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“LA Opera on Air”

New Radio Broadcasts Featuring LA Opera’s 2006/07 Season Begin Saturday, May 12, 10:30am on Classical KUSC

*WFMT Radio Network also to syndicate “LA Opera on Air” in major
U.S. Markets, July 7 through August 25*

Los Angeles, CA (May 9, 2007) – “LA Opera has teamed with Classical KUSC to produce ‘LA Opera on Air,’ a new radio program that will be broadcast locally on KUSC at 91.5 FM beginning Saturday, May 12 at 10:30am following the conclusion of the Metropolitan Opera’s 2006/07 broadcast season,” said Plácido Domingo, Eli and Edythe Broad General Director. “I am delighted that Los Angeles Opera will also be able to reach a truly nationwide audience, as ‘LA Opera on Air’ will also be broadcast on the WFMT Radio Network beginning Saturday, July 7, and syndicated to over 150 radio stations nationally including stations in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Houston and Washington, DC. Our city’s audiences have come to expect dazzlingly creative productions from a wide-ranging repertoire, from the most beloved of all operas to exciting, nontraditional works. Our productions are also brought to life in our theater by some of the greatest singers of our time. I am proud of the work that we are doing here and I hope that opera lovers from all over the United States will greatly enjoy these wonderful performances.”

A new initiative to make the LA Opera’s critically-acclaimed productions accessible to a new and wide-ranging audience, “LA Opera on Air” is a series of live recordings of the 2006/07 Season’s productions, which were presented at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, that interweaves pre-taped interviews and commentaries with select cast members, directors and conductors into the program. Produced by Classical KUSC in association with LA Opera, “LA Opera on Air” begins an 11 episode run

locally on KUSC 91.5 FM on Saturday, May 12 and an eight episode run nationally on the WFMT Radio Network, Chicago, on July 7 with *La Traviata* starring Renée Fleming and Rolando Villazón conducted by LA Opera's Music Director James Conlon. A full schedule of programs appears below and is available online at www.laopera.com/radio.

"LA Opera on Air," hosted by Duff Murphy and produced by Gail Eichenthal, runs May 12 through July 21 on consecutive Saturday mornings at 10:30am on KUSC and will be available online for streaming at www.kusc.org. Eight shows of "LA Opera on Air" will be aired on the WFMT Radio Network as part of the landmark series of 30 broadcast performances recorded live by four major U.S. opera companies – LA Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera and San Francisco Opera. Designed to give public and commercial stations outstanding live performances and to air between the spring and winter Metropolitan Opera broadcasts, WFMT's programs will be heard on consecutive Saturday mornings from May 12 through December 1, 2007. "LA Opera on Air" will be broadcast on WFMT Radio Network from July 7 through August 25 and includes *La Traviata*, *Don Carlo*, *Luisa Fernanda*, *Manon*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *Porgy and Bess*, *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* and *Tannhäuser*. Broadcasts will be heard on WQXR-FM, New York; WFMT-FM, Chicago; KUSF-FM, San Francisco; WUHF-FM, Houston and WETA-FM, Washington, DC among over 150 other radio stations in over 30 U.S. states and Puerto Rico.

Duff Murphy is host of the current Saturday morning Classical KUSC program "Opera Show." He is also regularly speaks about LA Opera's productions at the Company's pre-performance lectures at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Gail Eichenthal is the Director of Arts Programming for KUSC and is the longtime host and producer of LA Philharmonic national radio broadcasts. The producing team also includes audio producer Fred Vogler, associate producer Brian Lauritzen, post-production engineer Mark Hatwan and LA Opera coordinating producer Gary Murphy. "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, and The Seaver Institute.

In just 21 seasons, LA Opera has become, under the leadership of the Eli and Edythe Broad General Director Plácido Domingo, the fourth largest opera company in the United States and touted as "...a newly important force in American Opera" (Mark Swed, *Los Angeles Times*). Since the inaugural production, the Company has continued to present leading productions in the standard repertory as well as new and rarely-staged operas. The Company brings prominent Los Angeles artists, many of them from the world of Hollywood, together with world-renowned singers, designers, directors and conductors to create productions that attract the attention of international audiences and critics. In 2006, James Conlon, one of the world's preeminent conductors, became Music Director of LA Opera and has conducted five productions during his inaugural season with the Company.

"LA Opera on Air"

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

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

La Traviata**KUSC: Saturday, May 12, 10:30am****WFMT: Saturday, July 7***

Verdi's beloved *La Traviata* features a dream cast conducted by LA Opera's new Music Director James Conlon in his Company debut. Renée Fleming stars as Violetta, the beautiful courtesan. Joining her are Rolando Villazón as her young lover Alfredo, and Renato Bruson as Giorgio Germont.

Don Carlo**KUSC: Saturday, May 19, 10:30am****WFMT: Saturday, July 14***

One of Verdi's noblest works, *Don Carlo* is an enthralling tale of morality and mortality in which some of opera's most memorable characters come to life against a spectacular backdrop of social revolution, military conflict and an endless flow of rapturous melodies. LA Opera's Music Director James Conlon conducts a new production, directed by Ian Judge, with a brilliant cast headed by tenor Salvatore Licitra. Also starring Annalisa Raspagliosi, Dolora Zajick, Lado Ataneli, Ferruccio Furlanetto and Eric Halfvarson.

Manon**KUSC: Saturday, May 26, 10:30am****WFMT: Saturday, July 28***

Massenet's exquisite score illuminates a decadent, divine and quintessentially French human drama. One of opera's most dynamic onstage couples, Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazón, are reunited in a dazzling production conducted by Plácido Domingo and directed by Vincent Paterson. Also starring David Pittsinger, Hyung Yun, Ryland Davies and Dale Travis.

Hansel and Gretel**KUSC: Saturday, June 2, 10:30am**

The classic children's fairy tale comes to the operatic stage in a uniquely charming work. Alan Gilbert conducts a new production created by celebrated director, artist and designer Douglas Fitch. The virtuoso character tenor Graham Clark makes his Company debut as the delightfully evil Witch. Also starring Lucy Schauer, Maria Kanyova, Donnie Ray Albert and Luana DeVol.

L'incoronazione di Poppea**KUSC: Saturday, June 9, 10:30am****WFMT: Saturday, August 4***

Monteverdi's Baroque masterpiece captures the splendor and corruption of ancient Rome in director Pierre Audi's celebrated production from the Netherlands Opera, which is conducted by early music specialist Harry Bicket. Featured in the cast are Susan Graham, Frederica von Stade, Christine Brandes, David Daniels, Kurt Streit and Reinhard Hagen.

Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny**KUSC: Saturday, June 16, 10:30am****WFMT: Saturday, August 18**

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, conducted by Music Director James Conlon. The production stars Tony-Award winners Audra McDonald and Patti LuPone with tenor Anthony Dean Griffey, and is directed by Tony Award winning director John Doyle.

Tannhäuser

KUSC: Saturday, June 23, 10:30am

WFMT: Saturday, August 25*

Wagner's romantic masterpiece luxuriates in voluptuous orchestrations and sumptuous melodies, conducted by James Conlon. Starring Peter Seiffert, Petra Maria Schnitzer, Franz-Josef Selig, Martin Gantner and Lioba Braun.

Recovered Voices

KUSC: Saturday, June 30, 10:30am

Music Director James Conlon conducts the inaugural concert of the newly initiated *Recovered Voices* series, which focuses on the works by composers affected by the Holocaust. The repertory includes selections by Franz Schreker, Walter Braunfels, Ernst Krenek, Viktor Ullmann, Erwin Schulhoff and Erich Korngold, and features a complete performance of Alexander Zemlinsky's *Eine florentinische Tragödie (A Florentine Tragedy)*, a one-act opera based on Oscar Wilde's play of the same name, starring Donnie Ray Albert, Anthony Dean Griffey and Tatiana Pavlovskaya.

The Merry Widow

KUSC: Saturday, July 7, 10:30am

Susan Graham and Rod Gilfry star in one of the most beloved of all operettas. Franz Lehár's ravishing score dances and dazzles its way to a delightfully perfect conclusion. Director Lotfi Mansouri's opulent production revels in romantic intrigue, splashy production numbers and timeless Viennese waltzes.

Porgy and Bess

KUSC: Saturday, July 14, 10:30am

WFMT: Saturday, August 11*

George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* is a treasure trove of heartfelt American song. Chronicling the life and struggles of an African-American community in South Carolina, this classic tale of love found and lost has captivated generations of both opera lovers and Broadway fans. Francesca Zambello directs a theatrically vivid production conducted by John DeMain. Starring Kevin Short as Porgy and Morenike Fadayomi as Bess.

Luisa Fernanda

KUSC: Saturday, July 21, 10:30am

WFMT: Saturday, July 21*

Luisa Fernanda is the last of the great romantic *zarzuelas*. Conductor Miguel Roa captures the authentic spirit of the simple and yet sophisticated masterwork of popular Spanish musical theater, in which a tangled love triangle leads to an unexpectedly heart-tugging conclusion. The son of renowned *zarzuela* performers, Plácido Domingo stars in a work close to his heart as the goodhearted Vidal Hernando, willing to give up the woman he adores in the cause of true love. Also starring María José Montiel and Antonio Gandía.

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