



Today may be the scariest day of the year for musicians. Not because today is Halloween, but because orchestra musicians in Fort Worth and Pittsburgh have been on strike for over a month.

The musicians of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra are on strike for the same reason—intransigent management.

In Pittsburgh, musicians struck after six months of contract negotiations when management refused to back off on demands for a 15% pay cut, a pension freeze, and reduction in the size of the orchestra.

In Fort Worth, despite 14 months of continuous negotiations and the assistance of a federal mediator, musicians struck after refusing to ratify proposed substantial pay cuts ranging from 2% to 7.5%, which management announced would nevertheless be imposed.

**Here is the Latest from Fort Worth & Pittsburgh:**

After rebuffing musicians' repeated offers to collaborate on sensible solutions to raise new money and resolve the dispute, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra management unilaterally canceled concerts through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra management has canceled all orchestra events through November 18<sup>th</sup>, but musicians and management have agreed for an independent actuary to review the orchestra's finances in an attempt to develop a path toward compromise.

We commend the courage, unity and collective spirit of striking musicians, their friends and families in Fort Worth and Pittsburgh, who are fighting for fairness against inept, inflexible and uncompromising management. We call on the boards of directors of those managements to immediately work with musicians and their local unions to achieve acceptable agreements.

Musicians standing together have the power.

In Unity,  
Ray Hair  
AFM International President