



FALL, 2025 ISSUE

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## LONDON MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION

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## ***tempo***

Seth McNall, President

Hello fellow musicians!

It has been a very busy summer for us at the LMA. We have been working for our members to assist in securing P2 immigration visas, helping stewards and members at summer theatres, continuing ongoing negotiations with London Symphonia, and meeting with city partners.

I hope you had the chance to enjoy some of the fantastic festivals and series that the London area offered this season. We are truly fortunate to have so many thriving music festivals and events in the region each summer!

From Sunfest, to the Springbank Garden Concert Series, and from Jazz At Market Lane to the resurrection of Home County Folk Festival, Ribfest and so many more, there are numerous performance opportunities for musicians in the city during the summer.

London welcomed over 500 trombonists to the city in July for the International Trombone Festival. Huge congratulations and thanks to Denis Jiron for bringing the Festival to Western University and to Canada for the first time.

Bravo to all who help support and ensure that these exciting events continue into the future!

One change I want to bring to everyone's attention is that processing of MPTF (Music Performance Trust Fund) work will now be available for AFM members only. If you are applying for this funding, please ensure all performers are members in good standing.

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We lost a long time member of our musical community in July. Sig Martin was a member of Orchestra London and London Symphonia for 44 years along with performing with Stratford Festival, Winnipeg Symphony, KW Symphony, Hamilton, and the International Symphony Orchestra.



I wish everyone a happy, busy and successful fall season. Please feel free to reach out anytime.

*Seth*



## *In Memorium*



London Symphonia fondly remembers Sigmar Martin, an accomplished violinist and much-loved, respected and committed musician and teacher. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and to all who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Starting in 1981, Sigmar was principal second violinist, and often a soloist, with Orchestra London where he also performed alongside his brother, Mel Martin, now core violinist of London Symphonia. Mel noted that he "was constantly bringing music out into the community...he was just willing to try things, take chances and everything he did, he did with enthusiasm." Over his career with Orchestra London, Joe Lanza, now concert master of London Symphonia, worked closely with Sigmar. "He put so much energy into everything, and he was such a committed force in the Orchestra London, a real leader," Lanza said.



"He was absolutely invested in the orchestra, and the reason was he believed in music and the power of music. He believed in music education, and he believed in the idea that sharing what we did and the art of it and the beauty of it made the world a better place."

Thank you for the music!



I hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer!

Your London Musicians Association Executive Board has undergone a change in members. Rob Weatherstone tendered his resignation from his position as Vice President at the recent Board meeting.

Rob has served the LMA in various positions beginning in late 2020 when he came on as an Executive Board member. In Spring of 2021, Rob accepted the appointment as Vice President, began acting as Interim President that summer and was elected President the following Fall. At the recent elections in November of 2024 Rob chose not to run for President and was elected to the position of Vice President.

I would personally like to thank Rob for his dedicated service over the past several 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 am positive that Rob can always be counted on for advice.



### Office Notes, Doug Eyre Secretary Treasurer

I'm pleased to announce that Executive Board member Bobbi Thompson has accepted an appointment to serve as Interim Vice President. The Board would also like to announce that Member Mark Swan has accepted a position as an Executive Board member, and we all look forward to his input. Please see the "Member Spotlight" section which features Mark.

I had the privilege of representing our Local at the Canadian Conference of Musicians held this past August in Toronto. It was very well worth attending and I came away with some valuable information and insight.

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The one topic that was discussed a fair amount was the increased processing times for P2 visas. Unfortunately, due to a backlog at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services which processes the P2 files this is a source of frustration for our members seeking to perform in the United States. While this situation is out of the Unions control there is lobbying from the American Federation of Musicians to the U.S. government in hopes of helping to highlight the effect on our members.

A committee formed from the Executive Board has been working on updating the LMA "Tariff of Fees" and will be presenting the new fee structure for a vote to accept them at the upcoming general membership meeting. It has been a few years since it has been updated, and we look forward to our members being paid higher rates for performing.

In Solidarity, Doug

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

President / 1st Delegate: Seth McNall

Vice President: Bobbi Thompson

Secretary Treasurer / 2nd Delegate: - Doug Eyre

Executive Officers: - Sandy MacKay, Tom McInerney,  
Andrew Petrasiunas, Ken Baldwin, Mark Swan

**Reminder**

We hope to see you at the  
upcoming general meeting  
scheduled for  
Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup>  
at 7 pm via Zoom.







Musician Drummer Percussionist  
Mark Swan is a musician born and raised in London Ontario. He has always had a passion for music ever since he began playing drums at the age of 8.

With a Bachelor's degree from the University Of Western Ontario in Orchestral Percussion (BMus class of '17), Mark works regularly as a session musician for bands, artists and theatre companies with his explosive performances all over North America.

He was a contestant on Season 10 of America's Got Talent and also a finalist for the 2016 DRUMEO Drum Solo Competition.

His inspirations range from Jazz, Funk, Rock, Pop, Orchestral, Hip Hop and Metal music but has always had a taste for anything with a groove!

Mark proudly endorses Los Cabos Drumsticks and Mapex Drums.



If laughter is the best medicine and music is the aspirin of the soul, then these jokes should be enough to cure you...

Q: Why did the pianist keep banging his head against the keys?

A: He was playing by ear.

Q: What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft?

A: A flat Minor.

Q: What do you get when you put a diminished chord together with an augmented chord?

A: A demented chord.

