

Resolution N°. 5

July 29, 2019

Subject: *Resolution congratulating AFM Local 10-208, Chicago, IL, for resolution of two major orchestral strikes*

Local 10-208 Resolution

Whereas, In October of 2018, the musicians of the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra, represented by Local 10-208 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, (“AFM”), announced that bargaining for a successor collective bargaining agreement had been unsuccessful; and

Whereas, Management of the Lyric Opera of Chicago was attempting to impose cuts to the musicians’ pay, reduce the number of weeks of work, drastically change the schedule, and cut the musicians’ health benefits; and

Whereas, In response, the musicians of the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra initiated a strike; and

Whereas, Public support for the musicians was very strong, as demonstrated in a well-attended rally at Daley Plaza in Chicago, which included speeches by AFM President Ray Hair and representatives of the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians (“ICSOM”), the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association (“ROPA”), and Chicago government entities; and

Whereas, The strike resulted in a compromise from the Lyric Opera of Chicago management which preserved the musicians’ rate of pay, guaranteed an additional five weeks of work for the ring cycle, and preserved health benefits; and

Whereas, Support for the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra Musicians is now stronger than ever; and

Whereas, In March of 2019, the musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, also represented by Local 10-208 of the AFM, announced that after 18 months of bargaining for a successor contract without a resolution, they were initiating a strike; and

Whereas, The strike focused on preserving the musicians’ defined benefit plan; and

Whereas, Support for the musicians was incredibly strong, and included public statements from Maestro Riccardo Muti, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Representatives Dick Durbin and Sean Casten, and others; and

Whereas, After ICSOM initiated a call to action, approximately \$200,000 was raised to help the musicians; and

Whereas, The strike went on for seven weeks; and

Whereas, Mayor Rahm Emanuel of Chicago stepped in to help the musicians and management reach a compromise, resolving the strike in late April, 2019; and

Whereas, through all of this, Local 10-208 of the AFM, through its officers, led by President Terryl Jares, was unwavering in its support of the musicians and worked hard to preserve wages and working conditions for the fine musicians of both the Lyric Opera Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") hereby applauds the work of the officers of Local 10-208 of the AFM and the members of the negotiating committees of the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for their herculean efforts to preserve their wages and working conditions; and, be it further,

Resolved, That ROPA commends their efforts, which help preserve wages and working conditions for us all.

Submitted by: The ROPA Executive Board