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## **Giuseppe Filianoti Replaces Rolando Villazón in LA Opera's Season-Opening Production of *L'Elisir d'Amore (The Elixir of Love)***

**Mr. Villazón will undergo surgery for cyst on vocal cord**

(Los Angeles, CA) April 30, 2009 – **Plácido Domingo**, LA Opera's Eli and Edythe Broad General Director, announced that Italian tenor **Giuseppe Filianoti** will replace **Rolando Villazón** in the leading role of Nemorino in the Company's season-opening production of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore (The Elixir of Love)*, opening on September 12 and running through September 30, 2009. Mr. Villazón has cancelled all engagements until the end of 2009 after being diagnosed with a cyst on one of his vocal cords which needs to be surgically removed as soon as possible.

Mr. Villazón's management, Universal Music Classical Management & Productions, confirmed today in London that he will return to performing in 2010. According to Mr. Villazón's doctor, renowned Berlin voice specialist and surgeon Gerrit Wohlt, "Upon completion of the operation and the subsequent phase of rehabilitation, we can expect the tenor to fully recover and return towards the end of the year."

"I would like to apologize to my wonderful audience for any inconvenience these cancellations will cause them and want to express my gratitude for the loyalty and support of my fans and friends," said Mr. Villazón. "I am greatly looking forward to be performing again in the coming year."

"I am a close personal friend and a great admirer of Rolando, who is one of the great tenors of our day," said Mr. Domingo. "My deepest wish is for him to have a quick and complete recovery, and to come back to us soon. But we are very lucky to have been able to secure the services of the wonderful Giuseppe Filianoti to take over this role. Like Rolando, Giuseppe is a past winner of my Operalia competition who has built a worldwide career."

Italian tenor Giuseppe Filianoti has appeared on all the world's major opera stages, such as La Scala in Milan (*Falstaff, Moïse et Pharaon, Rigoletto, Lucrezia Borgia, Gianni Schicchi, Un Giorno di Regno, Lucia di Lammermoor*), the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome (*Faust, Gianni Schicchi, Die Zauberflöte, Werther, Idomeneo*), the Metropolitan Opera in New York (*Rigoletto, La Rondine, Lucia di Lammermoor, L'Elisir d'Amore, Lucia di Lammermoor*), the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (*La Traviata, Dom Sébastien*) and the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro (*Tancredi, Le Siège de Corinthe*). Mr. Filianoti will perform the role of Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* at London's Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, later this season, and he will be singing it again at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich and at the Lyric Opera of Chicago after his LA Opera appearances.

Mr. Filianoti's photograph can be found at: <http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=picture&id=1611>

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