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September 2007

**LA Opera to Present Company Premiere of the
*Verdi Requiem***

At 2007/08 Opening Weekend Celebration

**Plácido Domingo Conducts LA Opera Orchestra and Chorus with Soloists
Adrienne Pieczonka, Stephanie Blythe, Jonas Kaufmann and René Pape**

What: Concluding the Gala opening Weekend Celebration, **Plácido Domingo** conducts this special concert of the first ever LA Opera presentation of this astounding work by Giuseppe Verdi performed by a quartet of world-class singers, soprano **Adrienne Pieczonka**, mezzo-soprano **Stephanie Blythe**, and in their Company debuts, tenor **Jonas Kaufmann** and bass **René Pape**. Although intensely dramatic in nature, the *Requiem* is the best known non-operatic work by Giuseppe Verdi, the greatest of all Italian opera composers. The *Requiem* was written to honor one of the central figures of 19th-Century Italian cultural life, Alessandro Manzoni. On the one-year anniversary of Manzoni's death, May 22, 1874, Verdi conducted the premiere of the *Requiem* at the Church of San Marco in Milan, with a repeat performance three days later at La Scala.

Who: Plácido Domingo conducts the LA Opera Orchestra and Chorus, prepared by Chorus Master/Associate Conductor **Grant Gershon** in his debut season, with soloists soprano Adrienne Pieczonka, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and tenor Jonas Kaufmann and bass René Pape who make their LA Opera debut.

When: **Sunday, September 9, 2pm**

Where: **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**, 135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Admission: Tickets to the **Verdi Requiem** range from \$15-\$250, 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.

Artist headshots can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery:
<http://www.laopera.com/press/2007-08/requiem/index.htm>

Verdi's *Requiem* will be sung in Latin with English supertitles projected above the stage.

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