

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 701

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

April 7, 2011

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MARTHA
2 MAXINE MCMAHON SWALIN FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NORTH
3 CAROLINA SYMPHONY.

4 Whereas, Martha Maxine McMahan Swalin, affectionately known as Maxine, was
5 born on May 7, 1903, and was a native of Iowa; and

6 Whereas, Maxine Swalin graduated from the Institute of Musical Art (later known
7 as the Juilliard School of Music) in New York with a diploma in theory and piano in 1928 and
8 earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa in 1932 and a master's degree
9 from Radcliffe College in 1936; and

10 Whereas, Maxine Swalin moved with her husband, Dr. Benjamin Swalin, to Chapel
11 Hill in 1935, where he taught in the music department at the University of North Carolina at
12 Chapel Hill; and

13 Whereas, after learning that the North Carolina Symphony had dissolved, Maxine
14 Swalin and Dr. Benjamin Swalin took it upon themselves to revive the symphony and make it a
15 successful cultural asset for the State; and

16 Whereas, in 1939, Benjamin Swalin began serving as the unpaid director of music
17 and conductor of the symphony and Maxine Swalin began serving as an accompanist to the
18 symphony's soloists; and

19 Whereas, Maxine Swalin later served as one of the coordinators of the music
20 education programs and as an executive assistant to the director of the symphony; and

21 Whereas, the revived symphony held its first formal concert on March 16, 1940, at
22 Meredith College in Raleigh and then began playing concerts across the State; and

23 Whereas, the Swalins were especially interested in providing music to school
24 children and established the children's concert division of the symphony in 1945; and

25 Whereas, the Swalins played a role in the passage of the legislation known as the
26 "Horn-Tootin' Bill" which provided an annual appropriation to the symphony and officially
27 recognized the symphony as the nation's first State symphony; and

28 Whereas, with the Swalins' help, the Symphony gained national recognition and was
29 the recipient of various grants and fund-raising efforts; and

30 Whereas, the Swalins retired from the Symphony in 1971, leaving behind a very
31 successful orchestra; and

32 Whereas, Maxine Swalin published her autobiography, "Symphony, An Ear to
33 Myself," in 1996; and

34 Whereas, Maxine Swalin received many honors and recognitions, including the
35 North Caroliniana Society Award in 2003, given to a North Carolinian who makes
36 extraordinary contributions to the State's history, literature, and culture; the first annual lifetime



1 achievement award for the performing arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel
2 Hill in 2005; the North Carolina Award for Public Service for her many years of support of the
3 North Carolina Symphony in 1989; and an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Duke
4 University for her many contributions to music and music education in 1979; and

5 Whereas, Maxine Swalin was honored by the North Carolina Symphony when the
6 organization named its first annual Outstanding Music Educator Award in her honor and she
7 and her husband were honored when the lobby of the Meymandi Concert Hall in Raleigh, the
8 home of the Symphony, was named the Swalin Lobby, complete with a sculpture representing
9 the Swalins; and

10 Whereas, Dr. Benjamin Swalin died in 1989 and Maxine Swalin died on October 8,
11 2009, at the age of 106; Now, therefore,

12 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

13 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of Martha Maxine
14 McMahan Swalin and expresses the appreciation of this State and its citizens for her
15 contributions to the North Carolina Symphony and the culture of this State.

16 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives mourns the loss of Martha Maxine
17 McMahan Swalin.

18 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.