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Giorgio Caoduro Replaces Ruggero Raimondi in LA Opera's Season-Opening Production of *L'Elisir d'Amore (The Elixir of Love)*

(Los Angeles, CA) September 4, 2009 – **Plácido Domingo**, LA Opera's Eli and Edythe Broad General Director, announced that Italian baritone **Giorgio Caoduro** will replace **Ruggero Raimondi** in the role of Doctor Dulcamara in the Company's season-opening production of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love (L'Elisir d'Amore)*, opening on September 12 and running through September 30, 2009. Mr. Raimondi ruptured his Achilles tendon during early rehearsals, aggravating a previous injury, and was forced to undergo surgery in Los Angeles on August 28. Although the surgery was extremely successful and Mr. Raimondi is expected to make a speedy and full recovery, the healing process requires that his ankle must be immobilized for several weeks, and he is therefore unable to continue in the production.

“Ruggero Raimondi, one of the great Italian basses of all time, has been a treasured colleague and friend of mine for several decades,” said Mr. Domingo. “Naturally we are all very disappointed that an artist of his stature has had to leave the production, but we wish him a speedy recovery and hope to reengage him for his LA Opera debut in the future. In the meantime, we are fortunate indeed to have been able to engage Giorgio Caoduro to make his Company debut as Dulcamara. He has already built up a truly impressive list of achievements in his young career, and I know that our audiences will welcome this exciting addition to our Company.”

Born in 1980, Italian baritone Giorgio Caoduro has already performed leading roles in many of the world's most important opera houses. Recent engagements have included Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore* at San Francisco Opera and Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin as well as in Turin, Genoa and Rome; Dulcamara in the same opera with Circuito Lirico Lombardo; Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Berlin's Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Deutsche Oper Berlin and the Aix-en-Provence Festival; Dandini in *La Cenerentola* at the Glyndebourne Festival, the Opéra National de Paris, the Teatro Comunale di Bologna and Frankfurt Opera; Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Opéra National de Paris, Stuttgart Staatstheater and Dallas Opera; Haly in *L'Italiana in Algeri* at La Scala in Milan; the title role in *Orfeo* at the Stuttgart Staatstheater; and Ping in *Turandot* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in London, the Teatro La Fenice in Venice and the Teatro San Carlo in Naples. Upcoming engagements include the roles of Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore* and Figaro in a new production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at La Scala, Marcello in *La Bohème* in Berlin, Ping in *Turandot* in Monte Carlo, and Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in Toulouse.

Mr. Caoduro's photograph can be found at: <http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=picture&id=1611>