



## **Tompkins County Legislature**

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building

**PROCLAMATION**

121 East Court Street  
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

WHEREAS, in 2007, the 110<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress designated the Negro Spiritual a “National Treasure,” recognizing the significant contribution this poignant and powerful genre of music has made to our U.S. history, and

WHEREAS, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers, an Ithaca-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, was founded as the “Jubilee Singers” in 2010 by the group’s artistic director, Dr. Baruch Whitehead, to celebrate and preserve the first authentically American sacred music - the Negro Spiritual, and

WHEREAS, through their beautifully harmonized choral arrangements, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers seek to educate and inspire like their namesake, acclaimed and beloved Civil Rights pioneer and local Tompkins County resident Dorothy Cotton, who devoted her life’s work to sustaining the cause of liberty and racial equality, and

WHEREAS, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers are a welcoming group of diverse musicians of all ages and backgrounds, promoting strength, resilience, peace, and social justice through compelling song that was born from the steadfast faith of an oppressed people, and

WHEREAS, staying true to their humble mission of keeping the unique character of the Negro Spiritual alive and purposeful, now in their seventh year of performing, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers will reach a milestone on May 14, 2017, when they will debut on the national stage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and

WHEREAS, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers will offer a free preview of their Kennedy Center concert on May 12, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. in Ford Hall, located on the campus of Ithaca College, and

WHEREAS, the brave work of Civil Rights leader Dorothy Cotton and the reflective and talented work of the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers make them “Tompkins County Treasures”—which are timely and appropriate recognitions given 2017 the year of Tompkins County’s Bicentennial and The Year of the Woman in Tompkins County,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael E. Lane, Chair of the Tompkins County Legislature, do hereby call upon all members of our community to join me in acknowledging their work and accomplishments in support of peace and racial harmony and do hereby proclaim May 12, 2017, as

### **DOROTHY COTTON and DOROTHY COTTON JUBILEE SINGERS DAY**

in Tompkins County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2017.

Michael E. Lane, Chair  
Tompkins County Legislature