

# GUSTAVO DUDAMEL

## PRESS ACCLAIM

### *With the Los Angeles Philharmonic*

The Los Angeles Times December 1, 2008

“...(Dudamel) wins over orchestras and audiences through the expression of an irresistible life force...[He] is a deep and serious interpreter...”

-Mark Swed

Bloomberg.com December 3, 2008

“...On that podium stood a musical phenomenon like none other on the planet. You saw it in the hands, the eyes, the aura...”

-Alan Rich

The Orange County Register December 5, 2008

“...Dudamel is a conducting virtuoso...he is a very talented and perceptive musician ...”

-Timothy Mangan

The Los Angeles Times January 6, 2007

“...Dudamel, who is 25, will be around for a long while. He is, as I am certain everyone in Disney instantly realized, a phenomenon...He most resembles a young Carlos Kleiber without the craziness. Like Kleiber, Dudamel does not appear to be leading the orchestra or even interacting with it. He *is* the orchestra, or is at least as one with it.”

-Mark Swed

### *With the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela*

The New Yorker December 3, 2007

“...the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela gives a glimpse of a possible future: one in which classical music becomes a more diverse and popular art without any loss of distinction...Dudamel gives an uncannily clear beat to the orchestra; he shapes the music with a natural intelligence; and, above all, he communicates his ideas with a zeal that even hardened professionals find irresistible...Dudamel achieved the most sensual and vital performance of Bartók’s *Concerto for Orchestra* that I’ve ever heard...”

-Alex Ross

Philadelphia Inquirer November 15, 2007

“...The event marked more than the decisive emergence of a young conductor and an interesting ensemble now making claim to international prominence...the concerts may represent a new chapter in orchestra history—as did Leopold Stokowski’s Philadelphia Orchestra string sound and Georg Solti’s marvelously eruptive Chicago Symphony...Dudamel has many moments of genius, in which instincts, energy and analytical insight into the music fuse into an expression that makes the music sound fresh-minted but with an etched-in-stone monumentality...”

-David Patrick Stearns

The Boston Globe November 9, 2007

“...Viewed in person, his [Dudamel’s] has a searing intensity when called for but also a fantastic dexterity that allows him to keep this huge orchestra’s many gears on track with more success than anyone could expect...Every gesture was organic to the music at hand...The playing had a blazing heat at key moments in the Bartók and in the finale of Beethoven’s Seventh Symphony, but also remarkable clarity...”

-Jeremy Eichler

The Independent August 21, 2007

“...Gustavo Dudamel...is a shining example of opportunity unlocking gifts...Really, it was humbling.”

-Edward Seckerson

The Telegraph August 20, 2007

“...He [Dudamel] is musical in every fibre of his body, and his Shostakovich was as profound and patient as his Mexican and Argentine second half was sparky and uninhibited. Music-making this joyous is in a class of its own...”

-David Fannin

### ***With the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra***

The Telegraph (London) August 14, 2008

“...Gustavo Dudamel, the young Venezuelan conductor, used his exuberant, persuasive conducting style to coax a seductive beat from the orchestra and to control the rhythmic clapping in the audience. This festive moment came at the end of a serious programme that had demonstrated the genuine rapport that has built up between Dudamel and the Gothenburg players during his year as music director...”

-Geoffrey Norris

### ***With the New York Philharmonic***

New York Times December 1, 2007

“... [Dudamel] delivered teeming, impassioned and supremely confident performances...Clearly, the Philharmonic players were inspired by the boundless joy and intensity of his music-making...Mr. Dudamel has a powerfully intuitive feeling for color and character in music. In the second half of the program, conducting Prokofiev’s Fifth Symphony, he conveyed the music’s startling shifts between Neo-Classical formalism, ironic humor and barbaric power...His performance of the Adagio, taken at a slower, weightier tempo than usual, was elemental and mesmerizing...”

-Anthony Tommasini

### ***With the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra***

Tages-Anzeiger September 12, 2007

“With remarkable certainty he organized the Vienna Philharmonic in this by no means simple piano concerto, in which he then developed the power and the line thoroughly. In Mahler’s First Symphony, Dudamel found himself to be even more in his element...Dudamel conducted from memory, sovereign here as well, leaving the piece free to flow, keeping the elegance of the score in mind...One can say, and not as a matter of course, that even though he was catapulted overnight onto the great podiums, this performance was no child’s play.”

(translated from German) -Susanne Kübler

### ***With the Philharmonia Orchestra***

The Guardian June 9, 2008

“It is the mark of truly exceptional conductors that they can transform the most familiar pieces into something richly different, so that the routine becomes extraordinary. When he conducted the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra at last year’s Proms, London concert-goers heard Gustavo Dudamel work that kind of alchemical magic...But here, making a guest appearance at the Philharmonia, he did the same thing with Shostakovich’s Fifth Symphony. What characterized Dudamel’s account of this most familiar of Shostakovich’s works was its thoughtfulness...Dudamel is special indeed—there’s no doubt about it.”

-Andrew Clements

### ***With the San Francisco Symphony***

The Orange County Register March 29, 2008

“...[Gustavo Dudamel] is a musician of our times...[Dudamel] left no expressive stone unturned ...”

-Timothy Mangan

## *The Mahler Conducting Competition, Bamberger Symphoniker*

Financial Times May 13, 2004

“[Dudamel conducted a]...blazing Mahler Fifth. From the opening trumpet fanfares, which he had painstakingly shaped in rehearsal, one sensed a real performance was in store. The huge orchestral eruption after the funeral march, frightening but superbly played and balanced, still reverberates in the mind. The Adagietto was ruminative yet pulsated, and the last movement was breathtaking in its exhilaration. Wherever Dudamel turns up next, it will be worth the voyage.”

-George Loomis

## *Recordings with the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra*

### *FIESTA*

Gramophone Magazine August 2008

“...The visceral impetus with which Dudamel plants firecrackers under his orchestra outplays anybody else...It's that good, completely unheralded in fact...it's the infectious hardcore Latin spirit that, once sampled, stays embedded in your imagination.”

-Phillip Clark

### *MAHLER, Symphony No. 5*

New York Times November 9, 2007

“...Mr. Dudamel's interpretation and orchestra's playing are both remarkable, mixing youthful energy with uncanny maturity...the overall quality of the playing is astonishing...”

-James Oestreich

Plain Dealer (Cleveland) October 21, 2007

“...Here is a conductor with imagination, patience, daring and the ability to galvanize an orchestra. The five movements of the Fifth present enormous challenges for conductors of every age. Dudamel appears to be unruffled by the work's emotional extremes or technical obstacles. He achieves superb contrasts of texture and color...The orchestra plays Mahler with exceptional control, finesse and power.”

-Donald Rosenberg

Classic FM August 2007

#### **“DISC OF THE MONTH”**

“...with Dudamel leading, [the orchestra] is capable of world-class performances...His version is ardent, fresh and beautifully shaped, with a yearning innocence that leaves you wanting more...”

-Emma Baker

### *BEETHOVEN, Symphonies Nos. 5&7*

The Philadelphia Inquirer August 27, 2006

“...This is model music-making...every phrase is played with an exciting, deeply internalized sense of ownership that adult orchestras would do well to emulate. Gustavo Dudamel is a significant talent.”

-David Patrick Stearns