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## Announcement January 17, 2014

We at SOSMN want the public to understand that although the Minnesota Orchestra lockout is over, our organization will not disappear – our work continues unabated and, indeed, is as critical as ever. We remain committed to our role as a community audience advocacy group, and as before, will do whatever is needed to ensure that all stakeholders' concerns about the future of the Minnesota Orchestra are addressed by the responsible parties (including the Minnesota Orchestral Association [MOA] management and Board, city officials, and state legislators).

When we formed in August 2013, our stated mission was first, to help end the lockout and second, to preserve a world-class Minnesota Orchestra in the present and the future.

The first goal has now been accomplished – thanks in large part to community voices such as yours and ours being raised. We thank you for your previous involvement and contributions!

However, the second goal of preserving a world-class Minnesota Orchestra still remains. There are many obstacles and questions ahead. While the MOA tends to focus on the financial challenges (which are very real indeed), there are other challenges that need just as much attention. These include transforming the MOA into a transparent, trustworthy, and inclusive non-profit organization that

- 1) invites all stakeholders to participate (beyond making donations and purchasing tickets),
- 2) serves the public interest,
- 3) cultivates new audiences and provides innovative community outreach,
- 4) and most importantly, supports a world-class destination orchestra with a focus on superb live symphonic music as its goals.

Whoever leads the MOA both at the Board and management level must understand and embrace these goals. In fact, SOSMN is certain that if the MOA, the Musicians, and the community are not all on the same page, the Orchestra will be doomed to fail – an outcome that no one wants.

SOSMN has almost 10,000 Facebook followers: an impressive reach. For this and other reasons, we believe that we are in a unique and powerful position to contribute to the rebuilding of the Minnesota Orchestra. Consequently, as we have done since our inception, we will continue to provide information to the public that may have not been available elsewhere, and work both in the public eye and behind the scenes. Your help will be more important than ever, and we will resume requests for our readers to be informed and respond to calls to action. We will also be asking for your feedback and ideas.

SOSMN believes that with the new collective bargaining agreement, the promised new MOA leadership, and a renewed commitment to excellence and collaboration in all respects, the Minnesota Orchestra will again become a beacon among Minnesota non-profits and regain its world-class stature. Join SOSMN in helping these goals become a reality!