

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 000527)

RESOLUTION

Honoring and congratulating The Philadelphia Orchestra upon celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, On November 16, 1900, Fritz Scheel led 85 musicians in the first concert of the newly-formed Philadelphia Orchestra. Over the next 100 years, the Orchestra established itself as one of the world's great musical forces, consistently maintaining the highest standards of symphonic performance while being at the forefront of new repertoires and advanced technologies; and

WHEREAS, On October 24, 1917, Leopold Stokowski led nearly 100 members of the 17-year-old Philadelphia Orchestra to the Auditorium of the Victor Talking Machine Company's headquarters in Camden, New Jersey. There they made the Orchestra's first recording, a rendition of Brahms' Fifth Hungarian Dance; and

WHEREAS, The legacy of The Philadelphia Orchestra includes a remarkable list of technological "firsts" including: The Philadelphia Orchestra was the first to use the electrical method to make a commercial recording (in 1925), the first to perform its own commercially sponsored radio broadcast (in 1929, on NBC), the first to perform on the soundtrack of a featured film (*The Big Broadcast* of 1937), the first to appear on a national television broadcast (in 1948, on CBS), the first American orchestra to record the complete Beethoven symphonies on compact disc (in 1988), and the first major orchestra to give a live cybercast on the Internet (in 1997); and

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WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Orchestra has also succeeded in expanding the symphonic repertoire with various diverse and respected composers having written music specifically for the Philadelphians and had their works receive world or United States premieres by the Philadelphia Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the Orchestra's century-long dedication to the promotion of symphonic music in the United States and the world, Music Director Wolfgang Sawallisch writes: "What is it that forms the essence of the Orchestra's greatness? First is the unbelievable breadth of styles, the ability to grasp with lightning speed any new approach to playing. Second is the enormous intensity of sound: without a lot of talk, one can expect all of the required shadings and color, from the most delicate pianissimos to the most powerful explosions of sonority. But most important of all is this Orchestra's eagerness to play, its sheer joy in performing."; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby honor and congratulate the Philadelphia Orchestra upon celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the Philadelphia Orchestra as evidence of the sincere admiration of this legislative body.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-second of June, 2000.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Rizzo

Sponsored by: Councilmembers O'Neill, Goode, Mariano, Cohen, Blackwell, Krajewski, Council President Verna, DiCicco, Clarke, Ortiz, Reynolds Brown, Miller, Nutter, Kenney and Tasco

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