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## **LA Opera Opens 2009/10 Season with Gaetano Donizetti's**

### ***The Elixir of Love*** ***(L'Elisir d'Amore)***

**James Conlon to Conduct Revival**  
**Directed by Stephen Lawless**

***Production Features Company Debuts of Tenor Giuseppe Filianoti,  
Soprano Nino Machaidze and Baritone Giorgio Caoduro,  
and the Return of Baritone Nathan Gunn***

Saturday, September 12 through Wednesday, September 30, 2009

(Los Angeles, CA) August 13, 2009 – **Plácido Domingo**, LA Opera's Eli and Edythe Broad General Director, announced that the Company will open its 2009/10 season with a revival of its popular production of Gaetano Donizetti's *bel canto* masterpiece, ***The Elixir of Love (L'Elisir d'Amore)*** opening on Saturday, September 12 at 6:00pm. The production will be conducted by **James Conlon**, the Company's Richard Seaver Music Director, and directed by **Stephen Lawless**, who returns to direct a production that he previously staged here in 1996 and 1999. "LA Opera audiences will be charmed by the season-opening revival of *L'Elisir d'Amore*, the first *bel canto* opera to be seen here since *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2003," said Mr. Domingo. "This production will introduce three remarkable singers in their first appearances with LA Opera, as well as the return of one of America's favorite baritones." ***The Elixir of Love*** will run for a total of seven performances from September 12 through 30. All performances will take place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles CA, 90012. Tickets to ***The Elixir of Love*** 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](http://www.laopera.com).

LA Opera's revival of ***The Elixir of Love***, one of Donizetti's most enduring and popular comedies, features an all-star cast that includes several notable debuts. In the leading role of Nemorino, Italian tenor **Giuseppe Filianoti** makes his Company debut as a young peasant desperate to attract the notice of a beautiful

and wealthy landowner. The object of Nemorino's affection, Adina, will be performed by Georgian soprano **Nino Machaidze** in her U.S. debut. American baritone **Nathan Gunn**, who made his LA Opera debut last season as Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, will return as Sergeant Belcore, Nemorino's blustery rival for Adina's affections, and Italian baritone **Giorgio Caoduro** will make his Company debut as Doctor Dulcamara, who seems to offer Nemorino the solution to all of his problems. (Mr. Caoduro replaces the originally announced **Ruggero Raimondi**, who was forced to leave the production after rupturing his Achilles tendon, an injury that required surgery, during rehearsals.) Soprano **Valerie Vinzant**, a member of LA Opera's Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program, will perform the role of Giannetta. The scenery and costumes are designed by **Johan Engels** and the lighting is designed by **Joan Sullivan-Genthe**. **Grant Gershon** is the Associate Conductor / Chorus Master. The popular production, which has won universal praise for its staging and lively depiction of the Tuscan countryside, has been staged by director **Stephen Lawless** twice before in Los Angeles, as well as in Geneva, Madrid, Houston, Graz and Washington, D.C.

Filled with light-hearted charm and yearning romance, *The Elixir of Love* features effervescent Italian melodies and plenty of *bel canto* vocal fireworks. The titular "elixir of love" is a quack doctor's "magic" love potion that decides the fate of a love triangle involving a small-town bumpkin, a dashing sergeant and the bewitching town flirt in one of opera's most popular comedies. Donizetti's masterpiece beautifully counterpoises touching and comic elements to create an opera that ranges from heartfelt poignancy to unfettered joy. Musical highlights include Nemorino's poignant "Una furtiva lagrima," one of the most famous of all tenor arias.

*The Elixir of Love* opens on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 6:00pm with additional evening performances at 7:30pm on September 15, 22, 25 and 30, with Sunday matinees at 2:00pm on September 20 and 27. Performances will be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Tickets to *L'Elisir d'Amore* 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](http://www.laopera.com). For disability access, call (213) 972-0777 or e-mail [wehelpyou@laopera.com](mailto:wehelpyou@laopera.com).

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**Additional support from The Seaver Endowment**

Artist headshots and production photos can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery:  
<http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=album&id=67>

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

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

This is an LA Opera original production.

Rolex is the Official Timepiece of LA Opera  
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