

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Opera is tonight celebrating its 55th consecutive year of bringing grand opera to the citizens of the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the performing arts have been a vital part of the lives of our people, and the arts contribute immeasurably to the quality of life in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the people of Mississippi have made tremendous contributions to the success of opera in America, just as our people have made their mark in literature, the visual arts, popular music, the blues, jazz, ballet, theatre, and other performing arts; and

WHEREAS, Mississippians such as Leontyne Price of Laurel, John Alexander of Meridian, Jan Grissom of Tupelo, Carroll Freeman of Petal and Lester Senter of Jackson, have reached the highest levels of achievement in opera; and

WHEREAS, new generations of singers and musicians from Mississippi and from its schools and colleges continue to make Mississippi's mark in the world of opera, exemplified by tonight's guest artists Eleni Matos and J.D. Longmire;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONNIE MUSGROVE, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MISSISSIPPI, DO HEREBY SALUTE AND CONGRATULATE THE MISSISSIPPI OPERA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 55TH EMERALD ANNIVERSARY, AND I WISH THE MISSISSIPPI OPERA MANY MORE YEARS OF SUCCESS AS IT PRODUCES GREAT OPERA FOR THE PEOPLE OF MISSISSIPPI, PROVIDING CULTURAL ENRICHMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT TO PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE ACROSS THIS GREAT STATE.

SO PROCLAIMED, THIS 15TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2000.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI