Whereas Inland Northwest Musicians was founded in 1999 on five core beliefs: that music is for everyone; that audiences everywhere deserve to experience live performances of the world’s greatest music; that all musicians deserve to develop their talent; that music is a lifelong pursuit that contributes to health and well-being; and that a regional arts organization should truly represent and serve the region; and

Whereas Inland Northwest Musicians was formed with a vision to create a symphony orchestra and chorale organization that was uniquely driven by the values and beliefs upon which it was founded; and

Whereas at the time of its founding, Inland Northwest Musicians brought unprecedented support for local musicians to rural northeast Oregon and southeast Washington, welcoming performers of all skill levels; and

Whereas Inland Northwest Musicians operates three performance ensembles under the direction of conductor R. Lee Friese, including a full symphony orchestra, a symphonic chorale group and a youth/preparatory orchestra; and

Whereas Inland Northwest Musicians ensembles have performed more than 500 concerts in 50 communities throughout northeast Oregon and southeast Washington; and

Whereas Inland Northwest Musicians was one of the first organizations in Oregon to receive funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust; and

Whereas Inland Northwest Musicians is a staunch supporter of youth music instruction, both within and outside of the school setting; and

Whereas Inland Northwest Musicians has helped celebrate countless milestones in the communities it serves, including the one-hundredth anniversary of the Morrow County Courthouse, the Heppner St. Patrick’s Day Celebration and the one-hundredth anniversary of the Pendleton Seventh-day Adventist Church, all in 2002; the opening of the remodeled Echo Community Center in 2003; the Centennial Celebration of Connell, Washington, in 2010; and the decommissioning ceremony for the Umatilla Chemical Depot in 2012; and

Whereas Inland Northwest Musicians serves underserved populations in communities of all sizes throughout northeast Oregon and southeast Washington and in wildly varied venues, including schools, churches, community centers, prisons and outdoor settings; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of Inland Northwest Musicians, and we recognize and honor the organization’s incomparable contributions to the arts in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington.