

DALLAS-FORT WORTH PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION

LOCAL 72-147 AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

1939 STADIUM OAKS COURT ★ ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

D/FW Metro Telephone (817) 469-6040 ★ Telecopier (817) 469-1448 ★ www.musiciansdfw.org

RAYMOND M. HAIR, JR.
President

November 19, 2009

KENNETH KRAUSE
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Nerenhausen, President and CEO
AT&T Performing Arts Center
2100 Ross Avenue, Suite 650
Dallas, Texas 76204

Via telecopier and regular US mail

Dear Mr. Nerenhausen,

You are receiving this letter because you refused a request – made by one of your executive committee members – to meet with our organization to discuss the actions of the AT&T Performing Arts Center which have adversely affected the lives of professional musicians and which now threaten the artistic integrity of Dallas' Arts District.

We are referring to the presentation of classical ballet performances beginning November 27 using pre-recorded music instead of live orchestra by the Center's resident ballet company – Texas Ballet Theater – performances that would not be possible without approval and assistance from the Center. The ballet company's canned music policy has drawn sharp criticism from patrons and the press, and is a slap in the face to all who support the cultural progress of the arts.

We know that you and your staff have been working around the clock to promote the Center's grand inaugural of the Winspear Opera House, the Wylie Theatre and Sammons Park, which opened in October with reviews that praised the venues for creating dynamic audience experiences. We were optimistic that with gifts totaling more than \$350 million, including 133 benefactors whose contributions ranged from \$1 million up to \$42 million, the arrival of the Center would fulfill expectations and "act as a cultural cornerstone for the region and drive creative vitality," as Center Board of Director and Grand Opening Committee Chair John Eagle suggested.

We certainly wish we could have agreed with Mr. Eagle when he was quoted on the eve of the Center's gala grand opening saying that the celebrations "will also look to the future, giving North Texas and beyond a taste of all the Center will offer."

"Music is the Universal Language of Mankind."

Mark Nerenhausen
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We do not believe the Center can promote itself as a "cultural cornerstone" with "creative vitality" when it has allowed its resident ballet company to perform not with live music, but with an empty orchestra pit. Nor will public enthusiasm for the Center continue to grow when patrons suddenly realize they are paying full price for ballet performances but receiving only half a show.

We wonder whether the Center's approval of canned music ballet productions might be linked to the influence of Center Executive Committee Member Jeane Marie Clossey, who, together with a colleague received six-figure annual sums prior to August 2008 totaling more than \$700,000 while serving on the Board of Texas Ballet Theater – an amount the company says it recouped by kicking professional musicians out of the orchestra pit and replacing them with recordings, some it made in China.

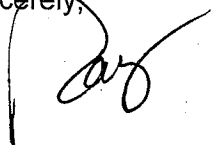
And while some say that the artistically deficient offerings of the Texas Ballet Theater are solely the responsibility of the ballet company, we are aware that the Center has assisted the company by creating the impression in the minds of concertgoers that its canned ballet shows will have professional orchestral accompaniment.

By failing to advise patrons in advance that the ballet company will perform with an empty orchestra pit, the Center has deceived potential customers who browse a page on your website displaying images of live orchestra where tickets to Texas Ballet Theater performances continue to be advertised, promoted and offered for sale.

When the Center was only a dream, its proponents promised our talented community of musicians a share in the creation of up to "2000 new jobs in Dallas' arts industries." With the Center's canned ballet presentations during Dallas Opera off-weeks, local professional musicians have experienced real job losses.

That is why we will gather outside the Center at noon on November 27, 2009 and thereafter to present our views in these matters. When you are soaking up the national and international attention deserving of the acoustical and architectural innovation in your new home, we will be outside on the sidewalk in protest forming picket lines and distributing leaflets to advise the public and patrons of the illegitimate artistic void they will find inside the AT&T Performing Arts Center during performances of *Canned Nutcracker* by Texas Ballet Theater.

Sincerely,



Raymond M. Hair, Jr.
President
AFM Local 72-147

Cc: Howard Hallam