

Dallas Fort Worth Professional  
Musicians Association  
1939 Stadium Oaks Court  
Arlington, TX 76011

# Why We Belong

**Messages From Our Members**

**No. 8**

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Musicians Association  
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Arlington, TX 76011**

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## THE SUM OF OUR PARTS

*By Jennifer Garner, Esq.*

*Jennifer Garner is a violinist with the Richardson Symphony Orchestra and is an attorney with the Kellett Law Firm in Dallas.*

Although the Musicians Union may be most highly visible when representing musicians regularly employed under a collective bargaining agreement, that activity accounts for only one part of our overall mission. Our membership is not limited to those working under collective bargaining agreements, and neither is our advocacy. The music industry offers more career options than could ever be enumerated, and our aim is to improve the lives of all musicians by supporting the full range of our members' creative work at all stages of their careers.

A vital component of our membership is comprised of local freelance musicians, music students, and self-contained bands and ensembles. These musicians perform in the dozens of venues throughout North Texas where there is a demand for live music. They work in nightclubs and churches, provide entertainment for private events, and perform concerts for the largest and most popular music and arts festivals in the region. In addition, many of our freelance members perform regularly as substitute and extra musicians with professional orchestras in the area.

The Musicians Union zealously represents and protects the interests of our freelance members, including students who are just starting out. For example, our online booking and referral resources help independent musicians find gigs, connect with the contractors who book the gigs, and gain exposure in our professional community. The written single-engagement contracts that are available to our members help ensure that fair wages and working conditions are maintained and minimize the risk of non-payment. In cases where an oral or written single-engagement contract is breached, the Union helps musicians obtain a legal remedy. When negotiating with employers of symphonic and orchestral musicians, the Union insists that substitute and extra musicians who are not members of the regular bargaining unit are nonetheless treated fairly. Moreover, some of our regular collective bargaining units have established a strike fund so that if a work stoppage occurs, they will not be forced to compete for the single-engagement work on which our freelance colleagues depend.

The solidarity we enjoy among the diverse sectors of our membership, including freelance musicians, strengthens the Union by reinforcing the professionalism of our industry as a whole and maintaining the integrity of our standards for wages and working conditions. The inclusion of student musicians in particular offers us the chance to demonstrate to young professionals why they should join the Union regardless of their musical genres, the venues they plan to perform in, or the geographic region to which their careers ultimately take them.

## THE SUM OF OUR PARTS (cont.)

On August 19, 2007, the membership of our Local voted to adopt the Executive Board's proposed change to the Bylaws creating a new Student Membership classification for musicians enrolled in an accredited school, college, or university. By joining the Union as a student, one can now gain all the benefits available to regular members without being required to pay the customary local and federation initiation fees. Furthermore, as long as the musician remains a member in good standing, he or she may make the transition from student member to regular member without *ever* paying the initiation fees! To take advantage of this opportunity, students who join in September 2007 must pay **only \$148**, which is the amount of annual dues required to remain a member in good standing from now through the end of next year. Students will **save \$166** and will not need to pay annual dues again until **January 2009**.

If you are a student and a musician, join the Union now, save money, and get your professional career off the ground. Don't wait for graduation – many of your peers are already gaining the advantages of membership.

If you are already out of school and working single engagements, we can help improve the quality of your professional life. We work for musicians in all types of careers at all stages of professional advancement. Let us work for you.

**We  
Represent  
The  
Finest  
Musicians  
In  
The  
World  
Join Today!**

## Student Membership Drive Special

**STUDENTS: JOIN IN  
SEPTEMBER FOR  
ONLY \$148.00**

**Includes dues and fees to 2009!**

**Dallas - Fort Worth  
Professional Musicians  
Association, Local 72-147 of  
the American Federation of  
Musicians – the largest  
entertainment Union in the  
Southwest – has waived local  
and national initiation fees  
for student musicians  
enrolled in accredited  
schools, colleges and univer-  
sities. *Now, student musi-  
cians can join as Student  
Members for only \$148.00  
and remain in good stand-  
ing through January 1,  
2009 - a savings of \$166!***

Join us for online booking and referral and a long list of other important benefits only possible from the AFM.

**Our contractors are looking to audition new members now!**

We're musicians working for musicians in tune with all facets of the music industry.

Call us – (M) 817-469-6040 (toll free in TX and OK – 1-800-635-0072) to request a membership application, or go to [www.musiciansdfw.org](http://www.musiciansdfw.org), and click - "How to Join". Material will be sent to you immediately. You can even download the forms online, and pay online by credit card.

**OUR WORK HAS WORKED  
FOR MORE THAN  
100 YEARS.  
WE'LL MAKE IT WORK FOR  
YOU, TOO.**