



March 2021 Progressions - Local 368

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Local 368 Member:

I apologize for not sending a newsletter out for quite a while. Covid-19 hit us all kind of hard. I shut down the office and did minimum work from April until September of last year. During that time with the help of the Northern Nevada Labor council I was able to distribute to some of our members and some young non-member musicians \$50 gift certificates to help to put food on their table. Most of us our doing okay but I still have a few cards left, so if you know someone that could use a little extra help please let me know.

In October and early November I helped the Reno Chamber Orchestra Committee

negotiate what is called an Integrated Media Agreement that allows the RCO to live stream concerts and lets them put short videos of the orchestra on their website enabling them to advertise this wonderful group of musicians on the internet.(there are some limitations of course!)

As you know, musicians -- and our industry itself -- have been devastated by the pandemic, which has shut down live performance across the country for the past year. I hope each and everyone of you are safe and are weathering this storm, we will make music again!

Both The Reno Phil and the Reno Chamber Orchestra have been able to live stream a few concerts and we are happy that some of our members have been able to receive that income and that musicians for some of the cancelled concerts were paid, but we all are hurting. Due to Covid-19 almost every musician in Local 368 has a story to tell about losses of income. I personally lost my job at the at the Roxy bar in the Eldorado last March and only recently have done some part-time work at "The Row" (that is the new term used for the 3 casinos, The Eldorado, The Silver Legacy and the Circus Circus).

Below are some thoughts from our brothers in Las Vegas. As many of you know I was a member there for most of the 1980s and have always had a big connection to all the great players there.

- John

2020, hands down has been the most bizarre and challenging year that I can remember; almost everything has flipped sideways, upside down, or stopped altogether. Most every business has been forced to make major adjustments in order to survive... to date many businesses have closed their doors and many more are challenged to stay in business. Local 369 is no exception; as a membership we have to face the challenges of the worldwide pandemic that has caused the entertainment industry to reinvent itself in creative ways.

"The artistic community in general doesn't struggle with creativity; we struggle with monetizing creativity into professional wages / living wages. Our challenge is to educate and hopefully inspire the communities in which we live to support and

respect Live Entertainment and the associated professions that allow productions to be presented."

- *Keith Nelson Secretary/Treasurer Local 369*

Until it is safe to return to work—be it in an orchestra pit, onstage, backstage, on set, in a studio, we need to be dedicated to preserving the security of performers during this spike in unemployment. "Our industry went to 100 percent unemployment overnight. It may get harder before it gets easier but we must be optimistic moving into the future. We must take care of each other, look out for each other. Our audience is out there, waiting to see and hear us, demanding new music and art. And with that demand comes the opportunity to create and work.

- *Gary Cordell VP Local 369*

Once the COVID-19 crisis is over, and it eventually will be, we, the "union members" of the AFM must decide together what our world will look like. Will we set the standard of a living wage and stick to it by saying "no" to offers of sub-par wages and conditions? Or will we accept whatever conditions are offered just for the opportunity to play music? If we are willing to stand up for the standards we want and say "no" to frivolous offers of work, then the Local and the AFM as a whole will once again thrive and be able to work for the betterment of your life. If, however, we are willing to accept any old offer to play, then we all become a collective of hobbyists and our livelihoods will need to depend on some other employment.

"The choice belongs to all of us. Give it some serious thought while we have the time to contemplate our future!"

- *Jack Gaughan President Local 369*

Sad News



Bruce M. Cox died December 22 at his home in Reno, after complications from brain tumor surgery. He was born June 18, 1943, in San Diego, California, where he grew up in the community of Pacific Beach. He loved the ocean and always made sure to get into the water when he visited.

Bruce began his lifelong journey with music at age ten, playing his granddad's clarinet. With the support of his parents, he progressed with private lessons, band, and orchestra throughout his school years. In high school, he had a 16- piece dance band, The Star Dusters, and was the drum major of the marching band. While still in high school he haunted local jazz clubs and got to play bass sax with a blues band in Southeast San Diego.

He earned a Master's degree in Music and Music Education from San Diego State College, where he was in the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha. After graduation, he

taught band and choir at high schools in San Diego, CA, Oahu, Hawaii and South Lake Tahoe, CA. It was in Tahoe that Bruce learned carpentry and built his own home, eventually becoming a contractor.

In 1982 Bruce married Sandra Peame, the executive secretary at Harrah's in Reno, becoming a stepfather to her two sons. He moved to Reno, where he became a full-time musician at the MGM Grand for the iconic stage show "Hello Hollywood, Hello." He played two shows a night, six days a week, and still managed to build a beautiful home for himself and Sandie. They were married almost 40 years, loved to travel, and had a summer home in the mountains, where they coordinated the production of the Lake Almanor Summer Music Concerts.

Bruce's true musical joy was big band jazz, and he promoted, directed, and played sax in the Reno Big Band for many years. Besides working regular gigs, the RBB raised money for music scholarships, band uniforms for UNR, and for other local charities.

Bruce's eyesight worsened in 2008, and he had to give up the band; he donated many of his instruments to the Music Department at UNR. He played publicly a few more times—he really couldn't stop, the sign of a real musician.

Bruce had a wickedly dry sense of humor and was always ready with a zinger or a pun. He was a hard worker and a dreamer, and he made many of those dreams real, both in real estate and in music, from Nevada to California.

Due to COVID, the memorial will be at a future date. This memorial will be posted on the Local 368 Facebook page. If you haven't liked the Local 368 FB page go to: <https://www.facebook.com/Reno-Musicians-191243450904520>

And More Sad News

I am sad to say that our good friend and longtime Local 368 member Wally Jones passed on February 26. He had been hospitalized for several months before his passing. Many of you know him from his long stint as the pianist in the Roxy bar at the Eldorado Hotel. Or maybe you were one of his musicians in the pit at the Hello Hollywood show at the Eldorado. Tony Savage told me of his many gigs as a teenager with Wally in downtown Reno. Wally's son Matt has said that an online memorial will be planned for sometime this spring or early summer. I will post about it on our FaceBook page. Here is Wally and his singers from left to right: Lynne Colvig, Cherie Shipley, Christine Shelton, Tamara Thorkelsen at Christine's wedding in 2008.



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