



(June 2018)

GUSTAVO DUDAMEL

Conductor

Official Biography 2018-19 Season (1280 words)

Driven by an unwavering belief in the power of music to heal, unite, and inspire, Gustavo Dudamel is one of the most distinguished conductors of our day. From the great concert halls to classrooms, video screens and movie theaters, Dudamel's remarkable career of musical achievements and championing of access to the arts for young people around the world demonstrates music's extraordinary capacity to transform lives.

Dudamel's 2018/19 season will center around the centennial celebration of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and his tenth year as their Music & Artistic Director. Other highlights of the season include his debut at the Metropolitan Opera conducting Verdi's *Otello*; tours with the Berlin Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, and Mahler Chamber Orchestra; and his first extended academic residency at Princeton University.

Under Dudamel's direction, the LA Phil has become one of the leading orchestras in the world, admired for its unmatched commitment to new music, diversity and inclusion, and the development of groundbreaking digital initiatives. The celebration of the LA Phil's 100th season showcases the extraordinary versatility and vision of both the orchestra and Dudamel himself, featuring more than 50 commissions from luminaries such as John Adams, Philip Glass, and Steve Reich, as well as leading young composers such as Julia Adolphe, Ashley Fure, Andrew Norman, Tyshawn Sorey, Kamasi Washington, and Du Yun. Dudamel will lead cross-genre collaborations with Herbie Hancock, Moby, and Andrew Bird, Beethoven's five piano concertos with Lang Lang as soloist, a performance at the Academy Awards, a tour of Asia, and more. The LA Phil will also plan to distribute 10,000 free tickets to underserved audiences around Los Angeles as a centennial gift to the community.

A lifelong advocate for music education and social development through art, Dudamel himself was shaped by his childhood experience with El Sistema, the

extraordinary program of immersive musical training initiated in 1975 by José Antonio Abreu. Entering his 19th year as Music Director of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, Dudamel also carries on the work of his late mentor with his ongoing commitment to El Sistema in Venezuela, and by supporting numerous Sistema-inspired projects around the world, including Big Noise in Scotland, Vienna's Superar program, SerHacer in Boston, and El Sistema Sweden. His 2018 "Americas" tour with the Vienna Philharmonic was highlighted by an Art and Citizenship workshop in Mexico City bringing together 300 young people from across North and South America in an expression of cultural solidarity. He has worked to raise awareness of the importance of music education by appearing at the United Nations and the White House, and delivered an address on the unity of the Arts and Sciences at the 2017 Nobel Prize Concert.

Dudamel also continues to expand the reach of his Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) initiative. Founded in 2007, the program has provided access to quality music education to tens of thousands of children from underserved communities around Los Angeles. 2019 will see the construction of a new Frank Gehry-designed facility for YOLA in Inglewood, California.

One of the few classical musicians to truly reach mainstream audiences while maintaining the highest musical integrity, Gustavo Dudamel has been featured three times on CBS' *60 Minutes* and was the subject of a PBS special, *Dudamel: Conducting a Life*. He has been interviewed by Christiane Amanpour on CNN, Conan O'Brien on *Conan*, Stephen Colbert on *The Late Show*, and Elmo on *Sesame Street*. He had a cameo role in Amazon Studio's award-winning series *Mozart in the Jungle* and, together with members of YOLA, became the first classical musician to participate in the Super Bowl Halftime Show, appearing alongside pop stars Coldplay, Beyoncé, and Bruno Mars. In 2017, he was the youngest-ever conductor to lead the Vienna Philharmonic's famous New Year's Day Concert, watched annually by over 60 million people in 90 countries. At John Williams' personal request, Dudamel guest-conducted on the soundtrack for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*; he also recorded James Newton Howard's soundtrack to Disney's holiday blockbuster *The Nutcracker*, in which he makes an on-screen cameo.

Dudamel's cinema, TV, radio, and online broadcasts have reached hundreds of millions of people around the world. Dudamel's Grammy Award®-winning discography also includes landmark recordings of John Adams' *Gospel According to the Other Mary* (commissioned and performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic); the soundtrack to the motion picture *Libertador*, for which Dudamel composed the score; a Richard Strauss disc with the Berlin Philharmonic; Mahler Symphonies 5 and 7 with the Simón Bolívar Symphony

Orchestra; and Mahler 9 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. A special charity LP release of Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony with the Vienna Philharmonic raised funds for music education projects in Latin America, and children from Vienna's El Sistema-inspired Superar program participated in his most recent Deutsche Grammophon release, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Dudamel has independently produced an all-Wagner recording available exclusively for download and streaming, a set of the complete Beethoven symphonies from Barcelona's Palau de la Música, and a broadcast of two Stravinsky ballets in cooperation with the Berlin Philharmonic's Digital Concert Hall.

Gustavo Dudamel is one of the most decorated conductors of his generation. In recognition of his advocacy for the proliferation of the arts in the Americas, he received the 2018 Paez Medal of Art and the Pablo Neruda Order of Artistic and Cultural Merit, the Americas Society Cultural Achievement Award in 2016, and the 2014 Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the Elevation of Music in Society from the Longy School of Music. He was 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. He was 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 1993 when he was hired as an Assistant Conductor with the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra. In 1996, he studied with Rodolfo Saglimbeni and was named 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. Dudamel achieved international attention by winning the inaugural Bamberger Symphoniker Gustav

Mahler Competition in 2004. He then went on to become Music Director of the Gothenburg Symphony (2007-2012), where he currently holds the title Honorary Conductor. Inspired by Dudamel's early musical and mentoring experiences, the Gustavo Dudamel Foundation, a registered charity, was created in 2012 with the goal of promoting access to music as a human right and a catalyst for learning, integration, and social change.

For more information about Gustavo Dudamel, visit his official website: gustavodudamel.com. You can find more about the Gustavo Dudamel Foundation at dudamelfoundation.org

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