

MUSIC

New York City Opera Will Return, and Soon, Under Reorganization Plan

By MICHAEL COOPER JAN. 12, 2016

New York City Opera is coming back under new management.

The venerable opera company — which filed for bankruptcy protection in 2013 after a series of missteps left it unable to put on its season — will soon be revived in a different form under a reorganization plan confirmed Tuesday by Judge Sean H. Lane of United States Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan.

The group taking over the company, NYCO Renaissance, hopes to use the City Opera name by next week, when it plans to present Puccini's "Tosca" on Jan. 20-24 at the Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center. If all goes smoothly, company officials said, they hope their new "Tosca" can be billed a co-production of NYCO Renaissance and City Opera. The plan calls for putting on annual seasons.

"We plan to do everything we can to bring extraordinary opera to New York City and the world," said Roy G. Niederhoffer, a hedge fund manager who is the new group's chairman. "And to do it in a financially responsible way, and be worthy of its

4

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The New York State attorney general's office, which had raised questions about the plan's long-term feasibility, said it was satisfied after receiving additional information on Tuesday from NYCO Renaissance.

And the group restructured a \$300,000 settlement to clear the field of another group backed by Gene Kaufman, an architect, which had been vying in court to gain control of a new City Opera.

The original settlement, which drew objections from the attorney general's office and others, called for having City Opera make the payment. The revised plan calls for Mr. Niederhoffer to make the payment directly, while reducing the size of a pledged \$1.25 million donation to City Opera by the same amount, said Gerard S. Catalanello, a lawyer for NYCO Renaissance. Mr. Niederhoffer agreed to guarantee another \$100,000 to City Opera if needed to pay certain claims.

The general director of the new company is Michael Capasso, who ran another small company, Dicapo Opera Theater, which faltered and was sued for failing to pay musicians. Mr. Capasso called the chance to run City Opera a "lifelong dream come true."

The news was cheered by musicians in the City Opera orchestra, who will play for the revived company. "We're thrilled," said Gail Krivand, the chairwoman of the orchestra committee, "and we're so excited to be performing next week, and we're looking forward to a long future with New York City Opera."

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