

BY: M. of A. Levenberg

COMMEMORATING the 70th Season of Friends of Music
Concerts of Westchester County, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those organizations of artistic significance whose creative contributions have helped further the cultural enrichment of our communities and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 70th Season of Friends of Music Concerts of Westchester County, New York; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Music Concerts, Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit organization which brings the finest chamber music to Westchester audiences; until the COVID-19 pandemic, it offered a six-concert series each year, showcasing both world-renowned ensembles and distinguished younger artists who illustrate the diversity and fine quality of chamber music today; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1954, Friends of Music's first concert featured the young Juilliard String Quartet, and, since then, Friends of Music Concerts, Inc. has brought to Westchester chamber music groups, soloists, and developing artists of world renown; this esteemed organization's mission has always maintained a special focus on keeping musical experiences affordable and supporting the future of chamber music; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Music Concerts also supports the future of classical music through its Partnerships program, which brings young professional ensembles to Westchester public schools, working with local music students and helping to create the audiences and classical musicians of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, The residencies include both performances and master classes for the district's students, and are intended to supplement the district's own music curriculum, with the residencies being provided at no cost to the district; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Music Concerts' scholarship program supports music students from underserved communities in need of financial aid; the program also addresses the challenges faced presently by local music schools in providing a superior level of musical education; participating schools are Hoff-Barthetson Music School in Scarsdale and the Music Conservatory of Westchester in White Plains; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Music Concerts' annual Performance Award nurtures artists newly emerging on the chamber music scene; the award is given to a winner of the annual Young Concert Artists International Auditions which are held in New York City; the Performance Award winner

is granted a coveted concert in the organization's season; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Music Concerts, supported by dedicated volunteers, has brought to Westchester County the world's finest chamber music performed by supremely gifted artists; in its seven-concert, fall-to-spring season, the organization presents world-renowned classical music groups in a convenient setting for Westchester County audiences; and

WHEREAS, As Friends of Music Concerts, Inc. heads into the second half of their 70th anniversary season, they will be welcoming dynamic, award-winning artists; some of the featured artists and groups are just starting their careers and will provide a variety of fresh musical voices for the community to look forward to; others are established artists who are highly praised for their adventurous programming and virtuosic interpretations; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the musical arts of our Nation, to honor our musical artists, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; as we celebrate the arts, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which musical arts are truly the expression of the soul; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 70th Season of Friends of Music Concerts of Westchester County, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Friends of Music Concerts of Westchester County.