

# Ask Mike!

By Local 10-208 Member Michael I. Goode



In my last column, in March, we talked more about accepting positive things in your career and in your life. Today we will revisit an issue from my February column and then will talk about how the music business is changing and how positive changes can help you and give you even more choices and opportunities for real artistry. Here's April's Q&A:

**Q. Hey there Mike. I very much appreciate your column in the *Overture*. I wanted to respond to the ques-**

**tion about the musician who got a great gig but is having problems with drugs and drinking (see February 2006 *Overture*). I feel alarmed for him/her and am concerned that they may need some outside counseling and assistance. Drug and alcohol dependence is a slippery slope into an alternate reality that one may need a rope thrown to them to be pulled out of. I'd hate to see this person learn the hard way by losing the new great job because they were caught in the storm and didn't have someone help them through the complex emotions of addiction. What's your take on it?**

**A.** Drug and alcohol addiction is a serious issue, and must be taken seriously; you bring up a very important point. As well as using the anger letters that I have been talking about in February's column, it is VERY IMPORTANT that if you feel you are losing control with addictive or other abusive behavior, that you seek professional help and assistance at once. Thanks for writing about this.

**Q. It seems like there just aren't the opportunities in the music business that there used to be when I started**

**a number of years ago. What can I do? How do I handle this?**

**A.** Last month, we talked about how the anger letters can open up your life and your playing. As you write the anger letters you will get more tuned in to your playing and your life and more gigs may open up as a result. However, you can't just sit home and write anger letters and expect the gigs to come rolling in! You must write them but also promote yourself. There is always an excellent monthly column about marketing yourself in the *International Musician* that has great ideas you should check out. They also give great recommendations about the many books on this subject. The music business has changed and it has become more difficult to just get gigs by playing great. You must market yourself. You also must be honest about what area of music you are most interested in and spend your efforts marketing yourself in that, whether it is classical, rock, rap, hip-hop or all styles if that's where your heart is. Finding what style or type of music you like best will automatically cause you to go to a higher level of artistry. Use your anger letters to examine what type of music you like to play best. Write something

like: "I am angry that I can't get gigs and that I can't figure out what style or styles of music I really like to play." This is a good start and you will get ideas. You can also consider the possibility of creating your own band or gigs through networks with friends. If you are creative, you can come up with something totally new that has never been done before. There are so many genuine people out there that want and are willing to pay for something new and original. Let yourself be that person!

**Send your questions to: Ask Mike!**, Trumpetworks Press, 715 Lake Street #269, Oak Park, IL 60301 or you can check out my website at [www.trumpetworkspress.com](http://www.trumpetworkspress.com) and see information on my book, "Stage Fright in Music Performance and Its Relationship to the Unconscious." All replies are confidential and names will not be published. © 2006 Michael I. Goode

*Mr. Goode will be visiting Local 47 this month. Please contact him via e-mail via his website if you are interested in a private consultation while he is here.*

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## Sigma Alpha Iota 59th Annual

# Music Scholarship Competition

Auditions for the 59th annual music scholarship competition, sponsored by the Pasadena Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at Los Angeles Valley College, 5800 Fulton Ave., Van Nuys.

Auditions for the awards are open to college and university music majors in Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Orange, and Riverside Counties. Three scholarships, at \$700 for each award, will be offered in the areas of piano, vocal, and instrumental study. Students must be age 25 years or younger as of the day of the competition. The application deadline is **Friday, April 14, 2006.**

Further information and applications may be obtained by calling Scholarship Chairmen June Smith Parra at (323) 465-8753 or Anne Oshetsky at (818) 785-4904.

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