



LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC

Short History

The LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC, under the vibrant leadership of Music Director Gustavo Dudamel, is re-inventing the concept of the 21st-century orchestra. Both at home and abroad, the Philharmonic – recognized as one of the world’s outstanding orchestras – is leading the way in innovative programming, both on stage and in the community, offering a diverse range of programs that reflect the orchestra’s artistry and demonstrates its vision. 2014/15 marks the orchestra’s 96th season.

More than 250 concerts are either performed or presented by the Philharmonic at its two iconic venues: the Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. These presentations represent a breadth and depth unrivaled by other orchestras or cultural institutions.

During its 30-week winter subscription season of more than 170 performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Philharmonic creates festivals, artist residencies, and other thematic programs designed to enhance the symphonic music experience and delve further into certain artists’ or composers’ work. The LA Phil’s commitment to the music of our time is also evident throughout the season programming, as well in the exhilarating Green Umbrella series and the LA Phil’s extensive commissioning initiatives.

In the 2012/13 season, the LA Phil continued its Mozart opera project with the second installment, *The Marriage of Figaro*. The three-year initiative concludes during the 2013/14 season with *Così fan tutte*. The LA Phil also embarked on an international tour of Creative Chair John Adams’ oratorio *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* (to be released on CD by Deutsche Grammophon on March 11, 2014). Launching the 2013/14 season, the LA Phil presented a month-long celebration, *Inside Out*, commemorating the 10th anniversary of its winter home, Walt Disney Concert Hall. Highlights included a series of concerts with Conductor Laureate Esa-Pekka Salonen; free LA Phil community concerts culminating in the first joint concert with YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles) at Walt Disney Concert Hall; an opening night gala with Yo-Yo Ma featuring video installations by artist/director Netia Jones; and the world premiere of Frank Zappa’s *200 Motels*.

Praise for both the design and the acoustics of Walt Disney Concert Hall has been effusive, and the building embodies the energy, imagination, and creative spirit of the city of Los Angeles and its orchestra. As *Time* magazine noted, “With its curvaceous exterior and acoustically adroit interior, Gehry’s building bestowed on the city an important architectural landmark and proved that L.A. residents actually do go to the symphony,” while *The Washington Post* stated, “At last this orchestra has a hall worthy of its stature.”

The orchestra's involvement with Los Angeles also extends far beyond symphony concerts in a concert hall, with performances in schools, churches, and neighborhood centers of a vastly diverse community. Among its wide-ranging education initiatives is Youth Orchestra LA (YOLA). Inspired by Venezuela's revolutionary El Sistema – the LA Phil and its community partners provide free instruments, intensive music training, and academic support to over 600 students from underserved neighborhoods, empowering them to become vital citizens, leaders, and agents of change. In 2012, the LA Phil formed an innovative partnership with the Longy School of Music of Bard College. This bi-coastal alliance launched Take a Stand, a national initiative that supports social change through music by providing leaders with tools for growth through a series of conferences and workshops, as well as providing progressive and rigorous training for performing and teaching musicians.

Always inspired to expand its cultural offerings, the LA Phil each season produces concerts featuring distinguished artists in recital, jazz, world music, songbook, and visiting orchestra performances, in addition to special holiday concerts and series of chamber music, organ recitals, and Baroque music.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic continues to broaden its audience by touring worldwide, offering an extensive catalog of recorded music, and broadcasting concerts on radio and television. Thirteen concerts from the 2013/14 season will be broadcast in partnership with Classical KUSC and the WFMT Radio Network. The 2012/13 series was nationally broadcast in 305 markets and reached over 3.7 million listeners. Through an ongoing partnership with Deutsche Grammophon, the orchestra also has a substantial catalog of concerts available online, including the first full-length classical music video released on iTunes. *Rhapsody in Blue: Opening Night Concert and Gala* was telecast as part of the PBS performing arts series *Great Performances* and garnered a 2012 Emmy nomination. In 2011, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Gustavo Dudamel won a Grammy for Best Orchestral Performance for their recording of the Brahms Symphony No. 4. In 1974, the Los Angeles Philharmonic under the baton of Zubin Mehta won an Academy Award for "The Bolero," a 30-minute short subject featuring Maurice Ravel's famous orchestral work.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic was founded by William Andrews Clark, Jr., a millionaire and amateur musician, who established the city's first permanent symphony orchestra in 1919. Walter Henry Rothwell became its first Music Director, serving until 1927; since then, ten renowned conductors have served in that capacity: Georg Schnéevoigt (1927-1929); Artur Rodzinski (1929-1933); Otto Klemperer (1933-1939); Alfred Wallenstein (1943-1956); Eduard van Beinum (1956-1959); Zubin Mehta (1962-1978); Carlo Maria Giulini (1978-1984); André Previn (1985-1989); Esa-Pekka Salonen (1992-2009); and Gustavo Dudamel (2009-present).