



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Esther Wheaton, 519.745.4711 x287

ewheaton@kwsymphony.on.ca

Kitchener- Waterloo Symphony Musicians Ratify New Collective Agreement

A four-year contract paves the way for the KWS to continue to grow as an innovative orchestra in an innovative community.

The **Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony** (KWS) and its musicians' union, **Central Ontario Musicians' Association** (COMA), have reached an agreement on a **new four-year contract**. Both sides have agreed to work together over the coming years to achieve the level of artistic excellence and financial stability that will enable the KWS to grow and strengthen.

"We want to express our deep gratitude to the entire Orchestra for their willingness to work creatively with us on a four-season agreement which will give us an opportunity to continue building a more vital and stable Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony," remarked Board Chair Ron Craigen. "We look forward to working together on many extraordinary artistic initiatives, and congratulate both negotiating teams for the great effort and patience they have exhibited over the past five months."

"We are confident that this agreement will further the advancement of the KWS," said Katherine Robertson, Second Horn and Chair of the Player's Negotiating Committee. "In these negotiations we made progress on a wide variety of issues which impact musicians' daily lives. The orchestra members wish to thank the audience and all supporters of the KWS for their continued support."

The new contract will begin in September 2011 and extend through the 2014-15 Season. The musicians will receive an average wage increase of 2.7% per year and contributions to a new health and life insurance plan. The agreement will allow for increased electronic media activity including internet downloading and service conversion, which will result in increased KWS education and outreach activity in the community.

"We are very happy to have reached a four-year agreement," says Executive Director Genevieve Twomey. "Our challenge was to improve the overall well-being and development of the KWS without exceeding the organization's financial capacity. Together with the renewal of Music Director Edwin Outwater's contract earlier in the season, this agreement will help pave the way for continued growth and innovation."

The KWS wraps up a successful season with two final concerts this weekend and looks forward to launching the 2011/12 Season with *Edwin & Friends*, a gala concert on September 17, 2011.

To download the press kit associated with this release, visit kwsymphony.ca/media. For inquiries or to arrange interviews, please email ewheaton@kwsymphony.on.ca or jjones@kwsymphony.on.ca