BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA RATIFIES NEW LABOR AGREEMENT THROUGH AUGUST 2017

On Friday, August 22, members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra ratified a new three-year labor agreement that goes into effect on August 25, 2014, and runs through August 27, 2017.

Highlights of the new labor agreement include:

- Minimum weekly scale of: $2,748 in 2014-15; $2,817 in 2015-16; and $2,866/$2,916 (26 weeks each) in 2016-17.

- An increase in the orchestra players’ maximum pension benefit.

- A reworking of the organization's approach to medical insurance that will maintain quality health care benefits while acknowledging the need to implement more effective cost controls.

A joint statement by Mark Volpe, BSO Managing Director, Jonathan Menkis, Chair of the BSO Player’s Committee, and Patrick Hollenbeck, President of the Boston Musician’s Association reads:

“The negotiations required accommodations on both sides, but the final terms represent a variety of elements that recognize the collective understanding of the ever-changing cultural and economic landscape and the need for the Boston Symphony Orchestra to have an agreement that fosters its financial sustainability going forward, all within the framework of furthering the continued artistic excellence of the organization. The agreement we reached on the health care issue is an important example of this understanding. We think the agreement represents a continuing commitment by the trustees, players, and staff of the Boston Symphony Orchestra to remain steadfast in furthering the BSO’s position as one of the leading orchestras in the world.”

All parties involved in the negotiation process would like to thank Joshua Flax, Commissioner of the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, for his helpful counsel.

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