

# NEWS MEMO

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

### **RSO REJECTS FEDERAL MEDIATION OF UNION DISPUTE PLAYERS STILL OWED FOR JUNE 18 CONCERT UNION PENSION FUND ANNOUNCES AUDIT, SAYS RSO MAY OWE \$100K**

- WHO:** Dallas-Fort Worth Professional Musicians Association, affiliated Local 72-147 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, 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:** RSO has rejected the Union's request for Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) assistance in resolving the dispute with Richardson Symphony, Inc.
- WHY:** FMCS Commissioner Dave Renfro has confirmed that RSO officials are refusing to meet under FMCS auspices to explore a mediated resolution to an ongoing dispute with the musicians' Union. RSO president Jim Pierce and manager George Landis used a gun-brandishing off-duty sheriff's deputy, private security guards and Dallas police officers to remove Union reps from a management-called June 30 Orchestra meeting in Richardson, where Pierce announced that RSO would refuse to further recognize or negotiate a new contract with the musicians' union. In response, the Union placed RSO on the AFM's International Unfair list on July 1, which effectively eliminates Union musicians from the RSO's roster. Still awaiting paychecks from an RSO concert performed June 18 in Richardson's Eisemann Center, some musicians say the late pay is retaliation for refusing to sign a sub-standard contract for next season. "Many of us avoided signing RSO's one-sided non-union contract and because of our actions, it appears that we won't be paid," said Jennifer Garner, a violinist and an attorney who is a member of the orchestra players' committee. The AFM represents 90,000 professional musicians across the US and Canada. In a related development, the AFM-EP Fund (the Union's pension fund), says it will audit RSO's books from 2007 forward. The Fund will investigate RSO's chronic irregularities in remitting players' pension contributions. In a July 19 [Audit Notice](#), the Fund estimated that RSO will owe at least \$100,000.00. RSO members leafleted concertgoers at a May 8 performance to protest management's late wage payments, which, along with contract pension contributions, have been chronically delinquent for most concerts over the past two years. A clip of [Conductor Anshel Brusilow's abusive rant](#) aimed at principal trumpeter Bert Truax who protested RSO's shabby treatment toward the orchestra, drew worldwide attention to the orchestra's struggle to get paid on time and to rehearse and perform with without injury and insult.

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

**Release #6, July 20, 2010 12 noon**

[www.musiciansdfw.org](http://www.musiciansdfw.org)