

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

INTERIM REPORT

SPECIAL COMMISSION ON THE PERFORMING ARTS

[authorized under Chapter 63 of the Resolves of 1973 and
revived and continued by Chapter 2 of the Resolves
of 1974]

December 1974

Members of the Commission:

Representative David C. Ahearn
Senator Chester G. Atkins
Mrs. June Bakalar
Senator William M. Bulger
Mr. Thomas Caruso
Representative James G. Collins
Representative Michael Paul Feeney
Representative John J. Finnegan
Senator Robert A. Hall, Jr.
Mrs. Jacqueline D. O'Reilly

December 11, 1974

Mr. Wallace C. Mills, Clerk
House of Representatives
State House
Boston, Mass. 02133

Dear Sir:

While the Special Commission on the Performing Arts is, among other issues, deeply concerned about the future of the Commonwealth's major arts institutions which are an integral part of our life style, it is also keenly aware of present economic circumstances.

The Commission is prepared to submit in due time a plan which will insure the survival and possible flourishing of some of the state's most prestigious cultural assets and make them accessible to every citizen.

In the meantime, this first report is presented as evidence for the need for the Commission's continued existence.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline D. O'Reilly,
General Chairman

Representative Michael Paul Feeney,
House Chairman

Senator William M. Bulger,
Senate Chairman

Max Friedli, Director

Signature sheet for Interim Report:

Thomas Caruso

June Bakalar

Signature sheet for Interim Report:

Chester G. Atkins

James G. Collins

INTERIM REPORT

Whereas the performing arts, the major institutions in particular, are engaged in a fight for survival

Whereas the Commonwealth can boast of some of the world's most renowned performing arts groups

Whereas the Commonwealth is proud of its position as one of America's foremost cultural centres

Whereas that position is gravely endangered without substantial support of the performing arts

Whereas it is an established fact that despite greatly improved business methods the institutionalized performing arts cannot be financially solvent

Whereas the performing arts are a substantial part of the Commonwealth's economy

Whereas it is generally acknowledged that the performing arts make a contribution to the quality of life comparable to education

Whereas per capita expenditure for the arts puts the Commonwealth on 10th place among the nation's states

Whereas arts subsidy is a long and successful tradition elsewhere

Whereas much national and international attention will focus on Massachusetts for the bicentennial year and arts organizations will be expected to represent the Commonwealth at its best

Whereas the present governor has not complied with the Task Forces on the Arts and Humanities recommendation that one dollar per capita be appropriated by fiscal year 1975/76 by rejecting direct aid to major arts institutions

Therefore the time has come for the Commonwealth to assume partnership responsibility with corporate and private philanthropy

Whereas the centralization of the performing arts in urban centres continues

Whereas it is vital that the performing arts be made accessible to every citizen

Whereas both government and the public are not sufficiently aware of the need of funding in the performing arts

Whereas the performing arts are confronted with rapidly changing economic and social conditions

Whereas pressing issues other than funding confront the performing arts, the issue of performing arts facilities in particular

Be it therefore recommended that the Special Commission on the Performing Arts continue its work toward resolving the problems confronting the Commonwealth's performing arts institutions.

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