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Elena Evseeva to Make LA Opera debut as Desdemona in Giuseppe Verdi's *Otello*

Cristina Gallardo-Domâs Withdraws from Opening Night Due to Illness

(LOS ANGELES, CA) February 15, 2008 – Soprano **Elena Evseeva** will make an unscheduled LA Opera debut as Desdemona at Saturday, February 16th's opening night performance of Giuseppe Verdi's *Otello*. **Elena Evseeva** replaces soprano **Cristina Gallardo-Domâs** who has withdrawn due to a strep throat infection. Ms. Gallardo-Domas is currently on a course of antibiotics and vocal rest and is expected to return to the role later in the production's run.

Russian soprano Elena Evseeva makes her LA Opera debut as Desdemona, a role which she performed for her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1999. Other Metropolitan Opera appearances include Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin*, Maria in *Mazepa* and numerous performances as Mimi in *La Bohème*, including a 2007 performance under the baton of Plácido Domingo. Other roles include Liu in *Turandot* and *The Snow Maiden* at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow (where she has been a member since 1994), Jaroslavna in *Prince Igor* in Strasbourg, Igor Stravinsky's *Les Noces* with the San Francisco Symphony, Musetta in *La Bohème* with the Opera Bastille in Paris, and appearances with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. The cast for *Otello* also includes tenor Ian Storey in the title role and baritone Mark Delavan as Iago. The conductor is LA Opera Music Director James Conlon, and the production is directed by John Cox.

Otello opens on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 7:30pm with additional evening performances on February 21, 24 and March 5 at 7:30pm; and matinee performances on February 27 at 1:00 pm (new weekday matinee), March 2 and March 9 at 2pm. All performances will be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Tickets to *Otello* range from \$20 to \$238, and are on sale 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.

Production made possible by a consortium of LA Opera Board Members. Artist headshots can be found at the LA Opera Press Gallery: <http://www.losangelesopera.com/press>