

2011-K1516

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Michael Barrett upon the occasion of his retirement as the Chief Executive and General Director of the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts after many years of dedicated and distinguished service

WHEREAS, Individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community and the arts merit the recognition and appreciation of their colleagues, community, and the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Michael Barrett was born in Guam and raised in California; he attended the University of California at Berkeley and earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; he did post-graduate work at the Hartt School of Music and resides in New York City with his wife, violist Leslie Tompkins, and his daughter, Emma; and

WHEREAS, Michael Barrett, known for his imaginative programming, is completing his 10th and last season as Chief Executive and General Director of the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts in Katonah, New York, where he has programmed numerous new works, world premieres, American premieres, and Caramoor commissions and looks forward to returning to Caramoor in 2013 as a pianist and conductor; and

WHEREAS, Michael Barrett assumed his position at Caramoor in 2003, building on a reputation established following more than twenty-five years of programming and performing experience in the arts; and

WHEREAS, As Chief Executive and General Director of Caramoor, he has been responsible for the administration and year-round programming at Caramoor, including the world-renowned Caramoor International Music Festival and acclaimed programs known for breaking down barriers between musical genres, reflecting today's musical currents, and attracting the

greatest musical talents from the United States and abroad to Caramoor;
and

WHEREAS, Over the past nine seasons, Michael Barrett has reaffirmed his reputation as an innovator and has enhanced or implemented programming for a wide variety of ambitious music rarely heard in a festival setting; and

WHEREAS, New programs Michael Barrett has created have included concerts embracing musical theater and the American songbook; programs for children and families; a Latin-American music initiative, "Sonidos Latinos," now in its fifth year; the Schwab Vocal Rising Stars mentoring program modeled after the existing Evnin Rising Stars program for instrumentalists; and a new Fall Festival in 2009; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Michael Barrett co-founded, with Steven Blier, the New York Festival of Song (NYFOS), which presents thematic song recitals in New York City and beyond; in 1992 he co-founded, with his wife, the Moab Music Festival (MMF), a two-week chamber music festival, held at the beginning of September, which, in addition to the classical repertoire, presents works by established and emerging American composers;
and

WHEREAS, Michael Barrett is also an Artistic Advisor for the Estate of Leonard Bernstein; from 1994 to 1997, he was the Director of the Tisch Center for the Arts at the 92nd Street Y in New York, where, among other things, he created the widely-acclaimed "Today's Composers" series; and

WHEREAS, A protege of Leonard Bernstein, Michael Barrett began his long association with the renowned conductor and composer as a student in 1982; from 1985 to 1990, he served as an Assistant Conductor to the Maestro; Michael Barrett has been a guest conductor with the Orchestra

of St. Luke's, New York Philharmonic, London Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, and the Orchestre National de France among others; and

WHEREAS, Michael Barrett has also served variously as conductor, producer, or music director of numerous special projects, including

"Later the Same Evening" by John Musto and Mark Campbell; the world premiere of "Volpone" by Musto/Campbell; "Hopper's Wife" by Stewart Wallace and Michael Korie at the Long Beach Opera; and most recently, "Lucrezia and Bastianello," a double bill of one-act comic operas by William Bolcom and John Musto; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to bringing music to children and their families, Michael Barrett is active in the creation of new educational programs for symphony orchestras; with Jamie Bernstein, he has created a dozen narrated young people's programs for orchestra, ranging from American composers, including Copland, Gershwin, and Bernstein, to Latin music, and the European classics, programs which have been performed throughout the United States, Asia, Europe, and Cuba; and

WHEREAS, Michael Barrett's discography includes "Bastianello/Lucrezia" by John Musto, William Bolcom and Mark Campbell (Bridge, 2008); "Later the Same Evening" by John Musto and Mark Campbell (Albany, 2008); "Spanish Love Songs," recorded live at Caramoor with Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Steven Blier, and Joseph Kaiser (Bridge 2007); "Live from the Moab Music Festival" (2003, 1999); "Evidence of Things Not Seen" (Ned Rorem) which received a Grammy nomination (New World Records, 1999); "Aaron Kernis: 100 Greatest Dance Hits" (New Albion, 1995); Brooklyn Philharmonic, Humbert Lucarelli, oboeist (Koch Classics, 1993); "On the Town" (Deutsche Grammaphon, 1992) associate conductor/pianist; "Casino Paradise" by William Bolcom and Arnold Weistein (Koch, 1990); "Kabbalah" (Koch Classics, 1990) by Stewart Wallace/Michael Korie; "Schumann Lied-er" with Lorraine Hunt and Kurt Ollmann (Koch, 1990), and "Arias and Barcarolles" (Koch, 1989) by Leonard Bernstein which earned a Grammy Award; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and pay tribute to Michael Barrett upon the occasion of his retirement as the Chief Executive and General Director of the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts after many years of dedicated and distinguished service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Michael Barrett.