

LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC

Press Acclaim

“It’s the end of a big year for classical music. It’s the end of a big decade for classical music....The biggest story of all has been the stellar rise of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, becoming surely the most successful arts organization of the century so far through an insurmountable belief in the value of music to the betterment of humanity.”

– *Los Angeles Times*

“During the decade that Dudamel has been at the conductor’s podium, the L.A. Phil has grown into one of the world’s most important orchestras. Dudamel...has pushed a bold vision and eclectic programming to expand the boundaries of what a modern orchestra can be, culminating in a historic centennial season of unprecedented ambition.”

– *Los Angeles Times*

“...the four-year extension will keep Mr. Dudamel, 38, in Los Angeles at least through the 2025-26 season, his 17th with the Philharmonic. It maintains what has proved a winning formula: the pairing of a conductor whose fame extends beyond the classical music world and is a powerful audience draw with an orchestra that has developed perhaps the strongest reputation in the country for innovative programming and community outreach.”

– *The New York Times*

“It’s always been a bit of a gimmick that serious art really happened only east of the Mississippi, at the ‘big five’ orchestras of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Chicago. But the story of the past decade has been the full arrival of the West Coast as not simply a force but the reigning powerhouse in American music.”

– *The New York Times*

“With the energy it pours into community initiatives such as Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, and its affinity for inventive concert programming and new music — not just commissions, but also gems from the recent past such as Meredith Monk’s spectacular ‘Atlas’ — the LA Philharmonic is the ensemble that listeners have lined up to hail as the very model of a modern major orchestra. I’ve often longingly gazed at its weekly program listings, wishing I had a handy cross-country teleportation device.”

– *The Boston Globe*

“Mehta put the orchestra on the world map with spectacular-sounding recordings for Decca/London and tours; Salonen made it a great orchestra with an incorrigibly progressive bent; and Dudamel made it a community force with its El Sistema-inspired YOLA (Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles) programs.”

– *Classical Voice America*

“...a thunderous Rite of Spring showed the west coast orchestra at its best.”

– *The Guardian*

“Gustavo Dudamel has come back, changed into a savvy, powerful, accomplished Maestro. His Bruckner with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, was one for the history books...The Palace of Fine Arts was bubbling over with joy.”

– *La Jornada*

“Even through a PA system in a boxy, steel venue that usually echoes with football chants, the LA Phil’s sound was lush and precise as it navigated a playlist dominated by the orchestra’s “beloved good friend”, the film music composer John Williams.”

– *Financial Times*

“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*

“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*

“You know something is up when *The New York Times* insists that Los Angeles has the most important orchestra in the country.”

– NPR

“When a major history of the Los Angeles Philharmonic is written many years from now, the orchestra’s first golden age will be cited as the period it’s in the midst of at the moment. The LA Phil’s centenary season includes works by 61 living composers, most of them commissioned for the occasion. For some, that fact alone makes it the most important orchestra in America.”

– *Gramophone*

“Symphony orchestras typically celebrate their milestone anniversaries by looking backward. The Los Angeles Philharmonic is doing things differently, marking its centenary...by emphasizing the present and future...this organization takes chances others avoid...if any existing organization can point the way forward, it’s this one.”

– *The Wall Street Journal*

“The orchestral envy of the world”

– *Los Angeles Times*

“...this orchestra evolved from a regional footnote into a juggernaut – a trendsetter for what a symphony orchestra organization can be in the 21st Century...”

– *Symphony*

“The nation’s most vital orchestra.”

– *The New Yorker*

“the LA Phil sounds at the top of its game.”

– *Financial Times*

“The Los Angeles Philharmonic is a landmark – not just a West Coast beacon of creative muscle, but of integrity and progress.”

– *BBC Music Magazine*

“Over the decades, the L.A. Phil has succeeded in inverting the norms of classical-music culture, so that even the most outré events attract big, diverse audiences.”

– *The New Yorker*

“Possibly the most progressive and news-making arts institution anywhere.”

– *Los Angeles Times*

“We should all look so good at 100.”

– *Forbes*

“For now, Disney Hall is the chief laboratory of the orchestral future.”

– *The New Yorker*

“The most innovative orchestra anywhere.”

– *The Guardian*

“No classical institution in the world rivals the L.A. Phil in breadth of vision.”

– *The New Yorker*

“At times there’s something almost comical about the ease with which the Phil’s success has toppled conventional wisdom. At a moment when classical music is said to be divided between traditionalist audiences and progressive musicians, the Phil draws large, enthusiastic crowds to concerts of challenging new music. At a time when classical music is said to be exclusively for rich white people, hundreds of children from diverse racial and economic backgrounds participate in the Phil’s education program, Youth Orchestra Los Angeles.”

– *New York Times Magazine*

“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*

“...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*

“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*

“Perfection incarnate.”

– *Independent*