

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan and Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Pittman, Peluso, Freeman, Miller and Clark-Murray:

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5 **RESOLUTION 2024-213-A**

6 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CONGRATULATING THE
7 JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH
8 ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDING WORLD CLASS
9 ENTERTAINMENT AND EDUCATION TO NORTHEAST
10 FLORIDA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

11
12 **WHEREAS**, founded by Charter in 1949, the newly formed
13 Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra ("JSO") performed its first concert
14 on March 8, 1950, in the filled-to-capacity auditorium of downtown's
15 George Washington Hotel, quickly followed by performances at the
16 Duval County Armory, and a Children's Concert rounding out the
17 successful inaugural season led by founding Music Director Van Lier
18 Lanning; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in 1962 the symphony moved to its new home in the
20 brand-new Jacksonville Civic Auditorium where it would perform for
21 the next 35 years under the batons of conductors John Canarina, Willis
22 Page, and Roger Nierenberg who led the orchestra's growth in size and
23 professionalism; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in 1972, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the
25 founding of the City of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Symphony
26 performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and Carnegie Hall
27 in New York City, premiering new works commissioned especially for
28 the occasion from famed opera composer Carlisle Floyd and jazz
29 immortal Duke Ellington; and

30 **WHEREAS**, when Mayor Ed Austin's River City Renaissance program
31 was approved by City Council in the early 1990s it included a complete

1 renovation of the aging Civic Auditorium. In conjunction with the
2 City's rebuilding project, the Jacksonville Symphony led the
3 fundraising campaign to finance the construction of a world-class
4 symphony hall, named for lead donor Robert E. Jacoby, that debuted
5 on April 26, 1997, with maestro Nierenberg leading the orchestra and
6 world-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman. In 2002 the symphony debuted
7 its historic Casavant pipe organ, now named the Bryan Concert Organ
8 in honor of the generous donations of the Bryan family, thus becoming
9 the first American orchestra to install a historic organ in a new
10 concert hall; and

11 **WHEREAS,** during the tenures of music directors Fabio Mechetti
12 (1999-2014) and current director Courtney Lewis, the Jacksonville
13 Symphony has continued to develop a regional and national reputation
14 for outstanding musicianship, innovative programming, a strong
15 educational program, and community outreach. The orchestra regularly
16 performs concerts around Florida and the Southeast in cities that
17 don't have their own orchestras and in 2020 was one of four invited
18 to perform at the Kennedy Center as part of its SHIFT: A Festival of
19 the American Orchestra, although the COVID pandemic ultimately caused
20 the cancellation of the concert; and

21 **WHEREAS,** introducing young people to the joys of music is one
22 of the primary emphases of the symphony, which believes every child
23 should have access to music education and serves four county school
24 districts and over 35,000 students while offering free tickets to
25 children under the age of 18 for selected Florida Blue Classical
26 concerts. The Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras (JSYO) also
27 serves more than 300 talented musicians from all over Northeast
28 Florida and was invited to participate in the 2018 Los Angeles
29 International Music Festival; and

30 **WHEREAS,** the Jacksonville Symphony is one of Northeast
31 Florida's most valued cultural institutions, performs more than 120

1 concerts each season entertaining over 110,000 audience members, and
2 has brought some of the greatest performers in the world to
3 Jacksonville, including the likes of Isaac Stern, Marilyn Horne,
4 Benny Goodman, Luciano Pavarotti, Duke Ellington, Renée Fleming,
5 Audra McDonald, Van Cliburn, Joshua Bell, Lang Lang, and countless
6 others over its long and distinguished history; now therefore

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

8 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and congratulates
9 the Jacksonville Symphony on the 75th anniversary of its founding and
10 expresses the community's thanks and admiration for its outstanding
11 work as one of the region's most beloved cultural institutions. The
12 talent, hard work and professionalism of the symphony's musicians,
13 artistic staff, administration, and board of trustees have
14 contributed immensely to the cultural identity and economic
15 prosperity of the region. The JSO's education programs have also
16 touched the lives of tens of thousands of children by introducing
17 them to the wonders of live orchestral music. The City extends its
18 best wishes for many more decades of beautiful music and memorable
19 performances.

20 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
21 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
22 without the Mayor's signature.

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24 Form Approved:

25
26 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

27 Office of General Counsel

28 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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