

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. CP12-0388

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Denver Folklore Center and its founder, Harry Tuft

WHEREAS, in 1960, Harry Tuft, an architecture student and musician from “back East” with a passion for folk music decided to come out West to ski for a break from studies, and like so many others, he stayed, and the trip changed the course of his life and the Colorado music scene; and

WHEREAS, washing dishes and singing at “the Holy Cat” bar in Georgetown started Harry on his course toward establishing the Denver Folklore Center at 608 East 17th Avenue in March 1962; and

WHEREAS, the Center, with its acoustic instruments, records, song books, picks and strings, became a gathering place for musicians and music lovers and soon expanded to include a concert hall and music school, and Harry became a concert promoter, booking acts for other venues such as Red Rocks, with a roster of artists that includes Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, Joan Baez, Judy Collins, and, in partnership with his friend attorney Dick Lamm, the Mamas & Papas; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Harry encouraged the formation of the Swallow Hill Music Association to take over operations of the Center’s concert hall and school, which grew and thrived through the years, and Harry continues his tradition of hosting a monthly Hootenanny there in the hall that bears his name; and

WHEREAS, Harry continues to run the Denver Folklore Center, now located at 1893 S. Pearl, featuring the same friendly, supportive, laid-back ambience as he fostered at his original location 50 years ago, and he still performs and records, both solo and with the band Grubstake; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of the 50th anniversary, Swallow Hill will present a series of three special concerts over the Memorial Day weekend at various venues, including performances by a wide array of popular artists from across the country, such as Hot Rize, Tim O’Brien and The Otis Taylor Blues Band, as well as a special performance by Harry Tuft and Governor Dick Lamm.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council hereby recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Denver Folklore Center and honors its founder, Harry Tuft, often referred to as Denver’s Father of Folk Music.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Harry Tuft.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 21, 2012

_____ President