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Plácido Domingo 40th Anniversary Gala
to be Broadcast Live
on Classical KUSC 91.5 FM

Friday, April 18, 2008 at 7:30PM

(Los Angeles, CA) April 15, 2008 – On November 17, 1967, a young singer on tour in Los Angeles with the New York City Opera took to the stage of the new Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, to sing the title role in Alberto Ginastera’s *Don Rodrigo*. Few people in the audience that evening might have known the name of **Plácido Domingo**, but the fast-rising Spanish tenor would soon become one of the world’s greatest opera stars. To honor his extraordinary achievements, LA Opera will present a special one-night-only concert, *The Plácido Domingo 40th Anniversary Gala*, featuring performances by Mr. Domingo and soprano **Patricia Racette** and with LA Opera’s Music Director, **James Conlon**, conducting the LA Opera Orchestra. The Gala will be broadcast and streamed live on **Classical KUSC 91.5 FM** at 7:30pm on Friday, April 18, 2008, hosted by Duff Murphy and Kimberlea Daggy with additional commentary by Jim Svedja.

The live radio broadcast of *The Plácido Domingo 40th Anniversary Gala* is an extension of the LA Opera’s new partnership with Classical KUSC on the broadcast series “LA Opera on Air,” which began last year with broadcasts of performances from the Company’s 2006/07 season to local, national and international audiences, and will soon resume with performances from LA Opera’s 2007/08 season. *The Plácido Domingo 40th Anniversary Gala* will also be available online for streaming at www.kusc.org.

Classical KUSC is the largest non-profit classical music station in the country. Located in downtown Los Angeles, the listener-supported station has been broadcasting for 60 years, and is a broadcast service of the University of Southern California. KUSC's most recent live broadcasts from LA Opera were performances of Beethoven's *Fidelio* and the Verdi *Requiem* last September, during the opening weekend of the 2006/07 season. This was the first time that LA Opera's opening night performances had been broadcast live since the Company's inaugural performance of *Otello*, starring Plácido Domingo, in 1986.

Plácido Domingo, who holds the title of Eli and Edythe Broad General Director of LA Opera, will perform at the Gala with the internationally renowned soprano **Patricia Racette**, who will be featured in solos and duets with Mr. Domingo. LA Opera Music Director **James Conlon** will conduct the LA Opera Orchestra. The festivities will continue with a black-tie benefit, featuring a sumptuous dinner and dancing outdoors on the Music Center Plaza. The 500 benefit guests will include civic, cultural, business and philanthropic leadership from Los Angeles and from throughout the United States, as well as distinguished guests from abroad. The Gala is chaired by Marc and Eva Stern and by Carol and Warner Henry. The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion is located at 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90012.

Plácido Domingo has achieved worldwide renown as a singer, conductor and arts administrator. In the four decades since his Los Angeles debut, he has made an exceptional mark on the city, helping transform it into one of the world's most vital and artistically unique operatic centers. He performed one of his signature roles, *Otello*, for LA Opera's inaugural production in 1986, and appears with the Company frequently as both singer and conductor. He has been an important and vital presence in LA Opera's artistic administration, having served as Artistic Consultant and Artistic Director before becoming the Eli and Edythe Broad General Director in 2003.

In addition to his position as Music Director of LA Opera, **James Conlon** became Music Director of the Ravinia Festival in 2005. He has served as Principal Conductor of the Paris Opera, General Music Director of the City of Cologne and Music Director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic. He has conducted more than 250 performances at the Metropolitan Opera since 1976. Soprano **Patricia Racette** made her LA Opera debut in 2006 in *Madama Butterfly* and will return as Magda in the Company's June 2008 performances of *La Rondine*. She has performed

with the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Covent Garden, Vienna State Opera, La Scala and Paris Opera.

The Plácido Domingo 40th Anniversary Gala will take place on April 18 at 7:30pm at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Individual tickets for the Performance only start at \$60. Additional Performance and Gala Dinner packages begin at \$1250. Tickets can be purchased at the LA Opera Box Office, by phone at (213) 972-8001 or online at www.laopera.com. For disability access, call (213) 972-0777 or e-mail wehelpyou@laopera.com.

Artist headshots can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery:
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