

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize the value and significance of music education in schools across the District of Columbia and the country and to promote music education in communities on the occasion of Music In Our Schools Month.

WHEREAS, Music In Our Schools Month is observed annually in March after being officially designated by the National Association for Music Education more than 30 years ago;

WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114–95; 129 Stat. 1802) identified music as part of a well-rounded education;

WHEREAS, the purpose of Music In Our Schools Month is to raise awareness of the lasting positive impact of music education on the academic, emotional, and behavioral growth of our students;

WHEREAS, music education shapes the way our students understand themselves and the world around them, and research has shown that music positively impacts a child’s academic performance, assists in developing social skills, and provides an outlet for creativity that is crucial to a child’s development;

WHEREAS, this month reminds us all that school is where all children should have access to music, and music educators, students, and communities throughout District demonstrate the importance of quality music education programs to the lives of young people;

WHEREAS, District of Columbia Public Schools is committed to the arts and music in education, facilitating the DCPS Arts program that works collaboratively with multiple arts organizations to develop and execute programming that connects the Music Course Pathways classroom curriculum with external experiences;

WHEREAS, Washington, D.C. has long been home to many prominent musicians across broad musical genres like Jazz, Rhythm & Blues (R&B), bluegrass, punk rock, and its own unique,

46 locally born funk genre called go-go, which was created in the mid-1970s and in 2020, made the
47 official music of the District by the Mayor;

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49 WHEREAS, legends and renowned pioneers of their time like jazz musician Duke
50 Ellington, the Godfather of Go-Go Chuck Brown, R&B and soul artist Marvin Gaye, hardcore
51 punk band Bad Brains and Minor Threat, all hail from Washington, D.C., which boast a rich
52 musical history and culture defined by barrier-breaking sound;

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54 WHEREAS, the District is considered by many to be the nation’s choral capital, which is
55 home to more than 50 professional and volunteer symphonic choruses and ensembles;

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57 WHEREAS, storied performance and concert venues are based in the District, like the 9:30
58 Club, Howard Theater, and Lincoln Theater, and the Kennedy Center, home of the Washington
59 National Opera and the National Symphony Orchestra;

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61 WHEREAS, The District is home to the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, a public high
62 school in Ward 2 named for legendary native Washingtonian Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington,
63 which prepares students in the arts and theater, including instrumental music and vocal music and
64 boasts an enviable list of notable alumni that have risen to the heights of their respective genres or
65 created new genres and sub-genres of music;

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67 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
68 resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Music In Our Schools Month Recognition
69 Resolution of 2023”.

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71 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and hereby proclaims March as
72 Music In Our Schools Month and encourages all District residents to celebrate and acknowledge
73 that music education is essential to every student’s well-rounded education.

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75 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.