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April 2010

LA Opera Presents Company Premiere of Richard Wagner's

## *Götterdämmerung (Twilight of the Gods)*

Final Chapter of the Four-Part *Ring* Cycle stars  
**Linda Watson, John Treleaven, Eric Halfvarson, Alan Held**

**James Conlon to Conduct New Production Staged by  
Director/Designer Achim Freyer**

**What:** The curse of the ring runs its course in *Götterdämmerung*, the awe-inspiring final chapter of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, Richard Wagner's monumental four-part music drama. *Twilight of the Gods* begins with the rapturous love shared by Brünnhilde and Siegfried. But evil Hagen plots against Siegfried to win his powerful ring, first administering a magic potion of forgetfulness and then murdering him. Brünnhilde returns the cursed ring to the Rhinemaidens, and as the Rhine overflows its banks, Valhalla goes up in flames in a spectacular finale unparalleled in opera. *Götterdämmerung* celebrates the human spirit with unforgettable music that soars to the heights of heroism and proclaims the redemptive power of love.

**Who:** Soprano **Linda Watson** is Brünnhilde, with British tenor **John Treleaven** as Siegfried, bass **Eric Halfvarson** as Hagen and bass-baritone **Alan Held** as Gunther. Baritone **Richard Paul Fink**\* performs the role of Alberich, with soprano **Jennifer Wilson**\* as Gutrune, mezzo-soprano **Jill Grove** as the First Norn, mezzo-soprano **Michelle DeYoung** as both Waltraute and the Second Norn, and soprano **Melissa Citro** as the Third Norn. Soprano **Stacey Tappan** performs Woglinde, with mezzo-soprano **Lauren McNeese** as Wellgunde and mezzo-soprano **Beth Clayton** as Flosshilde.

LA Opera Richard Seaver Music Director **James Conlon** conducts. The new production is directed and designed by the acclaimed theater artist **Achim Freyer**, with costumes by Achim Freyer and **Amanda Freyer** and lighting by **Brian Gale** and Achim Freyer. The associate conductor / chorus master is **Grant Gershon**. (\* = LA Opera debut)

**When:** **Opening performance: Saturday, April 3, 2010 at 1:00pm**  
Additional performances: April 11, 17 and 25 at 1:00pm; April 21 at 5:30pm

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

**Tickets:** Tickets to *Götterdämmerung* range from \$20 to \$260, 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).

LA Opera's new production of Richard Wagner's *Ring* cycle made possible by  
The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation  
with additional support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
and LA Opera's Friends of *The Ring* Leadership Council

Generous underwriting support for *Götterdämmerung* from

Lenore & Bernard Greenberg and Lawrence A. Kern

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

<http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=album&id=73>

Synopsis can be found on the LA Opera website:

<http://www.laopera.com/production/0910/gotterdam/index.aspx>

*Götterdämmerung* will be performed in German, with English supertitles projected above the stage.

This is an original LA Opera production.

Rolex is the Official Timepiece of LA Opera.

Silversea is the Official Cruise Line of LA Opera.

Lufthansa is the Official European Airline for LA Opera's *Ring*

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