

# NEWS MEMO

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

### **MUSICIANS' UNION TO PROTEST CANNED SEASON AT BALLET OPENER *COMPANY DUMPED LOCAL MUSICIANS IN FAVOR OF TAPES IT MADE IN CHINA* UNION PRESIDENT SAYS BALLET COMPANY IS GUILTY OF ARTISTIC FRAUD**

- WHO:** The Dallas-Fort Worth Professional Musicians Association, affiliated Local 72-147 of the American Federation of Musicians, which represents more than 1700 professional musicians across North Texas and Southern Oklahoma, including musicians of the Dallas and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras and The Dallas Opera Orchestra.
- WHAT:** Professional musicians will protest Texas Ballet Theater's canned music policy by forming picket lines and distributing informational leaflets at the company's season opening performance, September 12 in Dallas.
- WHERE:** The Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas 75201
- WHEN** Friday, September 12, 2008, 6:30pm – 8:00pm.
- WHY:** The Texas Ballet Theater has announced that it intends to discard its pit orchestras, the Fort Worth Symphony and the Dallas Opera Orchestra, and instead utilize recorded tracks for its 2008/09 season, *some of which the company made expressly for that purpose in China*. The Ballet company has traditionally employed the Fort Worth Symphony to accompany its seasonal performances at Bass Hall in Fort Worth, and has used the Dallas Opera Orchestra for holiday Nutcracker performances at Fair Park Music Hall in Dallas. The company's decision to go "canned" will affect seven weeks of Ballet in Fort Worth and one Nutcracker week in Dallas, and has evidently been planned for months, according to information obtained by Union President Ray Hair. "The Ballet company artistic staff traveled to China in June, 2008 and obtained a recording utilizing the staff orchestra of the National Ballet of China, which the company intends to use in place of the Fort Worth Orchestra for performances of *Cleopatra* at Bass Hall in March 2009," said Hair. "By using recordings instead of professional musicians, the Texas Ballet Theater is cheating its patrons out of a legitimate ballet experience. Patrons' tickets reflect the price of a live orchestra, and they should get what they've paid for. By outsourcing a live orchestra with Chinese-made recordings, Texas Ballet Theater is guilty of artistic fraud," said Hair. Despite recent reports of financial instability, public access documents obtained by the Union show that as of June, 2006, the ballet company had net assets of more than \$1 million on revenues of \$5.4 million. ***The Union will protest the ballet's canned music policy with picket lines and informational leaflets at all canned music ballet performances during the 2008/09 season.***

*Details in backgrounder available at [www.musiciansdfw.org](http://www.musiciansdfw.org)  
For further information, contact Local 72-147 President Ray Hair  
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