

## **The Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra of Venezuela First steps in Europe**

**Bonn, September 28, 2010 – The Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra of Venezuela began its first tour of Europe with a concert at Bonn, Germany’s Beethovenfest. This was made possible through the support of the Hilti Foundation. Other tour venues include the Philharmonie Berlin, Auditorio Nacional de Música in Madrid, the Konzerthaus of Vienna, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Royal Festival Hall in London.**

The 150 musicians of the Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra of Venezuela (TCYOC), all aged between 14 and 19, are masters of their instruments and follow in the footsteps of the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, which has attained world-renown status. Founded in 2007, the orchestra has its origins in Venezuela’s “El Sistema”, a unique scholastic musical movement that was itself founded some 35 years ago by maestro José Antonio Abreu as a social and artistic project. The nationwide movement now includes more than 350,000 children and young adults.

### **Support for the European tour**

With the financial support of the Hilti Foundation, which has supported both “El Sistema” and the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela for years, the TCYOV is celebrating its international debut as a musical ambassador for Venezuela. The orchestra has been led since its inception by maestro Ulyses Ascanio. Renowned guest directors such as Claudio Abbado, Simon Rattle, Gustavo Dudamel and Eduardo Marturet have also worked with the talented young musicians. After accompanying Plácido Domingo in a 2009 concert in Venezuela, and also inspiring numerous people at an open-air concert, directed by Gustavo Dudamel, that took place in a densely-populated section of Caracas, the Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra is now conquering Europe. In Bonn, Vienna, Berlin, Madrid, Amsterdam and London the young musicians are displaying their talent, temperament and enthusiasm for classical music outside their homeland for the first time.

### **Christian Vásquez on the cusp of worldwide success**

The orchestra is being led on its first European tour by 26 year-old Christian Vásquez who is himself a veteran of “El Sistema” and a tremendous talent. At the age of nine he played violin in the Children’s Orchestra of San Sebastián de los Reyes and, at age 13, toured as concertmaster with the National Children’s Symphony Orchestra through more than eight countries.

After achieving success as a director with the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra he has worked with the Orchestre Philharmonique of Radio France, the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Once the European tour with the Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra concludes the Venezuelan will begin touring Japan with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra. He has also been named first guest conductor for Sweden’s Gävle Symphony Orchestra in the 2012/2013 season.