

PLÁCIDO DOMINGO ELI AND EDYTHE BROAD GENERAL DIRECTOR  
JAMES CONLON RICHARD SEAVER MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May/June 2009

## LA Opera Presents Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*

### Sopranos Marina Poplavskaya and Elizabeth Futral to star as Violetta Grant Gershon Conducts Production Directed by Marta Domingo

**What:** **Grant Gershon**, LA Opera's Associate Conductor and Chorus Master, makes his Company debut as conductor for this popular revival of Verdi's tragic opera. The sumptuous production, created and directed by **Marta Domingo** and designed by **Giovanni Agostinucci**, was previously staged at LA Opera in 1999, 2001 and 2006. In the face of certain death, a beautiful Parisian courtesan gives herself over to decadent pleasures, surrounding herself with glamorous friends, dazzling parties and wealthy admirers. But at a young man's sincere declaration of true love, Violetta realizes the emptiness of her frivolous existence. She gives up everything for him, pursuing a romantic reverie that leads to tragic consequences. Verdi's soaring arias and passionate duets make *La Traviata* one of the most beloved of all operas.

**Who:** The cast includes sopranos **Marina Poplavskaya\*** (May 21–June 6) and **Elizabeth Futral** (June 10–21) as Violetta Valéry, tenors **Massimo Giordano** (May 21–30) and **Aleksei Dolgov** (June 3–21) as Alfredo Germont, baritones **Andrzej Dobber\*** (May 21–30) and **Stephen Powell** (June 10–21) as Giorgio Germont, with tenor **Hak Soo Kim†** as Gastone de Letorieres, bass-baritone **Philip Cokorinos** as Baron Douphol, baritone **Daniel Armstrong†** as Marquis d'Obigny, bass-baritone **Ryan McKinny** as Doctor Grenvil, mezzo-soprano **Margaret Thompson** as Flora Bervoix, and mezzo-soprano **Erica Brookhyser†** as Annina. The lighting designer is **Daniel Ordower** and the choreographer is **Kitty McNamee**. (\* = LA Opera debut; † = Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program member)

**When:** **Opening Night Performance: Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7:30pm**  
Evening Performances: May 27 and 30, June 6 and 10 at 7:30pm  
Matinee Performances: June 3 at 1:00pm; June 14 and 21 at 2:00pm

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

**Tickets:** Tickets to *La Traviata* range from \$20 to \$250, and can be purchased 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).

Original production and revival made possible by generous gifts from Malsi Doyle and Michael Forman.

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

<http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=album&id=24>

Synopsis can be found on the LA Opera website:

<http://www.laopera.com/production/0809/traviata/index.aspx>

*La Traviata* will be performed in Italian, with English supertitles projected above the stage.

*La Traviata* is an original LA Opera production.

Rolex is the Official Timepiece of LA Opera.  
Silversea is the Official Cruise Line of LA Opera.

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