

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



Commendation

WHEREAS, the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields, has officially declared July, 2008 through June 2009 as the International Year of the Organ (IYO); and

WHEREAS, this association, chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York in 1896, has designated this year a time for exhibiting our pride in the King of Instruments and celebrating its colorful history and unparalleled contributions to the universal language of music; and

WHEREAS, the 21,000 members of the American Guild of Organists located through the United States, Europe, Singapore, Korea and Sydney, are holding a multitude of activities worldwide to celebrate the IYO, including organ recitals, organ-building workshops, and community events of all kinds; and

WHEREAS, October 19, 2008 will be an international day of celebration and focal point of the 2008-2009 International Year of the Organ, during which more than 250 celebrations will be held globally to showcase the organ and its history; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of guild chapters, as well as music organizations throughout the world, will be sponsoring their own local activities to help generate increased awareness of the organ; and

WHEREAS, the association will be working with colleges, universities and conservatories to promote organ education and appreciation, as well as offering "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" and other special programs to younger students to encourage them to become more involved with the organ and organ music; and

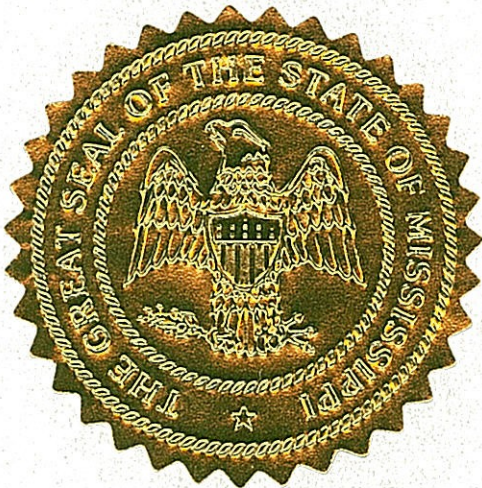
WHEREAS, the International Year of the Organ will be the largest musical celebration of its kind ever to be held on a global basis; and

WHEREAS, Federal, state and local government officials through the United States, as well as civic and social organizations, educators, musicians, music enthusiasts and others, will join together to honor the organ; and

NOW THEREFORE, as Governor of the great State of Mississippi, I hereby commend the American Guild of Organists for their efforts to promote increased general public awareness of the organ.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the seventeenth day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-second.



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR