



AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS

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Affiliated with the AFL-CIO, Branch of Associated Actors and Artistes of America

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Alvin Ailey Dancers Boycott Gala at Kennedy Center

New York, NY (February 7, 2018) – Artists of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater boycotted the company’s annual gala reception at the Kennedy Center last night based on management’s failure to adequately address the group’s substandard wages and benefits. The dancers and stage managers, represented by the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA), began negotiations in December for a new collective bargaining agreement, with the current one expiring on May 31st, 2018.

Leonard Egert, National Executive Director of AGMA, stated “It is very concerning that Ailey’s Artists, predominately African-American dancers, earn much less than dancers at comparable companies with similar or even smaller budgets. Management needs to promptly address this glaring disparity.”

Griff Braun, AGMA’s New York Dance Executive, added that “The Ailey company is the fourth largest dance company in the United States, in terms of budget, yet the artists’ salaries and benefits don’t reflect it. Additionally, these Artists put on more performances than any other major dance company in the United States - 175 to 200 per year - with only one-third to one-half the number of dancers at other companies. These hard-working Artists deserve pay that at least meets prevailing industry standards.”

AGMA is seeking an upward adjustment in all wage scales and benefits to address the disparity as compared with other major U.S. dance companies. Negotiations resume later this month.

The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) is a labor organization that represents the Artists who create and engage in America’s operatic, choral and dance performances across the world. AGMA represents most major ballet and modern dance companies in the United States from New York City Ballet to San Francisco Ballet. The Union provides forceful advocacy and defense of its members’ employment and artistic rights and is affiliated with the AFL-CIO; Branch of Associated Actors and Artistes of America. For more information please go to www.musicalartists.org.