



# American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada

AFL-CIO/CLC Affiliated

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is not unusual for musicians to fly hundreds or thousands of miles a year in order to fulfill their performing commitments. When they travel, they must carry both their luggage and musical instrument. Most airline carriers allow musical instruments in the cabin of the plane. This is important to musicians.

Professional musicians must frequently spend thousands of dollars to purchase a good instrument that creates a quality sound. Unfortunately, some of these instruments are very expensive and extremely fragile and subject to breakage if handled by someone inexperienced. Instruments may also be subject to extreme temperatures and unable to withstand what may be normal baggage handling procedures in the airline industry. For example, a slight crack in a \$200,000 violin will immediately result in a drastic devaluation and in some cases render it worthless. No one in the airline industry wishes to be responsible for the damage of a priceless instrument nor should anyone wish to prevent a musician from pursuing a performing career.

In order to address this problem, the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada began working with the airline security industry to ensure that musicians with fragile instruments will be able to carry those instruments on airplanes along with one small carry-on bag and a personal bag.

Attached to this correspondence is a letter from Thomas R. Blank, Assistant Administrator for Security Regulation and Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation confirming this is the case.

On behalf of the members of the American Federation of Musicians, I deeply appreciate your kind consideration in this matter and thank you for your assistance in protecting these valuable tools with which musicians earn a living.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Thomas F. Lee  
President  
AFM

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Enc.

