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LA Opera Presents Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*

Soprano Adrienne Pieczonka Makes Her Role Debut and
Tenor Neil Shicoff Returns to LA Opera After a Two-Decade Absence

Plácido Domingo and **Sir Richard Armstrong** to Conduct

Saturday, May 17 – Saturday, June 21

(Los Angeles, CA) April 17, 2008 – “LA Opera will mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Giacomo Puccini with a production of one his most popular works, *Tosca*,” said **Plácido Domingo**, the Company’s Eli and Edythe Broad General Director. “We will present *Tosca* in repertoire with the same composer’s *La Rondine* for the season’s final productions, 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 *Tosca* opens on Saturday, May 17 at 7:30pm and continues for nine additional performances through Saturday, June 21 at 7:30pm. Performances take place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90012.

Sir Richard Armstrong will conduct the performances of *Tosca* on May 17, 21, 25, 29 and 31 and June 4 and 8, and Plácido Domingo will conduct the final three performances on June 11, 14 and 21. *Tosca* will feature an extraordinary cast led by Canadian soprano **Adrienne Pieczonka**, who makes her role debut as Floria Tosca. Ms. Pieczonka appeared with the Company earlier this season as a soloist in the Verdi *Requiem*, and she recently performed Sieglinde in *Die Walküre* at the Bayreuth Festival and Metropolitan Opera. Tenor **Neil Shicoff** returns to LA Opera after a two-decade absence in the role of the freedom-fighter Mario Cavaradossi. Internationally recognized as the pre-eminent American tenor of his generation, he recently appeared in *Tosca* and *The Queen of Spades* in Vienna. Hungarian soprano **Georgina Lukács*** and Welsh tenor **Gwyn Hughes Jones***, both making their Company debuts, will perform the roles of Tosca and Cavaradossi on May 29, June 11, 14 and 21. Ms. Lukács has sung Tosca in Budapest, San Francisco, Vienna, Hamburg, at the Metropolitan (* LA Opera Debut)

More....

Opera and in front of thousands of people in New York's Central Park. She also has the distinction of being the youngest Tosca in the history of the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Mr. Hughes Jones recently appeared with the Santa Fe Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago as Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, and with English National Opera as Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*. Spanish baritone **Juan Pons**, whose many international appearances include the title role in *Falstaff* at La Scala on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the opera's premiere, performs the role of the chillingly unscrupulous police chief, Baron Scarpia. American bass-baritone **Dale Travis** returns as the Sacristan, after his most recent LA Opera appearance as De Bréigny in *Manon* in 2006. **Ian Judge** directs the production which features sets by **John Gunter**.

Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*, based on Victorien Sardou's hit play *La Tosca*, debuted in Rome on January 14, 1900 and quickly entered the canon of the world's most popular operas. Set amidst political intrigue, a tempestuous prima donna finds herself trapped between allegiance to her revolutionary lover and the sinister machinations of the treacherous police chief who desires her.

Tosca opens on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at 7:30pm with additional evening performances on May 29, 31, June 4, 11, 14 and 21 at 7:30pm; and matinee performances on May 21 at 1:00 pm (new weekday matinee), May 25 and June 8 at 2:00pm. All performances will be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Tickets to *Tosca* 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. LA Opera has launched a new Crosstown Motor Coach Service from the Westside for weeknight performances. Call 213-972-8001 for more information.

This revival is made possible by the Seaver Family
In celebration of the life of Richard Seaver, twice Cardinal

Pre-performance lectures will be hosted by Paul Floyd. 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/tosca/index.htm>

Tosca will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.

This is an LA Opera original production

Tosca Opera Talks

Members of LA Opera's Speakers' Bureau will be giving free 50-minute talks on *Tosca* at libraries throughout Los Angeles County. These lively and engaging talks will explore the various aspects of Puccini's thrilling masterpiece.

The *Tosca* opera talks will be held on:

April 17, 7:00 PM at Santa Monica Library and April 23, 7:00 PM at Cerritos Library

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