



FIM Calls for Support of Blue Man Group Boycott in Canada

Paris
1 April 2005.

The International Federation of Musicians (FIM), founded 1948, is the only international organisation representing unions of musicians worldwide. Counting members in over 70 countries, FIM speaks for hundreds of thousands of musicians around the world and is recognised by major international bodies such as UNESCO, WIPO, the ILO, the European Commission or the Council of Europe.

FIM and its members have been struggling for years in order to enable musicians to make a decent living from their trade. The social dialogue, everywhere it has been developed and implemented, has proved to be the best instrument to provide fair and equitable contracts to performers. The union standards that have been established and accepted in Canada to the benefit of stage and live music workers represent the only framework that can provide a satisfactory professional environment as well as a healthy basis for cultural life.

By refusing to negotiate contracts specifying base pay, benefits and defined working conditions, Blue Man Group is depriving professional artists and technicians working in live theatre from having a fair working contract, and is undercutting legitimate producers, which provide Toronto with top quality shows that draw audiences from near and far.

The International Federation of Musicians firmly condemns Blue Man Group's policy and expresses its total support to the Toronto Musicians Association (local 149 of the American Federation of Musicians, member of FIM) as well as to its sister unions from Canadian Equity Association and IATSE in all actions found necessary in order to reach a satisfactory agreement.

We declare ourselves in total solidarity with all local Canadian performers and craftspeople and urge all our affiliates to encourage their members not to take part in any Blue Man Group's production until it abides by professional area labour standards.

John SMITH, President

Benoit Machuel, General Secretary