



TUNING IN TO Venezuela

Cinevolve's documentary unveils the country's unique orchestra system

By Angelique Flores

World-renowned conductor Gustavo Dudamel is living proof of the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra System's success.

The documentary *Tocar Y Luchar* (*To Play and to Fight*) brings to light this system that has become an important and social marvel in modern history.

Cinevolve releases the film on DVD March 16 at \$20. The film is in Spanish and English with English subtitles.

The Venezuelan Youth Orchestra System began as a modest program designed to expose rural children to music. It is now a vibrant network of hundreds of orchestras based in most of Venezuela's towns and villages. Besides Dudamel, of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Edicson Ruiz, the Berlin Philharmonic's youngest player, also was trained in the Venezuelan system.

The film, directed by Alberto Arvelo, features interviews with Ruiz and Dudamel as well as with many of the world's most celebrated musicians, including Plácido Domingo, Claudio Abbado, Sir Simon Rattle, Giuseppe Sinopoli and Eduardo Mata. Additionally, *Tocar Y Luchar*

won the audience award at the Miami Film Festival.

"This has been one of our most requested titles," said Arik Treston, CEO of Cinevolve Studios. "We are getting e-mails from around the world almost every day asking when this is out. There seems to be a very strong groundswell, partly due to having Gustavo Dudamel, L.A. Phil's current guest-conductor wunderkind, featured in a very integral role."

To help spread the word on the DVD and its subject matter, Cinevolve has held various screenings across the country at universities and cultural centers such as the Skirball Center in Los Angeles.

"We are hoping that we can put a bit of focus and light on the need in this country to expand on arts education in our public school system, as well as remind people about organizations such as VHI's Save the Music and others," Treston said.

Cinevolve is in discussions with some organizations about donating part of proceeds of the DVD to various groups, according to Treston.

"We are exceedingly proud of it, and it showcases what a society can do to better itself when it believes in the power of the arts," he said.

