



BEETHOVENFEST BONN

Bonn, 2 September 2011

NRW and Germany celebrate in Bonn

Deutschlandfest from 1 to 3 October with four Beethovenfest concerts

Bonn will celebrate the Day of German Unity and North Rhine Westphalia Day from 1 to 3 October 2011 under the motto "Freedom. Unity, Joy. Move more+.". All of the German states will present themselves together with the federal government and many other partners in Bonn, the city of Beethoven's birth. The official celebrations on 3 October will form the highlight of the three-day festival.

In honour of the Deutschlandfest, the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011 will put on four very special concert experiences: the **National Youth Orchestra of Iraq** is performing for the first time outside of its own country. Hear them under their conductor Paul MacAlindin in the Beethovenhalle on 1 October at 8pm. The orchestra, which is made up of Arabs and Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites as well as Christians, was founded in 2008 by the Iraqi pianist Zuhail Sultan, now 20, who will also be participating in this Beethovenfest concert. The patronage of this year's Orchestra Campus hosted by the Beethovenfest and Deutsche Welle has been accepted by **President Christian Wulff**. To mark World Children's Day, Christian Wulff invites guests to a colourful **family festival** in the grounds of Villa Hammerschmidt on **2 October**; an ensemble consisting of four members of the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq and four members of the Germany's Federal Youth Orchestra will provide the music. String-players from the latter will already have supported the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq at the campus concert on 1 October.

The **Beethoven Orchester Bonn** will give two concerts as part of the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011. On **2 October** Bonn's musical director Stefan Blunier will conduct works by Liszt and Wagner in the Beethovenhalle at 6pm. Wagner's Prelude and Liebestod from "Tristan and Isolde" will be followed by his "Wesendonck Lieder" with the mezzo-soprano Anna Larsson in the version for orchestra by Felix Mottl. Finally, Stefan Blunier will conduct Liszt's "Dante Symphony", one of Liszt's two major orchestral works. Liszt's oeuvre will be a focal point at the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011, held under the motto "Music of the Future. Beethoven, Liszt and Innovation in Music". 2011 is the bicentenary of Franz Liszt's birth. The composer organized the first Beethovenfest in 1845.

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On **3 October** the Beethoven Orchester Bonn will give a festival concert at 6pm in the Beethovenhalle under Stefan Blunier, when they will perform Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" and the 4th movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the choral finale "Ode to Joy". It will be sung by the Kinder- und Jugendchor Theater Bonn, the chorus of the Theater Bonn and the Philharmonischer Chor der Stadt Bonn with soloists Emiliya Ivanova (soprano), Julia Sukmanova (soprano), Daniela Denschlag (contralto), Paul O'Neill (tenor) and Thomas Laske (baritone).

At the same time on **3 October** at 6pm the orchestra from the Bonn's twin town in Hungary, Budafok, will perform in the Aula of the University of Bonn. The **Dohnányi Orchestra Budafok** under Gábor Hollerung will perform works by its eponym, Ernst von Dohnányi, as well as works by Zoltán Kodály, Franz Liszt and Wagner. By inviting this orchestra and by the choice of music on the programme, the special role of Hungary in overcoming Germany's partition is being honoured. The patrons of this concert are Germany's Foreign Minister in 1989, Dietrich Genscher, and the current ambassador of the Republic of Hungary, Dr. József Czukor.

On the occasion of the Deutschlandfest, the major open-air festival of the Beethovenfest Bonn, "**Clear the stage for Beethoven**", will, for the first time, not be held on the opening weekend, but instead on **1 October**. 1200 schoolchildren and music students from Bonn will fill a six-hour programme on eight stages in Bonn's city centre. From noon onwards diverse musical performances will be given on the stages on Marktplatz, Theaterplatz, Blumenmarkt, Bottlerplatz, and Klanggrund, in the Bonn Information centre and the Thalia am Markt bookshop, ranging from chamber-music works to jazz and pop arrangements. "Clear the stage for Beethoven" is hosted by the Beethovenfest Bonn in co-operation with Deutsche Post DHL, the initiative "Beethoven Bonnensis" by Bürger für Beethoven, the musical initiative Ludwig van B. and the Musikschule Bonn.

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