



## Joint Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Bellingham Festival of Music began in 1993, when Conductor Michael Palmer brought his American Sinfonietta to Bellingham for several weeks of rehearsal before a summer tour of Europe; and

**WHEREAS**, Maestro Palmer and co-founder Robert Sylvester, Dean of Fine and Performing Arts, established an annual festival at Western Washington University featuring the Sinfonietta; and

**WHEREAS**, the festival enriched the region's summer cultural events and encouraged tourism by presenting some of North America's most gifted young musicians; and

**WHEREAS**, the orchestra today is composed of distinguished musicians from North American ensembles including Principal players from the Atlanta, Cincinnati, Seattle and other orchestras; and

**WHEREAS**, the Festival engages world class soloists to perform with the orchestra in concertos and choral works; and

**WHEREAS**, the Festival attracts some of the finest vocalists in the Pacific Northwest to sing in its chorus; and

**WHEREAS**, under the direction of Artistic Director and Conductor Michael Palmer, the Festival has grown into a nationally recognized event that attracts visitors; draws accolades from critics, audiences, and musical artists; and wins grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and local and regional government agencies; and

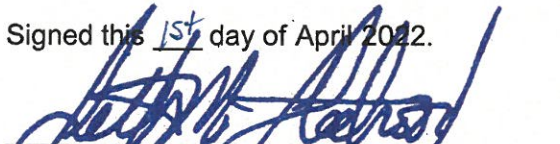
**WHEREAS**, Maestro Palmer is celebrating his Laudatory Season with the Festival in 2022.


**NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE**, Seth Fleetwood, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, proclaim July 2022 to be

### **MAESTRO MICHAEL PALMER AND BELLINGHAM FESTIVAL OF MUSIC MONTH**

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County and urge all residents to join in recognizing this Conductor and this orchestra for their outstanding contribution to the arts in our county.

Signed this 1st day of April 2022.

  
Seth Fleetwood, Mayor  
City of Bellingham

  
Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive  
Whatcom County

