

**GET REAL
PLAY LIVE!
TEXAS BALLET THEATER**

**MUSICIANS
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MUSIC**

Join with us to preserve, protect, and defend
DFW Professional Musicians.

**MUSICIANS
FOR LIVE MUSIC**

This message is brought to you by

Dallas-Fort Worth Professional Musicians Association

Local 72-147 American Federation of Musicians

Ray Hair, President

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Paying real money for fake ballet and enjoying it less?



Here's what patrons and critics are saying:

Because of the taped music, there were several awkward moments when the wrong music was played" – February 20, 2009, *Swan Lake* review, *Dallas Morning News*

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It was really a shame to have seen *Swan Lake* set to recorded music. To have heard the orchestra play Tchaikovsky's glorious music would have added presence and energy..." – February 21, 2009, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

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To refuse to use musicians is a slap in the face to all who support the cultural progress of the arts. What if it were reversed: The audience would watch a video recording on a screen of the ballet performers accompanied by a live orchestra. Think of the outrage and laughter that would result if that scenario were to unfold before a live audience."

– February 24, 2009, Chris Larson, Fort Worth, Texas

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We certainly should promote the concept of filming the popular ballets for showing on a big screen on stage to match the recording of the orchestral accompaniment. The missteps and uncoordinated entrances during *Swan Lake* could be eliminated by redoing the segments while filming." – February 23, 2009, Dr. Gene Emahiser, Powell, Texas

Texas Ballet Theater

Digging a deep hole for the arts community – all the way to China

An empty Orchestra pit Made in China

If you like fake ballet, you'll love *Canned Cleopatra*, the latest in a series of shameful offerings from Texas Ballet Theater using pre-recorded music in lieu of live orchestra. Now the ballet company has further fouled the art form by pulling the plug on its off-the-shelf record and tape accompaniment, instead dishing out a soundtrack it made in China.

To bring about this artistic fraud, the "financially beleaguered" company's artistic staff traveled to China in June 2008 and paid the Chinese government \$30,000 to record the orchestral score of *Cleopatra*. At the time, the ballet company owed Bass Hall and the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Association more than \$250,000.

While dance head Ben Stevenson and manager Margo McCann reportedly were vacationing, wining and dining in an expensive Italian villa with a few dancers and members of their Board in tow, the company's Music Director traveled to Shanghai and hired the orchestra of the National Ballet of China for recordings that have eliminated musicians from the orchestra pit at Bass Performance Hall. How appalling.

Texas Ballet Theater has hurt professional musicians, damaged the credibility of the ballet company and cheapened the art form, outsourcing not only our jobs, *but our culture as well.*

Unconscionably, the ballet company continues to sell tickets to patrons without acknowledging that consumers will not get what they've paid for. You paid for live music. You should get it. The ballet company is hoping you will neither notice nor care.

We cannot stand idly by and see beautiful Bass Hall transformed into a Big-box store where the goods are made in China. We will not sit quietly while professional musicians are held responsible for the ballet company's mismanagement.

We believe it is in the public interest for Dallas-Fort Worth to have a great classical ballet company - with great live orchestral accompaniment to give it breath and depth. For Texas Ballet Theater to continue fleecing the public by replacing local musicians with recordings it made in China is absolutely unacceptable.

***Please join us in telling Texas Ballet Theater –
Get Real. Play Live!***