

## **Resolution N°. 1**

*July 31, 2024*

**Subject:** *Honoring and Celebrating the History and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association*

### ROPA Resolution

Whereas, The Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") was established forty years ago through the inspirational vision of Nathan Kahn (Nashville Symphony Orchestra) to serve the unique needs and interests of musicians in regional orchestras, recognizing the distinct challenges and opportunities faced by these important cultural institutions and becoming a vital organization in advancing the interests and well-being of its members; and

Whereas, The early efforts of ROPA included its inaugural conference held in Columbus, OH, from September 7-9, 1984, where representatives from thirteen orchestras attended and elected its first officers—Nathan Kahn as President, Bruce Schultz (Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra) as Vice-President, Elizabeth Pistolesi (Charlotte Symphony Orchestra) as Secretary, Leonard Byrne (Spokane Symphony Orchestra) as Treasurer, and Dana Karr (Nashville Symphony Orchestra) as Newsletter Editor—setting the foundation for future growth and success; and

Whereas, ROPA established and continues to offer a structured platform for regional orchestras to discuss their unique challenges, share best practices, and collectively advocate for improvements in working conditions and compensation; and

Whereas, Over the past forty years, ROPA has successfully contributed to the enhancement of improved wages, job security, and overall working conditions for musicians in regional orchestras, reflecting its commitment to the artistic and professional health of its members; and

Whereas, Since its founding, ROPA has become a critical and respected entity by being the voice of its member orchestras within the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (“AFM”), thereby strengthening the collective voice of regional orchestras; and

Whereas, ROPA has consistently adapted to challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, by providing guidance to member orchestras on safe return-to-performance practices, advocating for musicians’ rights, connecting member orchestras to resources, and advocating for its members in negotiations over symphonic electronic media contracts; and

Whereas, ROPA has actively addressed matters that are important to the growth of our industry and promoting social change by forming an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (“EDI”) Workgroup and participating in discussions that led to the creation of the National Alliance for Audition Support (“NAAS”) Recommended Audition and Tenure Guidelines; and

Whereas, In the last forty years, ROPA membership has grown from twenty-four charter members to eighty-five full member orchestras and eleven associate member orchestras, increasing its recognition and reflecting its expanding influence in the orchestral community; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association (“ROPA”) hereby honors and celebrates its 40th anniversary by recognizing the collective achievements and milestones reached over the past four decades, including the pioneering work of its members, continued advocacy, innovations in policy, and the unwavering commitment to improving the professional lives of regional orchestra musicians; and be it further

*Resolved*, That ROPA acknowledges and commends the dedication and contributions of its members, officers, delegates, and collaborators, who have played a crucial role in its growth and success; and be it further

*Resolved*, That ROPA reaffirms its commitment to advancing the interests of regional orchestra musicians, promoting diversity and inclusiveness, and continuing to adapt and evolve in response to the changing musical and professional landscape; and be it further

*Resolved*, That ROPA looks forward to the future with optimism and determination, striving to build upon its legacy of excellence and solidarity as it enters its fifth decade of service to the regional orchestra community.

**Submitted by:** The ROPA Executive Board