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Departure of General Director Sara Nealy Announced in Joint Statement

From the Board of Directors

It is with a mix of sadness and gratitude that the Board of Directors announces Sara Nealy's departure as General Director of Festival Opera. Sara has played a critical role in sustaining and developing the organization during extremely challenging times; and while we will miss her, we wish her the best of luck as she pursues new opportunities.

During her tenure, Sara Nealy reduced costs and streamlined operations — and added a new focus on chamber works with a double bill of *Another Sunrise*, by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer, and *The Emperor of Atlantis* by Viktor Ullman in 2014, followed by a double bill of Holst's *Savitri* and Jack Perla's *River of Light* in 2015. She created the company's first co-production, Verdi's *Otello*, with West Bay Opera in 2013.

We thank her for six and a half years of dedicated leadership and service.

The company will take some time for future planning and will make a decision about programming in the New Year.

From Sara Nealy

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all who have been supportive of Festival Opera and of me personally over the years: the artists, musicians, choristers, volunteers, board members, and, of course, our community partners.

Festival Opera's legacy is rich, and it has been an honor to be part of it.

It is time for me to pursue other endeavors. I wish the best to everyone associated with the organization now as well as to those who have contributed to its 26-year history.

For updates and more information in the coming months, visit www.FestivalOpera.org.