



LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC

Short History

The Los Angeles Philharmonic is re-inventing the concept of a 21st-century orchestra under the vibrant leadership of Gustavo Dudamel. 2013/14 marks the orchestra's 95th season, and the Philharmonic – recognized as one of the world's outstanding orchestras – is received enthusiastically by audiences and critics alike. Both at home and abroad, the Philharmonic is leading the way in innovative programming and re-defining the musical experience.

This view is shared by more than one million listeners who experience live performances by the Los Angeles Philharmonic each year. The Philharmonic demonstrates a breadth and depth of programming unrivaled by other orchestras and cultural institutions, performing or presenting nearly 300 concerts throughout the year at its two iconic venues: Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl.

October 2013 marks the 10th anniversary of the winter home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic – the Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall. Praise for both the design and the acoustics of the 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 Los Angeles Philharmonic was founded by William Andrews Clark, Jr., a multi-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 and, since then, ten renowned conductors have served in that capacity: Georg Schnévoigt (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).

Inspired to consider new directions, Dudamel and the Philharmonic explore programming that remains faithful to tradition, yet also seeks new ground, new audiences, and new ways to enhance the symphonic music experience. During its 30-week winter subscription season of 110 performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Philharmonic creates festivals, artist residencies, and other thematic programs designed to delve further into certain artists' or composers' work. In 2011/12, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel, completed a monumental endeavor by performing Mahler's nine symphonies over the course of just three weeks in Los Angeles and one week in Caracas. Highlights of the 2012/13 season include nine new commissions, seven world premieres, and three major theatrical, multi-media productions: Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, the second installment of the three-year Mozart opera project (which concludes in 2014 with *Così fan tutte*) featuring the Paris-based design team of architect Jean Nouvel (installation) and costumes by couturier Azzedine Alaïa; an international tour of Creative Chair John Adams' oratorio *The Gospel According to the Other Mary*, directed by Peter Sellars; and Oliver Knussen's one-act opera *Where the Wild Things Are*.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic's commitment to the presentation of music of our time is also evident in its subscription concerts, its exhilarating Green Umbrella series, and its extensive commissioning initiatives. The Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group, devoted exclusively to performing compositions on the cutting edge of the repertoire, attracts leading composers and performers of contemporary music.

The orchestra's involvement with Los Angeles also extends far beyond regular symphony concerts in a concert hall, embracing the schools, churches, and neighborhood centers of a vastly diverse community. Among its wide-ranging education initiatives is Youth Orchestra LA (YOLA). Central to YOLA is the Philharmonic's plan to build, with community partners, youth orchestras in communities throughout Los Angeles. In 2012, the LA Phil launched *Take a Stand*, a partnership with the Longy School of Music at Bard College which supports social change through music by providing leaders with tools for growth through a series of conferences and workshops, and provides progressive and rigorous training for performing and teaching musicians.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association expands its cultural offerings by producing concerts featuring distinguished artists in recital, jazz, world music, songbook, and visiting orchestra performances, in addition to special holiday concerts and series of organ recitals, chamber music, 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. In March 2013, Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic embark on their second European tour together commencing with the orchestra's long-awaited first International Associate Residency with the Barbican in London and continuing with performances in Lucerne and Paris. Thirteen concerts from the 2012/13 season will be broadcast in partnership with Classical KUSC and the WFMT Radio Network. The 2011/12 series was broadcast in 234 markets and reached over 3.5 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 award 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 piece.

For a list of Los Angeles Philharmonic recordings and releases, please visit:

<http://www.laphil.com/watchlisten/recordings>