

Dear Plano Symphony Colleagues,

I am writing to you all that I am in support of the Dallas Fort Worth Professional Musicians negotiating with the Plano Symphony Association for a Master Agreement covering our services. The orchestra has grown and flourished over the past 25 years of its existence and has provided enrichment not only for the community but for musicians as well.

A Master Agreement would take the orchestra to the next natural, evolutionary step in providing solid, dependable, clear direction as to what is expected on both sides of the podium. This type of agreement is what other area orchestras already enjoy.

We, as musicians, have invested much in financial resources, time, and sweat, to get to the level we are today. This has also involved relocating from different cities (and in many cases, from different countries). With this type of sacrifice, is it too much to ask in going for an agreement that ensures longevity, stability, and as a result, enhanced morale?

Any major business transaction made in our lives involves an agreement. Why would we want to short change ourselves in our working lives as musicians?

Alice Hobbs and Maestro Guzman have done an exemplary job in getting the orchestra performing in fine form. A Master Agreement would ensure that we continue moving forward in an environment that fosters fairness, dependability, stability and enthusiastic morale.

I know that we have been getting letters from both sides of this issue as of late. But I believe in the long run, that this Agreement will be of great benefit not only for the musicians, but also for the Symphony Association because of the clarity it provides.

Please join me in voting for this effort.

Cordially,

Barney McCollum
Bass Trombonist