



VILLAGE LIGHT OPERA GROUP LTD.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE VILLAGE LIGHT OPERA GROUP

The Village Light Opera Group ("VLOG") is an amateur, not-for-profit theater company made up predominantly of members and supporters who donate their time, skills, and money towards the goal of creating quality theater at affordable ticket prices. Unlike most of the members of VLOG, the musicians in the orchestra are mostly paid professionals and members of the Associated Musicians of Greater New York Local 802 -American Federation of Musicians.

Our contract with Local 802 expired on August 31st of this year. Since this past spring VLOG has been attempting to re-negotiate our contract with them but unfortunately those negotiations reached an impasse prior to this production. Due to space limitations in our beautiful new theater, we are only able to accommodate 9 musicians plus a piano. In addition, the artistic interpretation we are utilizing to perform "Starship Pinafore" requires the use of only 9 musicians. However, despite these limitations, the union insisted that we continue hiring 16 musicians. Obviously, such an agreement to hire more musicians than we can fit into the theater put us in an untenable position. However, we offered on an interim basis to hire nine musicians for this production. The Union rejected that, which resulted in our proceeding with this production without Local 802 musicians. We have great respect for our orchestra and hope we can move beyond the current impasse in the future.

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