



Next General Meeting: Monday January 13, 2025 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

LONDON MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION

AFM Local 279

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LMA Office Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-3pm by appointment



Robert "Bob" Hughes

Nov 15, 1930 Nov 11, 2024

Tempo

For this, my final Tempo article, I'm tempted to quote the Grateful Dead. "What a long, strange trip it's been." The length and strangeness are all due to my own thinking at the beginning of my tenure as President.

I've told several of my closer friends, and our Executive Board, that I was never seeking the position of President, and that I didn't really want the job. That said, at that time, we as an organization needed to make some fairly comprehensive changes. We had some very outdated business practices that had to be brought into line with current regulations and obligations. I stepped up because I saw this as a duty that could not be ignored.

So how have we done over the past several years?

I'm proud of the fact that we now have an up to date and CFM/AFM approved set of bylaws. It's dry dusty stuff, but stuff that had to be done. I'm proud that after surviving COVID, we're gradually bringing our membership numbers back. I'm proud that we've managed to negotiate new agreements with both London Symphonia and the Grand Theatre. I'm proud to be a small part of the revamping of the London Springbank Concert Series, one of the most successful outdoor concert series in the country.

What I am most proud of is the team that we have assembled here to promote your interests. Doug Eyre, our Secretary-Treasurer, holds down the LMA fort. His calm advice and sure hand have been invaluable. Our President Elect, Seth McNall is the spark plug of energy and latest ideas that we need to move forward. He has already jumped in to be part of the negotiating committee for the Drayton Theatre agreement. The members of our Executive Board are a very experienced and valuable group, whose thoughts and contributions have helped to move us forward. These folks may not be the first ones you, as members, phone or email, but their combined knowledge is a huge asset.

I'd like to thank all of you who have taken the time to talk, praise, or complain. This input is what we need to be your effective representatives. In case you're wondering, I'm not going anywhere. I will stay on as Vice President, in a more background role, to offer Seth and Doug advice and guidance wherever I can.

Are we in for more strange times? I have no idea, but it's time for a new voice. Please welcome and support our new President, Seth McNall.

Fraternally,

Rob Weatherstone

President



Office Notes

Firstly, I am saddened by the passing of longtime LMA member and friend Robert (Bob) Hughes. He will surely be missed. Please see Member Rob Larose's tribute to Bob in this issue.

The general membership nomination meeting was held November 13, 2024. All positions were uncontested and per LMA bylaws were all elected by acclamation.

Your Executive Board members effective January 1, 2025 for the next three year term are:

President / 1st Delegate: – Seth McNall

Vice President / Alternative Delegate: – Rob Weatherstone

Secretary Treasurer / 2nd Delegate: – Doug Eyre

Executive Officers: - Sandy MacKay, Tom McInerney, Bobbi Thompson,
Andrew Petrasian, Ken Baldwin.

I would personally like to thank outgoing President Rob Weatherstone for his dedicated service over the past 3 plus years for stepping up at a time when the London Musicians Association was experiencing change and challenges. Rob always made himself available for consultation and direction; his leadership was invaluable. I'm pleased he is staying on as Vice President to assist Seth McNall as he settles in to his new position as President. Welcome Seth! And a big thank you to Member Ken Baldwin for coming on to the Executive Board as well as the rest of the Board members for accepting another term of office.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at the next General Members meeting which will be held Monday January 13, 2025 at 7:00pm via Zoom. A link to the meeting will be sent out a few days prior to the meeting.

In Solidary,

Doug Eyre
Secretary Treasurer



Professor Robert A. Hughes

The London Music community lost a larger than life figure with the passing of the wonderful Professor Robert (Bob) A. Hughes who passed away November 11 just shy of his 94th birthday.

Professor Hughes taught at The University of Western Ontario for over 25 years where he was a huge influence on many percussionists, myself included. He had a gift for reaching young drummers and channelling their energies and their interests. I was an unschooled drummer from Sarnia Ontario who knew very little about the proper methodology for drum set let alone the myriad of percussion instruments one is require to be proficient at in order to work in the world of professional music. Mallet percussion such as xylophone and marimba, timpani, snare drum, and multi percussion were all addressed in Bob's lesson's and in the amazing percussion ensembles he lead. In our first year we performed "Ionisation" by Edgard Varese for goodness sakes. Quite a challenge to us "fresh out of high school" drummers!

Bob loved all music but especially African music and we were lucky enough to be his students after his sojourn to Ghana one year. West African drums such as the kidi, kagan and sogo were now part of our musical experience and I have such fond memories of spending time with Professor Hughes as we prepared for concerts. He never tired of learning about music of any sort and was always enthusiastic about some new artist or genre he'd discovered. Right up to his passing he was preparing for a concert with The New Horizons Band. He was a terrific jazz drummer having started kit lessons in his youth.



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Professor Robert A. Hughes - cont'd

“Coach” as many of us lovingly referred to him, had his own unique language as well; the language of drums and rhythm which we all eventually learned. A 5 stroke roll was a “zee-zee-zop” while a nine stroke roll was a “zee-zee-zee-zee-zop”. A “Ga Ga Boom” was a loud snare and bass drum combination. To use your feet on drum kit one was required to “get your hoofies going”. If you played really well or solidly he said you were “just a WHOMPIN’”. And something he passed on to many drummers who may have displayed unnecessary, affected motions, is that “you have to groove, before you can move”. All delivered with kindness and a twinkle in his eye and sometimes with a cigarette in hand (with a cowbell for a handy ashtray). All rehearsals and lessons with Bob were memorable!

Bob was inspiring, kind, funny, lighthearted, warm, enthusiastic and a monster player right up to the end. He lead by example.

I think, if we are lucky, we have a few key people in our lives who change them for the better. Bob was one of mine and he will be dearly missed by so many in the London community. God Bless you ‘coach’.

Rob Larose



ADDITIONAL LMA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

Seth McNall: *Vice President*

- Trombone, Instructor, Composer/Arranger, Conductor, Freelance Musician

Sandy MacKay:

- Drums, Percussion, Freelance Musician

Tom McInernery:

- Guitars, Singer/Songwriter, Freelance Musician

Bobbi Thompson:

- Saxophones, Instructor, Freelance Musician

Andrew Petراسيunas:

- Keyboards, Instructor, Composer/Arranger, Conductor, Freelance Musician

