

10 March 2023

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

MPTF Celebrates Black History Month

Thanks to more than \$157,000 in funding from the Musicians Performance Trust Fund (MPTF), 87 performances were scheduled in February across the US and Canada to celebrate Black History Month.



Local 5 (Detroit, MI) members celebrated Black History Month with concerts at area schools. For a concert at Farmington High School, musicians John Hartwick (trumpet), Susan Mutter (French horn), Neal Campbell (tuba), Bryan Pokorney (trombone), and Jamie Bostek (trumpet), performed a set of Scott Joplin ragtime compositions and several arrangements of spirituals.



Local 65-699 (Houston, TX) members Horace Alexander Young (vocals/saxophone/arranger) and Laura Jane Jones (vocals) performed "The Cole Legacy Experience" on an MPTF Facebook livestream, February 6, in honor of Black History Month. The show revisits, relives, and reimagines the musical repertoire of Nat King Cole and his daughter Natalie Cole, and was backed by a 28-piece orchestra of Local 65-699 members.

DCINY Orchestra Musicians ON STRIKE!

"No contract, no peace!" That was the rallying cry of over 100 musicians and union supporters who picketed in front of Carnegie Hall on February 20. They are demanding a fair contract for the musicians of the Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) Orchestra, who are represented by Local 802 (New York City).

DCINY is a commercial organization that solicits choirs and other groups from around the country to perform in Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center for a fee.

New York State Senator Jessica Ramos told the crowd, "DCINY can't get away with creating beautiful music and not paying the musicians the wages, job security, and benefits they deserve!" She added, "Musicians should be afforded a life of dignity for bringing us so much joy and beauty to all of our lives, especially right now, at a time when we're so desperately trying to recover from the past few years. We want good jobs for every single worker, including our musicians. DCINY: do the right thing!"

Local 802 Organizing Director John Pietaro said, "The orchestra's regular musicians are the reason for DCINY's once-stellar reputation. They built its status over a decade, and yet this employer's retaliatory practice has only sought to dismantle this strongly artful group since it became organized."

For the latest updates and how to help, visit: www.local802afm.org/dciny



Striking DCINY Orchestra members were joined by New York State Senator Jessica Ramos (center with hat), Local 802 President Tino Gagliardi (left with Local 802 hat), Local 802 Recording Vice President Harvey Mars (far right), and other supporters.

Solidarity with TUGSA Strike

Members from AFM Local 77 (Philadelphia, PA) joined hundreds of union members from all industries to remind Temple University administration that Philly is a union town. "We are proud to stand in solidarity with TUGSA workers and we will continue to stand with them until a fair contract is won!" says Jarred Antonacci, Local 77 secretary-treasurer. (See article on page 8 for more details.)



At the Temple University Graduate Students' Association (TUGSA) rally, (L-R) Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO Community Engagement Coordinator Monica Robinson, Local 77 Vice President Marjorie Goldberg, Local 77 Secretary-Treasurer Jarred Antonacci, and Local 77 member and saxophone player, Hiruy Tirfe (back).