

NEWS MEMO

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

MUSICIANS' UNION, OPERA COMPANY REACH AGREEMENT

UNION TO RECOMMEND RATIFICATION DESPITE STRONG OPPOSITION TO JOB CUTS

5 YEAR DEAL YIELDS 20% PAY INCREASE, PRESERVES WEEKLY SALARY, VACATION WEEK

ORCHESTRA VOTE SET FOR THURSDAY MORNING AT FAIR PARK

WHO: The Dallas-Fort Worth Professional Musicians Association, affiliated Local 72-147 of the American Federation of Musicians, which represents The Dallas Opera Orchestra, and more than 1700 professional musicians across North Texas and Southern Oklahoma, including the Dallas Symphony and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras.

WHAT: The Union has reached agreement with The Dallas Opera for a new 5-year agreement covering the musicians of the Dallas Opera Orchestra. The agreement is subject to a secret ballot ratification vote set for Thursday morning, November 9, 2006, at Fair Park Music Hall in Dallas. Features of the new contract include:

- 5-year term, effective upon ratification, through the 2010/2011 season.
- Base weekly wages will rise from \$874.18 to \$1050 in the final contract year.
- All orchestra members are guaranteed 16 weeks employment in the first three contract years, plus one week paid vacation, for a total of 17 weeks salary.
- All orchestra members are guaranteed 17 weeks employment in the final two contract years, plus one vacation week, for a total of 18 weeks salary.
- Services performed in addition to the guaranteed weeks will be paid at the weekly salaried rate.
- Weekly health and welfare payments rise from \$60 to \$65 per week in the final contract year.
- The size of the orchestra, now 57 musicians, will be reduced to 53 musicians by attrition.

The musicians have voiced strong opposition to the opera company's plan to downsize, saying elimination of members will harm the artistic integrity of the orchestra.

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

