

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas's musical heritage began with the contributions of our State's first inhabitants, Native Americans, who sang and used drums and other handcrafted instruments to convey their powerful collective history. The innate need to vocalize one's story through music continues to the present day through the work of many remarkable Arkansans; and

WHEREAS: Music in Arkansas has unified families, communities, and geographic regions with genres including, African American spirituals, ballads, ragtime, folk, blues, country, symphonic, jazz, rhythm and blues, and rock and roll. Over time, these genres have evolved and combined to create a distinctive Arkansas sound; and

WHEREAS: Blues traces its beginnings to the Mississippi River Delta. It is thought that the blues emerged from songs of the slavery era with additional influences from other musical styles. The blues has played a significant role in the development and direction of culture, performance, and new musical genres across the globe; and

WHEREAS: The songs from the slavery era that contributed to the blues, as well as hymns sung in church, influenced the artists who developed the sounds of rockabilly and country music; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas has been home to many prominent country musicians, and the influence of country music on Arkansas culture and history is profound. Arkansas artists have created their own variations of country music by combining country music with elements from other musical genres to create songs that have inspired fans around the world; and

WHEREAS: Rockabilly demonstrated the talent and creativity of Arkansas musicians to the nation and the world. Rockabilly synthesizes elements of blues, country, and gospel music to create a musical style that reflected the rapid changes of the years following the end of World War II. Many famous Arkansas musicians began their careers with rockabilly sounds, before transitioning into other musical styles; and

WHEREAS: Through unique circumstances, different musical influences, and because of distinctive geographical landscapes across the State, Arkansas's musicians own an important musical legacy that is key to future generations of artists;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 1, 2020, as

ARKANSAS MUSIC APPRECIATION DAY

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to recognize the significance of the contributions that Arkansas's musicians have made to the nation's music.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 31st day of August, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor