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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Strike Continues as Philharmonic Management Demands Unprecedented
Elimination of Musicians' Workplace Bargaining Rights**

Philharmonic Musicians remain on strike following negotiations with Fort Wayne Philharmonic management earlier today. Musicians and management agreed to wages for a new agreement in mid January, but Philharmonic management continues to seek the elimination of industry standard workplace bargaining rights for Musicians.

“This entire negotiation has been about what management can extract from Musicians on the back of a modest pay raise” says Players’ Association spokesperson Campbell MacDonald. “The Philharmonic is standing in the way of a resolution by insisting on removing of our ability to address workplace issues not covered under our contract.”

The agreed wage package amounts to a 3.75% average annual raise over Musicians’ 2019 pay through 2026.

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. The Fort Wayne Philharmonic is currently placed on the ‘International Unfair List’ by the American Federation of Musicians. A pending Unfair Labor Practice charge against the Philharmonic alleges Unlawful Interrogation of Employees and Refusal to Bargain in Good Faith.

Musicians will perform a free concert for our community 7PM on Saturday, February 4 at Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Fort Wayne.

The next negotiation meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 5.

Please visit the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Players’ Association website at www.fwpmusicians.com for more information.

