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The Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Revises 2009/10 Masterworks Season Schedule

Recently the news has been filled with stories of how a challenging economy has impacted cultural organizations in Northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond. Despite these challenges, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic's first priority is to ensure the longevity of our mission to present live symphonic performances and music education at the highest level of artistic excellence, and that we remain a vital cultural resource in northeastern Pennsylvania for generations to come.

"The Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic is a sound organization, but despite our strengths, we are not immune to the effects of the current economic crisis," explains, Robert L. Stanley, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Board President.

In response to \$60,000 in unpaid state support from 2008/09 and an anticipated drop in State funding for 2009/10 coupled with a 20% drop in corporate sponsors, grants and foundation funding, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic is implementing strategies to weather these challenging economic times.

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, the musicians of Local 140 American Federation of Musicians, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania unanimously agreed to a wage freeze for the 2009/10 concert season and all salaries of management and administrative staff have been frozen.

On Wednesday, September 16, 2009 the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Board of Directors took an unprecedented step and voted to revise the performance schedules of two Masterworks concerts during the current 2009/10 season.

The Saturday, November 7, 2009 Masterworks performance of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No.4, originally scheduled for the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, will merge with the Friday November 6, 2009 concert resulting in a single performance on Friday, November 6, 2009 at the Scranton Cultural Center.

The Friday, March 12, 2010 Masterworks performance of Beethoven's Symphony No 3 "Eroica", originally scheduled for the Scranton Cultural Center, will merge with the Saturday,

March 13, 2010 concert resulting in a single performance on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts.

Ticket holders that are affected by these changes will be personally notified by a Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic representative to make arrangements for new seating assignments. Patrons requiring additional information may call the NEPA Philharmonic administrative office at 570-341-1568, M-F 9am to 5pm.

According to Nancy Schmitt Farkas, Executive Director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, “These and other proactive actions will potentially save the organization about \$80,000 this year, and will ensure that the Orchestra can continue its mission to the community.”

“The musicians, staff and board of directors of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic are determined to overcome these challenging times and it is with a deep commitment and concern that we have decided to take these drastic actions to preserve our mission of delivering the world-class symphonic music and education programs that our audience and community expect from the Philharmonic,” added Farkas.

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic celebrating its 38 Season, was formed in 1972 through the merging of the Wilkes-Barre and Scranton Philharmonics - is a fully professional symphony orchestra that services the entire northeast Pennsylvania corridor. Its annual concert season runs from July through May of each year, and includes Masterworks, Pops, and Educational concerts. A nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic is considered one of the finest regional orchestras of its kind in the country, offering live symphonic performances to people of all ages.

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