

## **Resolution N°. 2**

*July 29, 2019*

**Subject:** *Resolution in support of the Musicians of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra*

### Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Resolution

Whereas, In September of 2018, during negotiations for a new contract, management of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra proposed to slash their season from 52 to 40 weeks, drastically cutting musicians' pay; and

Whereas, The musicians of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, who had already agreed to concessionary contracts for nearly two decades, questioned the need for further cuts at the musicians' expense after the orchestra had embarked on an expensive European tour; and

Whereas, The musicians and their supporters successfully lobbied the Maryland State legislature to allocate 3.2 million dollars in support of the orchestra; and

Whereas, six days later, on May 30, 2019, shortly before its summer season was set to begin, management of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra abruptly cancelled their summer season; and

Whereas, On June 17, 2019, management of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra locked out its musicians, and threatened to cut off their health insurance benefits; and

Whereas, Citing mismanagement of the Orchestra's budget, Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland has refused to release funds promised to the orchestra; and

Whereas, The Musicians of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra are working hard to increase awareness of their fight, including presenting a free Fourth of July

Concert in the city where “The Star Spangled Banner” was written, and the musicians need support to preserve their wages and benefits; and

Whereas, The International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians’ (“ICSOM”) Call to Action, initiated on June 17, 2019, has raised over \$250,000 in support of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Musicians and Local 40-543 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (“AFM”); and

Whereas, The Regional Orchestra Players’ Association (“ROPA”) donated \$250 to the Call to Action in support of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Musicians; and

Whereas, As of the date of the passage of this resolution, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Musicians are still locked out and stand to lose their health insurance benefits on September 1, 2019; and

Whereas, The actions of the management of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra were unnecessary and resulted in punitive action towards its musicians, without whom it could not exist; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association (“ROPA”) hereby stands in solidarity with the musicians of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in their fight to maintain and improve their wages and working conditions; and, be it further,

*Resolved*, That ROPA calls on Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland to release the funds appropriated by the legislature to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in order to bring the musicians back to work; and, be it further;

*Resolved*, That ROPA condemns the actions of the management of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and hereby implores them to end the lockout and sustain the wages and benefits its musicians deserve.

**Submitted by:** The ROPA Executive Board