

IO-II NEWS**Media Contacts**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - AUGUST 16, 2010**THE ATLANTA OPERA APPOINTS ARTHUR FAGEN AS MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Atlanta, GA – The Atlanta Opera’s Zurich General Director Dennis Hanthorn announced today that Arthur Fagen will become the Opera’s music director, effective September 2010. As music director, Fagen will conduct up to two productions each season beginning with the 2011-2012 season. In addition to Maestro Fagen’s conducting duties, he will be responsible for building and developing The Atlanta Opera Orchestra and for assisting Hanthorn with auditions to fill any vacant orchestra positions. Although the conductors and cast for the 2010-2011 season have already been selected, Fagen will be immediately involved with Hanthorn in singer auditions, repertoire selection, and casting for future seasons. Maestro Fagen has had an extensive history with The Atlanta Opera that includes critically acclaimed productions of *La traviata*, *Turandot*, *Cold Sassy Tree*, *Akhmaten*, *The Flying Dutchman*, and *The Magic Flute*. Maestro Fagen’s career has been marked by a string of notable appearances with the world’s greatest opera companies and symphony orchestras, making him an exceptional candidate for this position.

“Since I arrived at The Atlanta Opera it has been one of my goals to hire a music director to help build The Atlanta Opera Orchestra,” comments Dennis Hanthorn. “I am thrilled that Arthur will be joining my artistic team. His vast experience as an opera and orchestral conductor combined with his leadership and artistic abilities will undoubtedly enhance the quality of future Atlanta Opera productions.”

“I have a long history of collaborations with Dennis Hanthorn and I have enjoyed each and every one of them,” says Maestro Fagen. “I am looking forward to working with the orchestra, chorus and staff of The Atlanta Opera in this new capacity. The artistic growth of the company since Dennis arrived has been very exciting. I am eager to be a part of this company as I believe it is poised for many more artistic triumphs.”

ABOUT ARTHUR FAGEN

In demand as a conductor of opera and symphony in the United States and Europe, Arthur Fagen has conducted a repertoire of over 75 operas. He has appeared on the podiums of the Munich State Opera, Semper Opera Dresden, Hamburg State Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Staatsoper Berlin, Teatro Regio Torino, Opera Capitoile de Toulouse, New York City Opera, Metropolitan Opera and

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the Vienna State Opera where he was a regular guest conductor from 1998-2002. Some of the orchestras he has conducted include the Tokyo Philharmonic, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Schleswig-Holstein Festival, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, Bamberg Symphony, RAI Orchestras of Italy, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, where he won first prize in the first Baltimore Symphony Orchestra International Conducting Competition.

Maestro Fagen studied at Wesleyan University and Curtis Institute and his teachers were Max Rudolf, Hans Swarowsky and Laszlo Halasz. He has served as Principal Conductor in Kassel and Brunswick, as Chief Conductor of the Flanders Opera of Antwerp and Ghent, as Music Director of the Queens Symphony Orchestra and as a member of the conducting staff of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Metropolitan Opera.

From 2002-2007, Mr. Fagen was the Music Director of the Dortmund Philharmonic Orchestra and the Dortmund Opera. Following his successful concerts with the Dortmund Philharmonic at the Grosse Festspielhaus in Salzburg, Arthur Fagen and the Dortmund Philharmonic were invited to the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Palais de Beaux Arts in Brussels, and in Salzburg, Beijing and Shanghai. He conducted in that period, among others, two complete *RING* cycles.

Mr. Fagen has recorded for BMG, Bayerischer Rundfunk, SFB and WDR Cologne. He records regularly for Naxos, for whom he has completed the six symphonies of Bohuslav Martin. The recent Naxos recording of Martin's Piano Concerti has been awarded an Editor's Choice in the March 2010 issue of *Gramophone* Magazine.

Upcoming engagements include a return to Teatro Massimo Palermo for the world premiere of "Alice in Wonderland" by Giovanni D'Aquila and the world premiere of Bernard Rand's "Vincent" with Indiana University Opera Theater. He will also be returning to the Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice, Bolzano Festival (with live RAI transmission), Haydn Orchestra and the Orquesta de Navarra. This season, the final installment in the much acclaimed series of Martin Piano Concerti will be released by Naxos.

He is Professor of Orchestral Conducting at Indiana University.

PRESS PRAISE FOR ARTHUR FAGEN

"Arthur Fagen... brought out colors from the orchestra and paced the drama sympathetically."
—Pierre Ruhe – *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"The orchestra, conducted by Arthur Fagen, "... caught the sweep of the music"
—Pierre Ruhe – *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"Arthur Fagen" is a gifted and imaginative conductor."
—Michael Oliver, *Gramophone Magazine*

"In *Fidelio*, strong conducting is a must, and Portland Opera was fortunate to have Arthur Fagen."
—Mark Mandel, Opera News Online