

THE ATLANTA OPERA

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THE ATLANTA OPERA'S 96-HOUR OPERA PROJECT SEEKS BIPOC COMPOSERS AND LIBRETTISTS

Creative Teams Will Have Four Days to Write and Produce Compelling 10-minute Operas Drawn from Georgia's Past and Present

ATLANTA –October 19, 2021 – The Atlanta Opera unveiled the 96-Hour Opera Project, a composition competition in which teams of composers and librettists have four days to write, cast, direct and stage completely new and compelling 10-minute operas.

The winning team will be awarded a commission to write an opera for The Atlanta Opera to premiere and \$10,000 in cash.

Designed specifically for composers and librettists from historically underrepresented communities, the competition is only open to those who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, Asian-American, Pacific Islander, Arab-American, Latin-American or other communities of color.

The competition will be hosted in partnership with Morehouse College, School of Music. The finals will be open to the public and will be held at the Ray Charles Center for the Performing Arts on Monday, June 20, 2022. The finals will include a special commemorative performance honoring the Juneteenth holiday.

Internationally renowned bass and Atlanta native Morris Robinson will serve as the artistic advisor for this year's competition, working with creative teams throughout the competition as well as serving as one of the judges.

"Projects like this one are necessary in order to move the needle for composers and librettists of color," said Robinson. "I'm proud to be part of a company that is doing this work."

Applications for 96-Hour Opera Project open Dec. 1, 2021. More information on the process and application timeline can be found at atlantaopera.org/competition. The four-day competition runs from June 17 to June 20. Every participant is guaranteed an honorarium and travel and lodging support. There is no application fee.

"The diversity of Atlanta—racial, ethnic, cultural—is the reason for the vibrancy and richness of this city. We want diversity to be a vital part of every aspect of our company and reflect the city we call home," said Tomer Zvulun, the company's Carl W. Knobloch Jr. General and Artistic Director. "This new initiative will achieve two major goals: sharing inspirational stories that reflect the multicultural history of Atlanta and amplifying the voices of diverse artists."

Each creative team will be assigned a story drawn from Georgia's past and present based on materials provided by this year's "Stories that Resonate" partners, representative nonprofit organizations with storytelling at their core.

The Atlanta Opera provides singing talent, a pianist and a director to assist with staging, plus, a treasure trove of background information from the Stories that Resonate partner organizations to spark imagination.

In partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting, The Atlanta Opera Film Studio will produce a mini-series using filmed portions of the competition and supplemental interviews that will be shown on GPB stations across the state and online.

About The Atlanta Opera

The Atlanta Opera's mission is to build the major international opera company that Atlanta deserves, while reimagining what opera can be. Founded in 1979, the company works with world-renowned singers, conductors, directors, and designers who seek to enhance the art form. Under the leadership of internationally recognized stage director and Carl W. Knobloch, Jr. General & Artistic Director Tomer Zvulun, The Atlanta Opera expanded from three to four mainstage productions at Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre and launched the acclaimed Discoveries series. In recent years, the company has been named among the "Best of 2015" by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, has been nominated for a 2016 International Opera Award, and won ArtsATL's 2019 Luminary Award for Community Engagement in recognition of its successful Veterans Program in partnership with the Home Depot Foundation. In addition, The Atlanta Opera was featured in a 2018 Harvard Business School case study about successful organizational growth, and Zvulun presented a TEDx Talk at Emory University titled "The Ambidextrous Opera Company, or Opera in the Age of iPhones." During the COVID-19 pandemic, The Atlanta Opera was one of the only companies in the world to create a full,

alternative season, consisting of no less than 40 live performances in two different outdoor venues, including a revolutionary custom-designed circus tent. The fundraising goal was tripled, and four new productions were created, each of which employed 150 cast, crew and staff. The critically acclaimed productions and concerts were streamed in HD in the newly created streaming platform "Spotlight Media," allowing The Atlanta Opera to reach a global audience. National media coverage of the "pandemic season" included features in the Wall Street Journal and PBS Newshour. For more information, visit atlantaopera.org.