

## LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC

### Press Acclaim

“The Los Angeles Philharmonic is the most important orchestra in America. Period. As it prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2019, the Philharmonic puts more energy into new work than any other orchestra. It presents a greater sense of the diversity of today’s music and its creators than any other orchestra. It ties its mission to education and social justice in its city more than any other orchestra. And, yes, more than any other orchestra, it combines a commitment to the future with a fresh eye on the past.”

– *The New York Times*

“The L.A. Phil still boasts the most varied and venturesome offerings of any major orchestra.”

– *Los Angeles Times*

“The ascendancy of the Los Angeles Philharmonic is the salient event in American orchestral life of the past twenty-five years...The L.A. Phil’s 2017–18 season, just announced, is so far ahead of that of any rival, in America or around the world, that the orchestra is mainly competing with itself.”

– *The New Yorker*

“The orchestra sounds splendid these days...when it comes to programming, the Los Angeles Philharmonic takes chances its rivals rarely, if ever, do.”

– *Wall St. Journal*

“No one should be surprised that L.A. and the L.A. Phil – the most important orchestra in America (so says even the *New York Times*), the most prosperous (so say the annual reports) and the most ambitiously imaginative (so says program after program) – have begun exerting unprecedented influence around the country.”

– *Los Angeles Times*

“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*

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

– *Los Angeles Times*

"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*

"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*

“*Theatre of the World* is the most imaginative and ambitious piece that LA Philharmonic has commissioned and presented to date. Nonesuch’s excellent CD of it is my pick for Best Contemporary Opera Recording 2017.”

– *Sequenza 21*

“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 L.A. Phil is modern even when it's Baroque”

– *Los Angeles Times*

“Heyward and the orchestra seemed like old familiar partners in "The Firebird" Suite – irresistible music played with all the mysterious glitter and melodic tenderness that Stravinsky can evoke in the very best performances. This was one. You had to believe your ears.”

– *LA Observed*

“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*

"...an ensemble of virtuosi that delight in their individual beauty of detail, yet can bring each of those parts whirring together with all the precision and efficiency of the finest clockwork."

– *Bachtrack*

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

– *Trouw*

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

– *Financial Times*

"The playing of the L.A. Phil ... was, from the top of the ensemble to the bottom, magnificent."

– *Los Angeles 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*

"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*

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