

2017-K332

Assembly Resolution No. 332

BY: M. of A. Woerner

COMMEMORATING the 40th Anniversary of the
Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those individuals and events whose commitment and creative talents contribute to the cultural enrichment and entertainment of their community and the entire 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 commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival to be celebrated on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25, 2017; and

WHEREAS, April was designated as "Jazz Appreciation Month," known as JAM, in 2002 by the Smithsonian Museum to herald and celebrate the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz; and

WHEREAS, The Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival, originally titled the Newport Jazz Festival-Saratoga, was founded in 1978, by jazz impresario George Wein; Freihofer's Baking Company has been the title sponsor of the festival since 1998; and

WHEREAS, The two-day, two-stage festival continues to be one of the

largest jazz music events in North America, beloved by audiences for both the remarkable annual line-up of international jazz talent and its spectacular setting at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) in the idyllic Saratoga Spa State Park; and

WHEREAS, The festival's inaugural year included such performers as Sonny Rollins, Herbie Hancock, Dizzy Gillespie, Dexter Gordon, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Jean-Luc Ponty and Chick Corea; in the ensuing years, dozens of other jazz greats graced the festival's main Amphitheatre stage, including Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, B.B. King, Wayne Shorter, Ray Charles, Lionel Hampton, Pat Metheny, David Sanborn, Tito Puente, Arturo Sandoval, Diana Krall and Chris Botti, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Current festival producer Danny Melnick, a protege of George Wein and the President of Absolutely Live Entertainment, began working on the festival in 1991 and became co-producer in 2009, upholding the event's rich tradition while expanding its artistic scope to reach new audiences; and

WHEREAS, In addition to performances on SPAC's Amphitheatre and Gazebo stages, the Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival features a fine arts and crafts fair, album signings by artists, a full-service bar in the Hall of Springs, southern style barbeque and other food vendors, as well as a children's craft area; and

WHEREAS, The milestone 2017 Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival features an extraordinary lineup of musicians, ranging from emerging artists making their festival debuts, to the return of two greats who

performed on the inaugural 1978 festival, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Jean-Luc Ponty; and

WHEREAS, The treasured values of family unity and wholesome entertainment for all ages are reflected in the Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival, an event which helps to foster community spirit and cooperation and preserves the beliefs, ideals and values upon which this great State and Nation were founded; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Freihofer's Saratoga Jazz Festival; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Elizabeth Sobol, President and CEO of Saratoga Performing Arts Center.