

THE ATLANTA OPERA

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Mozart's classic *The Marriage of Figaro* returns to Atlanta's Mainstage

Young, dynamic ensemble cast is the highlight of the humorous opera

ATLANTA – (February 26, 2015) - [The Atlanta Opera](#) brings one of Mozart's finest operas to life while showcasing emerging stage talents. Conducted by **Arthur Fagen** and directed by **Tara Faircloth**.

The Marriage of Figaro will be presented on April 4, 7, 10 and 12 at the [Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre](#). Single tickets, ranging from \$26 to \$137, plus convenience and venue fees, are on sale now and can be purchased online at atlantaopera.org or by calling 404-881-8885. Season tickets are still available as well, offering patrons the best seats at the best prices.

Figaro is based on Pierre Beaumarchais's 1784 play *La Folle Journée, ou Le Mariage de Figaro*, a sequel to his earlier play, *Le Barbier de Séville (The Barber of Seville)*. The story catches up with Figaro and Susanna on their wedding day. Unfolding over the course of 24 hours, the opera touches on universal human themes, such as falling in love, marriage, jealousy and, ultimately, the notion that love conquers all.

"This is a true ensemble opera. There are intricate subplots, archetypal characters and, of course, the sublime music that Mozart wrote. We focused on casting singers who are as compelling dramatically as they are musically and vocally," said Tomer Zvulun, General and Artistic Director of the Atlanta Opera.

Baritone **Craig Colclough** stars as Figaro, the servant who attempts to thwart the Count while marrying his true love. Colclough has been hailed for his performances with the English National Opera, Wolf Trap Opera Company and the Los Angeles Opera.

Lauren Snouffer, a graduate of the Juilliard School and the Houston Grand Opera Studio Program, will play Susanna in her Atlanta Opera debut. Figaro's bride-to-be and target of the Count's affection. Snouffer is a Soprano earning acclaim for her recent roles, including portraying Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* at the Houston Grand Opera.

The philandering Count Almaviva will be played by **John Moore** in his Atlanta stage debut. Moore is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Program, where he performed many roles including Papageno in *The Magic Flute*. Soprano **Katie Van Kooten**, a favorite at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, debuts as the Countess who seeks to re-ignite her marriage while catching the Count in his mischievous ways.

World-renowned *basso buffo* Bruno Praticco returns to Atlanta as Doctor Bartolo. Local favorite Megan Mashburn stars as Barbarina. Jason Ferrante, who starred in the Atlanta Opera's production of *Madama Butterfly* this past November, will play Don Basilio.

Music Director **Arthur Fagen** conducts this production featuring sets and costumes by **Susan Benson**. This is Fagen's fifth year as the Atlanta Opera's music director.

Director **Tara Faircloth** is a native of Georgia. She is making her Atlanta Opera debut as stage director. Faircloth regularly works with the Houston Grand Opera Studio and has previously directed at the Arizona Opera, Wolf Trap and Opera Colorado (where she directed *The Barber of Seville*).

"The incredible music of Mozart is deeply intertwined with the story of this complicated opera. As one of the most frequently performed productions in history, it was important that we put the music together as perfectly as Mozart composed it," said Music Director Arthur Fagen.

Presented in four acts, *The Marriage of Figaro* was composed by Mozart in 1786. The Italian libretto was written by Lorenzo Da Ponte, the librettist for many of Mozart's greatest operas, including *Don Giovanni*. The opera buffa will be sung in Italian with projected English supertitles.

About The Atlanta Opera

Founded in 1979, The Atlanta Opera is one of the finest regional opera companies in the nation. By producing live, mainstage performances of the highest quality and impactful community engagement experiences, The Atlanta Opera enriches lives through the power of opera. The Opera strives to attract the finest international, national, and regional singers, conductors, stage directors, and designers. Each season, The Atlanta Opera presents three productions at the Cobb Energy Centre, drawing audiences from the entire metropolitan Atlanta area as well as from the Southeast region.

Sponsors

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Production of *The Marriage of Figaro* courtesy of the Banff Centre.

The Marriage of Figaro

By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Previous Atlanta Opera Performance: 1990, 2002, 2008

Creative Team

Conductor	Arthur Fagen
Stage Director	Tara Faircloth
Set & Costume Designer	Susan Benson
Lighting Designer	Ken Yunker

Cast

Figaro	Craig Colclough*
Susanna	Lauren Snouffer*
Count Almaviva	John Moore*
Countess Almaviva	Katie Van Kooten*
Cherubino	Naomi O'Connell*
Doctor Bartolo	Bruno Pratico
Marcellina	Victoria Livengood
Don Basilio	Jason Ferrante
Barbarina	Megan Mashburn
Antonio	Alan Higgs

*Denotes Atlanta Opera debut