



DENNIS HANTHORN - *Zurich General Director*

2011-12 NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ATLANTA OPERA APPOINTS NEW BOARD CHAIR

Atlanta, GA – The Atlanta Opera Board of Directors has elected William E. Tucker to be its new Board Chair. He will be replacing Greg Johnson, who was Board Chair from 2006-2011. Mr. Tucker is the Co-Managing Partner of Tucker Midis & Associates, LLC, an investment banking firm based in Atlanta, and will bring considerable financial and investment expertise to The Atlanta Opera. He has been a member of the Board since 2009. As Board Chair, Mr. Tucker will lead The Atlanta Opera Board in its initiatives to achieve broader appreciation of opera. He will be a key player in leadership development and fundraising activities, and assure the short and long-term financial strength of The Atlanta Opera. The Atlanta Opera Board of Directors also elected three new members: John O. King, founder of Breitland, LLC, which offers IT consulting services; George W. Levert, Managing Director at Register Financial, leading business development for the Register Small Cap Portfolio; and C. David Moody, Jr., President and CEO of C.D. Moody Construction Company, Inc.

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About William E. Tucker

Bill Tucker is the Co-Managing Partner of Tucker Midis & Associates, LLC, an investment banking firm based in Atlanta. Mr. Tucker has managed numerous practices within the global investment banking community. Immediately prior to founding Tucker Midis, he was the Managing Director of the Atlanta M&A practice, and the U.S. Financial Services Investment Banking operations of Ernst & Young Corporate Finance, LLC. The emphasis of this practice was M&A and financial advisory

for middle market companies. Before joining E&Y, Mr. Tucker was the Managing Director and head of Arthur Andersen's Global Corporate Finance, North American Financial Services Investment Banking practice. Both the E&Y and Andersen practices were wholly owned broker-dealers within the respective accountancies.

Prior to joining the Big 5, Mr. Tucker was a Senior Vice President in Wachovia Capital Markets, managing the Institution's Financial Services and Large Corporate Investment Banking activities. Bill began his investment-banking career in the Regional Institutional Fixed Income Group at the Robinson-Humphrey Company.

Bill is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN with BA Honors in Liberal Arts and holds an MBA, from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, Durham, NC, and has completed advanced executive education at the Eurasia Center INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France.

Bill, his wife and two children live in Atlanta, Georgia.

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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