

YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE AMERICAS · ORQUESTRA
JOVEM DAS AMÉRICAS · ORCHESTRE JEUNESSES DES
AMÉRIQUES · ORQUESTA DE JÓVENES DE LAS
AMERICAS



YOA CAMERATA AMÉRICAS

MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

27 MAY – 2 JUNE 2008

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
XXXVIII ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In early July 2007, at a YOA rehearsal for the White House Conference on the Americas, Adriana Mejía, Colombia's Viceministra of Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, extended the wonderful invitation to YOA to perform on June 1, 2008 at the opening ceremony of the OAS Annual General Assembly to be hosted by the Colombian government in Medellín.

With eager encouragement from Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Montero, YOA was very pleased to invite rising young French-Canadian conductor, Jean-Pascal Hamelin, to lead the ensemble of 40 YOA musicians and, in a spirit of unity and friendship, 40 members of Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Colombia in a combined orchestra. With guidance from Argentine composer Carlos Franzetti, Colombian composer Juan Antonio Cuéllar, YOA staff & Artistic Committee, Maestro Hamelin created a program of works by M. Camargo Guàrnieri *Danza brasileira* (Brasil), Julián Orbón *Pavana* from *Tres Versiones Sinfónicas* (Spain Cuba México), Diego Vega *Tumbaos* (Colombia), Antonio Estévez *Mediodía en el Llano* (Venezuela), Astor Piazzolla *Oblivion* (Argentina), John Estacio *Bootlegger's Tarantella* (Canada) and George Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue* (USA).

Virtually all logistical & technical aspects were coordinated by YOA staff and Maria Elvira Quintana in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mauricio Peña, Musical Coordinator of Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Colombia.

YOA musicians represented Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Puerto Rico, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

On the evening of June 1st, following remarks by OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and President Álvaro Uribe, the YOA concert, an exuberant celebration of youth and music of the Americas, set the stage for this year's OAS Assembly themed "juventud y valores democráticos" (youth and democratic values).

WELCOME & REHEARSAL

MAY 28 – CASA DE LA MÚSICA

Jorge Melguizo, Secretario de Cultura of Medellín, welcomed YOA musicians at Casa de la Música, where they would spend the day with members of Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil e Infantil de la Red de Escuelas de Música de Medellín, a network of music schools serving over 4,000 youth in 26 of Medellín's most violent and low-income barrios. Jean-Pascal Hamelin led YOA musicians in rehearsal (below) while the young Colombian's observed. After the morning rehearsal, everyone was served a beautifully catered roof-top lunch with a view of the city. After lunch, the young Colombians gave YOA musicians a tour of this specially designed Music Center and nearby Observatory-Science Park before resuming the afternoon rehearsal.



That evening, YOA musicians were transported to Teatro Lido to attend a concert by Medellín's Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil e Infantil in YOA's honor. YOA musicians were greeted by Fredy Noreña, one of the founders and now coordinator of the Medellín network of orchestras & choirs, and Maria Rosa Machado, Vice-secretary of Culture of Medellín. 70 musicians, ages 14 to 20, performed *Poeta y Aldeano* by F.V. Suppe, Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor* with soloist Daniel Arias Holguin (a graduate of the music system) and Dvorák's *Symphony No. 8*. After the concert, by invitation of Mayor Alonso Salazar, YOA and the young Medellín musicians were treated to dinner at Parque Biblioteca de Belén. This was a beautiful first day in Colombia, specially arranged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mayor Salazar, and Cultural Secretary of Medellín Jorge Melguizo and his enthusiastic staff.

MAY 29 – UNIVERSIDAD DE ANTIOQUIA

Upon arrival from Bogotá, members of Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Colombia (OSNC) joined YOA musicians at Universidad de Antioquia to rehearse in sectionals: strings in the morning, winds & percussion in the afternoon. In an abrupt reminder of social unrest in the world, the afternoon rehearsal was interrupted by student protests on the university campus that were dispersed by local police and tear gas! Maestro Hamelin and the musicians valiantly continued rehearsing until the area was safe to board buses back to the serenity of Hotel Monticelo.

MAY 30 – CASA DE LA MÚSICA

This exciting day marked the first full rehearsal with all members of YOA and OSNC at Casa de la Música (to avoid student protest interruptions). The morning rehearsal concentrated on the two most difficult pieces: Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* (with YOA piano soloist Aline Rocha from Brazil) and Julián Orbón's *Pavana*. Lunch was served on the roof-top, followed by an afternoon dedicated to preparing works by Diego Vega, John Estacio and M. Camargo Guàrneri. Colombian composer, Diego Vega, arrived from Bogotá in time for rehearsal of his piece, *Tumbaos*, and spoke at length with the musicians and Maestro Hamelin about its meaning and musical interpretation.

MAY 31 – TEATRO METROPOLITANO

The orchestra enjoyed a productive morning rehearsal at Teatro Metropolitano, site of the June 1 concert. Because of the high security associated with this event, every precaution was taken to ensure that the musicians were well rehearsed, both musically, and in the precise seating movements on stage during the performance. After rehearsal, musicians returned to Hotel Monticelo for lunch, then changed into concert dress and boarded buses taking them to a very poor Medellín “barrio” to perform a free public dress rehearsal for local children and families.

COMMUNITY CONCERT

MAY 31 – TEATRO PABLO TOBÓN URIBE – 4:00 P.M.

When YOA arrived, there were lines and lines of children and parents waiting at the theater doors. Once inside, seats were quickly filled with faces of anticipation and awe. Televisión de la Alcaldía Medellín was there to broadcast the event on local TV, complete with a professional MC. Jorge Melguizo, Secretary of Culture of Medellín, gave an inspirational introduction of YOA, followed by beautiful remarks by Hugo Beteta, Secretary of Inter-American Development Bank, who was invited by YOA to say a few words about IDB's longstanding support of YOA and the importance of investing in youth of the Americas.



First to perform was a second Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil e Infantil made up of 120 musicians, ages 10 to 15, who prepared 4 works: *Caballería Ligera* (F.V. Suppe), *Marcha Eslava* (Tchaikovsky), *Mambo No. 5* (Pérez Prado) and *La Tierra* (by local Medellín rock star, Juanes). It was a very spirited performance, ending with a jazzy version of the traditional *Colombia Tierra Querida* encore. Then, the YOA-OSNC orchestra took the stage (above) to perform music of the Americas. Brazilian pianist Aline Rocha captivated the audience with *Rhapsody in Blue* and Colombian oboist Pablo Moreno performed an amazing solo in Piazzolla's *Oblivion*. Jean-Pascal Hamelin gave brief descriptions of each work that were translated in Spanish by Colombian composer Diego Vega; the love story and car chase in *Bottlegger's Tarantella* especially piqued the audience's imagination. During *Tico Tico*, Uruguayan Nicolás Giordano invited children in the audience to come on stage to be amongst the musicians and feel the vibrations of the music. Finally, a lively version of *Colombia Tierra Querida* got the entire audience on its feet, singing along and dancing in the aisles! It was a deeply rewarding experience for all.

XXXVIII OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INAUGURAL CONCERT

JUNE 1 – TEATRO METROPOLITANO – 8:30 PM



The musicians arrived at Teatro Metropolitano in the late afternoon for a final rehearsal, stage set-up and sound check. Anticipating President Uribe's arrival, everyone gathered backstage for a snack and coffee. After opening remarks by OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and a welcome speech by President Uribe, the musicians took their places on stage. Jean-Pascal Hamelin made his entrance and began the program with *Danza brasileira* by M. Camargo Guàrnieri. Then, Jean-Pascal introduced each piece and composer: *Tumbaos* by Diego Vega, *Pavana* by Julián Orbón, *Oblivion* by Astor Piazzolla, *Mediodía en el Llano* by Antonio Estévez, *Bootlegger's Tarantella* by John Estacio, and finally, joyfully *Colombia Tierra Querida* and *Tico Tico*! It was a very impressive performance, broadcast "live" on Colombia's national television, enjoyed and appreciated by TV audiences and OAS delegates and distinguished guests alike.

JUNE 2 – HOTEL MONTICELO, MEDELLÍN

On the day of departure, YOA musicians enjoyed a free morning to explore the city of Medellín. Some used the Metro's sky-train to climb to high-elevation neighborhoods for breathtaking views. Others met with local music faculty at a university café. One trombone player, Adrián Nájera-Coto, gave a 2-hour master-class to a young Medellín trombone player, starting in a far corner of the hotel parking lot and then under a covered terrace —maybe for acoustics, or not to disturb, except a hotel bellboy (who plays trombone) noticed and Adrián left him with copies of the many scores he had brought with him from Costa Rica. As always, YOA left its multi-cultural footprint with much hope and joy.



NEWS - MEDIA COVERAGE

YOA was featured extensively in print, radio, television & Internet news outlets starting May 29 with a front-page photo & article in Medellín's top newspaper, *El Colombiano*. Interviews with YOA musicians & staff by Televisión de la Alcaldía Medellín were broadcast throughout the week on local & national radio & television stations: Caracol Radio, Teleantioquia, Telemedellín, Cable Unión, Cosmovisión, UNE Televisión, and on the Internet at www.telemedellin.tv.

APPRECIATION

YOA extends deep appreciation to Colombia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Inter-American Development Bank & IDB Cultural Center for making this opportunity possible. Special thanks to YOA Board member Alejandro Figueroa for sending flowers and YOA thank-you messages to the Ministry in Bogotá. Never-ending gratitude to YOA Board members – donors – friends – for their devotion and generosity.

YOA MUSICIANS IN COLOMBIA

VIOLIN / VIOLINE

Shelby Latin, USA
Loren Silvertrust, USA
Rena Kimura, USA
Nicolás Giordano Pisano, Uruguay
Felipe David Luzuriaga, Ecuador
Gloria Diaz Dits, Colombia
Rafael Betancourt, Venezuela
Maia Broido, Canada
Álvaro Reyes Sagastume, Guatemala
Moisés Arango Ferrer, México
Karin Cuéllar Randon, Bolivia
Maria Jimena Lovón Hidalgo, Perú
Jordan Delphos, USA

VIOLA

Jennifer Arnold, USA
Paul Elliot Casey, Canada
Anne Lanzilotti, USA
Gloria Brítez Scolari, Paraguay
Mario Rivera Acosta, Honduras

CELLO / VIOLONCELO

Caroline Elizabeth Bean, USA
Jennifer Humphreys, USA
David Esteban Escobar, Colombia
Yaitza López Valle, Puerto Rico

DOUBLE BASS / CONTRABAJO

Luis Miguel Arias Polanco, Ecuador
Angela Viviana Contreras Reyes, Colombia

FLUTE / FLAUTA

Paule-Marjolaine Bodson-Clermont, Canada

OBOE

Pablo Moreno Holguin, Colombia
Béatrice Gaudreault-Laplante, Canada

CLARINET / CLARINETE

Guillermo Marín Rodríguez, Colombia
Camila Barrientos, Bolivia

BASSOON / FAGOTE

Marisol Taub, USA & Chile
Sofía Almanza Saavedra, Panamá

FRENCH HORN / CORNO

Erik Finley, USA

TRUMPET / TROMPETA

Franco Carranza Cardenas, Perú

TROMBONE

José Adrián Nájera-Coto, Costa Rica

TUBA

Jonathan Maxfield McCormick, USA

PERCUSSION / PERCUSIÓN

Oscar Dario Rodríguez, Colombia

PIANO

Aline Rocha Silva, Brazil

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Plácido Domingo
Carlos Miguel Prieto
Gustavo Dudamel

Artistic Advisor
Principal Conductor
Principal Conductor

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