

Emma Stanley
Portland

My name is Emma Stanley and I'm a professional musician. I have been active in the Portland music scene for about ten years. I have balanced freelancing locally with doing national tours of Broadway shows in order to make music be my primary source of income since I graduated from Peabody Conservatory in 2009.

I have done a little bit of everything around this part of the state from the pit orchestra of the Ogunquit Playhouse to being part of the local horn section for Guster on the Ocean at Thompsons Point, from church services and wedding ceremonies to playing at the State Theater with the Fogcutters and at pretty much every venue in town with so many other incredible musicians.

Prior to the pandemic I was on the 50th anniversary tour of Jesus Christ Superstar playing both trumpet and keyboard. It was my first union tour and I was making a really great salary. Since March 2020 I have played maybe four gigs total. To say that my income took a hit would be an overwhelming understatement. To say that my well being has been impacted in a drastic way would just be a lie.

I am very grateful to have been healthy and have an amazing support system of friends and family over this past year. But it has been a real struggle in an industry that has been completely obliterated by this pandemic. Not just for me, but for every other musician, actor, venue owner, audio technician, promoter, artist, etc. in Maine and everywhere. Please help us get through this.