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LA Opera's Season Opening Weekend Performances of *Il Trittico* and *The Fly* to be Broadcast Live on Classical KUSC (91.5 FM)

Partnership of LA Opera and KUSC Continues for Second Consecutive Year

(Los Angeles, CA) August 26, 2008 – **Plácido Domingo**, LA Opera's Eli and Edythe Broad General Director, announced that the Company has, for a second consecutive season, partnered with Classical KUSC (91.5 FM) to bring the excitement of LA Opera's live performances to KUSC listeners, with live broadcasts of the first two performances of the Company's Season. On September 6 at 6pm, Classical KUSC will present a live broadcast from the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the season-opening performance of Giacomo Puccini's *Il Trittico*. Music Director James Conlon will conduct an all-star cast that features Thomas Allen, Mark Delavan, Larissa Diadkova, Anja Kampe, Salvatore Licitra, Saimir Pirgu, Sondra Radvanovsky and Laura Tatulescu. The following day, September 7 at 2pm, Classical KUSC will also provide a live broadcast from the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the U.S. premiere of Howard Shore's *The Fly*, an LA Opera commission conducted by Plácido Domingo. Soloists include Daniel Okulitch, Ruxandra Dunose and Gary Lehman.

The live KUSC broadcasts will be hosted by Duff Murphy and Kimberlea Daggy, with Gail Eichenthal serving as program producer along with Brian Lauritzen. The broadcasts will feature intermission interviews with many of the production's artists. KUSC recently concluded its second season of "LA Opera On Air," a summer series of weekly radio broadcasts featuring all nine productions from LA Opera's 2007/08 season.

"KUSC's broadcasts are a great opportunity for music lovers throughout Southern California to join our opening weekend celebration, as LA Opera presents two singular works that have never been seen on our stage before," said Mr. Domingo. "Listeners around the globe can also share the experience, thanks to KUSC's online streaming. I truly believe that opera is an art form that can speak to everyone, and it is gratifying that many people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience opera in the theater will have the

opportunity to join us and experience the magic of opera in live performance. I am proud to partner with Classical KUSC once again on this exciting endeavor.”

“We are delighted to continue presenting these programs after the success of last season’s live opening weekend broadcasts, the first live LA Opera radio broadcasts on KUSC since the inaugural performance of Verdi’s *Otello* in 1986,” said KUSC President Brenda Barnes. “KUSC treasures its relationship with the world-class singers, staff and crew of LA Opera,” said program producer and co-host Gail Eichenthal. “We look forward to bringing our listeners these two spectacular opening performances *live*.”

Classical KUSC is the largest non-profit classical music station in the country, dedicated to preserving classical music as a living art. Located in downtown Los Angeles, Classical KUSC uses digital transmission technology to broadcast commercial-free uninterrupted classical performances. The non-profit, listener-supported station has been broadcasting for over 60 years. The station is a broadcast service of the University of Southern California at 91.5(FM) in Los Angeles; 88.5 KPSC in Palm Springs; 91.1 KDSC in Thousand Oaks, and 88.7 KQSC in Santa Barbara. For more information, please visit www.kusc.org.

Celebrating its 22nd Season, Los Angeles Opera has become, under the leadership of Eli and Edythe Broad General Director Plácido Domingo and Music Director James Conlon, the nation’s fourth largest opera company and a renowned producer of works from the classical and contemporary repertoires. The 2008/09 Season includes the return of several of the Company’s landmark productions as well as new productions of Puccini’s *Il Trittico* staged by William Friedkin and Woody Allen, the U.S. premiere of Howard Shore’s *The Fly* directed by David Cronenberg, a rare staging of Walter Braunfels’ *The Birds*, and the first two installments – *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* – of a new Achim Freyer production of Wagner’s monumental four-opera *Ring* cycle. For more information, please visit www.laopera.com.



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