



26 February 2010

Ms. Cleopatra Knight-Wilkins
Acting Senior Program Director of the Arts
Boston Public Schools
443 Warren Street, Suite 6
Dorchester, MA 02121

Dear Ms. Knight-Wilkins,

I write with an invitation to student musicians and music faculty at your school to attend two upcoming events held in conjunction with the Council for the Arts at MIT's presentation of the Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT to Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel (see <http://arts.mit.edu/mcdermott/>).

The two events described below are invitation only and will be ticketed, although they are free of charge.

The first event, a rehearsal of the MIT Symphony Orchestra (MITSO) led by Maestro Dudamel, will take place at 7:30pm on Friday April 16, 2010 at MIT's Kresge Auditorium (doors open at 7:00pm). We would like to offer up to 50 tickets to this event, to be distributed by you to a selection of student musicians at the high school level. Given Mr. Dudamel's work with youth orchestras, he feels it would be most appropriate for student musician to observe his rehearsal with MITSO, and MIT welcomes the opportunity to host local public school students at this remarkable musical occasion.

We ask that your students be accompanied to the Friday night rehearsal by a teacher or staff person. The rehearsal will end no later than 9:30pm. There will be a separate entrance for school groups at Kresge Auditorium that evening; tickets will be sent to you beforehand for distribution to your students.

The second event is a panel discussion, scheduled to begin at 2:00pm on the afternoon of Saturday April 17, also at Kresge Auditorium (doors open at 1:30pm). For this event we offer up to 25 tickets to be distributed by you to Boston public school music teachers. The discussion, with Gustavo Dudamel, Institute Professor John Harbison and Professor of Music and Media Tod Machover, will be moderated by PBS and WGBH journalist Maria Hinojosa. The topic of the panel will be *El Sistema* and music education.

For the Saturday panel discussion, your faculty will be able to enter with the rest of the audience, and again tickets will be sent in advance for you to distribute.

Please contact me (cohen@media.mit.edu, 617-253-4005) at your earliest convenience if you are interested in taking advantage of this offer. We must hear from you by **March 5, 2010**, so that we may send you the exact number of tickets you need for the events, along with more specific information about both programs.

I hope that your students and faculty will be able to enjoy this rare opportunity to see such an energetic champion of arts education in action!

Sincerely,

Susan Cohen
Director, Council for the Arts at MIT