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Senate

S. RES. 459

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution with my colleague, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, designating November, 2004, as American Music Month.

Of all the creative and artistic contributions our Nation has offered to the world in its short history, our music is perhaps the most definitively American aspect of our culture.

America's vast and profound repertoire of music expresses our country's vital cultural and social identities and empowers us to preserve our past and pursue our future; it transforms our wondrous and harsh experiences into potent messages that freely declare democratic choice and freedom of expression; it inspires social justice, enlivens collective action, and reflects our Nation's dynamic social movements.

Senator ALEXANDER and I ask our colleagues to join with us in recognizing American musical heritage as an expression of this country's democratic freedoms and indomitable spirit.

Several prominent music organizations and their members have been celebrating American Music Month in November for many years. The contributions of these groups, in music education, preservation, scholarship, promotion and performance, should be highlighted during American Music Month. They help us experience and appreciate our Nation's musical heritage.

The Society for American Music, first named in honor of Oscar G.T. Sonneck, early director of the music division in the Library of Congress and pioneer scholar of American music, strives to stimulate the appreciation, performance, creation, and study of American music and its cultures in all their diversity.

The MENC: The National Association for Music Education was established in 1907 to advance music education by encouraging the study and making of music to celebrate and preserve our cultural heritages. Today it includes a membership of more than 100,000 active music teachers, university faculty and researchers, college students preparing

to be teachers, high school honor society members, and music aficionados.

The College Music Society actively promotes music teaching and learning, music research and dialogue, and diversity and interdisciplinary interaction among cultural institutions.

The Music Library Association provides a forum for study and action on issues that affect music libraries and assures that users of music materials are well served by their libraries.

The American Musicological Society was established in 1934 as a body of scholars devoted to the advancement of research in the various fields of music as a branch of learning and scholarship.

The organization Americans for the Arts, created in 1996 as a result of the merger of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies and the American Council for the Arts, is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts.

The United States Marine Band was established by an Act of Congress in 1798 and represents America's oldest professional musical organization. Its primary mission is to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. November 2004 marks the sesquicentennial of the birth of John Philip Sousa, director of the Marine Band from 1880 to 1892. Sousa brought "The President's Own" to unprecedented levels of excellence and shaped the band into a world-famous musical organization. The band continues to maintain Sousa's standard of excellence for the performance of America music today, through White House performances, public concerts, and national tours.

In June of 2004, the Illinois House of Representatives adopted a measure similar to that which we offer today. Approval by the Senate will be an important step toward the national recognition of this month of celebration. I urge the Senate to pass this resolution in a timely fashion so that we can properly honor American Music in all its forms.

S. RES. 459

Designating November 2004 as “American Music Month” to celebrate and honor music performance, education, and scholarship in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 10, 2004

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating November 2004 as “American Music Month” to celebrate and honor music performance, education, and scholarship in the United States.

Whereas the music of the United States embodies the artistic reflection of the country’s history and heritage and the promise of its ideals and values;

Whereas the music of the United States transcends culture, gender, race, class, and creed, and thrives freely as it is continually reinvented, rearranged, transformed, and infused by the personal experiences of men and women;

Whereas the music of the United States expresses the country’s vital cultural and social identities and empowers the people of the United States to assert and preserve our pasts for a future, transforms the wondrous and harsh experiences of the people of the United States into potent messages that freely declare democratic choice and freedom of expression, inspires social justice, enlivens collective action, and reflects our Nation’s dynamic social movements;

Whereas the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC) and its 17th president, Ada Holding Miller, building on their efforts to create American Music week in 1924 with the aid of Arthur Bodansky, conductor of the Metropolitan Opera, and Walter Damrosch, conductor of the New York Symphony Orchestra, established “American Music

Month” and the “Parade of American Music” in February 1955 to recognize music and its importance to the social, cultural, historical, and educational development of the United States;

Whereas by action of the NFMC Board of Directors in 1998, the celebration of “American Music Month” was changed to the month of November in 1999 at the request of Sonneck Society for American Music;

Whereas the leading arts and education organizations of the United States, such as the Society for American Music, MENC: the National Association for Music Education, the College Music Society, the Music Library Association, the American Musicological Society, and Americans for the Arts, continue to strive to stimulate the appreciation, performance, creation, and study of music in the United States;

Whereas the month of November has witnessed the births of such artistic legends as Scott Joplin (1868), William Christopher “W. C.” Handy (1873), Aaron Copland (1900), Coleman Hawkins (1904), and Mary Travers (1937) of the folk song trio Peter, Paul and Mary; the premiers of the New York Symphony (1878), the Philadelphia Orchestra (1900), Jerome Kern’s musical, *Show Boat*, in Washington, DC (1927), Frede Grofé’s *Grand Canyon Suite* in Chicago (1931), and the first broadcast of the newly-organized National Broadcasting Company (1926);

Whereas November 2004 marks the sesquicentennial of John Philip Sousa’s birth on November 6, 1854, and is an occasion to celebrate his monumental contributions to the musical heritage of the United States;

Whereas John Philip Sousa’s music continues to embody the unflagging spirit of the United States and, as a product of a renaissance in the art and technology of the United States, affirmed the previous generation’s contagious patriotism and profound love of country even as they witnessed the brutalities of a Nation at war; his music was a fanfare about and for all men and women of this United States and his rousing melodies celebrated the best and worst of the diverse cultures and emerging his-

tories of the United States; even today, Sousa's music conveys our Nation's indomitable spirit to the world; and

Whereas John Philip Sousa, as Director of the United States Marine Band from 1880 to 1892, brought "The President's Own" to unprecedented levels of excellence and shaped the band into a world-famous musical organization, and through White House performances, public concerts, and national tours, the Band continues to maintain Sousa's standard of excellence for the performance of the music of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) designates November 2004 as "American
2 Music Month" to celebrate music performance, edu-
3 cation, and scholarship in the United States;

4 (2) recognizes that the musical heritage of the
5 United States should be honored, celebrated, and
6 preserved for future generations as expressions of
7 this country's democratic freedoms and indomitable
8 spirit; and

9 (3) requests the President to issue a proclama-
10 tion calling on the people of the United States to ob-
11 serve "American Music Month" with appropriate
12 ceremonies and programs to honor the contributions
13 of the music educators, performers, scholars, con-
14 ductors, composers and arrangers, librarians, archi-
15 vists, and curators of the United States for their
16 tireless efforts to foster greater understanding and
17 preservation of the diverse music and cultures of the
18 United States through active performance, edu-
19 cation, and cultural engagement.