

## **Resolution N°. 8**

*July 31, 2024*

**Subject:** *Honoring Paul Austin for his Contributions to ROPA and ICSOM*

### Paul Austin Resolution

Whereas, Paul Austin has been a dedicated member of the Grand Rapids Symphony horn section since 1999, making significant contributions to the organization and the broader orchestral community; and

Whereas, Paul Austin was an exemplary leader within the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA"), including but not limited to serving on the Executive Board of ROPA from 2008-2011 as Member-At-Large, as Vice President, and serving as Conductor Evaluation Bank Administrator; and

Whereas, Under Paul Austin's leadership, the Grand Rapids Symphony successfully joined ICSOM in 2013, marking a significant milestone for the orchestra and enhancing its prominence among the top orchestras in the United States; and

Whereas, Paul also made significant contributions to the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians ("ICSOM"), demonstrating remarkable commitment and service in various capacities, including Delegate, Member-at-Large, Vice President, and President; and

Whereas, Paul Austin has served with distinction as ICSOM President from 2017-2024, contributing to the advancement and support of orchestral musicians across the nation, and has been instrumental in advocating for musicians' rights and improving their working conditions; and

Whereas, Paul has also served the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada ("AFM") with dedication, serving on the ICSOM

Media Committee and as an AFM Strike Fund Trustee, reflecting his commitment to the advancement and welfare of musicians; and

Whereas, As a part of the ICSOM Media Committee, Paul Austin assisted in several negotiation sessions for the Integrated Media Agreement (“IMA”), which led to important protections for musicians during the pandemic and beyond; and

Whereas, Paul Austin will soon step down from his role as ICSOM President; and

Whereas, The end of Paul Austin’s term marks the conclusion of a distinguished era of service and leadership that has greatly benefited the orchestral community and inspired colleagues and aspiring musicians alike; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association (“ROPA”) extends its deepest appreciation and gratitude to Paul Austin for his exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to the advancement of the orchestral profession and the welfare of its musicians; and be it further

*Resolved*, That ROPA acknowledges and celebrates Paul Austin’s leadership, both within ROPA and the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians (“ICSOM”), his dedication to his craft, and his significant impact on the Grand Rapids Symphony and the broader musical community; and be it further

*Resolved*, That ROPA acknowledges his enduring legacy of excellence in performance, education, and advocacy.

**Submitted by:** The ROPA Executive Board