

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan:  
2  
3

4 **RESOLUTION 2024-213**

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

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

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

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

28 **WHEREAS**, when Mayor Ed Austin's River City Renaissance program  
29 was approved by City Council in the early 1990s it included a complete  
30 renovation of the aging Civic Auditorium. In conjunction with the  
31 City's rebuilding project, the Jacksonville Symphony led the

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

9       **WHEREAS,** during the tenures of music directors Fabio Mechetti  
10 (1999-2014) and current director Courtney Lewis, the Jacksonville  
11 Symphony has continued to develop a regional and national reputation  
12 for outstanding musicianship, innovative programming, a strong  
13 educational program, and community outreach. The orchestra regularly  
14 performs concerts around Florida and the Southeast in cities that  
15 don't have their own orchestras and in 2020 was one of four invited  
16 to perform at the Kennedy Center as part of its SHIFT: A Festival of  
17 the American Orchestra, although the COVID pandemic ultimately caused  
18 the cancellation of the concert; and

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

28       **WHEREAS,** the Jacksonville Symphony is one of Northeast  
29 Florida's most valued cultural institutions, performs more than 120  
30 concerts each season entertaining over 110,000 audience members, and  
31 has brought some of the greatest performers in the world to

1 Jacksonville, including the likes of Isaac Stern, Marilyn Horne,  
2 Benny Goodman, Luciano Pavarotti, Duke Ellington, Renée Fleming,  
3 Audra McDonald, Van Cliburn, Joshua Bell, Lang Lang, and countless  
4 others over its long and distinguished history; now therefore

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

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

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

21  
22 Form Approved:

23  
24           /s/ Shannon MacGillis          

25 Office of General Counsel

26 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

27 GC-#1615598-v2-Jax\_Symphony\_75th\_Anniversary\_(Boylan).DOCX