

		JUSTICE FOR JAZZ ARTISTS!	<p>TO: New York's Jazz Clubs including: Birdland, John Valenti; The Blue Note, Steve Bensusan; Iridium, Ron Sturm; Jazz Standard, James Polsky; Smoke, Paul Stash; Sweet Rhythm, James Brown; Village Vanguard, Lorraine Gordon</p> <p>Over the past two years, Local 802 and the Local 802 Jazz Advisory Committee worked hard to convince New York State to eliminate the sales tax on admission to Jazz Clubs. They succeeded with the expectation of State Legislators that the Union and the Clubs would use this tax relief money for the benefit of the performing jazz artists. Like millions of other working people, musicians need the security of a pension. Those of us signed below urge you, the club owners, to work with the union to put this tax relief money to the best use possible. Pension contributions through the American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund, on behalf of performing musicians, is not only the best use of the funds, but also a great show of appreciation for those who perform this vital American art form—Jazz!</p>
			
JAZZ IS A NATIONAL TREASURE			

Name (please print & then sign your name)

We would like to update you on the progress of the campaign so please provide some contact information next to your name.

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FACT SHEET

NYS SALES TAX HISTORY

The sales tax on admission to “musical and theatrical events” was eliminated in 1963 to help resolve benefits issues for those who work in commercial Broadway Theatres. (Jazz clubs were not included.)

In 2007, waiver of the current sales tax (8.35 %) was extended to admission to all live music venues, including Jazz Clubs.

HOW TAX RELIEF CAN BE UTILIZED FOR MUSICIANS’ BENEFITS

The tax previously paid to NYS would instead be collected, monitored and forwarded to the American Federation of Musicians and Employers Pension Fund by a Certified Public Accounting Firm, just as it is currently being done for the tax relief extended to Broadway Theatres in 1963.

Band Leader and/or Club would be required to prepare and submit to the union and benefit fund(s) a report containing relevant information about the musicians who performed. The AFM & EPF would credit musicians with the pension contributions proportional to their scale earnings.

CLUB - UNION RELATIONSHIP

The Club would be required to sign an agreement with Local 802 allowing for the tax relief funds to be paid to the union benefit fund(s) on behalf of musicians.

There would be no change in how the Clubs operate their business.

IMPACT ON CLUBS, BANDLEADERS AND SIDEMUSICIANS

There would be no change in the relationship between the club and bandleader. The Bandleader would be paid by the Club on the same basis as in the past.

Likewise there is no change in the relationship between the bandleader and side musicians. Side musicians would be paid in the same way and on the same schedule as in the past.

JUSTICE FOR JAZZ ARTISTS COALITION SPONSORS: Local 802 American Federation of Musicians, Local 802 Jazz Advisory Committee, Jazz Foundation of America, American Federation of Musicians, St. Peters Church Jazz Ministry, Faculty Committee New School University Jazz and Contemporary Music Program, New York City Central Labor Council AFL-CIO, Andy Kirk Research Foundation, Rutgers-Newark Master’s Program in Jazz History and Research, Dr. Lewis Porter, Dan Morgenstern, author-journalist Gary Giddins, author-journalist Nat Hentoff (list in formation)