

NEWS MEMO

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

MUSICIANS TO PROTEST “CANNED” BALLET SHOWS COMPANY RECORDED IN CHINA TO REPLACE LOCAL MUSICIANS INDEFINITELY RECORDINGS CHEAPEN THE ART FORM, RIP-OFF THE CONSUMER, MUSICIANS SAY

- 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 Fort Worth Symphony 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 performances of Tchaikovsky’s *Swan Lake*, in Fort Worth.
- WHERE:** Bass Performance Hall, 4th and Commerce Streets, Fort Worth, Texas.
- WHEN** Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 20, 21 and 22, prior to ballet performances.
- WHY:** Professional musicians are upset that Texas Ballet Theater is picking on them to pay for its fiscal irresponsibility, killing weeks of work that have cost musicians their jobs. The company has used recorded tracks, *including some it recently made in China* to replace the Fort Worth Symphony and the Dallas Opera Orchestra for 2008/2009 seasonal productions and has extended its canned music policy indefinitely, including 2009/10 shows at the new \$400 million Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. *The Ballet company artistic staff traveled to China in June 2008 and paid the Chinese government \$30,000 to obtain 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.* The company continues to sell season tickets to patrons without acknowledging that with no orchestra, consumers won’t be getting what they’ve paid for. “By using recordings – including some it made in China – Texas Ballet Theater is cheating its patrons out of a legitimate ballet experience and is committing artistic fraud,” said Union president Ray Hair. “We urge arts lovers everywhere to stay away from the company’s canned performances and we’re asking ticket holders to ask for refunds. We’re inviting the public to join our protest and boycott the company until musicians return to the orchestra pit.” *The Union will protest the ballet’s canned music policy with picket lines and informational leaflets at Bass Hall in February, and in March.*

www.musiciansdfw.org Release #3, February 12, 2009 10:30 am
For further information, contact Local 72-147 President Ray Hair
at (Metro) 817-469-6040 or 817-988-5238 (cell).