

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



YOA CAMERATA AMÉRICAS

PANAMÁ CITY, PANAMÁ

2 - 9 JUNE 2008

II ALFREDO DE SAINT-MALO FESTIVAL

In August 2007, Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg, Chairman of Youth Orchestra of the Americas, received a beautiful letter from YOA musician Isaac Casal inviting a YOA ensemble to participate as “orchestra-in-residence” at the second installment of the Alfredo de Saint-Malo Festival of Panamá. As Founder and Artistic Director of the ASM Festival, Isaac Casal was inspired by his experiences with YOA to return to his country and start the first festival dedicated to the promotion of classical music education and performance as well as create opportunities for young musicians that are otherwise quite limited in Panamá. The ASM Festival is a week-long celebration of daily concerts and recitals by local and international guest artists who also participate in master classes, lectures, workshops, private lessons and didactic concerts to benefit young Panamanian musicians and local school children and families. YOA Principal Conductor, Carlos Miguel Prieto, readily agreed to lead an ensemble of 35 YOA musicians and, in a spirit of unity and mentorship, 21 members of Orquesta Juvenil Istmeña de Panamá were selected to join the YOA musicians in a combined orchestra. By October, Paquito D’Rivera & Quintet and soprano Brenda Feliciano had signed on as special ASM Festival guest artists. Working closely with Paquito D’Rivera and Isaac Casal, Maestro Prieto created music programs for two concerts with YOA & Paquito D’Rivera, and one standard classical program for a YOA solo-concert, all led by Carlos Miguel Prieto.

Logistical & technical details were coordinated by YOA staff, Isaac Casal and Samuel Robles, Executive Director of Asociación Nacional de Conciertos and Conductor of Orquesta Juvenil Istmeña de Panamá.

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

YOJA CONCERTS

The YOJA-OJI orchestra performed on June 4 with Paquito D’Rivera & Quintet in celebration of Paquito’s 60th Birthday. On June 6, the YOJA-OJI orchestra performed a standard classical concert. On June 7, eleven YOJA musicians joined the Orquesta Juvenil Istmeña in a concert conducted by Samuel Robles. And on June 8, the YOJA-OJI orchestra performed the “finale” concert of the ASM Festival with Paquito D’Rivera & Quintet and beautiful guest artist Brenda Feliciano, soprano.

WELCOME TO PANAMÁ

JUNE 2 – RESTAURANTE PENCAS & HOTEL GRANADA

YOA musicians arrived in the early evening via Copa Airlines from a wonderful week-long program in Medellín, Colombia. After passing over islands and reefs of the Pacific Ocean, the musicians were met at Tocumen International Airport by Samuel Robles and a hearty bus driver who helped pack both musicians and instruments onto a bus (loaned by the Ministry of Justice). Everyone was transported to Pencas, a breezy causeway restaurant, for dinner, and then onto YOA's temporary home, Hotel Granada.

REHEARSAL ~

JUNE 3 – TEATRO NACIONAL DE PANAMÁ

YOA's bus returned the following morning to transport musicians to the old Colonial port, site of Teatro Nacional, for a 10:30 am rehearsal. The musicians were met by Carlos Miguel Prieto who was fondly reunited with many familiar faces and eager to know the new YOA musicians. YOA Board member, Terence Ford, was also waiting backstage to give a warm greeting to YOA musicians and staff. Samuel Robles introduced the 21 musicians from the Orquesta Juvenil Istmeña de Panamá (OJI) who would rehearse and perform with YOA during its stay in Panamá. (below, Maestro Prieto leading rehearsal at Teatro Nacional)



Both morning and afternoon rehearsals focused on the program for YOA's June 6 concert: run-throughs of Igor Stravinsky's *Pulcinella: Suite*, Antonín Dvorák's *Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"* and Silvestre Revueltas' chamber work *Homenaje a Federico García Lorca* (piccolo, Eflat clarinet, 2 trumpets, trombone, tuba, tam-tam, violins, double bass). On that first day of rehearsal, there was a contrast from the previous week in Colombia when YOA musicians were joined by (professional) members of National Symphony

Orchestra of Colombia. The level of playing of the young Panamanians was much lower than the YOA musicians and there was trepidation about the final outcome. Maestro Prieto took special care to work and re-work passages. Several YOA musicians worked one-on-one with the young Panamanians, as did Samuel Robles.

JUNE 4 – TEATRO NACIONAL DE PANAMÁ & “KEYS” TO THE CITY

The second day of rehearsal focused on preparing for “Paquito’s 60th Birthday Celebration” that evening at Teatro Nacional. It was the first chance for YOA-OJI musicians to rehearse with Paquito D’Rivera (saxophone/clarinet) and “the band” – Alexander Brown (piano), Mark Walker (drums), Oscar Stagnaro (bass), Diego Urcúla (trumpet/trombone). Works composed/arranged by D’Rivera with musical idioms ranging from Bach to Gershwin were rehearsed: *Wapango*, *Danzón (Memories)*, *To Brenda with Love*. The evening’s concert was a free-spirited, lively affair with “the band” interspersing works from their recent Grammy Award-winning CD, *Funk Tango*. Panamanian jazz pianist Danilo Perez made a surprise appearance, playing a gorgeous “Happy Birthday” for everyone in Teatro Nacional to sing to Paquito. After much applause, Paquito gave a moving speech to the audience on the importance of YOA and his fondness for performing with its young musicians. Elena de Saint-Malo, niece of the namesake of ASM Festival, hosted a beautiful cocktail-dinner reception following the concert.

Between rehearsals on June 4, in a ceremony presided over by the Mayor of Panamá City, Paquito D’Rivera and Carlos Miguel Prieto were honored with “keys” to the City in recognition of their contribution to ASM Festival and the cultural life of Panamá.



From left to right, Isaac Casal, Paquito D’Rivera, Carlos Miguel Prieto, Danilo Perez, Brenda Feliciano, Elena de Saint-Malo and her son.

JUNE 5 – TEATRO NACIONAL DE PANAMÁ

Following the energy and spontaneity of the previous evening's concert, the musicians arrived early and re-invigorated to warm-up for the day's orchestra rehearsals with Maestro Prieto. An hour into the morning rehearsal, the theater seats suddenly filled up with local school children as part of an education outreach program organized by Isaac Casal. As naturally as ever, Carlos Miguel Prieto spoke affectionately to the youngsters, ages 6 to 14, about the music they were about to hear, and then spontaneously invited a few of the youngest to take turns conducting the orchestra with him on stage. It was a powerful experience for all.

JUNE 6 – TEATRO NACIONAL DE PANAMÁ

Once again, YOA's morning rehearsal was an educational program for students from local schools who filled every seat in the hall. Maestro Prieto took time to speak to the students and their teachers, explaining the different sections of the orchestra and allowing some of the youngest students to come and guest conduct sections of Dvorák's *Symphony No. 9*. This rehearsal was also attended by YOA Board members, Lizette Corro and Terence Ford.

CONCERT – TEATRO NACIONAL DE PANAMÁ – 8:00 PM

In the evening, the YOA-OJI orchestra performed a formal concert at Teatro Nacional, presented by Asociación Nacional de Conciertos, the most prestigious classical music organization in Panamá, who's President is YOA Board member, Terence Ford. The program was filled with opportunities to show off talent: Revueltas' *Homenaje a Federico García Lorca* gives pride of place on stage to the tuba!; Stravinsky's *Pulcinella: Suite* highlights all the different orchestra sections; Dvorák's *Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"* is grand and impressive; Piazzolla's *Oblivion* includes a solo that was beautifully interpreted by Colombian oboist Pablo Moreno; and, YOA's traditional encore *Tico Tico* is the epitome of youth and playfulness, complete with YOA musicians samba dancing on stage and in the aisles. The audience was especially receptive and appreciative of a first-class performance. Best of all, the young Panamanian musicians performed at an extraordinarily high level. In a few rehearsals under Maestro Prieto, they improved almost 2 years worth of practice. Carlos Miguel said that his experience in Panamá, working with these young, eager musicians and the interaction with local school children, was one of the most moving and rewarding experiences of his life! Then, 2 minutes after the end of the concert, Maestro Prieto received a phone call. From Yo-Yo Ma. Knowing that YOA was performing that evening in Panamá, he wanted to send his congratulations to all the musicians and say how fondly he remembers performing Dvorák's *Cello Concerto* with YOA at Wolf Trap in July 2002 and that he hopes to perform again with YOA very soon.

CAST PARTY AT HOTEL GRANADA

Immediately following the performance, all the musicians and “Friends of YOA” gathered for a Cast Party dinner hosted by YOA Board members Bill & Betsy Delphos. Seated at each table was a mixture of YOA and Panamá musicians, Terence Ford and members of his board, Lizette Corro, Betsy Delphos, Paquito D’Rivera, Samuel Robles, Isaac Casal and his family, Sofia Almanza and her family, and ASM Festival artists. Tables were named after composers and songs performed by YOA – Revueltas, Dvorák, Stravinsky, D’Rivera, Gershwin, Lecuona, Tico Tico, Wapango, Oblivion. The musicians told their stories and interacted with the adults and learned a bit of "leadership" through the example of the evening’s remarks. Lizette Corro started by introducing herself as a YOA board member, then thanked the Delphos’ for hosting the dinner and Terence Ford for presenting YOA in concert, and finally, she introduced Terence Ford. Terence gave poignant remarks about YOA and Isaac Casal and the importance of YOA bringing classical music to Panamá. Terence Ford then introduced Carlos Miguel Prieto who gave the most beautiful, moving, extraordinary remarks in both Spanish & English as well as telling everyone about the phone call from Yo-Yo Ma. Then Carlos Miguel introduced Paquito D’Rivera who spoke at length, sprinkled with amusing anecdotes, about his mentoring of young musicians, how YOA inspired Isaac to start the ASM Festival, how important it was for him to come to Panamá to support Isaac and help reinforce the importance of music and arts appreciation, and that he was honored to spend his 60th birthday at Isaac’s festival. Then Paquito invited Isaac Casal to speak. Isaac fondly recognized Terence Ford and his summer music camp that first exposed him to the beauty of classical music. He spoke of YOA inspiring him to create the ASM Festival, but more importantly, how he watched and learned from YOA: the planning & logistics that went into running a festival, how with preparation and confidence you can knock on the door of the Ministry of Culture and ask for support. And finally, that he could hardly believe that Paquito D’Rivera, Carlos Miguel Prieto and YOA, who had all in their own ways supported and inspired him, were with him at this very moment at his festival in Panamá. Having everyone together, hearing all these moving remarks, left a deep, lasting impression.

JUNE 7 – TEATRO NACIONAL DE PANAMÁ

Musicians arrived in the early morning at Teatro Nacional for rehearsal of the following evening’s “finale” program with Paquito D’Rivera & Quintet and soprano, Brenda Feliciano. The tone of rehearsal was light and full of the excitement and energy that always accompanies the last few days of a YOA tour. In the afternoon, many of the musicians visited local historical sites. Costa Rican trombone player, José Adrián Nájera-Coto,

dashed off to Universidad de Panamá to give a master class to 10 young trombone players and 30-minute one-on-one instruction to four of them. His efforts were rewarded with an official Certificate from the University & Faculty of Fine Arts. Eleven YOA musicians remained at Teatro Nacional to rehearse with Orquesta Juvenil Istmeña for a performance



led by Samuel Robles that evening (2nd from left above, YOA French horn, Erik Finley, with young Panamanian musicians). The first half of the program included several “art songs” sung by soprano Anna Noggle, followed in the second half by orchestral pieces *Danzas del Ballet Estancia* by Alberto Ginestera and *Danzón No. 2* by Arturo Márquez. This concert was in honor of YOA and attended by all the musicians of the ASM Festival as well as Paquito D’Rivera & Quintet members. Following the concert, both youth orchestras had the chance to interact – many YOA musicians answered questions about YOA and encouraged the young Panamanians to audition.

JUNE 8 – SIGHTSEEING - PANAMÁ CANAL TOUR

A free day for the musicians. The ASM Festival organized a trip to the Panamá Canal’s Miraflores Visitors Center and most YOA & Festival musicians took advantage. In addition to four exhibition halls, the musicians viewed a film on the history & building of the Canal and an overview of the new project to expand the Canal with a third set of locks. Everyone was able to observe a transiting vessel up close, going through the middle Miraflores Lock on its last leg to the Pacific Ocean. The exhibition halls included historic objects used in the building of the Canal, interactive modules, video presentations, ship models, and amazing specimens of the tropical insect and plant world of the Canal Watershed. Isaac Casal

invited Paquito D’Rivera & Quintet, Samuel Robles and a few YOA musicians (Lacey Hays, Jonathan McCormick, Maria Jimena Lovón, José Adrián Nájera-Coto, Loren Silvertrust, Erik Finley and Jennifer Humphries) to have lunch overlooking the Canal with Alberto Alemán Zubieta, the Canal Authority’s Administrator & CEO, who is interested in becoming a major sponsor of the ASM Festival. We are even honing the young YOA musicians’ fundraising skills!

CONCERT AT TEATRO ANAYANSI – CENTRO DE CONVENCIONES ATLAPA – 8:00 PM



The musicians arrived in the late afternoon at ATLAPA’s Teatro Anayansi for a final rehearsal and sound check with Paquito & Quintet and Brenda Feliciano. Pictured above, backstage before the performance, left to right: Jordan Delphos (USA), Oscar Rodríguez (Colombia), Pablo Moreno (Colombia), David Esteban Escobar (Colombia), Paule-Marjolaine Bodson-Clermont (Canada), Gloria Diaz Dits (Colombia), Isaac Casal (Panamá), Franco Carranza (Perú), Angela Contreras (Colombia), Lucho Arias Polanco (Ecuador) and Marisol Taub (USA & Chile). The June 8 “finale” concert led by Carlos Miguel Prieto was unforgettable – with an air of Hollywood silver-screen glamour. Paquito (saxophone & clarinet) and the orchestra charmed the audience with a beautiful, showy music program. George Gershwin’s *Strike up the Band* opened the concert, followed by Gershwin/D’Rivera *Gershwin Medley* with Brenda Feliciano’s rich, jewel-toned soprano, then *Malagueña Andaluía* by Ernesto Lecuona (Cuba) and Lecuona/D’Rivera *Lecuona Medley*, ending with D’Rivera works *Danzón (Memories)* and *To Brenda with Love*. Paquito introduced each piece from the stage with showbiz showmanship, as well as members of his Quintet –

Alexander Brown (piano), Mark Walker (drums), Oscar Stagnaro (bass) and, minus trumpet player Diego Urcúla, Paquito invited Franco Carranza (Perú) to perform the trumpet part in *Danzón (Memories)* and Nicolás Giordano (Uruguay) to perform a solo improvisation on his violin that the audience went wild over. In YOA tradition, Maestro Prieto led the *Tico Tico* encore with Paquito joining in with virtuosity and flair. YOA samba-dancing-musicians were in top form and the audience loved it. Following the concert, awards were presented by ASM Festival and Panamá City, including one to YOA for its exemplary work with young musicians in the Americas, and beyond.

CAST PARTY AT HOTEL EL PANAMÁ

Post-concert, everyone was invited to the glamorous El Panamá for a cocktail-buffet-dancing party hosted by two early ASM Festival champions, YOA Board member Lizette Corro and IDB-banker, Fernando Eleta. It was a beautiful, festive ending to an already dazzling evening.

END NOTES & DEPARTURE

JUNE 9 – HOTEL GRANADA & TOCUMEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PANAMÁ

After an incredibly rewarding tour, YOA musicians prepared to return to their home countries. Transport to Tocumen International Airport started as early as 4:30 am, followed by bus loads at 8:30 am, 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. Before departing, a few YOA musicians and staff met with Bruno Campo, General Director of Guatemala's Sistema Nacional de Orquestas Infantiles y Juveniles. YOA hopes to travel to Guatemala to work with young musicians in a similar capacity as in Panamá. For many of the YOA musicians, it was a “see you in Brazil” goodbye. In early July, they will be reunited at Costa do Sauípe (Bahia) for the 2008 Residency & Latin America Tour.

APPRECIATION

YOA extends its warmest, deepest thanks to Isaac Casal and all the members of his family, to Samuel Robles and YOA Board member Terence Ford, and to the many others who worked so hard to make everything possible for our young musicians to experience such a memorable week in Panamá. Much appreciation to Bill and Betsy Delphos and Lizette Corro and Fernando Eleta for sponsoring dinners for YOA musicians during the ASM Festival. Many, many thanks to YOA Board members - donors - friends for making this tour financially possible. And, profound gratitude to Paquito D’Rivera, Brenda Feliciano and Carlos Miguel Prieto for the love, devotion and inspiration you give to YOA musicians.

YOA MUSICIANS IN PANAMÁ

VIOLIN / VIOLINE

Loren Silvertrust, USA
Rena Kimura, USA
Nicolás Giordano Pisano, Uruguay
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 Maria Brítez Scolari, Paraguay
Mario Ricardo 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
Lacey Hays, USA

TROMBONE

José Adrián Nájera-Coto, Costa Rica

TUBA

Jonathan Maxfield McCormick, USA

PERCUSSION / PERCUSIÓN

Oscar Dario Rodríguez, Colombia

ORQUESTA JUVENIL ISTMEÑA

VIOLIN / VIOLINE

Viviana Soto
Adriana Ramírez
Monica Guerrero
Ana Laura De Janon

CELLO / VIOLONCELO

Miguel Vasquez

DOUBLE BASS / CONTRABAJO

Fernando Del Rio
Allan Padilla, Costa Rica

FLUTE / FLAUTA

Valentin Martinez
Ibrahim Espinoza

OBOE

Vladimir Escala

CLARINET / CLARINETE

Alexis Fong (E-flat Clarinet)

FRENCH HORN / CORNO

Eric De León
Martha Ramos
John Martínez

TRUMPET / TROMPETA

Juan Pagan

TROMBONE

Hebert Gonzalez
Eric Bernal

PERCUSSION / PERCUSIÓN

Pedro Fernández
Carlos Camacho
Fermin Aguilar

PIANO

Ana Coll

THE MISSION OF YOA IS TO EMPOWER
ENERGETIC, TALENTED MUSICIANS TO PURSUE
EXCELLENCE AND CELEBRATE CULTURAL
DIVERSITY AS A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Plácido Domingo	Artistic Advisor
Carlos Miguel Prieto	Principal Conductor
Gustavo Dudamel	Principal Conductor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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