

Resolution N°. 1

July 27, 2021

Subject: *Resolution Remembering Chris Durham, Founder of ROPA*

Chris Durham Resolution

Whereas, On August 22, 2020, Chris Durham, founding member of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") passed away; and

Whereas, Chris Durham was a violinist, unionist, contract negotiator, conservationist, family man, and friend to all; and

Whereas, Chris Durham was a leader in the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada ("AFM"), having been one of the youngest local vice presidents for Local 103 in Columbus Ohio at the age of 25, and having worked in the Symphonic Services Division as negotiator and briefly as Director since 1989; and

Whereas, Chris Durham helped to found ROPA, served on the ROPA Executive Board, and attended every ROPA conference from 1984 - 2019; and

Whereas, Over the years, Chris Durham personally assisted many ROPA orchestras in the successful negotiations of their Collective Bargaining Agreements, supported their labor actions, and was a champion of ROPA orchestras; and

Whereas, Chris Durham was a mentor and friend to many of the approximately six thousand musicians who play in ROPA orchestras; and

Whereas, ROPA is grateful for Chris Durham's immeasurable contribution to the growth of unionism, solidarity, and the resulting increase in wages and working conditions for ROPA orchestras, and saddened by the loss of this formidable force in our industry; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") will remember Chris Durham as a founding member and key contributor to ROPA's mission; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA hereby expresses its condolences to Chris's wife Lisa and their son Jacob and to all who mourn his loss; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA pledges to honor Chris's memory as we work to fulfill our purpose, to promote the interests of our Member Orchestras and their musicians, to enhance communications among those orchestras and with the Federation, its Locals and its Conferences, and to pursue the general welfare and artistic well-being of our members.

Submitted by: The ROPA Executive Board