

2013-J2636

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Will Downing upon the occasion of celebrating 25 years in the Music Industry

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those musicians who have brought entertainment and cultural enrichment to the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Will Downing upon the occasion of celebrating 25 years in the Music

Industry during Harlem Summerstage, on Thursday, August 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, In his two decade recording career, Will Downing, a Brooklyn, New York native, has carved for himself a solid career as one of the leading purveyors of romantic music; he has gained a solid musical legacy, and a loyal following of fans; and

WHEREAS, Will Downing received his first national exposure as a popular backing vocalist in the 1980s, before signing with Island Records; he recorded two successful albums, and had a hit with a cover of "A Love Supreme"; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, Will Downing released his breakout album, "A Dream Fulfilled"; it was a marvelous disc that showed he not only was an excellent song stylist, but possessed a fine baritone voice as well; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the album, as well as its hit single, "I Try," hit the Urban Top 25, and critical acclaim for the disc abounded; and

WHEREAS, "A Dream Fulfilled" was the first of a string of successful albums that focused on smooth, romantic ballads, and began a period where Will Downing found his musical identity; and

WHEREAS, In the 1990s and early 2000s, Will Downing recorded frequently on multiple record labels; he became a regular at the top of the contemporary jazz charts, and released a number of solid albums; and

WHEREAS, In early 2007, overcoming numerous adversities, Will Downing was determined to complete his debut album for Peak Records, "After Tonight"; working from home, he created the album's gem, "God Is So Amazing," a simple, melodic testimony of faith during difficult times; and

WHEREAS, In June of 2009, Will Downing released his new album, "Classique," and received positive reviews; one year later he issued one of his most ambitious projects, an audio novel that detailed a relationship with spoken interludes between a strong batch of songs; and

WHEREAS, Looking back over the last two decades, Will Downing has established himself as one of the most consistent, and soulful singers of his era; and

WHEREAS, The arts, in whatever form depicted, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be underestimated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Will Downing upon the occasion of celebrating 25 years in the Music Industry; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Will Downing.