

# NEWS MEMO

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

### CONTRACT VOTE RE-SET FOR TUESDAY NIGHT

#### FWSO MUSICIANS TO VOTE PAY CUTS UP OR DOWN REJECTION OF TENTATIVE DEAL COULD PROMPT STRIKE VOTE

- WHO:** Musicians of The Fort Worth Symphony 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 musicians of the Dallas Symphony Orchestras and The Dallas Opera Orchestra.
- WHAT:** Orchestra members will perform a benefit concert and vote whether to accept or reject a tentative contract settlement reached Wednesday night between the musicians' union and management.
- WHEN:** 9 P.M. Tuesday, November 16, 2010, at the conclusion of a concert to benefit Agape Meals Ministry.
- WHERE:** Broadway Baptist Church, located at 305 West Broadway Avenue in Fort Worth.
- WHY:** The musicians' union and FWSOA management reached a tentative agreement Wednesday November 10 for a two year contract that will shrink the concert season to 45 weeks from 52 during the 2010-2011 season and by six weeks to 46 weeks in the 2011-2011 season, with corresponding cuts in fringe benefits. The deal is only slightly better than two earlier offers that were overwhelmingly rejected after management threatened to impose them. The tentative settlement will cut musicians' annual minimum pay by 13.5% immediately, from \$60,000 to \$51,937. FWSOA president and CEO Ann Koonsman repeatedly rebuffed Union offers to temporarily reduce weeks with gradual restoration over three years. The parties have negotiated toward a new agreement since June 4. The orchestra has rehearsed and performed without a contract since August 1. Financial records show that FWSOA assets, now nearly \$30 million, have improved by 20% since 2003. Ms. Koonsman has claimed that substantial new rental and ticket surcharge increases imposed by Bass Performance Hall, equaling last year's deficit, justify her demand for give-backs. Bass Hall's endowment stands at roughly \$80 million, according to public records. The Union says some FWSOA proposals may be punitive and related to lingering artistic differences that arose between the orchestra and Music Director Miguel Harth-Bedoya early this year. "We know these imposed cuts cannot be justified economically by the company, and the orchestra is understandably upset." said Union president Ray Hair. "I can't predict the outcome of the vote." he said.

*For further information, visit [www.musiciansdfw.org](http://www.musiciansdfw.org) , [www.fwsomusicians.com](http://www.fwsomusicians.com)*

*or contact Local 72-147 President Ray Hair at 817-988-5238 (cell).*

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