

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 703

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Since 2009, the Artisan Quartet of Austin has been  
2 delighting audiences with its spirited performances of string  
3 quartets by classical and contemporary composers, and the group is  
4 being featured in two concerts during the 2012-2013 season of the  
5 Austin Symphony; and

6 WHEREAS, The origins of this distinguished ensemble date back  
7 to the late 1980s, when violinist Richard Kilmer and violist Bruce  
8 Williams joined with two other musicians to form the Austin String  
9 Quartet, which was then renamed the Camilli Quartet; over the next  
10 few years, this lineup performed 40 of classical music's greatest  
11 string quartets, ranging from pieces by Beethoven to Bartok; and

12 WHEREAS, After the two other members accepted positions  
13 overseas, Mr. Kilmer and Mr. Williams continued to perform  
14 informally with a variety of musicians as the Austin String  
15 Quartet, and during those years, cellist Douglas Harvey became a  
16 regular member of the group; and

17 WHEREAS, The Artisan Quartet was created in 2009 with the  
18 addition of violinist Paula E. Bird, and since then, the group has  
19 performed in many places around Central Texas, including the  
20 Victoria Bach Festival, the Blanco Performing Arts Association  
21 Concert Series, the Twilight Concert Series in Jonestown and Lago  
22 Vista, the Saint Cecilia Music Series in Austin, and the Salon  
23 Concert Series in San Antonio; in addition to the great Classical  
24 era string quartets by Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, the group

1 regularly plays pieces by the great Romantic composers Tchaikovsky,  
2 Grieg, and Borodin, as well as modern works by Philip Glass and  
3 Roberto Sierra; and

4 WHEREAS, In March 2012, the quartet made its Carnegie Hall  
5 debut in New York, playing before a sold-out crowd in the Weill  
6 Recital Hall Chamber and Solo Music Series, and members of the  
7 ensemble are nearing the end of the two-year Genius at Play series,  
8 in which they are performing a complete cycle of all the Beethoven  
9 string quartets; during the 2012-2013 season of the Austin  
10 Symphony, the Artisan Series is featuring these four gifted  
11 musicians in two performances in the Smith Family Chapel at  
12 Riverbend Church; and

13 WHEREAS, For the past four years, the Artisan String Quartet  
14 has helped to show that Austin is indeed the Live Music Capital of  
15 the World in more ways than one, and their stirring performances in  
16 Austin, across Texas, and around the nation continue to add to their  
17 growing reputation among classical music lovers everywhere; now,  
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
20 Legislature hereby honor Richard Kilmer, Bruce Williams, Douglas  
21 Harvey, and Paula E. Bird of the Artisan Quartet for their talent  
22 and dedication and extend to them 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 group as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
26 House of Representatives.