, qui détient quel pourcentage des droits sur chaque chanson et, bien sûr, qui sont les compositeurs.

La plupart des musiciens sont extrêmement heureux que leurs chansons soient enregistrées et très pressés de les publier en vue de faire des demandes de subventions de voyage ou de mise en marché ou alors d'obtenir une

invitation à se produire dans un festival. Il s'ensuit trop souvent qu'ils remettent le travail de documentation des faits importants à plus tard. Mais malheureusement, si la documentation n'est pas déposée avant diffusion, il est ensuite trop tard.

Évidemment, je parle d'un contrat d'enregistrement de l'AFM. C'est le seul document qui protège tous les musiciens qui participent à un enregistrement, une sorte de police d'assurance pour toute la durée de vie de l'enregistrement. Nous offrons plusieurs types de contrats selon l'utilisation et la distribution que vous comptez faire de votre enregistrement.

La clé consiste à s'assurer de remplir et de déposer une entente de coentreprise d'enregistrement (Joint Venture Recording Agreement). C'est un document de base qui permet de noter tout ce que j'ai décrit plus haut. Ainsi, si quatre musiciens se réunissent pour enregistrer, ils peuvent y inscrire : qui a joué sur chacune des pistes, qui a écrit ou arrangé la pièce et comment ils se partageront les revenus futurs issus des droits de suite. Il

est facile de s'entendre sur ces points et de les inscrire sur l'entente.

Par la suite, si l'une des chansons est retenue pour un refrain publicitaire, une émission de télévision ou même un film, tous ceux et celles qui ont participé à l'enregistrement pourront être rémunérés. Malheureusement, il arrive souvent qu'un contrat ne soit pas déposé, et que les musiciens ne reçoivent pas ce qui leur revient.

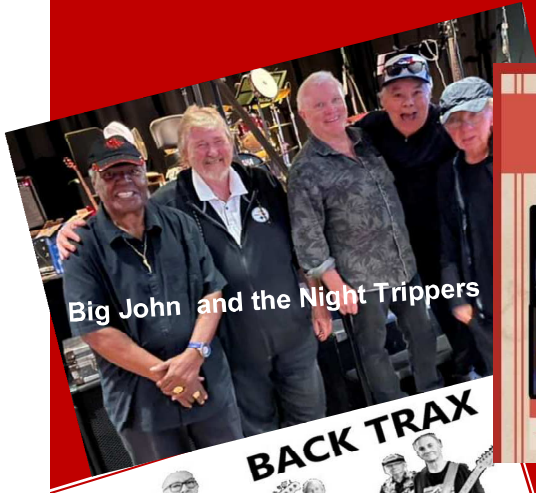
Je ne comprends pas pourquoi les musiciens ne déposent pas tout simplement un contrat chaque fois. Si vous n'êtes pas certain de la procédure à suivre, contactez votre section locale de l'AFM et demandez-leur conseil. Mais faites-le avant diffusion. Avec la perte des ventes de produits physiques en faveur de la diffusion en continu, assurons-nous d'obtenir toutes les sources de revenus auxquelles nous avons droit en documentant tous nos projets d'enregistrement sur un contrat de l'AFM. C'est l'équivalent d'une police d'assurance gratuite pour protéger vos droits et vos revenus futurs. Pourquoi ne pas en profiter?



**HAMILTON  
MUSICIANS' GUILD**  
UNITY HARMONY ARTISTRY

Celebrating 121 years of service to professional musicians in  
Hamilton, Haldimand and Halton

**6th Annual  
BOB PEDLER MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER**  
Sunday December 1, 1:00—6:00 at Stonewalls  
Performances by:



**Big John and the Night Trippers**



**THE PATTI PAYNE TRIO**  
JAZZ AND BOSSA NOVA WITH A TWIST

Featuring:  
Patti Payne: Keys & Vocals  
Tony Vieira: Guitar  
Ian Whitman: Double Bass



**BACK TRAX**



**HWYSIX**

**100% of  
Proceeds  
go to the  
Bob Pedler  
Memorial  
Fund**



**Coalescence**



**Lowdown Dirty Mojos**

With Lily Sazz

**Admission only \$ 10 at the door  
Door prizes, 50/50 draw, raffle for Epiphone Dove Acoustic**



Sales • Rentals • Lessons • Repairs • In-Store Financing • Photo Music • Online Shopping  
**Long & McQuade**  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS  
long-mcquade.com  
2444 Barton St. E.  
(905) 536-9247  
hamilton@long-mcquade.com



**PICKS & STICKS**, 140 Locke St. S., Hamilton  
**LOCALLY OWNED  
AND OPERATED  
SINCE 2007.**  
140 LOCKE ST. S. HAMILTON  
(905) 526-6259



*The Acoustic Room*  
**New Location**  
229 Locke St. South  
Hamilton, Ont.  
<https://theacousticroom.ca/>  
A UNIQUE & REFRESHING APPROACH TO SHOPPING  
FOR YOUR NEXT ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENT  
*The Acoustic Room*  
905-524-0101  
<https://theacousticroom.ca/>



**2023  
Wealth  
Professional  
Awards**  
EXCELLENCE  
WINNER  
The Harvest ETFs Award for  
Female Trailblazer of the Year  
Marie Phillips  
CMAA, CFP®, CFP®(S), CFP®(RM), MFP™  
Wealth Advisor  
NEXT STEPS PLANNING  
Investment  
Planning Counsel CFP®  
SEC. SECURITIES CORPORATION WEALTH



**Co-Sponsored by  
STONEWALLS  
339 YORK BLVD  
(at Queen)**

# Hamilton Musicians' Guild Executive Board 2024-2026



**Reg Denis**  
1st Vice Pres



**Larry Feudo**  
President



**Paul Panchezak**  
2nd Vice Pres



**John Morris**  
Sergeant-At-Arms



**Ryan McKenna**  
Director



**Ron Palangio**  
Marshall



**Loralee McGuirl**  
Director



**Michael Bittle**  
Office Admin



**Bruce Tournay**  
Director



# Hamilton Musicians' Guild

## November 2024 President's Report



**Larry Feudo**  
President

As the year is drawing to a close it's fitting to reflect on the progress we've made since last December.

When I met with AFM president Tino Gagliardi and Secretary Treasurer Ken Shirk at that time we had 545 members and a \$5000 deficit on the books.

We launched a new membership drive from January to March that saw 50 more new members and a marketing campaign that netted us a total of 108 new members to date.

Working closely with Michael Bittle as Office Administrator we have managed to cut expenses, streamline office procedures and improve our financial standing. We now have over \$70,000 in the bank.

There are several reasons for this great improvement. Two main ones are that we are now getting 100% of the work dues from the HPO because I negotiated the Agreement without the active participation of the Symphonic Services Department and I argued the point that the orchestra did not meet the criteria of work dues obligations. (Less than 60 musicians and less than 15 seasonal performances).

The second reason is that I argued successfully to have the \$23,000 per cap debt retired. Then International Representative Allistair Elliott made the case that we had overpaid on work dues.

Both Tino Gagliardi and Ken Shirk agreed with our findings and officially cancelled the debt in April of this year.

We recently presented revised HMG Bylaws for membership approval. While most of the changes are housekeeping issues, the main change is the elimination of the post of Secretary Treasurer and replacing that with the Office Administrator position. This was approved by our Executive Board and passed at the most recent general membership meeting. This was done with the express approval of the late Vice President of Canada Alan Willaert and our current Vice president Allistair Elliott.

This does not contravene AFM bylaws nor Hamilton Musicians' Guild Bylaws. It is being done to ensure the continued efficient operation of the Local.

Yours in solidarity,

*Larry Feudo*



UNITY • HARMONY • ARTISTRY

Wishing you all the best and season's greetings,

**Sunday December 1st we're holding the sixth annual Bob Pedler Memorial Fundraiser at Stonewall's RestoBar from 1pm to 6pm. Love to see you come out and support this great cause that supplements the AFM Petrillo Grants for members who are sidelined by injury or illness. Admission is \$10.**

# GoProHosting

**AFM**  
AMERICAN  
FEDERATION  
OF MUSICIANS  
UNITED STATES CANADA

An exclusive AFM members only service.



We know what musicians need:

- ➔ Domain name registration, transfers, and renewals
- ➔ Web hosting for new and existing sites
- ➔ Email and phone technical support



[www.GoProHosting.com](http://www.GoProHosting.com)



# Membership Matters



Membership activity September 15 to November 28, 2024

## WELCOME: NEW MEMBERS

ASHRAF ALJA'ONI  
JUAN ARCE  
FINLAY BLAKELOCK  
DEREK BRZOZOWSKI  
CHARLES CAPRETTA  
JACOB COOPER  
ZACHARY FRATONI  
MATTHEW FYKE  
TAREK HADDAD  
KARL LABEL VIENS  
BRANDON MCCABE  
SHAWN NORONHA  
TOSHIHIRO OTANI  
CHRISTABEL PINTO  
JOHN RUSSELL  
SONYA WECKWORTH

## REINSTATED

DAVID J BALDRY  
PAUL CAFARELLI  
THOMAS HASTINGS  
MEAGAN DE LIMA  
ANDREW LITTLE  
TOMMY METCALFE  
SEAN O'GRADY  
CURTIS SKEETE

## SUSPENDED MEMBERS

TIMOTHY ALLARD  
BRADEN BALES  
JOEL CASSIDY  
RICHARD MARSELLA  
KEITH MCKEOWN  
ROBERT MCLAY  
CHELSEA MCWILLIAMS  
DANIEL MONKMAN  
MATTHEW SOLIVERI  
JEFFREY WILSON

## EXPELLED MEMBERS

UDHAY GULACH  
MARIE PAUZE

## 50-year Pins

ALBERT AND LYNDA EADY

## RESIGNED

ALEX ABBOTT  
DANIELLE BEAUDIN  
SARAH BLACKWOOD  
KATELYN EMERY  
DANIEL KLAS  
MATTEW MILLER  
GIANCARLO NICASSION

## DECEASED

CARMEN GENOVESE



UNITY • HARMONY • ARTISTRY



### **Don't be left in the dark!**

The HMG Local 293 Office sends out important advisories to members by email 'coz we want to make sure you're not left in the dark!

**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  
( [office@HamiltonMusicians.org](mailto:office@HamiltonMusicians.org) )

to make sure we have your correct contact information.

### **Manage your AFM Profile**

You can also update your contact info online by going to:

<http://www.afm.org/>

and on the right hand side of the home page,

under **Links** click on

**'Manage your AFM Profile'**

## Office Admin Report



It's hard to believe that the last Libretto was 2 months ago. How time flies. Our next issue is planned for February; if you have any material to publish, please send it in by the end of January.

On the membership side of things, we are slowly getting back to pre-COVID numbers, with 654 members, which represents 130 new and reinstated members so far this year. We still place 5th in the list of Canadian locals by size, slowly gaining on Edmonton.

We have continued to hold weekly New Member Orientation sessions in the office each Tuesday afternoon. We seem to have met all the new members who are interested in these sessions as the number of attendees seems to be levelling off, so we are looking at changing the schedule, perhaps to once a month.

Our financial status continues to be extremely healthy. Currently we have over \$ 70,000 in the bank, including \$15,000 in a GIC for the Bob Pedler Memorial Fund. All bills are paid. This is black and white compared to a year ago.

In 2023 there were 6 months where expenses were greater than revenues; by increasing cash flow and cutting office expenses, that has been reduced to only 3 months this year. I expect even more improvement in 2025.

Our total funds continue to grow and we have about 250 members whose dues are payable this coming month, representing over \$ 40,000. As a result, I am not overly concerned about our monthly cashflow situation, particularly since we are doing an excellent job of controlling expenses.

In 2023 and earlier years, the office relied upon the AFM software called InTune to produce several monthly and quarterly reports that were required to be submitted to the AFM. It turns out that the software overcounted our member base for years and, as a result, the office was overpaying Federation Initiation Fees and Per Capita fees, and the office was paying unnecessary Work Dues to the AFM. This was estimated to be thousands of dollars in unnecessary payments for many, many years. Also in 2023, late AFM payment penalties had to be paid since these reports were frequently not submitted on time.

In 2024 we have diligently paid all of our AFM expenses (FIF, WD, Per Capita) on time, thereby avoiding any penalties from the AFM for late payments, and by doing accurate hand counts of membership numbers, we have decreased our Per Capita payments by \$ 300 per quarter.

The online credit card payment feature for Annual Dues payments has been used by about 35 members since we put this new feature on our website in September, with several of those joining as New Members. We charge an extra 3% of dues paid to cover the credit card processing fee, which is half the fee that the AFM charges on its [www.afm.org](http://www.afm.org) website.



At the October General Meeting, the Executive Board presented the result of a review of our Local 293 Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution and Bylaws are normally reviewed and revised every few years if necessary.

The current review corrected a few typos, updated some wording about communications with members to include email and the HMG website ([www.HamiltonMusicians.org](http://www.HamiltonMusicians.org)), and proposed to eliminate the Secretary/Treasurer position since the duties of that position are now being fulfilled by the Office Administrator.

One member questioned if it might be contrary to AFM bylaws to eliminate the position of Secretary/Treasurer. A review of both the Local 293 Bylaws and the international AFM Bylaws was done, and neither indicated that the position of Secretary/Treasurer was a requirement for a Local. To confirm this, Larry Feudo consulted with both the past and current AFM Vice-Presidents for Canada, the late Alan Willaert and Allistair Elliott, and both confirmed there was no requirement for a Local to have a Secretary/Treasurer.

So of course I did some additional research. There are 167 locals in the AFM. 122 of these have a Secretary/ Treasurer, or 73% of all locals. Of the remaining 27%, 19 locals have both a Secretary position and a Treasurer position but the same person doesn't do both jobs; 17 locals have a Secretary only, and no Treasurer; 2 locals have a Treasurer only, and no Secretary; and 7 locals have eliminated the position of Secretary/Treasurer, Secretary and Treasurer completely.

Looking at just Canada, there are 24 locals. Only 14 of these (58%) have a Secretary/ Treasurer position. 3 locals have both a Secretary and a Treasurer position performed by 2 different people; 4 locals have only a Secretary position but no Treasurer; and 3 locals have abolished the position of Secretary/Treasurer, Secretary and Treasurer.

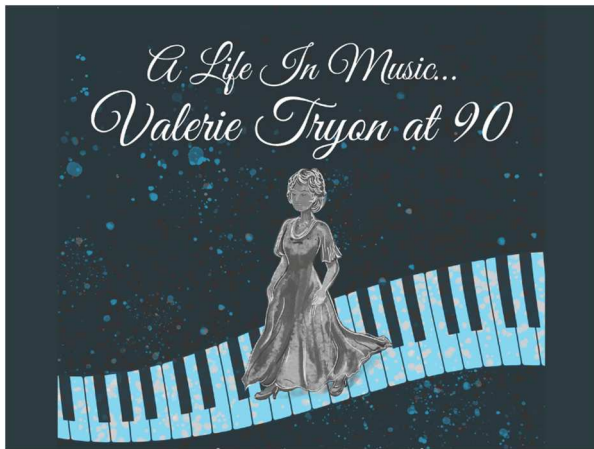
Eliminating the Secretary/Treasurer position is not unique to the Hamilton Musicians' Guild. More and more, it seems that busy locals like ours seem to be turning the Secretary/Treasurer duties over to a qualified administrator.

	None	Secy Only	Treas Only	Secy & Treas Separate	Secy/Treas Together	Total
<b>Total Locals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>167</b>

Following that General Membership meeting, John Staley (HMG Past-President) undertook a further review of the draft amendments to ensure that the new version of the Constitution and Bylaws was in conformance with Roberts Rules of Order.

The Notice of Motion concerning the amendments and the proposed amended Constitution and Bylaws was sent out to all members in accordance with our bylaws, and was posted on our website, and it is that version that was voted on November 27.

The motion passed unanimously. Many thanks to all HMG members who came out to the meeting to support the Local.



## Valerie Tryon Canada's First Lady of the Piano

Thursday October 17 was a phenomenal evening of great music and fond memories as Valerie Tryon celebrated her 90th birthday by sharing some of her favourite musical selections with a packed house at the Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre as she tickled the ivories in a walk down memory lane.

The October 17 event was the icing on the cake for a musical career that has spanned over eight decades, five of these as a member of the Hamilton Musicians' Guild. Earlier that month, Ms Tryon was honoured by the Guild with a presentation of her 50-Year Membership Pin and Certificate.

The internationally acclaimed classical concert pianist has a vast repertoire committed to memory, and this was on full display on October 17.

The concert featured an extended conversation with 96.3 FM Classical Jukebox host Daniel Vnukowski, interspersed with performances by Tryon of works by Liszt, Chopin, Ravel and DeBussy to highlight eras of her eight-decade career.



HMG President Larry Feudo presents 50-year Membership Pin and Certificate to Valerie Tryon



Daniel Vnukowski and Valerie Tryon

The concert was hosted by the McMaster University Library and Archives, which has also commissioned a portrait of Tryon by Lorne Toews of Dundas. It was unveiled at a reception after the concert and will hang in the foyer of the Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre.

"Valerie holds a special place in our hearts at McMaster University Library," said Vivian Lewis, associate vice-president and university librarian. "We are honoured to be the entrusted caretakers of her archive in our William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections and make it available to the public. We continue to celebrate her rightful place as one of Canada's greatest concert pianists."



Dundas artists Lorne Toews unveils a commissioned portrait to Valerie Tryon

Tryon's list of accomplishments and recognitions is long.

The youngest student to be admitted to the prestigious Royal Academy, Tryon is a Juno Award winner, an Order of Canada recipient, a Hamilton Gallery of Distinction inductee and also holds the Harriet Cohen Award for Distinguished Services to Music, and the Franz Liszt Medal from the Hungarian Ministry of Culture."

At a tribute concert in honour of Tryon's donation of her archives to McMaster in 2016, the late Boris Brott said: "Valerie is a consummate musician in almost every form. She plays with such perfection, that I think that's why the word 'incomparable' is truly the right word to describe her."



Tryon came to Hamilton from England in 1971. She became an associate professor of music in 1976 and in 1980, the role of artist-in-residence at the university was created for her. It allowed her to cut down her performance schedule, which was a relief because despite being an internationally renowned concert pianist.

Valerie Tryon's awards include a JUNO and a Hamilton Gallery of Distinction. McMaster bestowed her with an honorary doctorate upon her retirement from the university in 2000.

She is now a music teacher and artist-in-residence at Redeemer University, and continues to entertain audiences with her sold-out concerts.



## Valentine's Day Recital

Valerie returns to the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts for her annual Valentine's Day recital, where she will enchant audiences with her expressive interpretations of Romantic composers like Chopin, Liszt, and Schumann.

Renowned for her delicate touch and deep emotional connection to the music, Tryon's performances are a masterclass in nuance and elegance. This year, she will select personal favorites from her distinguished career, offering a heartfelt and intimate musical journey.



Set in the intimate Black Box Theatre, this recital promises an afternoon of exquisite artistry and timeless music.

This event is generously sponsored by François Verschaeve, ensuring an unforgettable afternoon of classical music in a unique and personal setting.

**WHEN:** Feb 09, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts,  
126 James St S, Hamilton

**Tickets** are on sale at the HCA website,  
<https://www.hcadancetheatre.com/events/valerie-tryon-2>

# JV Music for Seniors: Elevating Spirits and Enriching Lives

In a world where the golden years are meant to be cherished, JV Music for Seniors stands out as a beacon of joy, connection, and wellness for seniors across Hamilton and the Greater Toronto Area. Owned and operated by renowned musician Jay Vazquez, this company has become a vital part of the lives of over 171 retirement homes and assisted living facilities, offering an unmatched variety of musical experiences that cater to the unique needs and preferences of seniors.

## A Symphony of Choices

JV Music for Seniors boasts an impressive repertoire of over 60 themed concerts and specialty shows. Whether it's the timeless allure of ABBA, the unforgettable hits of Elvis, the toe-tapping rhythms of Country music, or the vibrant beats of Caribbean and Latin tunes, there's something for everyone. The company's holiday parties are a particular favorite, bringing festive cheer and creating memories that last long after the last note has been played.

But the offerings don't stop at concerts. JV Music for Seniors also provides music-based fitness



Bruce Tournay,  
with JV Music for

classes, guest speakers, presentations, and even sound therapy. These programs are designed not only to entertain but to engage, educate, and enhance the well-being of participants. The therapeutic power of music is well-documented, and in the hands of Jay Vazquez and his team, it becomes a tool for physical, emotional, and cognitive health.

## The Heart of the Operation

What sets JV Music for Seniors apart is the incredible team behind every performance and class. The company employs a diverse group of talented musicians, many from the Hamilton Musicians Guild, including singers, guitarists, pianists, horn players, and specialists in a



Loralee McGuirl,  
with JV Music for Seniors

variety of instruments. Each member brings their unique flair to the stage, ensuring that every show is not just a performance but an experience that resonates with the audience.



Shannon Graham and Alicia Santos, with JV Music for Seniors

The impact of these programs is particularly profound for seniors dealing with memory issues, such as Alzheimer's and Dementia. Music therapy has been shown to unlock memories, provide comfort, and create moments of clarity and connection for those who need it most. At JV Music for Seniors, every note played is a step toward improving quality of life.

### Homes Serviced in Hamilton

JV Music currently facilitates performances at the following homes in the Hamilton region:

- \* The Village of Wentworth Heights
- \* Saint Peter's Residence at Chedoke
- \* Dundurn Place Care Centre
- \* Amica Stoney Creek
- \* Seasons Stoney Creek
- \* Parkland Ancaster
- \* Greenview Seniors Residence

And more!

### Join the Harmony

JV Music for Seniors is always looking to expand its roster of talented musicians. If you have a passion for using your musical gifts to make a difference in the lives of seniors, the team at JV Music for Seniors invites you to reach out. Interested musicians can email a bio and links to any media you have online to [jay@jvmusicforseniors.com](mailto:jay@jvmusicforseniors.com) to learn more about how they can join this vibrant community.

In a time when connection and joy are more important than ever, JV Music for Seniors continues to strike the right chord, bringing music, movement, and memories to the seniors who need it most. Through their dedication and passion, they are not just performing—they're making a lasting impact on lives across Southern Ontario.

- Alicia Santos, Member of HMG



Jay Vasquez, owner of JV Music for Seniors

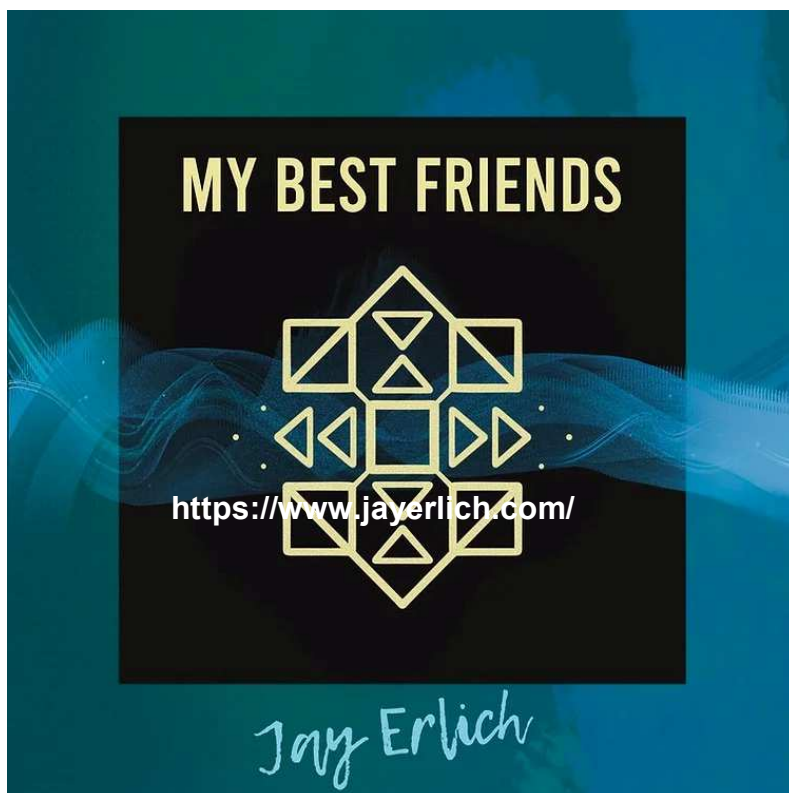
## SPOTLIGHT ON: Jay Erlich—Singer, Songwriter

How does a Varsity Rugby Player transform into a music therapist singer/songwriter who has just launched his first album “**My Best Friends**”? Well, if your name is Jay Erlich, it seems to be a very natural transition. Jay is a very new member of the Hamilton Musicians’ Guild.

He spent 10 years at McMaster on Varsity sport teams, including a year on the Varsity Rugby team which went on to win an OUA championship. Because of an injury he was forced to retire from Rugby but then tried out and made the Varsity squash team, where he spent 3 years. At the same time, he also spent a season as the press officer for the Varsity Rugby team. He then tried out for a sport on the Basketball team. When he failed to make the team, the coach offered him the opportunity to manage the team. He worked for the Varsity Basketball team for 5 seasons. And was also able to take on responsibilities such as running social media for the team. He subsequently won the Bruce Cochrane Award, given by the McMaster Athletic department for his work in a support role.

During his years at McMaster University, Jay’s volunteer experiences led him to enroll in the Graduate program Sport and Event Marketing at George Brown College, which in turn developed into a career in professional sports, music and Not-for-Profits.

During COVID, he studied guitar and vocals with private lessons, and dedicated himself to song-writing. It was during this time he composed most of songs that became his first studio album. He also used the opportunity to develop a role in public relations as an executive for Special Olympics Hamilton.



Along the way, Jay took on a leadership role as President of the McMaster chapter of War Child. He did marketing for events to fundraise for War Child Canada, helping children and their families recover from the effects of armed conflict by providing them with access to education, protection from abuse, and access to safe spaces.

Jay is currently working with the Music Therapy Academy, studying their music therapy webinars and using music therapy concepts to write songs, as well as working as their marketing consultant helping with their marketing needs.

In the aftermath of COVID, he has landed many live performances and has now released his debut album, “**My Best Friends**”. The album features a collection of songs about friendship, love, marriage and the trials of life.

Most recently, Jay was invited by L'Arche Hamilton to perform at their "Inclusion CoffeeHouse".



An audience member sings along with Jay Erlich during his "Inclusion CoffeeHouse" performance .

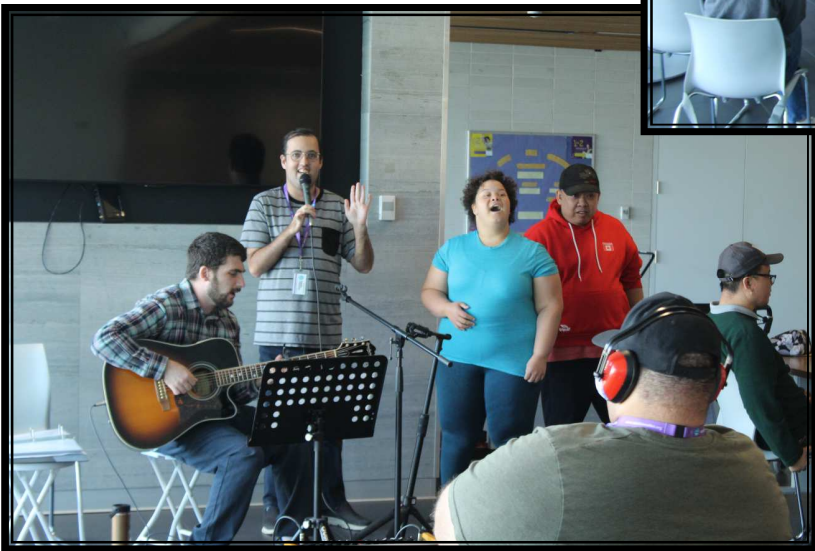
Event organizers reported that they had a great time appreciating his music and coming together as a community. Jay engaged with the audience and people enjoyed sharing the stage with him. They were thrilled by his performance and said they would be happy to have Jay return.

For over 40 years, L'Arche Hamilton has provided support to more than 3,000 local residents with intellectual disabilities. One such effort is the "The Inclusion CoffeeHouse", located in the Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre, just south of Tim Horton's Field.

This volunteer-led community outreach initiative reaches people of all backgrounds, ages, cultures, faiths and abilities. The goal is to create a safe community space where people of all abilities can gather together for music, fellowship and treats.

At present, the CoffeeHouse is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 1pm. If you would like to volunteer your musical talents to perform over a lunch hour, please contact Paige McIsaac at 905-312-0162 Ext 224, or by email at [paige@larchehamilton.org](mailto:paige@larchehamilton.org).

An attentive and appreciative audience listening to original songs by Jay Erlich, from his newly released album "My Best Friends".



More audience members join in the fun.

# When your show is live, anything can happen.

## Insurance for professional musicians

- Equipment Coverage
- Liability

For CFM Members

**Cristina Omar**

Tel: 519-325-1785

Toll: 1-800-463-4700

cristina.omar@hubinternational.com

hubinternational.com



*Click here:*

<https://www.long-mcquade.com/location/Ontario/Hamilton/>



Sales · Rentals · Lessons · Repairs · In-Store Financing · Print Music · Online Shopping

 **Long & McQuade**  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS   
l o n g - m c q u a d e . c o m

2444 Barton St. E

(905) 538-0247

hamilton@long-mcquade.com



# Multi-talented Artist Lily Sazz Launches Her Solo Career With New Song and Video "Goodnight, Sweetheart"

## Goodnight, Sweetheart is a stunning foray in a new chapter for Lily Sazz



Photo by Michael Nash

Lily Sazz's path to her current activities as a singer-songwriter was not a straight line. After a completely different start in life, growing up in a farming community in the Niagara Peninsula, she made a change and studied classical music, majoring in piano and harpsichord, before being swept up by the serendipitous discovery of blues and roots music that she'd never before witnessed.

This was a game changer that led to a completely different musical trajectory as a keyboard player in rock, blues, and country bands, eventually leading to projects that led to adventures and opportunities she hadn't considered.

These days, Lily is finally taking the time to focus on songwriting and singing lead vocals. Her songwriting has typically been tailored for the voices of others to sing, and now is her time to write for her own voice. With the debut of her live performance video, "Goodnight, Sweetheart", we get a sneak peek of what is to come.

Watch for more as Lily prepares to create studio versions of her latest compositions, containing heartfelt lyrics, often incorporating topics that aren't written about every day.

"Goodnight, Sweetheart" were the last words Lily Sazz's dying mother Eva spoke soon before she slipped away. It took more than a year before Lily could utter these words without choking up, let alone write the song she knew had to cathartically emerge. The conversational lyrics pose eternal and universal questions asked by both the dying and those who remain behind, along with the profound pain of letting go and saying goodbye. The rawness of emotion in this live performance is palpable. The beauty in the simplicity of the arrangement that builds to a dramatic climax near the end, until finally coming to rest, echoes what the final hours sometimes look like. Prepare to be moved, and take a moment to think of your loved ones, past and present.

"Goodnight, Sweetheart" was filmed live off the floor at Hamilton's Mule Spinner at The Cotton Factory, with help from friend Don Oakie on acoustic guitar, and an intimate audience of family and friends. .

With an impressive career as a side-woman, Sazz was a long time member of the Women's Blues Revue Band (10 years as musical director), toured with Canada's Queen of the Blues, Rita Chiarelli, co-founded and led critically acclaimed bands Trailblazers, Groove Corporation, and Maple Blues Award nominated Cootes Paradise.

[www.lilysazz.com](http://www.lilysazz.com)

## Congratulations to Steve Strongman

Steve Strongman and the Fabulous Thunderbirds receive TWO Grammy Award Nominations !!!  
- Best Traditional Blues Album & Best American Roots Performance for the album "Struck Down"!



The Fabulous Thunderbirds new record, co-produced and co-written by Canadian Guitar Ace Steve Strongman, has received TWO Grammy Award Nominations in the categories of Best Traditional Blues Album & Best American Roots Performance for the album "Struck Down", released on Canadian label Stony Plain Records.

Strongman also played guitar on 9 of 10 tracks, and is a featured guest on the album's stand-out single "Struck Down by the Blues".

The process started in 2022, with Strongman being offered the chance to write with Fabulous Thunderbird's frontman and blues legend, Kim Wilson. Linus Entertainment had signed Strongman to a world-wide publishing deal, as well as a Recording contract in 2020. Label president Geoff Kulawick suggested writing sessions with other artists, among them Kim Wilson.

*"Steve Strongman was invaluable. Sometimes you don't know what a song is missing. You just know it could be better."* Kim Wilson

After sitting in with the Fabulous Thunderbirds at a performance in New York, Strongman and Wilson started plans for the recording process. With pre-production and recording dates shifting to accommodate busy touring schedules, Strongman had to enlist the help of Local 293 to expedite the necessary work permits.

*"With a project of this scale, things can change very quickly, and as a co-writer of this music, and co-producer of this project I had to be present every step of the way. When dates started to shift, obtaining a P2 work Visa in a timely fashion was a problem,"* says Strongman. That's when he called Larry Feudo at Local 293 in Hamilton and asked for his help.

"Larry understood my concerns and how important this opportunity was. He immediately got on the phone and started to facilitate the process, as did Stony Plain Records, it was tense for a while but in the end we were able to get the necessary permits.





It was a team effort, and I really appreciated all the support from Local 293. Things may not have worked out for me if the permits hadn't come through in time."

The "Struck Down" record debuted at #1 in both the United States and Canada, and features Strongman alongside blues royalty guests Bonnie Raitt, Billy Gibbons, Keb Mo, Taj Mahal, Mick Fleetwood, Elvin Bishop and Terrence Simien.

Wilson seems to be overjoyed with the finished product: "I think 'Struck Down' is my best album with The Fabulous

Thunderbirds ... by far," Wilson says in the press release announcing the new record.

The Fabulous Thunderbirds toured Ontario in November, with Strongman as the opening act, and then as a special guest performer with the Band. Strongman received standing ovations at each performance after his highly energetic, engaging opening act performances.

Strongman, also a Memphis International Blues Challenge award WINNER (2019) for Best SOLO/ DUO guitarist, is one of the most talented blues based artists in the world today. Beyond his undeniable strengths as a songwriter, producer, guitarist and front man, it is his ability to engage his audience and deliver incredible performances that sets him apart from the field. With his inimitable guitar playing and soulful vocals, Strongman delivers incredible performances with power and passion.

Steve has shared the stage with International blues and rock royalty including B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Johnny Winter, Joe Cocker, Randy Bachman, Roy Clark, Robert Cray, Jeff Healey, James Cotton, and Jimmie Vaughan to name a few. Steve Strongman is warmly regarded as Mississippi guitar legend Mel Brown's "Blues son".

With these Grammy nominations, Steve Strongman is receiving the well-earned, long awaited International recognition he deserves. It seems the rest of the world is now taking notice of this world class Canadian talent.



## MPTF GIGS

The Recording Industry's



In response to requests from HMG members concerning the “rules” for applying for an MPTF grant, here is some relevant information from the MPTF and HMG websites:

### GUIDE TO THE GRANT – MPTF:

The purpose of the trust fund is to promote “live music” and to provide music where music is the prime purpose for public attendance. See the list of performance types NOT approved below.

The MPTF has been providing grants to help create free music performances for the public’s entertainment and education for over 70 years. Almost all of these events are co-sponsored, as we require the involvement of local participants that include arts councils, symphonic organizations, municipalities, veterans groups, school systems, and healthcare organizations, among others. In certain cases, private business can be a co-sponsor.

MPTF funding is meant to ensure that professional musicians who are performing are reasonably paid on par with the local scale, while ensuring there is no cost to enjoy the music. The idea is to enhance our communities and enrich lives through music. Our co-sponsored events run the gamut of musical styles, from classical and opera to Dixieland, pop, rock, country, jazz, and R&B. Our events often introduce musical styles that are not easily accessible and many times our events come with an educational element to them.

MPTF-funded events are typically held in parks, schools, public halls, as well as in hospitals and at retirement centers – not in night clubs or similar private businesses.

MPTF-funded events must be free of charge and without any conditions for admittance. They cannot be fund-raising events or raffles regardless of the merit. We do not fund performances for conventions, political campaigns, class reunions, commencement exercises, workshops or seminars, or for private clubs. A list of these restrictions and related ones follow this general guide to our grants.

We require grant applications to be submitted at least 60 days prior to the performance. Grant recipients should include MPTF signage in event programs, press releases, websites, posted signs, and other public notifications, along with other event sponsors.

We also look forward to receiving good quality photos and other materials that can help us inform the public of this work and the legacy of events the MPTF eagerly supports. We always welcome ideas and creative opportunities to expand the public and media awareness of these great performances and the work of our partners. We also have printed posters and materials to help enhance the public’s awareness of our participation.

Successful events are considered in evaluating future grants, based on timeliness of the application, overall cooperation, follow up and media support, and the quality of the events themselves.

Recommendations for Projects for MPTF performances of the following types will **NOT** be approved:

- Where music is incidental.
- For any partisan political event such as a rally, parade, meeting, convention, social function, or celebration.
- For any function (e.g., business meeting, convention, social function, dance, dinner, picnic, reception), of closed membership organization such as church, fraternal order, civic club, veteran's organization, senior citizen club, professional, trade or labor organization, where the function is to be attended primarily by members and/or guests of members.
- Where music is a part of a religious service or in conjunction with a church-connected feast or holy day.
- Where co-sponsors should, or are in a position to, pay for services of musicians for free musical performances or if the primary purpose is commercial advantage.
- For any fund-raising activity regardless of the merit of the cause or charity.
- For public meetings organized for the sale of bonds of any foreign government, or for meetings or rallies assembled to favor or oppose the passage of legislation.
- Where there is no element of public interest or service involved.
- For school dances or functions such as proms, class reunions or alumni events. However, open dances, school or adult, may be approved.
- For commencement or graduation exercises or any activity relating thereto.
- For "appreciation" functions.
- For music workshops, seminars, or composers' forums.
- For performances where the main purpose is to promote new works of a composer or composers.
- For performances where the main purpose is to the commercial, social or political advantage of any individual or business.

**Contact Local 293, HMG: 905-525-4040 or [office@HamiltonMusicians.org](mailto:office@HamiltonMusicians.org)**

**Remember though:** The HMG is NOT a booking agency; it is NOT our role to "find gigs" for members. We can and will recommend specific members to an Event Organizer when asked, but we do **NOT** do the hiring and we cannot guarantee which Musician(s) the Event Organizer will hire.

Also, when an Event Organizer wants to hire you, you can negotiate a payment with them higher than the MPTF rate. For example, the top MPTF rate for a solo performer is \$ 165 a gig; you can ask the Event Organizer for a rate of \$ 200, \$ 300 or higher. The MPTF will pay you at the MPTF rate, and the Event Organizer will pay the additional amount.

The easiest way to find out if your event is appropriate for an MPTF grant is to seek the assistance of the HMG. We are experienced in the application process and can also be helpful in planning and organizing the musical aspect of your event.





**Marie Phillips**

Marie Phillips, BA (Hons), RRC, CFDS, PFP, FCSI, MFA-P, has been in the financial services industry since 1992.

Wealth Professionals named Marie as the 2023 Female Trailblazer of the Year & as well as placing her amongst the leading Top 50 Women in Wealth. She has received the IPC Cares Award for Community Service, Value of Advice Awards, Best Client Experience Awards, and the George R. Robinson Award (from the Hamilton Musicians' Guild), and has been published / profiled in a wide variety of articles including BNN, the Investment Executive and the Wealth Professional.

Marie was a recipient of a music bursary and, although she did not pursue a career in music, the ARTS sector is where her philanthropy is focused. An active member in her community, Marie volunteers her time advocating for financial literacy and supports many more initiatives that helps recognize achievement and advancement for the Arts.

A graphic with the word 'MUSIC' in large letters. The 'I' is replaced by a photo of Marie Phillips speaking at a podium. Below 'MUSIC' is the text 'FINANCIAL LITERACY IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY'. To the right is a photo of a group of children. Below 'MUSIC' is a poster for 'TOM WILSON MOHAWK SYMPHONY'.

*"She opened their eyes to some enlightening concepts that were unfamiliar to them."*

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

**CONTACT US**

FINANCIAL PLANNING  
CONCEPTS TOOLKIT



**NEXT STEPS PLANNING**.CA

Marie Phillips, B.A. (Hons), RRC, CFDS, PFP, FCSI, MFA-P

Wealth Advisor



905 648.2425 x 225

marie.phillips@ipcsecurities.com

www.nextstepsplanning.ca

**2023**  
Wealth  
Professional  
Awards

**EXCELLENCE  
WINNER**

**The Harvest ETFs Award for  
Female Trailblazer of the Year**



**Marie Phillips**

B.A. (Hons), RRC®, CFDS, PFP, FCSI, MFA-PTM

Wealth Advisor

**NEXT STEPS PLANNING**





HMG President Larry Feudo presents 50-year Pins and Certificates to Al and Lynda Eady



# A Refreshing Approach

To Shopping For Your Next  
Acoustic or Electric Instrument

<https://theacousticroom.ca/>

## P2 Work Permit FAQs:

**1) USCIS Fees:** The fees for the US **Department of Homeland Security** are as follows:

Regular Processing: \$510 USD

Premium Processing: \$510 USD + \$2805 USD (the two payments must be separate)

### 2) Processing Times:

Please note that processing times are determined by the US government, not the American Federation of Musicians. To view USCIS processing times click here <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>: -> Select "I-129 Petition for a Non-immigrant Worker, then, -> Under Form Category, select "P – Athletes, Artists, and Entertainers. The processing time noted is the length of time any specific USCIS Service Center took to complete 80% of files over the prior 6 months. Therefore, the file may be approved within that timeline, or in less time than that noted.

USCIS determines, through its central processing office in Texas, which Service Center (California or Vermont) the petitions are forwarded to. Approximately 35-days after the file has been in processing, the AFM will be advised which office is adjudicating the Visa, thereafter we will be able to provide a rough estimate of processing time remaining. In addition to USCIS processing times, please add additional time for the AFM office to review, process and courier the petition to USCIS.

While we try to submit all applications to USCIS within 72-hours of our office receiving them, there can be delays due to the volume of applications, holidays, or shipping delays.

\*If you are a Permanent Resident, please take into consideration Visa Appointment Wait Times when you are preparing your application.

**3) Transfer Notice:** If you check the status of your application online and see that USCIS has "transferred" your file, this is normal. All applications are sent to the Texas USCIS office, and they transfer cases as needed to the Vermont and California offices. These are new procedures that the USCIS has implemented and will not affect the processing time of your application.

**4) Consulate Interviews (Permanent Residents):** Only P visa applicants with a prior visa who are applying in the same classification within 48 months of that prior visa's expiration date are eligible to have their interview requirement waived.

**5) Canadian Banks Not Issuing USD Money Orders:** Some banks across the country, most notably RBC, have stopped issuing USD Money Orders. If you are unable to obtain a USD money order through your Canadian bank, you may consider the following:

- \* Obtain a money order from a US-based bank - you must hold an account or have other access to a US financial institution
- \* If you hold or have access to a credit card issued by a United States Bank, the fees may be remitted under the USCIS form at the following link: <https://www.uscis.gov/g-1450>
- \* Obtain a money order from the United States Postal Service
- \* Inquire with a close personal or business contact who may have the ability to assist in obtaining a money order through either their Canadian or US financial institution.
- \* If none of the above is possible, please contact [immigration@afm.org](mailto:immigration@afm.org) or (416) 391-5161



## Tuning up for airport security

Boarding an airplane with a precious musical instrument can be a worrying experience, but it doesn't have to be. And while some musicians are frequent fliers, others may never have taken an instrument in the air before.

CATSA knows that instruments can be rare and fragile, and wants to work with you to make sure you, and your instrument, arrive safely at your destination. Here's what you need to know, and the steps you can take, to make the security-screening process harmonious.



Passengers *do* have some choices about how to go through security.

### Carry-on or checked?

You can choose between checking your instrument with the airline or bringing it into the cabin as carry-on luggage.

Consult your airline ahead of time to determine if your instrument qualifies as a carry-on (depending on its size, it may have to be checked).

- Remember that most airlines limit the number of carry-on items you may bring.
- The airline may give you the option of purchasing a separate ticket for your instrument.
- If you opt for carry-on, you must comply with the rules for permitted items.

Whether carry-on or checked, it is up to you to ensure that fragile items are packed properly and safely.

### X-ray or manual search?

If you opt to bring your instrument as carry-on, or purchase a separate ticket, you'll bring it with you through the security screening checkpoint. You have a choice here as well: you can allow your instrument case to be scanned with the X-ray machine or you may request a manual search.

Kudos to Local 180 The Harp for first seeing this notice.

# Adoro <sup>S.D.G.</sup> Silent Sticks



## & Heritage Heads

If you have never tried **Adoro Silent Sticks**, grab a pair and give them a try! 80% reduction in sound with the same feel as a traditional stick. Use them at rehearsals or to play low volume gigs.

**Adoro Heritage heads** are synthetic calf heads that reduce the attack and tune a third lower than regular heads. A great combination with Silent Sticks, giving you the warm and full sound of amplified drums when playing acoustic.

*Adoro Silent Sticks, Silent Beaters and our new Heritage drum heads are available all across Canada at Long & McQuade.*



For more info, or retailer inquiries, contact Allan Langvee (North American Retail Sales): [allan@adoro-drums.com](mailto:allan@adoro-drums.com) or 905 483-7041

**BUT DRUMS ARE LOUD...**

**USE SILENT STICKS!**

**Dial down drum volume by 80%\***  
 Perfect for: rehearsal, living room gigs, worship sessions, home practice and everywhere drum volume is a concern!  
\*volume reduction average is 4-9dB compared to regular sticks and rods.

**Quiet. Without the cost.**  
[www.silent-sticks.com](http://www.silent-sticks.com)

### Sending your instrument through the X-ray

If the instrument case is small enough to go through the X-ray machine safely, place it in a bin – don't hesitate to ask for assistance if you're not sure, and mention if the item is fragile.

### Choosing a manual search

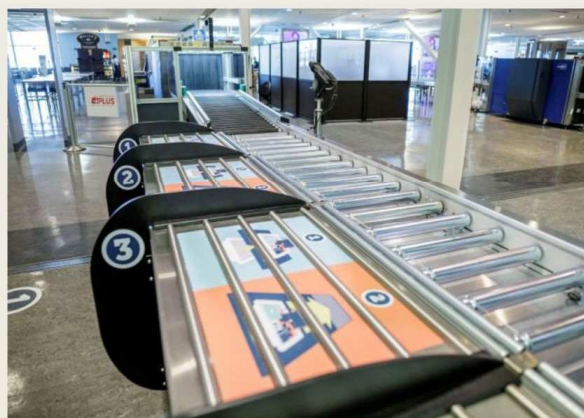
If the case is too large for the X-ray machine, or if you prefer to bypass the machine, your case and instrument will be manually searched by a screening officer.

- The screening officer will be careful with your instrument, however you should mention to the officer that the item is valuable, and if it is fragile.
- You may ask the officer to explain each step of the process before taking the action, so you can provide any special handling instructions.
- The officer will need to remove the instrument from its case in order to conduct a visual inspection of the instrument and a manual inspection of the case, including an explosive trace detection swab.
- Afterwards, the officer will offer to repack the case or let you repack it yourself.

Screening officers handle all passengers' belongings with care, but please let the officers know how important your instrument is to you and provide special handling information as early as possible during the screening process.

### *Be ready for automated screening lanes — at home and abroad*

New CATSA Plus security lines have been installed at some airports in Canada, and there are similar automated lines in other countries. The new lines allow several passengers to divest their belongings at once, all sending bins to the X-ray machine. This makes the process more efficient, but travellers should be aware that it also means their bins may be interspersed with those of other passengers, and they may lose sight of their bins momentarily as they travel along the conveyor belt and through the X-ray.



*At CATSA Plus lines, remember:*

- You control how your items are divested and can choose to put your instrument case in your final bin so you can watch for it exiting the X-ray.
- As with regular screening lines, you may request a manual search so your instrument case does not need to be placed on the conveyor belt.

Kudos to Local 180 The Harp for first seeing this notice.

# EVERY GIG WILL BE A UNION GIG!



Net wages will be at or above the local union's wage scales, and Locals will receive both work dues, if applicable, and contracts — and we'll handle all communications with potential purchasers.

**AFM Entertainment is now accepting registration from AFM members who are solo artists or leaders of self-contained bands and ensembles, in every genre of music.**



**AFM** Entertainment.org  
THE FIRST FEDERATION-OPERATED INTERNATIONAL BOOKING AGENCY



Click below to Visit:

<https://picksandsticksmusic.com/>

HOME WHAT WE OFFER LESSONS CONTACT



**LOCALLY OWNED  
AND OPERATED  
SINCE 2007.**

140 LOCKE ST. S.

528.6058

(905) 528-6058