

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2009

Contact: Sarah Mieras, 616.451.2741 ext.14
smieras@operagr.com or www.operagr.com

**Opera Grand Rapids Announces Casting Change
For Lead Soprano in
The Elixir of Love,
Feb. 13th & 14th at DeVos Hall**

GRAND RAPIDS – Opera Grand Rapids is pleased to announce that internationally renowned soprano, **Ailyn Pérez** will join the Company in the role of Adina in the upcoming production of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. Pérez is replacing Joanna Mongiardo, who had to withdraw from the production due to a personal medical issue.

Since the casting change occurred before the Company's first rehearsal for *The Elixir of Love*, the change is expected to be seamless. Singers, and stage management for the production are expected to arrive in Grand Rapids on Monday, January 26 to begin rehearsals.

Pérez comes to Grand Rapids from appearances with Plácido Domingo, The Metropolitan Opera and the Michigan Opera Theater last season. She will be joined by other national leads including Scott Ramsay in the role of the peasant boy Nemorino, and Baritone Michael Wanko, who will sing the role of the salesman Dr. Dulcamara.

The production, will be conducted by Opera Grand Rapids' Artistic Director, Robert Lyall, and directed by Matthew Lata, who was last in Grand Rapids for Mozart's *Don Giovanni* in 2007. The production will also feature The Grand Rapids Symphony and the Opera Grand Rapids Regional Chorus, and scenery designed by local artist John Despres.

Tickets for this original Opera Grand Rapids production are available through Ticketmaster or by calling 616.451.2741. Seats start at \$20 each, with half priced student and senior seats available the day of the show at the DeVos Hall Box Office.

For details on visiting artists, including video and audio clips, visit www.operagr.com.

###

Opera Grand Rapids - West Michigan's only professional opera production company.



Soprano Ailyn Pérez as Adina in *The Elixir of Love*, Feb. 13th & 14th

In February 2008, Pérez performed alongside Plácido Domingo on his World Tour. Most noteworthy on the program, she sang the love duet from *Otello* with Domingo. Last season she also joined the roster of the Metropolitan Opera for *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Hansel und Gretel*, and made her debut at the Michigan Opera Theater. *Opera News* has hailed Pérez. as "...a magnificently assured artist with ample vocal resources and a magnetic stage presence."