

# NEWS MEMO

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

### OPERA MUSICIANS OVERWHELMINGLY REJECT CONTRACT PROPOSAL

*STRONG OPPOSITION TO JOB CUTS, WAGE OFFER NIXED RATIFICATION*

**UNION AND COMPANY REPS WILL CONFER TONIGHT WITH FEDERAL MEDIATOR**

*UNION TO CALL STRIKE VOTE TOMORROW UNLESS OFFER IMPROVES*

**WHO:** Dallas-Fort Worth Professional Musicians Association, Local 72-147 of the American Federation of Musicians, representing members of The Dallas Opera Orchestra.

**WHAT:** The Union will meet with representatives of The Dallas Opera tonight in an effort to avert a strike and obtain improvements to a contract offer that was overwhelmingly rejected by the orchestra this morning.

**WHERE:** Karyanis Rehearsal Complex, located at 4301 S. Fitzhugh in Dallas.

**WHEN:** 5:45 p.m., Thursday, November 9, 2006

**WHY:** Despite a favorable recommendation from the Union's negotiating team, the orchestra voted overwhelmingly today to reject a tentative settlement reached Monday, November 6, for a successor collective bargaining agreement, saying it will harm the artistic integrity of the orchestra because Prior to the balloting, members of the orchestra expressed their strong opposition to the opera company's plan to reduce the size of the orchestra from 57 to 53 members, saying it will harm the artistic integrity of the orchestra. The musicians found the company's wage offer unacceptable. Raises in each of the first three seasons – amounting to just 2% per year – were seen as too small by the orchestra. *Because of overwhelming opposition to the settlement, THE UNION WILL CALL FOR A SEPARATE STRIKE VOTE TOMORROW UNLESS THE OPERA COMPANY IMPROVES ITS OFFER. The opera company's season opening performance of Verdi's Nabucco is set for 8pm tomorrow night.*

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