



THE ATLANTA OPERA

DENNIS HANTHORN - Zurich General Director

09-10 SEASON NEWS • [www.atlantaopera.org](http://www.atlantaopera.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE ATLANTA OPERA CONTINUES ITS 30<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH THE COMPANY  
PREMIERE OF GLUCK'S *ORFEO & EURIDICE***

**Features the Company Debut of Atlanta Resident and  
Internationally Acclaimed Countertenor David Daniels**

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Opera continues its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 8 p.m. at the Cobb Energy Centre with Christoph Willibald Gluck's most popular opera, *Orfeo & Euridice*. Additional performances will be on Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, November 20 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, November 22 at 3 p.m. *Orfeo & Euridice* tells the tale of Orfeo's journey to the underworld to bring back his wife, Euridice, from the dead. However, when he disobeys the rules of the gods by looking at Euridice before safely escaping, he risks losing her forever to Hades. Gluck's revolutionary approach to modernizing opera forever changed the face of classic opera. In a production from the Glimmerglass Opera, *Orfeo & Euridice* will be an Atlanta Opera premiere and features Atlanta resident and internationally acclaimed countertenor David Daniels as Orfeo in his Atlanta Opera debut. Joining Daniels will be Canadian soprano Katherine Whyte as Euridice and mezzo-soprano Deanne Meek as Amor in

their debuts as well. Harry Bicket, artistic director of The English Concert and known for his interpretations of baroque and classical repertoire, conducts. American playwright Lillian Groag directs. The opera will be sung in Italian with English supertitles.

## **ORFEO & EURIDICE**

Music by Christoph Willibald Gluck  
Libretto by Ranieri de' Calzabigi  
Scenery and costumes originally created for Glimmerglass Opera

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

### **Atlanta Opera Premiere**

Approximate running time: 90 minutes with no intermission

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

Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 8 pm  
Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 7:30 pm  
Friday, November 20, 2009 at 8 pm  
Sunday, November 22, 2009 at 3 pm

### **The Creative Team**

Conductor	Harry Bicket*
Stage Director	Lillian Groag*
Set Designer	John Conklin
Costume Designer	Constance Hoffman
Lighting Designer	Robert Wierzel*, Jeff Harris*
Choreographer/Associate Director	Keturah Stickann*

### **The Cast**

Orfeo	David Daniels*
Euridice	Katherine Whyte*
Amor	Deanne Meek*

\*Denotes Company Debut

### **Description**

Orfeo's young wife, Euridice, dies. In pain, he embarks on a frightening but victorious journey to Hades to rescue her from the dead. Gluck's beautiful and dramatic setting of the classic story changed operatic history.

## TICKET INFORMATION

### Single Tickets

\$25 - \$125 plus tax, convenience and venue fees

**Online** -- Visit [www.atlantaopera.org](http://www.atlantaopera.org)

**By Phone** -- Call 404-817-8700

**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 one hour prior to a performance on day of show).

### Season Tickets – Still Available

Season tickets to The Atlanta Opera's 2009-2010 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season at the Cobb Energy Centre are still available. Ticket prices for a 3-opera subscription (*Orfeo & Euridice*, *Aida*, *The Magic Flute*) range from \$75 to \$403.50. A 2-opera package of the two 2010 operas (*Aida* and *The Magic Flute*) is available as well with prices ranging from \$50 to \$270.

**Online** -- Visit [www.atlantaopera.org](http://www.atlantaopera.org)

**By Phone** -- Call 404-881-8885 or 1-800-35-OPERA

**In-person** -- Visit The Atlanta Opera Center at 1575 Northside Drive NW, Building 300, Suite 350 (Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE

### Opera 101

A class devoted to *Orfeo & Euridice* will be held on **Monday, November 9, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at The Atlanta Opera Center**, 1575 Northside Drive. Led by long-time opera connoisseur and Honorary Board Member Carter Joseph, Opera 101 is a prep course for the upcoming production. Patrons are introduced to the history, background and story line of the opera. The composer, librettist, key characters, musical theme and selected arias are featured in an entertaining and interesting multi-media presentation. Opera 101 is educational and fun! Free but reservations are required. Call 404-881-8801 for more information.

### Pre-Opera Talks

Free, fun and informative, Pre-Opera Talks occur one hour prior to each performance in the John A. Williams Theatre at the Cobb Energy Centre. Pre-Opera Talks help patrons gain better understanding of the upcoming production through a brief presentation about the setting, plot, characters, composer and music. Reservations are not required and seating is unreserved. Patrons must have a ticket for the specific performance that follows.

### Opera Guide

Download a complete study guide for *Orfeo & Euridice* at [www.atlantaopera.org](http://www.atlantaopera.org).

### Synopsis

For a synopsis of *Orfeo & Euridice*, please visit [www.atlantaopera.org](http://www.atlantaopera.org).

## **Informative Events at Emory University**

### **An Evening with Orpheus**

Wednesday, November 4 at 7 p.m.  
Reception Hall, Carlos Museum, Emory University

In conjunction with the Atlanta Opera's staging of Gluck's magnificent opera *Orfeo and Euridice*, the Carlos Museum at Emory University is hosting *An Evening with Orpheus*, featuring readings from literature dealing with the myth in which art triumphs over death, and performances of the famous flute solo, *Dance of the Blessed Spirits*, and *Che faro senza Euridice* from Gluck's opera

### **The Power of Song: Orpheus in Literature and Art**

Wednesday, November 11 at 7 p.m.  
Reception Hall, Carlos Museum, Emory University

As chief among the poets and musicians it was said that Orpheus could coax the trees and rocks to dance. In a lecture titled *The Power of Song: Orpheus in Literature and Art* Dr. Peter Bing, Professor of Classics at Emory University, will explore the ways in which artists, writers, and musicians throughout history have interpreted the myth as a triumph of art over death.

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## **Atlanta Opera 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 currently celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. Led by Zurich General Director Dennis Hanthorn, The Atlanta Opera strives to enhance the experience of its patrons with memorable and exciting 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 more information about The Atlanta Opera, please visit [www.AtlantaOpera.org](http://www.AtlantaOpera.org) or call 404-881-8801.