



## **GUSTAVO DUDAMEL**

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR** ***Walt and Lilly Disney Chair***

#### Biography

Conductor Gustavo Dudamel's passionate music-making continues to inspire audiences of all ages worldwide. He is currently serving as Music Director of both the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the impact of his musical leadership is felt on four continents. While his commitment to these posts accounts for the major portion of his yearly schedule, Dudamel also guest conducts some of the world's greatest musical institutions. In the 2013/14 season he returns to the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics and tours with La Scala in opera and concert to Japan. Additional guest appearances include the Munich Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra London, Bamberg Symphony, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, and Gothenburg Symphony, where he is Honorary Conductor.

Dudamel makes his first foray into composing for film with the major feature *Libertador* (the life of Simón Bolívar), for which he wrote the score and recorded it with the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela. The film is being released in the US in summer 2014, along with the soundtrack.

Now in his 15th season as Music Director, Dudamel continues to lead the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra in his native Venezuela as well as on tour. After a July 2013 production of *Tannhäuser* at the Bogotá Opera and a 2013 summer residency at the Salzburg Festival, the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra toured to Paris and the Middle East in January of 2014, before travelling to California in February for a residency and joint concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic TchaikovskyFest.

Gustavo Dudamel is in his fifth season as Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where his contract has already been extended through 2018/19, the orchestra's 100th season. Under his leadership the Philharmonic has expanded its diversified outreach through many projects, most notably Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA), influenced by Venezuela's widely successful El Sistema. With YOLA, Gustavo brings music to children in the underserved communities of Los Angeles, and also serves as an inspiration for similar efforts throughout the United States, as well as for programs in Sweden (Hammarkullen) and Scotland (Raploch). This

season, the students of YOLA had the unique opportunity of playing alongside the musicians of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in its first-ever public "side by side" concert.

At the Los Angeles Philharmonic, it is not only the breadth of the audience reached, but also the depth of the programming performed under Gustavo Dudamel that is remarkable. Programs at the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 2013/2014 continue to represent the best and the boldest: eleven world premieres and thirteen commissions; a community-wide season opening festival in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Walt Disney Concert Hall, culminating in a gala performance at the Hall; and a seven-city North American tour to San Francisco, Kansas City, New York, Washington DC, Toronto, Montreal and Boston in March 2014. The season ends with a staged *Così fan tutte* with sets by architect Zaha Hadid, completing a three-consecutive-year Mozart/Da Ponte trilogy project. This summer at the Hollywood Bowl concerts include an all-Beethoven evening; the third installment of *Americas & Americans*; and a one-night-only double bill of Italian opera, Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*.

An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist since 2005, Grammy-winner Gustavo Dudamel has numerous recordings on the label. As part of a major Mahler recording project, his recent CD releases include Mahler 9 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In addition, DG has already released Mahler 5, as well as Dudamel: Mahler 8 - Symphony of a Thousand Live from Caracas (DVD + Blu-Ray), featuring the combined forces of the LA Phil and the Bolívars. September 2013 saw the international release of an all-Strauss disc with the Berlin Philharmonic (CD), and a concerto disc with the Bolívars and Yuja Wang featuring Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto and Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto was released earlier this season. A CD of Adams' *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic was released in March 2014.

Many video/DVD releases capture the excitement of important concerts in Gustavo Dudamel's musical life, including The Inaugural Concert documenting his first concert in 2009 as Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New Year's Eve Concert Gala 2011 with the Berlin Philharmonic, and a Birthday Concert for Pope Benedict XVI, among others. In June 2011, a documentary, *Let the Children Play*, featuring Dudamel, was shown in over 500 movie theaters nationwide. Gustavo Dudamel has been featured three times on CBS's *60 Minutes* and appeared on a 2010 PBS special, *Dudamel: Conducting a Life*, with Tavis Smiley. He appeared on *Sesame Street* with Elmo in February 2012.

Gustavo Dudamel is one of the most decorated conductors of his generation. He has recently been named *Musical America's* 2013 Musician of the Year, one of the highest honors in the classical music industry, and was voted into the *Gramophone* Hall of Fame. In October of 2011, he was named *Gramophone* Artist of the Year, and in May of the same year was inducted into the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in consideration of his "eminent merits in the musical art." The previous year, he received the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT. Dudamel was inducted into l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres as a Chevalier in Paris in 2009, and

received an honorary doctorate from the Universidad Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado in his hometown of Barquisimeto. He also received an honorary doctorate from the University of Gothenburg in 2012. In 2008, the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra was awarded Spain's prestigious annual Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts and, along with his mentor José Antonio Abreu, Dudamel was given the *Q Prize* from Harvard University for extraordinary service to children.

Named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people in 2009, Gustavo Dudamel was born in 1981 in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. He began violin lessons as a child with José Luis Jiménez and Francisco Díaz at the Jacinto Lara Conservatory. He continued his violin studies with Rubén Cova and José Francisco del Castillo at the Latin American Academy of Violin. His conducting studies began in 1996 with Rodolfo Saglimbeni and, that same year, he was given his first conducting position, Music Director of the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra. In 1999, he was appointed Music Director of the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra and began conducting studies with the orchestra's founder, Dr. Abreu; a few years later, in 2004, Dudamel was brought to international attention by winning the inaugural Bamberger Symphoniker Gustav Mahler Competition. These early musical and mentoring experiences molded his commitment to music as an engine for social change – a lifelong passion.

In 2012, Gustavo and Eloísa Dudamel launched The Dudamel Foundation, which is dedicated to furthering music education and social justice around the world.

Gustavo Dudamel, his wife Eloísa Maturén, and their young son Martín divide their time mainly between Caracas and Los Angeles.

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*Additional information about Gustavo Dudamel can be found on his website:  
[www.gustavodudamel.com](http://www.gustavodudamel.com)*