

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 346

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Victoria Bach Festival is presenting its 40th
2 anniversary season in June 2015, and this milestone provides a
3 welcome opportunity to pay tribute to this unique musical event;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The first Victoria Bach Festival was presented in
6 1976 under the direction of Dr. David Urness, and over the years,
7 this regional classical musical festival has drawn thousands of
8 music lovers from across the state; the first season was sponsored
9 by the University of Houston-Victoria, which has since been joined
10 in its support by the Texas Commission on the Arts, the City of
11 Victoria, the National Endowment for the Arts, and a host of
12 individuals and businesses from the community; and

13 WHEREAS, Since 1992, the Victoria Bach Festival has been led
14 by Grammy-nominated artistic director Craig Hella Johnson, and
15 today his creative team also includes New Young Artist coordinator
16 Faith DeBow and chamber music director Michelle Schumann; the
17 festival features principal players from the nation's leading
18 orchestras, and the festival's lineup has been expanded beyond the
19 works of Johann Sebastian Bach to include composers from the entire
20 history of classical music; performances in recent years have
21 featured compositions by Ludwig van Beethoven, Charles Ives, George
22 Gershwin, Arvo Pärt, and Roberto Sierra; and

23 WHEREAS, During festival week, audiences are treated to
24 large-scale performances of symphonies and oratorios as well as

1 more intimate performances by vocal artists and chamber ensembles
2 at various venues in Victoria; concerts are broadcast on South
3 Texas Public Radio, reaching 100,000 listeners in 15 Texas
4 counties; and

5 WHEREAS, The festival's education and outreach programs
6 include the New Young Artists Program, master classes with
7 professional musicians, children's concerts, preconcert talks, and
8 dress rehearsals that are open to the public; the work of the
9 festival continues in the off-season with an annual holiday concert
10 by the vocal ensemble Conspirare, performances of silent films with
11 live musical accompaniment, and appearances by guest artists; and

12 WHEREAS, For four decades, the Victoria Bach Festival has
13 brought the gift of some of the most inspiring music in the world to
14 the residents of Victoria and South Texas, and this remarkable
15 cultural event is truly deserving of special recognition; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
18 Legislature hereby commemorate the 40th anniversary season of the
19 Victoria Bach Festival and extend to the festival's staff and
20 guests sincere best wishes for a glorious week of wonderful music;
21 and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for the Victoria Bach Festival as an expression of high
24 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.