



BEETHOVENFEST BONN

Bonn, 31 August 2010

Innovative Concert Formats and Unusual Instrumental Arrangements at the Beethovenfest Bonn 2010

The motto of the Beethovenfest Bonn 2010 "Into the Open. Utopia and Freedom in Music" stands for an approach the Beethovenfest has been pursuing and continuously expanding for years. In his poem "Der Gang aufs Land" Beethoven's contemporary, the poet Friedrich Hölderlin, invites us to set off to a place somewhere in the future where convention can be overcome and boundaries tested.

The artists at the Beethovenfest experiment with new concert formats, break the traditional boundaries of the concert ritual and search for unconventional approaches to working with musical material, and all at the highest standards. In order to create a repertoire for the 21st century the Beethovenfest commissions compositions every year. In 2010 there will be four world premieres at the festival, three of which were commissioned by the Beethovenfest. The Beethovenfest values the freedom to create programmes in an individual and exclusive manner and enjoys this freedom particularly with those musicians who have been associated with the festival for years. The personal and innovative programme design is reflected in the freedom to choose musical partners with regard to the requirements of the programme in question and to reassemble again and again in different configurations.

The **Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen** has been the Beethovenfest Bonn's "orchestra in residence" since 2004. Their Beethoven symphony cycle at the Beethovenfest Bonn 2009 was recorded by DW-TV. The concert recordings also form part of the the 90-minute documentary "Das Beethoven-Projekt", which will be available on DVD from October on. The film documentary was the result of the five-year residency of the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, in which the performance of all nine of Beethoven's symphonies was prepared to the highest standards. At the Beethovenfest Bonn 2010 the Kammerphilharmonie will play five times: on the opening weekend it will perform twice under its principal conductor Paavo Järvi, once it will perform under this year's "composer in residence" Peter Ruzicka and twice the members of the orchestra will participate in the children's projects of the Mask and Music Theatre of Vienna.

At the opening concert the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen under Paavo Järvi together with the soloist **Hélène Grimaud** will perform Beethoven's piano

Internationale Beethovenfeste Bonn gGmbH | Pressebüro Silke Neubarth
Telefon +49-228-20 10 340 | Fax +49-228-20 10 344 | presse@beethovenfest.de

concerto no. 5 (10 Sept), amongst other works. H el ene Grimaud is the "artist in residence" of the Beethovenfest Bonn 2010 and will perform for a second time: At a duo evening together with the cellist Jan Vogler she will perform Schumann's Fantasy Pieces for cello and piano in A minor op. 73, Brahms's sonata for cello and piano in E minor op. 38 and Shostakovich's sonata for cello and piano in D minor op. 40 (17 Sept).

Jan Vogler is giving his debut at the Beethovenfest Bonn and will perform twice in very different instrumentations. In addition to his concert with H el ene Grimaud he will perform in Bonn together with The Knights, a project orchestra with musicians from 22 countries, which specializes in unconventional performances. The members of The Knights, who first met through the "Brooklyn Rider" string quartet, are specialists not only in new music, but also Baroque and Klezmer. They are classical chamber musicians, composers, and include one songwriter. The young New York ensemble will only perform one movement from each piece taken from the classical Romantic repertoire, thereby questioning the concert ritual that demands that only complete works be performed. At the Beethovenfest Eric Jacobsen will be conducting Beethoven's "Egmont" overture, the first movement of his Fifth Symphony, and the first movement from Dmitri Shostakovich's cello concerto no. 1 with Jan Vogler as the soloist. Their programme of the future they present in a second part: under the heading "Tango, klezmer, waltz and rock" they perform works by Piazzolla, Golilov and Hendrix (2 Oct).

The Venezuelan pianist **Gabriela Montero** is playing at the Beethovenfest Bonn for the first time and will spend an evening demonstrating her extraordinary talent for improvisation, for example on whatever tunes members of the public choose to sing, thus spontaneously creating something new from existing material (26 Sept.). Together with cellist **Gautier Capu on** she will also be giving a duo recital, playing Sergei Prokofiev's Sonata for Cello and Piano op. 119, Beethoven's Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 3 op. 69 and Sergei Rachmaninov's Two Pieces for Cello and Piano in G minor op. 19 (27 Sept.).

Gautier Capu on's brother, the violinist **Renaud Capu on**, will perform all Beethoven violin sonatas on three evenings together with his long-standing piano partner Frank Braley, as well as the new work by J org Widmann, which has been commissioned by the Beethovenfest Bonn (17, 18, 19 Sept.).

The curiosity to try something new, to try unusual concert formats and formations is the characteristic that distinguishes **Daniel Hope**. He impressively proved this at the Beethovenfest Bonn 2008, when, under the heading "Musik war Hoffnung" ("Music was Hope"), he compiled texts and music from the Theresienstadt concentration camp and presented them with selected chamber music partners and the actor Ulrich Matthes at a politically significant location, the Altes Wasserwerk (where the Bundestag was in session when news of the fall of the Berlin Wall came through). He was immediately enthusiastic about continuing the student management project at the Young Beethovenfest, which started in 2009. Ten students from year 11 and 12 from six high schools in Bonn will independently organize this year's performance by Daniel Hope at the Beethovenfest Bonn. The violinist will give a concert under the

Internationale Beethovenfeste Bonn gGmbH | Presseb uro Silke Neubarth
Telefon +49-228-20 10 340 | Fax +49-228-20 10 344 | presse@beethovenfest.de

motto “BaRock” in a tram depot together with the German rock band Bakkushan. The young managers are also given free rein to question the classical concert situation and try out new ways of presenting music together with Daniel Hope: they have engaged the well-known music journalist Axel Brüggemann as presenter to juggle between rock and “ba-rock”. Hope’s agreement to participate in this project proves how important it is to him to introduce new audiences to classical music, a subject that inspired him to write his book “Wann darf ich klatschen? Ein Wegweiser für Konzertgänger” (“When am I allowed to clap? A guide for concertgoers”), published last year (18 Sept.).

Martin Grubinger has been a regular at the Beethovenfest since 2006. In Bonn he implements programmes in which he is able to realize his musical utopias with his favoured artistic partners. Even in 2006, when Grubinger was still an almost unknown new artist, he broke all the boundaries of a conventional concert. Together with the Beethovenfest the multi-percussionist developed a percussive journey around the world lasting several hours, the “Percussive Planet”. Since 2006 Grubinger has performed “Percussive Planet” many times worldwide, to such acclaim that it is soon due to be released on DVD. This year he is returning to Bonn with a two-part concert format exclusively developed for the festival. In the first part of his concert Grubinger and five further percussionists will spread out around the hall of the Beethovenhalle to create a kind of “surround sound”. The rhythms and timbres of the different instruments scored for Iannis Xenakis will captivate the audience. After the concert Grubinger, together with other percussionists, one trumpeter, one E-bassist, one violinist, one double bassist and one pianist, will transform the south foyer of the Beethovenhalle into a “Latin Lounge”, performing works by Michel Camilo, Astor Piazzolla, Josef Burchartz and Daniel Schröckenfuchs (25 Sept.).

An unusual instrumentation coupled with a special programmatic idea will be brought to the stage by “**Spark – die klassische Band**”. Two recorder players, one violinist, one cellist and one pianist will sketch a modern city like New York, London, Amsterdam or Berlin as a sound event of classical music arrangements, jazz and minimal music with video and stage installations. “Downtown Illusions – City Life in Music” is the name of the programme performed by these five classically trained musicians, who see the opportunity in their unusual instrumentation to surprise audiences with unconventional programmes and to overcome tradition forms of presentation (23 Sept.).

Sasha Waltz has a unique way of dealing with musical material. Together with her ensemble Sasha Waltz & Guests she will set Franz Schubert’s “Impromptus” to dance. To live music Sasha Waltz will create a meticulously developed choreography that will follow the spirit of Schubert’s works (2 and 3 Oct.).

Internationale Beethovenfeste Bonn gGmbH | Pressebüro Silke Neubarth
Telefon +49-228-20 10 340 | Fax +49-228-20 10 344 | presse@beethovenfest.de