

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-43

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 2, 2019

To recognize and honor the importance of jazz music, and to declare April 30, 2019, as “International Jazz Day” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, in November 2011, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (“UNESCO”) officially designated April 30 as International Jazz Day in order to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe;

WHEREAS, International Jazz Day is chaired and led by UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay and legendary jazz pianist and composer Herbie Hancock, who serves as a UNESCO Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue and Chairman of the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz;

WHEREAS, International Jazz Day brings together communities, schools, artists, historians, academics, and jazz enthusiasts all over the world to celebrate and learn about jazz and its roots, future, and impact, raise awareness of the need for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding, and reinforce international cooperation and communication;

WHEREAS, International Jazz Day is the culmination of Jazz Appreciation Month, which draws public attention to jazz and its extraordinary heritage throughout April;

WHEREAS, in December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly formally welcomed the decision by the UNESCO General Conference to proclaim April 30 as International Jazz Day, and the United Nations and UNESCO now both recognize International Jazz Day on their official calendars;

WHEREAS, jazz is a unique form of music that can be a unifying force for positive engagement among diverse groups worldwide and jazz is an original American art form, first developed in New Orleans, Louisiana, that affirms the noblest aspirations of our national character, individual discipline, perseverance, and innovation;

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WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has greatly contributed to jazz music, and is the hometown of notables such as Duke Ellington, Shirley Horn, Billy Taylor, Frank Wess, Roger Wendell "Buck" Hill, Charlie Rouse, and Ron Holloway;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia served as the International Jazz Day 2016 Global Host City;

WHEREAS, years before the integration of social structures such as the workplace, educational systems, military, and professional sports teams, the jazz bandstand was a visual example of tolerance, cooperation, and mutual understanding;

WHEREAS, jazz music, from its inception, is synonymous with freedom, has been utilized as a tool to connect people of all ages from every ethnic group, is a platform for performing musicians and lovers of the art, and enhances the lives of listeners and performers;

WHEREAS, jazz is the universal language of freedom spoken eloquently by people in the United States and abroad, and has become an international language that bridges differences and brings people together regardless of race, age, gender, or socio-economic class;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has joined the world in celebration of jazz music on April 30 as declared by UNESCO; and

WHEREAS, proclaiming April 30th as International Jazz Day provides for an effective and powerful means to highlight the contribution of jazz to the dialogue among cultures by connecting different communities, schools, and other groups around the world in celebrating and raising awareness about the art of jazz and how it has become a part of our culture.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "International Jazz Day Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes the role that jazz has played in uniting communities, honors the importance of jazz music in the District of Columbia and around the world, and declares April 30, 2019 as "International Jazz Day" in the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.