

On behalf of the members of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the officers of the Milwaukee Musicians Association, AFM Local 8, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to Milwaukee for the 2023 ICSOM Conference.

While we do indeed have a bronze statue of The Fonz on our downtown RiverWalk, Milwaukee is much more than what you saw on *Happy Days*. Known in the 19th century as “das Deutsch-Athen Amerikas,” it was a magnet for German immigrants. Milwaukee was run by mayors who ran on the Socialist Party ticket for most of the the first half of the 20th century. We have an extensive system of parks designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. We have the first major American building designed by Santiago Calatrava and one of the very last buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. We have a glorious waterfront on the shore of Lake Michigan that’s only blocks from downtown, and a river (and a RiverWalk) that runs right through downtown. We have the world’s only Harley-Davidson Museum. And, of course, we have the newest orchestral concert hall that is home to an ICSOM orchestra.

The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee in the heart of downtown. Our airport is 6 miles south of downtown, and there are many options for transportation from the airport. Amtrak has a station downtown as well. For those driving, the hotel offers parking, but there are many cheaper options within easy walking distance.

The traditional Wednesday night mixer will be at the new Bradley Symphony Center, which is two blocks from the Hyatt. Tours of the hall will be available during the mixer. For Friday night, we are organizing a group to attend the Brewers-Padres game on Friday evening. If there is sufficient interest, we can also organize a Friday evening cruise on the Milwaukee River and harbor and a tour of the Grohmann Museum, which is “home to the world’s most comprehensive art collection dedicated to the evolution of human work.” Both are within walking distance. We will provide more information about places to eat and shop near our venue, as well as other activities that might interest the curious, closer to the conference.

We look forward to seeing you all in August.

In solidarity,

Kirk Ferguson
Conference Coordinator

Rob Klieger
MSO Players Council Chair

Robert Levine
President, AFM Local 8

Helen Reich
MSO ICSOM Delegate