

**SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY
COPLEY SYMPHONY HALL
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101**

NEWS

619.235.0800
WWW.SANDIEGOSYMPHONY.COM

JULY 22, 2011

Contact: Stephen Kougias; Director of Public Relations
619.615.3951; skougias@sandiegosymphony.org

San Diego Symphony Announces New Contract with Musicians

Five-year agreement runs through 2015-2016 Season

The San Diego Symphony and the Musicians' Association of San Diego County, Local 325, American Federation of Musicians, are pleased to announce that on July 22 they reached agreement on a five-year collective bargaining agreement covering the Symphony's performing musicians. The new contract promises continuous operations through June 2016.

During the last year, several major American orchestras faced cutbacks, bankruptcy or prolonged labor disputes. However, in San Diego the story was different. The new agreement calls for wage increases averaging about 3.5 percent in each of the five years. It also provides for continued full medical coverage, catastrophic illness coverage and other working benefits. In addition, provisions call for upgraded working conditions and concert wear and even contemplate a possible East Coast tour in 2013.

"San Diego still has a way to go to achieve salaries more typical of Tier One orchestras," said Edward B. "Ward" Gill, the Symphony's chief executive officer. "But we are pleased to record steady progress in the right direction. The Symphony is grateful for the

community's support especially from our major donors, corporate sponsors and loyal patrons who help keep the momentum going.”

“Credit for this positive outcome goes to a mature bargaining relationship between the Symphony's management and the musicians,” stated Richard A. Paul, the Symphony's labor counsel and a partner in the law firm, Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton LLP. “The parties played all their cards face up and had spirited but realistic discussions of the issues.”

Paul's counterpart, attorney Liza Hirsch Medina, added, “This negotiation exemplified a depth of mutual respect and understanding including the importance of meeting the needs of the orchestra musicians in San Diego—of which the entire community can be proud and of which it would behoove other cities to take note.”

Musicians' co-chair, Richard Levine, commented, “The San Diego Symphony is a cultural treasure for our city, and it is always rewarding to see that recognized. We hope that our concerts and other work in the community continue to enrich the lives of San Diegans well past our next hundred years.”

The Symphony's management team was supported by Robert Wilkins, chief operating officer, Seth Goldman, chief financial officer, Mitchell R. Woodbury, chairman of the board, and key staff, Tommy Phillips and Magdalena O'Neill. The orchestra team was led by cellist Richard Levine and violinist Kathryn Hatmaker with support from musicians Rebekah Campbell, Gregory Cohen and Samuel Hager along with Local 325 officers, Frank Glasson and Edward C. Arias.

San Diego Symphony is the oldest orchestra in California and recently concluded the celebration of its centennial season. The Symphony performs at Copley Symphony Hall in downtown San Diego from October through May and has as its centerpiece music series, the Jacobs Masterworks. Currently, the Symphony is in the midst of its popular outdoor series, the Bridgepoint Education Summer Pops located at Embarcadero Marina

Park South on San Diego's waterfront. In addition to its variety of music series, San Diego Symphony serves more than 53,000 students in San Diego County through its education and outreach program.

For more information, please call the box office at 619.235.0804 or visit www.sandiegosymphony.com.

#