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**Plácido Domingo Announces DVD Releases  
of Two Productions from 2006/07 LA Opera Season**

Thirteen/WNET's "Great Performances" to Air  
Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*  
Starring **Audra McDonald**, **Patti LuPone** and **Anthony Dean Griffey**,  
on December 17, 2007, with DVD Release on December 18, 2007

Program to Air Locally on KCET on December 22, 2007

Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata* Starring  
**Renée Fleming**, **Rolando Villazón** and **Renato Bruson**,  
to be Released by Decca on DVD October 30, 2007

Both Productions Conducted by Company's Music Director **James Conlon**

(Los Angeles, CA) October 19, 2007 – "Thirteen/WNET's 'Great Performances' will air a special broadcast of LA Opera's recent production of Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* on December 17, 2007, with a high-definition DVD release to follow on December 18, 2007, by EuroArts Music International," announced **Plácido Domingo**, Eli and Edythe Broad General Director of LA Opera. "The program will air locally on KCET at 2:00pm on Saturday, December 22, 2007. This will be LA Opera's second-ever televised production, after a 1995 'Great Performances' broadcast of *El Gato Montés*. I am proud that this extraordinary production, starring Broadway legends **Audra McDonald** and **Patti LuPone** as well as tenor **Anthony Dean Griffey** in their Company debuts, and conducted by Music Director **James Conlon**, will be seen by audiences around the globe, in a wonderfully theatrical production by **John Doyle**. Additionally, the Company has joined in a partnership with Decca to produce a DVD of the Company's September 2006 production of Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*, featuring a stellar cast led by **Renée Fleming** in

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her Company stage debut and conducted by **James Conlon** in his Company debut as Music Director. The incredible performances of these powerful masterworks will now be captured for present as well as future generations of opera lovers. Not only do the recordings capture the exciting musical and theatrical aspects of these productions using state-of-the-art modern technology, they will help bring LA Opera's artistic profile to even greater national and international audiences."

LA Opera's first high-definition DVD releases mark a major new step in documenting the Company's stage productions. Future DVD releases of additional productions from LA Opera will be announced at a later date.

*Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, with music by **Kurt Weill** and book and lyrics by the influential playwright **Bertolt Brecht**, is an edgy and lyrical satire told in a highly entertaining blend of opera and raucous music hall songs, and features the classic song "Moon of Alabama." Filmed in February 2007, LA Opera's new production was conducted by Music Director **James Conlon** and directed by **John Doyle**, who won the 2006 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical for his Broadway production of *Sweeney Todd*. *Mahagonny* features a noteworthy cast of operatic and musical theater luminaries headed by Tony Award winners **Audra McDonald** as Jenny Smith and **Patti LuPone** as Leocadia Begbick. Also featured in the cast are tenor **Anthony Dean Griffey** as Jimmy MacIntyre, tenor **Robert Wörle** as Fatty the Bookkeeper, tenor **John Easterlin** as Jack O'Brien, baritone **Mel Ulrich** as Bank Account Bill, baritone **Donnie Ray Albert** as Trinity Moses, tenor **Derek Taylor** as Toby Higgins and bass **Steven Humes** as Alaska Wolf Joe. The production is designed by set designer **Mark Bailey**, costume designer **Ann Hould-Ward**, lighting designer **Thomas C. Hase** and sound designer **Dan Moses Schreier**. **Gary Halvorson** was the video director.

Special funding for the filming of the *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* was provided by Eva and Marc Stern. The LA Opera production was made possible by a generous gift from Laura Donnelley, with additional generous support from The James Irvine Foundation and Marvin Antonowsky.

LA Opera's *La Traviata*, featuring superstar American soprano **Renée Fleming** in her LA Opera stage debut as Violetta, will be released on high-definition DVD by Decca on October 30, 2007. The performance also

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stars two other world-class artists: Mexican tenor **Rolando Villazón** as Alfredo Germont and Italian baritone **Renato Bruson** as Giorgio Germont. Recorded in September 2006, the performance was conducted by Music Director **James Conlon** in his Company debut. The choreographer was **Kitty McNamee** and the production was directed by **Marta Domingo**. The video director is **Brian Large**.

The production of *La Traviata* was made possible by Malsi Doyle and Michael Forman and CulturArte de Puerto Rico and Bertita and Guillermo L. Martinez. Additional generous support for the production and filming of this production provided by CulturArte de Puerto Rico and Bertita and Guillermo L. Martinez, Marc and Eva Stern Foundation, Selim K. Zilkha and Mary Hayley/Selim K. Zilkha Foundation, Tony Ressler and Jami Gertz/Ares Management, Lloyd E. Rigler-Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation, Barbara Augusta Teichert, Craig Garner, and Moshe Barkat and Evelina Haroutunian.

Production and cast photos for *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery: <http://www.laopera.com/press/2006-07/mahagonny.d>

Production and cast photos for *La Traviata* can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery: [http://search.laopera.com/press\\_photo/index.asp?productionid=201](http://search.laopera.com/press_photo/index.asp?productionid=201)

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