

Senate Resolution No. 1923

BY: Senator CLEARE

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2024, as Jazz Appreciation Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those within our midst who have contributed to the quality of life and the cultural heritage of New York State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2024, as Jazz Appreciation Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Jazz Appreciation Month; and

WHEREAS, Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) is a music festival held every April in the United States in honor of jazz as an original American art form; in 2001, JAM was created by John Edward Hasse, PhD, curator of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, Jazz Appreciation Month became a national extension of the original Jazz Awareness Month created by the Louisiana Jazz Federation in New Orleans; it was established to be an annual event to pay tribute to jazz as both living and historic music; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 2001, the annual funding to support Jazz Appreciation Month has been provided by the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation; it coincides with International Jazz Day on April 30th; and

WHEREAS, Jazz, the classic music of America, has had an enduring influence not only on our State and Nation but also on the world; and

WHEREAS, The month of April acknowledges the creativity and talent of jazz musicians and composers, reminding us of the diverse and rich contributions to this uniquely American art form; and

WHEREAS, JAM will be celebrated in many venues throughout New York State during the month of April; and

WHEREAS, New York State has been honored to be the birthplace and home of countless jazz legends such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, George and Ira Gershwin, and countless others; and

WHEREAS, Many of the greatest Jazz Clubs in the history of the world were located in Harlem, New York, including, without limitation, The Alhambra Ballroom, The Cotton Club, Count Basie's Lounge, The Lenox Lounge, The Renaissance Ballroom, The Savoy, and Monette's Supper Club; and

WHEREAS, Many of the greatest Jazz Clubs in Harlem exist to this day, including, Bill's Place, Minton's Playhouse, Jazz Mobile, and The

Apollo Theater; and

WHEREAS, Many of the finest jazz musicians lived in, played in, and frequented Harlem, including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Earl "Fatha" Hines, Cab Calloway, Thelonius Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, Count Basie, "Jelly Roll" Morton, Charlie Parker, Fats Waller, Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, Paul Robeson, Ethel Waters, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Lena Horne, Billie Holiday, and Josephine Baker; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body calls upon its members and fellow New Yorkers to observe Jazz Appreciation Month by listening to jazz in clubs, on the air, and in various jazz celebrations throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, New York State's famous jazz musicians have inspired and entertained countless players, singers, dancers, and listeners with such styles as Dixieland, swing, bebop, Latin jazz fusion, free jazz, jazz fusion, funk, and hip-hop; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2024, as Jazz Appreciation Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.