



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9, 2018**

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**Atlanta Opera to perform at four Gwinnett elementary schools**

The **Atlanta Opera** will visit several Gwinnett County elementary schools in January. Members of an award-winning troupe are scheduled to perform the bilingual version of **The Barber of Seville** opera at the following Dual Language Immersion (DLI) schools:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time:</b>
Jan. 14, 2019	Baldwin ES	9:00 a.m.
Jan. 15, 2019	Annistown ES	9:00 a.m.
Jan. 16, 2019	Bethesda ES	9:00 a.m.
Jan. 28, 2019	Camp Creek ES	9:00 a.m.

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*is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.*

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**Dr. Jon Valentine**, Director of Foreign Languages in Gwinnett County Public Schools, is excited about the visit. He says, “What makes this opportunity so special and rare is that the world renowned Atlanta Opera is coming to our GCPS schools directly and staging a performance right in the building. Every child in the school will be able to take part and sit just feet away from some of the best performers in the world.”

The artists will perform Rossini’s delightful and energetic version of the opera created by stage director Kristine McIntyre. The 45-minute adaptation will be performed in Spanish and English, and demonstrates the power of love to triumph over adversity of every kind. Valentine believes the story will resonate with the students. He explains, “In this story, the hero, Figaro, is bilingual, while the two lovers— Spanish-speaking Rosina and the English-speaking Almaviva— cannot communicate without him. We hope our students recognize that bilingualism and biliteracy are rare and valuable skills and perhaps see themselves as bilingual heroes who can connect people and cultures.” Dr. Valentine added, “We are very fortunate living so close to Atlanta to be able to provide access for our DLI students to some of the finest cultural opportunities in the nation.”

2010 and 2014 Winner of

