

**A Message from the LO's ICSOM Representative, Trevor Johnson:**

In the midst of the trying time we are experiencing, I wanted to send along some heartening news. Two of the resolutions passed by this year's delegates directly support us. ICSOM will also assist us in making press releases with this information. Here they are:

**RESOLUTION #18 SUPPORT FOR THE MUSICIANS OF THE LOUISVILLE ORCHESTRA**

Whereas, The Louisville Orchestra is on the cusp of celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2011-2012 as an illustrious organization known as a champion committed to new orchestral compositions; and

Whereas, This commitment was featured in the documentary "Music Makes a City" which celebrates the long history of commissioning new works that were recorded by the Louisville Orchestra; and

Whereas, The Louisville Orchestra, Incorporated (LOI) management and board showed a determination to disregard and ignore these landmark occasions, which were major fundraising opportunities, and chose to once again to attempt to reduce the size of the orchestra; and

Whereas, Unlike LOI management, the musicians of the Louisville Orchestra refused to accept that Louisville was unwilling to support a full-time symphony orchestra and formed their own 501 (c) 3 organization "Keep Louisville Symphonic" to demonstrate that the city of Louisville would, and should, support a 71 member orchestra; and

Whereas, These same musicians reached out to educators and others to build relationships that LOI management ignored; and

Whereas, The LOI board, believing it was the easy way out of their collective bargaining obligations, chose to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in December 2010; and

Whereas, Due to the persistence of the musicians of the Louisville Orchestra, their collective bargaining agreement was not set aside and the LOI was required to fulfill their obligations through the end of the season; and

Whereas, The musicians of the Louisville Orchestra have expressed gratitude for the wisdom and guidance of Liza Hirsch Medina as they have navigated throughout this ordeal; and

Whereas, Negotiations have become quite heated as the LOI has dug in its heels over contract terms; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Delegates and Officers to the 2011 ICSOM Conference express their full support for the Louisville Orchestra musicians in their quest to retain the size of their orchestra, as they have in the past, even when the entire orchestra accepted painful concessions; and, be it further

Resolved, That these same Louisville Orchestra musicians be commended and applauded for the unique way they have continued to educate and engage their community in the fight to Keep Louisville Symphonic.

## **RESOLUTION #5 CONDEMNING THE USE OF BANKRUPTCY FILING**

Whereas, A number of orchestra managements and boards have lost sight of their duties as trustees and overseers of the public institutions they serve, especially in regard to the proper running, funding and management of their organizations; and

Whereas, Some boards and managers have made such poor and shortsighted leadership decisions as to have their leadership capabilities compared to failed institutions like Lehmann Brothers and others; and

Whereas, These same managers and boards have failed to understand that their actions and decisions, while having no impact on their own personal livelihoods, directly impact the employees whose jobs are on the line, and the patrons who love and support these institutions; and

Whereas, The current political climate has fostered overt criticism aimed directly at unions who are blamed for the mishandled decisions of these same trustees, as a well as a refusal to understand that the failure of these institutions begins at the top; and

Whereas, The rash of unnecessary bankruptcy filings on behalf of orchestras like the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, and the Philadelphia Orchestra, have allowed these boards and managers to shrug off any responsibility and repercussions for the destruction and bad decisions they have wrought; and

Whereas, While these orchestras confronting bankruptcy will have to deal with the very long-term effects these actions inevitably cause, these same boards and managers will face few personal repercussions; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Delegates to the 2011 ICSOM Conference condemn the cowardly actions of these and any other institution's boards and managers who choose to use bankruptcy as a weapon rather than participate in honest and open dialogue with their musicians and constituents and with their community at large.