

Resolution N°. 4

July 31, 2024

Subject: *Recognition of the Service and Contributions of Regional Orchestra Players' Association Past Presidents*

Past Presidents Resolution

Whereas, The Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") has been fortunate to benefit from the leadership and dedication of several exceptional presidents throughout its history, each of whom has contributed significantly to its advancement and success; and

Whereas, ROPA was founded in 1982 by Nathan Kahn, who recognized the unique challenges faced by regional orchestras and spearheaded the formation of a dedicated player conference; and

Whereas, Nathan Kahn's visionary leadership (1984-1988) laid the foundation for the establishment and growth of ROPA, beginning with the first symposium held in Columbus, OH, in 1984, and continuing throughout and beyond the duration of his term as President; and

Whereas, Rosemary Estes (1988-1990) led and represented ROPA honorably, including notable contributions to the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians ("ICSOM") conferences; and

Whereas, Diane Merrill (1990-1994) presided over the earliest implementations of the Roehl Report, which proposed the creation of the Symphonic Services Division ("SSD"), the Electronic Media Services Division, and the Player Conference Council, enabling direct communication between rank-and-file musicians and American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada ("AFM") leadership in addition to granting representatives from ROPA the right to propose bylaw changes and speak at AFM conventions; and

Whereas, Andrew Brandt (1994-1999), who was honored as President Emeritus in 2000, served ROPA with unwavering commitment from its inception, holding various roles from 1984-1999, including editor of *The Leading Tone*, Member-at-Large, Secretary, and President for six years, and profoundly shaping the development and operations of ROPA; and

Whereas, Ann Drinan (1999-2001), having served as Delegate, Vice-President, and President, was a passionate advocate for ROPA, displaying leadership characterized by dignity, courage, and sincere devotion, earning her the permanent title of President Emerita in recognition of her significant contributions; and

Whereas, Barbara Zmich (2001-2006), who served ROPA as a Member-at-Large as well as President for five years, demonstrated fierce advocacy and compassion, and her courageous initiative in challenging situations, strong leadership, and inspiring impact were recognized by conferring upon her the title of President Emerita in 2006; and

Whereas, Tom Fetherston (2006-2007), who was honored with the title of President Emeritus in 2008, dedicated many years of service to ROPA as Delegate, Webmaster, *The Leading Tone* Editor, Secretary, and President, and his faithful and dedicated involvement in these roles greatly contributed to the effectiveness and outreach of ROPA; and

Whereas, Carla Lehmeier-Tatum (2007-2016) served as President for an impressive nine years, making her the longest-serving President in ROPA history, and her grace, poise, and tireless advocacy were instrumental in strengthening ROPA's significance and reputation, allowing ROPA to expand to serve eighty-six orchestras and over 5,000 musicians nationwide and leading to her designation as ROPA President Emerita; and

Whereas, John Michael ("Mike") Smith (2016-2022), who served as ROPA President for six years and on the Executive Board for five years prior, was designated as ROPA President Emeritus after leading the organization through the

challenging COVID-19 pandemic by planning and executing two virtual conferences and advocating for musicians' health and safety, in addition to participating in the creation of the National Alliance of Audition Support ("NAAS") Recommended Audition and Tenure Guidelines, serving as chair of the ROPA Media Committee, and establishing the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion ("EDI") Workgroup; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation to each past President for their extraordinary service and dedication; and be it further

Resolved, That the legacies of Nathan Kahn, Rosemary Estes, Diane Merrill, Andrew Brandt, Ann Drinan, Barbara Zmich, Tom Fetherston, Carla Lehmeier-Tatum, and Mike Smith have profoundly shaped ROPA and continue to inspire its members; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA celebrates the achievements and contributions of these esteemed leaders, acknowledging their vital roles in advancing the organization and supporting regional orchestra musicians across the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA honors the impact and service of each past President, ensuring that their contributions are remembered and cherished as the organization continues to build upon the foundation they established.

Submitted by: Stephen Wade (ROPA President) and the ROPA Executive Board