



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

Bonn, 21 April 2010

## **Beethovenfest Bonn demands an answer to acute questions regarding a concert venue and the promotion of culture**

Following the indefinite postponement of the Beethoven Festspielhaus project, the Beethovenfest Bonn is demanding from the city authorities an immediate statement on how the issue of a primary venue is to be solved. The backlog of maintenance and refurbishment work that has built up in the Beethovenhalle is well-known. A top-class primary venue is essential to preserve the extraordinary quality of the Beethovenfest. "We as a festival wish to continue to provide top-class performances as we have done for many years, and for the maintenance of which we continue to commit ourselves with great success," says Ilona Schmiel. "We have a duty to the artists to keep them informed of future developments." The Beethovenfest Bonn needs the very best conditions in order to go on providing top-quality music. "We have a remit and we are fulfilling it in the interests of Bonn as a location, of the artists, of regional and international concert-goers of all ages, of our sponsors and also as a contributor to the city's economy." The Beethovenfest has a beacon function which it can only maintain if it can do justice to its responsibility towards top orchestras and musicians. This is only possible in a suitable concert-hall, a requirement which the Beethovenhalle in its present condition does not meet.

Furthermore the Beethovenfest demands from the city authorities a statement of their commitment to substantial promotion of the arts. "It is impossible and short-sighted to separate social investment from cultural investment. I expressly warn against a shift of priorities away from the promotion of culture and exclusively towards the spheres of youth, education and social affairs," said a worried Ilona Schmiel. The Beethovenfest combines top quality and a broad appeal. "That the arts can provide solutions to social problems has been demonstrated in Venezuela. Precisely for this reason, because we are firmly convinced that social and cultural policy are inextricably interwoven and must not be looked at in isolation, we invited Dr José Antonio Abreu to be patron of this year's Beethovenfest Bonn." Dr Abreu has proved with his "Sistema de las Orquestas Juveniles e Infantiles de Venezuela" that it is possible to improve social conditions by musical education both in breadth and at the very top level.

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“The city must therefore continue use cultural education to provide the impetus for a future-oriented development of society in Bonn,” says Ilona Schmiel. Bonn’s one unique feature is Beethoven, and the city must do justice to his importance in the world. No other location worldwide has this advantage. Ilona Schmiel is convinced: “We must keep the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth in 2020 in mind. This anniversary is a unique opportunity for Bonn to be at the centre of world attention. Only by pursuing the project of the Beethoven Festspielhaus does Bonn have the possibility of doing justice to a claim based on Beethoven as its unique feature, and thus guarantee medium and long-term development possibilities.”

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