



WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

Critical Acclaim

10th Anniversary Celebration – October 2013

"Ten years after its debut, it remains the city's greatest room." - *Los Angeles Times*

"The orchestra's 10-year-old Walt Disney Concert Hall is a model for 21st-century music spaces..." - *The New York Times*

"Frank Gehry's Walt Disney Concert Hall became a Los Angeles landmark the day it opened... the interior has a surprisingly intimate feel...the welcoming freshness of the design all but demands musical adventure." - *Gramophone*

"Disney Hall has been an economic as well as artistic boon to the Los Angeles Philharmonic, whose leaders have credited ongoing excitement over the building and its superb acoustics with helping it vastly improve its own fortunes after a series of deficits that had seriously eroded its financial position in the late 1990s. The Phil now is seen as one of the nation's leading orchestras, both financially and in artistic accomplishment and ambition." - *Los Angeles Times*

"When the Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall opened in October of 2003, it became an instant Los Angeles landmark, right up there with the Griffith Park Observatory, the Capitol Records building and the Hollywood sign." - *Variety*

"So splendid is the building that no visit to the city is complete without witnessing the Frank Gehry-designed marvel. Somehow, though, things are even more enchanting from the inside." - *Forbes Travel Guide*

"The surround-sound auditorium favors democracy over exclusive accommodations, since listeners sit in direct contact with the musicians and with one another. On every level, the musical experience is enhanced." - *Los Angeles Times*

"With its swooping curves and eye-catching metallic exterior, the Frank Gehry-designed building has become a fixture of downtown Los Angeles." - *KPCC*

"Upon its grand opening in October 2003, the Walt Disney Concert Hall was hailed as an architectural and acoustical masterpiece, an artistic inspiration, an instant landmark and a triumph for L.A. A decade later, the superlatives still ring true. In fulfillment of its mission, the permanent home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic reigns as one of the finest concert halls in the world."
- *Where LA*

"Disney Hall accomplishes all the things Gehry has become famous for and all the things he was supposed to be incapable of doing." - *Los Angeles Times*

"Frank Gehry's shining, cubist masterpiece seems to erupt from the street, its angular, fractured walls curving into the air like sails billowing in the wind. Visually striking and with an auditorium revered for the quality of its sound, the hall has had a 'catalytic effect' on the artistic and cultural life of Los Angeles..." - *Financial Times*

"Disney Hall was an instant success and has remained so." - *NPR's All Things Considered*

"Has anything made this city feel as progressive as this visionary venue has since, say, the opening of Dodger Stadium in Chavez Ravine more than half a century ago? The 2,265-seat auditorium is acoustically one of the finest its size in the world. Disney Hall has helped revitalize downtown, and it has inspired the L.A. Phil to become one of the most vibrant and forward-looking major arts organizations anywhere. Tourists take pleasure in merely touching the building's shiny surfaces."
- *Los Angeles Times*

2003-2013

"In 2003, with the opening of Frank Gehry's silver-winged Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown L.A., the Philharmonic acquired the most architecturally striking and acoustically satisfying performance space of modern times." - *The New Yorker*

"...the proof is in the acoustics, and on that score the hall seems poised to live up to even the grandest claims made on its behalf. The wood-lined chamber produces a sound just dry and crisp enough to let musical textures emerge clearly and without fuss. Yet the overwhelming impression is of the physical warmth of the sound, an enveloping presence that is wondrously immediate."
- *San Francisco Chronicle*

"The sound was live, clear, and warm everywhere, even in the highest balcony seats..."
- *Boston Globe*

"How does it sound? The answer is great, often astonishingly so." - *San Jose Mercury News*

"The hall is warmly resonant and yet also detailed...Sizzle and power both play well here, without harshness, and the softest soft notes still have plenty of presence." - *Orange County Register*

"There's something energizing about listening to music in a building of cutting-edge design. Listening to Ives, Adams and Ravel in a newly opened Walt Disney Concert Hall was an experience not to be forgotten, and thanks to Frank Gehry's extraordinary vision, it's a concert-hall that has quickly become an icon." - *Gramophone*

"The acoustics are terrific. The sound is clear, warm and true, so precise and so enveloping you can almost touch it. Instruments across the stage are audible in quiet passages and when the orchestra is blasting at full power." - *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"The first notes hit my ears with astonishing clarity and presence. Those inner voices so often obscured in lesser halls were fully audible, from the harp to the basses."
- *Santa Barbara News-Press*

"At last this orchestra has a hall worthy of its stature." - *Washington Post*

"The place sounded like no other auditorium anyone has been able to think of."
- *Hollywood Reporter*

"[Walt Disney Concert Hall] is a sensational place to hear music and an enchanting place to spend an evening. In richness of sound, it has few rivals on the international scene, and in terms of visual drama it may have no rival at all." - *The New Yorker*

"Glimpsed from across the street on South Grand Avenue, where it occupies a full city block, it defies the ability of the mind – and the eye – to take it all in: a monumental whorl of shiny stainless steel and glass that manages to soar and swoop, twist and turn with such titanic elegance that it looks as though it had found its true home after years of wandering the galaxies." - *Vogue*

"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." - *Time*

"It is astonishingly beautiful, and its completion marks the re-establishment of downtown Los Angeles as an outstanding centre for the performing arts in the United States." - *Courier-Mail*

"Los Angeles finally has a chance to be recognized for something other than films and glitz."
- Steven Spielberg as quoted in *InStyle*

"If ever there was a (literally) shining example of how the arts can fuel a city's economy and boost tourism, it is the Walt Disney Concert Hall's impact on the City of Los Angeles. Opened in 2003, this stunning, swirling...structure...has become as much a symbol for LA as the graceful white sails of the opera house in Sydney or the magnificent Gateway Arch of Saint Louis, MO."
- *Classical Music Magazine*