



THE ATLANTA OPERA

DENNIS HANTHORN - Zurich General Director

09-10 SEASON NEWS • www.atlantaopera.org

Media Contact:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ATLANTA OPERA OPENS ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH DONIZETTI'S *THE ELIXIR OF LOVE*

**NATIVE GEORGIAN AND METROPOLITAN OPERA STAR LEAH
PARTRIDGE RETURNS TO THE ATLANTA OPERA AS ADINA**

YOEL LEVI CONDUCTS

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Opera opens its 2009-2010 30th anniversary season on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 8 p.m. with Gaetano Donizetti's comic masterpiece, *The Elixir of Love*, at the Cobb Energy Centre. Additional performances will be on Tuesday, October 6, Friday, October 9 and Sunday, October 11, 2009. *The Elixir of Love* follows the life of Nemorino, a lovesick farmer, in his pursuit of the wealthy Adina. Thinking she could never love him, he buys a love potion from a travelling salesman and, unaware it is simply red wine, he waits for the magic to take place. The season opener features the return of soprano Leah Partridge, a native Georgian and Metropolitan Opera star, who will sing the role of Adina. Partridge last performed with The Atlanta Opera in the 2006 production of *The Barber of Seville*. Tenor Bruce Sledge will make his debut as Nemorino and Canadian Phillip Addis will sing 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. The opera will be sung in Italian with English supertitles.

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*

*Denotes Company Debut

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.

TICKET INFORMATION

Single Tickets – On Sale September 1, 2009 at noon

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

Online -- Visit 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 30th Anniversary Season at the Cobb Energy Centre are still available. Ticket prices for a full, 4-opera subscription range from \$99 to \$538. Two-opera mini-packages, comprised of either the two 2009 operas (*The Elixir of Love* and *Orfeo & Euridice*) or the two 2010 operas (*Aida* and *The Magic Flute*) are available with prices ranging from \$50 to \$270.

Online -- Visit 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 *The Elixir of Love* will be held on **Monday, September 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at The Atlanta Opera Center**, 1575 Northside Drive NW, Atlanta, 30318. 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 a 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 and to make reservations.

Pre-Opera Talks

Free, fun and informative, Pre-Opera Talks occur one hour prior to each performance inside 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 opera guide for *The Elixir of Love* at www.atlantaopera.org.

Synopsis

For a synopsis of *The Elixir of Love*, please visit www.atlantaopera.org.

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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 30th 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 or call 404-881-8801.