



B E E T H O V E N F E S T B O N N

Look at Beethoven 2009

Short films, installations and film evenings show a synthesis of media art and classical music

Since 2006, the Beethovenfest has been inviting film students and film-makers as well as students of related art forms to confront Beethoven, his work and his influence in visual form. In the past three years, numerous original short films, installations and sound-pictures have been created for "Look at Beethoven". This year, the Beethovenfest Bonn invited entries to a short-film competition. Of the ideas submitted, five were selected and supported with a grant of 2,000 euros towards production costs. The finished films and a selection of the other 32 entries are being shown at the **"Look at Beethoven" Premiere at 7pm on 3 September** in the auditorium of the **Kunstmuseum**. The anchor-man for the evening will be the film director Enrique Sánchez Lansch, who has accompanied and helped to shape "Look at Beethoven" from the outset. He will be talking to the young film-makers about their ideas and the thoughts that led to their films. Shown for the first time, alongside the short films, "Moonlight Sonatas", a media performance from the picture and sound laboratory of the run by students of the Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln.

Students at the department of interactive dramaturgies and scenography at the Kunsthochschule für Medien in Cologne also helped to stage "Look at Beethoven" when it was first held in 2006. Under the direction of Professor Heide Hageböling they developed contributions for which they experimented with computer animations and video technology. In 2009 too, five young media creatives are presenting unusual installations by using laser technology to create picture-and-sound spaces, producing a kinetic installation of water-waves, light and sound on the basis of Beethoven's "Sonate pathétique", along with a bio-dynamic sound installation with DJ ants from the terrarium and a haptic installation "Feel a bit like Beethoven". The artistic projects of the Cologne students for "Look at Beethoven 2009" are being supported by the Kunstmuseum Bonn and the Bonner Kunstverein. The five works will be shown at the Kunstmuseum, in the Kammermusiksaal of the Beethovenhalle and at the Bonner Kunstverein; the opening at the Kunstverein will take place at 7pm on 9 September.

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“Look at Beethoven 2009” has a third aspect too. Alongside the short films and the installations created by students at the Kunsthochschule für Medien in Cologne, the Beethovenfest itself is organizing **three film evenings**. The motto of the Beethovenfest Bonn 2009 is “In the Limelight – The Romantic Apotheosis of the Artist”. Against this background, the festival is focusing on unique, fascinating artists as well as stars and virtuosi “in the limelight”. The three films in the series to be shown in the auditorium of the Kunstmuseum Bonn are devoted to Herbert von Karajan as the first media star, the WDR Sinfonieorchester, and the Russian pianist Swjatoslaw Richter.

The Beethovenfest would like to thank the Filmstiftung NRW for its generous support as a firm partner from the very beginning of “Look at Beethoven”. The Westdeutscher Rundfunk has also supported the project from the outset, and in addition, is making a television documentary about it.

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Overview of the contributions to “Look at Beethoven 2009”:

Short films in receipt of a grant

The five concepts which have received grants of 2,000 euros each towards production costs were selected by a six-person jury consisting of:

- Enrique Sánchez Lansch (director of “Rhythm is it!”, „Das Reichsorchester“, The Promise of Music etc., Berlin)
- Prof. Lothar Mattner (WDR Fernsehen, Cologne)
- Dr Ulrich Mosch (Paul Sacher Stiftung, Basel)
- Katrin Rabus (Fernsehforum für Musik, Bremen)
- Ilona Schmiel (Intendant, Beethovenfest Bonn)
- Dr Norbert Waldmann (SWR and music co-ordinator of ARD, Baden-Baden)

The jurors decided in favour of the concepts submitted by **Ingo J. Biermann (“Hölderlin-Fragmente”)**, **Miriam Jakobs (“Nähe auf Distanz”)**, **Carola Schmidt (“The Last Trick”)**, **Christof Zwiener (“Fast eine Fantasie”)** and **Pia Storck (“Zwischen den Welten”)**.

Ingo J. Biermann, b. 1978, is about to finish his studies in film direction at the Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin. In his film “Hölderlin-Fragmente” (app. 12 min.) Biermann takes up the lieder-cycle of the same name for voice and piano by Wolfgang Rihm: “not a filmed performance, but fragments consisting of pictures, speech, noise, sound and music, documentary and staged (...) visually poetic, between lyric and film essay (...). I should like to create for the viewer a space for thoughts and associations, as a direct visual continuation of Wolfgang Rihm’s technique of dealing with Hölderlin’s text fragments.” Biermann also quotes passages from the Rückert lieder by Gustav Mahler and from a piano sonata by Franz Schubert, relating music and recited excerpts from Hölderlin texts to film sequences, in which one person strides through natural and architecturally special spaces in a contemplative mood.

Miriam Jakobs, b. 1972, is a film author and teacher of media studies at, among other places, the Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen in Munich. Together with the film author Gerhard Schick, who has already produced a number of television documentaries and other works for the TV broadcasters WDR, 3sat and arte, she uses her short film “Nähe auf Distanz” (8 min.) to track down the heartfelt communication between siblings Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn, as reflected in numerous letters written between their childhood and Fanny’s death. Miriam Jakobs finds in the simple paper dart and the modern aeroplane the associative elements allowing her to reproduce the flight of ideas from one to the other against a sometimes dramatic, sometimes contemplative background of sky. The songs by Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn used in the film have been freshly recorded and processed into new sounds for the central section by the composer and film-music student Patrick Schmitz, Cologne.

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Carola Schmidt has just completed her multimedia and performance studies under Rebecca Horn at the University of the Arts in Berlin. Her visual works have already been exhibited in various institutions. Her short film "The Last Trick" (app. 2:50 min.) was made in the historic Beethovenhaus in Gneixendorf in Austria, which belonged to Beethoven's brother and in which Beethoven spent a few months in 1826. Carola Schmidt focuses on the creative crisis of an artist and his inner monologue. When the protagonist looks at himself in the mirror, his reflection takes on a life of its own and to play tricks on him. When the reflection discovers us, the viewer, the situation escalates. The film is silent, but accompanied by passages from the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Sonata op. 31 no. 2, the "Storm Sonata", defamiliarized by the composer and sound designer NHOAH.

Christof Zwiener, b. 1972, studied at the Hochschule für bildende Kunst in Braunschweig and has already exhibited his installations and performances at various galleries and institutions. For his short film "Fast eine Fantasie" (3:15 min.) he tapped away at the Beethoven memorial on the Münsterplatz in Bonn. He uses the bronze as a resonator for the first movement of Beethoven's piano sonata in C-sharp minor op. 27 no. 2 ("Moonlight Sonata").

Pia Storck, student at the Hochschule für Künste in Bremen, embeds the plot of the opera "Fidelio" in a framework in which an author is working on a modern version of the story. The film fuses the various planes and plays with the idea of one's own consciousness as a prison.

The Premiere of "Look at Beethoven" is on **3 September at 7pm in the auditorium of the Kunstmuseum in Bonn**. The five award-winning films will be shown. The contribution "Peer to Peer" by the video artist and painter Craig Mulholland from Glasgow will also be shown. The video opera was created in the context of the Videonale held by the Bonn Kunstmuseum in the spring of 2009.

All the films shown on 3 September and a selection of the 32 other entries to the competition will be shown as an endless loop during the whole period of the Beethovenfest Bonn 2009 (4 September - 3 October) in the Rotunda of the Kunstmuseum.

The Television Music department of Westdeutscher Rundfunk is planning a broadcast of the five award-winning films in November or December 2009 on WDR television.

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Installations by students of the Kunsthochschule für Medien in Cologne:

RaumZeitPiraten (Time and Space Pirates): Tobias Daemgen, Moritz Ellrich

Moonlight Sonatas

Media performance in the Picture-and-Sound Laboratory

In their laboratory of optical and acoustic instruments, the time-and-space pirates are researching classical and pop-music interpretations of the Moonlight Sonata – from the concert via cinemas to Gameboy – and relate it to historical, scientific, artistic and mass-media depictions of the moon.

Kunstmuseum Bonn, auditorium

3 September 2009, 7pm

Eva Kehl-Cremers

Architektique

Immersive picture-and-sound space to Beethoven's "Sonate pathétique" in C minor op. 13

Eva Kehl has created a floating picture-and-sound space of laser tissues. On the basis of a performance of the first movement of the "Sonate pathétique", spherical, three-dimensional sound pictures come into existence.

Beethovenhalle Bonn, Kammermusiksaal

Opening 4 September 2009, 7pm, until 3 October 2009

Opening times during the concerts, and otherwise on enquiry under
mg-office@khm.de

Jongwon Choi

Active

Kinetic installation consisting of water-waves, light and sound

Jongwon Choi combines sound-waves with water and the reflection of the directional light of a laser. Beethoven's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D major op. 61 creates wave-like movements on the surface of the water. Sensed by a laser, the result is kinetic sound-pictures.

Kuaishen Auson

Scratching Beethoven – DJ-Ameisen (DJ Ants)

Bio-dynamic sound installation from the terrarium

For two years now Kuaishen Auson has been translating sensorily perceptible phenomena of biological organisms into artistic processes. Together with scientists and biologists, he is studying in particular the organization, along with the logistic and communicative behaviour of various ant colonies. Conceived as an artistic-cybernetic system, movement activities of an ant colony are recorded, digitally translated and transformed into the driving energy of a DJ unit.

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Oliver Salkic

Feel a bit like Beethoven

A haptic installation

“Feel a bit like Beethoven” makes reference to the progressive hearing loss of the composer. Via Oliver Salkic’s haptic-contemplative installation, beholders can “feel” a work by Beethoven. Vibrations which no longer impinge on our sense of hearing still reach our hands and bodies.

All three installations at the Bonn Kunstverein

Tue.–Sun. 11am–5pm / Thur. until 7pm

Opening 9 September 2009, 7pm

Until 3 October 2009

Film evenings

Tuesday, 15 September

1) **“Filmstar Karajan”**. Karajan’s self-staging in concert recordings. Film by Georg Wübbolt. Germany 2008 (54 min.).

2) **“Eroica”**. Reconstruction of the “Eroica” film with the Berliner Philharmoniker by Hugo Niebeling, not authorized by Karajan. Germany 1972/2008 (49 min.).

Afterwards conversation between Georg Wübbolt and Hugo Niebeling.

Tuesday, 22 September

“Jetzt ist die Zeit schon um”. The WDR Sinfonieorchester, Cologne. Germany 2008. (2 x 59 Min.) A film by Enrique Sánchez Lansch.

Afterwards conversation with the director and Dr. Lothar Mattner, WDR.

Tuesday, 29 September

“Richter. Der Unbeugsame”. A film about Swjatoslaw Richter by Bruno Monsaingeon. France 1998. (154 min.)

Afterwards conversation with the director and Katrin Rabus.

The film evenings start at 7.30pm in the auditorium of the Kunstmuseum Bonn.

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