



August 26, 2021

Katherine E. Brown
Executive Director
New York City Ballet
David H. Koch Theater
20 Lincoln Center
New York, NY 10023

Dear Ms. Brown:

As elected leaders who care about arts workers, we're saddened and angered to learn that the musicians of the New York City Ballet Orchestra have been denied any pay for over a year.

Across the country, almost every other orchestra found a way to sustain their musicians during the pandemic. It's unacceptable that New York City Ballet decided not to support its own artists, who suffered through the worst economic conditions they've ever experienced.

We're aware that an arbitrator recently allowed you to proceed with this unethical course of action, but that certainly doesn't justify doing so. As a flagship nonprofit arts institution that receives many advantages from NYC taxpayers, we expect you to act better than this. We urge you not to use legal loopholes to hurt these hardworking ballet musicians.

You can undoubtedly afford to pay your musicians: your endowment is worth \$198 million. You also won a \$10 million federal Shuttered Venue Operators Grant from taxpayer-funded pandemic aid and you will likely share in the

\$20 million gift to Lincoln Center that was recently reported in the New York Times. Despite this, you still refuse to negotiate fairly with the orchestra.

We urge you to settle quickly on a fair contract with the NYCB orchestra and their union that takes into account payment for the last season. We're committed to ensuring that the pandemic is not misused as a way to destroy the lives of our cherished arts workers, who make New York City the arts capital of the world.

Sincerely,

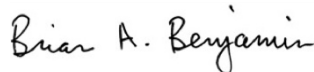


Adam Krauthamer
President, AFM Local 802

and (in alphabetical order):



Vincent Alvarez
President
NYC Central Labor Council



Brian Benjamin
NYS Senator



Gale Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Dick Gottfried
NYS Assemblymember



Brad Hoylman
NYS Senator



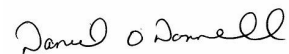
Robert Jackson
NYS Senator



Latoya Joyner
NYS Assemblymember



Mark Levine
NYC Councilmember



Daniel O'Donnell
NYS Assemblymember



Keith Powers
NYC Councilmember



Carlina Rivera
NYC Councilmember



Helen Rosenthal
NYC Councilmember



Linda Rosenthal
NYS Assemblymember



Julia Salazar
NYS Senator



José Serrano
NYS Senator



Jimmy Van Bramer
NYC Councilmember