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RALLY TO BRING BACK THE MUSIC STATEMENT — 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013

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Thank you to all of you for coming out this afternoon to Rally to Bring Back the Music! My name is Nils Halker from Save Our Symphony Minnesota, and I am here with Maryann Goldstein, Mariellen Jacobson, Jon Eisenberg, as well as members of the Young Musicians of Minnesota. And thank you to the over 7,000 people who have flooded our Facebook page since it was launched just over two weeks ago!

We are quickly approaching the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the lockout imposed by the Board and Management of the Minnesota Orchestral Association, led by Richard Davis of US Bank, Jon Campbell of Wells-Fargo, and Michael Henson, president of the MOA. The Musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra were locked out. Devoted patrons of the Minnesota Orchestra were locked out. Students were locked out. The community was locked out.

For an orchestra to succeed, three groups must work together in concert: the administration, the musicians, and the community. Like a three-legged stool, the enterprise will fail without all three groups actively involved.

Save Our Symphony Minnesota is a group of dedicated listeners and donors—community members — who have been locked out. We have been locked out of the music. We have been locked out of any discussions or conversations. The third leg of the stool has been largely ignored by the administration, and we are here today to make our voices heard.

This evening the Minnesota Orchestral Association is hosting a private party in Orchestra Hall. **The most important point I want to make is this: We believe that a lockout is no time for a party! Time is running out, there is serious, hard work to be done. Let's end this lockout and then — and only then — hold a grand party!**

Three weeks ago Alan Fletcher, President and CEO of the Aspen Music Festival and School, came to Minneapolis and spoke to over 600 listeners across the way at Westminster Presbyterian Church. He said this:

*"I will go so far as to be definite about one thing: the current lock-out of musicians should end, and end unconditionally. I have recently read the point of view that the lockout can only end as part of a larger bargain, because the Association must have the leverage of this tactic. Even the word "leverage" in this context signals that the plan has failed. That plan should now be abandoned. This step would be dramatic testimony from the board to their commitment to a real process."*

We, the listeners, the donors, the students, the members of this community — WITHOUT WHOM IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO "KEEP THE MUSIC GOING" — call upon the Board and Management to end the lockout and show us your "COMMITMENT TO A REAL PROCESS." We are not talking about a quick-fix contract; contract negotiations are work for the MOA and the Musicians, and that will take time. In the meantime, let's get the music back in Orchestra Hall, end the lockout.

And we are prepared to help you end the lockout. It is really very simple, all it takes is a click of the mind to open the lock and the chains will fall away.

Richard Davis, Jon Campbell, and Michael Henson, let us show you how to end this lockout!