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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 419

Offered February 21, 2012

*Commending the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program.*

Patrons—McClellan, Carr, Loupassi, McQuinn and Morrissey

WHEREAS, the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program, which serves elementary to high school students, celebrates its 50th anniversary season in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the founders of the Richmond Symphony recognized the vital importance of educating student musicians; a youth orchestra program was established in 1962, five years after the Richmond Symphony was founded; and

WHEREAS, in its early years, the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program was a partnership with the Richmond Public Schools; because of the generous financial support of the Women's Committee of the Richmond Symphony, participation was free for students; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the Richmond Symphony's youth program serves between 250 and 300 student musicians who meet weekly from September through May; a tuition assistance program ensures that all music students can participate regardless of their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, students in the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program work collaboratively with professional musicians; concerts featuring professional and student musicians performing together started as early as 1964; and

WHEREAS, the participants in the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program have performed under the direction of many conductors; Richmond Symphony musical directors, associate conductors, musicians, teachers, and members of the community all have led youth performances over the years; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program has grown tremendously in the past 50 years; the original training orchestra has expanded and evolved and now features two string orchestras, two full orchestras, a chamber music program, music classes, and a summer music camp; and

WHEREAS, participants in the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program come from across central Virginia and include students who live in Fredericksburg, Charlottesville, and South Hill; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program on the occasion of its 50th anniversary season; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and congratulations for its many accomplishments and for enhancing the cultural life of the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

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