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**LA Opera to Present Special Gala Evening
Celebrating Plácido Domingo's
40 Years in Los Angeles**

***Plácido Domingo 40th Anniversary Gala Will Feature
Plácido Domingo Performing Arias, Songs and Duets with
Soprano Patricia Racette and
James Conlon Conducting LA Opera Orchestra***

Friday, April 18, 2008 at 7:30PM

(Los Angeles, CA) March 24, 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 eventually become not only one of the world's best known opera stars, but also one of the most important artists in modern history. To honor his extraordinary achievements and commemorate the 40th anniversary of his debut on the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion stage, LA Opera will present a special one-night-only event, *The Plácido Domingo 40th Anniversary Gala* at 7:30pm on Friday evening, April 18, 2008.

Plácido Domingo, who now 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 Gala 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.

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Plácido Domingo has achieved worldwide renown as a singer, conductor and arts administrator. He has performed 126 different roles – more than any other tenor in the history of music. He has sung in every major opera house in the world and has made well over 100 recordings (earning 11 Grammy Awards), more than 50 videos and three theatrically released films: *La Traviata*, *Otello* and *Carmen*. In its April 2008 issue, the *BBC Music Magazine* hailed him as the “greatest tenor of all time,” the result of a poll of 16 renowned opera critics and experts. As a conductor, he has led opera performances in all the important theaters, from the Metropolitan to London’s Covent Garden and the Vienna State Opera, and he has conducted symphonic concerts with such renowned orchestras as the Berlin Philharmonic, the London Symphony and the Chicago Symphony. As administrator, he was the music director of the Seville World’s Fair and in this capacity invited the world’s foremost orchestras and opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, to Seville. In addition to his role as general director for LA Opera, he is also the general director of the Washington National Opera. Mr. Domingo’s interest in helping young singers has led to the formation of LA Opera’s Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program, as well as his yearly competition *Operalia*, which remains the biggest competition on the international opera scene.

In the 40 years since Mr. Domingo’s debut season in Los Angeles, he has made an exceptional mark on the city’s cultural life, helping transform Los Angeles from the only major western city without a resident opera company to the home of one of the world’s most vital and artistically unique operatic centers. He has sung a total of 22 different roles in 120 opera performances in Los Angeles since his 1967 debut here, and he has also conducted 52 performances of 10 different operas. In addition to his 1967 appearance in *Don Rodrigo*, Mr. Domingo subsequently performed the roles of Alfredo in *La Traviata* and Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* as part of the New York City Opera’s tour to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. He made his debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 1971 at the Hollywood Bowl, singing the role of Alfredo in *La Traviata*. He returned to the Chandler stage in 1984 with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, as Calaf in *Turandot* for the Olympic Arts Festival. Mr. Domingo performed one of his signature roles, *Otello*, for LA Opera’s inaugural production in 1986, and has returned to the Company stage frequently over the next two decades as both singer and conductor. He has been an important and vital presence in LA Opera’s artistic administration since the Company’s formation, having served as Artistic Consultant (since 1984) and Artistic Director (2001-2003) before he was named the Eli and Edythe Broad General Director in 2003. Other notable Los Angeles appearances include the 1994 “Three Tenors” concert at Dodger Stadium and his 2007 induction into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame.

One of the world’s preeminent conductors, **James Conlon** has cultivated a vast symphonic, operatic and choral repertoire, and has conducted virtually every prestigious symphony orchestra in the U.S. and Europe. In addition to his position as Music Director of LA Opera, he became Music Director of the Ravinia Festival in

2005, and has been Music Director of the Cincinnati May Festival since 1979. He has served as Principal Conductor of the Paris National Opera (1995-2004), General Music Director of the City of Cologne (1989-2002), and Music Director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic (1983-1991). He has conducted more than 250 performances at the Metropolitan Opera since 1976. Through worldwide touring, an extensive discography and frequent television appearances, he is one of today's most recognized conductors.

Soprano **Patricia Racette** made her LA Opera debut in 2006 in the title role of *Madama Butterfly* and will return as Magda in the Company's June 2008 performances of *La Rondine*. Winner of the prestigious 1998 Richard Tucker award, Ms. Racette has developed strong relationships with the Metropolitan Opera, the San Francisco Opera (where she is an alumna of the Merola Opera Program), the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Houston Grand Opera, and the Santa Fe Opera. Ms. Racette has also appeared at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and the Vienna State Opera; the Teatro alla Scala, the Welsh National Opera, Opera National de Paris (Bastille), the Saito Kinen Festival, and the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

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 range from \$20 to \$500, with most ticket prices including a tax-deductible contribution to support LA Opera's artistic, educational and community outreach activities. Performance and Gala Dinner packages begin at \$1250 and tables of ten are available for underwriters at \$50,000. Tickets can be reserved 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.

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