

New England Conservatory Invites You to a Public Symposium

The Venezuelan Music Education Miracle: What is it? What can we learn?

“Music is no longer separated from daily life, but is in fact nourished by and nourishes daily life. Nourished by music, everyday life is transformed into an aesthetic experience, where harmony and beauty are cultivated in different areas such as nature, the school, the city, even in oneself.”

—José Antonio Abreu, Founding Director, *El Sistema*

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

2:00-5:00 p.m.

New England Conservatory

Followed by a festive reception at NEC before the 8:00 p.m. Symphony Hall concert of the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela

Gustavo Dudamel, conductor

(Tickets available through the Symphony Hall box office 888-266-1200 or www.bso.org)

News of the monumental success of *El Sistema*, Venezuela's 32-year-old program of social action through music, is rapidly spreading throughout the world. Today over 250,000 Venezuelan teenagers and children, most from impoverished backgrounds, are being filled with an “affluence of the spirit” through the intensive study of music and the participation in orchestras and ensembles. No less a figure than Sir Simon Rattle, conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, has called *El Sistema* “the most important thing happening in classical music in the world today.”

As part of the NEC sponsored Boston residency of *El Sistema's* flagship orchestra, the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, the symposium, organized by NEC's Center for Music-in-Education, will explore the questions on everyone's lips: How did this phenomenon come about? How can we learn from it? How can we apply it in our own country? Join Maestro José Antonio Abreu and leading figures in education and culture to explore the answers.

- 2:00 p.m. Welcome by NEC President, Tony Woodcock
- 2:10 p.m. Introduction to the Symposium, Eric Booth
- 2:20 p.m. Keynote address by José Antonio Abreu, visionary founder of *El Sistema*
- 2:45 p.m. Screening of excerpts from *Tocar y Luchar* (“To Play and To Struggle”), the moving documentary of *El Sistema's* first 30 years
- 3:30 p.m. Panel discussion moderated by Eric Booth, celebrated author on arts in education and founder of the *Teaching Artist Journal*, is followed by an open discussion among the attendees (educators, parents, community leaders). Panel members include:
 - Polly Kahn, Vice-President, League of American Orchestras
 - Mark Slavkin, Vice President for Education, Los Angeles Music Center
 - Leni Boorstin, Director of Community Affairs, Los Angeles Philharmonic
 - Sebastian Ruth, Founder/Executive-Artistic Director, Community MusicWorks
 - Steve Seidel, Director, Harvard Project Zero
 - George Simpson, Music Teacher, Boston Public Schools
 - John Tobin, Boston City Council, Chair of Committee on the Arts
 - Mark Churchill, Dean of Preparatory & Continuing Education, NEC
- 5:00 p.m. Festive reception for all participants
- 8:00 p.m. Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela Symphony Hall concert (tickets required)

The Symposium is free and open to the public.

To reserve a space and for complete information contact

www.mieatnec.org/venezuelasymposium

Or call 617-585-1362