

# NEWS MEMO

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

### **MUSICIANS TO BLAST RSO NO PAY AT SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT *ORCHESTRA STILL OWED FOR APRIL SERVICES, WILL PLAY UNDER PROTEST***

- WHO:** Members of the Dallas-Fort Worth Professional Musicians Association, affiliated 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 and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras, The Dallas Opera Orchestra and the Richardson Symphony Orchestra
- WHAT:** Professional musicians will distribute informational leaflets at the company's season closing performance, May 8 in Richardson, to protest the RSO's failure and refusal to pay musicians for their services according to contract.
- WHERE:** The Charles W. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson, Texas.
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 8, 2010, 7 – 8:00pm.
- WHY:** Musicians performing with the Richardson Symphony Orchestra have had to wait weeks and months to receive their paychecks for most every concert performed over the past two years. Orchestra members still have not been paid for their April 10 concert performance, despite repeated promises from management to make the payments. "We've given the company plenty of time to get its financial act together and our pocketbooks have suffered for it," said principal trumpet player and orchestra committee member Bert Truax. "We want the public and patrons to know what has been going on," he said. The Richardson Symphony, Inc. has an annual operating budget of \$800,000.00, and pays its management staff very well in comparison to the orchestra members. According to public access documents, RSO Executive Director George Landis earns \$80,000.00 yearly while Development Director Scott Wilkinson is paid \$60,000.00 annually. Music Director Anshel Brusilow receives \$75,000.00 each season to conduct a series of seven concerts. "It is interesting to note that individuals in a failing management who never play a note of music are paid handsomely, and paid first, while the musicians who bring such joy to the world are left to beg for their wages after nearly every performance," said musicians' union president Ray Hair. "It is a shame to see the company treat the orchestra this way," he said.

*For further information, contact Local 72-147 President Ray Hair  
at (Metro) 817-469-6040 or 817-988-5238 (cell).*

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