

## **PROCLAMATION**

**Whereas**, the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, have long been a gathering place for musicians from the nearby Appalachian mountains, and

**Whereas**, in the summer of 1927, Mr. Ralph Peer, a record producer for the Victor Talking Machine Company, traveled to Bristol to make recordings of traditional Appalachian music for national distribution, and

**Whereas**, Mr. Peer captured a cross-section of traditional music, recording seventy-six songs by nineteen artists in a temporary studio in downtown Bristol, and

**Whereas**, Peer's work in Bristol included the first recordings of the Carter Family, recognized as Country Music's First Family, and of Jimmie Rodgers, named the Father of Country Music and the first artist to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and

**Whereas**, music historians have considered those recordings the "Big Bang of Country Music," and the State of Tennessee, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States Congress have designated Bristol as "the Birthplace of Country Music," and

**Whereas**, the same musical tradition continues at a variety of venues and events in Bristol and regularly at the Carter Family Fold in nearby Hiltons Virginia throughout the year, and

**Whereas**, the Bristol community embraces our musical heritage and appreciates the promotion of this heritage and of the music to national and international audiences by the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance, Bristol Convention and Visitors Bureau, Rhythm and Roots Reunion Festival, Paramount Center for the Arts, Believe in Bristol Main Street Program and the Carter Family Fold,

**Now, Therefore, We**, James E. Messimer, Mayor of the City of Bristol, Tennessee and C. Farnham Jarrard, Mayor of the City of Bristol, Virginia, hereby proclaim the year 2007 as

### ***The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bristol Sessions***

*in the Cities of Bristol and encourage our citizens and visitors to join in this exciting celebration of our cities' living musical heritage.*

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Mayor James E. Messimer  
Bristol, Tennessee

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Mayor C. Farnham Jarrard, Jr.  
Bristol, Virginia