

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BENNIE KEYS

Hello Local 56 Members, this is President Keys with some news!

We here at Local 56 have been hard at work trying to expand our community outreach. We have several different Music Performance Trust Fund opportunities for our members. If you need more information, contact Paul Austin during our office hours (Monday 1pm-5pm and Tuesday through Friday 1pm-3pm).

I have the pleasure of seeing many of you out and about playing around town, and it makes me happy to see so many of you working at so many venues.

We are having a Zoom meeting for our next membership meeting. Please join the call so that we can connect on Tuesday afternoon, February 25th, and learn about promoting your music.

Any ideas you may have for the Local are appreciated and very welcomed. We want to move forward and make your membership a valuable part of your playing experience. We strive to be forward thinking and look forward to enhancing our communications with all of you.

If you need any type of Insurance, make sure you read your monthly AFM magazine "International Musician" for more details about the new offerings that will be made available.

Our newsletters will be having more articles on new and established members, so be prepared to send us your bio's so we can get this going. Thanks for your time and see you around soon.





NOTES FROM SECRETARY-TREASURER PAUL AUSTIN

Greetings from the Local 56 office!

Since our last newsletter, two important resources have been put into play at our new Local 56 website, which is GrandRapidsMusicians.org.

First, our member handbook is available now. Originally conceived as a document for new members, it pivoted to become an excellent resource for all members. Thanks for taking a moment to review the information provided in our member handbook, and let me know if you have any questions.

Next, a list of Local 56 members who teach privately is posted on our website now and available to the general public, as stipulated in our bylaws. This list will be updated quarterly, so be in touch if you wish to be included.

Our Local 56 elections have occurred, and we thank both those who voted and those who ran for office. Barbara Corbato and Carsten Forester joined our Executive Board as Members-at-Large this month and are shown here being sworn into office by our Local 56 President Bennie Keys.

Finally, we are happy to offer Venmo now for membership dues payments, as well as donations to the GRFM Scholarship Fund. Find us on Venmo at [@GRMusicians](https://www.venmo.com/GRMusicians).



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Our next membership meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, February 25th, at 4:30pm. The topic "How to Promote Your Music Online" will be addressed by two Local 56 members: harpist Beth Colpean and percussionist Jack Latta. The Zoom link for the meeting will be emailed to all Local 56 members that morning, and the session will be recorded in case you aren't available during that time.



Applications for our 2025 GRFM Scholarships will be available beginning February 1st. The deadline to apply for our scholarships is April 15th. Details are available on our website at GrandRapidsMusicians.org

Donations to the GRFM Scholarship Fund are welcomed, and a Local 56 t-shirt will be given to those who donate at least \$20. Contact our office for more details: (616) 451-4374



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