



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the Stax Music Academy began programming on June 1, 2000 at a nearby elementary school while its temporary building was under construction at the original site of Stax Records with instructors that included Tennessee legends Rufus and Carla Thomas; and

WHEREAS, the Stax Music Academy is the only school in the world that focuses solely on the Stax Records legacy and Memphis, Tennessee Sound; and

WHEREAS, Stax Music Academy has served as a Tennessee music ambassador by performing all over the world including Italy, Australia, France, England, Germany, Washington, D.C., New York's Lincoln Center, and other prominent locations and venues; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, all Stax Music Academy seniors have been accepted to college; and

WHEREAS, in June 2011, the Smithsonian Institute invited the Stax Music Academy to perform for five days to a collective audience over 1 million people at their annual Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. during the festival's first ever salute to R&B music; and

WHEREAS, the Smithsonian Institute also invited the Stax Music Academy to perform on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. again, this time for three days at the grand opening festival of the National Museum of African American History and Culture;

WHEREAS, in August 2019, Tennessee-born music icon Justin Timberlake and Levi's® Music Project installed a new Song Lab in the Stax Music Academy, hosting a songwriting workshop and giving the students the opportunity perform concert for Timberlake, who is also a donor to the academy's scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, Stax Music Academy students have participated in workshops and performances with a wide variety of GRAMMY®-winning artists, former Stax Records artists, and other music industry professionals including Huey Lewis, Steve Miller, George Clinton, Steve Cropper, Booker T. Jones, Mavis Staples, the Bar-Kays, Bootsy Collins, John Legend, Kanye West, The Roots, former First Lady Laura Bush, Elvis Costello, former Stax Records owner Al Bell, Stax Records founder Jim Stewart, and numerous others; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 2020 as

Stax Music Academy Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this fifteenth day of November, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

Je Hargett

Secretary of State

