



DENNIS HANTHORN - Zurich General Director

**09-10 NEWS**

**Media Contact**

Cristina Vásquez Herrera  
Director of Communications  
cvherrera@atlantaopera.org  
404.881.9194

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

.....  
JANUARY 27, 2010

**THE ATLANTA OPERA ANNOUNCES 2010-2011 SEASON  
AT COBB ENERGY CENTRE**

PUCCINI'S BELOVED LA BOHÈME

GERSHWIN'S AMERICAN CLASSIC *PORGY AND BESS*  
CONDUCTED BY BOSTON POPS CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART

MOZART'S FUNNY AND POIGNANT *COSÌ FAN TUTTE*

SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW  
.....

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Opera's Zurich General Director Dennis Hanthorn announced today the details of the company's 2010-2011 season, its fourth in the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. The Atlanta Opera's new season, featuring Puccini's beloved *La bohème*, Gershwin's American classic *Porgy and Bess*, and Mozart's funny and poignant *Così fan tutte*, will be presented October 2, 2010 through April 17, 2011. Season tickets are on sale now.

"We have assembled an enticing season of three operas we know will be attractive to Atlanta's increasingly diverse opera audience," said Zurich General Director Dennis Hanthorn. "The casts, directors, and conductors will all live up to the high artistic standards our audience has come to expect from The Atlanta Opera. I am especially thrilled to feature The Atlanta Opera Chorus in *Porgy and Bess*, after their acclaimed 2008 European performances of this Gershwin classic. With The Atlanta Opera Orchestra, Chorus and cast under the direction of crowd-pleasing conductor Keith Lockhart, *Porgy and Bess* is sure to be a highlight of the season."

The Atlanta Opera opens its 2010-2011 season at the Cobb Energy Centre on October 2, with Giacomo Puccini's beloved *La bohème*. Other performances will be on October 5, 8 and 10, 2010. This incomparable opera classic tells the tale of six penniless artists full of idealism, beauty and unbridled love. Their harsh encounter with the realities of life is heart-wrenching. Italian soprano Grazia Doronzio sings Mimi with the role of the lovely and coy Musetta being sung by soprano Jan Cornelius. Mimi's love Rodolfo is sung by tenor Bryan Hymel. Rodolfo's friends Colline, Schaunard, and

**09-10 NEWS**

Marcello are sung by bass Matthew Curran, baritone Andrew Garland and baritone Timothy Kuhn, respectively. Gregory Vajda, who led The Atlanta Opera Orchestra in the 2008 production of *Cinderella*, returns to conduct. Stage direction will be provided by David Gately who delighted Atlanta Opera audiences with his engaging staging of *Cinderella* in 2008 and *The Elixir of Love* in 2009. *La bohème* will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.

The second opera in The Atlanta Opera's 2010-2011 season is George Gershwin's American classic *Porgy and Bess* with performances on February 26, March 1, 4 and 6, 2011. Set in Charleston, *Porgy and Bess* depicts the people of Catfish Row struggling with hard work and tough times and yearning for a better life and great love. *Porgy and Bess* features some of the most popular tunes in opera including the lullaby "Summertime". Bess will be sung by soprano Laquita Mitchell, who recently sang the role with San Francisco Opera. Clara will be sung by Thomasville, Georgia native soprano NaGuanda Nobles. Atlanta native baritone Michael Redding sings Porgy and the role of Sportin' Life will be sung by Chauncey Packer, who debuted in that role in the Atlanta Opera's 2005 *Porgy and Bess* production and recently sang it at San Francisco Opera. Serena will be sung by soprano Aundi Marie Moore. The Atlanta Opera Chorus, which is prominently featured in *Porgy and Bess*, was widely acclaimed for its 2008 European performances in Paris' Opéra-Comique touring production of the work. Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart will make his Atlanta Opera debut conducting The Atlanta Opera Orchestra, Chorus and cast. This production will be sung in English with English supertitles projected above the stage.

The Atlanta Opera closes its 2010-2011 season with Mozart's funny and poignant *Così fan tutte* on April 9, 12, 15 and 17, 2011. Mozart's brilliant masterpiece tells the story of two officers who boast of their girlfriends' faithfulness, only to have a clever friend put it to the test. Disguises, charades, mischief, and heartbreak result, but in the end, all are much wiser in the ways of love. The two sisters, Fiordiligi and Dorabella, will be sung by soprano Keri Alkema and University of Georgia graduate mezzo-soprano Jennifer Holloway, respectively. Soprano Kiera Duffy, who recently appeared on the Atlanta Opera stage in *Akhmaten*, sings Despina and tenor Matthew Plenk sings the role of Ferrando. Both Duffy and Plenk are featured in the Metropolitan Opera's behind-the-scenes documentary, "The Audition." Baritone Phillip Addis, who last appeared on the Atlanta Opera stage in the 30th anniversary season opener *The Elixir of Love*, sings Guglielmo and the scheming Don Alfonso will be sung by bass Jason Hardy. Making their Atlanta Opera debuts, Argentine Jose Maria Condemi will stage direct and Metropolitan Opera conductor Kazem Abdullah will lead The Atlanta Opera Orchestra. *Così fan tutte* will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.

.....

## TICKETS

### Season Tickets

Season tickets to The Atlanta Opera's 2010-2011 season at the Cobb Energy Centre are on sale now. Ticket prices for a full, 3-opera subscription range from \$75 to \$459 plus handling. To purchase, visit [www.atlantaopera.org](http://www.atlantaopera.org) or call 404-881-8885 or 1-800-35-OPERA (Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm). Subscribers enjoy many benefits, including the best seats at the best price guaranteed, a flexible exchange policy, up to 25% discount off single tickets prices, guaranteed seating priority, ticket insurance and convenient payment options.

### Single Tickets

Single tickets for The Atlanta Opera's 2010-2011 season at the Cobb Energy Centre will go on sale in September, 2010. The exact date will be announced in the summer. Ticket prices will start at \$25 plus tax, convenience and venue fees.

CALENDAR AND CASTING INFORMATION FOLLOWS  
PHOTOS AND ARTWORK ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

## THE ATLANTA OPERA – 2010-2011 SEASON

### Casting and Calendar Information

*\*Denotes Company Debut*

### LA BOHÈME

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Sets from Arizona Opera

Previous Atlanta Opera Performances: 1982, 1987, 1993, 1999, 2004

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours 45 minutes

### Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Saturday, October 2, 2010 at 8 pm

Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Friday, October 8, 2010 at 8 pm

Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 3 pm

### Creative Team

*Conductor* Gregory Vajda

*Stage Director* David Gately

*Set Designer* Peter Dean Beck

*Lighting Designer* Ken Yunker

**09-10 NEWS****Cast**

<i>Mimi</i>	Grazia Doronzio*
<i>Musetta</i>	Jan Cornelius*
<i>Rodolfo</i>	Bryan Hymel*
<i>Colline</i>	Matthew Curran*
<i>Schaunard</i>	Andrew Garland*
<i>Marcello</i>	Timothy Kuhn

**Description**

In snowy Paris, six young penniless artists are full of idealism, beauty and unbridled love. But they soon encounter the harsh realities of life. Imitations of Puccini's masterpiece are all around us—the gorgeous original is incomparable and never fails to pull at your heart strings.

.....

**PORGY AND BESS**

Music by George Gershwin  
Libretto by DuBose Heyward  
Lyrics by Ira Gershwin and DuBose Heyward  
Sung in English with English Supertitles  
Sets from University of Kentucky Opera Theater  
Previous Atlanta Opera Performances: 2005  
Approximate Running Time: 3 hours 15 minutes

**Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre**

Saturday, February 26, 2011 at 8 pm  
Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, March 4, 2011 at 8 pm  
Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 3 pm

**Creative Team**

<i>Conductor</i>	Keith Lockhart*
<i>Stage Director</i>	Larry Marshall
<i>Set Designer</i>	Richard Kagey

**Cast**

<i>Bess</i>	Laquita Mitchell*
<i>Clara</i>	NaGuanda Nobles*
<i>Porgy</i>	Michael Redding*
<i>Sportin' Life</i>	Chauncey Packer
<i>Crown</i>	Timothy Blevins*
<i>Serena</i>	Aundi Marie Moore

**09-10 NEWS****Description**

In 1930s Charleston, the struggling occupants of Catfish Row live a life of hard work and violent crime all the time yearning for a better life and great love. Get to know Porgy, Bess, Crown, Sportin' Life and Serena the amazing characters in this quintessential American opera. Based on DuBose Heywoods first novel and composed by the forever-young George Gershwin. This Atlanta Opera revival features the company debut of conductor Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart.

.....

**COSÌ FAN TUTTE**

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Sets from The Atlanta Opera

Previous Atlanta Opera Performances: 1987, 2000

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours

**Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre**

Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 8 pm

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:30 pm

Friday, April 15, 2011 at 8 pm

Sunday, April 17, 2011 at 3 pm

**Creative Team**

<i>Conductor</i>	Kazem Abdullah*
<i>Stage Director</i>	Jose Maria Condemi*
<i>Set Designer</i>	Peter Dean Beck
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Ken Yunker

**Cast**

<i>Fiordiligi</i>	Keri Alkema*
<i>Dorabella</i>	Jennifer Holloway*
<i>Despina</i>	Kiera Duffy
<i>Ferrando</i>	Matthew Plenk*
<i>Guglielmo</i>	Phillip Addis
<i>Don Alfonso</i>	Jason Hardy

**Description**

Two soldiers test the faithfulness of their fiancés on a dare. Pretending they are called away to duty, the men leave -- only to return as foreigners in disguise to woo the assumed two-timing women. Mischief and heartbreak result, but a happy ending is certain! This brilliant Mozart opera is a masterpiece of comedy and a favorite the world over.



DENNIS HANTHORN - *Zurich General Director*

## 09-10 NEWS

### 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 and Zurich, the Official Insurance Sponsor 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 and Ms. Barbara D. Stewart.

### ABOUT THE ATLANTA OPERA

Founded in 1979, The Atlanta Opera is one of Atlanta's premier cultural institutions, 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. For the 2010-2011 season, 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](http://www.atlantaopera.org).

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