

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fort Wayne Philharmonic Illegally Furloughs Musicians

An Unfair Labor Practice Charge has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board by the Fort Wayne Musicians Association against the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. The charge alleges that the Philharmonic, in furloughing musicians without pay, unlawfully made unilateral changes to the terms and conditions of musician employment.

The contract between musicians and the Philharmonic expired in August, 2019 and the parties have been engaged in bargaining a new contract since June, 2019. It seemed that an agreement was within reach, but talks were paused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike most orchestras around the country that have worked tirelessly to bring music to their communities and to keep their musicians employed, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic furloughed musicians on August 31. In the meantime, the Philharmonic has raised nearly \$10 million in new capital, and a potential move to a new main office in downtown Fort Wayne was announced earlier this week.