

For immediate release

Please contact:

Tom Hudson (thudny@aol.com)

Andrew Trombley (Andrew.trombley@gmail.com)

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From the NHSO Orchestra Committee and American Federation of Musicians Local 400:

The Musicians of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, who are members of American Federation of Musicians Local 400, have been performing in good faith without raises for over two years. Wages, among other bargaining items that are tied to wages, are at the foundation of why the musicians have voted to authorize a strike. We understand that the orchestra is operating at a deficit but at the end of the day we must put a value on our labor. The Chief Executive of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Inc. claims that the musicians are being offered a 22% raise, without appreciating the reality that the increase is implemented over a four-year term. 22% becomes a historical metric being tied into the final year of the contract. The first year offer of a 9% raise does not keep up with Cost-of-Living Adjustments or the rate of inflation. The immediate offer of a 9% raise brings the Musicians to \$130 in 2023, a salary today that has the same spending power as \$115 in 2021, \$4 less than our final salary of our expired agreement. We have been performing at our current salary since September 2021 while our CEO has been awarded significant raises in 2022 and 2023. We are effectively working at reduced wages, and we need raises now. The Musicians of the NHSO are undervalued. Management must understand that orchestras cannot balance the deficit on the backs

on Musicians. This flawed strategy threatens the artistic excellence of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and will tarnish our 128-year history.