



DENNIS HANTHORN - *Zurich General Director*

2011-12 NEWS

Media Contacts:

Cristina Vásquez Herrera
cvherrera@atlantaopera.org
404-881-9194

Laura D. Soldati
lsoldati@atlantaopera.org
404-591-2931

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ATLANTA OPERA TO PERFORM *THE GOLDEN TICKET* AT THE COBB ENERGY CENTRE

OPERA BASED ON ROALD DAHL'S CLASSIC CHILDREN'S BOOK, *CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY*

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](#) will be presented on March 3, 6, 9 and 11, 2012 at the [Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre](#).

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, baritone [David Kravitz](#) as Lord Salt. Mezzo-soprano [Abigail Nims](#) will perform the role of Veruca Salt. The roles of Grandma Josephine/Mrs. Teavee will be sung by mezzo-soprano [Jamie Barton](#). The role of Charlie will be sung by two boy sopranos: Atlanta-native Ruben Roy (3/9 & 3/11), and Benjamin P. Wenzelberg (3/3 & 3/6). Michael Shell will direct. The composer, Peter Ash, will also conduct. This production will be sung in English with English supertitles projected above the stage.

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TICKET INFORMATION

Single Tickets

\$25 - \$140 plus tax, convenience and venue fees

Online -- Visit www.atlantaopera.org

By Phone -- Call 404-881-8885 or 1-800-35-OPERA (Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.)

In-person -- Visit the Bank of North Georgia Box Office at the Cobb Energy Centre (Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and two hours prior to a performance on day of show).

Special Pricing for Families

Family 4-Pack Four tickets and a chocolate treat for only \$150! Available for a limited time only, call 404-881-8885 or 1-800-35-OPERA (Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

Child Ticket \$15 child tickets are also available for all performances (limit 2 per adult ticket purchased at full price). Call 404-881-8885 or 1-800-35-OPERA (Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

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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 with one 25-minute intermission

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
Costume Designer Martin Pakledinaz
Video Designer Greg Emetaz

Cast

Willy Wonka/Mr. Know	Daniel Okulitch*
Charlie	Ruben Roy (3/9 & 3/11)*
	Benjamin P. Wenzelberg (3/3 & 3/6)*
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*

*denotes Atlanta Opera Debut

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.

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THE ATLANTA OPERA EXTRAS

The Atlanta Opera Extras are community outreach initiatives that entertain and educate audiences about opera. A complete listing of upcoming events is below. For more information on The Atlanta Opera Extras, visit www.atlantaopera.org or call 404-881-8801.

[Professional Development Workshop for Teachers](#)

Tuesday, February 7 @ 6:00 p.m.

[The Atlanta Opera Center](#)

1575 Northside Drive, NW

Bldg. 300, Suite 350

Atlanta, GA 30318

FREE – RSVP to education@atlantaopera.org or 404-881-8883

The Atlanta Opera is pleased to offer a **free** professional development workshop for teachers. Attendees will work with a professional teaching artist to learn strategies and techniques to use in their classrooms linking opera and the performing arts to the general education curriculum. This is a great way to prepare students for performances of [Rabbit Tales](#) or [The Golden Ticket](#). Open to teachers

of all subject areas and grade levels. Workshop will address Georgia Performance Standards in English Language Arts & Reading, Social Studies, Mathematics and Fine Arts.

Opera 101

Monday, February 27 @ 7:00 p.m.

[The Atlanta Opera Center](#)

1575 Northside Drive, NW

Bldg. 300, Suite 350

Atlanta, GA 30318

Free and open to the public

In this multi-media presentation by opera aficionado and Atlanta Opera Honorary Board Member Carter Joseph, audiences learn about the history, background, and story line of [The Golden Ticket](#). Reservations are requested, and can be made by calling (404) 343-7016. Opera 101 is sponsored by UBS and the 680 Group.

Pre-Opera Talk for The Golden Ticket

Saturday, March 3 @ 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6 @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 11 @ 2:00 p.m.

[Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre](#)

Free to ticketholders

Pre-Opera Talks are held one hour prior to each performance inside the John A. Williams Theatre at the Cobb Energy Centre. Join special guest Donald Sturrock, *Golden Ticket* librettist and author of *Storyteller: The Authorized Biography of Roald Dahl*, for a unique behind-the-scenes presentation on *The Golden Ticket*, followed by a book signing in the lobby.

Opening Night Party

Saturday, March 3

Immediately following *The Golden Ticket*

[Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre](#)

2800 Cobb Galleria Parkway

Atlanta, GA 30339

Subscribers – In advance \$35

Non-Subscribers – In advance \$40

All tickets will be \$45 at the door

Purchase tickets at atlantaopera.org.

Come meet and mingle with Willy Wonka, Grandpa Joe and the rest of the cast and creators of *The Golden Ticket*. Admission ticket includes a glass of champagne, a selection of sweet and savory treats inspired by the production, and live jazz music.

Comprimarios Mixer

Friday, March 9

Immediately following *The Golden Ticket*

[Taverna Fiorentina](#)

3324 Cobb Parkway SE

Atlanta, GA 30339

Mix and mingle with fellow young professionals as our Comprimarios gather immediately following the Friday performance of *The Golden Ticket*. [Taverna Fiorentina](#) will host with hors d'oeuvres, specially priced glasses of wine, and a *Golden Ticket* themed drink!

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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.

Sponsors

The Atlanta Opera is proud to recognize its corporate partners: **AT&T**; **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, and Mrs. Harry Willson.

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