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April 2009

LA Opera Presents the Company Premiere of Richard Wagner's

DIE WALKÜRE

Second Opera of the Four-Part *Ring* Cycle stars
Anja Kampe, Michelle DeYoung, Linda Watson, Plácido Domingo,
Vitalij Kowaljow and Eric Halfvarson

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

What:

Die Walküre is the second opera in Richard Wagner's monumental four-part music drama, *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. *Die Walküre* is a compelling love story between Siegmund, a doomed hero, and his soul mate Sieglinde, whose love changes the course of the world's destiny. The love between father and child is also depicted in heartbreaking detail when Brünnhilde's rebellion against Wotan, king of the gods, leads to an anguished farewell. *Die Walküre* features some of Wagner's most recognized music from the thrilling "Ride of the Valkyries" to the thrilling "Magic Fire Music."

Who:

Plácido Domingo returns to LA Opera stage in what has become a signature role for the legendary tenor, Wagner's fated hero Siegmund. Mr. Domingo will share the role with acclaimed British tenor **Christopher Ventris***, who performs the role on April 22 and 25. World-renowned sopranos **Anja Kampe** as Sieglinde and **Linda Watson** as Brünnhilde will also join the cast of celebrated Wagnerians, several of whom are also featured in LA Opera's preceding production of *Das Rheingold*, the first chapter of the *Ring* cycle. Ukrainian bass **Vitalij Kowaljow** returns as the chief god Wotan, as do featured artists **Michelle DeYoung** as Fricka and **Eric Halfvarson** as Hunding. The cast also includes **Ellie Dehn** as Gerhilde, **Susan Foster** as Helmwige, **Melissa Citro** as Ortlinde, **Erica Brookhyser†** as Waltraute, **Margaret Thompson** as Rosswisse, **Buffy Baggott*** as Siegrune, **Jane Gilbert*** as Grimgerde and **Ronnita Miller†** as Schwertleite. (* = LA Opera debut; † = Member of the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program)

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 Achim Freyer and **Brian Gale**.

When:

Opening Night Performance: Saturday, April 4, 2009 at 6:30pm

Evening Performances: April 16, 22 and 25 at 6:30pm

Matinee Performances: April 8, 12 and 19 at 1:00pm

Where:

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

Tickets:

Tickets to *Die Walküre* range from \$20 to \$250, and are available 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.

**LA Opera's new production of Richard Wagner's *Ring* cycle made possible by
The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation**

**Generous underwriting support for *Die Walküre* from
Leslie and John Dorman, Peter and Diane Gray,
Marc and Eva Stern Foundation, Barbara Augusta Teichart**

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

<http://media.laopera.com/photo/?level=album&id=21>

Synopsis can be found on the LA Opera website:

<http://www.laopera.com/production/0809/walkure/index.aspx>

Die Walküre will be sung 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 Airline for LA Opera's *Ring*

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