

1 AN ACT relating to designating the official state musical composition.

2 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky recognizes and values the arts as
3 essential to its cultural identity and historical legacy; and

4 WHEREAS, this Commonwealth, through codification in its statutes, has already
5 designated "My Old Kentucky Home," as the official state song, "Blue Moon of
6 Kentucky," as the state bluegrass song, and bluegrass music as the official state music;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, a compelling need exists to establish a symbolic musical work of a
9 symphonic nature that reflects the rich and complex history, present vitality, and
10 optimistic future of this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, Shawn E. Okpebholo is a distinguished American composer and proud
12 native of Lexington, Kentucky, whose works, including his orchestral suite "A Mighty
13 Long Way," have achieved national recognition; and

14 WHEREAS, "A Mighty Long Way" was commissioned specifically for the 250th
15 anniversary of Lexington, Kentucky, and uses its four movements to tell the story of the
16 Commonwealth and its central city;

17 The "Hoofbeat Fanfare" pays tribute to this Commonwealth's unparalleled
18 equestrian history and heritage as the Horse Capital of the World;

19 "After Bourbon" celebrates this Commonwealth's global reputation and
20 communal joy associated with its iconic native spirit;

21 "Cheapside" offers a necessary and profound contemplation of the painful
22 legacy of racial violence and slavery that occurred in this Commonwealth, including at
23 the former slave market site in Lexington; and

24 "Beyond Bluegrass" looks to the future, weaving fragments of the state song
25 through new harmonies to symbolize renewal and hope rooted in a reconciled past; and

26 WHEREAS, the composition "A Mighty Long Way" serves as a powerful, moving,
27 and inclusive musical symbol of Kentucky's journey and aspiration for the future;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *The musical composition "A Mighty Long Way," composed by Shawn E. Okpebholo, is*
6 *named and designated as the official state musical composition.*