



DALLAS-FORT WORTH PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION

LOCAL 72-147 AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

1939 STADIUM OAKS COURT ★ ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

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RAYMOND M. HAIR, JR.
President

KENNETH KRAUSE
Secretary-Treasurer

March 16, 2009

Dear Member:

On March 27, 28 and 29, members of this great Union, together with members of 50 other Tarrant County unions, will gather outside Bass Hall in Fort Worth to protest Texas Ballet Theater (TBT) performances of *Cleopatra* - five shows that will be presented *not* with our talented professional musicians in the orchestra pit, but with *recorded music the company made in China*.

In Dallas last September and in Fort Worth a few weeks ago, we protested TBT's ongoing fraud – the use of “canned” music in lieu of a live orchestra. But now, TBT's phony charade has risen to a level of depravity hitherto unknown in the arts world by its impending use of *Cleopatra* recordings obtained by paying the Chinese government \$30,000 – *outsourcing not only our jobs, but our culture as well*. We want to publicize TBT's disgraceful actions in the strongest terms. Its attitude toward professional musicians have hurt our members, damaged the credibility of the ballet company, cheapened the art form, and are totally unacceptable.

To project our message as widely and as effectively as possible, I am asking every able-bodied member of this Union to attend the protest and participate in our leafleting and picketing activities. If we mobilize in sufficient numbers and achieve a critical mass, our voice will be heard not just in the DFW area, but also throughout the nation. The demonstrations will occur at Bass Hall, downtown Fort Worth at 4th and Commerce streets, one hour prior to each of the five Canned Cleopatra performances. Here is the protest schedule:

Friday, March 27, – 7pm; Saturday, March 28 – 1pm and 7pm; Sunday, March 29, 1pm and 7pm.

By selling tickets without acknowledging that patrons won't be getting what they've paid for, TBT is perpetrating an artistic fraud – cheating the public out of a legitimate ballet performance and robbing professional musicians of their jobs. *Unless TBT is stopped now, its shameful fraud may become business as usual, adversely affecting every AFM member everywhere. If you care about the future of live music, join with us NOW!*

TBT says it will continue fleecing the public with cheap canned music and an empty orchestra pit if it survives to play Winspear Opera House in Dallas later this year. Patrons will pay big money to TBT for live music but they won't get it. *The company hopes the public will neither notice nor care.* Together, we can make a difference. For more about our campaign, please visit http://musiciansdfw.org/pages/ballet_crisis.htm. **See you at Bass Hall!**

Sincerely and fraternally yours,


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

“Music is the Universal Language of Mankind.”