



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

My name is Bobby Levy, I represent House District 58 which is most of Umatilla County, and all of Union and Wallowa County. I write to offer my full support for the passage of SCR 208, which commemorates the 25th anniversary of the founding of Inland Northwest Musicians and honors their remarkable contributions to the arts in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington.

Since its inception in 1999, Inland Northwest Musicians has been guided by a profound commitment to the belief that music is for everyone. This fundamental principle has fueled their mission to bring the joy and enrichment of live music performances to audiences throughout the region, regardless of their location or background.

Inland Northwest Musicians stands out as a beacon of cultural enrichment, providing a platform for local musicians to develop their talents and share their passion with the community. Under the visionary leadership of conductor R. Lee Friese, the organization has flourished, establishing three performance ensembles including a symphony orchestra, a symphonic chorale group, and a youth/preparatory orchestra.

The impact of Inland Northwest Musicians extends far beyond the concert hall. Through over 500 concerts in 50 communities, they have brought music to the hearts of countless individuals, enriching lives and fostering a deeper appreciation for the arts. Their dedication to serving underserved populations in diverse venues such as schools, churches, community centers, and even prisons, underscores their commitment to making music accessible to all.

Moreover, Inland Northwest Musicians has been instrumental in fostering youth music instruction, recognizing the importance of nurturing the next generation of musicians. Their tireless efforts in this regard have helped shape the cultural landscape of the region, ensuring that music remains a vibrant and integral part of community life for years to come.

Additionally, the organization's pioneering work in securing funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust has paved the way for other arts organizations in the state, further solidifying their role as trailblazers in the arts community.

Furthermore, Inland Northwest Musicians has played an integral role in commemorating significant milestones in the communities they serve, becoming an indispensable part of the region's cultural fabric.

In conclusion, the 25th anniversary of Inland Northwest Musicians is a momentous occasion deserving of recognition and celebration. Their unwavering commitment to the arts has enriched the lives of countless individuals and strengthened the cultural vitality of our region. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring and commending Inland Northwest Musicians for their unparalleled contributions to the arts in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington.

Bobby Levy