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## LA Opera and Classical KUSC 91.5fm Collaborate on Third Season of “LA Opera On Air”

International Broadcast Series of Performances Recorded Live at the  
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to Air Saturdays, May 9 through July 4, 2009

WFMT Radio Network also to Syndicate “LA Opera on Air”  
Internationally Beginning Saturday, June 27, 2009

Series of Eight Broadcasts to Include  
First Two Installments of Company’s First *Ring* Cycle

(Los Angeles, CA) May 6, 2009 – **Plácido Domingo**, LA Opera’s Eli and Edythe Broad General Director, announced that the Company will collaborate with Classical KUSC 91.5fm for a third consecutive season of “LA Opera on Air,” a broadcast series of LA Opera performances recorded live at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The weekly series, which begins at 10:30am on Saturday, May 9, 2009, with Giacomo Puccini’s *Il Trittico*, will feature six operas from LA Opera’s 2008/09 season, including the first two installments, *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre*, of the Company’s first ever presentation of Wagner’s *Ring* cycle. The series will also include a September 2007 performance of the Verdi *Requiem* and a February 2007 performance of Kurt Weill’s *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*. (LA Opera’s EuroArts DVD of the latter received Grammy awards earlier this year for Best Classical Album and Best Opera Recording). The series will be broadcast locally on KUSC at 91.5fm and will also be streamed on [www.kusc.org](http://www.kusc.org). “LA Opera on Air” was made possible by generous grants from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, spearheaded by the efforts of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

“I have always believed that it is very important for us to make opera accessible to as many people as possible,” said Mr. Domingo. “‘LA Opera on Air’ gives us the ability to showcase our exciting performances for a diverse and wide-ranging radio audience that may not otherwise be able to experience our work in the theater. I hope that ‘LA Opera on Air’ will help us cultivate new fans for opera by giving them a chance to experience

the drama and passion of this classic art form. I also hope that opera aficionados around the world will look forward to hearing the unusually diverse programming that makes LA Opera's artistic identity unique."

The Saturday morning broadcast series on Classical KUSC 91.5fm begins with Giacomo Puccini's *Il Trittico* on May 9, 2009, and will continue with Howard Shore's *The Fly*, on May 16. The series will take a one-week hiatus on May 23, when Classical KUSC will program a live broadcast of the Grand Finals Concert of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, then will resume with Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* on May 30, Kurt Weill's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* on June 6, Richard Wagner's *Das Rheingold* on June 13, Wagner's *Die Walküre* on June 20, Walter Braunfels' *The Birds* on June 27 and the Verdi *Requiem* on July 4. *The Fly* and the Verdi *Requiem* are both conducted by Mr. Domingo, with the remaining six broadcasts conducted by LA Opera's Richard Seaver Music Director James Conlon. All of the broadcasts will begin at 10:30am (Pacific Time).

The "LA Opera on Air" broadcasts will subsequently be syndicated throughout the United States and internationally on the WFMT Radio Network beginning on Saturday, June 27, 2009.

Classical KUSC is the largest non-profit classical music station in the country, and the most listened to public radio station in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The station is dedicated to preserving classical music as a living art. Located in downtown Los Angeles, Classical KUSC uses digital transmission technology to broadcast commercial-free uninterrupted classical performances. The non-profit, listener-supported station has been broadcasting for over 60 years. The station is a broadcast service of the University of Southern California at 91.5(FM) in Los Angeles and Santa Clarita; 88.5 KPSC in Palm Springs; 91.1 KDSC in Thousand Oaks, and 88.7 KQSC in Santa Barbara. For more information, please visit [www.kusc.org](http://www.kusc.org).

Celebrating its 22<sup>nd</sup> Season, Los Angeles Opera has become, under the leadership of Eli and Edythe Broad General Director Plácido Domingo and Richard Seaver Music Director James Conlon, the nation's fourth largest opera company and a renowned producer of works from the classical and contemporary repertoires. The coming 2009/10 Season includes Donizetti's beloved *L'Elisir d'Amore* featuring the Company debuts of tenor Giuseppe Filianoti and bass Ruggero Raimondi, the Company premiere of Handel's *Bajazet* starring Plácido Domingo, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* featuring Juan Diego Flórez, Joyce DiDonato and Nathan Gunn, the U.S. premiere of Schreker's *The Stigmatized (Die Gezeichneten)* and the final two installments — *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung* — of a new Achim Freyer production of Wagner's monumental four-opera *Ring* cycle. The regular season will be followed by three complete *Ring* cycles (the first ever presented in Los Angeles) from May 29 through June 26, 2010, celebrated with the citywide *Ring Festival LA*. For more information, please visit [www.laopera.com](http://www.laopera.com).

can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery:  
<http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=collection&id=6>

Artist biographies, synopsis and background information can be found on the LA Opera website:  
<http://laopera.com>

Rolex is the Official Timepiece of LA Opera  
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### **“LA Opera on Air”**

#### **Broadcast Schedule on Classical KUSC 91.5 FM and the WFMT Radio Network**

##### *Il Trittico*

**KUSC: Saturday, May 9, 10:30am**

**WFMT: Saturday, June 27\***

Bringing fresh insight to Puccini’s trilogy of one-act operas are two Academy Award-winning filmmakers.

**William Friedkin** directs *Il Tabarro* and *Suor Angelica* and **Woody Allen** makes his opera debut directing *Gianni Schicchi*. *Il Tabarro* (“The Cloak”), the story of a passionate love triangle that leads to a tragic end, features baritone **Mark Delavan**, tenor **Salvatore Licitra** and soprano **Anja Kampe**. *Suor Angelica* (“Sister Angelica”) tells the heart-rending tale of a cloistered nun with a worldly secret. Soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky** sings the title role, joined by mezzo-soprano **Larissa Diadkova**. *Gianni Schicchi*, a fast-paced comedy about relatives squabbling for an inheritance, features baritone **Thomas Allen** in the title role along with soprano **Laura Tatulescu** and tenor **Saimir Pirgu**.

Conducted by **James Conlon** and sung in Italian. Estimated running time: four hours.

##### *The Fly*

**KUSC: Saturday, May 16, 10:30am**

**WFMT: Saturday, July 4\***

LA Opera commissioned this unique new opera created by Oscar-winning composer **Howard Shore** (*Lord of the Rings*) based on the original 1957 George Langelaan short story as well as David Cronenberg’s 1986 film, with a libretto by the Tony Award-winning playwright **David Henry Hwang** (*M. Butterfly*). In its metamorphosis into an opera, this dark romantic tragedy presents a Kafkaesque meditation on man’s uneasy relationship with technology. Bass-baritone **Daniel Okulitch** stars as the doomed scientist Seth Brundle, with mezzo-soprano **Ruxandra Donose** as his girlfriend Veronica Quaife.

Conducted by **Plácido Domingo** and sung in English. Estimated running time: three hours.

##### *Madama Butterfly*

**KUSC: Saturday, May 30, 10:30am**

Composer Giacomo Puccini described *Madama Butterfly* as his most “deeply felt and imaginative opera.”

Soprano **Liping Zhang**, who made an indelible impression in her LA Opera debut, takes the part of the impressionable teenage geisha who commits herself to a man unworthy of her loyalty. The acclaimed Metropolitan Opera star **Franco Farina** appears as the callous Lieutenant Pinkerton.

Conducted by **James Conlon** and sung in Italian. Estimated running time: three hours.

##### *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*

**KUSC: Saturday, June 6, 10:30am**

**WFMT: Saturday, August 1\***

From composer Kurt Weill and playwright Bertolt Brecht, the creators of *The Threepenny Opera*, comes a savage and lyrical satire told in a highly entertaining blend of opera and raucous music hall songs. The haunting score crosses over from opera to cabaret to Broadway including ragtime, jazz and the classic pop hit “Moon of Alabama.” The production, which stars Tony-Award winners Audra McDonald and Patti LuPone along with tenor Anthony Dean Griffey, was released on DVD by EuroArts which won Grammy Awards for Best Classical Album and Best Opera Recording earlier this year.

Conducted by **James Conlon** and sung in English. Estimated running time: two hours, fifteen minutes.

### *Das Rheingold*

**KUSC: Saturday, June 13, 10:30am**

**WFMT: Saturday, July 11\***

Gods, goddesses, giants, and dwarves struggle to be lords of the ring, but as Wagner’s mammoth *Der Ring des Nibelungen* unfolds, the ring’s curse unleashes its vengeance. As the king of the gods, **Vitalij Kowaljow**, a powerful Ukrainian bass, is a “refined Wotan, expressive and subtle” (*Los Angeles Times*). Wotan’s insistent wife Fricka is **Michelle DeYoung** a “remarkably powerful mezzo” (*Opera Today*). Also featured are **Arnold Bezuyen** as Loge, **Gordon Hawkins** as Alberich and **Graham Clark** as Mime.

Conducted by **James Conlon** and sung in German. Estimated running time: three hours.

### *Die Walküre*

**KUSC: Saturday, June 20, 10:30am**

**WFMT: Saturday, July 18\***

As Wagner’s epic *Ring* cycle continues, Wotan, king of the gods, hopes that his mortal son Siegmund might help him regain the ring. But Siegmund’s adulterous and incestuous love for his twin sister Sieglinde infuriates Fricka, goddess of marriage. Brünnhilde (the titular Valkyrie, one of Wotan’s divine warrior maiden daughters) attempts to protect Siegmund, but her bold disobedience leads to a terrible punishment. Starring **Plácido Domingo** and soprano **Anja Kampe**, “the definitive Sieglinde and Siegmund of this century’s first decade” (*The Washington Post*). A world-celebrated cast includes **Linda Watson** (Brünnhilde), **Michelle DeYoung** (Fricka), **Vitalij Kowaljow** (Wotan) and **Eric Halfvarson** (Hunding).

Conducted by **James Conlon** and sung in German. Estimated running time: five hours.

### *The Birds*

**KUSC: Saturday, June 27, 10:30am**

**WFMT: Saturday, July 25\***

LA Opera has won acclaim for its ongoing exploration of long forgotten masterpieces by the lost generation of composers affected by the Holocaust. German composer Walter Braunfels (1882-1954) freely adapted the classic Aristophanes comedy *The Birds* to create what he described as an “airy play of imagination.” “It requires but a few seconds of the opera’s prelude to discover why audiences in Munich fell in love with this score...

[James Conlon] conducted a marvelous performance Saturday, and the orchestra sounded radiant” (*Los Angeles Times*). Soprano **Désirée Rancatore** performs the high-flying coloratura role of the Nightingale. Winner of the 2007 Richard Tucker Award, tenor **Brandon Jovanovich** plays the role of Good Hope, with baritone **James Johnson** as his traveling companion Loyal Friend and baritone **Martin Gantner** as the King of the Birds.

Conducted by **James Conlon** and sung in German. Estimated running time: three hours.

### *Verdi Requiem*

**KUSC: Saturday, July 4, 10:30am**

**WFMT: Saturday, August 8\***

**Plácido Domingo** conducts LA Opera’s first ever performance of the Verdi *Requiem*, dedicating this concert to the memories of tenor Luciano Pavarotti and Edgar Baitzel, the Company’s late Chief Operating Officer.

Soprano **Adrienne Pieczonka**, mezzo-soprano **Stephanie Blythe**, tenor **Arturo Chacón-Cruz** and bass **René Pape** make up the world-class quartet of soloists, joined by the Los Angeles Opera Chorus under the direction of Chorus Master **Grant Gershon**.

Conducted by **Plácido Domingo** and sung in Latin. Estimated running time: 90 minutes.

\*Broadcast dates and times on the WFMT Radio Network vary in differing media markets; check local listings.

