

# NEWS MEMO

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

### **MUSICIANS TO PROTEST *CANNED NUTCRACKER* AT AT&T PAC RALLY BEGINS AT NOON ON *BLACK FRIDAY*, CONTINUES THRU WEEKEND \$350 MILLION CENTER HOSTS TEXAS BALLET THEATER WITHOUT ORCHESTRA**

- 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 the canned music policies of AT&T Performing Arts Center's resident ballet company – Texas Ballet Theater – by forming picket lines and distributing informational leaflets at the company's debut performances at the Center.
- WHERE:** AT&T Performing Arts Center, 2403 Flora Street, Dallas, Texas.
- WHEN:** Friday, and Saturday November 27 and 28, 2009 12:30 and 630 pm; and 12:30pm Sunday, November 29, 2009, ninety minutes prior to the start of performances.
- WHY:** The new, acoustically renowned \$350 million AT&T Performing Arts Center and Texas Ballet Theater will present holiday performances of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* with recorded music in lieu of live orchestra. AT&T PAC's resident ballet company has traditionally employed the Dallas Opera Orchestra for performances in Dallas but instead will utilize "canned" pre-recorded tracks in the new facility. The decision to replace live orchestra with recordings deprives audiences of a legitimate ballet performance and has eliminated hundreds of jobs for professional musicians. Despite the canned tracks, AT&T PAC continues to advertise ballet shows with live orchestra on its website. "How can \$350 million buy more glory for Dallas' Arts District and more pain for professional musicians?" said Musicians' Union president Ray Hair. Texas Ballet Theater and the Center are charging regular ticket prices without disclosing that the orchestra pit will be empty. "Patrons paid for live music, but they won't get it," said Hair. Last year, the ballet company traveled to China and paid \$30,000.00 for recordings it used to displace musicians. The company boasted that it saved \$600,000 to \$700,000 by emptying its orchestra pit. A Dallas Morning News article revealed that ONE AT&T PAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER was one two of Texas Ballet Theater Board of Directors who were paid six figure annual sums totaling more than \$700,000.00 that went unreported in the ballet company's IRS filings. Board members of non-profit organizations are generally expected to serve without compensation. The Union's requests to meet with AT&T PAC reps to discuss its canned music shows were ignored. ***The Union will protest the ballet's canned music policy with informational picket lines and leaflets at all performances during the 2009/10 season.***

For further information, visit [www.musiciansdfw.org](http://www.musiciansdfw.org) or contact Local 72-147 President Ray Hair at (Metro) 817-469-6040 or 817-988-5238 (cell).

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