

1 [Resolution Honoring Lou Harrison]
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3 **Resolution honoring Mr. Lou Harrison on the occasion of his 85th Birthday.**
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5 WHEREAS, Whereas, on the fourteenth day of May, in the year nineteen hundred and
6 seventeen, Lou Silver Harrison burst onto the scene and began to delight, dismay, and define
7 his own world arts, while passionately defending personal freedoms with grace; and

8 WHEREAS, Regarded internationally as a leading figure in the world of composing,
9 Harrison is a true musical visionary who traded his fast-paced New York career for a remote
10 cabin in the Santa Cruz Mountains nearly sixty years ago, Lou Harrison began composing in a
11 new style, which he rooted in a passionate belief in social equity, international citizenry, and
12 the interconnectedness of all life. What emerged was America's first important body of
13 uniquely cross-cultural music and a new vision for the twentieth and early twenty-first
14 centuries. Today, at 85, with an enormous oeuvre numbering over 300 pieces for Eastern,
15 Western and custom-made instruments, Harrison is a living treasure; and

16 WHEREAS, Harrison was an early outspoken activist in the emerging gay rights
17 movement in San Francisco in the early 1960s, at a time when it was considered illegal to be
18 oneself often meeting under clandestine circumstances, Harrison and his contemporaries
19 risked everything to defend their personal rights, and in doing so, helped pave the way for later
20 generations of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists to come; and

21 WHEREAS, Lou Harrison has also spent a lifetime tirelessly championing other
22 important local and international political movements, including civil rights, pacifism, and
23 countless environmental causes.

24 WHEREAS, While we celebrate Harrison's 85th birthday he shows no signs of slowing
25 down or stopping. His music, his art, and his actions ask us to open the borders and travel
freely, to find what binds us culturally. Especially now, as we see the world fracturing around

1 us, Lou Harrison's music becomes more relevant, his message more urgent. Indeed, there is
2 comfort to be found in hearing, with our own ears, just how beautiful the music of the world
3 sounds united; and therefor be it

4 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors are deeply honored to celebrate
5 with Lou Harrison, and publicly applaud his enormous lifetime contributions and share and
6 delight in the beauty he has brought to us all with the beginning of his 86th year and to
7 proclaim May 14, 2002, LOU HARRISON DAY in the City and County of San Francisco.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 020734

Date Passed:

Resolution honoring Mr. Lou Harrison on the occasion of his 85th Birthday.

May 13, 2002 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee
Absent: 2 - McGoldrick, Newsom

File No. 020734

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on May 13, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

MAY 24 2002

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.