

# NEWS MEMO

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

### **POLICE BARRED ORCHESTRA REPS AT RSO MEETING LAST NITE**

***RICHARDSON SYMPHONY BOARD: “NO MORE UNION CONTRACT”***

### **UNION WANTS RSO PLACED ON INTERNATIONAL UNFAIR LIST**

- WHO:** 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:** Local 72-147 has requested that the Richardson Symphony, Inc. be placed on the AFM’s International Unfair List.
- WHY:** RSO management called a June 30 orchestra meeting at the offices of Alliance Data in Richardson, purportedly to discuss “structural changes” to its operations. Union representatives Ray Hair, Karen Schnackenberg and Principal trumpeter Bert Truax showed up but were barred from the meeting by a sheriff’s deputy who called Dallas Police to the scene. Police, acting on RSO’s orders, refused to allow union reps and orchestra member Truax into the meeting despite the existence of a collective bargaining agreement between RSO and the musicians’ union designating Local 72-147 as the orchestra’s exclusive representative. RSO members in attendance reported that management officials said the meeting was called to repudiate the company’s contractual relationship with the union, and to advise that it would refuse to negotiate with the union upon expiration of the existing contract on August 31. RSO’s actions have prompted the union to request RSO’s placement upon the AFM’s International Unfair list, *which triggers the possibility of fines of up to \$50,000 and/or expulsion for unionists who work for employers so listed.* RSO members leafleted concertgoers at a May 8 performance to protest management’s late wage payments – weeks and months delinquent – for most concerts over the past two years. A sound clip of [Conductor Anshel Brusilow’s abusive rant](#) toward principal trumpeter Bert Truax who protested RSO’s shabby treatment toward the orchestra, has drawn worldwide attention toward the struggle by RSO musicians to get paid on time and to rehearse and perform with without insults.

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

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