



GUSTAVO DUDAMEL PRESS ACCLAIM

Time Magazine – April 11, 2009

The Time 100: The World's 100 Most Influential People

"...with what appears to be unlimited talent and charisma, Gustavo has invigorated the sometimes staid world of classical music. His performances are ecstatic affairs, with musicians and audiences unable to resist his infectious joy".

Vanity Fair – March, 2009

"[Dudamel]...will be poised, at the age of 28, to become the kind of wide-ranging, energetic ambassador for classical music not seen since the meteoric rise of Leonard Bernstein, more than 60 years ago."

Vogue – September, 2009

"the conducting boy wonder who's making classical music not just hot but cool...With a visionary agenda and an ethnic background that speaks to America's burgeoning Latino population, he stands poised to become a major cultural and social force...a maestro for the Obama era."

Huffington Post – October 2, 2009

"...stay tuned to Gustavo Dudamel for the next 20 years..."

New Yorker – December 14, 2009

"[Dudamel has an] astonishing natural command of the art of conducting [and] an infectious emotional energy that tends to win over jaded souls in audiences and orchestras alike...Under Salonen, the Philharmonic became the most interesting orchestra in America; under Dudamel, it shows no signs of relinquishing the title."

LA – The Magazine of the Los Angeles Times – August 2, 2009

"Gustavo Dudamel is already a star, and he has already changed our city's musical sensibility."

With the Los Angeles Philharmonic

¡Bienvenido Gustavo!, A Target Free Community Concert at the Hollywood Bowl on October 3, 2009:

Reuters – October 4, 2009

"...no doubt thousands of first-time concertgoers joined the ranks of classical music lovers – that's saying something in L.A."

Los Angeles Times – October 4, 2009

"...a Beethoven Ninth to be remembered."

Musical America – October 5, 2009

"[Dudamel] was a veritable sculptor...shaping lines precisely yet with a sense of inevitable naturalness. Every phrase compelled the ear...the intensity was almost religious, the impact spiritual."

Orange County Register – October 5, 2009

"The kid's got talent, no question. The first movement roared and whispered compellingly...the finale thrilled as it should, Dudamel in easy command of its oratory, the ebb and flow of it perfectly calibrated. Perhaps the most remarkable was the conductor's consistent concentration and attentiveness throughout the symphony. No coasting here."

2009/10 Inaugural Gala at the Walt Disney Concert Hall on October 8, 2009:

Los Angeles Times – October 10, 2009

"Dudamel led everything with confidence and urgency. I can't imagine another orchestra that could sell such a piece ['City Noir'] so effectively on the first performance."

New York Times – October 10, 2009

"The ten minute ovation that erupted at the end of the Mahler made clear that supporters of the Los Angeles Philharmonic are thrilled with their new 28-year-old music director. But, this was an exceptional and exciting concert by any standard... He never took a solo bow from the podium. Instead he stood proudly with his players."

Wall Street Journal – October 10, 2009

"Gustavo Dudamel went from boy wonder to world-class conductor in little more than two hours...in Mr. Dudamel's hands, this well-known symphony [Mahler's 1st], which he led without a score, became something more: a fresh and supple work."

Los Angeles Daily News – October 11, 2009

"Unlike another Los Angeles institution, the Dodgers – who once again had to rally from behind to win – Dudamel and the orchestra were in the lead all evening long."

With the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela

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..."

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..."

Boston Globe – November 9, 2007

"...Viewed in person, [Dudamel] 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..."

The Independent – August 21, 2007

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

The Telegraph – August 20, 2007

"...[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..."

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..."

With the New York Philharmonic

The 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..."

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)

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."

With the San Francisco Symphony

Orange County Register – March 29, 2008

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

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 pulsed, and the last movement was breathtaking in its exhilaration. Wherever Dudamel turns up next, it will be worth the voyage."

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."

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..."

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."

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..."

BEETHOVEN, Symphonies Nos. 5 & 7

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."