

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 151

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Baker High School Symphonic Band for being selected and performing at the 2018 National Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

WHEREAS, the Baker High School Symphonic Band is known as the "Symphony of Soul"; and

WHEREAS, after viewing photos of the devastating 2016 flood's effects on the band's hall, music composer Ayatey Shabazz created this special piece just for them titled "Regenesis" to commemorate Baker High School Symphonic Band's rise and perseverance after the August 2016 flood; and

WHEREAS, the band's performance of "Regenesis" at the Louisiana Concert Band, the WorldStrides OnStage Music Festival and the Louisiana Music Educators Association State Band Festival earned its top ratings; and

WHEREAS, some band members and parents say they knew this would be a historic year for the band after following band director William J. Earvin's instructions to "let their emotions come out in playing Regenesis", which resulted in a performance filled with deep emotions; and

WHEREAS, the Baker High School Symphonic Band's performance has earned a record twenty awards during this school year and scored all superiors at state festivals; and

WHEREAS, the Baker High School Symphonic Band earned superior ratings at the LMEA's District IV Festival; and

WHEREAS, the band's historic year of awards has lead to its senior class walking away with a combined \$1.3 million in college band scholarships; and

WHEREAS, the "Symphony of Soul" performed another original piece at Carnegie Hall on March 31, 2018, composed by Ayatey Shabazz, which honors black composers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the members and director of the Baker High School Symphonic Band for performing in the 2018 National Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall and does hereby celebrate its memorable and historic accomplishments achieved post-flood, as they represent their school, community, and our state through their "Symphony of Soul" performances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to William J. Earvin, band director.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE