

Option 1:

Dear Angela Elster,

My name is **[Your Name]**, and I am a **[music lover / long-time patron / member of the Vancouver community / musician / supporter of the arts]** writing in **strong support** of the musicians of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, who have been forced to take the difficult but courageous step of going on strike.

It is **deeply disappointing** that in a city as vibrant and cultured as Vancouver, the very artists who bring world-class music to our stages are being paid **far below** the median household income. That is unacceptable — and frankly, shameful.

Musicians are not hobbyists. They are highly trained professionals who dedicate their lives to their craft. To undervalue their contribution is not only unjust — it threatens the future of the orchestra itself. You cannot ask for excellence and commitment from artists without offering dignity and sustainability in return.

I urge the Vancouver Symphony Society to **return to the bargaining table immediately** and offer a contract that reflects the **respect, value, and fair compensation** that these musicians deserve.

This community stands with its musicians. We see their worth, even if management refuses to. And we will continue to support them — on the picket line, in the public sphere, and wherever their voices are heard.

Do better.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

Option 2:

Dear Angela Elster,

As a proud supporter of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, I am writing today out of deep concern for the musicians who have voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike.

These artists are the heart and soul of the VSO. They have given us so much — through beautiful performances, school outreach, and tireless dedication to their craft. It saddens me deeply to know that, despite their incredible talent and commitment, they are not being paid a wage that allows them to live with dignity in the city they serve.

Vancouver is one of the most expensive cities in the country. No full-time musician should have to struggle just to get by — especially not while contributing so much to the cultural life of this community.

I am urging you, as someone who cares deeply about the future of the orchestra, to return to negotiations and offer the musicians a fair contract. One that respects their professionalism, reflects the true cost of living, and ensures the long-term health of the VSO.

This is a pivotal moment. Please choose to stand with the artists who make the Vancouver Symphony what it is. You have the opportunity to show leadership, integrity, and a commitment to fairness.

I will continue to support the musicians however I can — and I hope you will too.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

Option 3:

Dear Angela Elster,

I'm writing today not just as a fan of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, but as someone who truly values the role of music and musicians in our community.

It's heartbreaking to see that the talented musicians of the VSO — the very people who bring beauty, meaning, and culture into our lives — have been left with no choice but to strike. Nobody takes that decision lightly. It's a clear sign that something is wrong.

The cost of living in Vancouver is extraordinarily high, and yet these musicians — professionals who have trained for years and dedicated their lives to their art — are not being paid a livable wage. That should concern everyone who cares about the arts in this city.

We rely on these artists to represent the best of Vancouver to the world. In return, they deserve basic fairness and respect — and that starts with compensation that reflects the value of their work and the reality of the economy they live in.

Please return to the bargaining table and commit to reaching an agreement that honors the musicians' contributions and supports their well-being. The long-term future of the orchestra depends on it.

I remain a supporter of the VSO — but my support will always lie first and foremost with the musicians who make it possible.

With sincere hope for a fair and swift resolution,
[Your Name]