

# PHI MU ALPHA AMONG MEN SINFONIA HARMONY

August 13, 2007

Ann Devine, President  
Professional Fraternity Association  
3747 S. Howell Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Dear President Devine:

On behalf of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia's National Executive Committee, I hereby submit the resignation of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia from membership in the Professional Fraternity Association. As a proud member of PFA since its chartering in 1978, we take this action only after thoughtful consideration.

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia has perceived a conflict in its membership in PFA for several years. As an organization that has worked diligently in recent years to identify our true mission and to correct our incorrect classification as "professional," Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia feels out of place in an association that identifies itself as supporting explicitly professional fraternities. We recognize that our discipline-focused, social mission of instilling ideals of leadership and social character in male musicians, regardless of their chosen field of profession, is close to unique among Greek-letter societies, and that this distinction has distanced us from PFA. By continuing our membership in PFA, we compromise the integrity of our efforts to embrace our true mission.

We have felt that PFA could reasonably expand its scope to be more inclusive of all fraternal organizations associated with a specific discipline or common interest. In this light, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia has worked since 2004 to address this perceived conflict in a way that would enable us to retain membership in PFA. Our first attempt in 2005—to create a class of membership titled "Affiliate" which would have surrendered our voting rights in the association in exchange for a more distant membership status—was overtly opposed by PFA's Board of Directors and overwhelmingly defeated by a mail ballot vote of the member organizations. Our second attempt in 2006—to change the name of the association to "Special Interest Fraternity Association" in order to be more inclusive of the more than 20% of its member organizations that are not professional in classification—was also soundly defeated by a vote of the membership. While we appreciate the offer communicated by Past President Robert London to seek

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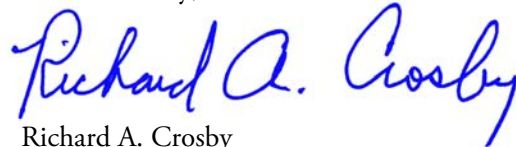
president@sinfonia.org  
www.sinfonia.org

*The Object of this Fraternity shall be for the development of the best and truest fraternal spirit; the mutual welfare and brotherhood of musical students; the advancement of music in America and a loyalty to the Alma Mater.*

additional methods of resolution on this issue, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia's National Executive Committee feels that all reasonable avenues have been exhausted.

Therefore, the National Executive Committee feels the time has arrived to sever our ties with PFA. We regret that this action is necessary, and we do not leave with malice or ill intent. However, it seems that our correction of mission has put us on a diverging path from PFA. We wish PFA and all its member organizations the very best for a bright and successful future.

Interfraternally,



Richard A. Crosby  
National President

cc: Board of Directors, PFA  
Andrew Sagan, Executive Director, PFA  
All Member Organizations of PFA  
National Executive Committee, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity  
Ryan T. Ripperton, Executive Director, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity