



DENNIS HANTHORN - Zurich General Director

IO-II NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ATLANTA OPERA PRESENTS LA BOHÈME AT THE COBB ENERGY CENTRE

**Outstanding Cast Features Soprano Grazia Doronzio as Mimì,
Tenor Bryan Hymel as Rodolfo, Soprano Jan Cornelius as Musetta,
Baritone Timothy Kuhn as Marcello, and Bass Matthew Curran as Colline**

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Opera will begin its 31st season on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at 8 p.m. at the Cobb Energy Centre with a production of Giacomo Puccini's timeless classic *La bohème*. Other performances will be on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, October 8 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, October 10 at 3 p.m. A staple of romantic opera repertoire, *La bohème* is a story of love in its greatest form. In snowy Paris, six young penniless artists are full of idealism and beauty, but they soon encounter the harsh realities of life. Puccini's masterpiece never fails to pull at your heart strings. The Atlanta Opera's production of *La bohème* features soprano Grazia Doronzio as Mimì, tenor Bryan Hymel as Rodolfo, soprano Jan Cornelius as Musetta, and baritone Timothy Kuhn as Marcello. Gregory Vajda conducts The Atlanta Opera Orchestra, The Atlanta Opera Chorus and The Atlanta Opera Children's Chorus. David Gately, who directed last season's romantic comedy *The Elixir of Love*, returns to direct. The opera will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.

LA BOHÈME

Music by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

Previous Atlanta Opera Performances: 1981, 1987, 1993, 1999, and 2004

Approximate Running Time: 3 hours with 1 intermission

Four Performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Saturday, October 2, 2010 at 8 pm

Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Friday, October 8, 2010 at 8 pm

Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 3 pm

IO-II NEWS**Creative Team**

Conductor	Gregory Vajda
Stage Director	David Gately
Set Designer	Peter Dean Beck
Costumes	A.T. Jones
Lighting Designer	Ken Yunker
Chorus Master	Walter Huff
Children's Chorus	Will Breytspraak

Scenery and Props for this production are owned by Memphis Opera and Arizona Opera and were constructed by The Utah Opera Scenic Shop.

Cast

Mimi	Grazia Doronzio
Rodolfo	Bryan Hymel
Musetta	Jan Cornelius
Marcello	Timothy Kuhn
Colline	Matthew Curran
Schaunard	Andrew Garland

Description

In snowy Paris, six young penniless artists are full of idealism, beauty and unbridled love. But they soon encounter the harsh realities of life. Imitations of Puccini's masterpiece are all around us – the gorgeous original is incomparable and never fails to pull at your heart strings. Puccini's triumphant opera will feature a star-studded cast, including soprano Grazia Doronzio as Mimi, tenor Bryan Hymel as Rodolfo.

TICKET INFORMATION**Single Tickets**

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

Online – Visit www.atlantaopera.org

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

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 – Season Tickets Still Available

Season tickets to The Atlanta Opera's 2010-2011 Season at the Cobb Energy Centre are still available. Ticket prices for a three-opera package including *La bohème*, *Porgy & Bess* and *Così fan tutte* range from \$75 to \$459.

Online – Visit www.atlantaopera.org

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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**Evening at Emory**

In conjunction with the Atlanta Opera's opening production of the 2010-2011 season, Evening at Emory will offer a four-week session called **"La bohème and the Unknown Puccini"**.

During the first session, veteran opera instructor Carter Joseph will examine the composer's life and Italy during that time with musical examples from both Puccini and his contemporaries. The second session will provide participants with information on Puccini's lesser-known operas, including *La rondine*, *La fanciulla del West*, and *Il trittico*. Participants will look specifically at *La bohème*, one of the world's most popular operas, during the third and final classroom session, leading up to attendance at the Atlanta Opera's production of the work. Tuition includes performance ticket.

Register for the course.

Opera Chat

Join us for an informal conversation with singers and artists from the Atlanta Opera's upcoming production of *La bohème*. Opera Chat will be held on Monday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble Buckhead, 2900 Peachtree Road. This event is free, and no reservations are required.

Opera 101

A class devoted to *La bohème* will be held on Monday, September 27, 2010 from 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 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 – 404-881-8801.

Pre-Opera Talks

Free, fun and informative, Pre-Opera Talks occur 50 minutes 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.

IO-II NEWS**Opera with an Edge**

A live sneak preview of the Atlanta Opera's 2010-2011 season, "Opera with an Edge" features opera aficionado and Atlanta Opera supporter Bob Edge, providing brief overviews of each of the season's titles. Mr. Edge's witty commentary will be interspersed with performances by Atlanta Opera singers of many of the memorable musical moments in *La bohème*, *Porgy and Bess* and *Così fan tutte*.

"Opera with an Edge" is free to the public and will be at the Cobb Energy Centre on Sunday, September 26 at 7:30 pm. Reservations are required and can be made by visiting www.atlantaopera.org

Student Shorts

These fully-staged and abbreviated versions of our mainstage productions provide students an opportunity to attend a live opera performance. Parents and educators are provided with an **Opera Guide** including information, activities and lesson plans that correlate directly with the **Georgia Performance Standards**.

The Atlanta Opera Student Shorts are presented at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. Reservations may be made by calling 770.916.2923 or emailing education@cobbenergycentre.com

Opera Guide

Download a complete study guide for *La bohème* at www.atlantaopera.org.

Synopsis

For a synopsis of *La bohème*, please visit www.atlantaopera.org.

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 one of the finest regional opera companies in the nation, drawing audiences from the entire metropolitan Atlanta area as well as from the Southeast region. 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. For the 2010-2011 season, The Atlanta Opera presents three productions with four performances each at the Cobb Energy Centre.