

# THE ATLANTA OPERA

## The Atlanta Opera Chorus

No Atlanta Opera production would be complete without the Atlanta Opera Chorus. Widely regarded as one of the top opera ensembles in the country, the Atlanta Opera Chorus performs in the majority of mainstage offerings produced by the Atlanta Opera each year. Under the leadership of Walter Huff for 25 years, the choristers are always an integral part of each performance.

Members of the Atlanta Opera Chorus are highly touted for their technical abilities and compelling acting skills, and have been featured in more than 100 productions since Maestro Huff began his tenure. Conductors, stage directors, and principal singers from the world over have consistently praised the ensemble for its characteristic sound, range of color, and consistent precision. Production highlights through the years have included *Turandot*, *Aida*, *Samson et Delila*, *Il trovatore*, *Otello*, and *Manon*. Other memorable choral performances have been showcased in Philip Glass' *Akhmaten*, Wagner's dark and stormy *The Flying Dutchman*, Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, a critically acclaimed double-bill of *Carmina Burana* and *Pagliacci*, 1992's contemporary staging of Bizet's *Carmen*, and Mozart's *Requiem*.

In 1996, the Atlanta Opera Chorus was invited to perform in the Cultural Olympiad concert series, as part of the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. This invitation resulted in two memorable performances, seen by a distinguished international audience: Gershwin's delightful musical comedy *Of Thee I Sing* and an Opera Gala Evening, featuring the Atlanta chorus and famed soprano Dame Gwyneth Jones. In 2008, the Opéra-Comique of Paris invited the Atlanta Opera Chorus to perform in their new production of *Porgy and Bess*. This 8-week engagement included 12 performances in Paris and additional shows in Spain, Normandy, and Luxembourg. Numerous alumni of the chorus have now sung at leading opera houses around the nation and the world – including the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, Los Angeles Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, and many others.