

July 16, 2003

Grant Park Ratifies 3-Year Agreement

On June 13, 2003, the musicians of the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra in Chicago ratified a three-year agreement that begins June 1, 2003 and runs through June 1, 2006. In a year of diminishing revenues for the Chicago Park District and the City of Chicago and a fixed allocation to the orchestra from the government for the foreseeable future, the committee and management worked creatively to rescue a season without diminishing per-service wages. Everyone would have preferred a pure wage freeze in year 1 rather than cutting services. A multi-year contract provides a bridge between the old facility on Park District land to the new facility on City property.

	[2002-03]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
LENGTH OF SEASON:	[10 wks.]	9.5 wks.*	10 wks.	10 wks.

* 2003 season reduced by _ week which will be called an unpaid furlough.

WAGES:

Annual Salary –	[\$9,974]	\$9,974	\$10,174	\$10,377
Weekly Salary –	[\$997.44]	\$997.44	\$1,017.39	\$1,037.74
Percent Increase -		0%	2%	2%

EMG: [\$91/wk.] \$91/wk. \$91/wk. \$95/wk.

PENSION: [11%] 10%* 11% 12%

* if management raises an additional \$20,000 prior to 12/31/2003, 1% will be added to this amount.

VACATION: None, 6 personal services per year.

SENIORITY: No change.

HEALTH INSURANCE: [\$50/wk.] \$55/wk. \$60/wk. \$65/wk.

AUDITIONS: Audition committee must now elect a chair to the committee. Membership of the committee must be conveyed to management in writing. Audition committee chair supervises the election of section representatives by secret ballot.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

- One violin position will be left vacant during 2003 season. Vacancy must be filled by beginning of the 2005 season.
- Improved and relaxed leave of absence policy.
- More indoor services will be held in 2004 and 2005 seasons to accommodate acclimatization to new facilities still under construction.

Thanks to the negotiating team: Fritz Kaenzig, Chair; Michael Shelton, Gene Collerd, John Floeter and Linc Smelser. Thanks also to Local 10-208 President Ed Ward, Vice-President Tom Beranek, tireless transcriber Louise Thorson and Attorney Patricia Collins, esq. of Asher, Gittler.

This bulletin was prepared by ICSOM Secretary, Laura Ross with the assistance of the Grant Park ICSOM Delegate, Eva Carol Beck and Gene Collerd.

GRANT PARK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA