

Resolution N°. 1

July 29, 2026

Subject: *Celebrating the Historic Election of Dr. Karen Suarez Flint as International Vice President of the American Federation of Musicians*

Dr. Karen Suarez Flint Election Resolution

Whereas, The American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (“AFM”), founded in 1896, has represented professional musicians for nearly one hundred thirty years; and

Whereas, At the 103rd AFM International Convention, delegates elected Dr. Karen Suarez Flint of the Chicago Federation of Musicians, Local 10-208, to serve as International Vice President, making her the first woman elected to that position on the AFM International Executive Board (“IEB”) in the Federation’s nearly one hundred thirty-year history; and

Whereas, Dr. Suarez Flint’s election represents a historic milestone not only for the AFM, but also for the broader labor movement, reflecting the growing leadership of women within organized labor and helping to ensure that the Federation’s leadership more fully reflects the diversity of its membership; and

Whereas, As Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago Federation of Musicians, Local 10-208, Dr. Suarez Flint has demonstrated outstanding leadership in representing professional musicians across a wide spectrum of musical genres while advancing fair wages, safe working conditions, strong collective bargaining agreements, and meaningful member engagement; and

Whereas, Dr. Suarez Flint has been a leading advocate for creating safer workplaces for musicians by helping establish the AFM's *Change the Culture* Committee and by pioneering implementation of a reporting system - #NotMe - designed to address workplace harassment, discrimination, and misconduct, initiatives that have strengthened protections for musicians throughout the Federation; and

Whereas, Dr. Suarez Flint has worked to expand opportunities within the AFM by advocating for the inclusion of musicians working in historically underrepresented musical genres, including hip-hop artists and DJs, recognizing that all professional musicians deserve the protections, dignity, and collective strength afforded through union membership; and

Whereas, As a professional orchestral musician, educator, labor leader, and accomplished French horn performer holding advanced degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Dr. Suarez Flint brings to the IEB both exceptional artistic credentials and extensive experience representing the interests of working musicians; and

Whereas, The Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") recognizes that strong unions are strengthened by leaders with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives, and has itself worked to promote equity, inclusion, transparency, and broad participation within professional orchestras and throughout the AFM through educational initiatives, policy recommendations, and leadership development; and

Whereas, Dr. Suarez Flint has consistently emphasized that broadening participation, welcoming diverse perspectives, and ensuring all musicians have a meaningful voice within the Federation strengthens the AFM's ability to organize, bargain collectively, and protect the profession for future generations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") congratulates Dr. Karen Suarez Flint on her historic election as International Vice President of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada ("AFM") and celebrates this landmark achievement in the history of the Federation; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA recognizes Dr. Suarez Flint's longstanding commitment to strengthening organized labor through collective bargaining, workplace safety, organizing, equity, inclusion, and advocacy for all professional musicians; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA expresses its appreciation for Dr. Karen Suarez Flint's leadership and its confidence that her experience, integrity, and vision will help strengthen the AFM and advance the interests of professional musicians throughout the United States and Canada; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA reaffirms its commitment to working collaboratively with the International Executive Board in advancing policies that protect musicians' livelihoods and well-being, promote artistic excellence, strengthen collective bargaining, and ensure that future generations of musicians inherit a Federation that is inclusive, representative, and responsive to the evolving needs of the profession.

Submitted by: The ROPA Executive Board