AFM LOCAL 47

October 2025

Overture

e-magazine

SOLIDARITY WINS

Jimmy Kimmel Returns to Late Night After Massive Outcry Over Free Speech Concerns Causes ABC to Lift 'Indefinite Suspension'

Voting at Next General Membership Meeting October 27

Local 47 2025 General Election: Updates + List of Nominees

Overture online

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For exclusive members-only content — Executive Board minutes, CBAs, Local 47 Wage Scales, Bylaws, Suspended/ Expelled member lists, and more — log in to your member account at ensemble.afm47.org and click the "More Members-Only Documents" dropdown ribbon on the Documents page.

AFM Local 47 members may also customize your communications preferences, including Overture Online email notifications, in your online user profile.

(If you have not yet used our new system, please visit afm47.org/e2 for information on how to log in.)

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Contents

Navigate back to Contents by tapping the "O"

Overture Online / Vol. 11 No. 10 / October 2025 / afm47.org

SOLIDARITY WINS

Jimmy Kimmel Returns to Late Night

Features

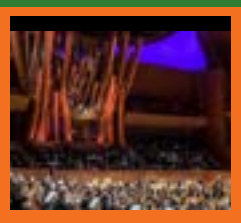
General Membership Meeting — AFM Local 47

Special Election for Salary Review Board, Voting on Resolutions - Oct. 27

Member Spotlight: Cleto Escobedo III

2025 Triennial General Election

AFM Local 47 2025 General Election Updates + List of Nominees



LA Philharmonic Musicians Announce New Four-Year Agreement

Call to Action for Traveling Musicians Regarding P2 Visa Delays

Columns

Cover Story
Member Spotlight
Events
At the Local
Action Alerts
Organizing
On the Town
Labor News
Benefits Corner
Final Notes
Open Mic
Bulletin Board
Auditions

DO WE HAVE ROYALTIES FOR YOU?

More than $750 Million Distributed to Musicians & Vocalists

Royalties Distributed to Both Union & Non-Union Session Musicians & Vocalists For Their Performance on Songs Played on Satellite Radio, Non-Interactive Streaming Services, Webcasts, Other Digital Formats and International Neighboring Rights

Find Out If We Have Royalties For YOU

www.afmsagaftrafund.org

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Intellectual Property Rights Distribution Fund

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info@afmsagaftrafund.org

Photo: Office of Rep. Laura Friedman

On September 22, U.S. Representative Laura Friedman (CA-30; pictured above, at podium) led local members of Congress, union leaders (including AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe, pictured second from left above), and Industry workers at a rally in her district outside the Kimmel studios in Hollywood to defend free speech, the Constitution, and the First Amendment.

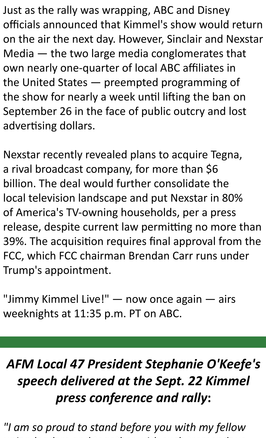
SOLIDARITY WINS

Jimmy Kimmel Returns to Late Night After Massive Outcry Over Free Speech Concerns Causes ABC to Lift 'Indefinite Suspension'

In the wake of ABC's sudden "indefinite suspension" (and later reversal) of late-night show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!", which sparked outrage across the nation about threats to the First Amendment and free speech, Rep. Laura Friedman (CA-30) organized a press conference and rally September 22 near Kimmel's taping location of the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood.

On September 17, ABC pulled the show following comments Kimmel made during his evening monologue two nights prior about MAGA and President Trump's response to the assassination of right-wing political activist Charlie Kirk. The show's suspension prompted swift and strong outrage from labor unions and leaders (including AFM International President Tino Gagliardi, who also discussed the matter on CNN), celebrities, commentators, and the public in defense of the attack on the First Amendment and free speech. It also threatened the livelihoods of house band Cleto and the Cletones, all members of AFM Local 47, and the hundreds of guest musicians who perform each year on the show.

The day following the suspenion announcement, WGA West hosted a large rally attended by hundreds of entertainment union members, including writers, musicians, actors and stagehands, outside of Walt Disney Studios in Burbank (ABC is owned by the Walt Disney Company). The AFM joined fellow entertainment unions SAG-AFTRA, DGA and IATSE in a joint statement, calling the move "part of a disturbing trend of increasing interference in creative expression" and stating that "all broadcasters must stand firm in defense of free expression and the First Amendment, not capitulate to a policy of political appeasement."



Photos by Linda A. Rapka

On Thursday, September 18, outside the main Disney Gate in Burbank, AFM 47 musicians (including violist Diana Wade, pictured above right) joined hundreds of Writers Guild of America West and other union members to protest ABC's suspension of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" citing threats to free speech.

In the wake of the backlash, between September 17-23 Disney stock fell by 2.39 percent, equivalent to nearly $5 billion in market value. Analysts attributed much of the decline to consumer cancellations of Disney+ and Hulu subscriptions, as viewers associated the suspension with censorship.

At Rep. Friedman's rally on September 22, several Democratic members of Congress and Hollywood union leaders spoke, including Friedman, Reps. Brad Sherman, Judy Chu, Ted Lieu, Nanette Barragán, and Gil Cisneros; American Federation of Musicians Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe *(read her full speech below)*; Writers Guild of America President Meredith Stiehm; Directors Guild of America National Executive Director Russell Hollander; IATSE's Thom Davis; and SAG-AFTRA member and veteran Shannon Corbeil.

Just as the rally was wrapping, ABC and Disney officials announced that Kimmel's show would return on the air the next day. However, Sinclair and Nexstar Media — the two large media conglomerates that own nearly one-quarter of local ABC affiliates in the United States — preempted programming of the show for nearly a week until lifting the ban on September 26 in the face of public outcry and lost advertising dollars.

Nexstar recently revealed plans to acquire Tegna, a rival broadcast company, for more than $6 billion. The deal would further consolidate the local television landscape and put Nexstar in 80% of America's TV-owning households, per a press release, despite current law permitting no more than 39%. The acquisition requires final approval from the FCC, which FCC chairman Brendan Carr runs under Trump's appointment.

"Jimmy Kimmel Live!" — now once again — airs weeknights at 11:35 p.m. PT on ABC.

AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe's speech delivered at the Sept. 22 Kimmel press conference and rally:

"I am so proud to stand before you with my fellow union leaders and together with such tremendous champions for working musicians. Reps. Friedman, Chu, Barragan, Sherman, Lieu and Cisneros — thank you for your leadership and for always fighting on behalf of all artists and arts workers.

"Among the many talented members of AFM Local 47 are the incredible musicians who make up Cleto and the Cletones and the many other musicians who appear on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!' on a regular basis.

"We need music now more than ever. Musicians inspire; lift our spirits; make us sing, dance, laugh, and cry. But there will be less music on ABC tonight for one simple reason. Instead of working in the public interest, the FCC serves only one person — Donald Trump.

"We must exercise our First Amendment rights by speaking directly to our government and the corporate entities that allowed this violation of the First Amendment to happen. My grandparents came to this country because of the promises of freedom of speech and expression. It is my honor to continue to fight alongside each one of you to preserve their dream. We must put an end to the corporate consolidation on television and radio that threatens our ability to make a living. We must stop the violation of our rights in Los Angeles and across the country. Together, I know we can defeat those who wish to silence us."

YOUR RESIDUALS.

SINCE 1972.

FILM MUSICIANS SECONDARY MARKETS FUND

A 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization

Cleto Escobedo III has led beloved sextet Cleto and the Cletones as the house band on late-night ABC television program "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" since 2003. Playing alto, tenor, and soprano saxophones on the show, he also occasionally sings both on camera and off (for comedy bits and other musical segments).

Escobedo grew up as a neighbor of Kimmel in Las Vegas, where they became fast friends. After briefly attending University of Nevada, Las Vegas, he joined the band Santa Fe before finding his big break touring with Paula Abdul. Since that time, Escobedo has been based in Los Angeles, and performed on many commercial jingles and also toured with Marc Anthony and Earth, Wind & Fire's Phillip Bailey.

His father, Cleto Escobedo Jr., also plays tenor and alto saxophones on the show, and has an illustrious past as saxophonist with the groundbreaking late 1960s rock 'n' soul band Los Blues. Escobedo Jr. had hung up his horn until Kimmel called him to join his house band. Other members of the Cletones are keyboardist Jeff Babko, guitarist Toshi Yanagi, bassist Jimmy Earl, and drummer Jonathan Dresel. All band members are also members of AFM Local 47.

Photo courtesy AFM/International Musician

Cleto and the Cletones showing their support for the AFM's "Respect the Band" late-night streaming campaign in 2018. Pictured from left: Jimmy Earl, Toshi Yanagi, Cleto Escobedo Jr., Cleto Escobedo III, Jeff Babko, and Jonathan Dresel.

Check out an exclusive interview with the band from the AFM International Musician, published in August 2018, here.

LA Philharmonic Musicians Announce New Four-Year Agreement

The American Federation of Musicians Local 47 is thrilled to announce that musicians of the Los Angeles Philharmonic have reached a new four-year collective bargaining agreement.

The contract includes substantial increases in base wages, substitute pay, and New Music and Chamber Music pay, as well as improved vacation benefits.

"This negotiation began nearly 11 months ago with the search for legal representation and culminated in an unprecedented four-year agreement," the LA Phil Orchestra Negotiating Committee shared in a letter sent to the AFM Local 47 Executive Board. "None of this would have been possible without the ongoing support of Local 47."

"This is a historic contract for the LA Philharmonic musicians and Local 47," said Brian Johnson, chair of the orchestra's negotiating committee. "This success in bargaining wouldn't have been possible without the incredible guidance of special legal counsel Michael Weiner and Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe. We are immensely grateful for their support in this process, which maintains and grows the artistic excellence of the LA Philharmonic now and into the future."

"I am so pleased and honored to have worked with this fabulous orchestra to achieve this stellar agreement," said AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe.

At the September 2025 L.A. County Fed House of Labor meeting, during Reports of Organizations, AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe shared the fantastic news about the LA Philharmonic's newly rafitied four-year collective bargaining agreement, eliciting cheers and applause from the body of delegates.

"It was a good negotiation process, and I enjoyed working with the LA Phil committee and the local union president to agree to contract terms that help further the goals of artistic excellence and demonstrate our respect for the great musicians of the LA Phil," said Kim Noltemy, president and CEO of the LA Phil.

The successful conclusion of this new four-year agreement underscores the shared commitment of AFM Local 47 musicians and the LA Philharmonic Association to honor the artistry, cultural contributions, and rich history of this world-class orchestra. With 106 permanent members (103 performing musicians and three music librarians), the LA Phil — formed in 1919 — is the largest single employer of AFM Local 47 musicians in the history of the union, and is one of the only orchestras in the United States that guarantees its musicians year-round employment.

The agreement, which was ratified on September 10, began September 15.

The members of the LA Philharmonic Orchestra Negotiating Committee are Brian Johnson (chair), John Lofton (vice chair), Evan Kuhlmann (secretary), Ted Botsford, and James Wilt.

General Membership Meeting

AFM LOCAL 47

SPECIAL ELECTION

TO FILL VACANCY ON

SALARY REVIEW BOARD

+ VOTING ON

3 RESOLUTIONS

TO AMEND THE BYLAWS

October 27 @ 7:30pm
In-Person & Zoom

Register @ afm47.org/gmm

In-Person Location: Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place, 3220 Winona Ave. Burbank CA
Virtual Location: Zoom

Open to all AFM Local 47 members in good standing. Light refreshments will be served.

On the Agenda (subject to change):
- Presentation of 50-Year Pins
- Special Election to Fill Vacancy on Salary Review Board
- Report From Salary Review Board
- Resolutions to Amend the Bylaws
- Officer Reports
- Unfinished and New Business

At our next General Membership Meeting, members will vote to fill a vacancy on the Salary Review Board. For information about the position, please see Article IX §3 of our Bylaws, available in the members-only section of the Local 47 website, ensemble.afm47.org (click the "Documents" button), or contact the Secretary/Treasurer's Office at st_sec@afm47.org or 323.993.3159 to request a hard copy. *(If you have not yet logged in to our new system, please click here for instructions.)*

We will also be voting on three resolutions to amend the bylaws. The Local 47 Executive Board has withdrawn its proposed resolution from the July membership meeting on a Live Performance Work Dues Increase. Resolutions to be voted on at the October meeting will be:

- **Resolution 1: Proposed Salary Reductions**
- **Resolution 2: Organizing** *(originally submitted at the 7/28/2025 General Membership Meeting)*
- **Resolution 3: Electronic Membership Meetings and Voting**

The text of these Resolutions may be found in the members-only section of our website, and are available in print upon request. Fifty members constitutes a quorum to conduct business at General Membership Meetings. All Regular Members and Life Members may vote; Inactive Life Members are ineligible to vote per Article IV §11. Inactive Life Members wishing to vote may do so by changing their membership to Life Member status by 4:45 p.m. the business day prior to the day voting takes place — please do so early.

If you will be attending via Zoom: Registration is required. Once your membership is verified by our staff, you will receive an email link with the virtual access code. *Please register early! Registration will close at the start of the meeting.*

Register at afm47.org/gmm

LOCAL 47 EVENTS CALENDAR

Member Mingle

Friday, October 17, 11 a.m.
Local 47 Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place
Join us for coffee, bagels and conversation
every third Friday of the month

Next General Membership Meeting

Monday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.
Captain Greg Welch Gathering Place & Zoom
Open to Local 47 members in good standing
More info: afm47.org/gmm

AFM Local 47 2025 Triennial General Election

Tuesday, December 9
Polls open 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
afm47.org/election

Executive Board Meetings

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. via Zoom
Members welcome as observers; all requests to speak must be received by 10 a.m. Monday morning
Email: st_sec@afm47.org

New Member Orientation

Third Fridays, 10-11 a.m.
Local 47 Executive Board Room
Required of all new members
afm47.org/orientation

View our Google Calendar online @ afm47.org/calendar

AFM LOCAL 47

TUESDAY DEC 9

2025 TRIENNIAL GENERAL ELECTION

Nominees Announced for AFM Local 47 2025 General Election

Alphabetical Listing of Nominees*

President & Delegate (1 seat):
Marc Sazer

Vice President & Delegate (1 seat):
John Acosta

Secretary/Treasurer & Delegate (1 seat):
Gail Kruvand

Trustee (3 seats):
Steve Dress
Alex Iles
Bonnie Janofsky
Phil O'Connor

Director (6 seats):
Allison Allport
Marcus Eley
Pam Gates
Lynn Grants
Aaron Smith
Meredith Snow

Hearing Board (7 seats):
Scott Higgins
Marisa McLeod
Allen Savedoff
Byron Sleugh

Delegate to the AFM Convention (3 seats):
Allison Allport
Bonnie Janofsky
Phil O'Connor
Meredith Snow

1st Alternate Delegate to the AFM Convention (1 seat):
Steve Dress

2nd Alternate Delegate to the AFM Convention (1 seat):
Pam Gates

** Candidacy eligibility of nominees named here are subject to final verification as per Local 47 Bylaws Article IX, Sections 2, 5, 6 and 7. The official list of candidates for the Local 47 General Election as approved by the Election Board will be published in the Election "Special Edition" issue of Overture to be published in November.*

Questions?

Should you have any questions about the election please see afm47.org/election or contact a member of the Election Board. Only members of the Election Board — no Local 47 officers or staff members — are authorized to answer any questions concerning the election.

Local 47 Election Board:
Paul Castillo (Chair): pcklar@earthlink.net
Helen Crosby: midlfdl@earthlink.net
Gerardo Guzman: dj@camusicgroup.com
Kris Mettala: krmettala@yahoo.com
Nancy Roth: concertnancer@yahoo.com
Clifford Tasner: taztunes@adelphia.net
Marcy Vaj: marcy.vaj@gmail.com

Stay tuned for further notices and refer to our election web page at afm47.org/election for updates about the voting process pertaining to the AFM Local 47 Election on December 9, 2025. Members with an email on file will receive election updates via email, and those whose emails are not on file or who have opted out of electronic notifications will receive printed announcements by mail. To be sure to get the latest news most quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively, please update your email address on file at ensemble.afm47.org. Please be sure your mailing and email addresses are current.

2025 AFM Local 47 Triennial General Election

American Federation of Musicians Local 47
TRIENNIAL GENERAL ELECTION — Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Request for VOTE BY MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT

Your VOTE BY MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT request will only be honored by completing and sending this request form to the California Elections Company by way of postal mail, email, or fax.

MAIL TO:
AFM Local 47 c/o California Elections Company
P.O. Box 302021
Escondido, CA 92030-2021

EMAIL TO: lori@eddvote.com

FAX TO: (760) 749-1398

Please send me a VOTE BY MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT at the address below:
(Please print legibly) ☐ *Check this box if sending to a temporary address*

FULL NAME (FIRST AND LAST) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ APT _____

CITY _____ STATE_____ ZIP _____

I understand that my vote will not count unless I am a member in good standing by the close of business on Monday, December 8, 2025 (Article IX, Section 10).

LAST 4 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY # **OR** SIX-DIGIT LOCAL 47 MEMBER ID # _____

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE NOTE: VOTE BY MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOTS received after 9 a.m. on election day (December 9, 2025) or cast in violation of instructions in accordance with Local 47 Bylaws shall be null and void per Article IX, Section 11.

Click Here to Download Form

Policy Governing Eligibility to Vote

1. All Local 47 members who are in good standing as of 4:45 p.m. (close of business) on **December 8, 2025** — the last business day prior to the General Election — are eligible to cast a ballot. However, members are encouraged to be in good standing well in advance of this deadline.

2. Any Local 47 member who has been suspended or expelled for the non-payment of dues, or wishing to reinstate within one year of resignation, shall have until 4:45 p.m. on **December 8, 2025** by which to clear the delinquency and return to full good-standing status in order to be eligible to cast a ballot.

3. New members, or those rejoining after having resigned or been expelled more than one year ago, must complete and submit a membership application and membership dues payment no later than **December 1, 2025** by 4:45 p.m., so that their membership may be approved at the Local 47 Executive Board meeting the Tuesday prior to the General Election. All applicable fees apply. (Note: The Local reserves the right to refer applications of all persons seeking reinstatement from resignation to the International Executive Board per Article 9, Section 19 of the Federation's Bylaws.)

4. Life Members in good standing may vote in the Local 47 General Election. Inactive Life Members, who pay a reduced membership fee, are not eligible to vote per Local 47 Bylaws. Inactive Life Members wishing to vote may do so by changing their membership status to Life Member by contacting the Membership Department at 323.993.3116 and completing the process by 4:45 p.m. on **December 8, 2025**. All applicable fees apply.

Prohibited Campaigning Directive

The use of Local 47 resources, or the resources of ANY other union or employer — whether hiring musicians or not — by any candidate or member, for the purpose of campaigning for or against any candidate for office in the Local 47 election, is prohibited by the Local's Bylaws and is also a violation of Federal Law. This prohibition includes the use of facilities, equipment or property (including telephones, stamps and stamp machines, computers, copying machines, and any other equipment or materials), official endorsements, use of union logos and/or letterhead, and any campaign activity done on paid time. Additionally, members are barred by Article IX, Section 13 of the Local 47 Bylaws from collecting nominating petition signatures while on Local 47's premises. Further, members are prohibited from campaigning at any time while on Local 47's premises.

However, obtaining signatures on public property (i.e., sidewalks surrounding the Local's property or off-site locations) IS permissible, as long as those collecting signatures and the members are using unpaid time (e.g., before or after work for any union or employer, or while on an unpaid break). Nothing in the Bylaws prohibits friends/family of a candidate from soliciting signatures on nominating petitions provided they abide by all the rules listed above.

Electronic Communications Policy

Following the intent of Article IX, Section 12, of the AFM Local 47 Bylaws, it shall be a matter of policy that the rules and restrictions as outlined in said Bylaw shall also apply to all electronic communications published by Local 47, including Overture, the Local 47 website (afm47.org), the Local 47 email newsletter "The Local 47 Beat," any special notices sent by Local 47 via email blast, and all associated social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, X, Bluesky, LinkedIn, etc.).

Welcome New Members!

- Omar Akrouche - Bass Guitar, Electric Guitar
- Paul Apelgren - Piano
- Amy Leigh Davis (aka Ames) - Vocalist
- Donald Kenneth Barrett - Drums
- Neil Cole - Oboe
- Robert (Rob) James Dehlinger - Trumpet, Vocalist
- Anthony (Devine) Evans - Piano, Keyboards, Composer/Orchestrator
- Kayleigh Goldsworthy - Violin
- Yun Han - Cello
- Katherine Hartman - Bassoon
- Dylan Johnson (aka Dylan Alexander) - Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Piccolo Trumpet
- James Keene - Violin
- Thomas Kotcheff - Composer/Orchestrator
- Hamidreza (Hamid) Nasrollahi - Percussion
- Angel Massiah - Vocalist
- Zachary Isaiah Mowitz - Cello
- Wyatt Sanders - Piano
- Hunter Steketee - Vocalist
- Yang Tue - Cello
- Weilu Zhang - Violin

CBA Roundup

We're proud to announce that collective bargaining agreements with the following employers were ratified since January:

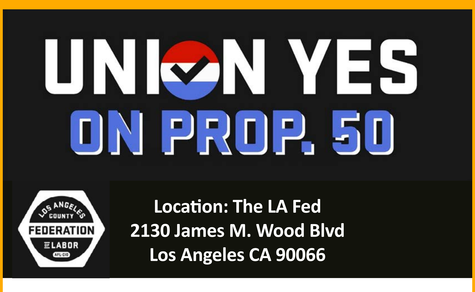
ASMAC
BTW Productions
Centre Theatre Group
El Capitan Theatre
El Portal Theatre
Gay Men's Chorus
Greek Theatre
Los Angeles Jazz Society
Los Angeles Master Chorale
Los Angeles Orchestra Leaders Association
Los Angeles Philharmonic
Musica Angelica
Music at Westwood
New West Symphony
Pacific Jazz Orchestra
Pasadena Chorale
Redlands Symphony Association
Riverside County Philharmonic
Six Flags Magic Mountain
SMG Greek (Greek Theatre)
Thousand Oaks Philharmonic
Wallis Annenberg
Weddington Street Productions (El Portal Theatre)

Copies of our agreements may be found in the members-only section of our website at ensemble.afm47.org. *(If you have not yet logged in to our new system, please review the sign-in instructions here.)*

Designated beneficiaries of Local 47 members are entitled to a $1,000 Death Benefit payment at the time of the member's passing. Please keep your designated beneficiary's name and contact information current, and periodically review the name(s) and contact information you have on file for them.

To update your Beneficiary Card, or to review who you have on file, please visit afm47.org/beneficiary for more information.

Calls to Action From the LA County Federation of Labor



Canvassing

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Saturdays: October 11, 18 & 25
Sign up here

Phone Banking

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Mondays: October 6, 13 & 27
Wednesday: October 29
Sign up here

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO strongly support a "Yes" vote on Proposition 50, scheduled for a statewide special election on November 4.

Also known as the "Election Rigging Response Act," Prop 50 aims to counter the redistricting efforts by states like Texas by temporarily changing California's congressional districts through 2030 in response to congressional redistricting moves in other states. It would replace the current maps, drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, with new maps passed by the state legislature. The proposition also includes a statement of state policy supporting fair, independent, and non-partisan redistricting nationwide.

The California labor movement views passing Proposition 50 as necessary to protect our state's families and workers by safeguarding representation for union members and the broader community.

Questions: Contact Michael Contreras
michael@thelafed.org

Call to Action for Traveling Musicians

The issue of P2 Visa processing delays for Canadian musicians performing in the United States is more critical than ever. The American Federation of Musicians is working to address the career-related hardships caused by these delays.

The AFM needs to hear from you.

If you have experienced or heard of an instance in which a show or festival was canceled, or if you had to reschedule a tour, because of P2 Visa processing time, we urge you to report the details. Your information and experience are vital to helping us demonstrate the real-world impact of these issues to U.S. legislators.

Please report the details here.

Your stories will strengthen the AFM's position as we lobby for policy changes that ensure Canadian musicians can work in the U.S. without facing unnecessary and costly barriers. We are stronger together.

Photo: LA Philharmonic Association

Esa-Pekka Salonen Returns to LA Phil as Creative Director

The LA Phil announces the expansion of its artistic leadership team with the appointment of AFM Local 47 Honorary Member Esa-Pekka Salonen to the newly established position of Judith & Thomas L. Beckmen Creative Director. Beginning with the 2026/27 season, Salonen — conductor laureate of the LA Phil — will conduct and curate approximately six weeks of concerts with the orchestra, with a focus on multi-disciplinary projects, festivals, and the innovative programming for which the LA Phil is renowned.

The LA Phil has grown tremendously over the past 25 years, and its institutional goals are grounded in artistic excellence, continually seeking opportunities to expand audiences, opening more avenues for artist voices and expression and building new paths for orchestral music. As the LA Phil looked to its future, it created the role of Creative Director, a unique leadership structure designed to help shepherd the organization into its next exciting era. When the LA Phil considered this new position, it was very clear that Esa-Pekka Salonen was the ideal artist to inaugurate the important role of the LA Phil's first Creative Director. The search for the LA Phil's next Music Director is ongoing, and the Music Director and Creative Director roles will be complementary to each other.

The LA Phil has also formed an artistic partnership with Salonen and the Philharmonie de Paris performing arts center, which simultaneously appointed Salonen as Creativity and Innovation Chair as well as Principal Conductor, Orchestre de Paris. Drawing on the exceptional artistry and creativity of Paris and Los Angeles, the partnership will include collaborative initiatives between the organizations such as a new Salonen International Conducting Fellowship nurturing a rising generation of conductors, a new series of ballet commissions, pairings of some of the world's most compelling choreographers and composers, beginning with Benjamin Millepied and Gabriella Smith, as well as joint festivals, and a new project featuring immersive experiences that combine music, media and technology.

"Esa-Pekka Salonen is a transformational artist whose vision helped shape the LA Phil into what it has become today," said LA Phil President/CEO Kim Noltemy. "We are thrilled to have Esa-Pekka join the LA Phil in this historic new role, and we look forward to seeing how his innovative spirit will build on his highly celebrated legacy here and around the world. The addition of a Creative Director to our artistic team gives us an even greater ability to serve our audiences, bring unparalleled musical experiences to our iconic stages and push the boundaries of what an orchestra can do."

"Esa-Pekka Salonen is an unmatched visionary, and we are proud to be able to present his expertise and creativity to audiences in Los Angeles in a much larger way," says Jason Subotky, Board Chair of the LA Phil. "These groundbreaking projects will be manifested in ways that are possible only in Los Angeles with the LA Phil. On behalf of the LA Phil Board of Directors, we extend our deepest thanks to Judith and Thomas Beckmen, who have made a major gift to endow and name the Creative Director position and for their ongoing commitment to helping the LA Phil extend its reputation for excellence and innovation."

Former Board Chair of the LA Phil Thomas Beckmen said, "I have had the privilege to work with Esa-Pekka Salonen for many years, and his long, storied and impactful relationship with the LA Phil has changed the history of the orchestra. He inspires our musicians, and his increased presence and new initiatives in this role will undoubtedly lead the orchestra to even greater heights. My wife Judy and I wholeheartedly support both the vision to establish the Creative Director position and the selection of Esa-Pekka as he begins this new artistic journey."

Salonen served as the LA Phil's music director from 1992-2009, during which time he commissioned and premiered a record-breaking number of works and was Frank Gehry's partner in the construction of Walt Disney Concert Hall. Together the LA Phil and Salonen created landmark productions including the presentation of Edgard Varèse's "Amériques;" the LA Phil's first collaboration with multimedia artist Refik Anadol; staged productions of Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde" and Stravinsky's "Persephone and Orpheus" directed by Peter Sellars, and Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's "The Seven Deadly Sins" and directed by Simon McBurney; imaginative programs with Sigur Rós to conclude the Reykjavík Festival and Boulez's Rituel with new choreography by Benjamin Millepied. Salonen has maintained a close relationship with the orchestra since his time as music director, leading several programs every season as conductor laureate. He returns to the LA Phil for two programs in the 2025/26 season, including Scriabin with Jean-Yves Thibaudet and the world premiere of the violin concerto by Gabriella Smith for Pekka Kuusisto (January 9-11) and Busoni's mammoth five-movement concerto with Igor Levit (January 17-18).

"The first time I ever came to the U.S. was to conduct the LA Phil," Esa-Pekka Salonen stated. "Coming from Finland, where we tend toward understatement, the LA Phil's bold vision for what an orchestra could mean to a city and to the world was surreal — a Californian optimism with which I was not familiar. But we understood that an orchestra isn't just about maintaining tradition; it's about pushing boundaries, taking risks. Now, no place has been more central to my artistic life than the Los Angeles Philharmonic. It's an honor and a privilege to continue to work with the musicians and the organization in this new capacity."

The West Coast Jazz Hour Big Band, led by Josh Nelson, performs an MPTF gig at Riverside City College on April 29.

October Music Performance Trust Fund Gigs

Oakwood Brass – Outreach Project
Leader: Darren Dvoracek - 5 musicians
Oct. 2, 9 a.m. @ Field Elementary - 5 musicians

Downey Symphony
Leader: Laura Jesson
Oct. 9, 9:40 a.m. @ Downey Theatre - 40 musicians
Oct. 11, 7 p.m. @ Downey Theatre - 45 musicians

Los Angeles Jewish Symphony
Leader: Johana Krejci
Oct. 12, 4 p.m. @ Wilshire Ebell Theatre - 24 musicians

Saturday Night Bath
Leader: Howard Rich
Oct. 31, 11:40 a.m. @ Angel's Gate High - 8 musicians

MUSIC PERFORMANCE FUND

Enriching lives through Music

All MPTF concerts are presented free to the public. If you are interested in presenting a free concert in your community through MPTF, please visit afm47.org/mptf to learn more.

Union leaders and members, including AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe, attended the "Labor in the Pulpit" event led by L.A. County Federation of Labor President Yvonne Wheeler at First AME Church in Los Angeles on Sunday, September 21.

'Labor in the Pulpit' Celebrates Historical Bridge Between Labor and Faith

The relationship between religion and labor organizing is rooted in shared principles of justice, solidarity, and the inherent dignity of workers. Fittingly, the LA County Federation of Labor's Outreach and Civic Engagement Team has been busy building solidarity and power for the Labor Movement in the community with its "Labor in the Pulpit" series, where labor leaders attend different churches throughout LA County to discuss the shared role labor and faith play in a community.

"Labor in the Pulpit" is about connection, and is a chance for us to lift up sacred stories and stand in solidarity with working folks who are still fighting for what should be guaranteed: dignity, respect, healthcare, fair wages, and the right to organize because we know the work of justice doesn't pause at the doors of faith leaders' sanctuaries.

Union leaders and member including AFM Local 47 President Stephanie O'Keefe joined the congregation on Sunday, September 21 at the First AME Church in Los Angeles, where Yvonne Wheeler spoke. Prior to this engagement, Wheeler spoke at Holman United Methodist Church, and LA Fed Outreach Director Devin Ablard spoke a local mosque, Masjid At-Thohir.

UNION

BENEFITS CORNER

AFM LOCAL 47

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

Flex Plan

- HEALTH CARE UPDATE -

Did You Know?

Entertainment Industry Flex Plan contributions can be used for reimbursement for your Professional Musicians Local 47 and Employers' Health & Welfare Plan premium payments.

To do so, simply log in to your Flex Plan account and follow the instructions for premium reimbursement.

Questions? Call the Flex Plan: 888-353-9401

Final Notes

In Memoriam

Alf Clausen

Life Member. Double Bass

3/28/1941 – 5/29/2025

Member since: 9/20/1967

Lalo Schifrin

Life Member. Piano

6/21/1932 – 6/26/2025

Member since: 11/17/1965

Send your Final Notes remembrances using our online submission form at: afm47.org/overture

or you may send to:

overture@afm47.org

Local 47 Overture Online

3220 Winona Ave.

Burbank CA 91504

Those wishing to attend the funeral on Saturday, October 4, 2025 in person or via videoconference, please call/text (661) 501-4425 or email james.ed.hampton@gmail.com for more details.

James A. Hampton

Life Member. Alto/Tenor Saxophone
12/5/1927 – 8/27/2025

James Hampton was born to Joe and Fredonia Hampton in Memphis, Tennessee December 5, 1927. The last surviving sibling of five (Joseph, Edna Earl, Mary and Mildred Hampton), he lived a long life filled with many joyful events and love. A brief look into his life is as follows:

A veteran who served in WW2, he always remembered to take care of his parents by sending $32 a month of his allotment while he was in the army.

The love of music brought him to compose music, play the cello, soprano and tenor sax. He went by the name Hamp and played in several big bands and was a member of the Musicians Union AFM Local 47. That same love and being good at his craft brought him to play with the likes of Mahalia Jackson, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and the Count Basie Orchestra, amongst other musicians.

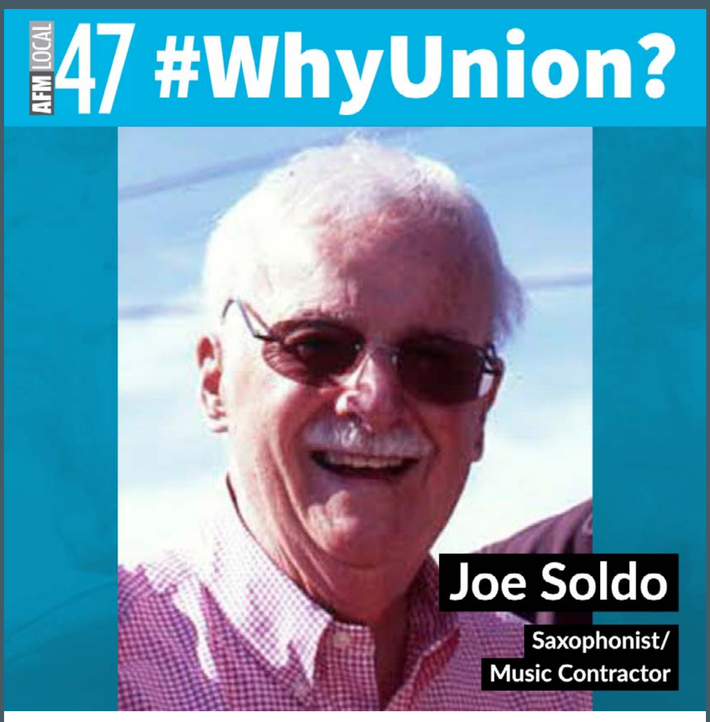
While playing in Chicago he met and married the woman he adored, Pearline Johnson, on April 2, 1955. He welcomed two more loves into their lives when they had their daughters Debora Denise and Terri Lynn. Hamp chose family over career, and although he continued playing in clubs over the next 60 years, his focus was always family.

He had many fond memories that he talked about which included those on the farm with his mother, which is possibly the reason he always said, "If you don't eat chicken you're not living." His secret to longevity he always said was a breakfast of grits, eggs, toast and coffee. He beamed many times when talking about his wedding day where they had a full 125-piece orchestra.

He leaves behind a loud silence and a hole in our hearts. He was a protector for many and always made you smile and laugh.

James is survived by his wife of 70 years, Pearline; two daughters Debora Chai and Teri Lynn; his granddaughter Danerey; and great-nephew Jamaal, amongst many other great-great nieces and nephews.

We look forward to the Bible's promise in John 5:28, 29 which says in part, "Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life..."



Joe Soldo

Life Member. Alto/Tenor Saxophone
7/31/1925 – 8/15/2025

Editor's Note: A proud member of AFM Local 47 since 1971, saxophonist and music contractor Joe Soldo passed away peacefully at home at age 100. A few years ago, for Local 47's #WhyUnion? campaign which features the words of members about the importance of unoin membership, Joe submitted his comments about what made him a proud lifelong member of the American Federation of Musicians. Here is his story, as he shared it with us.

#WhyUnion?

I have been a union man my entire life.

I first joined Local 16 in Newark, New Jersey (my home town).

I then joined Local 802 in New York (I'm still a member).

Later I joined Local 47 here In Los Angeles (I'm still a member).

The guidelines that you receive being a union musician are very important to let you know what agreement you are working under, casuals, sound recordings, live TV and motion pictures. Under all of those agreements there are Health & Welfare and pension payments for work that you have done.

In addition there is a great reuse arrangement that you receive through each year, also for work that you have done.

Union is the only way to go.

I have never done a non-union job.

– Joe Soldo, Saxophonist/Music Contractor
Member since 1975

Open Mic

Got a story to tell?

AFM Local 47 welcomes submissions from our members!

Please share about your latest union recording, performance or event by sending us your story and photos using our online submission form at afm47.org/overture.

Membership Dues

Membership Dues Fees

Regular Member
Annual Dues: $210
Semi-Annual Dues: $110

Life Member
Annual Dues: $110

Inactive Life Member
Annual Dues: $90

Make checks or money orders payable to:
AFM Local 47,
3220 Winona Ave.
Burbank CA 91504

You may also make payments with VISA, MasterCard, Discover, AmEx by phone at 323.993.3116 or at afm47.org/dues

Dues Schedule

Annual and Semi-Annual Membership Dues for Regular, Life and Inactive Life Members are due **January 1** of each year. Payment must be received by **March 31** (three-month grace period) to avoid suspension. If not paid by this date, a $75 reinstatement fee will be assessed. **Payment must be paid by June 30 to avoid expulsion.**

Likewise, Semi-Annual Membership Dues for Regular Members are due **July 1** and must be received by **September 30** (three-month grace period) to avoid suspension. If not paid by this date, a $75 reinstatement fee will be assessed. **Payment must be paid by December 31 to avoid expulsion.**

Please note: Inactive Life Members do not have all of the same rights as privileges as Regular and Life Members, such as the right to vote in Local elections. Please review the AFM Local 47 Bylaws for complete information.

Notice From the Executive Board:
Work Dues Delinquency and Suspension

1) Local 47 members whose work dues delinquency exceeds $500 shall be suspended; and

2) Non-Local 47 members whose work dues delinquency exceeds $500 shall be referred to the IEB as provided in the AFM Bylaws.

In order to reinstate membership, a $75 reinstatement fee will be assessed.

Resignation Policy

In order to resign in good standing, you must submit your written request to Local 47 before your membership is suspended. Though dues are due Jan. 1 and July 1, current grace periods extend to March 31 and Sept. 30, respectively; suspensions are posted April 1 and Oct. 1.

In addition to membership dues, all other financial obligations, Local and International, must be paid prior to resignation. Your letter of resignation will be presented at the following Executive Board meeting and a written response will be mailed to you. If you wait, you will be required to pay another half year's dues and/or clearance fee.

HELP A MUSICIAN IN NEED

Be an anonymous donor to the Local 47 Musicians Relief Fund. Send contributions to the Secretary's office or call (323) 993-3159 for more information.

Multiple-Card AFM Member Rebate

Did you know? If you hold membership in three or more Locals throughout a full calendar year, you are entitled to a rebate from the AFM.

Under the rebate program, membership in a base of two Locals must be established in order for a member to qualify for a rebate. The International Secretary/Treasurer's office has determined that a musician's membership in his or her "Home Local" and the subsequent Local of longest tenure shall be designated as the two base Locals. The Secretary/Treasurer's office will then rebate the appropriate per capita dues for membership in the third Local and any other Local(s) beyond three to which a member belonged for the entire previous calendar year.

To petition for a Multiple-Card Member Rebate, members should fill out the form and return it to the Secretary/Treasurer's office together with copies of all their paid-up membership cards, receipts of canceled checks for annual dues from all Locals, or a letter from each Local stating that the petitioner was a member in good standing of the Locals for the full year prior. Rebates will be issued after Jan. 1.

Members may download the rebate form from the international AFM website (afm.org login required; locate the rebate form under "Miscellaneous" in the Document Library).

Notice to All Persons Entering or Utilizing the Property of the Musicians' Club* of Los Angeles:

The premises of the Musicians' Club of Los Angeles are reserved for the exclusive use by the officers, employees, and Full, Youth, Life or Inactive Life Members in good standing of AFM Local 47 and the American Federation of Musicians. All other persons must receive written permission from the office of Local 47's president to enter or utilize these premises. Local 47 reserves the right to remove and to cite for trespass any party found on these premises who does not fulfill the above conditions of occupancy. (Note: This notice is not applicable to those making deliveries to AFM Local 47, or customers of and those making deliveries to tenants of the Local 47 headquarters.)

** The Musicians' Club of Los Angeles, Inc., is a California Non-Profit Corporation incorporated in 1926. It owns all land and improvements where AFM Local 47 conducts its business. The Corporation rents space to other tenants, mainly industry related. All members of AFM Local 47 are also members of the Musicians' Club of Los Angeles.*

Do Not Work For...

The list published at afm47.org/donotworkfor.html contains the names of employers with whom Local 47 currently has disputes

LOS ANGELES OPERA ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS FOR

CONCERTMASTER

Auditions will be held in December 2025 in Los Angeles.

Resume submission deadline is November 1st.

Audition info, dates and repertoire will be available after October 1st at:

LAOPERA.ORG/ORCHESTRA

LA Opera is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Musicians of identities underrepresented in the classical music field are especially encouraged to apply.

SACRAMENTO PHILHARMONIC & OPERA

ARI PELTO
PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR AND ARTISTIC ADVISOR

Auditions

Asst. Principal Cello
Mon, January 26, 2026
Sacramento, CA

Bass Trombone
Tue, January 27, 2026
Sacramento, CA

To apply for the upcoming Auditions please email your Resume/CV to personnel@sacphilopera.org

Application and resume deadline for all auditions: Friday, January 9, 2026 @ 5:00 pm PST

The SP&O is a per service orchestra that offers 42 services total as part of its Classics season.
Section: $170.00 | Asst. Principal: $187.00 per service 2025-2026 Season.

ADVERTISE

WITH AFM LOCAL 47!

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—Released monthly—

The Local 47 Beat

—Emailed biweekly—

RESERVE TODAY

View rates, specs & publication schedules
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CONTACT: advertising@afm47.org

For information on posting auditions, please visit afm47.org/auditions.html