

## 2011-J4370

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Craig Brown as he is honored by the Imani Singers of Medgar Evers College at its Annual Night of Honor on May 4, 2012

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that individuals who distinguish themselves in service to their faith and community merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Craig Brown as he is honored by the Imani Singers of Medgar Evers College, the college's renowned resident choir, at its Annual Night of Honor to be held at the college on Friday, May 4, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Each year at this Black Tie event, the Imani Singers of Medgar Evers College honors and pays tribute to outstanding sacred music church musicians in the Brooklyn community; and

WHEREAS, Craig Brown, Minister of Music at Janes United Methodist Church, truly merits this high honor; and

WHEREAS, Craig Brown is a cum laude graduate of the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music where he studied Organ with Dr. Warren L. Berryman, and conducting under Dwight Oltman and Stuart W. Raleigh; and

WHEREAS, Craig Brown was the apprentice conductor for the 1982 B-W Bach Festival, assisting in the preparation of the "Passion According to St. Matthew," which was performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; he was also the State and Regional winner of the National Association of Negro Musicians' 1983 Scholarship in Organ; and

WHEREAS, Craig Brown began the study of piano and organ with David Fontaine, who was the longest sitting black church organist in New York City at that time; Mr. Fontaine was the Organist-Choirmaster at the Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church from 1942 through 1992, retiring with 50 years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, Craig Brown was the Assistant Organist-Director of Music at the Mother A.M.E. Zion Church from 1984 to 1994 under the late Dr. Solomon Herriott, Jr., assisting in the preparation of many musical events there, including the Verdi Requiem, Widor Mass in Minor, Gounod Messe

Solenelle, and the Annual "Festival of Spirituals"; and  
WHEREAS, While at Mother Zion, Craig Brown studied Organ under Dr.  
Herriott, who studied Organ with the late Virgil Fox, and credits Dr.  
Herriott with being the most influential church musician in his life;  
and

WHEREAS, Craig Brown has been the Organist-Director of Music at the  
Janes United Methodist Church from 1995 to the present; under his  
distinguished leadership, the Chancel Choir has presented many choral  
works, including Schubert's Lord Nelson Mass and Mass in G Major, Robert  
Ray's Gospel Mass, Haydn's "The Creation," John Stainer's "The Crucifix-  
ion," Leon Robert's Mass of St. Martin de Torres, and Glenn Burleigh's  
Alpha Mass; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Craig Brown accompanied many noted singers over  
the years and collaborated with noted church musicians Gregory Hopkins  
and Ramon Reeberg in the production of Burleigh's mammoth work "Born to  
Die," and also with Clinton Ingram in the performance of "Changed My  
Name" by Linda Twine, and "God's Trombones" by James Weldon Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Craig Brown was the second Organist in recital on the Maude  
White Hardie Memorial Organ, a 52-rank Austin Pipe Organ installed at  
the Janes United Methodist Church; the first recital was given by Dr.  
Solomon Herriott, Jr., who was instrumental in the organ's design; and  
WHEREAS, Craig Brown has distinguished himself in his profession and  
in service to his faith and community and is certainly worthy of the

recognition and appreciation of this Legislative Body and the citizens  
of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to  
commend Craig Brown as he is honored by the Imani Singers of Medgar  
Evers College at its Annual Night of Honor on Friday, May 4, 2012; and  
be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-  
smitted to Craig Brown.