

Dear Plano Symphony musicians,

I believe that you have received letters recently from both the Plano Symphony and Local 72-147 regarding the voting for unionizing the Plano Symphony.

I have walked the road from an F-1 student to a legal resident, and I have worked for both non-union and Union orchestras. The truth is, after I had a taste of how I was treated in a union orchestra, I wish all my gigs were Union jobs only. I must admit that playing in a Union orchestra is much, much more enjoyable. Why? Because in a Union orchestra, the Master Agreement ensures that musicians will work in suitable conditions, will be treated by the conductor and the management in an appropriate manner, and will be paid in an amount that measures up the musicians' contribution to the orchestra. These elements together make a professional orchestra professional.

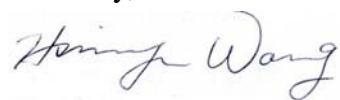
Some people told me that it is a burden to pay the \$110 Union annual dues, just to play some Union gigs. Well, that is NOT true. Our union dues ensure us the greatest protection for our jobs and ourselves, no matter if you are playing a gig for an orchestra, a church, or even a wedding. All across United States, AFM representatives work hard to protect our rights in live performing, recording, broadcasting, etc.

Local 72-147 is like a big family. We help each other out, in our jobs, as well as our lives. When an unfortunate accident happened to a fellow musician last year, we all poured in our support and to help. It is nice and comforting to know that the "largest entertainment union in the Southwest" protects us.

It is a pity that some people just don't understand that ***Union only HELPS to make their orchestra BETTER***, not the other way around. I love my orchestra and I respect myself as being a professional musician. This is why I will vote "YES" to unionizing the Plano Symphony.

How about you?

Sincerely,



Hsinyi Wang
Cellist