



LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC

Press Acclaim

"...the Los Angeles Philharmonic...is the most important orchestra in the country."
– *The New York Times*

"The L.A. Phil still boasts the most varied and venturesome offerings of any major orchestra."
– *Los Angeles Times*

"...the most multi-faceted orchestra in the world and certainly the one putting the greatest emphasis on music of our time."
– *Los Angeles Times*

"Under Salonen, the [Los Angeles] Philharmonic became the most interesting orchestra in America; under Dudamel, it shows no signs of relinquishing the title."
– *The New Yorker*

"If ever an orchestra was riding the crest of a wave, it is the Los Angeles Philharmonic."
– *The Times (London)*

"At a time when many orchestras are offering 'safer,' crowd-pleasing repertoire picks online, it's refreshing to see the LA Phil coming out of the gate with programming that speaks to why it is at the forefront of American orchestras today."
– *Billboard*

"No doubt about it, the LA Phil is a class act..."
– *The Daily Telegraph*

"The orchestra sounds in fantastic shape: translucent yet punchy; precise but full of players who know how to phrase beautifully...And, most impressive of all, the Angelenos had the vision and the bravery to bring two entire concerts of pieces composed in the past six years – and deliver them with irresistible finesse and fervor."
– *The Times (London)*

"You couldn't help but be impressed by the players' dexterity and Dudamel's commitment...The orchestral sound was ravishing from start to finish."
– *The Guardian*

"Thank you LA Phil for another glorious musical escape."
– *OC Weekly*

"I've rarely felt so grateful for music. It was the kind of performance that reminded me of the uplifting power of the arts, to bring people a sense of beauty and order in times of unease and upheaval...What a kaleidoscope of orchestral gestures...I left the hall grinning..."
– *Violinist*

"The Los Angeles Philharmonic...was so smoothly radiant and elegant as to have the musical equivalent of platinum plating."

- *Los Angeles Times*

"The orchestra was glorious in an uninhibited finale; a triumphant report vibrated the entire hall...Bravo to Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic on an evening not to be forgotten!"

- *Culture Spot LA*

"The Los Angeles Philharmonic's interpretation was like riding the tumultuous wave of life itself, with intensely sentimental melodic passages that dissolved into darker, more dissonant tones. The third movement concluded in a dizzying flurry of notes and triumphant trumpets, with so much exaltation that you could sense Wednesday's audience trying not to erupt in cheers...The Los Angeles Philharmonic simply performed beautifully in its Mondavi Center debut. For local orchestral fans, it was a must-see, trumping Game 7 of the World Series."

- *Sacramento Bee*

"A truly wonderful night which truly confirms Dudamel's and the LA Philharmonic's excellence."

- *Bachtrack*

"...the Philharmonic has reached a pinnacle as a sleek, high-gloss musical juggernaut. The sonorities it produces are bright and unruffled. The unanimity and discipline on display are stunning. The players hit their rhythmic mark with unerring precision, and phrases dip and glide with the polished elegance of a ballroom dancer."

- *San Francisco Chronicle*

"The performance was breathtaking. The orchestra...played with a singular purpose, and both they and Dudamel were in one of those rare zones where the music was elevated beyond the notes on the page."

- *Culture Spot LA*

"the Philharmonic's playing boasted a clarity and finesse that was startling"

- *LA Observed*

"Make it a point to see Dudamel and the LA Phil sometime soon, whether at Walt Disney Concert Hall or The Hollywood Bowl."

- *LA Music Blog*

"Even when it seems like the rest of the music world is shriveling up into a ball of basic repertoire, the Los Angeles Philharmonic continues to forge ahead with an agenda drenched in new music."

- *American Record Guide*

"The Los Angeles Philharmonic has been daring in its attempts to present opera and other important vocal works in its theatrically-challenged space...this *Pelléas et Mélisande*...was enhanced by the thoughtful restraints of its semi-staged concert presentation - which allowed the orchestra - the musical heart and voice of the opera - to carry Debussy's sensual score to the audience's heart."

- *Opera Today*

"The performance succeeded at every level, revealing in its unusual format an equally valid way to present *Pelléas et Mélisande*. It confirmed the persistence of artistic integrity and managerial risk-taking in the pursuit of ideal circumstances for a challenging work. The performance will stand as one of the greatest ever in Disney Hall and a milestone in the history of this unique work of musical art."

- *Huffington Post*

"The real stars of the performance, however, were the musicians of the Philharmonic and their remarkable conductor, Esa-Pekka Salonen, who is one of the great interpreters of the 20th century repertory."

– *Los Angeles News Group*

"Salonen led the orchestra in a bracing account, scrubbed clean of traditional fogs and meanderings. The climaxes were strong and bright and quick, a bullet train flying by, the lows dark and foreboding, Wagnerian."

– *OC Register*

"Led by the Philharmonic's star music director, Gustavo Dudamel, this program spoke to the great strength of this invaluable orchestra: embracing the new in a way that makes the canon, too, feel vibrant."

– *New York Times*

"The LA Phil is a fantastic orchestra. The strings know the secret of many shades of velvet. The coat of varnish on the brass has almost no cracks. And in the woodwinds, you actually think you are hearing something of the blended sound that Eduard van Beinum had in mind for Los Angeles."

– *De Volkskrant*

"...superbly played...exquisitely done"

– *The Guardian*

"The LA Phil's sound is formidably powerful, built out of the sculpted brass and satisfyingly growly double basses. They looked and sounded good in two 21st-century pieces."

– *The Times* (London)

"Brightness and brilliance glowed from the L.A. Phil."

– *Opera Today*

"Dudamel and his orchestra [were] certainly so sincere and actually a breath of fresh air...First class"

– *Trouw*

"An electrifying performance which will be remembered for a long time! What fieriness, what intelligence...Impossible not to be won over."

– *Bachtrack*

"In a concert like this the LA Phil sounds at the top of its game."

– *Financial Times*

"Their first concert...was perfection incarnate, and followed an entirely satisfying emotional arc...with the Dude in charge – and on such commanding form – these concerts should absolutely not be missed."

– *Independent*

"This was playing both fierce and luminous"

– *The Arts Desk*

"a truly memorable performance" and "All sections of the orchestra worked together to produce one intricate, beautifully woven texture—even the percussion seemed to be folded immaculately into an immense tapestry of sound."

– *New York Classical Review*

"The Los Angeles Philharmonic is riding high right now."

- *Superconductor*

"a smooth and radiant reading...Dudamel's quite agile (but henceforth more poised) arm impresses; his musicians play as if their lives depended on it. Dead silence at the end, rare and deserved."

- *Diapason*

"The science of rubato, the mastery of equilibrium, the excitement of timbres and nuances...all this met with a standing ovation before the last notes died out!"

- *Forum Opera*

"We won't soon forget the concert that Gustavo Dudamel and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra just gave at the Philharmonie de Paris...The triumph performed Sunday at the Philharmonie was not only due to the not-ordinary masterfulness of Dudamel...It also shows that conductor and orchestra are not afraid to conjure up all the natural forces summoned by Mahler in this gigantic world composition...the California orchestra understands how to tell a story with music."

- *Le Figaro*

"The concert by the Los Angeles Philharmonic last Monday at the Philharmonie was downright refreshing...Under Gustavo Dudamel's precise and simultaneously supple direction, the musicians dove in completely and joyfully...depicting the solos with great character, the various sections playing with vivacity, creating a praiseworthy ensemble and equilibrium."

- *Tageblatt*

"This musical dive into the heart of America was a real technicolor show."

- *Land Kulture*

"Dudamel and his Angelenos seem to have Mahler's music in their bones. The conductor demanded technical precision from his musicians but never at the expense of ardour. Not only was there beauty of tone but also literal accuracy."

- *Seen and Heard International*