

1 A MEMORIAL

2 CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING CHARLES MACKAY FOR HIS ARTISTIC  
3 AND BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS GENERAL  
4 DIRECTOR OF THE SANTA FE OPERA UPON HIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS  
5 INTENTION TO STEP DOWN FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OPERA.

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7 WHEREAS, Charles MacKay, general director of the  
8 Santa Fe opera, has announced that he will end his  
9 distinguished tenure at the helm of the opera on  
10 September 30, 2018; and

11 WHEREAS, at the time of his departure, MacKay will have  
12 been the general director for ten years and will have served  
13 the opera for twenty cumulative years, and his association  
14 with the opera will have spanned fifty years; and

15 WHEREAS, MacKay began his life-long love of opera at the  
16 age of nine with his first Santa Fe opera youth night  
17 performance of *Die Fledermaus*; and

18 WHEREAS, MacKay started his opera career at the Santa Fe  
19 opera as a thirteen-year-old parking lot attendant and then,  
20 working for John Crosby, the founding general director of the  
21 Santa Fe opera, MacKay went on to positions as a french horn  
22 player in the opera orchestra, backstage worker,  
23 administrative staff member, box office manager, development  
24 manager and business office manager; and

25 WHEREAS, as general director, MacKay has provided for

1 unwavering artistic excellence, financial stability and  
2 beautiful and comprehensive facility improvements at the  
3 Santa Fe opera; and

4 WHEREAS, under MacKay's business direction, the Santa Fe  
5 opera's net assets have doubled to one hundred twenty-one  
6 million dollars (\$121,000,000) and its operating budget has  
7 increased to twenty-four million dollars (\$24,000,000); and

8 WHEREAS, following MacKay's artistic direction, the  
9 Santa Fe opera has furthered its bold and innovative  
10 repertoire, commissioned five main stage world premiere  
11 operas, including *Cold Mountain* and *The (R)evolution of*  
12 *Steve Jobs*, and presented fifty-one productions of  
13 forty-eight different operas; and

14 WHEREAS, MacKay has expanded the Santa Fe opera's  
15 educational and community outreach initiatives, serving  
16 fifty-two thousand children and adults in New Mexico, and has  
17 overseen the development of young artists through  
18 apprenticeship programs for singers and technicians; and

19 WHEREAS, prior to 2008, MacKay served as general  
20 director of the opera theatre of St. Louis for twenty-three  
21 years and director of development and finance of the Spoleto  
22 festival U.S.A. and the festival of two worlds in Spoleto,  
23 Italy; and

24 WHEREAS, MacKay is a member of the board of directors of  
25 OPERA America, serving as chairman from 2004 to 2008, and has

1 served as chairman of the opera-music theater panel of the  
2 national endowment for the arts;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Charles MacKay be congratulated and  
5 commended for his contribution to the artistic, musical and  
6 cultural heritage of the Santa Fe opera and the state of  
7 New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Charles MacKay be wished all  
9 the best in his future endeavors; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to Charles MacKay, the board of directors of  
12 the Santa Fe opera and the board of directors of OPERA  
13 America.

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