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News

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OPERA CLEVELAND PLANS FOR FISCAL STRENGTH Announces Restructuring of Company and 2008 Season

Sept. 28, 2007—Opera Cleveland announced today that it is restructuring its operations and performance schedule to meet the financial realities of its 2007 forecasts and 2008 budget. The Opera Cleveland Board of Trustees and staff conducted a thorough, in-depth review of the current state of the company and are taking action to ensure the company's fiscal integrity now and in the future, including staff layoffs and fewer shows in 2008.

"We are committed to the long-term future of this company," said Peter Rubin, president, Opera Cleveland Board of Trustees. "We broke new ground with the merger of the former Lyric Opera Cleveland and the former Cleveland Opera, and it may take years to determine the right size and scope for Opera Cleveland. Everyone's enthusiasm for the new company led to operating decisions that aren't sustainable at the present time. We now must take the next step to ensure the short-term viability of opera in Cleveland so it can continue to evolve and thrive."

Four employees will lose their jobs as a result of the restructuring, including Executive Director Jeff Sodowsky. William Cole has been named company manager and assumes responsibility for the business operations of the company in addition to his current responsibilities as development director. "We regret deeply the personal impact of these business decisions," said Rubin. "Jeff and the entire team have served Opera Cleveland significantly. We will do what we can to support those affected by the restructuring as they move on to their next positions.

"Taking these difficult steps enables the company to provide another exciting season of opera following our critically acclaimed productions this year," said Rubin. In 2008, Opera Cleveland will perform *La Bohème*, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Hänsel und Gretel* at the State Theatre. A complete performance schedule will be announced shortly.

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