

2022 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR BOUIE

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Jonathan "Jon" Batiste on his many accomplishments.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Jonathan "Jon" Batiste on his many accomplishments, most notably winning five Grammy Awards at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards Show.

WHEREAS, Jonathan Michael "Jon" Batiste is an American singer, songwriter, musician, composer, bandleader, and television personality who was born in Metairie, Louisiana, and grew up in Kenner, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, from the age of eight, Jon played percussion and drums with his family's band, the Batiste Brothers; when he was eleven, he tried piano at his mother's suggestion, taking classical piano lessons; and

WHEREAS, Jon attended St. Augustine High School and New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, along with Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, graduating in 2004; Jon released his debut album at the age of seventeen, titled *Times in New Orleans* and went on to attend Juilliard School where he obtained a Bachelor of Music in 2008 and a Master of Music in Jazz Studies in 2011; and

WHEREAS, while at Juilliard School, Mr. Batiste formed the band Stay Human who became known for their street performances, which were called "love riots"; Stay Human still performs today, most notably on *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* where Mr. Batiste serves as the bandleader and musical director; and

1           WHEREAS, although Mr. Batiste currently resides in New York City, he appeared  
2 as himself in the HBO television series *Treme* which is set in New Orleans and was the  
3 Grand Marshall of the New Orleans Endymion parade in 2018; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Batiste regularly celebrates his New Orleans roots where a strong  
5 foundation of jazz music, Rhythm & Blues, roots music, and classical music became part of  
6 him; once saying music is "more than entertainment for me, it's a spiritual experience"; and

7           WHEREAS, he won an Academy Award as a composer for the Disney-Pixar  
8 animated film *Soul* for Best Original Score; his work on *Soul* also earned him a Golden  
9 Globe, BAFTA, NAACP Image Award, and a Critic's Choice Award; and

10          WHEREAS, Jon Batiste was nominated for eleven Grammy Awards, winning a total  
11 of five, making him the most nominated and the most awarded artist of the 64th Annual  
12 Grammy Awards Show; and

13          WHEREAS, he received the most prestigious award, Album of the Year for *We Are*;  
14 Best Music Video for *Freedom*; Best American Roots Song for *Cry*; Best American Roots  
15 Performance for *Cry*; and Best Score Soundtrack For Visual Media for *Soul*; and

16          WHEREAS, Jon is featured on this year's official New Orleans Jazz and Heritage  
17 Festival poster though he will not be attending the festival itself since his newly  
18 commissioned *American Symphony* is scheduled for its world premier at Carnegie Hall; and

19          WHEREAS, at the young age of thirty-five, Mr. Batiste has already recorded and  
20 performed with many other great artists in various genres of music including Stevie Wonder,  
21 Prince, Willie Nelson, Lenny Kravitz, Ed Sheeran, Roy Hargrove, and Mavis Staples; and

22          WHEREAS, while still a young man with many years ahead to express his creative  
23 talents, Louisiana's native son's extensive accomplishments merit a sincere and heartfelt  
24 measure of commendation for the tremendous honor and pride he brings to his family,  
25 friends, community, the state of Louisiana, and his fans all around the world.

26          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
27 commend Jonathan "Jon" Batiste for his many accomplishments, particularly eleven  
28 Grammy Award nominations and five Grammy Award wins in the 64th year of the Grammy  
29 Awards; does take great pride in his extraordinary musical gifts and talents; and does  
30 recognize him as a son of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

