Dennis Hanthorn
Zurich General Director

Dennis Hanthorn joined The Atlanta Opera as general director in 2004. Under his leadership, The Atlanta Opera has moved its performance home to the newly constructed Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center, completed a $12.2 million capacity-building campaign, established an endowment of $6 million, and secured a $9 million bequest, one of the larger bequests to an opera company in North America. His enhancement in the artistic quality of productions has earned The Atlanta Opera its most positive praise ever, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Hanthorn is known in the opera industry as a builder of opera companies. The hallmark of his career is stabilizing and growing companies financially while enhancing the artistic quality of opera productions. In his 30-year career in arts administration, he has built companies in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio.

Previously, Hanthorn spent 15 years as general director for Florentine Opera Company in Milwaukee. Prior to joining Florentine Opera Company, Hanthorn was managing director for Dayton Opera and general manager for Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. Hanthorn has served on the Board of Directors of OPERA America, the non-profit service organization for opera in North America. He has consulted for Welsh National Opera, Montreal Opera and Opera Musical Theater International. He has served as a judge for the Regional and District Metropolitan Opera Auditions, the Belvedere International Singing Competition and the MacAllister Awards. Hanthorn also has held panelist positions for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Michigan Arts Board and the Wisconsin Arts Board.

Hanthorn holds degrees in music and education from the University of Wisconsin and Missouri State University. He pursued doctoral studies in music and arts administration at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.