

# THE ATLANTA OPERA

## TOMER ZVULUN, GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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General and Artistic Director of The Atlanta Opera since 2013, Tomer Zvulun is also one of opera's most exciting stage directors, earning consistent praise for his creative vision, often described as cinematic and fresh. His work has been presented by prestigious opera houses around the world, including The Metropolitan Opera, the opera companies of Seattle, San Diego, Dallas, Boston, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Buenos Aires, Wexford, New Orleans, Minnesota and Wolf Trap, as well as leading educational institutes and universities such as The Juilliard School, Indiana University, Boston University, and IVAI in Tel Aviv. His debut in New York was in a new production of *L'heure espagnole* and *Gianni Schicchi* at Juilliard Opera Center that was praised by The New York Times for its "witty, fast-paced staging and the director's Felliniesque style."

Known for creating innovative, visually striking new interpretations for standard operas as well as championing new works by contemporary composers, his work has been seen internationally in Europe, South and Central America, Israel, and the US. Recently he created critically acclaimed new productions of *Semele* (Seattle Opera) *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Seattle, Atlanta, Cleveland), *La bohème* (Seattle, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Atlanta), *Lucrezia Borgia* (Buenos Aires), *Gianni Schicchi* (Juilliard, IVAI Tel Aviv), *L'heure espagnole* (Juilliard), *The Magic Flute* (Cincinnati, Atlanta, Indiana University), *Don Giovanni* (Wolf Trap, Cincinnati), *Die Fledermaus* (Dallas, Kansas City), *Falstaff* (Wolf Trap, Des Moines), *Rigoletto* (Boston, Atlanta, Omaha), *Madama Butterfly* (Atlanta, Castleton Festival), *Tosca* (National Theatre Panama, Atlanta) and *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (IVAI Tel Aviv), among many others.

His passion for producing new works by living composers was realized in the acclaimed European premiere of Kevin Puts' *Silent Night* at Wexford Festival Opera in 2014. The production won two Irish Times Awards and will be remounted at The Glimmerglass Festival and Washington National Opera. In 2015-16 he created a new production of *Soldier Songs* (David T. Little) as a part of the award-winning Discoveries Series in Atlanta in a production that traveled to San Diego Opera. He then went on to create an acclaimed new production of *Dead Man Walking* that marked his return to New Orleans Opera. This was his second collaboration with composer Jake Heggie following his new production of *Three Decembers* at Boston University. Some of his upcoming projects include the world premiere of the new opera *Dinner at Eight* (Bolcom) at Minnesota Opera, followed by the European premiere at Wexford Festival, new productions of *Maria de Buenos Aires* and *Die Fliegende Holländer* in Atlanta, a new *Giulio Cesare* for the Israeli Opera (Acco Festival), a new *Eugene Onegin* at Kansas City and a revival of his acclaimed production of *La bohème* in Dallas.

Since taking the leadership in Atlanta he increased the operations of the company from 12 to 26 performances per season, while stabilizing the financials. Some of his noted achievements include launching the successful Discoveries Series, a program that presents new contemporary works and rarely done operas in alternative venues, creating the first young artist program in the company's history, and doubling the company annual fundraising. His work at The Atlanta Opera earned the company an international reputation by earning numerous awards and prizes, including a nomination for the 2016 International Opera Awards in London, the selection of the acclaimed Discoveries Series in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* Best of 2015 list, and his recent nomination for the 2016 Atlanta Luminary awards.

As a stage director, he made his debut in Atlanta with a critically acclaimed *Die Fliegende Holländer* in 2009, a production which led to a series of memorable new co-productions with sister opera companies including *The Magic Flute*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Rigoletto*, *La bohème* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

During his 7 years at the Metropolitan Opera, Tomer has directed revivals of *Tosca* and *Carmen*, and worked on a number of new productions, most notably *La rondine*, *La traviata*, *La fille du régiment*, *Iphigénie en Tauride* and *Manon*. Tomer was born and raised in Israel, served as a medic in a combat unit in IDF, attended the Tel Aviv Open University and The Harvard Business School executive program.