



# THE ATLANTA OPERA

DENNIS HANTHORN - *Zurich General Director*

## 2011-12 NEWS

### Media Contacts:

Cristina Vásquez Herrera  
[cvherrera@atlantaopera.org](mailto:cvherrera@atlantaopera.org)  
404-881-9194

Laura D. Soldati  
[lsoldati@atlantaopera.org](mailto:lsoldati@atlantaopera.org)  
404-591-2931

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE ATLANTA OPERA APPOINTS BERT HUFFMAN AS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Atlanta, GA – Zurich General Director Dennis Hanthorn announced today the appointment of Bert Wesley Huffman, MPA, CFRE to the position of Director of Development for The Atlanta Opera. Mr. Huffman will oversee the development team and execute the overall strategy for the development effort which raises in excess of \$3.4 million annually. His responsibilities will include prospect identification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship. He will also play a leading role in expanding major donor fundraising by managing a portfolio of major gift prospects and contributors.

“I couldn’t be more excited about the opportunity to assist in furthering the vital mission of The Atlanta Opera,” says Mr. Huffman. “Any fundraiser would feel blessed to be presented with the chance to marry their learned skills with a personal passion. I look forward to doing my part to continue the quality tradition of Opera in the metro Atlanta area.”

Mr. Huffman will begin this new role on August 29, 2011.

\* \* \*

### About Bert Huffman

Bert Wesley Huffman is a native of the small north Georgia mountain town of Blue Ridge. Active in the Atlanta fundraising community for the last decade, Bert has held positions at his alma mater Young Harris College and Emory University. Most recently, he served as Director of Development

for the ASHRAE Foundation, an international association of engineers. Bert is a graduate of Young Harris College, Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, Tennessee, and he earned a Masters of Public Administration in Nonprofit Management from Kennesaw State University. Additionally, he holds the professional licensure of Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). An avid advocate of the arts, Bert has been involved with musical theatre since childhood, appearing in a diverse array of regional theatre productions and vocal ensembles. In his spare time, Bert is an amateur runner and fervent movie-goer.

### **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](http://www.atlantaopera.org).

# # #