



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATEMENT OF AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS OF
THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (AFM) PRESIDENT
THOMAS F. LEE ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
AND PRACTICES**

“The American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM) is pleased to be working in coalition with the Department for Professional Employees, 10 national unions and eight professional associations to explore and strengthen the standards of professional integrity in our industries.

“As a representative of more than 90,000 musicians across North America, the AFM has long been a champion of integrity in the music industry and professional arts. Among the many examples, the AFM led the drive for blind auditions, making them a reality for musicians in symphonies and musical theaters. These blind auditions – where the music is heard but the musician is not seen by the audition committee – helped to preserve the integrity of the hiring process and has resulted in music performances that best serve the interests of the music-loving public by providing them with first-class music performed by the most capable musicians.

“The AFM, along with the Music Educators Council and the American Association of School Administrators, also created the Music Code of Ethics in 1947. A first of its kind, the Code set guidelines for educators and musicians so that the professional integrity and economic status of musicians would be maintained.

“In today’s difficult economic climate, unfortunately these professional standards and practices are sometimes compromised. The need for enforcement of a strong code of ethics and standards of professional integrity is even more necessary today. It is imperative that our industries strive to always respect professional and ethical conduct and keep the needs of our peers, employers, clients and the public as our primary goal and motivator.

“The AFM is extremely pleased to be working in coalition with DPE, professional associations and unions to advocate for the protection of these professional standards and practices. Our success is imperative and vital to the AFM’s future, as well as all organizations that serve the public good. We are confident the work of this coalition will bear rich results, best serving the interests of our professional memberships and the public.”

ABOUT THE AFM

Founded in 1896, the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM), AFL-CIO, is the largest organization in the world dedicated to representing the interests of professional musicians.

With more than 90,000 members, the AFM represents all types of professional musicians, including those who record music for sound recordings, film scores, videogames, radio, television and commercial announcements, as well as perform music of every genre in every sort of venue from small jazz clubs to symphony orchestra halls to major stadiums. Whether negotiating fair agreements, protecting ownership of recorded music, securing benefits such as health care and pension, or lobbying legislators, the AFM is committed to raising industry standards and placing the professional musician in the foreground of the cultural landscape. www.afm.org

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