

## **Resolution N<sup>o</sup>. 3**

*July 27, 2021*

**Subject:** *Resolution Commending Congress for Passage of COVID-Relief Legislation*

FFCRA, CARES Act, and ARPA Resolution

Whereas, In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world, closing large performance venues and putting orchestral musicians out of work; and

Whereas, The resulting lack of work for musicians exacerbated the failing health of the American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF); and

Whereas, Congress acted quickly to pass the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which together provided paid sick leave and increased unemployment insurance benefits which were a lifeline to orchestral musicians; and

Whereas, Throughout 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to keep our theaters closed, necessitating further relief; and

Whereas, On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"), which not only provided additional direct payments to unemployed orchestral musicians, such as increased unemployment compensation for traditional and mixed income earners, stimulus payments, and direct interest-free loans to artists and venues, but also provided an important and necessary solution to our pension crisis by providing for direct payments to struggling multi-employer pension funds like the AFM-EPF; and

Whereas, Members of Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") and International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians ("ICSOM") rely on

the solvency of the AFM-EPF for their retirement; and

Whereas, Members of ROPA and ICSOM, along with staff of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (“AFM”), participated in multiple campaigns to support the passage of ARPA; and

Whereas, The benefits of the FFCRA, CARES Act, and ARPA are instrumental in helping orchestral musicians weather this difficult time; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association (“ROPA”) hereby thanks each and every musician who took time to contact members of Congress and encourage them to pass the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and be it further

*Resolved*, That ROPA commends and thanks the staff of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (“AFM”), including but not limited to Legislative-Political Director Alfonso Pollard, for their hard work and tireless efforts in spreading the word about this important legislation; and be it further

*Resolved*, That ROPA commends the United States Congress on the passage of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”), the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act, and especially ARPA, which will have a positive impact on the lives of performing musicians and especially AFM members for years to come.

**Submitted by:** The ROPA Executive Board