

2015-J4726

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Phil Schaap upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service at Jazz at Lincoln Center and for his lifelong contribution to the history of the art of jazz

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and academic and artistic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the 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 honor Phil Schaap upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service at Jazz at Lincoln Center; and

WHEREAS, Phil Schaap's years at Jazz at Lincoln Center are only the latest phase in a long and distinguished career as this country's preeminent jazz scholar and historian; and

WHEREAS, Phil Schaap was first exposed to Jazz as a child through his father's friendship with members of the original Count Basie orchestra; he eventually became manager to the Countsmen; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Phil Schaap began broadcasting on WKCR-FM, where he developed "Bird Flight", focusing on the music of jazz legend Charlie Parker, and "Traditions in Swing" both of which he continues to host; and

WHEREAS, From 1984 to 1991, Phil Schaap served as archivist for the Savoy Jazz label where he was involved with the re-release of many archival recordings on CD including Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Machito and the Afro-Cubans, and Duke Ellington; and

WHEREAS, Phil Schaap's contributions have been recognized with multiple Grammy nominations and awards, including three awards for historical

writing, three for producing, and two for engineering; and

WHEREAS, Phil Schaap has taught jazz at Columbia University, Rutgers University, Princeton University and Julliard; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Phil Schaap became Curator of Jazz at Lincoln Center; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his role of Curator, Phil Schaap served as the academic head of Swing University at Jazz at Lincoln Center; and

WHEREAS, In the many roles he has served over the years, Phil Schaap has helped ensure that this uniquely American music survives and thrives; the music gives us insight into our character as a metropolis and country and most importantly, it swings; and

WHEREAS, In his long and illustrious career, through his sense of humor and idiosyncratic approach to broadcasting, Phil Schaap has brought jazz and joy to millions of Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Phil Schaap upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service to Jazz at Lincoln Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Phil Schaap.