

# NEWS MEMO

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

### OPERA MUSICIANS VOTE ON SETTLEMENT TOMORROW MORNING

*STRONG OPPOSITION TO JOB CUTS, WAGE OFFER MAY SCUTTLE CONTRACT*

*UNION MAY CALL FOR STRIKE VOTE IF RATIFICATION FAILS*

- WHO:** Members of the Dallas Opera Orchestra, affiliated with the Dallas-Fort Worth Professional Musicians Association, Local 72-147 of the American Federation of Musicians, which represents more than 1700 professional musicians across North Texas and Southern Oklahoma, including the Dallas Symphony and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras.
- WHAT:** The musicians will vote by secret ballot for or against a new 5-year contract covering their services with The Dallas Opera. Union president Ray Hair will announce the results of the vote.
- WHERE:** Karyanis Rehearsal Complex, located at 4301 S. Fitzhugh in Dallas.
- WHEN:** 9:30am, Thursday, November 9, 2006
- WHY:** Union and opera company representatives reached tentative agreement on Monday, November 6, for a successor collective bargaining agreement. Despite a favorable recommendation from the Union's negotiating team, many musicians are strongly opposed to the contract, saying it will harm the artistic integrity of the orchestra because it will eventually reduce the size of the orchestra from 57 to 53 members. Salaried wages will rise 20% over five years in the new agreement, but raises in each of the first three seasons will increase just 2% per year – seen as too small by many musicians. If the orchestra votes to reject the settlement, the Union will ask the opera company to resume negotiations. If the extent of opposition to the agreement is overwhelming, the Union may call for a separate strike vote. The voting comes just one day prior to the opera company's November 10 season opening performance of Verdi's *Nabucco*.

*For further information, contact Local 72-147 President Ray Hair  
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