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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 125

Offered January 21, 2010

*Commending the Virginia Symphony Orchestra.*

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Patron—Wagner

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WHEREAS, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1920, has been the cultural cornerstone of the performing arts in Hampton Roads for 90 years and is an organization beloved by its community, with musicians who are part of the fabric of the region—living, working, and teaching in the area; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, to reach the high level of artistic achievement desired by the community, leaders of three local orchestra organizations—the Virginia Orchestra Group, the Virginia Beach Pops Symphony, and the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra—merged to create and support the current 79-member preeminent regional and professional orchestra known as the Virginia Symphony Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra has celebrated numerous artistic heights, from highly praised performances in Carnegie Hall in 1997 and the Kennedy Center in 2000 to the performance in 2007 "seen 'round the world," when President George W. Bush motioned for Maestro JoAnn Falletta to step aside so he could conduct a few minutes of *Stars and Stripes Forever* during the Virginia Symphony Orchestra concert at the Jamestown 400th Anniversary celebration; and

WHEREAS, now recognized as one of the leading regional orchestras in the nation, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra has created a unique regional performance model, taking its music on the road, presenting its Classics Series in multiple concert venues throughout Hampton Roads, and underscoring the Symphony maxim that "The Sound Is All Around You"; and

WHEREAS, the musicians of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra are the orchestral centerpiece of Virginia Opera, Virginia Ballet, Todd Rosenlieb Dance, and Virginia Arts Festival productions, representing more than 130 performances that will reach over 200,000 concertgoers; and

WHEREAS, the core commitment of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra is to educational and community programs that touch the lives of 56,000 students and lifelong-learning adults, bringing together artists, educators, and students of all ages to explore music and forging a special relationship between the Symphony and its community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the Virginia Symphony Orchestra on the occasion of its 90th anniversary and for providing nine decades of wonderfully inspiring music for the citizens of and visitors to the Commonwealth to enjoy; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Symphony Orchestra as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and its many achievements and best wishes for a joyful anniversary and continued success in the future.

INTRODUCED

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