

Resolution N°. 14

July 29, 2026

Subject: *Support for the Eastern Festival of Music and its Faculty*

Eastern Festival of Music Resolution

Whereas, For more than six decades, the Eastern Music Festival (“EMF”) served as one of the nation’s premier summer educational music festivals, providing transformative musical instruction and performance opportunities for more than 10,000 young musicians from around the world while employing distinguished professional orchestra musicians as artist-faculty; and

Whereas, In February 2025, EMF announced the cancellation of its 2025 season, prompting widespread concern throughout the Greensboro community, the national and international music community, alumni, students, patrons, and supporters regarding the future of this cherished institution; and

Whereas, Following the cancellation of the festival and the subsequent dissolution of the Eastern Music Festival after more than sixty years of operation, many feared that an irreplaceable educational and artistic institution had been permanently lost; and

Whereas, Rather than allowing this important institution to disappear, faculty musicians, community leaders, supporters, and dedicated arts advocates worked collaboratively to establish the Eastern Festival of Music (“EFM”), ensuring that its educational mission, artistic traditions, and commitment to musical excellence would continue for future generations; and

Whereas, The newly-established Eastern Festival of Music will continue its inaugural 2026 season at Guilford College under the musical leadership of Gerard Schwarz, with the return of the festival’s distinguished faculty, a comprehensive five-week educational program for students ages 14 through 24, orchestral and chamber music performances, masterclasses, and community engagement; and

Whereas, The creation of the EFM demonstrates the resilience, dedication, and vision of its faculty musicians and supporters, who refused to allow the loss of a treasured institution to deprive students, audiences, and the broader musical community of its extraordinary educational and artistic opportunities; and

Whereas, Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") musicians understand firsthand the essential role that summer festivals play in developing future generations of professional musicians, strengthening communities through music, and providing meaningful employment for professional artists; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") expresses its full support and solidarity with the Eastern Festival of Music ("EFM"), its faculty musicians, students, leadership, and supporters as they begin this new chapter; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA commends the dedication, perseverance, and leadership demonstrated by the faculty musicians whose commitment to artistic excellence and music education helped preserve this important institution through a period of extraordinary challenge; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA recognizes the establishment of the EFM as an inspiring example of how musicians, educators, and communities can work together to sustain world-class artistic and educational opportunities in the face of adversity; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA encourages its musicians and the broader orchestral community to celebrate, promote, and support the Eastern Festival of Music and its continued mission of educating, inspiring, and preparing the next generation of orchestral musicians.

Submitted by: The ROPA Executive Board