

By: Margo

H.R. No. 1639

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The El Paso Symphony Orchestra celebrated its 80th
2 anniversary season in 2010-2011; and

3 WHEREAS, The oldest symphony orchestra operating
4 continuously in Texas, the El Paso Symphony was established on
5 January 26, 1931; it performed in the Scottish Rite Temple for its
6 first decade and later moved to Liberty Hall and the Abraham Chavez
7 Theatre before settling into its present-day home in the Plaza
8 Theatre in 2006, during the tenure of Sarah Ioannides, its first
9 female conductor and sixth music director; and

10 WHEREAS, The EPSO introduced itself to a national audience in
11 1936, when NBC broadcast a concert commemorating the Texas
12 Centennial; in March 1996, the symphony embarked on its first
13 European tour and performed to sold-out houses in Germany; its home
14 performances have featured a number of internationally prominent
15 artists, most recently Russian violinist Dmitri Berlinsky; and

16 WHEREAS, For more than 70 years, the EPSO has welcomed fifth
17 graders to free Young People's Concerts, where they can gain an
18 appreciation for symphonic music and hear outstanding young
19 musicians and composers from the community; brass and string
20 ensembles perform in schools regularly, and the EPSO Kids for
21 Classics outreach program donates to schools more than 400 tickets
22 to each of the classical subscription concerts; and

23 WHEREAS, The symphony fosters artistic talent through its
24 Youth Orchestras, which promote academic success as well; since the

1 program was established in 2005, 100 percent of participating
2 students have gone on to college; the symphony has also partnered
3 with prominent arts organizations to produce an annual day-long
4 family cultural event, Downtown KidsPalooza; moreover, the EPSO
5 donates tickets to seniors through the El Paso Housing Authority,
6 and groups of musicians perform at nursing homes, retirement
7 villages, and adult day-care centers; and

8 WHEREAS, Playing an important role in downtown
9 revitalization, the symphony employs more than 200 people at each
10 performance and draws thousands of patrons to restaurants, hotels,
11 and other establishments, generating an estimated \$4.5 million in
12 economic benefits annually; this cultural amenity also helps
13 attract new residents and businesses to the city; and

14 WHEREAS, For 80 years, the El Paso Symphony Orchestra has
15 contributed to the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of
16 the community, and as it embarks on its ninth decade, it is indeed
17 fitting to recognize the many ways in which it has enriched the
18 lives of area residents; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
20 Legislature hereby commemorate the 80th anniversary season of the
21 El Paso Symphony Orchestra and extend to all those associated with
22 this exceptional organization sincere best wishes for continued
23 success; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for the orchestra as an expression of high regard by the
26 Texas House of Representatives.