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Omaha Symphony and Omaha Symphony Musicians’ Association reach contract agreement

Omaha, Neb – The Omaha Symphony Association (OSA) and the Omaha Symphony Musicians’ Association, represented by Local No. 70-558 of the American Federation of Musicians, are pleased to announced they have reached an agreement in their contract negotiations.

The agreement, which was ratified by the musicians on November 10 and accepted by the Omaha Symphony Board of Directors on November 12, encompasses a 2-year contract period through the end of the 2010/11 season.

Changes in the contract reflect a changing economic climate. Similar to OSA administrative staff, musicians’ wages will be reduced by 5%. However, it is possible that compensation may be renegotiated for the 2010/11 season. Additional changes were made to both clarify and improve the working relationship.

“These are difficult economic times, in the arts particularly, and we are most appreciative that the musicians, recognizing these events, have assisted us in dealing with the downturn in the economy,” said David Slosburg, Chairman of the OSA Board of Directors. “As we move forward, we will continue to work with them in partnership, ensuring that the community of Omaha has the very best possible in orchestral music experience and opportunities.”

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Both parties look forward to working together to enrich lives through the exhilarating experience of live orchestral music.

Orchestra Musicians Negotiation Committee Chair Karen Sandene said, "We musicians are happy to move forward with great music-making. We appreciate the challenges created by the nation-wide economic downturn that the Omaha Symphony Board has had to weather in the past months and have confidence in their expertise and support as the economy recovers. With season ticket goals being met and so many new faces in the audience, we are shown that there is support for outstanding symphonic music in Omaha. By working together, we feel that the Omaha Symphony can continue to be the region's premier performing arts organization and achieve a national reputation for excellence in orchestral performance."

"The thrill that comes from experiencing live orchestral music is directly linked to the skills and expertise of our very fine musicians and the talents they bring to our city," added Slosburg.

The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 200 live orchestral performances from September through June. In addition to MasterWorks, Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, Chamber, Sights and Sounds, and Family series concerts, the orchestra tours both Nebraska and Iowa providing education and community engagement concerts and special events. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402.342.3560 or visit www.omahasymphony.org

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