



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

In January 1953, a small committee of proud Lima citizens and local muscians with a passion for live musical performance organized the Lima Symphony Orchestra and selected Lawrence Burkhalter as the Symphony's first conductor; and

WHEREAS: The Lima Symphony Orchestra made its debut performance on May 23, 1954, in the Central High School auditorium. William Byrd of Cincinnati led the symphony for the next ten years, during which time the Lima Symphony Orchestra developed a regular subscription series of four or five concerts per season, put on an annual production of an opera or operetta, and began annual concerts for school children; and

WHEREAS: In 1967, Joseph Firszt became Music Director/Conductor, beginning a twenty-nine year tenure with the Orchestra. Under his guidance the Orchestra grew from 50 volunteer muscians to 75 paid muscians presenting a full series of six subscription concerts and several community concerts each year. School programs, master classes and joint sponsorship of the Lima Area Youth Orchestra exemplify the impact Maestro Firszt had on the Lima Symphony Orchestra; and

WHEREAS: Crafton Beck became Music Director and Conductor after the retirement of Joseph Firszt in 1996. During his tenure, Maestro Beck has expanded the reach of the Orchestra throughout the West Central region of Ohio, with the Lima Symphony Orchestra now presenting six subscription concerts, a family concert, two or more Mozart by Candlelight concerts, an annual New Year's Eve Pops concert and other community concerts; and

WHEREAS: Since 1955, the Lima Symphony Orchestra has received support from the Friends of the Symphony, an enthusiastic and creative group of people who have worked with the Orchestra's Board of Directors to enhance the cultural offerings of the Lima Symphony; and

WHEREAS: Over the last 60 years the Lima Symphony Orchestra, its professional musicians, staff and Board have enriched the Lima community with its programs and promoted a greater appreciation of music in our region.

NOW THEREFORE: I, David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 12, 2013 as

LIMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA DAY

in the City of Lima and I ask all citizens to congratulate the Lima Symphony Orchestra on the occasion of their 60th Anniversary and to recognize the value of the Orchestra in contributing enormously to the quality of life in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 22nd day of August 2013.



Signature of David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio.

DAVID J. BERGER, MAYOR CITY OF LIMA, OHIO