



MUSICALE at THE RESIDENCE of the SPANISH AMBASSADOR
performed by GABRIELA MONTERO
APRIL 11, 2007 ~ 7:00 pm
2350 Foxhall Road, NW
Washington, D.C.

~ An evening to celebrate Youth Orchestra of the Americas ~
The Residence of The Ambassador of Spain

H. E. The Ambassador of Spain, **Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza**, and his wife **Amaya de Miguel** hosted **cocktails** and a **private performance** by Venezuelan pianist, **Gabriela Montero**, followed by a **seated dinner** for 50 guests at their residence in Washington, DC on Wednesday, April 11, 2007. Miss Montero, who has performed as guest soloist with YOA in Venezuela, Colombia and Argentina during the 2005 International Tour, and again in Aldeburgh (England) during YOA's 2006 European Tour, was recently featured on *60 Minutes* - as a *piano virtuoso with an amazing gift*. The Spanish Residence is an impressive architectural landmark designed by José Rafael Moneo, one of Spain's most celebrated architects and winner of the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1996.

In addition to the Ambassador of Spain and Mrs. Westendorp, the Ambassador of Colombia, Carolina Barco, attended this wonderful evening of music in honor of YOA. Also in attendance were some very important, incredibly busy, but deeply devoted friends of YOA including Luis Alberto Moreno, President of Inter-American Development Bank and John Hauge, IADB Finance Director; Marjorie Coffin from US Department of State (Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs); Neale Perl, Executive Director of WPAS; George Kappaz, CEO of Comsat International; Christine de Vollmer of the Vollmer Foundation in Caracas and Special Appointee to the Vatican; David Arben, former concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra and featured musician in YOA's upcoming new documentary film *Legacy*; Jorge Sobredo, Cultural Attaché of Spanish Embassy; Michael Donnelly of Mars, Inc; Bruce Wilcox, Chairman of Cumberland Associates' Management Committee (and potential new donor to YOA); and over a dozen Investment Committee members of Strategic Investment Group. Among YOA Board members who attended were Gabriela Febres-Cordero de Moreno, Hilda and Arturo Brillembourg, Michael Olding, Carol Grefenstette (and husband David Bates), Cristina Burelli, JoAnn and John Mason, and Donna Lauderdale.

Ambassador and Mrs. Westendorp warmly greeted guests during the cocktail hour, and later at dinner, the Ambassador spoke beautifully about his country as well as the importance of YOA and its unique support of young musicians. Once guests were seated in the grand salon of the Spanish residence, Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg gave a poignant introduction to Gabriela Montero, and Gabriela followed with heartfelt words of her love of YOA. Then, Gabriela filled the air with a varied program of romantic, energetic and meditative works by composers Frédéric Chopin and Alberto Ginastera and transported guests into the beautiful, sublime world of préludes, études, fantaisies, and danzas argentinas. As the finale and very eagerly anticipated part of the evening, Gabriela created several original works on the piano in her extraordinary improvisational style, each inspired by popular songs suggested to her by audience members.

Following Gabriela's performance, guests were seated around stately tables in the residence's formal dining room to partake in a simple, delicious meal accompanied by animated conversations in every corner of the room. A luscious orange chiffon cake was presented for dessert and an exquisite coffee service was offered in the grand salon.

We are very appreciative to Ambassador and Mrs. Westendorp for welcoming guests into their home for such a special evening to honor Youth Orchestra of the Americas. The Westendorp's generous hospitality, the embassy's magnificently organized and thoughtful Diane Flamini, and the fresh and lively pianism of Gabriel Montero will remain a very fond memory for all, for many years to come.

It was an evening filled with warm remarks and heartfelt enthusiasm for YOA and its mission. It was an evening where fertile seeds were planted for YOA to perform in Spain in the near future.

Gabriela Montero's performance fee and other expenses were generously underwritten by Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg and Strategic Investment Group. We hope to gain generous support from Comsat International and others in attendance for upcoming 2007-08 YOA Camerata Programs in Brazil and Argentina, and beyond.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE AMERICAS

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