

**PLÁCIDO DOMINGO** ELI AND EDYTHE BROAD GENERAL DIRECTOR  
**JAMES CONLON** MUSIC DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ring Festival LA Media Contact:**  
Emily Hallford, Burson-Marsteller  
[Emily.Hallford@bm.com](mailto:Emily.Hallford@bm.com) / 310.309.6616

**Los Angeles Opera Media Contact:**  
Gary W. Murphy, LA Opera  
[gmurphy@laopera.com](mailto:gmurphy@laopera.com) / 213.972.7554  
Erin Kane, LA Opera  
[ekane@laopera.com](mailto:ekane@laopera.com) / 213.972.7274

## **Plácido Domingo and LA Opera Announce *Ring Festival LA* Celebrating the Arts LA Style**

***More than 50 Cultural and Educational Institutions Collaborate on Major Citywide Celebration to  
Coincide With LA Opera's Presentation of Richard Wagner's Ring Cycle***

(Los Angeles, CA) November 3, 2008 – More than a century ago, composer Richard Wagner conceived his epic four-opera cycle *Der Ring des Nibelungen* as a festival event that completely engaged the city of Bayreuth, Germany. In 2010, LA Opera will join forces with more than 50 cultural and educational institutions in Los Angeles to stage ***Ring Festival LA***. “***Ring Festival LA*** will be a defining moment in the cultural history of Los Angeles,” said **Plácido Domingo**, LA Opera’s Eli and Edythe Broad General Director. “The presence of so many of LA’s cultural, educational and civic leaders clearly demonstrates that the city’s creative forces can be brought together through a cultural festival — in this case, a festival based on LA Opera’s production of Richard Wagner’s *Ring* cycle.” Joining him in making this announcement were LA County Board Supervisor **Zev Yaroslavsky**, business leader and philanthropist **Eli Broad**, LA Opera Chairman and CEO **Marc I. Stern**, LA Opera Board President **Carol Henry**, LA Opera Music Director **James Conlon** and LA Opera Board member **Barry A. Sanders**, who is leading the Festival.

Southern Californians and cultural tourists from around the world will be able to enjoy a wide variety of special exhibitions, performances, symposia and special events all centered on LA Opera’s upcoming presentation of Wagner’s *Ring* cycle in 2010, the first time that the epic masterwork will be presented in its entirety in Los Angeles. ***Ring Festival LA*** events will take place in a wide variety of venues throughout Southern California from April 15 through June 30, 2010, with each organization providing its own unique point of view on the influences of Wagner’s art and philosophy from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

Conversations regarding ***Ring Festival LA*** began earlier this year in a roundtable discussion with Plácido Domingo; Deborah Borda, president of the Los Angeles Philharmonic; Michael Govan, director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Michael Ritchie, artistic director of Center Theatre Group; and James N. Wood, president of the Getty Trust. “We all recognized that one of the greatest strengths of the city’s cultural institutions is our

distinctively ‘Angeleno’ identity,” said Mr. Domingo, “and we all liked the idea of a city-wide festival that would celebrate this identity through all of our world-class cultural organizations. I suggested a festival timed to coincide with LA Opera’s presentation of the *Ring* cycle in the summer of 2010. ***Ring Festival LA*** will demonstrate this unique identity to our community and also to the many visitors from across the country and around the world who will be attracted here by our Wagner productions. LA Opera’s production of the *Ring* cycle, a mammoth undertaking, will in a sense be the Company’s coming-of-age celebration. But we also wanted it to become a defining moment in the cultural history of Los Angeles. ***Ring Festival LA*** will be the first of its kind, for, as far as we know, no other opera company that has presented the *Ring* has involved all of the major cultural institutions of a great city in a ten-week festival.”

“We can all be proud that so many diverse organizations are joining together in this incredible effort,” said Los Angeles County Board Supervisor **Zev Yaroslavsky**. “***Ring Festival LA*** will highlight the wealth of arts and culture that is unique to our town. The festival puts Los Angeles at the forefront of our major international cultural destinations, drawing together visitors from around the world and residents from neighborhoods across our county. It’s truly a celebration for all of us.”

“Los Angeles is the creative capital of the world,” said Mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa**. “Artists from every field come to our city to work and enjoy our thriving arts community, making an economic and creative contribution unmatched in the world.”

“Los Angeles is one of the world’s great cultural centers,” said **Eli Broad**, the Los Angeles business leader and philanthropist whose \$6 million gift from the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation made LA Opera’s new production of the *Ring* cycle possible. “***Ring Festival LA*** will bring worldwide attention to our city and attract an increasing number of visitors.”

“The idea of having a festival where the whole city participates is very Wagnerian” said **James Conlon**, Music Director of LA Opera. “This takes on proportions that fit with the extraordinary personality of Richard Wagner, for whom nothing was too large. I would like to join Plácido in thanking our colleagues in all of the organizations that are taking part, without whom there would be no way that we could realize this dream.”

Organizations currently scheduled to participate in ***Ring Festival LA*** include:

**Music Center, Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County**

Center Theatre Group

Los Angeles Master Chorale

Los Angeles Opera

## Los Angeles Philharmonic

- The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
- Ace Gallery
- American Cinematheque
- American Jewish University
- Bergamot Station: Ruth Bachofner Gallery
- Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum
- California Art Club
- California Institute of the Arts
- c3: Center for Conscious Creativity
- Cinespia
- Classical KUSC FM 91.5
- The Colburn School
- Descanso Gardens
- Eli and Edythe Broad Stage
- Geffen Playhouse
- Gelson's
- German Consulate General – Los Angeles
- The Getty Center
- Goethe-Institut Los Angeles
- Grand Performances
- Griffith Observatory
- Hispanics for LA Opera
- The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
- Istituto Italiano di Cultura
- KCET Television
- LA Inc.
- The Latino Museum
- Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra
- Los Angeles Conservancy
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- LA Film Festival
- Los Angeles Magazine
- Los Angeles Public Library / Library Foundation of Los Angeles
- LA Trade Technical College
- LA Unified School District / Arts Education Branch
- Mount St. Mary's College
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Norton Simon Museum
- OPERA America
- The Opera League of Los Angeles
- Operetta Foundation
- Patina Restaurant Association
- Santa Monica Museum of Art
- Southern California Wagner Society
- Sundance Institute
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of Southern California
- USC Brain and Creativity Institute
- USC Thornton School of Music
- Urban Educational Partnership
- The Verdi Chorus
- Villa Aurora

A complete calendar of festival events will be announced in January 2010.

“I am delighted that so many of the leading cultural and educational institutions in and around Los Angeles have eagerly embraced the idea of participating in *Ring Festival LA*,” said **Marc I. Stern**, Chairman and CEO of LA Opera. “It is an astonishingly cooperative effort and LA Opera is proud to work with Plácido Domingo to help orchestrate it.”

“*Ring Festival LA* is new and different,” said **Barry A. Sanders**, LA Opera Board member who is leading the Festival. “We are creating the first festival in the history of Los Angeles to engage and showcase the broad spectrum of our city’s cultural, educational and artistic institutions. We are all working on the same project and tearing down the walls that normally separate us. We are taking opera off the hill to all the people of Los Angeles.”

Tickets for LA Opera’s *Ring* cycle can be purchased online at [www.LAOperaRing.com](http://www.LAOperaRing.com) or by calling (213) 972-8001. For disability access, call (213) 972-0777 or e-mail [wehelpyou@laopera.com](mailto:wehelpyou@laopera.com). Special LA Opera *Ring* travel packages and hotel/travel arrangements are available through New World Travel. For more information, contact New World Travel at (310) 568-9393 or [NewWorldTravel.com](http://NewWorldTravel.com).

Los Angeles Opera’s production of Richard Wagner’s *Ring* cycle is made possible by The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation with additional generous support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and LA Opera’s Friends of the Ring Leadership Council. Rolex is the Official Timepiece of LA Opera and Silversea is the Official Cruise Line of LA Opera.

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