
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 273 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, SAVAL, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, KANE, KEARNEY,
MENSCH, MARTIN, DISANTO AND STREET, APRIL 12, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 12, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2022 as "Jazz Appreciation Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Jazz Appreciation Month," known as JAM, was created
4 in 2002 at the Smithsonian Museum to herald and celebrate the
5 extraordinary heritage and history of jazz in the month of
6 April; and

7 WHEREAS, JAM is intended to excite and encourage people of
8 all ages to participate in jazz, to study the music, attend
9 concerts, listen to recordings and read books about jazz; and

10 WHEREAS, This year JAM will be exploring the cross-
11 pollination of Afro-Caribbean music and jazz leading into the
12 formation of Latin jazz; and

13 WHEREAS, One of the iconic figures recognized in the Afro-
14 Caribbean music tradition was bassist, bandleader, composer and
15 cocreator of mambo, Israel "Cachao" López; and

16 WHEREAS, Israel López, better known as "Cachao," stands out
17 in the pantheon of Latino contributors to Jazz; and

18 WHEREAS, The Cuban double bassist and composer helped invent

1 the mambo style in the late 1930s, speeding up the traditional
2 Cuban dance music "danzón" by inserting a swing to it; and

3 WHEREAS, The springy bass lines Cachao played, alongside his
4 brother, pianist/cellist Orestes López, became a foundation of
5 modern Cuban music, later influencing salsa, Latin-infused
6 rock'n'roll and R&B; and

7 WHEREAS, Born in Havana, Cuba, in 1918 into a family of
8 musicians, Cachao studied classical music, was playing bongos in
9 a children's group at eight years of age, and played upright
10 bass with the Havana Philharmonic at 13 years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, Cachao later played with dance orchestras, joining
12 the Orquesta Arcaño y sus Maravillas in 1937; and

13 WHEREAS, As members of the Maravillas, Cachao and his brother
14 pioneered a new form of ballroom music derived from the
15 Cuban "danzón"; and

16 WHEREAS, Cachao integrated the popular Cuban musical
17 tradition with the pulsating conga, resulting in the beginnings
18 of the soon-to-be preeminent Latin musical genre, "mambo"; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to pioneering mambo, Cachao also was
20 instrumental in the development of "descargas," improvised late-
21 night jam sessions that combined Afro-Cuban rhythms, Cuban
22 melodies and elements of jazz; and

23 WHEREAS, Due to the Cuban government's strict policy on
24 American-influenced culture, Cachao left Cuba in 1962 for Spain
25 before moving to the United States in 1963; and

26 WHEREAS, In New York, Cachao started a career as a session
27 and live musician for a variety of bands during the rise
28 of "boogaloo," and later, "salsa"; and

29 WHEREAS, In the 1970s, he headlined at famous Las Vegas
30 hotels and ultimately settled in Miami in 1978; and

1 WHEREAS, Cachao's career took a slight dip in the 1980s as he
2 only recorded three albums as a leader between 1970 and 1990,
3 but Cuban-born actor Andy Garcia rediscovered Cachao; and

4 WHEREAS, Garcia orchestrated the return of Cachao to the
5 forefront of the Latin music scene with the release of a
6 documentary, a tribute concert in Miami and several successful
7 albums; and

8 WHEREAS, Cachao enjoyed a major resurgence in his career, won
9 several Grammy Awards for his work and contributions to Cuban
10 music and was inducted into Billboard's Latin Music Hall of Fame
11 in 1994; and

12 WHEREAS, Cachao was a recipient of a 1995 National Heritage
13 Fellowship awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the
14 highest honor in the folk and traditional arts in the United
15 States; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1999, Cachao was inducted into the International
17 Latin Music Hall of Fame and received a Lifetime Achievement
18 Award a year later; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2003, Cachao was awarded a star on the Hollywood
20 Walk of Fame; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2006, Cachao was honored by Union City, New
22 Jersey, with a star on the Walk of Fame at Union City's Celia
23 Cruz Park, and he received an Honorary Doctorate of Music from
24 Berklee College of Music during Berklee's Latin Culture
25 Celebration; and

26 WHEREAS, Cachao died in 2008 in Coral Gables, Florida, at the
27 age of 89; and

28 WHEREAS, Posthumously, Cachao was awarded an Honorary
29 Doctorate from the University of New Haven and won a Grammy for
30 his live album, "The Last Mambo"; and

1 WHEREAS, Jazz is a vital part of our American culture and a
2 part of the rich and diverse musical background of this
3 Commonwealth; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2022
5 as "Jazz Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania and recognize
6 Israel "Cachao" López for his contributions to the world of
7 jazz.