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5-11-1982

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Carrington, Mark, "Arts and Humanities: Correspondence (1982): Speech 02" (1982). *Arts and Humanities: Correspondence (1982)*. Paper 14.

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American Symphony Orchestra League

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News Release

Date: May 11, 1982

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**CONGRESS PASSES RESOLUTION DESIGNATING
JUNE 13-19, NATIONAL ORCHESTRA WEEK**

The House of Representatives today passed a resolution designating the week of June 13-19, 1982 as **National Orchestra Week**.

The joint resolution (H.J.Res. 375), which was introduced in the House by Representatives Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Ralph S. Regula (R-OH), and in the Senate by Senators John Heinz (R-PA) and Claiborne Pell (D-RI), was cosponsored by 234 Congressmen.

Mark R. Bernstein, Chairman of the American Symphony Orchestra League, the national service organization for American orchestras, praised congressional sponsors and cosponsors alike for their support of this resolution. "It is testimony to the fact that government cares," Bernstein said. "This imprimatur from our nation's political leaders gives us hope and reinforces our aspirations to what National Orchestra Week can achieve -- advocacy at all levels of government and public life for the living, orchestral art. It is a commendable beginning."

Weiss, one of the leading arts advocates in the House, said, "America's symphony and chamber orchestras are a source of pride to us all. The United States has over 1500 orchestras, more than any nation in the world. They are among our finest cultural and artistic resources, and bring both enjoyment and inspiration to nearly every American community."

Continued

Page Two

Regula, a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, which is responsible for the budget of the National Endowment for the Arts, said, "Orchestras comprise a vital part of the cultural and economic life of our nation. Not only do they provide enjoyment and inspiration by presenting the finest in concert music, they also provide their communities with a broad range of services such as educational programs, regional and national tours, and free park concerts. In addition, orchestras account for approximately \$1 billion in economic activity nationally."

Citing the full range and depth of community service and outreach programs that orchestras offer in his region, Regula reminded the House that "orchestras like the Canton Symphony and the Cleveland Orchestra, serving their communities and the nation, justify our praise and recognition."

When the resolution, which passed the Senate unanimously on March 4, 1982, was introduced, Heinz, member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Board, said, "This joint resolution will celebrate the close ties that have grown between orchestras and their patrons." Heinz added, "In the last few years, Americans have supported symphony orchestras in ever-increasing numbers...Americans can and should be proud of their avid support for such cultural institutions. We are truly undergoing a cultural awakening."

National Orchestra Week, June 13-19, coincides with the Annual Conference of the American Symphony Orchestra League, to be held in Washington D.C. at this time.

The American Symphony Orchestra League was chartered in 1962 by Congress to be the representative of America's orchestras. Today, 40 years after its formation, the League represents more than 1,500 orchestras nationwide.