

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Mark Copani upon the occasion of his induction into the Syracuse Area Music Awards Hall of Fame as Music Educator of the Year on March 3, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and recognize those talented individuals within our midst, who have had a significant impact on the arts and culture of our communities, by providing outstanding instruction in the field of music; one such individual is Mark Copani; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Mark Copani upon his induction into the Syracuse Area Music Awards (SAMMYS) Hall of Fame as Music Educator of the Year celebrated at a Ceremony on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at the Dinosaur Bar-B-Que in Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse Area Music Awards were first established in 1993 to annually recognize and honor Syracuse's most prominent musicians and music educators, aiming to bring these individuals to the forefront of public attention; and

WHEREAS, Syracuse, New York, native, Mark Copani, started to play guitar at the young age of nine years old; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Nottingham High School, Mark Copani majored in Music at Onondaga Community College in 1975; years later, he returned to the college and graduated in 2003, with his degree in Electronic Media Communications; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Mark Copani began giving guitar lessons to youth within the Central New York community at Dishaw's Guitar Shop in Syracuse; for 26 years, he taught and inspired hundreds of local students; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Mark Copani taught guitar lessons at the DeSantis Music Schoolhouse & Bonne Music Center, as well as private lessons within his home; and

WHEREAS, Today, many of Mark Copani's students are notables in the current music scene, including, but not limited to, Andrew Greacen, Kevin Metzger, Mike Burrese, and Anthony Sauterno; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his long and distinguished career, Mark Copani has served as an expert in multiple music styles including jazz, smooth jazz, swing, fun, blues, fusion, rhythm and blues, rock, top 40-pop, and Christian, as well as acoustic folk; and

WHEREAS, For numerous decades, Mark Copani has wowed audiences by performing on stage with several other well-renowned artists, such as Kevin Mahogany, Grady Tate, Clay Aitken, Petula Clark, Al Martino, and John Davidson; and

WHEREAS, Mark Copani has also toured Broadway and performed in popular shows such as "Jesus Christ Superstar"; one of his favorite gigs was playing alongside Mickey Rooney; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Mark Copani was the recipient of the Best Jazz Instrumentalist by the Syracuse Area Music Awards, and in 2001, he received the Larry Arlotta Award for Best Jazz Instrumentalist; and

WHEREAS, With deep appreciation, this Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to commend those musical instructors who distinguish themselves through their ability to inspire their students to achieve excellence in musical performance, and to recognize the spell-binding talent of Mark Copani, as well as wish him continuing success in all his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Mark Copani upon the occasion of his induction into the

Syracuse Area Music Awards Hall of Fame as Music Educator of the Year on

March 3, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mark Copani.