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LA Opera Presents David Hockney's Landmark Production of Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*

John Treleaven and Linda Watson Perform Title Roles

LA Opera Music Director **James Conlon** Conducts

Saturday, January 19 – Sunday, February 10

(Los Angeles, CA) December 20, 2007 – “I am happy to announce that LA Opera will once again present our celebrated production of Richard Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde*, designed by **David Hockney**,” said **Plácido Domingo**, the Company’s Eli and Edythe Broad General Director. “I am particularly delighted that Mr. Hockney has personally supervised the refurbishing of the scenery for this revival. This production, first seen here in 1987 and revived in 1997, has been hailed internationally as one of LA Opera’s landmark productions. I know that our audiences will look forward to seeing this great artist’s iconic *coup-de-théâtre* return to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion stage looking every bit as spectacular as it did twenty years ago, and I’m proud that we could assemble such a wonderful cast under the inspired leadership of James Conlon.”

LA Opera’s production of *Tristan und Isolde* opens on Saturday, January 19 at 7:00pm and continues for six additional performances through Sunday, February 10 at 1:00pm. Performances take place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90012.

As Mr. Domingo stated, Music Director **James Conlon** conducts and stage director **Thor Steingraber** leads a cast of acclaimed Wagnerian artists in this stunning revival of LA Opera’s original production of *Tristan und Isolde*. **John Treleaven***, who makes his Company debut as Tristan, is one of the most sought-after heldentenors of our time, with “a degree of identification with this role that astonishes, captivates, moves and inspires... With his portrayal of Tristan he has undoubtedly reached the zenith of his career” (*Der Neue Merker*,

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Vienna). Starring opposite Mr. Treleaven as Isolde is “Wagnerian powerhouse” (*Los Angeles Times*) **Linda Watson**, whose previous LA Opera appearances include the Dyer’s Wife in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and Kundry in *Parsifal*. Mr. Treleaven and Ms. Watson will both return to LA Opera in future seasons as Siegfried and Brünnhilde in the Company’s first ever presentation of Wagner’s epic *Ring* cycle. Soprano **Susan Foster** will sing the role of Isolde at the performance on February 3. Also featured in the production are **Lioba Braun** as Brangäne, **Juha Uusitalo*** as Kurwenal, **Brian Mulligan** as Melot, **Kristinn Sigmundsson*** and **Eric Halfvarson** sharing the role of King Marke and **Gregory Warren*** as the Sailor and Shepherd. The production was designed by **David Hockney**, whose bold, fancifully abstract designs create a stunning visual counterpoint to Wagner’s stirring epic of doomed romance between the legendary Cornish knight and an Irish princess. The lighting is designed by **Duane Schuler**. The fight director is **Jonathan Rider*** and LA Opera Assistant Conductor / Chorus Master **Grant Gershon** leads the chorus. (* *LA Opera debut*)

Composed by Richard Wagner, who also wrote the libretto, *Tristan und Isolde* premiered in 1865 in Munich. The opera is most noted for its use of repeating themes, or *leitmotifs*, to describe characters and situations. From the revolutionary overture, which forever changed opera’s concept of tonality, to Isolde’s final aria, the *Liebestod*, the opera charted new territory that changed the course of music history.

Tristan und Isolde opens on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 7:00pm with additional evening performances on January 23, 31, February 6 at 7:00pm; and matinee performances on January 27, February 3 and 10 at 1pm. All performances will be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Tickets to *Tristan und Isolde* 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.

Revival performance made possible by a generous gift from Leslie and John Dorman.

Pre-performance conversation with James Conlon hosted by Michael Hackett. Pre-performance lectures are generously sponsored by the Flora L. Thornton Foundation and the Opera League of Los Angeles.

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Tristan und Isolde Opera Talks

Members of LA Opera's Speakers' Bureau will be giving free 50-minute talks on *Tristan und Isolde* in libraries throughout Los Angeles County. These lively and engaging talks will explore the various aspects of the opera. Below please find the list of the *Tristan und Isolde* opera talk dates and locations:

Monday, January 7	7:00 PM	Burbank Public Library
Thursday, January 10	7:00 PM	Pasadena Public Library
Saturday, January 12	2:00 PM	Brand Library
Monday, January 14	6:30 PM	La Cañada-Flintridge Library
Tuesday, January 15	6:30 PM	Porter Ranch Library
Tuesday, January 15	7:00 PM	Redondo Beach Library
Tuesday, January 15	7:00 PM	Platt Library
Wednesday, January 16	7:00 PM	Cerritos Library
Saturday, January 19	2:00 PM	Claremont Library

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

<http://www.laopera.com/press/2007-08/tristan/index.htm>

Synopsis can be found on the LA Opera website:

<http://www.laopera.com/productions/0708/tristan/synopsis.htm>

Tristan und Isolde will be sung in German with English supertitles projected above the stage.
This is an LA Opera original production

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