



THE ATLANTA OPERA

DENNIS HANTHORN - Zurich General Director

09-10 SEASON NEWS • www.atlantaopera.org

Media Contact:

Cristina Vásquez Herrera
Director of Communications
cvherrera@atlantaopera.org
404-881-9194

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THE ATLANTA OPERA 2009-2010 SEASON UPDATE

Yoel Levi to Conduct Season Opener

Sketches for New Production of *The Magic Flute* Released

ATLANTA -- The Atlanta Opera's Zurich General Director Dennis Hanthorn has announced further details of the company's 2009-2010 30th anniversary season, its third in the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. The Atlanta Opera's new season, featuring Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* (*L'elisir d'amore*), the Atlanta Opera premiere of Gluck's *Orfeo & Euridice*, Verdi's *Aida* and a new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (*Die Zauberflöte*), will be presented October 3, 2009 through May 2, 2010. Season tickets are on sale now.

CASTING UPDATES (IN BOLD) AND OTHER DETAILS FOLLOW.

NEW PRODUCTION SKETCHES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

The Atlanta Opera – 2009-2010 Season Casting and Calendar Information

*Denotes Company Debut

New Additions in Bold

THE ELIXIR OF LOVE (L'ELISIR D'AMORE)

Music by Gaetano Donizetti

Libretto by Felice Romani

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Sets from Indiana University

Previous Atlanta Opera Performances: 1991, 2003

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours 45 minutes with one intermission

Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 8 pm

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 7:30 pm

Friday, October 9, 2009 at 8 pm

Sunday, October 11, 2009 at 3 pm

Creative Team

Conductor	Yoel Levi
Stage Director	David Gately
Set Designer	Robert O'Hearn*
Costumes	A.T. Jones
Lighting Designer	Ken Yunker

Cast

Adina	Leah Partridge
Nemorino	Bruce Sledge*
Belcore	Phillip Addis
Dulcamara	Peter Strummer
Giannetta	Carolyn Kahl*

Description

Nestled in a small Italian village, a flirtatious girl prefers a swaggering soldier to the shy young man smitten with her. A travelling quack offers the love-sick man an “elixir of love” to solve his problem. Drunk with love and the elixir (really just plain-old red wine), Nemorino stumbles his way to win Adina’s heart! Directed by Atlanta audience favorite David Gately with the celebrated return of soprano Leah Partridge.

Noteworthy

Native Georgian and Metropolitan Opera star soprano Leah Partridge, last seen on The Atlanta Opera stage in *The Barber of Seville* in 2006, returns to sing the role of Adina in Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. Tenor Bruce Sledge debuts in the role of Nemorino and Canadian baritone Phillip Addis sings the role of Belcore. David Gately, who amused Atlanta Opera audiences with his witty staging of *Cinderella* in November 2008, will direct this production. Leading The Atlanta Opera Orchestra will be former Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Music Director Yoel Levi who previously conducted The Atlanta Opera's production of *Hansel and Gretel* during the company's inaugural season at the Cobb Energy Centre.

ORFEO & EURIDICE

Music by Christoph Willibald Gluck
Libretto by Ranieri de' Calzabigi
Sung in Italian with English Supertitles
Sets and costumes from Glimmerglass Opera

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, 2008 at 3 pm

Creative Team

Conductor	Harry Bicket*
Stage Director	Lillian Groag*
Set Designer	John Conklin
Costume Designer	Constance Hoffman
Lighting Designer	Robert Wierzel*

Cast

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

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. This Atlanta Opera premiere features the company debut of countertenor David Daniels.

Noteworthy

This production of Gluck's *Orfeo & Euridice* will be an Atlanta Opera premiere. In a production from Glimmerglass Opera, *Orfeo & Euridice* will feature the Atlanta Opera debut of Atlanta resident and internationally acclaimed countertenor David Daniels singing the title role. Daniels will be joined by debuting singers Canadian soprano Katherine Whyte as Euridice and mezzo-soprano Deanne Meek as Amor. Renowned conductor Harry Bicket, known for his interpretations of the baroque repertoire, conducts. Lillian Groag directs.

AIDA

Music by Giuseppe Verdi
Libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni
Sung in Italian with English Supertitles
Sets from New Orleans Opera

Previous Atlanta Opera Performances: 1995, 2003
Approximate Running Time: 3 hours 15 minutes with 2 intermissions

Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 8 pm
Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:30 pm
Friday, March 5, 2010 at 8 pm
Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 3 pm

Creative Team

Conductor	Yoel Levi
Stage Director	Trevore Ross
Set Designer	Phil Silver*
Costumes	A.T. Jones
Lighting Designer	Donald Thomas

Cast

Aida	Mary Elizabeth Williams
Amneris	Elizabeth Bishop*
Radames	Antonello Palombi*
Amonasro	Mark Delavan
Ramfis	Morris Robinson*
King of Egypt	Kenneth Kellogg*
Priestess	Amy Little
Messenger	Timothy Miller

Description

The Egyptian princess Amneris intends to marry Radames, the next leader of the Egyptian Army. But Radames is in love with Aida, a princess who is an enslaved prisoner of war. When Amneris discovers her competition, she stops at nothing to destroy them both. Verdi's triumphant opera will feature a star-studded cast, including baritone Mark Delavan and new international sensation Antonello Palombi.

Noteworthy

The Atlanta Opera's first offering of 2010, Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida*, will be conducted by Yoel Levi, returning to The Atlanta Opera podium after conducting *Hansel and Gretel* in 2007. Starring acclaimed Italian tenor Antonello Palombi as Radames, this production of *Aida* also features soprano Mary Elizabeth Williams singing her first Aida. Williams last performed on The Atlanta Opera stage as Serena in the company's 2005 *Porgy & Bess*. Metropolitan Opera star mezzo-soprano Elizabeth Bishop sings Amneris while Mark Delavan, who sang the title role in The Atlanta Opera's *The Flying Dutchman* in May 2008, will sing Amonasro. Atlantans Morris Robinson, Amy Little and Timothy Miller will sing the roles of Ramfis, the Priestess and the Messenger respectively. Debuting singer Kenneth Kellogg will sing the King of Egypt.

THE MAGIC FLUTE (DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE)

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder
Sung and Spoken in German with English Supertitles

New Production

Previous Atlanta Opera Performance: 2003

Approximate Running Time: 2 hours 30 minutes with 1 intermission

Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Saturday, April 24, 2010 at 8 pm

Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Friday, April 30, 2010 at 8 pm

Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 3 pm

Creative Team

Conductor	Arthur Fagen
Stage Director	Tomer Zvulun
Set Designer	C. David Higgins*
Costume Designer	C. David Higgins*
Lighting Designer	Marie Barrett*

Cast

Tamino	Sean Panikkar*
Pamina	Nicole Cabell*
Papageno	Hugh Russell
Sarastro	Denis Sedov*
Queen of the Night	Kathleen Kim*
Speaker	Jason Hardy
Papagena	Rebecca Kier
Monostatos	Adam Kirkpatrick
1 st Lady	Amy Little
2 nd Lady	Maria McDaniel
3 rd Lady	Pamela Dillard

Description

An enchanting journey of love and self-discovery, the prince Tamino and princess Pamina pass through several trials to find each other. Fantastic characters, an evil Queen (with some very high notes) and incredible music make *The Magic Flute* a family favorite. This new production stars Hugh Russell and Nicole Cabell.

Noteworthy

The Atlanta Opera's 2009-2010 season at the Cobb Energy Centre will close with Mozart's *The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte)*. A family favorite, *The Magic Flute* will be a new co-production with Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. Singing the role of the prince Tamino will be bel canto tenor Sean Panikkar. Stunning lyric soprano Nicole Cabell, winner of the 2005 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition, is the princess Pamina. Israeli bass Denis Sedov sings Sarastro. The magical character of Papageno will be sung by Hugh Russell who had Atlanta Opera audiences rolling in laughter during his portrayal of Dandini in the company's production of *Cinderella* in November 2008. Korean-American coloratura soprano Kathleen Kim will sing the fiendishly difficult role of the Queen of the Night. Arthur Fagen, who conducted *Akhnaten* and *The Flying Dutchman* during the 2008-2009 season, will conduct.

New Production Concept

David Higgins' design is a unit set, made of children's toy blocks with fantastical light-up symbols on each piece. Additional elements seamlessly present the various locations of the opera: a colorful, enchanted garden suddenly appears, a huge snake chases the hero outside the ruins of a castle, three boys suspended by balloons appear from an opening in the wall, lightning bolts shatter the back wall and allow the Queen of the Night to magically appear. The set plays a key role in the story-telling of the

opera: all scene changes take place with a raised curtain, allowing the audience to watch as the scenery magically transforms.

Inspired by the paintings of Maxfield Parrish, the world of *The Magic Flute* is one of innocent fairy tales and colorful children's books. The production also includes an extensive use of different puppets and imaginary animals: a giraffe and an oryx suddenly appear over the hedge, a cheetah, a porcupine and a bear dance to the tunes of the enchanted flute, flamingos and parrots are chased by Papageno (the bird catcher) and a huge red snake with fiery eyes envelops the set. The entire production is designed to create a vibrant world of surprise and fantasy that will instantly appeal to children and adults alike.

SKETCHES OF THE SET AND PUPPETS ARE AVAILABLE.

Tickets

Season Tickets

Subscription tickets to The Atlanta Opera's 2009-2010 season at the Cobb Energy Centre are on sale now. Ticket prices for a full, 4-opera subscription range from \$99 to \$538. To purchase, visit 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, 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 2009-2010 season at the Cobb Energy Centre will go on sale in September, 2009. Ticket prices will start at \$25 plus tax, convenience and venue fees. Tickets will be available for purchase by visiting www.atlantaopera.org, by calling Ticketmaster at 404-817-8700 or in-person at the Bank of North Georgia Box Office at the Cobb Energy Centre, 2800 Cobb Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339, (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).

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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 30th anniversary season. 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. Each season The Atlanta Opera presents four productions with four performances each at the Cobb Energy Centre.

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