

Resolution N°. 7

July 29, 2026

Subject: *Support of the Fort Myers Philharmonic and its Musicians*

Fort Myers Philharmonic Resolution

Whereas, The closure of the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra in 2025 brought an end to more than sixty-four years of professional orchestral service to the communities of Southwest Florida, leaving a significant cultural and artistic void in the region; and

Whereas, In response to that loss, the Fort Myers Philharmonic was founded in 2025 by professional musicians, arts leaders, and dedicated community supporters with the mission of restoring and strengthening professional orchestral music throughout Southwest Florida; and

Whereas, The Fort Myers Philharmonic is committed to presenting orchestral performances of the highest artistic caliber while fostering meaningful community engagement, accessibility, education, and long-term organizational sustainability; and

Whereas, The Philharmonic has assembled experienced artistic and administrative leadership, including Board Chair Carol Robinson, Music Director and Conductor Paul Nadler, Principal Pops Conductor Christopher Confessore, and a governing board composed of leaders from the arts, education, business, finance, and nonprofit sectors; and

Whereas, Music Director Paul Nadler previously served for sixteen years as Music Director of the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and has earned international recognition through his work with the Metropolitan Opera, the Filarmonica de Stat “Moldova,” and numerous orchestras throughout the United States and abroad; and

Whereas, The Fort Myers Philharmonic has received significant support from the Southwest Florida Symphony Endowment Foundation, demonstrating strong community confidence in the Philharmonic's vision and helping to establish a stable foundation for future artistic and organizational success; and

Whereas, The Philharmonic's inaugural season will begin on September 11, 2026, with a performance of Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Requiem* in collaboration with the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers, marking the beginning of a new chapter of professional orchestral music in Southwest Florida; and

Whereas, The establishment of a new professional orchestra represents an extraordinary commitment by musicians, arts advocates, donors, civic leaders, and community members to preserve and expand access to live symphonic music; and

Whereas, Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") recognizes that thriving professional regional orchestras depend upon exceptional musicians, responsible governance, financial sustainability, and meaningful partnerships between artists and their communities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") congratulates the Fort Myers Philharmonic on its founding and expresses its enthusiastic support for the orchestra, its leadership, and its vision for the future of professional orchestral music in Southwest Florida; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA stands in solidarity with the professional musicians of the Fort Myers Philharmonic and recognizes their commitment to artistic excellence, community service, and the advancement of the orchestral profession; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA encourages audiences, donors, civic leaders, arts organizations, and public officials throughout Southwest Florida to support the Fort Myers Philharmonic as an essential cultural institution whose success will benefit musicians, audiences, students, and the broader community for generations to come; and be it further

Resolved, That ROPA celebrates the creation of the Fort Myers Philharmonic as a powerful example of resilience, collaboration, and optimism despite great adversity, demonstrating that communities can preserve and strengthen professional orchestral music through visionary leadership, dedicated musicians, and broad public support.

Submitted by: The ROPA Executive Board