

GUSTAVO DUDAMEL

Music Director

Walt and Lilly Disney Chair

Hailed as one of the most exciting and compelling conductors of our time, Gustavo Dudamel begins his tenure as Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in fall 2009. Continuing as Music Director of the Gothenburg Symphony, Dudamel is also in his tenth year as Music Director of the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. His infectious energy and exceptional artistry have made him one of the most sought-after conductors by orchestras around the world.

Gustavo Dudamel's 2008-09 season opened with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra's October tour of Europe, including performances in Germany, Luxembourg, Austria and Spain. In November 2008, he toured the US with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, performing at New York's Carnegie Hall, Washington DC's Kennedy Center, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, and Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, among others. Following the tour, Dudamel conducted two subscription weeks with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In December, Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra made a debut Asian tour to Japan, China, and Korea, and later this season in 2009, he tours with them to the US and Europe. Additional appearances in winter/spring 2009 are with Staatskapelle Berlin, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Philharmonia Orchestra on a UK tour, the Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala, Berliner Philharmoniker and the Berlin Staatsoper. In April, he makes his debut and tours with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Gustavo Dudamel has been an exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist since 2005. His debut recording, *Beethoven Nos. 5&7* with the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra, was released worldwide in September 2006, and received the 2007 *Echo Award* (Germany) for "New Artist of the Year." His second recording with the SBYO, *Mahler No. 5*, was released in May 2007, and was chosen as the only classical album on iTunes' "Next Big Thing." Released in May 2008, Dudamel's third album with the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra, *FIESTA*, is – as the title suggests – a "fiesta" of Latin-American works, including Revueltas' *Sensemaya*, Carreño's *Margariteña*, Estévez's *Melodía en el Llano* and Bernstein's *Mambo*. Dudamel's most recent recording with the SBYO, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5* and *Francesca da Rimini*, will be released in March 2009. His DVDs include *The Promise of Music*, a documentary and concert with the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra released in 2008, and *Birthday Concert for Pope Benedict XVI* released in 2007.

News of Gustavo Dudamel's talent spread worldwide after his triumph at the inaugural Bamberger Symphoniker Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition in May 2004. Born in 1981 in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, he studied violin at the Jacinto Lara Conservatory with José Luis Jiménez and later, with José Francisco del Castillo, at the Latin American Academy of Violin. In 1996, he began his conducting studies with Rodolfo Saglimbeni and during the same year was named Music Director of the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra. In 1999, along with assuming the Music Director position of the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra, he began conducting studies with José Antonio Abreu, the Orchestra's founder. In May 2007, Dudamel was awarded the *Premio de la Latindad* an honor given for outstanding contributions to Latin cultural life, which is presented by the 37 Latin American and African member states of the Union Latina organization. In 2008, the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra was granted Spain's prestigious *Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts*, given annually by the Prince of Asturias Foundation in Spain. Dudamel was awarded the 2007 *Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award for Young Artists* and, most recently, along with his mentor Dr. Abreu, the 2008 "Q Prize" from Harvard University for extraordinary service to children.