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## FIM MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE ORF RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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The International Federation of Musicians and its members wish to express their deepest concern as regards the current threats on the only radio-symphony orchestra in Austria: the RSO.

The reputation of this institution, its influence, its large repertoire but also its eminent role in musical creation and support to young artists make it an essential element of the Austrian and international musical landscapes.

As in other cases, the temptation may exist to try and solve cyclical financial difficulties by reducing funding to culture. Such an option is always based upon short-sighted vision. As regards the RSO, closing down or even weakening this orchestra would represent an unrecoverable loss for Austria as well as for the European cultural heritage.

FIM and its members urge the Austrian authorities to take all necessary actions so as to ensure the upholding of the RSO in all its dimensions, to consolidate its status and to perpetuate its missions. The international community of artists and music lovers would not understand if these requests were to go unheard.

Benoît Machuel  
General Secretary

*The International Federation of Musicians (FIM), founded 1948, is the only body representing musicians' unions worldwide. FIM counts members in about 70 countries covering all regions of the world. For many years now, FIM has been recognised as a NGO (international nongovernmental organisation) in the eyes of diverse international authorities and in particular WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation), Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), the ILO (International Labour Office), the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Alongside the International Federation of Actors (FIA) and UNI-Media and Entertainment (UNI-MEI), FIM is a member of the International Arts and Entertainment Alliance (IAEA) and of the Council of Global Unions.*