

2015-J954

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Arturo O'Farrill upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Grammy Award by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those illustrious individuals who seek to preserve and celebrate the musical heritage of our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in keeping with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Arturo O'Farrill upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Grammy Award by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards ceremony, on Sunday, February 8, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Grammy Awards are presented by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States to recognize outstanding achievement in the music industry; and

WHEREAS, Afro-Latin Jazz composer and bandleader Arturo O'Farrill, is a two-time Latin Grammy Award winner; and

WHEREAS, Arturo O'Farrill's first album with Motema Music, THE OFFENSE OF THE DRUM, won in the Best Latin Jazz category; the album is unique since it represents a departure from typical Latin jazz, it is pan-American and contemporary, it even includes the first recorded example of reggaeton jazz; in addition, it incorporates hip-hop, DJ techniques, and the spoken word; and

WHEREAS, THE OFFENSE OF THE DRUM also features 37 types of percussion to explore new territories for Afro Latin jazz, some of which include the taiko drum from Japan, djembe from Africa, barriles and bombas from Puerto Rico, tumbadoras from Cuba, bombas from Columbia, cajones, maracas, bongos, shekeres, claves, cowbells, cuicas, tambourines, timbales,

and turntables; and

WHEREAS, This prize winning recording is a celebration of difference, innovation, and the human spirit; Arturo O'Farrill is excited the album found mainstream acceptance and was embraced in a manner which states that art matters more than comfort and commerce; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished pianist, Arturo O'Farrill is the son of legendary Cuban composer the late Chico O'Farrill; with his Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, Arturo O'Farrill received the 2008 Latin Grammy in the Best Jazz Album for SONG FOR CHICO, a tribute to his father's legacy; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2014, Arturo O'Farrill won another Latin Grammy for FINAL NIGHT AT BIRDLAND, an album he recorded in 2011 with his father's Afro Cuban Jazz Orchestra, celebrating the band's final performance after 15 years of residence at the famous Broadway venue; and

WHEREAS, An educator at heart, in 2007, Arturo O'Farrill established the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, as a new institutional support for his orchestra, as well as to promote that genre of music through a comprehensive array of performance and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 2014, Arturo O'Farrill joined the faculty of the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music as Director of the jazz ensembles; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who provide a means of displaying the rich tapestry of American music and who contribute to the community in such noble endeavors as aforementioned, are held in the highest regard by this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Arturo O'Farrill upon the occasion of his designation as recipient

of a Grammy Award by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Arturo O'Farrill.