

RESOLUTION 23R-17

To request the RI Board to consider commissioning a new musical piece representative of Rotary

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Orléans Val de Loire, District 1720, France

1 WHEREAS, the purpose of Rotary’s official anthem is to communicate the values of
2 peace, freedom, and justice, which rank prominently among its fundamental
3 principles, and

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5 WHEREAS, the current Rotary anthem, premiered in 2000, is an arrangement of
6 the “march” of the Overture to Beethoven’s *Egmont*, and

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8 WHEREAS, while this work is an ode to freedom, it could nevertheless be viewed as
9 containing elements of violence, as embodied in the character of Count Egmont,
10 that are in conflict with Rotary’s values, and

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12 WHEREAS, the Rotary anthem is often played at the beginning of large national
13 and international events, and even some Rotary club meetings, especially during
14 induction ceremonies for new members, and

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16 WHEREAS, the Rotary anthem should convey enthusiasm and the joy of belonging
17 to an international movement promoting peace

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19 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
20 International consider issuing a call to composers, two or three of whom would be
21 commissioned to collaborate on a musical piece which appeals to all generations,
22 celebrates the cultural universality of each continent, and clearly reflects Rotary’s
23 values. This new anthem should generate enthusiasm and affirm the joy of serving.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

24 Even if they acknowledge the solemn aspect of the current Rotary anthem, the
25 vast majority of our members find it out of sync with our objectives as an
26 organization. They believe this work does not suitably convey Rotary’s values, is
27 not sufficiently inspiring, especially to young people, and lacks universality.

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29 This new anthem should be more modern and better aligned with the aspirations
30 of younger generations, incorporating musical stylistic elements from each of the
31 five continents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 1 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot
- 2 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of
- 3 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.