

A New World of Young Musicians

"Proud to be an American" took on its original meaning at Thursday night's gala for the Youth Orchestra of the Americas. The multicultural orchestra is composed of 120 young musicians from 20 countries in North, Central and South America (from "Yukon to Patagonia," as its organizers like to say) who will tour the Americas for three weeks this summer—including a performance at Wolf Trap with Yo-Yo Ma on July 30.

The party at the International Monetary Fund Gallery was billed as "From Mahler to Mambo." Chairman **Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg** (below, dancing with husband **Arturo**) created a celebration of all things American: a menu of hemispheric food and music, a guest list of 200 including ambassadors of Canada, Colombia, Spain and Egypt; and a lush Latin decor. The musicians, below, were adorable and far too accomplished for such a young age. The only off note? The hour-long master class

given by conductor **Benjamin Zander**, who thought Washingtonians would rather learn how to sing "Happy Birthday" properly than drink rum and mambo the night away.

Next year: Dinner, rum, mambo . . . and no summer school.

