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ARMENIAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION

February 9, 2021

Arlington Select Board
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02474

Dear Select Board Members:

It is with great pride that we seek permission from the Arlington Select Board to attach a sign, similar in size and design, to the existing Blossom Street sign, in honor of the late Alan Hovhaness, world renowned classical composer.

As you may know, Hovhaness grew up at #5 Blossom Street, up to the time of his passing, always referred to Arlington as his home town. Throughout his great career he made several return visits to Arlington to give concerts and master classes at Arlington High School. On one occasion he conducted the High School orchestra in a public concert which was covered by the Boston press. It would be futile to describe Hovhaness' achievement and stature in the musical world. Let it be said that only the passage of time will tell where he stands among the greats in the pantheon of composers.

The proposed signage would prominently mark Hovhaness' identity with the Town. We have received many requests from visitors as to the location of his home. Among them were Marti Berkofsky, pianist extraordinaire; Lawrence Sobol, clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic; several authors writing about Hovhaness; and a number of musical students from Julliard and other schools studying and writing about the great man. It should come as no surprise that many visitors to Arlington, who have read the plaque on the Hovhaness memorial in Whittemore Park, are then curious to see his home as well.

The proposed sign would simply read "Alan Hovhaness Place." The current owners of home are most enthusiastic about the signage and have volunteered a letter of support, if needed.

Robert Mirak, President of the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Cultural Foundation Library, voiced his financial support for the project.

Finally, an interesting side note: during April 2021 a podcast honoring the 110th anniversary of Hovhaness' birth will originate from England. It will be conducted by Alessandra Pompili, prominent concert pianist and former music director for Vatican Radio. In collaboration with the Cultural Foundation. We will be pleased to share details as we receive them.

Sincerely,



Ara Ghazarians, Curator
Armenian Cultural Foundation