
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 248 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, GAINEY, HARKINS, KIM, KINSEY, FREEMAN,
HENNESSEY, LONGIETTI, JAMES, R. BROWN, DIGIROLAMO, V. BROWN,
MURT, CALTAGIRONE, MACKENZIE, NEILSON, SOLOMON, WARD,
BIZZARRO, SONNEY, DUSH, MILLARD AND PASHINSKI, APRIL 18, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 18, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2017 as "National Jazz Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz music; and

4 WHEREAS, The history of jazz music is inextricably linked
5 with the history of African-American culture in the United
6 States; and

7 WHEREAS, Jazz has been called America's only true indigenous
8 art form; and

9 WHEREAS, Many musicians traveled north from New Orleans
10 during the First World War and brought the distinctive style of
11 jazz to Chicago, Washington, New York, Pittsburgh and
12 Philadelphia; and

13 WHEREAS, Langston Hughes, alumnus of Lincoln University,
14 extolled the virtues of jazz music in his famous poem, "Trumpet
15 Player: 52nd Street"; and

16 WHEREAS, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh made significant

1 contributions to jazz music in the early 20th century; and

2 WHEREAS, Philadelphia's South Street was home to the African-
3 American owned Standard and Dunbar theaters, both of which
4 hosted incredible performances by famous jazz musicians Bessie
5 Smith, Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong; and

6 WHEREAS, Both Kenny Clark of Pittsburgh and John Coltrane of
7 Philadelphia helped shape the evolution of jazz music in America
8 and made significant contributions to the Bebop revolution; and

9 WHEREAS, Jazz music is uniquely American and represents one
10 of our nation's proudest cultural contributions to the world;
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
13 month of April 2017 as "National Jazz Month" in Pennsylvania.