

2015-J5206

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Empire State Youth Orchestras upon the occasion of being named a 2016 Champion for Children of the Capital Region by Northern Rivers

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Empire State Youth Orchestras upon the occasion of being named a 2016 Champion for Children of the Capital Region by Northern Rivers to be celebrated on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Empire State Youth Orchestras was chosen to receive this auspicious award in recognition of its contributions to children's health, safety and wellness; and

WHEREAS, Now in its 37th season, Empire State Youth Orchestras (ESYO) provides an unparalleled musical experience to more than 300 young musicians from across eastern New York and western New England; and

WHEREAS, ESYO students have the opportunity to play with talented peers, to be conducted and coached by a host of professional musicians, and to perform in grand music halls; they also have the chance to participate in the creation of new music with prestigious composers and to learn from guest artists in master classes; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the students of Empire State Youth Orchestras travel abroad as cultural ambassadors and share their love of music with audiences across the globe as well as here at home; their performances

bring the community together to celebrate the arts and to help raise awareness for important causes; and

WHEREAS, ESYO has raised significant funds for such vital organizations as Albany Medical Center's pediatric cancer program during its in televised "Melodies of Christmas" benefit concerts; and

WHEREAS, Truly committed to ensuring all children have the opportunity to learn a musical language, ESYO launched a community-based music program entitled CHIME: Creating Harmony Invigorating Music Education; and

WHEREAS, CHIME is dedicated to achieving social change through music and is rooted in the belief that music can create pathways of opportunity for children living in poverty; through the cultivation of critical thinking skills, creativity, collaboration and compassion, CHIME offers children the chance to pursue excellence both in music and in life; and

WHEREAS, Currently, 40 elementary students at Yates Arts in Education Magnet School in Schenectady, New York, are participating in CHIME, receiving free music training every day afterschool; additionally, six ESYO mentors attend the program each week, serving as coaches and stand partners, providing inspiration to their young counterparts; and

WHEREAS, This year, ESYO will present "Music Without Borders", a concert celebrating the power of music to transcend boundaries; the performance will feature ESYO's Youth Orchestra, Wind Orchestra and the debut of CHIME; the CHIME ensemble will take the stage for the very first time, accompanied and supported by their ESYO mentors, showcasing the boundless potential of youth; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished history, Empire State Youth Orchestras has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of Empire State Youth Orchestras is in direct correlation to the efforts of its staff and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment,

an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Empire State Youth Orchestras upon the occasion of being named a 2016 Champion for Children of the Capital Region by Northern Rivers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Empire State Youth Orchestras.