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LA Opera Presents Rossini's***The Barber of Seville***
(Il Barbiere di Siviglia)

Michele Mariotti Conducts Production
from Spain's Teatro Real Directed by Emilio Sagi

Nathan Gunn Stars in Title Role with
Juan Diego Flórez and Joyce DiDonato in Company Debuts

Sunday, November 29 through Saturday, December 19, 2009

(Los Angeles, CA) November 2, 2009 – LA Opera will present Gioachino Rossini's popular *bel canto* comedy *The Barber of Seville (Il Barbiere di Siviglia)* in an enchanting production new to Los Angeles opening on Saturday, November 29, 2009. “*The Barber of Seville* is an opera whose appeal is known and enjoyed worldwide,” said **Plácido Domingo**, LA Opera's Eli and Edythe Broad General Director. “I am delighted that we have been able to assemble a world-class cast of performers, many of them making their Company debuts, who will bring wonderful life to the musical wit and brilliance of this comic masterpiece.” Led by Italian conductor **Michele Mariotti**, the opening cast (also performing on December 2, 6, 9, 13, 16 and on the evening performance on December 19) features baritone **Nathan Gunn** as Figaro, Peruvian tenor **Juan Diego Flórez** in his first LA Opera role as Count Almaviva, Operalia winner mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato** in her Company debut as Rosina, Italian bass-baritone **Bruno Praticò** in his Company debut as Doctor Bartolo, and Italian bass **Andrea Silvestrelli** as Don Basilio. On December 5 and 12 as well as the matinee performance on December 19, the cast is headed by baritone **Lucas Meachem** in his Company debut as Figaro, joined by Russian tenor **Dmitry Korchak**, an Operalia winner, in his Company debut as Count Almaviva, soprano **Sarah Coburn** as Rosina, bass-baritone **Philip Cokorinos** as Doctor Bartolo and bass-baritone **Ryan McKinny** as Don Basilio. Spanish director **Emilio Sagi** returns to stage a production which he originally created for the Teatro Real in Madrid, with scenery designed by **Llorenç Corbella**, costumes designed by **Renata Schussheim** and lighting designed by **Eduardo Bravo**. The choreographer is **Nuria Castejón**. *The Barber of Seville* will run for a total of

ten performances from November 29 through December 19, 2009. All performances will take place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles CA, 90012. Tickets to *The Barber of Seville* range from \$20 to \$260, and are on sale at the LA Opera Box Office, by phone at (213) 972-8001 or online at www.laopera.com.

Rossini's 1816 opera was based on an immensely popular 1775 play by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais. Beaumarchais wrote two subsequent "Figaro" plays, the second of which, *The Marriage of Figaro*, was adapted for the operatic stage by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1786. In *The Barber of Seville*, the resourceful barber Figaro comes to the aid of his former master, Count Almaviva. The handsome Count is deliriously in love with the ravishing young Rosina, a ward of old Doctor Bartolo, who is determined to marry her himself. Rossini's razor-sharp wit glints through every scene in this riotous yet musically elegant comedy, one of the most popular in the operatic repertoire.

The Barber of Seville opens on Sunday, November 29, 2009 at 2:00pm with subsequent evening performances at 7:30pm on December 2, 5, 9 and 16 and at 8:00pm on December 19. There will be matinee performances at 2:00pm on December 6 and 13, at 12:00pm on December 12 and at 1:00pm on December 19. For disability access, call (213) 972-0777 or e-mail wehelpyou@laopera.com.

**Production made possible by generous gifts from the
Lloyd E. Rigler – Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation
and Synne H. Miller & the late Paul A. Miller.**

Artist headshots and production photos can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery:
<http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=album&id=65>

Artist biographies, synopsis and background information can be found on the LA Opera website:
<http://www.laopera.com/production/0910/barber/index.aspx>

All programs, artists and dates are subject to change.
The Barber of Seville will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.

Production from Teatro Real, Madrid.

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