**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE SOUTHEASTERN PIANO FESTIVAL AND TO CONGRATULATE ITS PARTICIPANTS AND ORGANIZERS UPON THEIR TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CULTURAL SUCCESS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the 2012 Southeastern Piano Festival celebrated its tenth anniversary from June 10 through June16, 2012; and

Whereas, the festival annually provides a high‑level training platform for young pianists, presents new and world‑renowned concert pianists and master teachers, advocates for new piano music, and enables artists to explore the different roles the piano plays on stage and beyond; and

Whereas, twenty of some of the best pre‑college pianists took part in a rigorous program that included daily lessons with University of South Carolina piano faculty, master classes with guest artists, and up to five hours of practice a day, which culminated with the Arthur Fraser International Concerto Competition, adjudicated by a distinguished panel of judges; and

Whereas, winners of the competition were rewarded with cash prizes and the opportunity to perform with the South Carolina Philharmonic, but music lovers benefited as well from the nightly festival concerts performed by world‑class pianists; and

Whereas, artists for the nightly performances included Leo Svirsky and Sean Yeh, past winners of the Fraser Competition; George Li, the fifteen‑year‑old winner of the Gilmore Young Artist Award; Boris Slutsky, first prize winner of the Kapell International Piano Competition and head of piano studies at the Peabody Institute; Natalya Antonova, longtime Eastman School of Music professor and former teacher at the Leningrad Conservatory and the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow; and Alessio Bax, winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant; and

Whereas, with five grand pianos on the Koger Center stage, the festival opened on June 10th with a Piano Extravaganza Concert featuring Morihiko Nakahara and the South Carolina Philharmonic; the University of South Carolina piano faculty Marina Lomazov, Joseph Rackers, Charles Fugo; special guest Phillip Bush; Arthur Fraser International Competition winners; and

Whereas, the concert showcased its long‑standing partnerships with Rice Music House, Steinway & Sons, the Symphony League of Columbia, the South Carolina Philharmonic, and the University of South Carolina School of Music; and

Whereas, although not funded by the USC School of Music or any state funds, the program has grown each year, bringing recognition to the State of South Carolina and the USC School of Music; and

Whereas, the festival’s organizer, Marina Lomazov, associate professor of piano at the USC School of Music, has established herself as a world renown concert performer, and in June 2009, she was named a Steinway Artist after a surprise ceremony that unveiled a Steinway grand piano, an unprecedented and incredibly generous gift to her from the citizens of Columbia; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is grateful for the outstanding contribution that Marina Lomazov and the generous donors and sponsors of the Southeastern Piano Festival make to the cultural life of South Carolina and look forward to enjoying the fruit of their labors in the lives of young artists. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Southeastern Piano Festival and congratulate its participants and organizers upon their tenth anniversary of cultural success.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the organizers of the Southeastern Piano Festival.

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