

## DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND MUSICIANS RATIFY NEW TWO-YEAR CONTRACT

*Agreement Provides Base Salary Increase over Next Two Seasons and controls Health Care Costs*

**Dallas, TX** (September 25, 2015) – The Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Local 72-147 of the American Federation of Musicians have announced that a new two-year contract has been ratified by both parties. The agreement is retroactive to September 1, 2015, and runs through August 31, 2017.

The agreement calls for a three percent annual increase in the musicians' base wages in each of the 2015/16 and 2016/17 seasons. This increase follows a prolonged period of either wage freezes or minimal increases.

"Led by Maestro Jaap van Zweden, our musicians are performing at a level that has elevated the reputation of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra around the world," said Joe Hubach, Chairman of the Dallas Symphony Association Board of Governors. "This agreement recognizes their accomplishments and ensures that our audiences will continue to enjoy the excitement and beauty our musicians provide each and every time they perform."

As in years past, negotiations were conducted in a constructive and business-like manner, balancing economic realities with the need to maintain its ability to compete in an international market for artistic talent.

"The relationship we have with our musicians helps differentiate us", said Jonathan Martin, President & CEO of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. "We work together constantly to maintain a true partnership so important to be able to achieve the highest standards for the DSO."

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement for this two-year contract," said Christopher Adkins, Principal Cello of the DSO and Chair of the orchestra's musician's negotiating committee. "This series of talks was productive, and musicians and management worked together, and openly, to address and discuss the critical issues."

### **About the Dallas Symphony Orchestra**

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of Music Director Jaap van Zweden, presents the finest in orchestral music at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, regarded as one of the world's premier concert halls. As the largest performing arts organization in the Southwest, the DSO is committed to inspiring the broadest possible audience with distinctive classical programs, inventive pops concerts and innovative multi-media presentations. In fulfilling its commitment to the community, the orchestra reaches more than 270,000 adults and children through performances, educational programs and community outreach initiatives. A European Tour in March 2013 elevated the orchestra to national and international prominence. The DSO's involvement with the City of Dallas and the surrounding region includes an award-winning multi-faceted educational program, community projects, popular parks concerts and youth programming. The DSO has a tradition dating back to 1900, and it is a

cornerstone of the unique, 68 acre Arts District in downtown Dallas that is home to multiple performing arts venues, museums and parks; the largest district of its kind in the nation. The DSO is supported, in part, by funds from the Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Dallas.

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