

**Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Association  
Statement Regarding Negotiations  
October 22, 2016**

At the request of the Musicians' Union, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Association agreed to return to the bargaining table this week. We had hoped to have a constructive discussion that would bring the musicians back to the stage.

Unfortunately, the meeting was unproductive and no progress was made towards reaching agreement. To the contrary, the Union remains entrenched in its desire for a financial package that the Association does not have the ability to pay.

"The Union asked us to return to the bargaining table, so we were dumfounded that they did not submit a proposal today," said Amy Adkins, President of the FWSOA. "We are also deeply disappointed that the Union refused to engage in collaborative solutions that take into account our financial condition and the long-term future of the institution"

"The Union and management agree that Fort Worth wants its orchestra back, and we want nothing more than the musicians to end their strike and return to work. However, our ideas of how to accomplish this are in direct opposition. The Association maintains that the only solution is through a combination of growth *and* cuts, not growth alone. Growth and cuts are not mutually exclusive."

The Association's final offer presented on September 7 included a combination of both growth and cuts, with growth representing the most significant portion. The four-year contract would have included a growth plan in which the Association would grow revenue by \$1.8 million over the four-year period through a variety of strategies to build audiences and increase contributions.

In contrast, the concessions requested from the musicians would have saved the Association approximately \$530,000 over the same four-year period.

As a result of the seven-week strike, the musicians have already sacrificed wages totaling the entire four years of concessions requested by the Association.

As stated before, this strike benefits no one, and we feel badly for our patrons and ticketholders who have loyally sponsored the Orchestra with their financial support and attendance. The Association will continue to work in good faith to reach an agreement that will ensure this city will enjoy symphonic music for decades to come.

For more information about negotiations, please visit [www.fwsymphony/contract](http://www.fwsymphony/contract)

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