



Date: January 8, 2023  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Musicians File Charges Against Fort Wayne Philharmonic Management for Unlawful Interrogation of Employees and Refusal to Bargain in Good Faith**

American Federation of Musicians Local 58 filed an unfair labor practice charge with Region 25 (Indi-anapolis) of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) against Fort Wayne Philharmonic management on Saturday, January 7, 2023, on behalf of striking Philharmonic Musicians.

The charge alleges that the Fort Wayne Philharmonic unlawfully coerced individual employees by “interrogating them about their intention to engage in a strike”. Additional allegations list multiple dates in De-cember 2022 where Philharmonic management “failed to bargain in good faith by placing conditions on its willingness to bargain with the Union”.

On January 5, management sent an email to teachers employed in the Philharmonic’s Club O teaching program held at Fort Wayne Community Schools. The email asked teachers, who are covered under the terms of the contract between the Philharmonic and Musicians, to respond with their intent to return to work despite the unresolved Musicians’ strike. Although the letter promised teachers they would not be penalized for honoring the strike, the NLRB views such questioning as unlawful because it tends to chill employees’ exercise of rights protected by federal law.

“We are outraged that Philharmonic management would coerce our colleagues to cross our picket line”, says Musician spokesperson Campbell MacDonald. “To do so amidst their threats of concert cancelations and the imposition of an artificial negotiation deadline aligns squarely with the Philharmonic’s inability to grasp the concept of fair bargaining.”

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic Players’ Association (American Federation of Musicians Local 58) went on strike on December 8 after performing for 3 months under the terms of an expired contract. Fort Wayne Philharmonic leadership concluded a \$10 million fundraising campaign last year, and currently sits atop an endowment approaching \$30 million. As a result of their bargaining behavior, the Fort Wayne Phil-harmonic is currently placed on the ‘International Unfair List’ by the American Federation of Musicians.

The next negotiation meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10.

Please visit the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Players’ Association website at [www.fwpmusicians.com](http://www.fwpmusicians.com) for more information.



