

# PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Earl Robinson, Seattle-born composer, made his musical mark on American culture through songs, cantatas and ballads, including "*The House I Live In*," "*Black & White*," "*Ballad for Americans*" and "*The Lonesome Train*" and even "*Four Hugs A Day*" a favorite of the under 5 set; and
- WHEREAS, Earl Robinson serves as an example of a Seattle-born musician who used his talents to address the social issues of his day through song and did so in the spirit of creative collaboration with other artists; and
- WHEREAS, Earl Robinson composed inspiring anthems to working people such as "*Joe Hill*," sung in union halls and picket lines -- as well as by performers Paul Robeson and Joan Baez; and
- WHEREAS, Earl Robinson changed with his times and remained engaged musically with his times, from the labor ballads of the 1930s to the urban folk revival in the 1960s, and finally, songs of the New Age ethos in the 1980s; and
- WHEREAS, Earl Robinson not only wrote for Hollywood, but survived FBI surveillance during the McCarthy era, showing resilience by re-emerging in the 1960s with new songs, such as "*Hurry Sundown*" and joining the urban folk revival and later, environmentalist songs such as "*Planet Earth Real Estate Company*" and his embrace of New Age spirituality through songs, such as "*Now*" and "*Message from a New Address*;" and
- WHEREAS, Earl Robinson's life was a tapestry of art, politics, and spirit, that illuminated many of the major debates and struggles of our nation's history and can inspire us all today; and
- WHEREAS, in the sunset of his life, Earl Robinson decided there would be no finer place to establish his residence than his home town of Seattle, where he performed at numerous venues including at the Capitol Rotunda, UW's Meany Hall, and the Northwest Folklife Festival, where he is being celebrated again this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael McGinn, Mayor of the City of Seattle,  
do hereby proclaim Friday, May 28, 2010 to be

***Earl Robinson Appreciation Day***

on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth and encourage all residents to  
celebrate the life of one of our most creative and distinguished citizens.



Michael McGinn  
Mayor

