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## **LA Opera Ends the 2007/08 Season with Giacomo Puccini's *La Rondine***

**Soprano Patricia Racette and Tenor Marcus Haddock  
Return to LA Opera in Leading Roles**

**Keri-Lynn Wilson to Conduct in Company Debut**

Saturday, June 7 – Saturday, June 28

(Los Angeles, CA) May 5, 2008 – “LA Opera will close its season with a production of Giacomo Puccini’s rarely staged *La Rondine*,” said **Plácido Domingo**, the Company’s Eli and Edythe Broad General Director. “*La Rondine* will be performed in repertoire with the same composer’s *Tosca* to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Giacomo Puccini, and the Puccini celebration will continue throughout 2008 with productions of *Il Trittico* and *Madama Butterfly* during the first half of the coming season.” LA Opera’s production of *La Rondine* opens on Saturday, June 7 at 7:30pm and continues for six additional performances through Saturday, June 28 at 7:30pm. Performances take place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90012.

A hidden gem in the Puccini repertoire, *La Rondine* is best known for its haunting aria, “Chi il bel sogno di Doretta.” A sweepingly romantic depiction of mistaken identities and true love, this Los Angeles Opera production was conceived and directed by **Marta Domingo**, whose opulent production of *La Traviata* opened the Company’s 2006/07 Season. Conductor **Keri-Lynn Wilson\*** will make her Company debut. Soprano **Patricia Racette**, whose previous LA Opera appearances include *Madama Butterfly* in 2006 and this year’s *Plácido Domingo 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala*, returns in the leading role of Magda. Tenor **Marcus Haddock** reprises his 2000 LA Opera appearance as Ruggero after other Company performances in *Madama Butterfly* (1994, 2006) and *Les Contes d’Hoffmann* (2002). Soprano **Amanda Squitieri\*** makes her LA Opera debut as Lisette, tenor **Greg Fedderly** returns as Prunier, and bass

**More....**

**David Pittsinger** returns as Rambaldo. Also featured are bass-baritone **Dale Travis** as Périchaud, baritone **Levi Hernandez** as Crébillon, pianist **Paul Floyd** as Gobin, mezzo-soprano **Silvia Vasquez\*** as Bianca and two members of the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program, sopranos **Karen Vuong** and **Angel Blue\***, as Yvette and Suzy. The choreographer is **Kitty McNamee**, the scenery and costumes were designed by **Michael Scott** and the lighting designer is **Mary Louise Geiger**.

(\* LA Opera debut)

*La Rondine* was initially conceived as an operetta for Vienna. With the outbreak of World War I, Austria and Italy became enemies, and Puccini re-formed his work as a more traditional Italian opera. *La Rondine*, which eventually had its world premiere in 1917 in Monte Carlo, features one of the composer's best known soprano arias, "Chi il bel sogno di Doretta," (made famous by the classic Merchant-Ivory movie, *A Room With A View*) as well as a thrilling Act II quartet. The opera is set during the Second Empire in Paris. Magda, the glamorous mistress of a wealthy banker, is the titular *rondine* ("swallow"), a kept woman ready to flit from one rich man's nest to another. She decides on a whim to spend an evening out disguised as a working class girl. She meets the love of her life, Ruggero, who is enchanted by the innocent girl she pretends to be. When Ruggero proposes marriage, the memory of her sullied past threatens to tear Magda from the man she loves. This staging of *La Rondine* was first created by Marta Domingo in 1995 at the Oper der Stadt Bonn. It was remounted in 1998 at Washington National Opera, where the production was taped for national telecast on PBS. The production made its LA Opera debut in 2000.

*La Rondine* opens on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 7:30pm with additional evening performances on June 12, 19, 25 and 28 at 7:30pm; and matinee performances on June 15 and 22 at 2:00 pm. All performances will be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Tickets to *La Rondine* 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](http://www.laopera.com). For disability access, call (213) 972-0777 or e-mail [wehelpyou@laopera.com](mailto:wehelpyou@laopera.com). LA Opera has launched a new Crosstown Motor Coach Service from the Westside for weeknight performances. Call 213-972-8001 for more information.

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Pre-performance lectures will be hosted by Michael Walsh. Pre-performance lectures are generously sponsored by the Flora L. Thornton Foundation and the Opera League of Los Angeles.

Artist headshots can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery:

<http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=album&id=13>

Synopsis can be found on the LA Opera website:

<http://www.laopera.com/productions/0708/rondine/index.htm>

*La Rondine* will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.  
Co-production of LA Opera and Washington National Opera.

**More...**

*La Rondine* Opera Talks

Members of LA Opera's Speakers' Bureau will be giving free 50-minute talks on *La Rondine* at libraries throughout Los Angeles County. These lively and engaging talks will explore the various aspects of Puccini's romantic opera. The *La Rondine* opera talks will be held at the following locations:

- May 5, 7:00 PM at Buena Vista Branch, Burbank Library
- May 8, 6:30 PM at Woodland Hills Library
- May 8, 7:00 PM at Pasadena Central Library
- May 10, 2:00 PM at Brand Library, Glendale
- May 12, 6:30 PM at La Canada-Flintridge Library
- May 13, 7:00 PM at Redondo Beach Library
- May 13, 6:30 PM at Porter Ranch Branch Library
- May 20, 7:00 PM at Platt Library, Woodland Hills
- May 21, 7:00 PM at Cerritos Library
- May 22, 7:00 PM at Santa Monica Library
- May 24, 3:00 PM at Oxnard Public Library
- June 18, 6:30 PM at Playa Vista Branch Library
- June 26, 6:30 PM at Will & Ariel Durant Branch Library

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