



GUSTAVO DUDAMEL

MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ***Walt and Lilly Disney Chair***

Biography 2017/18

As an internationally renowned symphonic and operatic conductor, Gustavo Dudamel is motivated by a profound belief in music's power to unite and inspire. He currently serves as Music Director of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela and Music & Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the impact of his leadership extends from the greatest concert stages to classrooms, cinemas and innovative digital platforms around the world. Dudamel also appears as guest conductor with some of the world's most famous musical institutions: in 2017, he leads the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in Munich, tours Europe with the Berlin Philharmonic, and takes the Vienna Philharmonic on a tour of the Americas, with concerts in New York's Carnegie Hall, Mexico City's Bellas Artes, Bogotá's Teatro Mayor, as well as the famed Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. This season also sees Dudamel's return to the opera house, conducting a new production of Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Opéra National de Paris.

Now entering his ninth season as Music & Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Dudamel has had his contract extended until 2021/22. At his initiative, the Los Angeles Philharmonic has dramatically expanded the scope of its community outreach programs, including most notably the creation of Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA), influenced by the philosophy of Venezuela's admired *El Sistema*, which encourages social development through music. With YOLA and diverse local educational initiatives, Dudamel brings music to children in underserved communities of Los Angeles. These programs have in turn inspired similar efforts throughout the United States, as well as in Sweden (Hammarkullen), Scotland (Raploch) and around the world.

For the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Dudamel, both the breadth of audiences reached, and the depth of programming performed are remarkable. LA Phil programs continue to represent the best and boldest in new music, including numerous premieres and commissions by composers such as John Adams, Philip Glass, Bryce Dessner, Arvo Pärt, Sofia Gubaidulina, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Kaija Saariaho. A series of concerts focusing on Mozart's late works kicks off the 2017/18 season, as well as Festival CDMX, featuring the music and artists of Mexico. The Spring of 2018 pays tribute to the 100th birthday of Leonard Bernstein with performances of *Mass* and *Chichester Psalms* and features a Schumann festival, including a new production of *Das Paradies und die Peri*, staged by Peter Sellars. In early 2018, the LA Phil also tours the United States and Europe.

Dudamel's work in his native Venezuela serves as the cornerstone of his engagement with young people, and he steadfastly commits some 25 weeks of his annual schedule to the orchestras and children of *El Sistema*, both in Caracas and around the country. During his

19th season as Music Director of the entire El Sistema project, he continues to lead the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, in Venezuela as well as on tour around the globe. In 2017, Dudamel brings the Bolívars to Europe for concerts in Madrid, Barcelona, at the Musikverein in Vienna and at the new Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. Following a summer festival of Tchaikovsky's music at the Teatro Mayor in Bogotá, the Bolívars and Dudamel tour Asia with Beethoven symphony cycles in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Taipei. This will complete Dudamel's two-year exploration of the works of Beethoven, which included performances of his nine symphonies on four continents.

Recordings, broadcasts and digital innovations are also fundamental to Dudamel's passionate advocacy for universal access to music. A Grammy-winning Deutsche Grammophon artist since 2005, Dudamel has a discography that includes landmark recordings of John Adams' *Gospel According to the Other Mary* (commissioned and performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic), the sound track to the motion picture *Libertador*, for which Dudamel also composed the score, Mahler Symphonies 5 and 7 with the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, and Mahler 9 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. A unique performance of Mahler's "Symphony of a Thousand," featuring the combined forces of the LA Phil and the Bolívars and over 1000 choristers and children from across Venezuela, was captured for DVD/Blu-Ray and broadcast live to cinemas in the U.S. and Canada. A film documentary featuring Dudamel, *Let the Children Play*, was also shown in over 500 movie theaters nationwide. A special charity LP release of Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony with the Vienna Philharmonic raised funds for music education projects in Latin America, and children from Vienna's El Sistema-inspired Superar program participated in his most recent Deutsche Grammophon release of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, also with the Vienna Philharmonic. Dudamel has independently produced an all-Wagner recording, available exclusively for download, a complete set of Beethoven symphonies for digital learning, and a broadcast of two Stravinsky ballets with the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra in cooperation with the Berlin Philharmonic's Digital Concert Hall.

Gustavo Dudamel has been featured three times on CBS's *60 Minutes* and was subject of a PBS special, *Dudamel: Conducting a Life*. He appeared on *Sesame Street* with Elmo, with Charlie Rose, Conan O'Brian, and on *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert. Most recently, Gustavo had a cameo role in Amazon Studio's award-winning series, *Mozart in the Jungle*, guest-conducted on the soundtrack for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and, together with members of YOLA, became the first classical musician to participate in the Super Bowl Half Time Show, appearing alongside pop stars Coldplay, Beyoncé and Bruno Mars in 2016. In 2017, he was the youngest-ever conductor to lead the Vienna Philharmonic's famous New Year's Day Concert, watched annually by over 60 million people in 90 countries.

Gustavo Dudamel is one of the most decorated conductors of his generation. He received the Americas Society Cultural Achievement Award in 2016, and the 2014 Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society from the Longy School of Music. He was named *Musical America's* 2013 Musician of the Year, one of the highest honors in the classical music industry, and was voted into the *Gramophone* Hall of Fame. In October of 2011, he was named *Gramophone* Artist of the Year, and in May of the same year, was inducted into the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in consideration of his "eminent merits in the musical art." The previous year, he received the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT. Dudamel was inducted into l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres as a Chevalier in Paris in 2009, received an honorary doctorate from the Universidad Centrocidental Lisandro Alvarado in his hometown of Barquisimeto, and was named one of *Time* Magazine's 100 most influential people. He also received an

honorary doctorate from the University of Gothenburg in 2012. In 2008, the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra was awarded Spain's prestigious annual Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts and, along with his mentor José Antonio Abreu, Dudamel was given the "Q" Prize from Harvard University for extraordinary service to children.

Gustavo Dudamel was born in 1981 in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. He began violin lessons as a child with José Luis Jiménez and Francisco Díaz at the Jacinto Lara Conservatory. He continued his violin studies with Rubén Cova and José Francisco del Castillo at the Latin American Academy of Violin. His conducting studies began in 1993 with the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra. In 1996, he began his studies with Rodolfo Saglimbeni. That same year, he became Director of Children and Youth Orchestra of Barquisimeto. In 1999, he was appointed Music Director of the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra and began conducting studies with the orchestra's founder, Dr. Abreu. Dudamel was brought to international attention by winning the inaugural Bamberger Symphoniker Gustav Mahler Competition in 2004. He then went on to become Music Director of the Gothenburg Symphony (2007-2012), where he currently holds the title Honorary Conductor. Inspired by Dudamel's early musical and mentoring experiences, the Gustavo Dudamel Foundation, a registered charity, was created in 2012 with the goal of promoting access to music as a human right and catalyst for learning, integration, and social change.

For more information about Gustavo Dudamel, visit his official website: www.gustavodudamel.com.