

MUSIC NEWS

Plácido Domingo Announces LA Opera's 2010/11 Season World Premiere of Daniel Catan's *Il Postino* to Open Season

(LOS ANGELES, CA) January 27, 2010 – Plácido Domingo, LA Opera's Eli and Edythe Broad General Director, announced the details of the Company's 2010/11 season today. The 2010/11 season will open on September 23, 2010 with the highly anticipated season-opening world premiere of Daniel Catán's *Il Postino* (The Postman) starring tenor Plácido Domingo as Pablo Neruda and tenor Charles Castronovo in the title role.

Based on the internationally popular 1994 Italian film of the same name and on the 1985 novel *Ardiente Paciencia* by Antonio Skármeta, **Il Postino** stars tenor Plácido Domingo as the exiled Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. Tenor Charles Castronovo sings the title role of Mario Ruoppolo, a shy postman who discovers poetry and, with it, the courage to pursue his dreams. Mr. Castronovo began his career as a chorister and then resident artist with LA Opera, where he has been seen in more than 100 performances of numerous roles, and he now regularly appears in the world's most important opera houses. The superb cast also includes soprano Amanda Squitieri as Beatrice Russo, the beautiful cafe waitress who inspires Mario's love, Chilean soprano Cristina Gallardo-Domâs as Matilde Neruda, Russian baritone Vladimir Chernov as Giorgio, the postmaster, and Spanish mezzo-soprano Nancy Fabiola-Herrera as Donna Rosa, Beatrice's aunt. Catán's rich, melodic score, commissioned by LA Opera, will be brought to life in a beautiful production by director Ron Daniels, a renowned interpreter of opera, theater and film. The design team includes Tony Award-winning scenery and costume designer Riccardo Hernandez, lighting designer and MacArthur "Genius" Grant winner Jennifer Tipton, and video artist Philip Bussmann. Following his acclaimed house debut leading *La Traviata* in 2009, Grant Gershon will conduct. (Six performances: September 23 through October 16, 2010)

IL POSTINO (THE POSTMAN) World Premiere

Music and libretto: Daniel Catán

Based on the 1994 film *Il Postino* directed by Michael Radford and the 1985 novel *Ardiente Paciencia* by Antonio Skármeta

Conductor: Grant Gershon

Director: Ron Daniels

Scenery and Costume Designer: Riccardo Hernandez

Lighting Designer: Jennifer Tipton

Projection Designer: Philip Bussman

Chorus Master: Grant Gershon

Mario Ruoppolo: Charles Castronovo

Pablo Neruda: Plácido Domingo

Beatrice Russo: Amanda Squitieri

Matilde Neruda: Cristina Gallardo-Domâs

Giorgio: Vladimir Chernov

Donna Rosa: Nancy Fabiola-Herrera

Di Cosimo / Antonio's Voice: José Adán Pérez

Thug: Daniel Montenegro

Thug: Gregorio González

Thug: Daniel Armstrong

Opening performance: Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 6:00pm

Evening performances: September 29, October 5, 16 at 7:30pm

Matinee performances: October 2, 9 at 2:00pm

The season opens with the world premiere of Daniel Catán's *Il Postino*, based on the Italian film that became a surprise hit with audiences around the world. In a tiny Italian fishing village, an unassuming young postman finds the inspiration to live out his dreams during his daily deliveries to his only customer, a famous poet. Overflowing with exquisite music and heartfelt emotion, *Il Postino* is an eagerly awaited addition to the contemporary operatic repertoire.

Commissioned by LA Opera

Co-production with Theater an der Wien (Vienna), Théâtre du Châtelet (Paris) and Cincinnati Opera

Sung in Spanish with English Supertitles

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