

THE ATLANTA OPERA

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Verdi's *Rigoletto* Returns To The Atlanta Opera

A Vibrant New Production Originally Directed By Tomer Zvulun

Marks The Atlanta Opera's 35th Year of Mainstage Productions

ATLANTA – (January 19, 2015) - [The Atlanta Opera](#) celebrates its 35th year of live productions with Giuseppe Verdi's tragic masterpiece, *Rigoletto*. This new, visually stimulating production is a co-production of Boston Lyric Opera, The Atlanta Opera, and Opera Omaha and was originally directed by The Atlanta Opera's General & Artistic Director **Tomer Zvulun**.

Not seen on The Atlanta Opera stage since 2000, *Rigoletto* will be presented on February 28 and March 3, 6 and 8 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.

The Boston Globe hailed the production as "delivering the kind of energetic performance ... that had audiences rising swiftly to its feet." Opera News, reviewing the Omaha mounting, said the production "let loose with vibrant, contrasting visual and musical colors."

A Verdi favorite, *Rigoletto* is set in a rich and decadent Renaissance Italy and features some of opera's most famous arias including "La Donna e Mobile" and "Caro Nome."

Todd Thomas makes his Atlanta Opera debut as the hunchbacked jester Rigoletto, who turns his mind to revenge when he cannot protect the person he most loves, his innocent daughter Gilda, from the person he most loathes. Recognized by opera companies and critics alike as one of the true Verdi baritones performing today, Thomas is one of America's most sought after artists.

Gilda, the jester's daughter who has passion stirring in her young heart, will be sung by rising American soprano **Nadine Sierra** in her first Atlanta Opera appearance. The youngest winner to date of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions as well as the Marilyn Horne Foundation Vocal Competition, Sierra is already making a name for herself through her performances with top opera companies and symphony orchestras around the world.

As the lascivious Duke of Mantua, always in pursuit of his next romantic conquest, tenor **Scott Quinn** makes his company debut. Celebrated bass and Atlanta native **Morris Robinson** will sing the role of the assassin Sparafucile.

The production features sets by internationally acclaimed designer **John Conklin** and costumes by **Vita Tzykun**, known in popular culture circles for her production design of Lady Gaga's 2011 Thanksgiving special. **Joseph Rescigno**, who last conducted The Atlanta Opera Orchestra in *La traviata* during the 2012-13 season, will conduct.

An opera in three acts, *Rigoletto* was created by Giuseppe Verdi, with Italian libretto written by Francesco Maria Piave based on the play *Le roi s'amuse* by Victor Hugo. *Rigoletto* will be sung in Italian with projected English subtitles.

Ticketholders may also attend a free pre-opera talk about *Rigoletto*. Pre-Opera Talks are held one hour prior to each performance inside the John A. Williams Theatre at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre and provide opera attendees insights and background into the opera they are about to see.

Thirty-five years ago, The Atlanta Opera opened its inaugural season at the Fox Theatre on March 14, 1980 with the first of two performances of *The Seagull*, by Thomas Pasatieri to an English libretto by Kenward Elmslie and based on Anton Chekhov's 1896 play of the same name. Other shows in the inaugural season included *La traviata* and a recital by legendary baritone Sherrill Milnes.

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

The Atlanta Opera is proud to recognize The Coca-Cola Company as the Opening Night Sponsor of the Opera.

This co-production is made possible in part by generous gifts from Donald and Marilyn Keough, Paul and Sandra Montrone, Richard D. Holland, and Omaha Steaks.

Rigoletto

By Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Previous Atlanta Opera Productions: 3 (1987, 1990, 2000)

Creative Team

Conductor	Joseph Rescigno
Production Director	Tomer Zvulun

Stage Director	Stephanie Havey
Set Designer	John Conklin
Costume Designer	Vita Tzykun
Lighting Designer	Robert Wierzel

Cast

Rigoletto	Todd Thomas*
Gilda	Nadine Sierra*
Duke of Mantua	Scott Quinn*
Sparafucile	Morris Robinson
Maddalena	Renee Tatum*
Monterone	Nathan Stark*
Countess Ceprano	Lacy Sauter*
Marullo	Adam Cannedy
Borsa	Adam Kirkpatrick
Count Ceprano	Cory Neal Schantz
Giovanna	Maria McDaniel

*Denotes Atlanta Opera debut