

Dennis Hanthorn, *Zurich General Director*

Dennis Hanthorn is general director of The Atlanta Opera, a position endowed by the financial services company, Zurich. He became the company's first general director in 2004 and is responsible for the administrative and artistic leadership of the company.

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.

Since arriving at The Atlanta Opera, Hanthorn has eliminated the company's debt, moved The Atlanta Opera's performance home to the new Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre and completed a \$10.9 million capacity campaign targeted at stabilizing the company financially and expanding the organizational infrastructure to support future growth. Hanthorn has expanded the repertoire and attracted high-quality talent with an eye to moving the company from a position of regional to national prominence.

Prior to joining The Atlanta Opera, Hanthorn was general director for 15 years for the Florentine Opera Company in Milwaukee. During his tenure, he achieved success on both the artistic and administrative levels of the company. He broadened the company's repertoire to include German, Russian, American and 20th-century operatic works. He opened new avenues for audience development and increased awareness of the company locally, nationally and internationally by identifying new operatic talent and consistently presenting internationally recognized artists.

Hanthorn serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors of OPERA America, the non-profit service organization for opera in North America, and has consulted for international and national opera companies. He has served as a judge for the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, 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.

Prior to joining the Florentine Opera Company, Hanthorn was managing director for Dayton Opera and general manager for Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. Hanthorn holds degrees in music and education from the University of Wisconsin and Missouri State University and pursued doctoral studies in music and arts administration at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

DENNIS HANTHORN - *Zurich General Director*

THE ATLANTA OPERA CENTER 1575 Northside Drive, N.W. Bldg. 300, Suite 350 Atlanta, Georgia 30318

TEL 404.881.8801 FAX 404.881.1711 info@atlantaopera.org www.atlantaopera.org