

Resolution N°. 6

July 27, 2021

Subject: *Resolution Thanking the IMA negotiating committee and especially Deborah Newmark and Rochelle Skolnick for their tireless advocacy on behalf of musicians during the pandemic through their work on the IMA Side Letter Agreement*

IMA Resolution

Whereas, In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world, closing large performance venues and putting orchestral musicians out of work; and

Whereas, Many member orchestras of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") thereafter wished to share both new and archived content through streaming platforms in order to keep their musicians working and in front of their audiences; and

Whereas, The sharing of orchestral media content through streaming platforms is governed by the Integrated Media Agreement ("IMA"), which is negotiated between the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada ("AFM") and the Employers' Electronic Media Association ("EMA"); and

Whereas, Members of the EMA expressed their desire for leniency on the terms of the IMA during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, After countless hours of negotiations and meetings with the AFM IMA negotiations committee, which includes AFM staff and rank-and-file musicians, including members of the ROPA Media Committee, an IMA side letter was developed which allowed orchestras to more widely create and distribute streaming content in exchange for guaranteed wages and benefits to the musicians; and

Whereas, AFM Symphonic Services Director and Special Counsel Rochelle

Skolnick and AFM Director of Symphonic Electronic Media Deborah Newmark worked tirelessly to draft the IMA side letter, implement its terms, and get it ratified by many orchestras around the United States; and

Whereas, The IMA side letter has allowed ROPA orchestras to provide work, wages, and creative outlets for their musicians during this difficult time; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") hereby applauds the work of the Integrated Media Agreement ("IMA") negotiating committee in developing and agreeing to the IMA side letter; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA hereby and sincerely thanks Rochelle Skolnick and Deborah Newmark for their dedication and service to our musicians.

Submitted by: The ROPA Executive Board