

May, 2024



General Meeting: June 24, 2024 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

LONDON MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION

AFM Local 279

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email: londonmusicians279@gmail.com website: www.londonmusicians.com

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



Alan Willaert

Jan 3, 1954 - Apr 18, 2024

Tempo

I'll begin this report with some sad news. Our Vice President from Canada, Alan Willaert, has passed away. While I was never fortunate enough to be a close friend, Alan was someone I could rely upon for ideas and advice. He guided me through some thorny issues pertaining to our Association. He was a man who truly had the welfare of all musicians at heart. I will miss his human approach, his true understanding of what it is to be a working player, and his no nonsense approach to Association business.

The AFM has appointed Allistair Elliott as Alan's successor for the rest of his term. Secretary-Treasurer Doug Eyre and I have had many interactions with Allistair, and I can assure you that he is someone well equipped for the job. He was our International Representative and made regular contact with each and every Canadian Local. Congratulations to Allistair! We look forward to working closely with him in the future.

We've also lost two local musicians recently. Lorne Whitby was a keyboard player, active in the 60's here in London in Solid State, and Stage Seven. He relocated to Toronto, and in the 70's played with the band Man Child, and later with Hip Pocket, and The Faculty.

Jake Levesque also, sadly, passed away. Jake was a very talented songwriter, singer, and actor. He was the organizer of the Acoustic Spotlight series, and continued performing, by video from his living room, until his passing. He was a larger than life character with a great smile and a great sense of humour. I had the opportunity to work with Jake on several projects, and I will really miss him. He was a good friend, and I always wished I could have worked with him more. If you knew Jake, and would like to attend, there will be a celebration of life at Aeolian Hall on Tuesday, June 25th at 1:30PM.

In other news, I have to talk about Canadian music festivals. We have heard dire news about so many festivals that have been forced to shut down. Here in London, the Home County Music and Art Festival has announced that they are unable to continue.

I am very pleased to say that our Springbank Gardens Concert Series is thriving, and will offer twelve free concerts this year, from June 23rd to September 1st. These Sunday concerts have been hugely popular, and feature very many local musicians.

Another new and hugely popular festival took place in April, which is International Jazz Month. Under the leadership of member Seth McNall, the city had jazz performances in various venues for most of the month. This was a groundbreaking undertaking. Please check out the report and photos elsewhere in this publication.

I'm also very pleased to announce that Seth has been appointed to the position of Vice President of our Local Executive Board. It's been my great pleasure to perform with Seth on many occasions. He is a man driven to promote music and musicians in our city and is someone for whom I have great respect.

Tempo—cont

Next up, I want to let you know about some of the nuts and bolts business we've been involved in. Our negotiating committee has been in touch with the Grand Theatre and will begin discussions very shortly on the collective agreement.

Doug Eyre will be attending the annual Canadian Conference Of Musicians in Montreal and representing us and our needs in negotiations there. He will also be attending two days of training on Association business and procedures.

Last year, Vice President Alan Willaert appointed me to a committee composed of members across Canada. The Canadian Musicians Advocacy Committee, CMAC, has been meeting to look at ways we can help local musicians through legislation, and streamlining paperwork. If approved, we will have a very short questionnaire issued after the Canadian Conference. Please take the time to respond. The answers we receive will go a long way toward deciding how we need to adjust the way the contract procedure works, and how we need to educate all of our members on pension, work dues, and other issues.

All of these things are in addition to our daily work with P2 applications, questions regarding our collective bargaining agreements, and the ongoing work of making life better for musicians in our city.

As always, thanks to all of you for your support. I am always open to your comments, ideas, and suggestions. Together, we make things better for all of us.

In solidarity,

Rob Weatherstone



Office Notes

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and staying safe and healthy.

It is with much sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Alan Willaert – AFM Vice President from Canada.

Alan was a passionate and tenacious advocate for Canadian musicians—whether at contract negotiations or speaking about the impact of legislation before parliament. His music career began at 15, and he was a touring musician through to the late 90s. Becoming interested in AFM internal functions, Willaert was elected to the Board of Local 467 (Brantford, ON) in the 1980s. In 1990, he was asked to interview and was subsequently hired for the position of International Representative. Then, in 2007, he was appointed to the position of Electronic Media and Intellectual Property Supervisor, and in 2011 was appointed Executive Director for Canada. He held the position of Executive Director for Canada until being appointed by the AFM International Executive Board as Vice President from Canada in March 2012.

I'll remember Alan for always being available to members and for his assistance in countless ways in my role as Secretary Treasurer. His guidance and humour will be surely missed. Allistair Elliott who is our International Representative has been appointed to fill the position of Vice President from Canada. We wish Allistair well in his new role.

Congratulations go out to LMA members Seth McNall, Jason Jamieson, Barry Usher, Nevin Campbell, along with Helen Coker, and Brian Ball for their hard work organizing The London Jazz Festival. Below is an excerpt from the official letter from the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz recognizing The London Jazz Festival as an official partner and organizer.

“We are proud to count the London Jazz Festival committee as an International Jazz Day partner and organizer, whose efforts have helped ensure Canada’s continued participation in this important program. This letter certifies that London Jazz Festival has indicated a commitment to organizing events in Canada for International Jazz Day 2024.”

Please see Brian Ball’s article which highlights “Jazz Appreciation Month” held this past April.

I’d like to acknowledge the Springbank Gardens Concert Series Committee for their work in organizing the program for 2024. Committee members are Sandy McKay, Rob Weatherstone, Tom McInerney, Doug Eyre, Paula Jesty and Carrie Eyre. A special shout out goes to Kristen Odegaard who designs all the promo for the series. Also, we would like to thank our sponsors Long & McQuade, American Federation of Musicians along with The Woodshed Concert Series and London Musicians Association. We look forward to another successful series.

I hope to see you at the General Membership Meeting to be held online Monday June 24, 7:00pm via Zoom.

In Solidarity,

Doug Eyre



April Jazz Appreciation Month:

April 2024 was a stand-out month for jazz in London. Except for three days early in the month, every day in April had at least one jazz performance.

This included well-established Series like Jazz By The Bog, Jazz Vespers at Calvary United, and Jazz For The People; regular scheduled concerts by local big bands the London Jazz Orchestra and newcomers The Jazzabelles; visiting National level talents Caity Gyorgy at Aeolian, and Amanda Martinez at Wolf (brought in by Sunfest); relatively new jam sessions at Poacher's Arms; small group jazz on the mezzanine at Covent Garden Market over the lunch hour; and much more.

But by far the biggest influence last month was the inaugural London Jazz Festival. This new celebration of London and area talent boasted 19 events, 25 different groups, at 5 different venues, and involving more than 160 musicians. There was a little something for everyone, from light dinner jazz trios featuring vocalists, to small group instrumental jazz, to little and full big bands in larger venues. More than 300 people attended each of the two double big band nights held at Wolf Hall. Thanks to generous sponsors and partners, all the musicians performing at LJF were paid for their time and talent, but the music was free to the public.

All in all, there were more than 40 jazz performances in the city during Jazz Appreciation Month. Thanks to the musicians and everyone involved for shining a light on jazz in London.

Brian Ball

London Ontario Jazz Hub



Wolf Performance Hall—April 23



Wolf Performance Hall—April 30



New Member Spotlight:

Laura Gagnon is a pop singer-songwriter from Eagle, On. She is the Tailgate Talent Show Season 6 Winner and was featured on Eastlink TV Southwestern Ontario with a full hour covering her life and music.

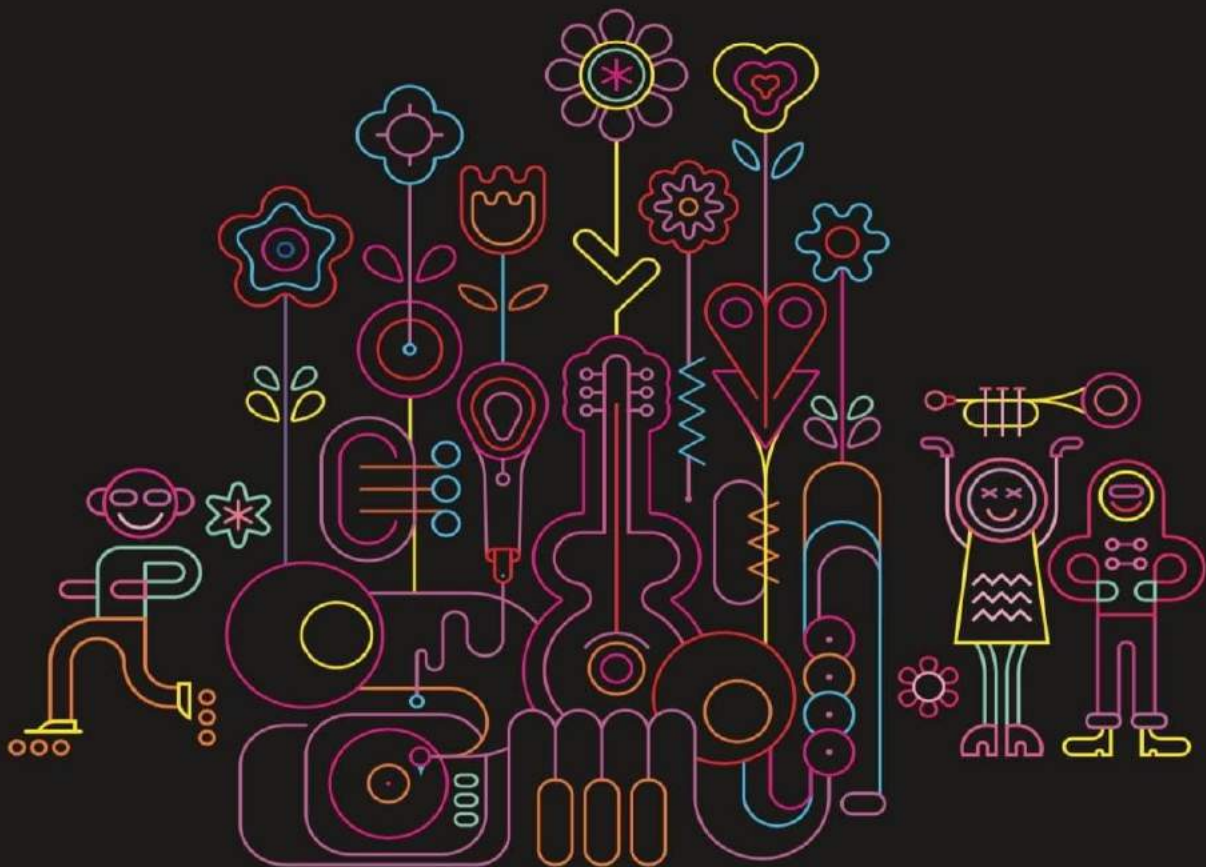


These past few years Laura has had the opportunity to write music and act in a film called "A Night With Nathan" and write music for a Christmas Audio series on CKYS Chatham-Kent called "A Chatham-Kent Christmas."

Laura has had the opportunity to be part of the lineup that opened for such notable acts as Chuck Leavell of the "Rolling Stones," Bif Naked, and Tyler Shaw. She has played alongside blues legend and Motown guitar player Gary Martin and Dale Russell from "The Guess Who."

She has released 5 singles: "Darkhorse," "In Our Hearts," "Runaway," "Ready For The World" and the 2024 collaboration single "Something Better" which are all gaining airplay across the world in 170 countries and 300 radio stations. Laura's live show are always high energy; whether it's with her 8 piece explosive pop band or a more intimate living room show with you, her and the keys. Laura is gearing up to play CMW this year and is prepping to hit the road to Nashville.

2024
Springbank Gardens
Concert Series
285 Wonderland Road,
London, Ontario
Sundays 2 - 4 pm
June 16th - September 1st



Presented by:



Designed by: Kristen Odegaard

MINUTES

London Musicians Association

Executive Board Meeting

Monday December 18, 2023, 7:00pm

On-line “Zoom” Meeting

Call to Order: 7:04pm

Roll Call of Officers: Rob Weatherstone, Doug Eyre, Tom McInerney, Sandy MacKay, Bobbi Thompson, Seth McNall

Absent with regrets: Andrew Petrasianus, John Noubarian (Emeritus)

Reading of the Previous Executive Board Meeting

Minutes:

Minutes for the Executive Board Meeting of Monday September 11, 2023

Minutes for the Executive Board Meeting of Monday September 11, 2023 were accepted as presented. Moved by Member MacKay, seconded by Member McNall. **M.M.&C.**

Report of the Secretary–Treasurer:

Membership Report; Financial Report

LMA Member Data 2023

Membership Status Report:

Category	Active	Suspended	Total
Regular	195	0	195
Life	54	0	54
Student	12	0	12
Totals:	262	0	262

Financial Report:

TD Community Plan Plus: \$ 13,195.89
 Performance Fund: \$ 5,273.43
 LMA Contract Defense Fund: \$ 2,121.35
 Aug 2023 QBs General Account Reconciled: \$ 10,118.03
 Sep 2023 QBs General Account Reconciled: \$ 10,986.95
 Oct 2023 QBs General Account Reconciled: \$ 10,769.75
 Nov 2023 QBs General Account Reconciled: \$ 13,792.27
 Aug 2023 QBs Performance Fund Reconciled: \$ 4,546.46
 Sep 2023 QBs Performance Fund Reconciled: \$ 5,287.51
 Oct 2023 QBs Performance Fund Reconciled: \$ 5,890.61
 Nov 2023 QBs Performance Fund Reconciled: \$ 5,792.13

FIF: Aug - \$0.00 – Sep - \$0.00 Oct - \$65.00 – Nov - \$195.00

Per Capita Dues: 3rd quarter 2023 - \$3880.00 – pd Oct 4, 2023

Report of Committees:

Finance: - Member McKay reported that the Local remains in good financial condition and is confident that things will remain steady moving forward.

Outreach/Membership: - President Weatherstone mentioned that IR Allistair Elliott requested the Local create a document dealing with a “plan for growth.” This will be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting.

MPTF: - ST Eyre reported that several members had taken advantage of MPTF co-sponsorship. The Toboggan Brewing Co. Jazz Series, which featured 3 performances, was very successful and is now continuing to host future shows without MPTF sponsorship. Jazz For The People continues to enjoy success. We are currently looking into funding for April Jazz Appreciation Month which is fully funded by MPTF.

Media: - President Weatherstone initiated a discussion regarding a complete redesign of the LMA website. Our current domain host is not able to renew our domain. President Weatherstone is in contact with AFM about assistance in moving forward with the process and is awaiting a response.

Communications: None

Deferred Business: None

New Business:

Resignation of John Kenny from Executive Board: – The Board accepted Member John Kenny’s resignation from the Executive Board with gratitude for his service.

Review of remuneration for President and Secretary Treasurer: - A discussion was held which acknowledged the remuneration for Secretary Treasurer and President had not been increased for several years. It was moved by Member Mackay that, “*Based on successful execution of their respective duties, a reasonable increase in monthly remuneration for President and Secretary Treasurer be authorized, effective immediately.*” Seconded by Member McInerney. **M.M.&C.**

Tariff Of Fees: - It was discussed that the current Tariff of Fees are due to be updated. Deferred until next meeting.

Notice of Motions: None

Adjournment: Moved by ST Eyre, seconded by Member Thompson. **M.M.&C.** President Weatherstone adjourned the meeting at 7:52pm.

ADDITIONAL LMA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

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

Seth McNall:

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

