

**DRAFT**

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## **OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL FIFE, COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT BAS, VICE MAYOR KAPLAN, AND PRO TEMPORE THAO**

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**RESOLUTION HONORING MICHAEL MORGAN FOR HIS  
SIGNIFICANT MUSICAL CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUDING HIS THIRTY  
YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS THE DIRECTOR AND  
CONDUCTOR OF THE OAKLAND SYMPHONY, AND HIS IMPORTANT  
COMMUNITY WORK TO MAKE THE ARTS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL;  
AND DECLARING SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> AS MICHAEL MORGAN DAY IN  
THE CITY OF OAKLAND**

**WHEREAS**, Michael Morgan was born on September 17, 1957 in Washington D.C, where he attended public schools and began conducting at the age of 12; and

**WHEREAS**, Morgan studied at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music where he spent a summer at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood, studying with renowned composers and conductors such as Gunther Schuller, Seiji Ozawa, and working with the great Leonard Bernstein; and

**WHEREAS**, Morgan made his operatic debut in 1982 at the Vienna State Opera, conducting Mozart's "The Abduction from the Seraglio"; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, Morgan become the Assistant Conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a position he held for seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, Morgan began his tenure with the Oakland Symphony in 1991 and has served as the Symphony's Conductor and Director for the past 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Maestro Morgan also served as the Artistic Director of the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra, Music Director at Bear Valley Music Festival, Music Director of Gateways Music Festival, Music Director Emeritus of the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera and was on the boards of Oaktown Jazz Workshops and the Purple Silk Music Education Foundation; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1998, Morgan has helped ensure the future of symphonic music by commissioning and performing works by contemporary American composers and fostering collaborations with local artists and local arts organizations from children's choruses, jazz ensembles, the hip-hop community, and ballet; and

**WHEREAS**, Morgan implemented creative, inclusive, and engaging programming including having notable individuals such as W. Kamau Bell and Dolores Huerta share the "Playlist" of music that shaped their lives and values and "Notes From" concerts exploring music and musicians from Native American, African Diaspora, Korea, Vietnam and LGBTQ+ communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Morgan's artistic prowess is only matched by his commitment to community service, including his extensive work to make symphonic music accessible to individuals in our community who might otherwise never hear live symphonic music;

**WHEREAS**, under the artistic leadership of Morgan, Symphony activities reach nearly 100,000 people annually, with a large portion of the operating budget dedicated to education and outreach programs; and

**WHEREAS**, under Maestro Morgan, the Oakland Symphony has become a leader in music education for young people, bringing orchestral music into schools throughout Oakland and the East Bay and the Symphony's nationally renowned education program, Music for Excellence (MUSE), currently ensures that each year, 16,000+ young people have access to a variety of music education and enrichment activities, regardless of their economic situation; and

**WHEREAS**, Morgan's musical talent and brilliance as well as commitment to an inclusive, diverse, and collaborative orchestra over the past 30 years has helped our city make significant artistic and cultural advancements; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: The Oakland City Council hereby recognizes Maestro Michael Morgan—a musical visionary and dedicated community activist—for his contributions to the City of Oakland, the Nation, and the entire world; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**: That the Oakland City Council declares September 17<sup>th</sup> as Michael Morgan Day in the City of Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST

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ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California