

2009-J5043

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the New Rochelle Opera upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary on May 6, 2010

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those musical organizations that have brought entertainment and cultural enrichment to the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the New Rochelle Opera upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary to be celebrated at a Gala on Thursday, May 6, 2010, at The Fountainhead, New Rochelle, New York; and

WHEREAS, In honor of this most auspicious occasion New Rochelle Opera will also present four fully staged performances of Puccini's breathtaking TURANDOT at the Frank J. Auriana Theatre, Mooney-Hancock Art Center at Ursuline School on June 24 through 27; many community members are involved in the chorus, and Sister Beth Dowd's "Songcatchers" will sing the children's chorus; and

WHEREAS, When Camille Coppola and Billie Tucker incorporated New Rochelle Opera in 1985, they exulted in the realization of their long-held dream, and looked forward to a rewarding operatic future; for Camille Coppola, the company's executive/artistic director, the company brought her the opportunity to fulfill her desire to sing opera, and she performed all the leading roles in the early years of the company's existence; for Billie Tucker, company coordinator and now Board president, the company helped round out the artistic offerings she wanted for the New Rochelle Public Library, where she had been hired to create a community cultural center; and

WHEREAS, With a few props and paint, and a small group of enthusiastic singers, Camille Coppola and Billie Tucker began to shape a company that

is now highly regarded in the regional opera world; the company presents one fully staged, fully orchestrated and fully costumed production a year - initially at the Library, until it outgrew the space; since 2003, it has been presenting its major productions at the Ursuline Arts Center in New Rochelle; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the company presents concerts throughout the area, and works with school audiences to introduce them and involve them in this art form, always keeping in mind its mission, which is to create a deeper understanding and appreciation of live opera, and to provide top quality, professional opera performances to local people who would not ordinarily be able to afford such an experience; and

WHEREAS, At the same time, New Rochelle Opera aims to provide aspiring young professional singers an opportunity to showcase their talents in a full-length opera production; many singers who started with the company have gone on to greater opportunities, including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and other equally fine opera companies throughout the United States and Europe; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the New Rochelle Opera upon the occasion of celebrating its 25th Anniversary on May 6, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New Rochelle Opera.