

By: Senator(s) Polk, Fillingane, Barnett,  
Hudson, Dearing, Jackson (11th), Jackson  
(32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 635

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MUSICAL EXCELLENCE  
2 AND DISTINGUISHED NATIONAL REPUTATION OF DR. JAY DEAN, MUSIC  
3 DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR OF THE SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY  
4 ORCHESTRA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI, UPON THE  
5 OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

6 WHEREAS, Jay Dean has been the Music Director and Conductor  
7 of the Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra since 1988. During  
8 his tenure, the orchestra has grown into a university ensemble  
9 that has earned a distinguished national reputation. Founded in  
10 1920, the Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra is the oldest  
11 operating symphony orchestra in the State of Mississippi. It  
12 presents a number of annual subscription concerts per season in  
13 Hattiesburg, as well as many concerts throughout Mississippi. In  
14 addition to its regular symphonic concerts, the Southern  
15 Mississippi Symphony Orchestra performs as the orchestra for all  
16 opera and musical theatre productions; and

17 WHEREAS, Jay will retire his position as the Music Director  
18 and Conductor of the Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and



19 the Southern Opera and Musical Theatre Company in June 2018. This  
20 semester will end his 30th year in those positions; and

21 WHEREAS, in "Bringing the World to Mississippi," the Southern  
22 Mississippi Symphony Orchestra regularly performs to sold-out  
23 houses with audience members representing a diverse cross-section  
24 of the southeastern United States. His recruiting efforts have  
25 turned the organization into a multinational conglomerate; and

26 WHEREAS, he has conducted concerts featuring world-renown  
27 soloists such as Plácido Domingo, Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Sir  
28 James Galway and Joshua Bell, as well as major popular artists  
29 such as Doc Severinsen, The Pointer Sisters, Patti LaBelle, Dionne  
30 Warwick, Patti Austin, Ricky Skaggs and Sandi Patty; and

31 WHEREAS, Dean received his Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.)  
32 Degree in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Texas at  
33 Austin. Before coming to The University of Southern Mississippi,  
34 he was Music Director of DeKalb Youth Symphony Orchestra in  
35 Atlanta, the Mercer University/Atlanta Chamber Orchestra, the  
36 Columbus State University Orchestra, the Atlanta Festival  
37 Orchestra and Chorus, the Austin Civic Orchestra, and the  
38 Southwest Chamber Orchestra. He also served as Assistant  
39 Conductor for the Austin Lyric Opera; and

40 WHEREAS, he has been the Executive Director of the  
41 Professional Resource Institute for Musical Excellence, the  
42 Executive Director of the Vicksburg International Chamber Music  
43 Festival, President of the Mississippi Orchestra Teachers



44 Association, the Artistic Director of the Southern Arts Festival,  
45 State President of the National Opera Association, Regional  
46 Membership Chair for the International Conductors Guild, and Past  
47 President of the Mississippi Music Educators Association Orchestra  
48 Division. He also served as the Representative from the  
49 Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning on the Advisory Board  
50 for the formation of Mississippi School for the Arts, and has  
51 served on the Board of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and  
52 Letters and the Mississippi Opera Education Committee. He was  
53 also Music Coordinator for four International Art Exhibitions  
54 presented by the Mississippi Commission for International Cultural  
55 Exchange. Dr. Dean is a member of the International Conductor's  
56 Guild; and

57 WHEREAS, the Symphony Orchestra is among University of  
58 Southern Mississippi Arts Programs that annually generate more  
59 than \$5 Million in economic activity across the state. In 2009,  
60 the State of Mississippi recognized his and the orchestra's  
61 efforts with the Governor's Award for Leadership in the Arts. In  
62 2011, he was recognized with a "Leadership in the Arts" Award from  
63 the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association and the Excellence  
64 for Global Arts and Culture Award from the Mississippi World Trade  
65 Center; and

66 WHEREAS, Jay Dean understands the importance of presenting  
67 classical music and opera to students and audiences in  
68 Mississippi. His long history with the performing arts in our



69 state has defined his legacy in preserving and presenting  
70 classical music which has brought honor to his university, his  
71 community and to the State of Mississippi:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
73 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
74 we do hereby recognize the musical excellence and distinguished  
75 national reputation of Dr. Jay Dean, Music Director and Conductor  
76 of the Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, upon the occasion  
77 of his retirement, and extend to Jay and his family our best  
78 wishes for continued success in presenting music to Mississippi.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
80 Jay Dean, forwarded to the President of the University of Southern  
81 Mississippi, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
82 Learning, and to the Mississippi Arts Commission, and made  
83 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

