



DENNIS HANTHORN - Zurich General Director

2011-12 NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE ATLANTA OPERA ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 SEASON
CELEBRATING ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
AT COBB ENERGY CENTRE**

DONIZETTI'S *LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR*

THE GOLDEN TICKET

A COMIC OPERA BASED ON

***CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY* BY ROALD DAHL**

MOZART'S *DON GIOVANNI*

SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Opera's Zurich General Director Dennis Hanthorn announced today the details of the company's 2011-2012 season, celebrating its fifth anniversary in the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, and welcoming Arthur Fagen as its Music Director. The Atlanta Opera's new season will feature Donizetti's chilling *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The Golden Ticket*, a comic opera based on the book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl; and Mozart's brilliant *Don Giovanni*, and will be presented November 12, 2011 through May 6, 2012. Season tickets are

on sale now. There are still two operas remaining in the Atlanta Opera's 2010-2011 season – Gershwin's American classic *Porgy and Bess* (February 26, March 1, 4 and 6) and Mozart's romantic comedy *Così fan tutte* (April 9, 12, 15 and 17). Tickets are available at www.atlantaopera.org.

"The variety in this season's selections is exciting. Longtime opera fans, families and first-timers looking to indulge in a unique evening out will all find something appealing," said Zurich General Director Dennis Hanthorn. "Season tickets start at an affordable \$75 for three operas, so we hope our current subscribers will entice their friends to share the opera experience with them. Artistically, each production features debuting singers, many of whom are making headlines on the world's opera stages. Additionally, I am especially pleased to welcome Arthur Fagen this season as music director."

The 2011-2012 season is the inaugural season with Arthur Fagen as music director. Fagen will conduct two of the three operas. His other responsibilities as music director include building and developing The Atlanta Opera Orchestra and assisting Hanthorn with singer and orchestra auditions, repertoire selection, and casting for future seasons. Maestro Fagen has had an extensive history with The Atlanta Opera which includes critically acclaimed productions of *La traviata*, *Turandot*, *Cold Sassy Tree*, *Akhnaten*, *The Flying Dutchman*, and *The Magic Flute*.

The Atlanta Opera opens its 2011-12 season at the Cobb Energy Centre on November 12, with Donizetti's chilling *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Other performances will be on November 15, 18 and 20, 2011. In Donizetti's dramatic tragedy, Lucia is forced to marry against her will, setting off a chain of tragic events that leads to the most spectacular mad scene in opera. The tragedy is played out on a grand scale leaving onlookers breathless. Soprano Georgia Jarman sings Lucia, with Stephen Powell in the role of her brother, Enrico. Edgardo is sung by Jonathan Boyd, and Timothy Culver performs the role of Lucia's bridegroom, Arturo. Atlantan Susan Nicely sings the role of Lucia's handmaid, Alisa. Arthur Fagen, in his inaugural season as Atlanta Opera music director, conducts. Stage direction will be provided by Tomer Zvulun who delighted Atlanta Opera audiences with his engaging staging of *The Magic Flute* in 2010 and *The Flying Dutchman* in 2009. *Lucia di Lammermoor* will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.

The second production in The Atlanta Opera's 2011-12 season is a comic opera called *The Golden Ticket*, based on the classic children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," by Roald Dahl. *The*

Golden Ticket, written by Peter Ash using a libretto by Donald Sturrock, will be presented on March 3, 6, 9 and 11, 2012. Commissioned by American Lyric Theater (Lawrence Edelson, Producing Artistic Director) and Dahl's widow, Felicity Dahl, *The Golden Ticket* features all the sweet delights familiar from the book, including chocolate rivers, inflating blueberries and magic elevators. This Atlanta Opera production will be the third production of *The Golden Ticket* since it premiered in June 2010 at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. Many singers from the original Saint Louis cast will reprise their roles in Atlanta including bass-baritone Daniel Okulitch as Willy Wonka/Mr. Know, tenor Andrew Drost as Augustus Gloop, and baritone David Kravitz as Lord Salt. Mezzo-soprano Abigail Nims, who sang the role of Veruca Salt in Wexford Festival Opera's production, will sing the role in Atlanta. The roles of Grandma Josephine/Mrs. Teavee will be sung by mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton. The role of Charlie, sung by a boy soprano, will be cast closer to the production. James Robinson, who directed the original production, will direct in Atlanta, as well. Composer Peter Ash will conduct. This production will be sung in English with English supertitles projected above the stage.

The Atlanta Opera closes its 2011-2012 season with Mozart's masterpiece *Don Giovanni* on April 28, May 1, 4 and 6, 2012. Widely regarded as the greatest opera ever composed, *Don Giovanni* is a brilliant combination of comedy and tragedy, telling of the devious schemes and hijinks of history's most beguiling scoundrel, Don Juan. Bass Andrea Concetti makes his Atlanta Opera debut in the role of Don Giovanni. His sidekick, Leporello, will be sung by debuting bass-baritone Eduardo Chama. Sopranos Lori Guilbeau and Maria Luigia Borsi sing the roles of Donna Anna and Donna Elvira, respectively. The role of Don Ottavio will be sung by tenor Nicholas Phan, who was last heard on The Atlanta Opera stage in 2008 singing Ramiro in *Cinderella*. The betrothed lovers Zerlina and Masetto will be sung by soprano Angela Kloc and Atlanta baritone Brent Davis. Bass Andrew Kroes sings the Commendatore. Richard Kagey, who designed the set for this season's *Porgy and Bess* and directed the Atlanta Opera's production of Philip Glass's *Akhnaten* in 2008, directs, with Atlanta Opera Music Director Arthur Fagen conducting The Atlanta Opera Orchestra. *Don Giovanni* will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.

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Tickets

Season Tickets

Season tickets to The Atlanta Opera's 2011-2012 season at Cobb Energy Centre are on sale now. Ticket prices for a full, 3-opera subscription range from \$75 to \$460 plus handling. To purchase, visit www.atlantaopera.org or call 404-881-8885 (Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm). Subscribers enjoy many benefits, including the best seats at significant savings, flexible ticket exchanges, and ticket insurance. Interest-free payment plans are available.

Single Tickets

Single tickets for The Atlanta Opera's 2011-2012 season at Cobb Energy Centre will go on sale in October, 2011. The exact date will be announced in the summer. Ticket prices will start at \$25 plus tax, convenience and venue fees.

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CALENDAR AND CASTING INFORMATION FOLLOWS PHOTOS AND ARTWORK ARE AVAILABLE

The Atlanta Opera –2011-12 Season Casting and Calendar Information

*Denotes Company Debut

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

Music by Gaetano Donizetti
Libretto by Salvatore Cammarano

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles
Sets from Opera Cleveland

Previous Atlanta Opera Performances: 1986, 1992, 2000
Approximate Running Time: 3 hours

Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Saturday, November 12, 2011 at 8 pm

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:30 pm

Friday, November 18, 2011 at 8 pm

Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 3 pm

Creative Team

Conductor	Arthur Fagen
Stage Director	Tomer Zvulun
Set Designer	Erhard Rom

Cast

Lucia	Georgia Jarman*
Edgardo	Jonathan Boyd*
Enrico	Stephen Powell*
Arturo Bucklaw	Timothy Culver*
Alisa	Susan Nicely
Normanno	Nathan Munson
Raimondo	Arthur Woodley

Description

Lucia's forced marriage sets off a chain of tragic events that leads to the most spectacular mad scene in opera. Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* reveals chilling tragedy on a grand scale and will leave you breathless.

THE GOLDEN TICKET

Music by Peter Ash

Libretto by Donald Sturrock

Commissioned by American Lyric Theater, Lawrence Edelson, Producing Artistic Director and Felicity Dahl

Premiered by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Loretto-Hilton Center for the Performing Arts, June 13, 2010. Developmental Support for *The Golden Ticket* was provided in the United Kingdom by the Royal National Theatre Studio and The National Endowment for Science Technology and The Arts. Presented by arrangement with American Lyric Theater Center, Inc., in partnership with Music Link International, copyright owner.

Sung in English with English Supertitles

Sets from Opera Theatre of Saint Louis

Atlanta Opera Premiere

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours, 30 minutes

Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 8 pm

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Friday, March 9, 2012 at 8 pm

Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 3 pm

Creative Team

Conductor	Peter Ash*
Stage Director	Michael Shell
Set Designer	Bruno Schwengl

Cast

Willy Wonka/Mr. Know	Daniel Okulitch*
Charlie	TBD
Grandpa Joe	Keith Jameson
Grandma Georgina/Mrs. Gloop	Kristin Clayton
Grandma Josephine/Mrs. Teavee	Jamie Barton*
Grandpa George/Mr. Beauregard	Jason Hardy
Mike Teavee	Gerald Thompson
Violet Beauregard	Ashley Emerson
Augustus Gloop	Andrew Drost*
Veruca Salt	Abigail Nims*
Lord Salt	David Kravitz*
Candy Mallow/Squirrelmistress	Krista Costin*

Description

A young boy named Charlie finds a “golden ticket” admitting him into Willy Wonka’s top-secret chocolate factory where he encounters chocolate rivers, inflating blueberries, magic elevators and other delights. *The Golden Ticket* is a poignant tale about wishes coming true.

DON GIOVANNI

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Sets from Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Previous Atlanta Opera Performances: 1993, 1998, 2005

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours, 15 minutes

Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 8 pm

Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Friday, May 4, 2012 at 8 pm

Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 3 pm

Creative Team

Conductor	Arthur Fagen
Stage Director	Richard Kagey
Set Designer	R. Keith Brumley

Cast

Don Giovanni	Andrea Concetti*
Leporello	Eduardo Chama*
Donna Anna	Lori Guilbeau*
Donna Elvira	Maria Luigia Borsi*

Don Ottavio	Nicholas Phan
Zerlina	Angela Kloc*
Masetto	Brent Davis
Commendatore	Andrew Kroes*

Description

Widely regarded as the greatest opera ever composed, *Don Giovanni* tells of the devious schemes and hijinks of history's most beguiling scoundrel, Don Juan. Mozart's anti-hero has a personality so engaging that audiences root for him, even as his dark side emerges. *Don Giovanni* is a brilliant combination of comedy and tragedy, set to music of limitless genius.

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Sponsors

AT&T is the Atlanta Opera's Season Sponsor. The Atlanta Opera is proud to recognize its other corporate partners: **The Coca-Cola Company**, the Official Beverage Sponsor of The Atlanta Opera and Opening Night Performance Sponsor; **Zurich**, the Official Insurance Sponsor of The Atlanta Opera; and **Delta Air Lines**, the Official Airline of The Atlanta Opera. Generous production support also has been provided by Dr. and Mrs. James W. Bland, Bob and Cappa Woodward, the Sara Giles Moore Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Knobloch, Jr., Martha Thompson, the Atlanta Music Festival Association, Mrs. Harry Willson.

About The Atlanta Opera

Founded in 1979, The Atlanta Opera is one of the finest regional opera companies in the nation, drawing audiences from the entire metropolitan Atlanta area as well as from the Southeast region. Led by Zurich General Director Dennis Hanthorn, The Atlanta Opera strives to expand the experience of its patrons with memorable and exciting opera performances reflecting the highest musical and theatrical standards, while supporting community and educational programs. The company also works to attract the finest international, national, and regional singers, conductors, stage directors and designers. The Atlanta Opera presents three productions with four performances each at the Cobb Energy Centre. For more information on The Atlanta Opera, please visit www.atlantaopera.org.

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All programs, artists, dates and prices are subject to change.