

By: Senator C. Penzo

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE WINNERS OF THE IBLA GRAND PRIZE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION; AND TO COMMEND THE IBLA GRAND PRIZE MUSIC COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL FOR STRENGTHENING CULTURAL EXCHANGE THROUGH MUSICAL OUTREACH.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE WINNERS OF THE IBLA GRAND PRIZE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION; AND TO COMMEND THE IBLA GRAND PRIZE MUSIC COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL FOR STRENGTHENING CULTURAL EXCHANGE THROUGH MUSICAL OUTREACH.

WHEREAS, the IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition and Festival is an annual music competition and festival that has taken place each summer in Ragusa Ibla, Sicily, Italy, for thirty-five (35) years; and

WHEREAS, the IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition and Festival was founded by Dr. Salvatore Moltisanti as part of his doctoral thesis and each year attracts talented musicians from across the globe; and

WHEREAS, winners and participants in the IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition and Festival travel and perform across the world, across the United States of America, and across Arkansas, and with the final performance each year taking place at Carnegie Hall in New York City; and



WHEREAS, the IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition and Festival and musicians affiliated with the organization have, over the past twenty-five (25) years, conducted music master classes for more than eight thousand (8,000) Arkansas students at elementary, middle, and high schools in cities such as Little Rock, Jacksonville, Maumelle, Lake Village, Forrest City, Batesville, Springdale, Searcy, Harrison, and Hot Springs; and

WHEREAS, Gianni Burriesci, Maximilian Trebo, Wieslaw Ochwat, and Maciej Zimka, who are winners from the 2025 IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition, have been exemplifying the highest standards of musical achievement and cultural exchange during their travels and performances across Arkansas as part of the IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition and Festival; and

WHEREAS, Gianni Burriesci of Italy, who was a 2025 IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition winner with highest honors, is sixteen (16) years old and has been playing the violin since the age of three (3); and

WHEREAS, Maximilian Trebo of Italy, who was a 2025 IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition winner with high honors, graduated with honors from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan, Italy, graduated with a masters degree from the Mozarteum University Salzburg in Salzburg, Austria, and has won more than twenty (20) first prizes at national and international music competitions since he was nine (9) years old; and

WHEREAS, Wieslaw Ochwat of Poland, who was a 2025 IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition, graduated with distinction from the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Krakow, Poland, from which he also received his Ph.D. and where he now leads the accordion class at the Department of Woodwind Instruments and Accordion; and

WHEREAS, Maciej Zimka of Poland, who was a 2025 IBLA Grand Prize Music International Competition winner with honors, is a graduate of the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Krakow, Poland, from which he also received his Ph.D., is an active composer who composes works for the accordion and chamber music ensembles,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS,

THAT the Senate:

(1) Extend a warm welcome to Gianni Burriesci, Maximilian Trebo, Wieslaw Ochwat, and Maciej Zimka, congratulate them for their successes as part of the IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition and Festival, and recognize them for their achievements and expertise as musicians; and

(2) Commend the IBLA Grand Prize International Music Competition and Festival for its continued role in providing exposure to the highest level of musicianship to the people of Arkansas, enriching the communities of Arkansas through musical performances and educational programs, and strengthening international goodwill through musical cultural exchange.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, appropriate copies be provided to the leadership of the IBLA Foundation, Gianni Burriesci, Maximilian Trebo, Wieslaw Ochwat, and Maciej Zimka by the Secretary of the Senate.