

For immediate release:

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The Musicians of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra has voted to authorize a strike.

We have been negotiating with management **since April of 2022**. It has been a slow, difficult process. Management's offers have been far below even a cost-of-living increase and have included unreasonably harsh changes to our working conditions.

In June of 2022 the NHSO received a \$14 million gift from the estate of James D. English, the largest gift in the orchestra's history. This gift has not been reflected in Member wages.

- The gift will result in a budget increase of \$2.2 to \$2.7 million. [HBJ, July 2022]
- CEO, Elaine Carroll, says the new money will be targeted at "investing in our people," yet Musician salaries have remained frozen since the 2022-2023 season,
- In our last agreement [2018-2022] Musician wages rose 6% increase, during that same time our CEO salary rose 19% and new audits will show further raises for the 2023 Fiscal Year
- Musician salaries reflected 23.5% of the 2022-2023 budget, below average of peer orchestras.

We, the Musicians, wish nothing more than to continue providing excellent music for our community, but stagnating wages make it difficult for us to accept an engagement with the NHSO when we are offered work elsewhere. Our CEO has said, "Thanks to the English family, there will always be an orchestra in New Haven." Management's actions during these negotiations will put the NHSO and its 128-year history of excellence in jeopardy.

For further developments please follow @NHSOMusicians on Social Media