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## **LA Opera Presents Company Premiere of Handel's *Tamerlano***

**Plácido Domingo Stars as Bajazet  
with Bejun Mehta in Title Role**

**William Lacey to Conduct Production  
Staged by Chas Rader-Shieber**

Saturday, November 21 through Tuesday, December 1, 2009

(Los Angeles, CA) October 21, 2009 – Making a rare appearance in Baroque opera, **Plácido Domingo** will perform the role of Bajazet in LA Opera's Company premiere of George Frideric Handel's *Tamerlano*, opening on November 21. "Years ago, I was introduced to *Tamerlano* and to the part of Bajazet, one of Handel's very few leading roles for the tenor voice," said Mr. Domingo, LA Opera's Eli and Edythe Broad General Director. "I found the story and the music absolutely compelling. I was thrilled to finally add this role to my repertoire in 2008, when I performed it in two different productions, in Madrid and in Washington, D.C. It is the latter production which I am happy now to introduce to Los Angeles." Countertenor **Bejun Mehta** sings the title role, returning to the Company after his 2001 debut as Tolomeo in *Giulio Cesare*. The cast also includes soprano **Sarah Coburn** as Bajazet's daughter Asteria, mezzo-soprano **Patricia Bardon** as Andronico, mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Holloway** as Irene and bass-baritone **Ryan McKinny** as Leone. **William Lacey**, making his LA Opera debut, will conduct a production directed by **Chas Rader-Shieber**, with scenery and costumes designed by **David Zinn** and lighting designed by Tony Award-winner **Christopher Akerlind**. *Tamerlano* will run for a total of five performances from November 21 through December 1, 2009. All performances will take place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles CA, 90012. Tickets to *Tamerlano* 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).

Handel's rarely-performed work recounts the tale of the Turkish sultan, Bajazet, who has been defeated and taken prisoner by Tamerlano, the Tartar emperor. Bajazet would rather die than remain captive; only his

great love for his daughter Asteria prevents him from taking his own life. Tamerlano, however, is in love with his prisoner's daughter, who accepts his marriage proposal in order to take revenge by murdering him on their wedding night. The riveting tale of enslavement, infidelity and suicide unfolds with tragic grandeur in a theatrically vital modern-dress interpretation.

*Tamerlano* opens on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 7:30pm with subsequent evening performances at 7:30pm on November 23 and 25 and December 1, and a matinee performance at 2:00pm on November 28. Performances will be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Tickets to *Tamerlano* 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).

**Production made possible by a generous gift from Barbara Augusta Teichert.  
Additional special support provided by Rolex, the Presenting Sponsor of *Tamerlano*.**

Artist headshots and production photos can be found on the LA Opera Press Gallery:  
<http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=album&id=71>

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

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

Production from Washington National Opera.

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