

## FLYING WITH MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Airport security and airline regulations in general have become much tighter and more strictly enforced since the terrorist attacks of 2001. One of the unintended consequences of this clampdown has been the extreme difficulty that musicians traveling on commercial airlines with their instruments face. While the AFM appreciates that the beefed up security measures at airports is needed in this day and age, the union also believes strongly that musicians have the right to freely and conveniently travel the country in order to entertain diverse audiences and earn a living.

The Office of Government Relations was successful in obtaining from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) a commitment to process instruments without any difficulties. Many problems with individual airlines, over which the TSA has no authority, still remain. This office has been negotiating with the Air Transport Association (ATA), the airline trade association, to resolve these problems, but has not yet been successful. This office has asked Congress to bring pressure on the ATA and recently obtained a letter from the Chairman of the House Transportation Committee to the ATA, asking airlines to accommodate AFM members.

Below are the letters from the TSA outlining their instrument policy. Many members have found the letters helpful and are available on this web site for free for **AFM members only**. There are also links to individual airlines' carry-on luggage policies.